

Reunion 2010



Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
August 25—30, 2010

Getting There

These airlines fly to Puerto Vallarta:

- Air Canada
- Alaska Air
- American Airlines
- Delta Air Lines
- Continental Airlines
- Frontier Airlines
- Mesa Airlines
- United Airlines
- Northwest Airlines
- US Airways
- Sun Country Airlines

Discount Air Travel

there are numerous sites for discount fares, including Expedia, Cheap Tickets, Orbitz, Priceline, Hotwire and more.

REUNION NEWSLETTER

Nos vemos en Puerto Vallarta!

Plans are coming together for our 2010 reunion in beautiful Puerto Vallarta, Mexico! Ray Poole, this year's reunion coordinator, has taken on the arduous task of travelling to Puerto Vallarta to make the arrangements that will ensure the reunion has something for everyone, and goes smoothly.

You'll appreciate his efforts as soon as you arrive at the PV Airport, where Ray has negotiated with the hotel to provide a special, round-trip transfer rate. **Once you have made your travel arrangements, please let Ray know when you arrive and depart PV** so he can ensure uniformed staff from the hotel will be on hand to meet you for transfer to the hotel, and pick you up for your departure at the end of the reunion.

Also, in addition to the fantastic rate that Ray has negotiated at the Sheraton Buganvillas (ranging from \$110 to \$273), he has set up some wonderful tours to make sure we get the maximum Puerto Vallarta experience. Tours include a City & Shopping Tour, a tour of a Tequila Distillery, and a tour at San Sebastian del Oeste, which includes a dancing horse presentation. The costs are listed on the itinerary, and may be paid anytime **before 6/30/10**.



PUERTO VALLARTA

Weather

Puerto Vallarta sits on the Costa Dorada of Mexico, at the mid-point of Banderas Bay, where the Pacific Ocean washes the border between Jalisco and Nayarit. Located on the same latitudes as the Hawaiian (20 degrees north) its sub-tropical climate is often compared to Hawaii's.

From November to June, there is virtually no rain. Daytime temps average between 80 and 90 degrees F. During these months, nighttime temperatures dip down to 70-75 degrees. This is considered the high season and is very busy with tourists. During the summer months, the temperatures range from 85-90° during the day and 80-85° at night. It is also very humid during July, August and September. Summer time is considered low season and is when Mexican nationals take vacation and Puerto Vallarta is very popular. It can be just as busy as the high season.



Resort Information

Reservations

Reservations at the **Sheraton Buganvillas** Resort may be made at: www.sheratonvallarta.com (Please specify 435APS Reunion)

Please note that you have until **Jun 30, 2010** to pay for rooms, tours, registration fee, and meals.

Group rates may apply 3 days pre-/post-reunion

Rates*

- \$99—Garden View
- \$105—Ocean View
- \$155—Club Level Room
- \$185—Club Level Jr Suite
- \$265—Club Level Master Suite

Additional person charge: \$35 plus tax, not including breakfast.

* Rates are in US\$ and include Buffet Breakfast, but not taxes at 18%.

Payment for Banquets & Tours

http://www.tropicalincentives.com/form_gpos/2010/Vallarta/aps

Gratuities:

- Bellmen, per person, round trip \$4.50
- Maids, daily per room \$2.00
- Butler/Club Level, daily per rm \$4.00

Breakfast

- Continental Breakfast, per person \$8.00
- Full Breakfast Buffet, per person \$11.50

Have you checked out the reunion news on 435APS.com?

Puerto Vallarta the #1 Destination in Mexico!



Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

When the folks at SmarterTravel.com recently asked their readers to name their top ten favorite destinations in Mexico, they were overwhelmed by the response. Their readers' knowledge of and appreciation for the country and its people was extensive, and the responses were fantastic, including comments about everything from wonderful memories to best places to stay, eat, or drink.

People on earth, The weather is perfect, with an endless number of outdoor activities to stay busy having fun. Numerous spas and malls for those not interested in outdoor activities. It truly is heaven on earth.

Another reader said, "The 'Juan & only' place I love is Puerto Vallarta. My heart was captured the first time I saw the color-filled sunsets illuminating over the Bay of Banderas. I have held adorable tiger cubs at the zoo; rode the seas in a panga to view a mother whale with her baby and having dolphin pods leaping alongside; afternoon stroll along the sea side Malecon leads to an evening filled with tempting sounds and smells of street vendors and restaurants to come eat, enjoy the live music of mariachi, blues, or 'tequila reggae.' The main square, a kaleidoscope of activity; children practicing their folklorico dances; mimes; couples salsa dancing; 'Flying Indians' spiral down a 40-foot pole. These are my 'rocking chair memories.'"

They said: We've created this list of Mexico's top spots based on the number of recommendations we received for each destination. You may have heard of many of these places, but it's different when you hear about them first-hand from your fellow travelers. Each of the top 10 destinations received more than one reader recommendation.

So, without further ado, let's go see why Mexico is one hot tamale of a vacation destination!

#1 - Puerto Vallarta

Nestled among the Sierra Madre Mountains and providing more than 40 miles of coastline, Puerto Vallarta offers a plethora of outdoor activities set against a scenic backdrop. Plus, the city is a cultural Mecca for art, cuisine, and music, which is why it's not surprising so many readers claim this as their number one spot for a tropical getaway.

According to one reader, "It has to be Puerto Vallarta!!! From the moment you land at the airport, you are welcomed by some of the friendliest people

See more at <http://www.smartertravel.com/travel-advice>



Guadalupe Parish — Puerto Vallarta



BIENVENIDOS, AMIGOS!

Draft Itinerary, August 25-30



Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Day 1 Wednesday, Aug 25

Reunion Arrivals

Roundtrip transfer, Airport/Hotel/Airport \$29

Tropical Incentives (bilingual uniform staff)
will meet arrivals at airport

- Transfer to hotel
- Skycap gratuities
- Bottled water upon arrival
- A/C buses and vans

5 pm Icebreaker (mixed Mexican snacks)

- Rm 2306 (Ray's Room)
- Greetings by Reunion Host
- Beer, wine, soda, bottled water
- Review reunion agenda

7 pm Dinner (on own at hotel or Marina)

Day 2 Thursday, Aug 26

7 am Breakfast Buffet (included)

10 am **City & Shopping Tour \$66**

(Bring pesos for lunch & shopping,
and don't forget your camera!)

- Tour bus pick-up at 10 am
- Tequila Distillery—Mismaloya
- City sites
- Lunch at La Destileria
- Shopping until bus returns to hotel at 2:30pm

7 pm **Celebration Dinner \$30**

- Mexican Theme w/entertainment

Day 3 Friday, Aug 27

7-10 am Breakfast Buffet (included)

Free day to shop, relax, siesta,
sight-see

* *Travel Incentives has a hospitality
desk with info about other tours,
located near salon*

6 pm Leave for Dinner at El Coleguita
Seafood Restaurant at the Marina

Day 4 Saturday, Aug 28

7 am Breakfast Buffet (included)

9 am **San Sebastian del Oeste Tour \$73**

Tour bus leaves hotel at 9 am

- Lunch at Rancho Capomo
- Dancing Horse presentation
- Arrive at hotel at 3:30 pm

6 pm Optional Italian Dinner (sign up) or
dinner on your own.

Day 5 Sunday, August 29

7 am Breakfast Buffet (included)

**Free day to shop, relax, siesta, Parasail,
sight-see**

6 pm Free Cocktail Bar at Hotel

- Mariachi Music

7 pm **FAREWELL DINNER** at Hotel

- Departure notices handed out for pick-up at hotel

Nos divertimos mucho — Hasta la Vista!

*This itinerary is subject to change — for updates, check the
435APS.com website under “Reunions” and “2010 Reunion.”*



**IMPORTANT
NOTICE!!**

Anyone travelling to Mexico will require a passport, but American citizens do not need visas. You'll want to give yourself plenty of time if you don't have a current passport, as wait times can be several months at peak times.



Is it Safe to Travel to Mexico?

How safe is travel in Mexico?

It all depends on where you're going. As a new travel warning by the U.S. State Department (<http://travel.state.gov>) points out, the areas of concern are not the beach resorts or historical cities most Americans visit, but rather the border towns, specifically Tijuana, Nogales, Ciudad Juárez, Nuevo Laredo, Monterrey and Matamoros.

As the State Department points out, millions of U.S. citizens safely visit Mexico each year, and this isn't likely to change. Nearly a million Americans live in various parts of the country, enjoying the benefits of an inexpensive retirement and low-cost medical care.

I just returned from seven days in Mazatlan and Sayulita, a surfing and beach town near Puerto Vallarta

437th Aerial Port Squadron

Reunion 2010



Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Turtle-Watching & Repatriation

Some tour companies offer educational programs combined with hands-on activities to help save Mexico's turtles. After the female turtles lay their eggs in nests they create in the sand, volunteers dig up the eggs and re-bury them somewhere safe from predators. After about 45 to 60 days, the

eggs hatch. Without help, only about 1 in every 1,000 baby turtles will survive to adulthood because most are caught by predators before they make it back to the safety of the ocean. However, turtle repatriation volunteers keep the babies safe until it is time to set them free to head for the ocean (at night when predators are less active). You can be part of these programs

Snorkeling

The most popular snorkeling areas are Los Arcos underwater caves and Marietas Islands caverns. Vallarta Adventures snorkeling trips

popular with many from Seattle and Portland. I experienced nothing out of the ordinary, except perhaps, fewer tourists than usual. Restaurants were lively and filled with Americans and Canadians who were there seemed to be enjoying their vacations with no hassles or problems.

The Mexican people, of course, are concerned about what's happening in their country. They're worried that the violence could spread, and worried about its effects on their own sense of well-being, tourism and the general economy. It was interesting to observe a military "show of force," one evening in Sayulita when a truck with armed soldiers did a once-around the town square while bystanders ate ice cream and typed on laptops.

The bottom line: If you're planning a vacation soon to Mexico, by all means go, but heed the State Department's advice and use common-sense precautions such as visiting only legitimate business and tourist areas during daylight hours, and avoiding areas where drug dealing might occur.

The State Department's Web site contains some good information aimed at spring-break vacation crowds, but it's useful for anyone planning a trip, especially its summaries of the security situation in some popular destinations.



WHAT TO DO IN PUERTO VALLARTA?

combine an extraordinary day of sun, fun, and adventure with just the right mixture of entertainment, learning and challenge, while snorkeling, sea kayaking, and exploring the tropical ecosystems on the secluded islands and beach hideaways that surround beautiful Banderas Bay.

Shopping

La Playa liquors and wines. At least two outlets - one in the old town and one in the centro. This is the place to go for reasonably priced tequila. Most of the flashy tequila shops are either factory stores or time-share gimmicks. Neither are good options for buying tequila at a decent price/quality ratio.

Manta Maya a shop selling

contemporary variations on traditional Mexican cotton clothing. The clothing is made in their shop in Zapopan, on the outskirts of Guadalajara. **Galeria Indigena** is a shop specializing in Huichol art as well as art from other indigenous peoples. You'll see bead art everywhere, but this is one of a few shops that sell something at least a little more authentic than colorful beaded lizards and such. Juarez 628.

More fun activities for our reunion will be featured in future newsletters!

