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Bahía de Banderas

Coordinates: 20.649491°N 105.382233°W﻿ / ﻿20.649491°N 105.382233°W﻿ / 20.649491; -105.382233

Bahía de Banderas (Spanish pronunciation: [baˈi.a ðe βanˈdeɾas], Spanish for *Bay of Flags*) is a bay on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, within the Mexican states of Jalisco and Nayarit. It is also the name of an administrative municipality, located on the bay in Nayarit state. The port and resort city of Puerto Vallarta is on the bay.

Geology

The Bahía de Banderas is regarded by most geologists as the original attachment point for the southern cape of the Baja California Peninsula before it was rifted off the North American Plate millions of years ago, forming the Gulf of California.^[1]

Geography

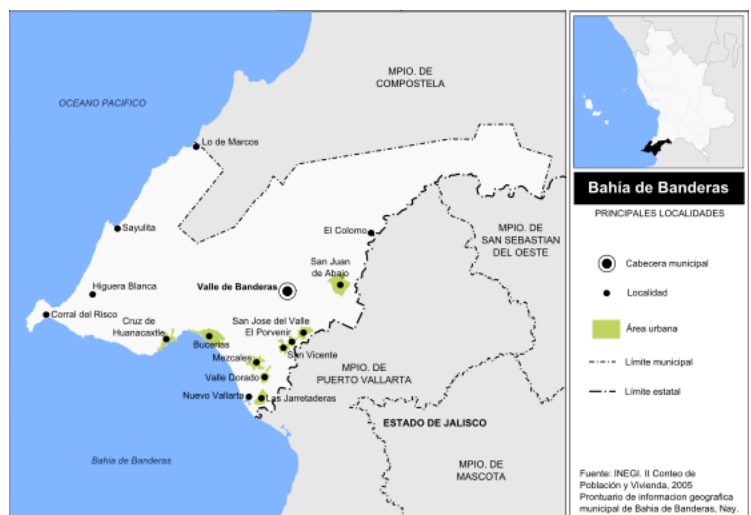
The Bahía de Banderas (Banderas Bay) on the Pacific Ocean is bounded on the north by Punta Mita (*Mita Point*), and on the south by Cabo Corrientes (*Cape Corrientes*). Its coastline is approximately 100 kilometres (62 mi) long.^[2] Though locally regarded so, it is not the largest bay in Mexico.^[3]

Tourism is very important to the local economies, and the Bahía de Banderas coast is an important location of tourist facilities development in both states. Puerto Vallarta has been the longstanding primary resort destination and cruise ship port of the bay. However, beyond the city on the long 100 kilometres (62 mi) coastline, other attractive beaches and landscapes have since been developed to serve visitors.

Bahía de Banderas (Banderas Bay) is also an important breeding and birthing ground for the humpback whale.



Boat on the Bahía de Banderas (*Bay of Flags*).



Map of the Municipality of Bahía de Banderas, with towns.

Unlike the rest of the municipalities of Nayarit, Bahía de Banderas follows the Central Time Zone, as used in the neighboring municipality of Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco. This is in order to allow for greater integration with the touristic region of Puerto Vallarta, as well as to prevent time zone confusions that could lead to missed flights on account of the local airport being across the state border in Puerto Vallarta. This time zone is represented in the Olson database as *America/Bahia_Banderas*.

Municipality

The Municipality of Bahía de Banderas in Nayarit state has a total area of 773.3 km². It was created in 1989. Its westernmost headland is Punta Mita, to the south it is on the Bahía de Banderas, and northwards it is on the open Pacific Ocean.

The municipality had a population of 83,739 in 2005 (59,808 in 2000). The long valley of Banderas, and abundance of water, allow for extensive cattle raising. The mountains contain an important ecological reserve in the eastern section.

By Decree number 7261, issued on 11 December 1989 by the Congress of the Free and Sovereign State of Nayarit, the new municipality of Bahía de Banderas was created, which would separate it territorially from the municipality of Compostela, becoming part of the political division of the state of Nayarit as municipality number 20.^[4]

Location

The municipality of Bahía de Banderas borders Compostela in Nayarit to the north; the municipalities of Puerto Vallarta and San Sebastián del Oeste, both in Jalisco, to the south, the southeast, and the east; and the Bahía de Banderas and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Towns

The municipal seat is the town of Valle de Banderas, with a population of 5,057 in 2005. Other towns are San Juan de Abajo (8,159), Bucerías (5,711), San José del Valle (5,188), San Vicente (3,543), and Jarretaderas (3,426).






















Economy

The municipality's economy is based on tourism, sea fishing, and agriculture.

The main crops are corn (maize), beans, sorghum, tobacco, rice, watermelon and mango. Exotic fruits like papaya, lychee, and soursop are also grown. Most of the planted area is irrigated. There are several packing houses for papaya and other fruits.

Government

Municipal presidents

Municipal president	Term	Political party	Notes
Crescencio Flores Alvarado ^[5]	1990–1993	PRI 	
Carlos Valdés Rivera	1993–1994	PRI 	
Julia Elena Palma Cortés	1994–1996	PRI 	
Juan Ramón Cervantes Gómez ^[6]	17-09-1996–16-09-1999	PRI 	
Luis Carlos Tapia Pérez ^[7]	17-09-1999–16-09-2002	PRI 	
Héctor Miguel Paniagua Salazar ^[8]	17-09-2002–06-09-2005	PRI 	
Jaime Alonso Cuevas Tello ^[9]	17-09-2005–16-09-2008	PRI 	
Héctor Miguel Paniagua Salazar ^[10]	17-09-2008–16-09-2011	PRI  Panal 	Coalition "For the Nayarit that we all want"
Rafael Cervantes Padilla ^[11]	17-09-2011–16-09-2014	PAN 	
José Gómez Pérez ^[12]	17-09-2014–16-09-2017	PRI  PVEM  Panal 	Coalition "For the Good of Nayarit"
Jaime Alonso Cuevas Tello ^[13]	17-09–2017–16-09-2021	PAN  PRD  PT  PRS 	Coalition "Together for You"
Mirtha Iliana Villalvazo Amaya ^[14] ^[15] ^[16]	17-09-2021–	PT  PVEM  Morena  Panal 	

See also

- Ameca River — *bay tributary*.
- Valle de Banderas — *municipal seat*.
- Municipalities of Jalisco
- Municipalities of Nayarit

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4. "Pescadores de Bahía de Banderas. Forjadores de una nueva historia (page 17) —Fishermen from Bahía de Banderas. Shapers of a new history" (https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/663916/libro_digital.pdf) (PDF) (in Spanish). Retrieved 3 October 2021.
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External links

- [VirtualVallarta.com: Banderas Bay \(*Bahía de Banderas*\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20080915222304/http://www.virtualvallarta.com/puertovallarta/puertovallarta/aboutpuertovallarta/banderas-bay.shtml) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080915222304/http://www.virtualvallarta.com/puertovallarta/puertovallarta/aboutpuertovallarta/banderas-bay.shtml>)
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