

Casa Miyito Suggestions For Things To Do In Puerto Vallarta Off The Heavily Beaten Track...

Favorite Beaches to the North:

North along the Nyarit coast are a few small villages with lovely stretches of beach all of them make enjoyable day trips; about 40 minutes by bus is **Bucereus** a five mile stretch of beach that is lovely to walk and allows for finding remote places to stop and sunbathe. The beachside and town has restaurants, an artisan market, and a tranquil town atmosphere surrounding an old church (we recommend grilled fish at the market palapas), be careful when swimming at this stretch of beach as we encountered our first sting ray there recently and so water shoes might be a good idea. **Punta Mita** also accessible by bus is further north and has a more rugged beach feeling with a few lunch options. **Sayulita** is approximately an hour and a half by bus and has a real “surfers” vibe. The town is small centered mostly around beach life and has many amenities for lunch (we recommend the grilled chicken found on a street corner grilled in the open air, grab a beer or a “Cidral” {apple soda} and head back to the beach with it. Apparently there is a man in Sayulita who boasts being able to teach ANYONE to surf, look for him and you might just come home a surfer if you’re not already.

Favorite Beaches to the South:

Although downtown Puerto Vallarta has a long stretch of beach, some of our favorite beaches are found just south of the old part of Puerto Vallarta. A bus heading south can be found a few blocks south of the grocery store “**Rizzo**” on street “**constitucion**” (just ask a local). **Playa Gemelas** is a small but lovely beach, it is never overly crowded except on Sundays when it is a hotspot for locals to gather for picnics and beach soccer. Just ask the bus driver to let you off at the beach stairs (you may have to walk a few yards to find the stairs going down to the beach). Bring water, there are no beach side amenities here. Farther south are possibly the nicest and most remote beaches accessible only by boat and water taxi from **Boca de Tomatlan** (there might also be water taxis from downtown PV just ask at a hotel). To get to Boca de Tomatlan, take the bus approximately 25 minutes south where you can then take the Water Taxi to one of three different beach locations 1) **Las Animas** 2) **Quimixto**, 3) **Yelapa**. All three beaches have lunch amenities. There is also a fourth less known beach that is the most remote of all the three beaches as it is a private beach for a small 10 room resort. There are NO amenities at this tranquil beach and you have to pre-arrange with the water taxi driver to come back to get you at a certain time. The true adventurer will really enjoy this tranquil beach on a quiet cove used only by very few people. The beach is called “**Mahajuitas**” just tell the water taxi driver that you want to go to the beach where the resort is (remember PRE-ARRANGE to get picked up, as that beach is not a normal water-taxi stop).

A Few Puerto Vallarta Inexpensive Local Eateries:

Downtown:

We love to eat **upstairs in the artisan Market** at the corner of Matamoros street and Rodriguez street in downtown Puerto Vallarta. They serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner (they do close early however). The Grilled red snapper **{Huachinango}** is a specialty of the region we highly recommend. The Market eateries can be found on the second floor and are a wonderful escape from the touristy lower market. The small family restaurants all look out over trees and the River Cuale and are reasonably priced local flavors. Also by the artisan Market is a tiny restaurant 1-2 blocks north on Matamoros Street called “**El Cangrejo Loco**” (The Crazy Crab), it is only open for “Comida” (lunch/late lunch). We recommend the Ceviche Marlin and the Shrimp Tacos. There is a small **Tamale restaurant** across the street from the Cathedral on **Hidalgo** street. On Sunday evenings a small **Tamale cart** with delicious Tamales sits at the corner in front of the Cathedral, its fun to buy the tamales and sit on the benches outside the Cathedral and watch all the locals stroll by after church. **El Brujo** is a sit-down restaurant highly recommended by some friends who like to eat off the beaten track on street **Venustiano Carranza #510**.

Near Casa Miyito:

There is a quaint little four-table restaurant a few blocks from the house at the corner of Miramar street and Interbide street, which is nice for those evenings you just don't want to go too far. It is a Spanish “Tapas” restaurant owned by a Mexican oceanographer/chef and his Spanish wife. He can be a wealth of information if you are looking to go out on a boat to fish or for a whale-watching excursion, just ask. A little farther down the hill from the Tapas restaurant towards the Malecon on Interbide #270 street between Matamoros Street and Hidalgo Street is a great little Vegetarian restaurant called “Planeta Vegetariano”. They prepare fresh concoctions each day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They purify all salads and veggies so it's the place to fill up on fresh veggies. They also have cooked dishes and unique items like cactus salad.

Cooking at Home:

Our absolute favorite place to eat however is right there at home in Casa Myito! We buy the fresh fish from the fish markets that get the fish fresh that morning and buy groceries and charcoal from the super market “Rizzo”. We grill the fish and purchase freshly made tortillas in the tiendas a half block from the house on the corner of Emillio Caranza Street and Corona street (buy the tortillas in the morning for dinner as they run out mid day). Also, all sorts of necessities can be bought at the local tiendas (everything from eggs and water to toilet paper). To get to “supermercado Rizzo” and the little fresh fish storefront (it's approximately a 10 minute walk) take Matamoros street from Casa Myito all the way down the hill, past the artisan market, take a little rickety foot bridge over the river (there is a real bridge down the street that doesn't take an athlete to cross it, but it's not as direct or as fun) you will cross two sections of the river and the grocery store will be on your right, the fish storefront is across the same side of the street.

Rooftop Drinks:

The rooftop bar of hotel **Los Cuatro Vientos** (Four Winds) is a divine place to watch the breathtaking sunset and take in the vista across the old colonial tiled roofs to the ocean beyond while sipping on a traditional Margarita or PinaColada. The best thing about the rooftop bar is that it is only a few blocks from Casa Miyito's in the old part of town, Matamoros Street off of Corona Street.

Movies:

Cine Bahia is the name of the closest movie theater. There are movies daily in both English and Spanish. The Movie Theater is two blocks from the grocery store "Rizzo" (just ask while at Rizzo).

Hiking/Biking/Walking:

Puerto Vallarta is at the base of the beautiful rain forest mountains. There are opportunities for hiking and biking, you may already have a guidebook and an agenda, if not, try consulting with the **Mountain Bike tour/rental shop** down the street from Casa Miyito on Miramar Street just past Itebide street. If an afternoon stroll is what you are in the mood for you are in the right neighborhood. From Casa Miyitos there are many small cobblestone streets that have a romantic feel to them. If you are walking south on Emillio Caranza Street look for #446 Zargoza Street, which is Elizabeth Taylors old house. Richard Burton bought her the house as a gift, later she loved it so much she bought the house across the street from it and put a bridge across the top of the two houses, which can be seen from the street.

Have a wonderful adventure!!! We hope you experience the quiet moments and off the beaten path places we have enjoyed over the years. Bon Viaje!!