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Nuevo Vallarta

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TRAVEL & NEWSLETTER - GrandMayan.net & GrandLuxeResidence.com

I hope that you will allow us to occasionally update you on the Grupo Vidanta Resort Properties, Construction News and places we think you may enjoy on your travels.

Having just returned from a wonderful week at the **Grand Luxxe Resort** in **Nuevo Vallarta**, that is just 10 minutes north of the Puerto Vallarta Airport. I thought we could take this opportunity to reconnect with you.

This was our first chance to stay in the Grand Luxxe even though we upgraded many months ago. It was awesome. The views were spectacular from our room.

Tips and Lists – Please email us at, diane@grandmayan.net to request any of our lists: 1) Things To Take With You When Traveling to Mexico; 2) Tips For Enjoying Mexico; 3) Services if You are Sick or Injured in Mexico; 4) More Restaurant Reviews.



The Sayulita streets lead to the surf. Many restaurants line the beach...Try Don Pedro's

We took our first visit to Sayulita this trip. Sayulita is a bustling little surf and fishing village with lots to do, good people watching, and many inexpensive dining options. It is no more than 45 minutes North of the Nuevo Vallarta Complex. We always choose to rent a car, especially in the lower cost off season, because the freedom to travel without restriction is a great benefit to the adventurous. A little further down the road is pueblita San Francisco. We will visit here next time.

Your Safety and Travel in Mexico

Despite growing concern over recent reports of violence and crime in México's northern border towns, travel destinations such as Los Cabos, Nuevo Vallarta, and Riviera Maya, remain sound choices when planning a family vacation or romantic getaway. Located thousands of miles away from Northern Mexico, where many of the reported incidents have taken place, Nuevo Vallarta offers a safe secluded retreat, where travelers can indulge in delicious and diverse cuisine, explore a myriad of beaches and neighboring towns, and take part in a number of exhilarating activities.

We will soon be offering a Mexico Medivac insurance package with all reservations. The basic plan will be included for every guest with every reservation with 2 upgrade packages for those want coverage with less deductibles. The policy will provide medical care and evacuation back to your hospital in your country of origin.

Restaurants - On and Off Property

The Chala, Paseo Diaz Ordaz 708, Old Town Puerto Vallarta. In front of the seahorse statue on the Malecon! Plenty of parking in the public lot. We discovered this secret little restaurant that is a favorite among the locals with semi local pricing. The menu is varied and the place is open for both breakfast and lunch serving traditional and Authentic Mexican foods. They are famous for their tlapeno soup. We had the soup, shrimp fajitas, ground beef enchiladas, chicken fajitas, rellenos and of course the guac & chips. Chala has ocean views and excellent service. Excellent - Enjoy!



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GRAND LUXXE - Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico



Town of **BUCERIAS** - If you are willing to venture a bit off the beaten path, one of our best finds in Bucerias is a true Mexican Seafood Restaurant named Fat Boys owned by El Gordo the Friendly. Fat Boys is just off of the main Highway going north of Nuevo Vallarta, about 10 minutes. When you get to the street light for “El Centro” turn left and it is on your left at the beach. There are lots of shops to enjoy that are stuffed with local art, clothing and leather goods. The center of town is where everyone hangs out so there is good people watching and locals to chat with.

We ordered the combination (pictured above left) for 4 people that included fresh fish, lobsters, shrimp, rice, vegetable salad, 2 kinds of soups, and bread. El Gordo threw in some free beers and it was all excellent. Oh yes, you are sitting on a patio just above the beach. We always start our vacation here.

Our second meal in **Bucerias** was at Aduato’s On the Beach, just north up the beach from El Centro. We all shared some very tasty guacamole, Lobsters and Fish (2 right pictures above). Highly rated, highly recommended and very good, but my heart loves El Gordo the Friendly as a fish does water. “When choosing fish in Mexico you might want to request to see it before ordering. Just to make sure you get what you order. Don’t want to get any of that Talapia Sea Bass,” El Husbando.



GRAND LUXXE & RESORT RESTAURANTS

Epazote -Which is located in the Lobby of the Grand Luxxe Tower 1.

We walked all the way to the other side of the lobby to indulge in the sea bass, flan and homemade candies (all pictured above). Yes, that’s us, La Wifa and El Husbando. The food is excellent and recommended for both convenience and top notch service.

Blue Fish Cevicheria - We strolled out to the Grand Luxxe pool area where the Blue Fish Restaurant is located. Great burgers and exquisitely prepared ceviche with the freshest of ingredients. Blue Fish

serves cocktails, fish tacos, lobster tacos or the variety of refreshing ceviches made with fresh fish - marinated in lime juice with different spices and vegetables. El Husbando says, "Mexican Sushi".



Buffet Restaurants - Café Del Lago and Havana Moon - We have not eaten breakfast in the buffet style restaurants for years. That all changed on this trip. We indulged 5 times. All offer excellent food choices especially the brunch on the weekends. The excellent service goes without question. I overindulged with mucho pancakes and put on mucho pesos (pounds not money). Café Del Lago pictured above.



GOLF - The Nicklaus-Design®, Nayar Golf Course is located along the Ameca River bordering Jalisco and Nayarit. It features winding river views, and is surrounded by a lush jungle. Views encompass the Sierra Madre mountain range in the distance and the pristine Pacific Ocean in the foreground. Being that the course is a wildlife refuge, spotting iguanas will be part of the fun while you keep an eye on the crocodiles that sunbathe in the neighboring sanctuary. Don't feed the frogs or caddies.

This new course is destined to become one of the most spectacular in the world, fully equipped, and featuring optimal conditions, fit for the amateur and pro golfer alike. 3 more golf courses are planned.

The newly renovated Pro Shop promises something for everyone. Our Grand Luxxe staff is always smiling and friendly. Led by Managing Director of Vidanta Golf and former Tour Professional, Jesus Torres. Nayar Golf Course is clearly the stand out among neighboring courses.

Course Description - Nicklaus-Design 18 hole-golf course, PAR 70, 6,736 Yards, Fairways BERMUDA 419, Greens CHAMPIONS.

We played it twice while staying at the Grand Luxxe. Early a.m. because it was the hot and wet season. The course was awesome with plenty of tee options for the not-so-long knocker hackistas, nice rolling fairways, and soft greens. Bring your own sticks or rent for \$45USD per round. If renting, bring your own balls (mucho), tees, and gloves. As you can see pictured above, there are lots of jungles to lose

those balls in. We recommend Thomas (pictured above center) as your caddy request. If you have never played with a caddy before he is in for a score lowering treat. Yes, we can make golf and room reservations when the others cannot. Thomas is actually a real caddy and we highly recommend him.

FISHING - We went on a fishing trip early one morning. Plenty of boats to take you out and don't be afraid to negotiate, but please keep in mind the price of fuel is also very high in Mexico. So keep the "pangas" in business by allowing them to profit as they work very hard and deserve it. We hired our boat out of the little marina just to the north of the Sea Garden. A walk-able distance.

PS - "Do not go out fishing without live bait or your fishing trip might turn into a boat ride," El Husbando.

BEACH - It seems as if all the hotels along the beach have gotten together to keep the beaches free from trash and tidal debris. Excellent idea because there are few things more distracting than walking along the beach and having to avoid the trash.

GRAND LUXXE CONCIERGE - They are awesome. Did all our exercise, spa and restaurant reservations, and even did a load of laundry because La Wifa is a big sploocher. Nothing stays clean around her.

REFERRALS - Ocean View requests are subject to availability at the time of check-in. You will receive a discount of 10% on food, merchandise and services if you choose to take a tour while visiting any Grand Mayan, Grand Bliss or Grand Luxxe resort. If you do decide to take one of the property tours, we would greatly appreciate your mentioning Diane Miller and GrandMayan.net and/or GrandLuxxeResidence.com to your sales agent and on any paperwork related to your tour. We remember how important you are and thank you for your business. As always please send us your reservation referrals as we are still the number one staff recommended agent for these vacation rentals.

NEWS - Destinations Travel Magazine chose Vida Vacations and Grupo Vidanta resorts as the cover story for their January issue! The spread is beautiful and we are so pleased they chose to feature our resorts. This is really cool! Read it [HERE](#).

"Every luxury and amenity is brought together to create a heightened sense of decadence: Platinum Patron margaritas by the infinity pool; a private butler for every floor; only a few resort rooms on each floor. It feels more like a private residential building with all of the services of the finest resorts in the world."

New in room video. Watch it [HERE](#).

New Grupo Vidanta video. Watch it [HERE](#).





CONSTRUCTION - Transportation around the construction is provided by a continuous flow of limo golf carts driven by happy and knowledgeable uniformed staffers.

The construction of “ Celebrate” is on schedule. Celebrate is a planned 900 acres consisting of 4 movie theatres, cirque du soleil theatre , water park, six flags type of amusement park, casino, 3 golf courses (including a Greg Norman) and a cultural museum on five different islands.

The **Grand Luxxe Residence Club** is currently expanding. Tower 1 is complete. Tower 2 is completed and the new gym is open on the bottom floor. It takes up the entire ground floor of Tower 2. The latest Precor, Star Trac and FreeMotion Vertex machines. Service is outstanding with Free bottled water, and towels.

Tower 3A is under construction. There are rooms open and in use. Between the third and fourth floors, the area is under construction. This area will house the new lobby and will be a promenade type area with shops, restaurants, and services. Tower 3B is designated to open in November 2012.

The **Spa Tower** is under construction next to and will house 3-bedroom units. The **Spa Building**, entirely dedicated to everything “spa”, is constructed and they are beginning the exterior trim and interior work.

There is a new train station building behind the old Mayan Palace. This includes a new sales office in the basement area. It is a colossal, palapa-roofed structure. They did a trial run on the train. Don't expect some huge ugly Diesel train. It is cute and will be a "people mover" on a grand scale. Rail has been laid almost up to the airport. This is where all guests will register upon arrival. The train will eventually run between the airport and the train station to allow faster access to the property. You and your luggage will be placed in a waiting shuttle and taken to your room for check-in.

Thanks for letting us into your world. Would love to hear of your own travel adventures and as always, please know how much we appreciate you and your business. Let us know how we can help make your vacation dreams come true.

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