

TRAVEL



Jennifer Aniston has escaped to the Punta Mita estate of *Girls Gone Wild* founder Joe Francis.

Miles from the nearest big city, this vibrant Mexican peninsula is perfect for a sublime siesta



Sun-filled seclusion has attracted Paris Hilton to the area.

Stars love going to Punta Mita



Katherine Heigl has soaked up the sun in nearby Puerto Vallarta.



Privacy and blissful relaxation are yours when you stay in the villas at Las Palmas.



Travel tips

- » Punta Mita Information; www.puntamita.com.mx or 888-647-0979, info@puntamitaproperties.net
- » Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita; fourseasons.com/puntamita, 011-52-329-291-6000 or 800-819-5053
- » Café des Artistes; cafedesartistes.com, 011-52-322-222-2829

How do I get there? Delta, United and American all have direct service to Puerto Vallarta from cities such as Chicago, Dallas and Atlanta. Airport pickup and drop-off can be arranged through the Mita Residential Concierge.

Why should I go?

A loose interpretation of the name Punta Mita is “Point where heart meets the land”; with average 75-degree temperatures in the winter, your heart will surely want to meet this land as well. This resort community, located just 45 minutes north of Puerto Vallarta on Mexico’s Pacific Coast, offers some of the best golf in the world — not to mention the Sierra Madre Mountains as a dramatic backdrop and nine miles of pristine, uncrowded beaches. To sum it up: Punta Mita is a feast for the eyes and a perfect respite for the soul.

Where should I stay?

The community of Punta Mita is made up of several different housing developments, including rental homes, ranging from family-friendly condominiums to lavish villas. One such option is Las Palmas, made up of furnished three- or four-bedroom villas.

The open floor plans, modern amenities (flat-screen televisions are available in the living rooms and master bedrooms, and foodies will love the stainless steel appliances and ample counter space featured in the gourmet kitchens) and tranquil views allow for a luxurious getaway that also makes you feel right at home. In the mood to entertain? Each villa comes with its own private plunge pool, comfortable patio furniture and state-of-the-art grill for your own private backyard party. The Mita Residential Concierge is available to meet your needs, such as calling ahead to stock your refrigerator or arranging a car service or in-villa spa treatment. The up-and-coming community will soon be adding a clubhouse, complete with a fitness center, for the athletically inclined.

The ultra-private atmosphere of the Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita has enticed celebrities like Will Smith, John Travolta, Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas to check in. Feel like a celebrity yourself by

reserving a private pool-side cabana, complete with a plasma TV, a Bose speaker for your iPod and a DVD player. While the Four Seasons is Punta Mita’s only current operating hotel, a St. Regis Resort and Residences is set to open in December 2007.

What should I do?

A day trip to nearby Puerto Vallarta is a must for shopping and nightlife; the city is easily accessible by car or bus. Puerto Vallarta’s charming cobblestone streets are lined with shops of all varieties (from simple delis to high-end art galleries) and eateries. Stay for the evening hours and you will be treated to a breath-taking multi-hued sunset on Banderas Bay. There are many dining options in Puerto Vallarta; one of the elite is Café des Artistes. Try the cream of prawn and pumpkin soup under the stars in the restaurant’s swanky outdoor dining area.

If a day of relaxation at Las Palmas is more your speed, have your concierge set up an in-villa spa treatment, and indulge in a massage by Blanca, who eases all tension with soothing music and kneads away your troubles with a fabulous rub-down.

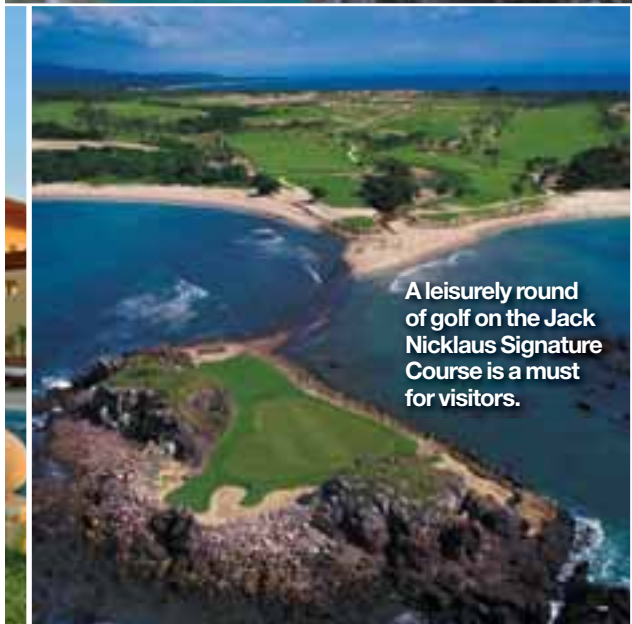
If you’d like to stick close to home, enjoy a fun, laid-back dining experience right in Punta Mita’s village at Manañas, an Italian restaurant with Mexican flair. It’s hard not to feel at home in the outdoor dining area while digging your toes in the sand, sipping a margarita and enjoying the company of the friendly dogs who roam the dining area, looking for a scratch of the ears.

Golf enthusiasts will be pleased with the palm tree-lined Jack Nicklaus Signature Course — it features one of the world’s quirkiest holes. The hole extends out among the waves, into the ocean, making it an island during high tides. A rock walkway allows you to play the optional, par-three hole during low tides, and if you wish to play when the tide rises, an amphibious vehicle will take you out there. (The course is open to any resident of Punta Mita, and a second Jack Nicklaus course, in conjunction with the under-construction St. Regis, is also planned for the peninsula.)

For a more adventurous afternoon, hang ten at one of the peninsula’s surfing beaches — beginners can even request a surf lesson through the concierge. Want to stay on land and simply enjoy the beautiful waterscape before you? The inviting sands and delectable menu of Residents’ Beach Club (open to home owners and renters of Punta Mita) makes for the perfect beach day. If you’re visiting during December through April, be sure to scan the horizon for humpback whale activity — you may catch a glimpse of the mammals surfacing as they migrate.



- OK!'s 3 must-do's**
1. Lunch at Residents' Beach Club
 2. Day trip to Puerto Vallarta
 3. In-villa spa treatment



A leisurely round of golf on the Jack Nicklaus Signature Course is a must for visitors.



The Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita offers stunning views in a lavish setting.

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