

# IT'S STILL WARM IN MEXICO

Step up to a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Or twice, maybe?



Maybe it's something you don't do often, but once in a while, all of us deserve to be pampered, coddled, indulged and maybe even downright spoiled. Take a look at Villa Estrella Mar, a day's flight south of the border near Puerto Vallarta.

Arriving is an event unto itself. There's a dedicated staff of 14, including your own chef and butler, to greet you. This five-story villa looks out on the Bay of Banderas in the Pacific Ocean to capture the setting sun. Villa Estrella Mar has two elevators, six spacious suites, nine bathrooms, an exercise room, a large heated pool ladled into a manicured setting of tropical greenery.

You might be surprised to find there is no glass in any of the windows. No need really. The ocean breezes typically keep the temperatures idyllic. And the absence of glass means the views are nothing short of entrancing.

The open air of Villa Estrella Mar rolls across polished tile floors, hand-textured walls, and old-world antiques alongside modern amenities. If you must stay in touch, there is high-speed internet service, satellite television with a DVD, telephone and fax.

The Pacific Ocean is, of course, at your doorstep. The bay around Puerto Vallarta is Mexico's largest, with depths exceeding 3,000 feet. There's superb sport fishing: big tuna, marlin, sailfish and more. The area is also a breeding ground for humpback whales from about the first of the year through March. In the summer months, look for sea turtles, Rيدleys and leatherbacks.

If that's not enough, you can always leave the villa for a trip into Puerto Vallarta. What was once a quiet Mexican fishing village is now a jet-set destination, although much of the old-school charm has been tastefully preserved. Shopping, true gourmet dining, art galleries, chic boutiques... you can dance the night away. But nothing will match what's waiting for you when you return to Villa Estrella Mar.

Stay as long as you'd like. Rates from now through April are \$3,500 a night. During May through October, it drops to \$2,300 and the Christmas season costs \$4,100.

Villa Estrella Mar: 800.777.7580, MexicanDestinations.com Airport: Gustavo Díaz Ordaz International (PVR), +52 (322) 221-12-98, AeroPuertosGAP.com.mx