

IMANTA

R E S O R T S

P U N T A D E M I T A



Bio-geographical history of the region:

“When the landmasses of North and South America first made contact roughly 3 million years ago, and became joined by the Isthmus of Panama, a transition zone with a rich mixture of fauna and flora originated. This unique zone is a belt stretching from coast to coast over today’s Mexico. Banderas Bay, lying on the belt’s western extreme, in the heart of Mexican Pacific coast, is the largest natural bay in Mexico. The region’s bio-geographical history and varied geography, with a great variety of habitats, have resulted in an astonishing number and variety of plant and animal species. Some of these species are endemic (unique) to the area. The high level of endemism, together with the high number of species found within this area, make Western Mexico one of the most remarkable biodiversity hotspots on the planet.”



Excerpt from the book: Viva Natura: Field Guide to the Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals of Western Mexico, Petr Miska.

IMANTA and its surroundings in particular:

- One of the best preserved fragments of Tropical Deciduous forest in the area. In the immediate vicinity of the resort, the forest is largely undisturbed, certain areas of second growth suggest former farming activities, but a lot of the original vegetation cover is still in place.
- As any other original (undisturbed) ecosystem, the forest around IMANTA is home to a vast variety of both animal and plant species.
- Migratory Bird Routes - IMANTA lies in the path of migratory paths of many bird species. The amount and diversity of the local avifauna, especially in the winter months during migration, is truly unique. Up to 200 species of both resident and migratory birds are found on the property in various forest, ocean, beaches and freshwater locations.



Examples include:

- San Blas Jay - a very noisy and easy to spot bird
- Black-throated Magpie Jay - up to 2 feet in length (tail included), frequent visitor
- Black Iguana - sometimes spotted along the nature paths
- Mexican Leaf Frog - large and charismatic species of a tree frog
- West-Mexican Wood Turtle - colorful inhabitant of the forest floor
- Orbignya Palm - a very prominent species of a forest palm tree

Imanta is home to five species of wild cats: Jaguar, Puma, Ocelot, Margay, and Jaguarundi are all confirmed inhabitants of the forest behind IMANTA.



The surrounding ocean waters area a part of the diverse Gulf of California complex famous for the diversity of marine mammals - 14 species of marine mammals including dolphins and whales have been reported to visit the Bay and frequently pass by the resort. Within easy reach of Imanta by boat are The Marietas Islands which are known as a unique sea bird sanctuary.

- Humpback whales - winter migrations (Nov-Apr)
- Olive Ridley Sea Turtles - summer egg-laying season (Aug-Nov)
- Bottlenose Dolphins - several resident groups in the Bay, one close to the islands



SEASONAL REFLECTIONS

Both the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems undergo an annual run of changes, which in turn provide an ever-changing mosaic of species and colors. Each season brings something exceptional:

- Spring - onset of reproduction activities both in animals and plants. Many birds are busy (and therefore easy to spot), many plants start blooming in preparation for the rainy (summer) season.
- Summer - the most humid part of the year. The forest undergoes an explosion of green, many animals bear their young. Amphibians and reptiles are most active.
- Fall - Sea Turtles are at the height of their season, whales are starting to move in.
- Winter - Rains subsided and bird migrants from the north enrich the local (resident) avifauna. Whales are at the peak of their mating and calf-bearing season.

The species, natural events, and habitats are at your fingertips at IMANTA. The resort sits between the ocean and the forest: two primeval ecosystems. Anyone who walks the forest path or explores the beach, will carry home a memory of an unforgettable encounter never experienced before. This is the true treasure of IMANTA.