



Regional Information: Bucerias and Surrounding Area

About the house

Las Casas de Los Colores is comprised of two beautiful houses, each carefully designed to celebrate the values and character of the traditional Mexican home with wooden beams, high ceilings, a sense of privacy and a commitment to beauty and quality. They have become available for rental as of January of 2007. **Casa Azul** is a new three bedroom, three bath house. **Casa Roja** is a completely updated and renovated two bedroom, two bath home on one level. Each is situated to take full advantage of the pool, terraces and landscaped gardens, and each is also equipped with all modern conveniences including air conditioning.

General Area Information

"Banderas Bay was first explored in the early 1500's by Francisco Hernández de Sanbuenaventura, a nephew of the famous Conquistador Herman Cortez. He named the bay because he was received by 20,000 Indians bearing feather flags. "Banderas" is the Spanish word for "flags". The town itself which was founded in 1851, is situated in the southern part of Banderas Valley, facing west over the bay with the same name. The town was named after Ignacio L. Vallarta in 1918 and declared an official city on May 31st, 1968.

The bay is located in the central region of the Pacific coast line of Mexico known as, "La Riviera". Puerto Vallarta is located in the Northwest corner of the state of Jalisco. It is a colorful city with a population of approximately 400,000 residents which blend both tranquility and enchantment of a small "Mexican Pueblo" . Today, visitors enjoy its unique architectural style, highlighted by cobblestone streets and white stucco houses topped with red tiled roofs. Wrought iron balconies, a common adornment, frequently spill over with tropical flowers.

Puerto Vallarta is located on the Pacific Coast on one of the largest bays in the world. It is the largest natural bay in Mexico, with 160 Km of coastline and tropical beauty. Banderas Bay measures 42 kilometers from east to west and 33 kilometers from north to south. The northern most limit of the bay is at Punta Mita which is at the end of the Sierra de Vallejo Mountains. To the south, the bay ends in Cabo Corrientes, part of the foothills of the Sierra del Cuale range.

The event that focused unusual attention on Puerto Vallarta was the filming of the movie "Night of the Iguana" by John Huston in 1963. Thousands of visitors came, anxious to see the places that appeared in the movie and hopeful of catching a glimpse of some of the movie stars. Many of the cast members erected vacation homes in PV. The area, now called Gringo Gulch, is the former home of Elizabeth Taylor. A pink passageway arches over the street which joins to the house where Richard Burton stayed. The house is open for public tours if you are interested.

From then on, thanks to the publicity the movie gave Vallarta, and also to the improved means of transportation and airport, the town grew by leaps and bounds.

Puerto Vallarta has hotels that range from small economical inns to magnificent luxury hotels. National and international airline companies provide services that connect Vallarta to the principal cities of the US and Europe. Luxury cruise ships dock here on daily basis and a good highway connects the town to Tepic, Guadalajara and the rest of the country. The population has grown from 12,500 in 1964 to more than 400,000 today. There is a large foreign colony, primarily Americans and Canadians, who live here on a permanent or semi-permanent basis and who are active participants in community life.

Puerto Vallarta is divided into three parts: the southern hotel zone; the central town or "Viejo Vallarta" (Old Vallarta) and the northern hotel zone. Viejo Vallarta is divided down its center by the Cuale River Island, a sliver of land in the middle of the river which is home to botanical gardens, excellent restaurants, open air shops and a museum. Also found in this section of town is the "Malecon," a treasured seaside walkway. Just off this central street, all types of businesses are found ranging from restaurants to art galleries, banks, jewelry shops, bars and discos. This is, as you might guess, the heart of Puerto Vallarta. Here you will find the most recognized symbols of Puerto Vallarta: the crown that tops the Church of Guadalupe, the sculptures of the little boy on the seahorse and the leaping dolphins, as well as the stone arches (Los Arcos) of the central plaza's open air theater.

Today Puerto Vallarta is world famous as a tourist destination. It hosts over 2 million visitors annually. Although the town is consistently growing, the friendly, hospitable character of its people has not changed. Visitors are greeted with genuine smiles and a happy demeanor."

The Village of Bucerias

Bucerias is a Mexican village often described as "the Puerto Vallarta of 25 years ago." It has a population of between 4,000 and 6,000 persons. The center of town features the ubiquitous Mexican zocolo (town square) complete with gazebo, a nearby church and numerous stores and markets. Modern motor vehicles share the road with horses and burros. In the early morning fishermen set sail from the central beach area.

Bucerias, Mexican for "the place of divers" offers one of Mexico's finest beaches. Ambitious beach strollers can walk the 14 miles from Nuevo Vallarta on the south to La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, a small town to the north.

Bucerias, Mexico is only 10 miles from the Puerto Vallarta airport. Quiet, relaxed and a less expensive alternative to larger cities it is a charming spot for your dream vacation. [Bucerias](#) is a quiet, coastal town located in the Bay of Banderas on the Pacific Coast of Mexico. This quaint town runs parallel along the beachfront for a number of miles north and south of the town center.

The ocean's warm waters and lapping surf are only a few blocks away from any point within the town. Bucerias has one of the most private, prettiest, soft sand beaches in the area. The beach runs along cobblestone and bougainvillea lined streets, and is perfect for a day of relaxing or napping in the sun. Other outdoor recreation includes beachcombing, snorkeling, parasailing, surfing, kayaking, and swimming with dolphins, golf and tennis. Fishing is also popular in Bucerias, both surf casting and deep-sea charters. Visitors also enjoy watching the old time fishermen with their nets, throwing them out from the shore as divers gather oysters.

Small and lovely, it has all the conveniences you require for fun and happy vacations. The freshest seafood, restaurants, accommodations, golf, services, laundry service, doctors and most importantly beaches on the beautiful Pacific Ocean.

Located on the north shore of the Bay of Banderas, this stretch of beach is the longest on the Bay and one of the most beautiful on the Pacific coast. Whether boogie boarding, strolling in the moonlight, fishing, swimming, sunbathing, dining, doing tours, water sports, cruises, sailing or watching for whales, it doesn't get better than this.

Bucerias features several fine restaurants that offer a wide array of excellent menus. A number of small grocery stores are only a short walk away, and many conveniences such as travel agencies, car rentals, currency exchange, calling station, and tour booking information is close by, as well. Bucerias is just a fifteen-minute drive from the Puerto Vallarta airport, and thirty minutes from downtown Puerto Vallarta. However you may never want to leave this charming town with its warm hospitality and soothing atmosphere.

Surrounding areas: [Nuevo Vallarta](#) (2.9 mi / 5 km), [La Cruz de Huanacaxtle](#) (4.1 mi / 7 km), [Marina Vallarta](#) (5.5 mi / 9 km), [Punta del Burro](#) (7.5 mi / 12 km), [Paradise Village](#) (8.5 mi / 14 km), [Sayulita](#) (10.6 mi / 17 km), [San Francisco](#) (also known as San Poncho - (12 mi / 20 km),

Weather, Daylight and Sunsets

Visitors to Puerto Vallarta will find the climate agreeable year round. The average temperature is 80 degrees F. The rainy season lasts from the middle of June to the middle of September, but the sun shines pretty much every day. Temperatures in the winter months rarely ever go below 65 degrees F at night and are typically 80-85 F during the day. In December, the shortest days dawn at about 7:30 AM and the sun sets at about 6:30 PM (Central Standard Time). Bucerias follows "Vallarta Time" which is Central Standard time.

Arrivals, Departures & Taxis

If you do not plan to rent a car, you can contact Arturo Gonzales at Las Palmas Management and he can arrange for a driver to meet you at the airport for a reasonable fee. He can also arrange to pick you up on your departure date. During the peak of the season we suggest that you get to the airport at least 1-1/2 hours before flight time to allow for security and lines. Please make sure that Arturo knows your flight arrival information, so even if he doesn't arrange for a driver or a taxi, he will know when to expect you at his office so that he can give you the key and bring you to the house.

Ground Transportation

For pick up and drop off at the airport, airline arrival and departure flight numbers and times will be required at least two weeks before arrival. It will be your responsibility to contact the house manager from Las Palmas to arrange and pay for this service. Confirmation is essential. Another option is to take one of the many taxis that line up at the airport and they can then deliver you first to Las Palmas Management where you will pick up your key and then to the Casas de Los Colores which is only a three minute drive from Las Palmas Management's office. Once in Bucerias you can easily walk up to the taxi stand in the main square by the church.

The taxi fare to and from the Airport should be in the 2,000 -3,000 peso range. Taxi drivers are familiar with the Bucerias area so you do not need to worry about getting lost. If you try for a taxi at the curb at the airport – make sure you negotiate the fare in advance.

Bus Service

The ride to downtown Puerto Vallarta is about 40 Pesos per person. The buses are nice and the service is reliable. This is a way to see how the local population lives and moves about. The trip to town takes 30-40 minutes depending on traffic. Buses run less often late at night. If you are returning from Puerto Vallarta late at night we suggest you take a taxi.

Car Rental

All of the major car rental companies have a presence in Puerto Vallarta. There are local rental companies as well. Gecko Car Rental in Bucerias is reliable and locally owned. Their web site is www.geckorentcar.com. They offer airport pick up and drop off and the cheapest overall rental rates in the market. You can contact Gecko at geckorentcar@hotmail.com. The international companies at the airport charge rates that are commensurate with a popular resort and tourist destination and we recommend that you buy the insurance. We have tended to use National and our experience has been very good. One important point about insurance – Mexican rental

companies do not recognize US or Canadian policies to cover the deductible amounts. It is best to pay for Mexican insurance to make sure you are covered.

Dollar conversion and ATM's

If possible, you should determine the dollar to peso conversion rate from a bank. The dollar exchange rate will be best if you use an ATM cash machine to buy pesos. There are two ATM bank locations in Bucerias (Banamex and HCSB). Both ATMs are located on (and visible from) the main 4 lane highway in Bucerias. Banamex is on the West (right) as you enter Bucerias from the North. HCSB is on the East (left) side of the highway further toward Puerto Vallarta. There is a Bananorte ATM at the Pemex station.

In Puerto Vallarta there are numerous ATM locations. Watch for Banamex, Bancomer, Bital or Lloyds. There is an ATM at the Marina Shopping Center on the left side of the main entrance to the grocery store. There are also two ATM's at the airport. You would be wise to contact Visa, American Express, Master Card, etc, to let them know that you will be out of the country and will want to use your credit card in Mexico.

Immigration and Customs

When you enter Mexico you will go through Immigration and Customs just like in the US. You MUST have a US Passport for every member of your family when coming and going from Mexico. Customs is likely to be a non-event for you unless you are importing goods worth more than \$300 US per person in to Mexico – in which case you may be required to pay a duty of 25% on any value above \$300. You will fill out a customs form and be asked to press a button. If the light shows green you will be allowed to pass. If the light shows red, you may be inspected by a customs official and if the value of your imports exceeds \$300 US per person you may spend an hour filling out forms and paying taxes before you are allowed to proceed. Upon passing through Immigration you will receive a "receipt". You **ABSOLUTELY MUST RETAIN** this or you will have a very difficult time leaving Mexico.

Household Services.

Maid service which includes cleaning and making beds and garden/pool maintenance is provided every other day. If you wish, it is possible to arrange for more frequent services including a cook should you want meals prepared for you by contacting Las Palmas Management. If you want additional services such as bar tending, baby sitters ...etc, please request them well in advance prior to your arrival and we will try to arrange it. These services will, of course, cost extra.

Water

Each house has a modern filtration system in the kitchen which means that the water is potable and you can safely drink from the special faucet to the right of the standard fixture. If you are more comfortable with bottled water you will find a number of bottles in the refrigerator. There is a small grocery store around the corner if you wish to purchase additional water or snacks. There are also a number of other stores throughout Bucerias offering a variety of supplies. Major shopping can be done at the Sam's Club, Wal-Mart or Gigante in Puerto Vallarta. There is an "American" Grocery store in Nuevo Vallarta.

Showers, Sinks and Toilets

In Mexico, water is a scarce commodity. We ask you cooperate and conserve water by taking short showers and not leaving the water running...etc. When you return from the beach PLEASE use the outdoor shower in the in the driveway so that you can clean off any sand before going into the pool or the house.

Please **DO NOT** use the toilets to dispose of feminine hygiene products. A plugged line can lead to a frustrating and unpleasant vacation.

Electricity

Mexican power systems are the same as in the US. You do not need special plugs or equipment to use your hair dryer, razor or other US or Canadian electrical appliances. Power outages are a

little more common in Mexico but power is normally restored within an hour or two. If you bring a computer we suggest that you bring a surge protector...just to be on the safe side. Please be sure to shut off all lights when not in the room. Air conditioning will work best when doors and windows are closed. When all the AC systems, hair dryers, and lights are being used, you will find power surges are a fact of life. Electricity, like water, is very expensive and in an effort to be sustainable we ask for your cooperation and environmental stewardship.

Pool

The house has a wonderful 40 foot pool that will nicely accommodate large groups and lap swimmers. It is heated and has a state-of-the art filtration system. Please be considerate of others in the pool and we highly discourage diving, since the pool is only five feet deep. The switch to the fountain is behind the fountain wall near Casa Roja. The pool lights are located to the right of the steps to Casa Azul. By now you've come to realize the Mexican lighting system has no system at all. Welcome to Mexico.

We would also ask that you not use any glass if you bring beverages to the pool. We have supplied both houses with plastic drinking glasses.

The pool is not childproof. Please be especially watchful if there are young children in or around the pool. **DO NOT ALLOW INFANTS IN THE POOL UNLESS THEY ARE WEARING A SWIM DIAPER. E.COLI AND FECAL MATTER ARE ESPECIALLY NASTY AND WILL REQUIRE THAT THE POOL BE CLOSED DOWN, SANTIZED AND REFILLED.** You do not want to have your vacation ruined, nor do you want to be responsible for the cost of re-opening the pool.

Keys and Security

To get a key which will allow you access to you vacation home at Casas de Los Colores **YOU WILL NEED TO MEET WITH ARTURO GONZALES AT THE LAS PALMAS MANAGEMENT OFFICE.** Please be sure to let Arturo know exactly when you will be arriving in Puerto Vallarta and on what airline flight so that he is available to take you to Casas de Los Colores after you have checked in with him at his office at Lazaro Cardenas #27 in Bucerias.

Security has not been an issue for us but we do recommend care and vigilance. Please make sure that you always keep the gates locked. You will be given a key for the "pedestrian-gate" when you check in at Las Palmas. The "auto gate" can be operated only by key pad, The combination is periodically changed so when get it from Arturo upon check in that you write it down.

To/From the US or Canada – Complimentary Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Phone

For calls to and from the USA only – our VOIP Phone is free 612-216-1829

Each house shares a VOIP (INTERNET) phone system. These portable phones can be found in the living room and can be used for calls to and from the US and Canada. There is no cost for the use of this phone so long as it is used to call only North America. **This Internet phone is NOT for calls within Mexico or to other international numbers.]**

From the US, callers merely dial this Minnesota based number: **1-612-216-1829**, and the phone will ring at both the Casa Azul and Casa Roja. Obviously, if you are not renting both houses, you will need to share phone usage and should be considerate of your "neighbor." This is not a party line. Only one house at a time may use the VOIP phone.

To retrieve Voice mail

- Hit the "green" phone button to open the line.
- Dial *123
- Dial pass code 1113
- Press 1 to listen to messages.

Because the houses are built of concrete, service is best on the outside terraces. Service is also better if you are not using the internet at the same time as you are speaking on the phone. If you are making calls to the US or Canada there is no charge. Listen for the dial tone; dial the US area code and 7 digit local number.

The Mexican house phone is for local calls in the Puerto Vallarta area only.

Mexican phone number – 329-298-1923

To dial this phone from the US or Canada 011 + 52 and then 329-298-1923

To dial to PV: 329-298-plus number

To dial within Bucerias 298-+number

Personal Cell Phones & Roaming

Some US based cell phones will work without any special activation in Mexico. A T & T / Cingular cell phones work fine. Many Sprint, T Mobile and Verizon phones do not work in Mexico without special activation....although local service availability changes do occur from time to time.

To dial the US on a cell phone that works in Mexico, dial 001, then the US area code and then the normal 7 digit number. You can make local calls in the Vallarta area by dialing the local number without a long distance prefix. i.e.: to Puerto Vallarta, dial 322 and then the 7 digit number just like in the US

Personal Cell phones will work best if you are out the terrace. Inside the house there is so much steel and concrete that some areas shield the cell phone signal from getting to Puerto Vallarta. Cell Phone roaming services in Mexico are generally expensive. Roaming charges can approach 80 cents to \$1.00 per minute on a US cell phone. Calls to your personal cell phone from the US or Canada will also carry a high roaming charge which can approach 80 cents to \$1.00 per minute.

House Manager

Arturo Gonzales or his brother David are with Las Palmas Management which is located at the intersection of Lazaro Cardenas and Morelos a few blocks from Casas de Los Colores at Lazaro Cardenas #27, Bucerias, Nayarit Mexico

web: info@las-palmas-travel.com

Office phone: 01-152-329-298-0060

Fax 011-152-329-298-0061

Gratuities

Our household staff strives to provide excellent service for our guests. They are, of course, hoping for gratuities from guests who are pleased with their work. The amount you decide upon is totally at your discretion based upon how you feel about the service. As a guideline, we suggest a modest gratuity of between \$1.00 and \$2.00 US Dollars **per member of your party, per day of service** assuming you are truly pleased.

High Speed internet

If you do not have wireless you can get online by using the Ethernet cable (yellow, next to the phone)

Like the phones, the best reception is not inside the house, but as close to outside as possible so you may need to move around with your laptop to find the best wireless site.

The code to set up the wireless connection is:4870682439

The name of the wireless net is infinitum4889

The user name is: damonfarber

The Access Password is: 2090790
The Random # is: 63732
The Secure Modem ID is: R22VSL661030094600

These are all the numbers I have. I don't know a darn thing about computers so if for some reason you cannot gain access I apologize and would suggest that if you need to use the internet you find one of the many internet cafes.

Satellite TV

- Turn power on both Satellite box and the TV with power on buttons.
- Turn the TV on using the gray "LG" remote or by pressing the On-Off button on the TV.
- Be sure that the TV is on "Video – 1". You can use the "TV/Video" button to find the "Video – 1" mode.
- Turn the Satellite box on using the "red" star button on the black "Star Choice" remote. Make sure the remote is on the satellite by clicking the clear "Sat" button.
- The black remote can be used to change channels by scrolling with the arrows. Or use the red "guide" button to view channel listings. The red buttons above and below the "enter" button will move you through the channel selections.
- When you find a program you'd like to view, highlight it in yellow and press the red "enter" button.
- The gray "LG" remote controls volume. When done watching TV, please turn power off on both the satellite box on the TV.

DVD Player

- Turn the TV on using the gray "LG" remote or by pressing the On-Off button on the TV.
- Turn on the DVD player using the gray "Magnavox" remote or hit the round button on the left side of the DVD.
- Using the gray "LG" remote change the "TV" mode to "Video-2" by hitting the "TV/Video" button.
- Use the gray Magnavox" remote to control play functions.
- The gray "LG" remote controls volume.
- When done watching, please turn power off on both the DVD Player and on the TV.

TV Stations

CTV	293	OLN	475
CBC	300 - 308	CNN	500
CTV	311 - 320	HNN	502
CITY	344	CNBC	504
CH	345	DISCOVERY	505
ADTN	350	HISTORY	506
ACCESS	351	CLT	507
CTS	355	ROBTV	508
NBC	360	HIST W	516
ABC	361	A & E	520
CBS	362	BRAVO	523
PBS	364	TROP E	524
FOX	365	TROP W	525
VISION	394	SPACE	528
SCORE SPORTS	403	TBS	529
GOLF	409	WTBS	650
SPORTS NET	416 - 419	SRCVA (FRENCH)	702 - 706

Activities

All around Puerto Vallarta, and just minutes from Las Casas de Los Colores, there are easily accessible areas of great natural beauty, ideal for a day's outing or a picnic. Options for activities include jungle trips, horseback riding, hang gliding, air flights to a mountain town called San Sebastian, Day trips to Guadalajara, Golf, Tennis, house tours, deep sea fishing, sailing, art walks, beaching at a Mexican town like San Francisco or Sayulita, surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving. Island tours, whale and dolphin watching, night clubs, music and hanging out. The best overall source for researching options prior to your trip is to read Vallarta Lifestyles and check out their web site...which is: <http://www.virtualvallarta.com/vallarta/activities/index.html>.

Golf options:

There are 5 world class golf courses in the Puerto Vallarta area and several others within a few hours drive. Information on golf options can be found at <http://www.golfinvallarta.com>. Tee times can be booked in advance.

Beach at Distillideras:

Just to a few miles north of Bucerias - is a long public beach known as Distillideras. This beach has the best body surfing and boogie boarding in the area. At Distillideras you will find a day-time beach club, Mexican palapa style restaurants and a long flat sand beach that stretches for about 2 miles for walking and swimming.

Power Boat Charters:

If you want to go fishing or charter a power boat for the day there are many options. If you need help exploring fishing options you can call Arturo Gonzales at Las-Palmas-Travel in Bucerias at (329) 298-0060. Arturo can also help you identify other options for day time outings.

Shopping

The main area for good shopping is downtown Puerto Vallarta. There are jewelry stores, flea markets, antiques, art galleries, Mexican Televera, gifts and a wide variety of other shops. You can take the bus or drive. It will take 30-40 minutes to get to the center of town. If you drive, we suggest that you park the car and walk most places.

Groceries.

There are several smaller grocery stores in Bucerias. For large scale shopping we recommend Sam's Club and Wal-Mart or the large grocery store at the Marina Shopping Center just South of the airport. **If you want to avoid going in to town for groceries there is a new grocery store located in the Paradise Village Mall in Nuevo Vallarta.** Take one of the Nuevo Vallarta exits off the main highway and watch for signs that will lead you to the shopping center.

Restaurants:

Bucerias offers some wonderful restaurants and casual dining. Every kind of gourmet food you can think of is available in Puerto Vallarta's restaurants. You will find a copy of Vallarta Lifestyles Magazine at our house which will have the best up-to-date recap of your restaurant options in town.

Marks Bar: Marks Bar is one of our favorite places. It is located in Bucerias. at Lázaro Cárdenas 56. For Reservations Call: (329) 298-0303. It is one of the nicer restaurants within 15 minutes of the house. Good steaks and fish and an open air garden and sometimes Mariachi music.

Sandrin's Restaurant: Sandrin's is another of our favorites. It specializes in Mediterranean and Greek specialties, has very large portions and a beautiful outdoor dining patio set among tropical flowers. It is located across the street from Marks at Lazaro Cardenas 33.

Espressions has very good steak and is a few blocks south of Casas de Los Colores on Augustin Melgar #265. **El Lugar** serves very good Italian food and is located on the Plaza in Bucerias across from the church.

Mezzogiorno is a recent addition to the Bucerias restaurant scene and offers a nice upscale atmosphere, great wine list and northern Italian cooking with a flair. It is located at Avenida del Pacifico #33 which is right on the ocean. Be sure to ask for outdoor seating.

Local Mexican flavor can be had in Le Cruz Huanacaxtle and Punta Mita. Frescatti is the new Italian restaurant in La Cruz. At Punta Mita we like the **El Dorado** palapa restaurant and **Tino's**. They are both right on the beach with lots of Mexican flavor and beach merchants. Many Mexican families go here for the day. The lobster is excellent. In Le Cruz Huanacaxtle, **Le Luna e Sol** or **Columba** are good options.

It is always wise to call ahead for reservation.

Sites of Interest – In Puerto Vallarta and South (a very few of many):

Church of Guadalupe. A must see. Off the Malecon at the main square. Hidalgo 370, Central. Zocalo. City Hall.

Seahorse. Famous seahorse sculpture on the Malecon by the 'Lighthouse'. Stroll the Malecon, another must. Enjoy the surf, serenity, sculptures & stores.

Los Arcos. (Arches) Across from the main square. Site of many plays, acts - you name it. Just hang out! Walk the Malecon!!

John Huston Statue. Located at the upper part of the Cuale Island.

Los Muertos Pier. Located at the popular Los Muertos Beach area. Also next door is the Olas Altas beach --- also a very popular area.

Rio Cuale Island. River splits the town in half. Island has numerous shops and dining spots. Just float around, but not on the river!.

Mismaloya. Site of the film 'Night of the Iguana'. Take the path that goes along the river (Not into the Hotel!) and go to the beach area.

Marina area. Check out all the shops, dining and yachts. Have a cocktail up in the Lighthouse for a vantage view of the harbor.

Health tips, Water and Montezuma's revenge

Many foreigners contract a little case of Montezuma's revenge on their first trip to Mexico. Most of the upper end tourist restaurants are careful with their sanitation and their water and you should have no problems. If you want to avoid this potential problem here are some tips (but no guarantees):

- Drink bottled water on the street and in restaurants you are not sure of.
- Avoid eating fresh salads in restaurants you are not sure of
- Avoid raw fish and Ceveche at beach bars and,
- Avoid eating food sold by street vendors.

Hospital and Medical Services:

Puerto Vallarta has a modern medical community. There are bilingual medical services from medical, dental, audiology, chiropractic and physical therapy to neonatal and complete cardiac care. The city also has several modern hospitals including **Ameri-Med**, an American hospital with the latest in equipment, medicines, emergency care, tourist medicine and a full bi-lingual staff.

Ameri-Med is located between the Airport and downtown on the East side of the main highway. Phone numbers of the most important medical facilities are listed below.

General emergency number:	066
Police, Bucerias	298-1020 or 291-0049

Civil Protection (Fire, Ambulance)	291-0295
Dr. Mauro Malja, Bucerias	329-298-0149
Dr. Hector Pimienta, La Cruz	329-295-5557; cell 322-294-0303
Ambulance, Santa Rosa Clinic, Bucerias	329- 298-0157
Ambulance, Red Cross	322-222-1533
Ameri-Med Hospital - Marina Vallarta	322-221-0023
Hospital CMQ - Central South	322-223-1919
<u>San Javier Hospital</u> – Puerto Vallarta	322-226-1010
<u>Intermedica</u> - Co. Versalles	322-293-1991

Driving Tips In Mexico:

- Your American drivers' license will work in Mexico.
- There are a number of excellent four-lane toll roads all over Mexico.
- Winding, mountainous, single lane roads are commonplace in many parts of the country
- It is best to be very careful and try not to get stopped by the Mexican police.
- If you are stopped - there may be "expectations"....which means that some policemen may expect monetary rewards which, once paid, may result in the non-issuance of a ticket. Amounts demanded usually exceed expectations and hopefully the police who would ask you for Pesos in this manner are in a minority. But
- If you are stopped for a traffic violation, and you do not come to an "agreement", you may find that you need to retrieve your license at the police station the next day and pay a fine – which can consume a great deal of time.
- We are not suggesting what you should do – except to remain calm, feel your way diplomatically along and negotiate if you are stopped. Show your license through the window and do not give it up.
- It is best not to have an accident. If you have one, plan on about ½ of the day to resolve the issues.
- Mexican drivers on single lane roads tend to be aggressive about passing on hills and curves so we suggest that you remain vigilant.
- The drive from Vallarta to Guadalajara can be fascinating and beautiful. The drive is about 212 miles (352Km) and takes approximately 4.0 hours. You pass through interior Mexican towns and see what life is like away from the tourist areas. The slow part of the road is the 2-lane road leading into and out of Puerto Vallarta that has lots of curves, poor visibility and threads itself through the Mountains. Once you hit the Toll road (Cuota) it is an excellent 4-lane freeway which will cost approx \$30 US total from Compostella to Guadalajara. Like anywhere else in Mexico or the World, its best not to drive at night. Always lock your car and do not leave any valuables visible.

'Green Angels' travel the many roads of Mexico. These professionals are there to assist you with a flat tire, directions or mechanical problems, etc. They are easily visible because of the Green service truck they drive.

Consulate Numbers

American Consulate 322-222-0069 after hours 01-333-826-5553
 Canadian Consulate 322-222-5398 after hours 01-800-706-2900