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# Top 10 Historic Places In The Riviera Nayarit



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## Top 10 Historic Places In The Riviera Nayarit

The Riviera Nayarit is much more than exclusive resorts set on gorgeous beaches or traditional fishing villages. This

corridor that extends along more than 307 kilometers of coastline also guards a variety of historical sites as do other regions of the state like the Sierra del Vallejo and Colonial Nayarit.

In these places it's possible to find the remains of pre-Columbian civilizations and also more modern ones, such as the Heroic Port of San Blas, in archaeological sites like Altavista in the municipality of Compostela, or in towns tucked away in the intricate mountains.

Below is a list of the 10 Historic Places in the Riviera Nayarit that we suggest should be visited at least once in a lifetime.

### Petroglyphs – *Pila del Rey* (King's Basin) in Altavista

The Altavista archaeological site, also known as “*La Pila del Rey*,” “*The Petroglyphs*,” or “*The Sanctuary*,” is located in the mountains of the Sierra del Vallejo, south of the municipality of



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ec group that lived here, carved these fascinating glyphs over 1,000 years ago as symbols of their lives. archaeologists believe they were offerings to their and have a primarily religious meaning, from the spirals to the complex symbols of crossed lines, animals and men.

### Toriles

THE LOS Toriles archaeological zone, also known as the “Ancient Ixtlán,” is recognized as one of the most important sites in the western region of ancient Mexico. According to archaeologists, it was inhabited from the year 100 A.C. to 600 A.C. Over 85 mounds and structures have been identified within the complex, though it's only possible to visit 15 since most are still unexcavated. Among the most salient structures are the Round Temple, which, according to specialists, was dedicated to the wind god, Ehécatl-Quetzalcóatl; the Palace of the Bonfires; the Palace of the Reliefs; the Palace of the Columns; and Palace B-6. The archaeological center is located 9 kilometers east of Ixtlán del Río on road 15. Visiting hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### La Contaduría (The Accounting House)

La Contaduría in San Blas, located in the mountains of San Blas, harks back to the year 1773 and is one of the places where the most battles in the long history of the port. Its beautiful colonial architecture and imposing cannons are witnesses to past glory. As the departure and arrival point for the legendary Manila galleon, it was also the most important center for business and product and cultural exchanges between America with Asia and Europe. La Contaduría was also a military fort, where José María de Urquía directed the liberation strategies during the Mexican Independence movement, having been named Commander-in-Chief of the regional divisions by the Spanish priest, Miguel Hidalgo. Currently, La Contaduría has a museum where visitors can see the remains of the bravery and pride of the people of San Blas.

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in as the cradle of Aztec civilization and the “Venice of the West,” thanks to its many canals that crisscross it. Its streets are deep and start back in ancient Aztec history, and don't believe it's the birthplace of modern Mexico. It is also the birthplace of the map for Tenochtitlán (Mexico City). The city is distinguished by its narrow streets and the city's ability to adapt to the rising water levels.

### Bellavista

To speak of Bellavista is to travel from the Riviera Nayarit to the heart of Colonial Nayarit. This spot is called an archeological site, but it is also a window into the pre-Hispanic era: from Modern Mexico. One of its main symbols is the old textile factory with its European-style architecture. It was opened on September 11, 1841 and all of its construction materials were imported—from the technology and the knowledge to the immense stone blocks. For years it was the commercial model for Nayarit and the entire country until it went bankrupt in 1846. To get to Bellavista from the Riviera Nayarit you have to follow some of the roads that take you to Tepic and travel a bit farther—less than 10 minutes—to the north side of the City of Tepic on the road that goes to Aguamilpa.

The Colonial Town of Jala is located in the southern part of the state of Nayarit. Touring it is a wonderful experience, as it is a town that has preserved its essence in every corner. The National Institute of History and Anthropology (INAH) keeps a record over the streets and buildings of this colonial village. To get to Jala, you have to take the highway from Tepic to Tlaxiaco and get off at the intersection located about 10 minutes from Ixtlán del Río. There are limited accommodations, so we recommend spending the night in Tepic.

### Santa Teresa del Nayar

The indigenous community of Santa Teresa del Nayar, located in the Sierra del Nayar, is a mosaic of customs and traditions that are displayed in its festivals and colorful art. It has its many natural attractions that include forests,

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... Borrados (The Erased) appear during these  
... , representing an army of nocturnal fertility demons  
... "rase" their bodies with black and white paint, covering  
... elves with multicolored symbols.

María Franciscan Temple

... María Franciscan Temple is found in the  
... unity of Mesa del Nayar and was built in the 18<sup>th</sup>  
... century. According to information provided by Francisco  
... Samaniega Altamirano, the archaeologist in charge of the  
... al coordination of the National Institute of History and  
... pology (INAH), there is a giant altar within the temple  
... with a hanging black cloth in the shape of a body, crowned  
... with a skull. The locals say that skull belonged to the last  
... indigenous Cora king named Hueitlacatl Tonati, considered  
... the *Huei taboasima*, or "Grand Corpse," and is used as a sort  
... of oracle, especially during the festivities of the Say of the  
... Dead, when it's asked about situations having to do with the  
... rituals of this ethnicity.

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9 Compostela Parrish

The gorgeous parish of Saint James Apostle, also known as  
... nple of our Lord of Mercy, is located in the municipal  
... Compostela. This is a colonial work of art that still  
... ves pieces from that era, such as the Spanish Christ  
... ne 16<sup>th</sup> century, worshipped in the main niche of the  
... ltar: this is a polychromatic wooden carving  
... enting a life-sized Crucified Christ. It's said to be a gift  
... uño de Guzmán for the old town of Compostela;  
... h Emperor Carlos V donated the reliquary and some  
... ssories. The celebrations for Our Lord of Mercy in  
... ber are famous, highlighting the religious fervor of  
... als. There are pilgrimages with live tableaux, floats,  
... ks and pre-Hispanic dances.

Amado Nervo Museum House

THE Amado Nervo Museum House is dedicated to poet  
Amado Nervo, a native of Nayarit, and is housed in the mid-  
... century residence where he was born on August 27,  
... the building is located in the center of the city of



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and a series of pictures of the Nervo family; and the plays based on a furniture owned by the artist. Local artists created paintings in his honor that hang the allway. Guided visits to the museum are available, as rses, literary workshops, and conferences.

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