



# Events and Fiestas!

## January

Whale Watching Season - Each winter a growing number of travelers enjoy excursions to view the migrating Humpback whales in Banderas Bay. From December to April, these gentle giants can be seen breaching out of the water as parents instruct their baby calves in the ways of their watery world. Local eco-tour operators are licensed by the National Environmental agency to assure respectful watching of these magnificent mammals. Also, during January 24th, the municipality of Bahía de Banderas celebrates the "Virgin of the Peace day" with religious events and processions.

## February / March / April

Regatta Action! - Banderas Bay fills with sails as a series of regattas taking full advantage of the gentle breezes, clear skies and calm waters surrounding Vallarta. MEXORC Regatta (Mexican Oceanic Races Circuit) and San Diego Yacht Club Regatta both at the Bay of Banderas along Vallarta's coastline. "Candles day" is celebrated February 2nd with religious Festivities and local traditional celebrations Local Festivities at San Jose del Valle due to its Patron Saints' day 3/19 Local Festivities at San Vicente due to its Patron Saints' day 4/5 Bahía de Banderas, Nayarit Festivities 2/24 - 3/3

## May

Vallarta's Fiestas de Mayo / May Cultural Festival at Puerto Vallarta - Visitors can join with local residents in this spring celebration, centered around a traditional Fair, complete with midway games and attractions, livestock displays, exhibits, food, drinks and entertainment. Local Festivities at La Cruz de Huanacaxtle due to "The day of the Cross" 5/9 Vallarta's International TRIATLON 5/12 Puerto Vallarta's City Anniversary 5/31

## June / August

Eco Months in Vallarta - Summer fun and family vacation times occur when Vallarta is at its peak in terms of ecological preservation and protection. Children and adults can participate in Turtle Liberation ceremonies, held daily during the season at participating hotel beaches. Vallarta is an important breeding ground for several endangered, protected species of sea turtles, and a community-wide preservation program has been implemented that combines protected nurseries for the eggs with educational projects. Local Festivities at San Juan de Abajo due to its Patron Saints' day 6/24

## September

Fiestas Patrias! - Mexico's independence is commemorated during the month of September, with the famed Independence Eve celebration taking place on the 15th. On this night, the central plaza is filled with revelers participating in the traditional grito, or Cry for Independence. The following day is a national holiday, celebrated by a parade through the center of town and continuing Festivities.

## November

All Souls Day and Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) - In addition to being one of Mexico's most fascinating holidays, it is also a tradition that defines this culture's attitude and acceptance of death. The belief is that on these two days, the souls of departed loved ones return to earth for an annual visit. November 1st is for children who have passed on, with November 2nd reserved for adult souls. Families leave the favorite foods and drinks of their departed ancestors on a special altar constructed in their home or on their tomb. Each year City Hall offers a special altar exhibition, as does the Cultural Center on Rio Cuale Island. Annual SeaFest / Fiesta del Mar - A full-scale celebration of annual activities including the Mexico Vallarta Sailfish Tournament, Fine Arts Festival, Gourmet Dining Festival, and Governor's Cup Golf Tournament. Sailboat regattas, Jet Ski races, windsurfing exhibitions, beach volleyball, tennis and golf tournaments are also part of the Festivities.

## December

1-12: "Virgin of Guadalupe" Processions and Festival - For these twelve days, processions are made to the downtown cathedral that bears the name of the patron saint of both Vallarta and of Mexico. Guadalupe Day (Día de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe) is celebrated on December 12, and most businesses, hotels, restaurants, neighborhoods and civic associations make a procession to the church for a special mass they have devoted to the Virgin. For the larger groups, these processions resemble a small parade with folkloric dancers, floats, singing, and even fireworks following their brief mass. It is a beautiful display of traditional Mexico.



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