

Featured Locations Section (Puerto Vallarta Trip Nov 14–20, 2025)

Design Overview

- **Purpose:** Showcase a curated selection of iconic, unique, and unforgettable places/activities in and around Puerto Vallarta, balancing beach leisure, adventure, culture, nightlife, and luxury experiences. Each “Featured Location” will be presented as an interactive card with visuals and key info, enticing users to explore further.
- **Structure:** Use a responsive **grid or carousel** of cards. Each card expands on hover or click to reveal more details (description, links, etc.) without leaving the page. On desktop, a grid with hover pop-ups works well; on mobile, use a swipeable carousel for easy navigation.
- **Interactivity:** Each card includes a thumbnail image and title. On hover or tap, the card can flip or expand to show the description and action links (Google Maps, booking). Optionally include a lightbox feature for images or an embedded video for dynamic activities.

Card Content Requirements

Each location/activity card should include:

- **Title & Category:** e.g. “*Malecón Boardwalk*” (Category: **Culture/Nightlife**). This appears as the card header or overlay text on the image.
- **Featured Image:** High-quality photo (no placeholders) that captures the essence of the location (e.g. beach scene, landmark, etc.). Use images from free, reputable sources (Unsplash or official tourism boards) with proper attribution.
- **Description:** 2–3 sentence compelling blurb highlighting what makes the place special. Keep it punchy and evocative, e.g. “*The Malecón is PV’s iconic seaside promenade, bustling with sculptures, street performers, and sunset views.*”
- **Links (CTA Buttons):**
 - **Google Maps:** Direct link to the location on Google Maps for directions (e.g. “Open in Google Maps”).
 - **Book/Info:** Link to an official site, tour booking (Viator/TripAdvisor), or relevant page to learn more or reserve (e.g. “Book a Snorkel Tour” for a marine park, or “Official Site” for a garden).
- **Extras:** Optionally, include a star rating or a short review snippet (e.g. “★ 4.8 – ‘Best sunset dinner show!’”) for activities, or a notable highlight icon (e.g. a 🏆 icon for award-winning sites).

All cards should have a **consistent layout** for a clean look. For example, image on top, text and icons below. Use icons to denote categories or link types (map pin icon for maps, ticket icon for tours).

Layout & Style Options

- **Grid Layout:** Display cards in a masonry or uniform grid. On hover, either flip the card or show an overlay with the description and links. Ensure at least **8–10 cards** (more than the current 6) to cover the range of experiences.
- **Scrollable Carousel:** Alternatively, implement a horizontal carousel with one card per slide (show 1–3 cards at a time depending on viewport). This saves space and is mobile-friendly. Include navigation arrows or swipe gesture.
- **Expandable Cards:** Clicking a card could expand it in-place (e.g. modal or accordion style) to reveal full details (including a larger image and the description/links). This keeps users on the page.
- **Styling:** Use a **consistent color theme** reflecting PV (ocean blues, sunset oranges). Card titles could overlay images with a semi-transparent dark background for readability. Use subtle shadows and rounded corners to make cards stand out as tappable elements.

Featured Location Cards

Below is a curated list of featured locations/activities to include, with sample content for each card:

Malecón Boardwalk (Category: Culture & Nightlife)

The Malecón (waterfront promenade) is Puerto Vallarta's iconic **oceanfront boardwalk**, lined with sculptures, lively bars, eateries, and street performers. Strolling here offers endless entertainment – from art installations to live music – plus beautiful ocean views and stunning sunsets. After dark, the Malecón becomes the heart of PV's nightlife with bustling clubs and street shows.

Google Maps: [Open in Maps](#)

More Info: [Tourism Guide](#)

Playa Los Muertos & Pier (Category: Beach)

Playa Los Muertos is PV's most popular city beach, famous for its **vibrant atmosphere** and the iconic sail-shaped pier. By day, enjoy swimming, jet-skiing, or simply relaxing under palapas with a cold drink. By evening, the pier lights up, and crowds gather to watch spectacular sunsets over Banderas Bay. The beach is a lively mix of locals and visitors – LGBT-friendly, family-friendly, and always festive.

Google Maps: [Open in Maps](#)

More Info: [PV Beach Guide](#)

Los Arcos Marine Park (Category: Nature & Adventure)

Los Arcos is a National Marine Park featuring towering granite **rock arches** jutting from the sea – a paradise for snorkelers and divers. Located just offshore from Mismaloya, this protected area is famous for its **underwater caves, tunnels, and reefs** teeming with tropical fish. Boats stop here for snorkeling amid colorful marine life, and you might spot pelicans and blue-footed boobies nesting on the rocks. It's an easy half-day adventure from PV (often combined with beach trips further south).

Google Maps: [Open in Maps](#)

Book Tour: [Snorkel Los Arcos](#) (Viator)

Marietas Islands & Hidden Beach (Category: Eco-Adventure)

Islas Marietas – a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve off PV's coast – offer a **one-of-a-kind adventure**. These uninhabited islands are known for their biodiversity (think blue-footed boobies and coral reefs) and the famous **Playa Escondida** ("Hidden Beach"). This secluded beach is inside a crater, open to the sky and accessible only by swimming through a short tunnel – a true natural wonder. Only a limited number of visitors are allowed daily to protect the ecosystem. Aside from the Hidden Beach, you can enjoy world-class snorkeling, kayaking, and (seasonally) humpback whale watching around the islands.

Google Maps: [Open in Maps](#)

Book Tour: [Official Marietas Tour](#) (Vallarta Adventures)

Vallarta Botanical Gardens (Category: Nature & Culture)

Vallarta Botanical Garden is a 64-acre tropical oasis in the Sierra Madre, about 30 minutes from town. Voted one of North America's top gardens, it showcases **Mexico's diverse flora** – from an astounding orchid collection to giant strangler figs. Wander hiking trails through lush jungle, visit the orchid conservatory, or even take a dip in the Horcones River's emerald pools. The on-site Hacienda de Oro restaurant and hilltop chapel round out the experience, making it a perfect day trip for nature lovers and families. (*Tip: bring insect repellent and your camera – hummingbirds abound!*)

Google Maps: [Open in Maps](#)

Official Site: [VBGardens.org](#) (hours, tickets, events)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (Category: Culture & History)

Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe is Puerto Vallarta's **crown-topped church**, an architectural icon that dominates the downtown skyline. Its famous filigree crown (modeled after a tiara of a former Mexican empress) sits atop the bell tower, ringing out joyfully every hour. Step inside to find a mix of simplicity and grandeur – white-washed walls, a gilded altar, and stained-glass windows that bathe the interior in colored light. In early December, the church becomes the focal point of the city-wide **Festival of Guadalupe**, with nightly processions, music and food celebrating PV's patron saint.

Google Maps: [Open in Maps](#)

More Info: [Historic Church](#) (PV Official Blog)

Yelapa Village & Waterfall (Category: Adventure & Beach)

Yelapa is a remote **beach village** accessible only by boat (a 45-minute water taxi ride from PV). Tucked into a jungle-fringed cove, Yelapa offers a laid-back escape from the city – no cars, just cobbled paths and golden sand. Visitors can hike a short trail from the village to a **jungle waterfall**, where you can cool off in the pool below. On the beach, enjoy fresh grilled fish or Yelapa's famous homemade pies sold by local vendors. This rustic slice of paradise is perfect for those seeking an authentic, slower pace of life. (*Boats to Yelapa depart from Los Muertos Pier or Boca de Tomatlán.*)

Google Maps: [Open in Maps](#)

More Info: [Yelapa Guide](#) (PuertoVallarta.net)

Sayulita Surf Town (Category: Beach & Nightlife)

Sayulita is a **bohemian surf town** about an hour north of PV, known for its **colorful streets, Pacific surf break, and hippie-chic vibe**. By day, you'll find surfers of all levels riding the waves and yoga enthusiasts meditating on the sand. By night, the town comes alive with taco stands, art galleries, and beachside bars twinkling with string lights. Sayulita seamlessly blends cosmopolitan influences with 1960s peace-and-love spirit – expect to hear a mix of languages as expats and locals mingle in cafés and on the plaza. It's a great day trip (or overnight) for shopping local crafts, taking a surf lesson, or just soaking up the **lively, laid-back atmosphere**.

Google Maps: [Open in Maps](#)

More Info: [Riviera Nayarit Tourism](#)

“Rhythms of the Night” Cruise & Show (Category: Luxury Dinner Show)

Rhythms of the Night is an **enchanted evening adventure** often called a “must-do” for couples and first-timers. The experience begins with a sunset **catamaran cruise** across Banderas Bay, with an open bar and panoramic views. You'll arrive at a private cove (Las Caletas Beach) illuminated by hundreds of tiki torches and candles. After a gourmet beachside buffet dinner under the stars, an immersive **cultural show** unfolds in the jungle amphitheater – think acrobats, fire dancers, and live music telling a story inspired by ancient Aztec legend (produced by a Cirque du Soleil co-founder). The night ends with a boat ride back, often with a fun crew-led dance party onboard. This 5-hour experience is **pure magic** and romance.

Google Maps: [Open in Maps](#) (departure point)

Book Now: [Vallarta Adventures](#) (Official Booking)

Interactive Map Integration (Optional)

To enhance this section, consider embedding an **interactive Map** (using Mapbox or Leaflet) showing all location pins: beaches, towns, and tour spots. A small map can be placed alongside the cards or in a modal. Each marker on the map would correspond to a featured location – clicking a marker could highlight the relevant card or pop up its key info. This helps users visualize where each attraction is relative to the city (e.g. downtown vs. south bay vs. north in Nayarit). Ensure the map uses custom markers or color-coding for categories (e.g. blue pins for beaches, green for nature, etc.) for quick reference.

Implementation Note for Developer: This section will be added to the existing HTML page, likely as a new `<section>` with its own CSS for the card grid and responsiveness. Use alt text for images (for accessibility, e.g. `alt="Los Muertos Pier at sunset"`). All external links (Maps/booking) should open in a new tab (`target="_blank"`). Test the layout on multiple devices to ensure the interactive elements (hover effects, carousel swipes) work smoothly. By following the structured layout above, the “Featured Locations” section will be an engaging, informative highlight of the trip page, allowing users to **dream and plan** their Puerto Vallarta adventures with ease.
