

Malecon Puerto Vallarta

Only a few U.S. residents ventured to Puerto Vallarta until the 1950s. That's when airplanes began landing on a dirt airstrip just outside of town. By the 1960s the town was a hideaway for movie stars who enjoyed the charm and serenity of the area.

About that time Hollywood really ignited interest in the city. In 1963, director John Huston chose Puerto Vallarta as the film location of Tennessee William's "Night of the Iguana", which starred Richard Burton, Deborah Kerr, and Ava Garner.

Much of the filming was done in the deserted cove of Mismaloya. The film gave Vallarta its reputation as a steamy romantic escape, and soon large numbers of travelers went to experience it for themselves. In 1968, a road was built from Tepic to accommodate the flow of visitors.

By 1974, the boom in construction and population was on, and the area blossomed with more than 350,000 residents and about three million visitors each year.

This is a city with modern infrastructure and conveniences that have somehow managed to maintain its unique Old Mexican charm, unlike so many more glitzy resorts. In many areas of Puerto Vallarta you will feel like you are taking a step back in time. A step back to a much simpler time. Donkeys are still used for delivery in many parts of this unique city.

A modern marina and cruise ship port attract visitors on shops from all over the world. The City's clean, friendly atmosphere, unique Mexican ambiance and incredible diverse shopping attract international and Mexican tourists in droves. These unique attractions lure many to return over and over again. Many of these tourists end up becoming full time residents of retiring in Puerto Vallarta.

The Gustavo Ordiaz International Airport is located 2 miles or 5 minutes north of town.