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Bienvenidos a Puerto Vallarta

A short article submitted by Clare S.



The foothills of the Sierras Caules and San Sebastian guard and protect the city of Puerto Vallarta. Scientists believe the human beings inhabited the area as early as 580 B.C., and it was a safe haven for them until the explorer Cortez arrived two thousand years later (1524) with a flotilla of soldiers.

Yes, the mountains defended the natives and their precious valley...but the Pacific Ocean to the west welcomed their defeat and a destiny no one imagined until another five hundred years ticked on the clock of time.

Herman Cortez was met and battled by over ten thousand Indians wearing colorful bandanas. They lost the battle but because the explorer named the valley Banderas and its beaches along the BAY OF BANDERAS eventually became the home port of smugglers and pirates. The city was first known as El Carrizal or Las Penas.

Now its name commemorates the former Governor of the State of Jalisco, Ignacio Vallarta.



In 1963, John Huston directed and filmed The Night of the Iguana, and Americans wanted to discover more of what the movie offered and where he made his home.

!Within weeks, DC-3 airplanes began landing with 21 passengers on each flight.

After US President Richard Nixon's, 1970, treaty meeting with Mexican President Ordaz in Puerto Vallarta the awakening town experienced phenomenal growth.

Now, Ordaz International Airport (PVR) is capable of handling 40 takeoffs or landings PER HOUR! 12 Major airlines and numerous air charter companies keep the 11 active gates, and 18 loading positions, humming every day of the year!

When the Baby Boomers were born... PV had packed dirt roads. Now, the Boomers arrive on modern multi-lane highways that welcome thousands of cars, buses and motor homes. Gaggles of sun & fun seekers wave from the windows. Following the first Vallarta Hotel in 1948, hundreds more have taken root and prospered in the rich sand and soil ten miles south and 30 miles north of where those "banderas" Indians fought Cortez to keep their paradise a secret.

Today, the Bay of Banderas is a vacation destination to more than three million visitors (3,000,000) per annum!

If you wonder why... come for a week or ten days and discover Bahia de Banderas with pleasure!

