

Ogilvy

**FARA SUBMISSION
LOS CABOS TOURISM BOARD (FITURCA)**

**SUPPLEMENTAL PERIOD:
APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

The enclosed articles are those that Ogilvy successfully placed for Los Cabos in various U.S. media outlets.

AFAR

Mexico's First Michelin Guide Debuts With 18 Starred Restaurants— Including a Taco Stand



The recently released inaugural Michelin Mexico Guide includes 16 one-star selections and a pair of two-star awards for restaurants across six states—Oaxaca, CDMX, Quintana Roo, Baja California, Baja California Sur, and Nuevo León. For those following Mexico's growing prominence within the culinary world, acknowledgment from the prestigious restaurant guide likely feels rather overdue.

This sentiment is no doubt felt by Mexico City's long-standing modern Mexican cuisine pioneer, Pujol, which now is one of only two restaurants in the country to receive two Michelin stars. Opened in 2000, Pujol has become known for its complex *Madre Molé*, which has been aged a record-long 3,433 days (and counting) as of June 7, 2024, and is commended by Michelin for its seasonal tasting menu. The venue is a consistent staple on lists like *World's 50 Best Restaurants* and *Best Restaurants in North America*. In 2016, chef-owner Enrique Olvera's featured episode on season two of Netflix's *Chef's Table* introduced Pujol to a worldwide audience.

The second Mexican restaurant to earn two Michelin stars is Quintonil, also located in Mexico City's affluent Polanco neighborhood. Michelin calls out the contemporary cuisine helmed by husband-and-wife team chef Jorge Vallejo and Alejandra Flores for its elegance, refined creativity, and incorporation of local and untraditional ingredients, noting the crab in *pipián verde*, a traditional Mexican sauce made with pureed greens and seeds, was a favorite dish among inspectors during their research.

While Michelin's star awards for Pujol and Quintonil may not have been surprising, others were more unexpected, namely Taqueria El Califa de León, a 100-square-foot taco stall in Mexico City's under-the-radar San Rafael neighborhood. Taqueria El Califa de León is now the first taco stand to ever receive a Michelin star, but there has been some debate on whether this modest stall with only four items on the menu should have been given the honor.

At Taqueria El Califa de León, there are no tables or stools, and the made-to-order tacos are unceremoniously dished out to patrons patiently waiting, holding colorful plastic plates in the air. The small 56-year-old shop has a crew of two: chef Arturo Riviera Martinez on the grill and an assistant pumping out fresh corn tortillas. A limited menu zeroes in on four types of beef or pork tacos (bistec, chuleta, constilla, and gaonera), served simply with only lime and the option to spoon homemade red or green salsa over top.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Riviera Martinez said the secret to his tacos was in their simplicity and the “quality of the meat.” Michelin investigators agreed, noting that the taqueria stood out over several visits from individual investigators for its high-quality ingredients and simple but masterful approach. “It’s about the meat and the tortilla without any fuss or garnish to dress it up or hide behind,” Michelin explains. “Their technical ability shines, and since they only have four options it allows them to maintain their standards throughout.” At approximately \$5 per taco, prices are high for a CDMX taco stand where tacos typically run about \$3 each, but it’s a bargain for a meal with a Michelin star, especially when you add on the affordable cost of Riviera Martinez’s recommended pairing beverage, a Coke.

In addition to Taqueria El Califa de León, other first-year one-Michelin-star selections include Em, Esquina Común, Rosetta, and Sud 77 in CDMX; Animalón, Damiana, and Conchas de Piedra in Baja California; Cocina de Autor Los Cabos in Los Cabos; Levadura de Olla Restaurante and Los Danzantes Oaxaca in Oaxaca; KOLI Cocina de Origen, and Pangea in Nuevo León; and Le Chique, HA’, and Cocina de Autor Riviera Maya in Quintana Roo.

The inaugural Michelin Mexico Guide also honored 42 eateries as Bib Gourmands. Although not as coveted as Michelin’s trademark stars, being recognized as a Bib Gourmand is still considered a tremendous achievement. For comparison, there are currently 2,906 restaurants with one Michelin star and 3,223 restaurants designated as Bib Gourmands.

Created in 1997, the Bib Gourmand award recognizes eateries where diners will find an excellent meal at an excellent value. Criteria for this award are less rigid than Michelin stars and vary from location to location, with the meal’s overall value calculated with respect to the local cost of living.

Additionally, six restaurants—almost all in Baja California or Baja California Sur—received Michelin’s newest star designation, the Michelin Green Star. First revealed in 2020, the Michelin Green Star is a sustainability award reserved for outstanding eateries that are also leaders in local, eco-friendly practices and sustainable gastronomy. These restaurants are Acre and Flora’s Field Kitchen in San Jose del Cabo; Deckman’s En El Mogar and Conchas de Piedra in Valle de Guadalupe; Lunario in El Porviner; and Los Danzantes Oaxaca in Oaxaca.



TEE OFF IN PARADISE: A GOLF GETAWAY IN LOS CABOS, MEXICO



Los Cabos, Mexico, has long been celebrated as a premier destination for sun-soaked vacations, but it's also an exceptional spot for a golf getaway. With its stunning landscapes, luxurious resorts, and world-class golf courses, Cabo offers the perfect blend of relaxation and sport. If you're looking to travel to Cabo Mexico for an unforgettable golf experience, this guide will take you through why Los Cabos ranks among the best golf destinations and how to make the most of your vacation in Mexico.

The Allure of Los Cabos for Golf Enthusiasts

Los Cabos is nestled at the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula, where the desert meets the sea. This unique geography provides a dramatic backdrop for some of the most beautiful golf courses in the world. The region is home to an impressive collection of golf courses designed by legends such as Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, and Robert Trent Jones Jr., making it a top pick for anyone seeking the best golf destinations.

Travel to Cabo Mexico isn't just about the game; it's about the entire experience. From luxurious accommodations to fine dining and outdoor activities, a golf vacation in Mexico promises to be much more than just time on the greens.



World-Class Golf Courses in Los Cabos

1. **Cabo del Sol Golf Club:** A true icon in the world of golf, Cabo del Sol is home to two exceptional courses: the Ocean Course and the Desert Course. The Ocean Course, designed by Jack Nicklaus, is often ranked among the best in the world, offering breathtaking ocean views from several holes. The Desert Course, designed by Tom Weiskopf, provides a contrasting experience with its desert landscape and challenging layout. Both courses offer an unforgettable golf experience that epitomizes the best of Cabo.
2. **Quivira Golf Club:** Another standout, Quivira Golf Club, is a Jack Nicklaus Signature design that offers dramatic oceanfront holes, sweeping vistas, and a layout that challenges golfers of all levels. This course is built into sheer granite cliffs, with the Pacific Ocean serving as a stunning backdrop. The course is part of a luxurious resort community, ensuring that your time off the greens is just as memorable.
3. **Diamante Dunes Course:** Designed by Davis Love III, the Diamante Dunes Course is a masterpiece of design, blending seamlessly with the natural dunes of the Baja Peninsula. This links-style course is ranked among the top courses in the world and offers a unique golfing experience with wide fairways, challenging bunkers, and spectacular views of the ocean.
4. **Palmilla Golf Club:** As the first Jack Nicklaus Signature course in Latin America, Palmilla Golf Club set the standard for golf in Cabo. It features 27 holes across three distinct nines: the Mountain, Ocean, and Arroyo courses. Each nine offers its own set of challenges and rewards, making Palmilla a must-play for any serious golfer.
5. **Puerto Los Cabos Golf Club:** Puerto Los Cabos Golf Club offers a unique experience with two distinctive nines designed by Greg Norman and Jack Nicklaus. The combination of these two legendary designers results in a course that is both challenging and breathtakingly beautiful, with holes that wind through the desert and along the coastline.



Beyond the Greens: Luxury and Leisure in Los Cabos

While the golf courses in Los Cabos are undoubtedly a major draw, the region offers much more to those seeking a well-rounded vacation in Mexico. After a day on the greens, you can unwind in one of the area's luxurious resorts, many of which offer world-class spas, fine dining, and exclusive beach clubs.

Travel magazine editors frequently highlight Los Cabos for its upscale amenities and activities. Whether you're interested in deep-sea fishing, snorkeling in the Sea of Cortez, or simply lounging by a resort pool with a cocktail in hand, Cabo has something for everyone.

Planning Your Golf Getaway

When planning your travel to Cabo Mexico, it's important to consider the best times to visit. Los Cabos enjoys a warm, sunny climate year-round, but the most popular times for golf are during the winter and spring months, when the weather is particularly pleasant.

Booking a stay at one of Cabo's luxury resorts can enhance your golf vacation. Many resorts offer packages that include rounds of golf, transportation to and from the courses, and even lessons with a pro. These packages can provide great value and convenience, allowing you to focus on enjoying your time on the greens.

For those interested in exploring more of what Cabo has to offer, consider adding a few extra days to your vacation to experience the local culture and cuisine. The historic town of San José del Cabo offers a charming contrast to the bustling marina of Cabo San Lucas, with art galleries, traditional Mexican restaurants, and a relaxed atmosphere.



Conclusion: Your Next Golf Destination Awaits

A golf getaway in Los Cabos, Mexico, is more than just a chance to play on some of the world's best courses; it's an opportunity to immerse yourself in the natural beauty and luxury that the region has to offer. Whether you're an avid golfer or simply looking for a relaxing vacation in Mexico, Cabo delivers an experience that's hard to match.

So pack your clubs, book your flight, and prepare to discover why Los Cabos is consistently ranked among the best golf destinations in the world. With its combination of challenging courses, stunning scenery, and luxurious amenities, your vacation in the Swiss Alps might just have to wait—because a golf paradise in Cabo is calling.



A GETAWAY TO FOUR SEASONS RESORT IN LOS CABOS, MEXICO



If you're dreaming of a vacation where luxury meets the unspoiled beauty of the Baja Peninsula, look no further than the Four Seasons Resort in Los Cabos, Mexico. Located on the tranquil shores of the Sea of Cortez, this stunning property offers an unparalleled blend of world-class amenities, breathtaking scenery, and exceptional service. For those planning to travel to Cabo Mexico, the Four Seasons is not just a place to stay—it's an experience that defines the best hotels in Cabo.



A Destination Like No Other

Nestled in the exclusive Costa Palmas community, the Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos at Costa Palmas is a sanctuary of sophistication and relaxation. The resort is a perfect example of how luxury and nature can coexist harmoniously, with its contemporary design blending seamlessly into the surrounding desert landscape. The pristine beaches and crystal-clear waters make it an ideal destination for travelers seeking a serene yet luxurious vacation in Mexico.

Travel magazine editors frequently highlight the Four Seasons in Mexico for its exceptional offerings, making it a top pick for those seeking the best hotels in Cabo. Whether you're lounging by one of the resort's multiple infinity pools or exploring the rugged beauty of the East Cape, your stay here will be nothing short of extraordinary.



World-Class Accommodations

The accommodations at Four Seasons Los Cabos are nothing short of spectacular. The resort features 141 guest rooms, including suites and private residences, each designed to offer guests the utmost in comfort and privacy. Floor-to-ceiling windows provide stunning views of the Sea of Cortez, while the interiors reflect a modern, minimalist aesthetic that emphasizes natural materials and light.

For those looking to elevate their stay, the resort's private villas and residences offer a home-away-from-home experience with expansive living spaces, private pools, and direct beach access. These accommodations are ideal for families or groups seeking an exclusive and luxurious vacation in Mexico.



Culinary Excellence

Dining at the Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos is a culinary journey that celebrates the flavors of the Baja Peninsula. The resort's restaurants offer a diverse array of dining experiences, from casual beachside bites to sophisticated fine dining.

One of the highlights is Casa de Brasa, a poolside restaurant that serves fresh, locally-sourced dishes inspired by Mexican cuisine. For seafood lovers, El Puesto offers an unforgettable experience with its focus on the freshest catches of the day, prepared with an inventive twist. Those seeking a more international flavor can dine at Limón, where Mediterranean-inspired dishes are paired with an extensive wine list.

No matter where you choose to dine, the emphasis is on quality ingredients and impeccable service, ensuring that every meal is a memorable part of your vacation in Cabo Mexico.

Activities and Adventures

While the Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos is an ideal place to relax and unwind, it also offers a wide range of activities for those looking to explore the natural beauty of the area. The resort's private marina provides easy access to some of the best fishing, snorkeling, and diving spots in the region. Guests can also take advantage of guided hikes, desert excursions, and mountain biking trails that showcase the diverse landscapes of the East Cape.

Golf enthusiasts will appreciate the resort's proximity to the Costa Palmas Golf Club, an 18-hole championship course designed by Robert Trent Jones II. The course's stunning setting, with panoramic views of the Sea of Cortez, makes it one of the best golf destinations in Mexico.

For those looking to indulge in some self-care, the resort's spa offers a range of treatments inspired by local healing traditions. Whether you choose a soothing massage, a rejuvenating facial, or a detoxifying body treatment, the spa is a sanctuary of relaxation and renewal.



Planning Your Stay

When planning your travel to Cabo Mexico, the Four Seasons Resort should be at the top of your list. Its combination of luxurious accommodations, world-class dining, and diverse activities make it one of the best hotels in Cabo. Whether you're planning a romantic getaway, a family vacation, or a solo retreat, the resort offers something for everyone.

To make the most of your stay, consider booking one of the resort's special packages, which often include added perks such as complimentary breakfasts, resort credits, or special experiences like private dinners on the beach. These packages provide great value and can enhance your vacation in Mexico.



Conclusion: An Unforgettable Getaway

A getaway to the Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos at Costa Palmas is more than just a vacation—it's an experience that combines the best of luxury, nature, and culture. Whether you're lounging by the pool, exploring the rugged beauty of the East Cape, or indulging in gourmet cuisine, every moment at this resort is designed to be extraordinary.

So why wait? Start planning your travel to Cabo Mexico today and discover why the Four Seasons is consistently ranked among the best hotels in Cabo. Whether you're seeking relaxation, adventure, or a bit of both, your vacation in Mexico will be one you'll never forget.

bon appétit

These Are Mexico's First Michelin-Starred Restaurants, 2024



On May 14, Michelin brought its lauded restaurant guide to Mexico for the first time. At a ceremony in Mexico City, restaurants in Baja California, Quintana Roo, Mexico City, Oaxaca, Los Cabos, and Nuevo León received their first stars. In the inaugural guide, 16 restaurants received one star and two restaurants received two. No restaurants received the maximum three stars.

Among this year's winners was Pujol, the famed Mexico City spot. The restaurant, which serves a tasting menu of reimagined takes on traditional Mexican dishes, took home two stars. Though Enrique Olvera owns several well-respected restaurants, including New York's Cosme and Atla, this was the chef's first win. Jorge Vallejo's Quintonil in Mexico City, a fine dining classic that serves clever dishes made with ingredients native to Mexico, also nabbed two stars.

Mexico is the latest in a spate of expansions the guide has made since 2022 to countries including Vietnam and the United Arab Emirates. Though Michelin has sprinted to extend its coverage to new areas, Mexico had, until now, been passed over despite emerging as a culinary leader on the world stage.

In a recent interview with Bon Appétit, the guide's international director, Gwendal Poullennec, explained that it can take years of research and scouting trips for the organization to introduce a new Michelin guide. "Today, I have inspectors scouting about 20 destinations where we do not yet have a restaurant

selection, but that we are considering for future years,” says Poullennec. “It’s always a several-year process because we must see the openings and the consistency.”

As it expands, Michelin has forged relationships with what it calls Destination Marketing Organizations—local tourism boards that contribute large sums of money to fund the guide coming to their regions. In Mexico, Michelin partnered with Canirac, a national restaurant association—at the time of publication, representatives from Michelin did not respond to questions about how much money Michelin might have received to support its coverage in Mexico. In the interview with *Bon Appétit*, Poullennec responded to criticism surrounding these partnerships, saying that the money provided by tourism boards helps to offset the costs of producing the guide but does not affect outcomes: “We’ve partnered with Destination Marketing Organizations, but they have absolutely no information about the [restaurant] selection until it’s released to the press.”

In addition to Mexico’s first starred restaurants, Michelin also added 42 restaurants to its Bib Gourmand list, a category dedicated to comparatively inexpensive restaurants. Several chefs took home special awards as well. Marcelo Hisaki and Reyna Venegas of *Restaurante Amores* in Tecate, which serves French-influenced Mexican food, received the service award. Lauren Plascencia won the sommelier award for her work at the French-inflected *Animálon* in Valle de Guadalupe. Michelin also awarded six green stars, which recognize sustainable and ethical restaurant practices.

Find the full list of Michelin-starred restaurants below.

Entries are organized alphabetically.

Two-Starred Restaurants

Pujol, Mexico City
Quintonil, Mexico City

One-Starred Restaurants

Animalón, Baja California
Cocina de Autor Los Cabos, Baja California Sur
Cocina de Autor Riviera Maya, Quintana Roo
Conchas de Piedra, Baja California
Damiana, Baja California
Em, Mexico City
Esquina Común, Mexico City
HA’, Quintana Roo
KOLI Cocina de Origen, Nuevo León
Le Chique, Quintana Roo
Levadura de Olla Restaurante, Oaxaca
Los Danzantes Oaxaca, Oaxaca
Pangea, Nuevo León
Rosetta, Mexico City
Sud 777, Mexico City
Taquería El Califa de León, Mexico City

Green Stars

Acre, Arturo Rivero
Conchas de Piedra, Drew Deckman
Deckman’s en el Mogor, Drew Deckman
Flora’s Field Kitchen, Guillermo Tellez and Patrick and Gloria Greene
Los Danzantes Oaxaca, Chazz Titus
Lunario, Sheyla Alvarado

Condé Nast Traveler

DESTINATIONS

The Very Best Hotels in Mexico, From Cabo to Cancún

Whether you're looking for beach, jungle, or city adventures, Mexico's best hotels offer it all.

BY MICHAELA TRIMBLE

April 17, 2024

Over the last few years, a slew of new openings in Mexico has drawn attention away from Cancún's supersized resorts and toward boutique stays with a focus on local artisans, design, and sustainability. Now, some of the best hotels in Mexico are found beyond the typical tourist strips and in places like Tulum, up-and-coming Zihuatanejo, and flourishing Mexico City. For a getaway on the west coast, east coast, or somewhere in between, our editors have selected the best hotels in Mexico, ranging from beachside treehouses to minimalist boltholes.

How we choose the best hotels in Mexico

Every hotel on this list has been selected independently by our editors and written by a Condé Nast Traveler journalist who knows the destination and has stayed at that property. When choosing hotels, our editors consider both luxury and properties and boutique and lesser-known boltholes that offer an authentic and insider experience of a destination. We're always looking for beautiful design, a great location and warm service—as well as serious sustainability credentials. We update this list regularly as new hotels open and existing ones evolve.

Baja California Peninsula



Montage Los Cabos

Located on 39 quiet acres of [beachfront](#) between the overdeveloped hotel zones of Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo, Montage looks out on the serene, divinely swimmable waters of Santa Maria Bay. As impressive is the fact that all of the 122 guest rooms, suites, and casas (not just top-tier rooms) have ocean views, expansive terraces with daybeds, dining areas, and outdoor showers—just the sort of breezy indoor/outdoor setup you want on a beach holiday. And in a town where things can go from place-defining to cliché quickly, Montage gets it right. Interiors have a Mexican 2.0 aesthetic that leans into local materials while executed in a sophisticated desert palette (lots of native wood, earth-toned woven throws and hanging tapestries, and creamy sandstone), and landscaping embraces native, drought-resistant plants like agave,

flowering desert figs, and saguaros. The real treat, though, is to sit by the pool with a book and michelada, knowing that the Pacific is there waiting when you're ready for your plunge. —*Rebecca Misner*



Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos at Costa Palmas

Set right on the beach, against the backdrop of the Sierra de la Laguna Mountains, the Four Seasons is by far the area's sleekest stay. Exclusivity is of course a draw—a handful of celebrities are rumored to have bought villas. But there's also a strong outdoor-adventure pull, from [snorkeling](#) in nearby Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, where giant polka-dot whale sharks hunt for plankton, to quad-biking empty sand dunes. While there might not be the bars and restaurants to rival Los Cabos, they're hardly missed. Toes-in-the-sand El Puesto is the spot for ceviche and margaritas; for a proper sit-down meal, an outpost of beloved Greek restaurant Estiatorio Milos serves seafood suppers. All 141 rooms are designed to blend into the surrounding desertscape with sliding glass doors that lead to private terraces, as well as views of the Sea of Cortéz. And unlike on the rough, rocky Pacific side of Baja, the waters here are as tranquil as a lake. —*Jen Murphy*



One&Only Palmilla

Arriving at this spot on the very tip of the Baja Peninsula feels like coming home. Many of the staff are third-generation employees who remember not only your name but whether you prefer your margarita made with tequila or [mezcal](#) (and which brand), and where you like your yoga mat to be set up in your room. And those rooms. Whitewashed hacienda-style architecture brightened with hand-embroidered textiles, plus perks such as private butlers and, in the case of Villa Cortez, an exclusive fitness suite, spa room, and beach cabana reflect Cabo's emergence as Latin America's latest luxury hotspot. There is no shortage of glitzy new five-stars, but as the area's first proper hotel, Palmilla has a serious advantage: real estate. Its secluded location on one of Cabo's only swimmable beaches is unbeatable. In the '50s, Hollywood's elite flocked here, and today a fresh generation of A-listers does the same. A commitment to discretion and timeless glamour in an age of social-media noise, as well as constant reinvention (new wellness offerings from spiritual healer Alicia Kanxoc), have allowed Baja's big hitter to continue holding court. —*Jen Murphy*



Paradero Todos Santos

Though experience-based lodgings are old news in countries throughout South America and Africa, Paradero claims to be the first hotel brand to introduce the model to Mexico. Located on a previously unused 5.5-acre plot within a farming community in Baja California Sur's Todos Santos, it's become the mission of [Mexico City](#)-based founders Pablo Carmona and Joshua Kremer to preserve the over 160 acres of family-owned farms that surround the property. The resort, set in front of a palm tree oasis about 20 minutes from the beach, is made up of a series of brutalist-inspired structures designed by architects Ruben Valdez and Yashar Yektajo. They took note of the landscape's sunbaked hues and designed the property in golden shades to blend into the sandy natural surrounds. The buildings' desert tones also allow the plants in the resort's 100,000-square-foot botanical garden to pop: red sand verbena, Mojave yucca, and Shaw's

agave. Though the resort's outdoor spa and half-moon shaped infinity pool make it hard to leave the grounds, it would be a shame to miss out on guided hikes through cactus fields to reach the deserted Las Palmas beach, taco tours of the best local spots in Todos Santos, or private surf lessons. The hotel has custom boards positioned in the open-air living room, an airy sanctuary where guests kick back and relax post-adventure in anticipation of seafood-centric meals prepared by chef Eduardo Ríos, an alum of Enrique Olvera's Mexico City restaurant, [Pujol](#).



Zadún, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve

The high-stakes Cabo hotel scene has been particularly frenetic for the past few years, with fresh openings from big-name players like Four Seasons, Montage, and Viceroy. Amid the fray, Ritz-Carlton managed to seek out a 20-acre plot for its fourth reserve, overlooking the indigo Sea of Cortez and built partially on the sand dunes. Suites feel both comfortable and considered, with vast living rooms featuring blue-and-white textiles, objets d'art from local artisans (woven leather baskets, painted pottery), and terraces with firepits. But it's the staff that truly make the place stand out: remembering favorite breakfast tables and knowing the right chaise lounge around the enormous L-shaped pool at which to drop off each swimmer's margarita. In one of the world's most elevated hotel towns, Ritz-Carlton shows that the bar can always be raised. — Stephanie Wu



Baja Club Hotel

With the opening of Baja Club Hotel along the esplanade of [La Paz](#), the coastal town now has its first proper boutique hotel. Attracting the creative, artistic elite of [Mexico City](#) and beyond, the 32-room, Spanish colonial-style property serves as a base for further explorations in the Sea of Cortez, from swimming with the area's seasonal visitors—whale sharks and blue whales—to boating trips to the biodiverse Espiritu Santo island. The rooms all have either a balcony, terrace, or private outdoor patio, with cream-and-coral striped banquettes as well as Grupo Habita's classic minibar staple: a house bottle of mezcal for guests to enjoy.

Pacific Coast



Casona Sforza, Puerto Escondido

You'll reach Casa Sforza after a windy drive down the dusty roads of Puerto Escondido's quiet La Barra district. Pure secluded luxury is the order of the day here, allowing you to disconnect and unwind. Mexican architect Alberto Kalach designed this beachfront property with the intention of capturing and not distracting from the striking natural landscapes. The impressive design blends seamlessly into nature, using naturally colored materials and smooth-flowing shapes. The hotel is made up of a series of huge, airy connecting domes that seamlessly slot together to form the 11 suites, an oval-shaped pool, and a bar and restaurant. (Note: There's a strict no children or pets policy throughout.) Beach beds and straw umbrellas spill onto the

sandy beach as do spiky cacti, tall palms, and flowering beach shrubs. Follow the wooden stepping stone path to the beach bed dressed in linen curtains or to the shaded hammocks to divide your time between the pool and the beach. Flop and enjoy uninterrupted ocean views; if you plan your visit during migratory months, you may even spot a whale in the distance.

Bedrooms are huge, built from dusty yellow brick that glows warm at golden hour. Ground-floor suites have a private swim-up pool, while second-floor rooms come with a view of the Pacific Ocean, best enjoyed while soaking up the glow of sunset from the huge woven hammock or a freestanding hot tub. The kitchen is run by a husband (who previously did a stint at [Lyle's](#) in London) and wife duo originally from Venezuela. —

Sophie Knight



Casa To, Puerto Escondido

Little boutique hotel Casa To is made up of just nine bedrooms. But this is a property that's a step above the rest among the boho beach-bum hostels on this corner of the Pacific coast. The self-cooling brutalist design was the craftsmanship of architect Ludwig Godefroy. A jigsaw of circular concrete archways makes up the heart of the hotel, crawling with vines that align and frame the lobby's features. There's a well-stocked bar run by a casually cool barman in a paisley shirt, and cozy corners are filled with wicker seating and sun loungers. Wooden stools dotted with retro teal lamps and the odd photography book, statement vases, and plenty of palms decorate the incense-infused space. Then, of course, the hotel's iconic [swimming pool](#), which runs through a series of concrete circular walls spanning the length of the hotel. Beautiful guests spend most of the day sipping mezcal and lounging in the sunlight that beams onto the pyramid of concrete puzzle steps that make up the back wall, conveniently dotted with pillows and candlelight come dusk. The bedrooms follow suit. Bifolding doors reveal a private garden sheltered by lush green palms. All furnishings, such as the colorful woven rug, the striped linen bedding, and heavy wooden crafted chairs, are local artisanal pieces bringing that home-from-home feel. Glou Glou, the rooftop bar and restaurant, is run by a trendy Argentinian couple who were invited to relocate to Puerto Escondido by the hotel owner after he fell in love with their cooking and hospitality back in [Argentina](#). The highlight is an innovative, intimate, and delicious seven-course tasting menu cooked and prepared right in front of you. —

Sophie Knight



Naviva, A Four Seasons Resort, Punta Mita, Mexico

This is not your parents' Four Seasons. Formalities, like a front desk, have disappeared, and the traditional concierge has been replaced with guides who can help arrange everything from dinner reservations to [surf](#) lessons. The all-inclusive model means the entire stay is blissfully transaction-free, and the intimate scale—at just 30 guests, the size is also a shift for the brand—allows for unscripted experiences such as mezcal tastings with local distillers. And the tented suites are what it takes to persuade travelers to book a hotel in Punta Mita that isn't right on the beach. Terraced into 48 acres of forested Pacific-facing cliffs, this adults-only luxury tented resort was designed by sustainably minded safari-tent pioneers Luxury Frontiers. Each of its 15 spacious rooms has an indoor soaking tub, an outdoor shower, and a private plunge pool with sunset views. Taking in and getting out into nature is at the heart of Naviva, but a visit to the two spa pods is a must for treatments informed by Mesoamerican traditions, like the five-hour Refuge Retreat. It includes a copal cleansing and Mayan mud massage, plus post-pampering time to soak in the pod's oversized palm-shaded tub. Guests have access to the amenities at sister property [Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita](#), just next door, but it's doubtful you'll want to leave this jungle oasis. —*Jen Murphy*



One&Only Mandarin

This glossy, globetrotting hotel group might pick up new destinations as if they were passport stamps, but each is uniquely rooted in place. Here, along the [Riviera Nayarit](#) on the wild Pacific coast, that means drawing deeply on Mexico's magic, with considered references to the Indigenous Cora and Huichol people. Bedrooms, whether oversized treehouses or ocean-facing villas, are a celebration of local culture, from the traditional textiles and pottery to the robes by contemporary Mexico-based label Candor. The spa, set in a natural volcanic-rock garden, is based on ancient healing practices and offers treatments including temazcal sweat-lodge rituals. The hotel has also tapped the country's top chef, Enrique Olvera—of [Mexico City's Pujol](#)—for Carao, where feasts begin with fresh ceviche and end on homemade cinnamon buñuelos.

Meanwhile Alma, an open-air, garden-to-plate spot helmed by French-Mexican Olivier Deboise, is centered around wood-fired, Pan-American-meets-Mediterranean dishes. It might be a step up from the surf hotels down the road, but one that still feels very much in step with Nayarit's spirit.



Susurros del Corazón, Auberge Resorts Collection

Everything about this property is seemingly curated to feel more like a boutique hotel than a resort. It's normal to stumble upon things like a sound bath experience on the beach led by a local bohemian who infuses jazz with the singing bowls or a sombrero making class. The on-site boutique, a Fashionkind outpost co-owned by Nina Farran and [Sophia Bush](#), includes leading designers from across Latin America, with a special focus on those local to Mexico. The design by Paul Duesing and Glazier Le Architects, sporting stone walls that continue from the balcony to the interior of the room with pebble-floored rain showers clad in colorful tiles almost entirely Mexican made and also supports local and regional makers, artisans, artists, and purveyors, solidifies the POV of being a boho-fresh, intentional, and barefoot sanctuary for those in-the-know. Don't get me wrong, it still feels like a resort—just a resort that is focused on what is important to today's customer. —*Scott Bay*



Four Seasons Tamarindo

Located in the relatively undeveloped western state of Jalisco, Tamarindo is intentionally secluded. From the moment you pass through its tucked-away gates and steal a far-away glimpse of the bright-blue Pacific through miles of lush jungle, it becomes clear just what a hidden treasure the resort is. The outdoor lobby acts as a central home base for the property, where contemporary seating invites you to leave your worries behind and ornate wooden beams frame sweeping views of the coastline below. To the right sits Tamarindo's Discovery Center, where guests can learn about the wildlife and vegetation that surround the property and how they change throughout the seasons, as well as the resort's boutique, which is filled with unique crafts, fashion, and homeware made by local artisans alongside some signature Four Seasons merchandise. Just beneath the lobby's main structure are several levels of eateries and bars, three infinity pools, the spa, and a state-of-the-art fitness center, all cascading down the cliffside and overlooking the beach. An 18-hole golf course and two additional beaches are just a short golf ride away, as is Rancho Ortega, a 35-acre farm which supplies the resort's produce, meat, and eggs and will soon produce its own tequila. —Gabby Shacknai



Verana Yelapa

Even the most seasoned traveler may have trouble thinking of the last time they stayed in a handmade hotel—they are extremely rare. Few places can be as intricately and ingeniously imagined as Verana. When set designer Heinz Legler and decorator Veronique Lievre left Los Angeles to purchase a plot of land in Mexico's remote Bay of Banderas in 1997, they had one idea in mind—to build a home surrounded by nature at their own pace. The couple settled into the lush hilltop, only accessible by boat and mule, and began constructing, responding to the landscape and seasons, preserving as much of the natural environment as possible. It may sound romantic, surrendering to the unknown in the pursuit of artistic dreams, but the reality required dedication and true grit. The idea of a single home evolved into 10 casas embedded into the jungle with spellbinding views of the ocean, many of which are wall-less structures with modern thatched roofs and outdoor showers. Some have a private plunge pool or Japanese-style tea

lounge. To stay here is to be immediately transported. Don't be surprised to find it fully booked for a wedding or creative retreat. People come to Verana to become less distracted and more connected to themselves. To shut out the noise. But that's not all. With thoughtfully coordinated color-blocked walls, an outdoor library, vintage objects made by Mexican artisans, and a spa to manage any tropical discomfort, the alchemy of inspired design dissolves any pressures from the outside world. Wake up to tea and freshly baked bread left on the doorstep, spend dreamy hours whale-watching, and fall asleep to the sound of wind gently swishing trees back and forth. In one of the most beautiful parts of Mexico, the real luxury is space to just be. —Jade Moyano



Rosewood San Miguel de Allende

The Rosewood's 13 acres are enviably sited in [San Miguel de Allende's](#) centro, and the hotel is without peer in a town that has its share of swank stays. Portals and stone paths lead to tiered swimming pools, two-

person cabanas, covered patios, and a tequila bar, and the 67 rooms are grand and outfitted with regionally sourced hardwood floors and Spanish colonial furnishings. Even a standard king, at an already-generous 535 square feet, comes with special treatment: A bubble bath lit by candles is drawn at turndown upon request. Views from the rooftop Luna tapas bar make a seat here especially sought-after at sunset.



Casa de Sierra Nevada, A Belmond Hotel

The babble of a courtyard fountain, a breeze that shoulders its way through stone arches: Casa de Sierra Nevada, A Belmond Hotel is an unquestionably sensory experience. But the more elemental charms of this historical marvel, whose 17th- and 18th-century buildings are scattered across [San Miguel de Allende's](#) Centro district, are only part of its allure; the rest it owes to the human touch. I arrived at my suite—a corner unit cleaved from a former mansion—to find my wedding portrait set into a carved tin frame; one afternoon, I returned to find textured strips of paper on my reading stack—bookmarks. Chef Alejandra Puente told me about her daughter as we contemplated fresh avocados at the local market, gathering up the bounty we would need for my private cooking class. This is hospitality at its finest. —*Betsy Blumenthal*



Casa Delphine

San Miguel de Allende has captivated writers and artists including Jack Kerouac and Frida Kahlo since the 1940s. It also bewitched LA jewelry designer Amanda Keidan, who fell so hard for its bohemian vibe that she relocated to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed spot in Mexico's Central Highlands and bought an empty hotel. With just five rooms, it hits the right note in this artistic landscape so dominated by big-name players. And unlike other small properties opening in the outskirts, it has one of the more enviable addresses, just a 10-minute stroll from the famous neo-Gothic Parroquia church with its distinctive orange-pink towers soaring above El Jardín. The latter is the social heart of the city where everything—fiesta band practice, football games, lovers meeting on benches shaded by laurel trees—takes place. There are original cantera-stone fireplaces, colorful painted tiles from nearby Dolores Hidalgo and lampshades from printmaker Ri Anderson. Local woodworker Peter Grau crafted the cedar dining table where jalapeño-spiked avocado toast and pastries are laid out each morning. Keidan's insider knowledge rivals any hotel concierge's, offering tips on everything from her favorite restaurants (El Manantial for tacos) and shops (KM33 for dresses) to Pilates classes and spa treatments. Tarot suppers and chef-led pop-ups double as mini house parties. This feels like a revitalization of the scene, drawing in a new wave of creatives. —Jen Murphy

Mexico City



Octavia Casa

Fashion designer Roberta Maceda has crafted this seven-room retreat in the chi-chi area of La Condesa as a minimalist extension of her Octavia clothing line. On the ground floor, next to a breezy seating area with bamboo stools grouped around a concrete table by interior firm Habitación 116, there's a shoppable bronze rail of her pieces that may include white button-up shirts or a black-and-white snakeskin ensemble. Upstairs, rooms are also decorated in neutral tones and each is named after a natural material, from walnut (*nogal*) and linen (*lino*) to earth (*tierra*) and bronze (*bronce*). The softest bedding comes from Octavia's new homeware line, while the rest of the studied hangout spaces showcase other Mexican makers with blown-glass cups by Onora and cream-colored vases from ceramics studio Encrudo filled with dried magnolia

leaves. There's no restaurant, but breakfast is brought in from a nearby bakery—*conchas* (sweet pastries) are served with homemade hibiscus-and-ginger jam and eaten in the meditative pebble-floored garden under a guava tree. In the evenings it's a short stroll to local favorites such as Italian restaurant [Lardo](#) and natural-wine bar Hugo. This is a meticulously designed gateway to Mexico City's coolest scene.



Casa Polanco

Set in [Mexico City's](#) posh [Polanco neighborhood](#), a stay at this elegantly renovated Spanish Revival-style mansion feels like a peek inside the lives of well-to-do *chilangos* (Mexico City locals). Polanco is within walking distance from sites like Chapultepec Park, a popular hangout for local families on the weekends, and lovely for morning jogs; and a short drive from Museo Soumaya, known for its unique architecture and mirror-like façade. Just around the corner are the trendy Roma Norte and Condesa neighborhoods for eating, drinking, and boutique shopping. While many Mexico City hotels play to classic heritage motifs, Casa Polanco shows off a different side of the city. Here, the lines are clean, neutrals take precedence, and there's a subtle prep-school flavor with houndstooth pillows and plaid napkins. Given this is a home, soak up the spaces that so clearly remind you that you're in one. Order a glass of wine at the lobby bar and take it to one of the many shared terraces; after a long day, grab a nook in the well-curated library and flip through one of the many coffee table books on Mexican art, history, or culture. —*Megan Spurrell*



Four Seasons Hotel Mexico City

Even though it's set on busy Paseo de la Reforma, this name-brand luxury hotel delivers tranquil, boutique charms. Rooms are set around an interior courtyard, and you're just a short distance from [Chapultepec Park](#), offering respite from the hustle and bustle of Mexico City. Add to that all the other Four Seasons hallmarks—insanely comfortable beds, high-quality service, and wellness amenities like a pool, gym, and spa—and you're guaranteed a memorable experience. —*Susannah Rigg*



Circulo Mexicano

Known for creating Mexico's trendiest boutique properties, the hotel developer Grupo Habita transformed this 19th-century townhome in Centro Histórico into a Shaker-inspired boutique hotel. The result is Circulo Mexicano, which begins with a buzzing marketplace-style ground floor and moves up to the chilled-out rooftop with an infinity pool, Japanese soaking tub, and views of Centro Histórico sights: the Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace, and the Templo Mayor. The 25 bedrooms are fitted out with custom oak pieces and most have their own contemplative terrace or balcony. Head to the courtyard Itacate del Mar

restaurant for innovative takes on Mexican street snacks, the standout of which are the tostadas with tangy tuna or fried calamari topped with shiitake mushrooms.



Chablé Maroma, Riviera Maya

This may quite possibly be the only hotel in Mexico that combines the level of wellness travelers now hop planes for with the country's trademark sugary beaches. It has 70 neutral-palette suites, each with its own pool, terrace, and palm-shrouded outdoor rain shower. And let's not forget its access to Riviera Mayakoba's powdery beach. True to the brand, Maroma's bright spa remains deeply rooted in Mayan healing traditions (the temazcal ceremony, led by a local healer, is the real-deal, requiring a two-hour commitment). While

your schedule in the Yucatán is packed with fitness classes and spa sessions, Maroma encourages time spent sipping margaritas by the infinity pool, as any Mexican resort should. Chef Jorge Vallejo of [Mexico City](#)'s top-ranked [Quintonil](#) oversees the menus, sourcing ingredients from on-site ka'anches, Mayan gardens. Seafood is the star at Maroma, showcased at the rooftop raw bar and at casual restaurant, Kaban. The tasting menu-only restaurant Bu'ul is more ambitious, with regional dishes like mamey fruit tartare topped with glazed escamoles, surprisingly tasty ant larvae, which will challenge (and wow) your palate. — *Jen Murphy*



Conrad Tulum Riviera Maya

The most distinctive part of Hilton's luxury debut on Mexico's [Riviera Maya](#) is its chameleon-like approach to hospitality. Yes, with its 349 rooms, acres of pools, 11 restaurants, and kids' and teens' clubs, the Conrad is the type of resort whose (large bronze) gates a traveler would be content to pass through only twice: right before check-in and right after checkout. Spiritually, though, it aligns more closely with the smaller-scale properties 30 minutes north in [Tulum](#) that seek to connect guests with the surrounding destination. Honoring the Mayan cultures that have occupied this stretch of Caribbean coast for centuries, a traditional sacbe, or "white road"—the name of the ancient roadways Mayans created to travel by moonlight—cuts through the jungled grounds. In the lobby, a soaring art installation takes a cue from Mayan macramé. And at the cenote-inspired spa, a traditional four-hands massage is second only to a jalapeño margarita in the open-air bar as a way to immediately shed any lingering real-life stress remaining after a dip in the sea. —*Erin Florio*



Waldorf Astoria Cancún

For all the resorts that crowd Mexico's east coast, the Waldorf stands out for its truly white-glove service and amenities that make it hard to leave the property. There are infinity pools aplenty, acres of pristine coastline, and that most glorious asset of all, the feeling of complete privacy in one of the country's most bustling vacation spots. The decor, a soothing sea of creams and sand hues, spotlights Mexican artisans and highlights materials like tropical woods and local stone. The vibe here is palpably slow—no rushing from one activity to the next, just relaxing. And there are enough private cabanas to go around—you can forget about the dreaded visit to the pool at dawn to reserve a great spot. There are also dozens of lounge chairs facing the beach for when the ocean is your dip du jour. With comfortable yet polished rooms, an excellent spa, and a clutch of bars and restaurants serving excellent riffs on traditional dishes and drinks, this is Cancun like you've never seen it. —*Meaghan Kenny*



Habitas Bacalar

A four-hour drive south of heavily touristed Cancún, the discreet Habitas Bacalar entrance on the side of a remote road makes you feel like you've been let in on a grand secret. The place is small—just 34 rooms, each with a maximum occupancy of two—and has a very communal vibe. The hotel makes an effort to bring the community to you, by hosting local vendors for guest experiences like a cacao-and-wine tasting, and partnering with local businesses for complimentary paddleboard tours, yoga lessons, and more. Meanwhile, the wellness program sources local ingredients for its spa products, and restaurant Siete uses traditional Mayan cooking techniques. —*Mercedes Bleth*



Hotel Esencia, Xpu-Ha

Right on Xpu-ha beach, the best stretch of white sands on this part of Mexico's Caribbean coast, Esencia is one of those hotels that is spoken about in hushed tones by bohemians in the know, none of whom want to let this secret get out. But those who do make it here discover a small, natural beauty of place set on a palm-swaying estate on the edge of the tumbling sea. There are hammocks to laze in, and a dimly lit spa where lotions and potions made from garden herbs are crushed into poultices to smooth out knots. For snorkeling among rainbow-colored fish, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef is a five-minute hop on the hotel's catamaran. There are ceviches and *tiraditos* to try at Mistura, a restaurant with views of the moon-dappled sea, and a wooden beach bar that does the best Margaritas in Mexico. Then there are the rooms. The interiors of the house, originally built as a hideaway for an Italian duchess, have splashes of fifties art and huge bedrooms with generous terraces. The Jungle Rooms, complete with plunge pools and beach suites, are a study in white. All in all, it is perfect. —*Mary Lussiana*



Southern Mexico



Casa Silencio

Located in a windswept valley within the community of Xaagá (about one hour outside downtown [Oaxaca City](#)), this six-room boutique property is an isolated refuge for spirits enthusiasts who desire to taste rare editions of Mezcal El Silencio. Designed by the Mexican architect Alejandro D'Acosta, using a rose-hued shade of compressed clay—along with reclaimed wood, steel, and stone—the property's heartbeat is an open-air dining room with outdoor fire pits, where its legendary [mezcal tastings](#) are held. Each of the six rooms features a moody aesthetic, with design touches like abstract black-and-white textiles produced by local artisans, copper light fixtures, and wood-burning fireplaces.



Escondido Oaxaca

The city of [Oaxaca](#) has long been celebrated for its ancestral artistry and gastronomy, which homegrown hoteliers Grupo Habita have drawn on for their latest opening here. Fusing old and new, behind an unassuming russet red facade downtown, architect Alberto Kalach has added a surprising Brutalist addition to this colonial-era home. Minimalist-looking rooms, four in the original building and eight in the new tower, are dedicated to elevated Mexican craftsmanship. Each features a majority of furniture produced from ahuehuate wood (a type of Mexican cypress that is sacred to the local Zapotec culture and even featured in their creation story), while locally-made olive bedspreads match the elemental interiors. Another surprise is dished up in the restaurant where chef Mario Petterino turns out classic dishes from his home region of Piedmont, Italy, such as homemade ravioli and gelato. Afterwards, enjoy a mezcal nightcap in the library-like 'Culture Room'. The hotel is in walking distance of all the city's attractions, from the famed restaurant Criollo by chef Enrique Olvera to the main plaza, home to the Templo Santo Domingo church and the Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca, that connects Oaxaca's cultures of past and present; much like the hotel itself.

elite traveler
RESPONSIBLE LUXURY LIFESTYLE

The Mexican All-inclusive Resorts with Michelin-starred Restaurants

The Michelin Guide has finally reached Mexico, rewarding two all-inclusive hotels with a star each.



In a palatial room aglow with gleaming marble, velvet chairs, mid-century modern-shaped furniture and Jazz Age architectural flourishes, I could easily be in a restaurant in a buzzy city in Europe. But, I'm not in Amsterdam or Copenhagen or Paris. I'm in Mexico at Grand Velas Los Cabos at Cocina de Autor, the five-star all-inclusive hotel's premier restaurant.

And the coup de gras? Cocina de Autor has just garnered one Michelin Star in Mexico's long-awaited, inaugural Michelin Guide – as has its sister (but not twin) restaurant of the same name, located at Grand Velas Riviera Maya, helmed by a different chef.

Stop for a moment to ponder that... a Michelin-starred restaurant at an all-inclusive resort in Mexico – in two places. As small plates of serendipitous bites come before me – Australian wagyu with smoked parmesan and figs; an oyster in its shell floating in green apple aquachile, fig and arbequina juice — I swoon, gobsmacked that this caliber of food is being served at a pay-in-advance resort. Offering an exhilarating foray of courses, Cocina de Autor in Los Cabos serves visually eye-popping dishes, food profound with flavor and unexpected textures.



Each offering surprises me with its urbanity and earthiness. The presentations and combinations feel decidedly familiar but extraordinary – like hearing a poem recited in a different accent or seeing a favorite chair in a new room. That's not to imply the restaurant derives inspiration only from global gastronomy or is mundane. On the contrary, each delight creatively weaves in Mexico's own bounty, whether as a spice, a main player or, as in the wagyu dish, a fig grown in a nearby garden.

For foodies who travel to eat, wellness aficionados, families, those on a romantic tryst and even solo travelers, Grand Velas' two most peerless hotels, Grand Velas Riviera Maya and Grand Velas Los Cabos, both offer more than myriad restaurants, a multiplicity of activities, stellar spas and lavish suites.

Now travelers can eat at a Michelin-starred restaurant every night of their trip for their all-inclusive rate. Here's more about these two exceptional, family-owned hotels.

Grand Velas Los Cabos



The fifth (but not the last) resort envisioned by the Velas family to meet their personal high holiday standards, Grand Velas Los Cabos was a \$150m project. On a stunning beach midway between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo, the sprawling masterpiece reigns as an oasis amid desert-meets-ocean terrain.

Stylishly built with Mexican contemporary elan, it offers 307 commodious, ocean-view suites with private terraces (some with plunge pools) that range in size from 1,180 to 6,081 sq-ft. A staff ratio of three to one ensures exemplary service at all times.

Spread out in the the dramatically designed Imperial Suite; a two-bedroom haven with a living room, dining room, three bathrooms, exquisite Mexican artwork and a private pool, among other features. Expect stand-out service, including a 24-hour butler, a 50-minute massage per guest per day and VIP transportation to and from the airport with this suite.

Dine



Grand Velas Los Cabos has five fine-dining restaurants, including the Michelin-starred Cocina de Autor. In the evenings, we love Frida, an epicurean Mexican adventure. During the day, three all-day eateries sate – including a buzzy ceviche bar. Throughout the resort, a slew of venues serves top-shelf liquors, upscale wine and craft beer.

Relax



Three-tiered pools compose the heart of the property, positioned to overlook the cobalt-blue waves. In terms of wellness, SE Spa at Grand Velas Los Cabos decompresses travel-weary guests with more than twenty different treatments, each organized as “ceremonies”. Try the Ceremony of Mexico, which draws from local healing traditions. A seven-step “Water Journey” is included with any treatment of 50 minutes or more.

Kids love their set-aside pool and splash pad, as well as the trendy teen’s club and activity-rife kid’s club for ages four to 12. State-of-the-art fitness facilities and a variety of on-site daily wellness experiences keep guests on their regimens.

Explore

The best Mexican wines hail from Baja California—and Grand Velas Los Cabos revels in their collection. Top Mexican sommelier Don Pedro Poncelis Brambila developed a wine list comprised of 50 Mexican wines that run the gamut from white to red to sparkling. More than 200 wines from around the world round out the list. Taste them all via resort wine tastings, paint and wine activities and wine pairings during meals.

Concierges can also arrange an array of local activities including deep-sea fishing, whale-watching tours and art walks in San Jose.

Sustainability

Most pointedly, Grand Velas Los Cabos operates a self-sufficient reverse osmosis desalination plant. For every liter of potable water, the resort is able to reuse more than two-and-a-half cups for general purposes, while one-and-a-half cups are returned to the subsoil, aiding in the conservation of the environment.

Grand Velas Riviera Maya



Stay

On Mexico's Caribbean coast near Cancun, Grand Velas Riviera Maya opened in 2008 as the first family-friendly all-inclusive in the area, rated Five Diamonds by AAA. Ensnared amongst 205 acres of monkey-filled mangrove jungle, dotted with cenotes (the area's freshwater wells considered sacred by the Maya people), the resort flaunts 539 suites that begin at a spacious 1,100 sq-ft in size.

Almost like three hotels in one, Grand Velas Riviera Maya has a trio of moods: oceanfront, ocean-view and jungle nestled. Wherever guests stay, they can take full advantage of the resort's myriad amenities, from pools to restaurants.

The top accommodation, the Grand Class Presidential Suite, has two bedrooms, including a huge master, kitted out with imported furniture and local artwork – not to mention three bathrooms, a private pool outdoor shower and more. As at Grand Velas Los Cabos, guests who stay in the premier suite enjoy first-in-class amenities including 24-hour butler service and a 50-minute massage per person per day in the suite's massage area.

Dine



Grand Velas Riviera Maya set the Velas standard for next-level gastronomy. Among five gourmet options at the resort, the Michelin-starred Cocina de Autor highlights Mexican cuisine and local ingredients – except this one helmed by Chef Nahum Velasco, with the concept created by Bruno Oteiza and Mikel Alonso.

The three all-day eateries are equally satisfying, including Azul by the beach, which turns out a mind-blowing breakfast buffet. Don't miss the Mexican favorites. Sip at Sky Bar for creative cocktails with a view and sing along in the campy Karaoke Bar, if you dare.

Relax



Though pools and activities galore await, a highlight at this resort is the sensational, award-winning SE Spa, set within and meant to mirror a real cenote. Tranquil and water-based, it pampers guests with a truly innovative spa menu that borrows from local culture and plants.

Its 90,000 sq-ft of bliss incorporates the remarkable Water Journey, which includes time in the sauna with cucumber eye patches and a clay body mask room. Try the Paak'Am Treatment, a massage that begins with a Mayan blessing and then uses Nopal cactus paddles for the massage, much as warm rocks are used in a hot stone treatment.

Explore



Grand Velas Riviera Maya happily organizes behind-the-scenes ecological tours for guests taking them through the jungle and to the beach to learn about the Yucatan Peninsula's flora and fauna. In addition, concierges can organize visits to archeological sites such as Chichen Itza and Tulum, or a swim in a local cenote.

Sustainability

From sea turtle protection to solar panels to a reverse osmosis desalination plant, this well-tested resort also reforested more than 20,000 trees during its building, preserving the natural habitat for 104 animal species and 53 types of plants and trees.

elite traveler
RESPONSIBLE LUXURY LIFESTYLE

The Best Restaurants in Los Cabos



We don't need to sell you on Los Cabos – the region's golden shores, vibrant nightlife and realms of luxurious resorts have been heralding tourists to the tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula for decades. But don't be beguiled by frozen margaritas and all-you-can-eat buffets, because Los Cabos is also home to countless gourmet restaurants, some helmed by the planet's best chefs.

And we're not the only ones who think so. Thanks to Michelin bringing its alluded guide to Mexico for the first time in 2024, a fresh scattering of stars across the Baja Peninsula adds another reason why Los Cabos remains utterly irresistible.

From romantic terraces to casual farm-to-table eateries, sophisticated coastal hangouts and even a Michelin-starred all-inclusive resort – these are our picks of the very best restaurants in Los Cabos.

Cocina De Autor



Cocina de Autor translates into English as “signature cuisine,” which typically involves a menu that reflects a chef’s personality; this is exactly the case at Grand Velas’s concept restaurant. Chef Sidney Schutte – who already has two Michelin stars under his belt – has created a playful tasting menu that artfully reflects his time at a wealth of Michelin-starred restaurants around the world.

Further cementing its status as the restaurant for creative fine dining in Los Cabos, Cocina De Autor was awarded its first star in the 2024 Michelin Guide, making it the most distinguished restaurant on the Baja California peninsula.

Each dish has been designed to celebrate fresh local ingredients in an inventive fashion, with combinations such as chocolate and clam, making for intriguing pairings. The accompanying wine pairing is equally ambitious, offering a selection regarded as one of the most diverse in the region.

As the premier offering at the all-inclusive resort Grand Velas Los Cabos, the menu is as sophisticated and exceptional as its impressively stylish setting. The restaurant is awash with atmospheric lighting, striking gold details and Mexican artwork, not to mention the captivating ocean views.

Acre Restaurant



Set among the treetop canopies in the Sierra de la Laguna mountains, Acre has long been a must-visit for culinary connoisseurs visiting Los Cabos – promising a vibrant jungle experience that is worth turning your back on the beach. Originally a lone restaurant offering, Acre now encompasses a treehouse hotel, villas and even an animal sanctuary, but it is the restaurant that remains at the heart and soul of Acre.

Perhaps it is unsurprisingly, then, that this boutique property captured the attention of the Michelin inspectors, who couldn't resist rewarding Acre with a Green Star.

With culinary director Arturo Rivero at the helm, Acre's menu marries local produce (much of which is sourced on the in-house farm) with global influence; casual, contemporary Mexican cooking punched up with Asian flavors and techniques, and the simple-but-stylish dishes are as gorgeous as the delightful setting.

"Our farm program has been developed to maximize conscious planting and harvesting; every ingredient grown in-house will be used on our menu," Rivero told Michelin upon receiving that coveted star. "We also source products that help preserve national traditions and support our local community of farmers and fishermen."

Manta



It may be set on a secluded beach on Cabo's Lands End, but there is no hiding from Manta's reputation. That's what you come to expect as one of the many restaurants from Mexico's most celebrated and esteemed chefs, Enrique Olvera – whose Mexico City's culinary institution, Pujol, was just awarded two Michelin stars, making it the highest-rated restaurant in the country.

Taking inspiration from the cuisine of Mexico, Peru, Japan and beyond, the food menu at Manta is remarkably diverse. Expect a host of unusual flavor combinations such as sweetcorn ice cream mochi, Korean fried chicken and tempura fish tacos to cochinita served in bao buns. The beverage menu continues to transport diners across the world with Japanese sake offered in addition to the expected mezcals and tequila.

Found inside The Cape, A Thompson Hotel as its flagship restaurant, Manta is a haven of simplicity and minimalism; striking black walls are thrown into contrast by tan leather seating, while the floor-to-ceiling windows showcase what is easily one of the best views in the region.

Flora's Field Kitchen



What originally started as an organic farm, Gloria and Patrick Greene have nurtured Flora Farms since the late '90s, growing and blossoming into Flora Field's Kitchen. The sustainable restaurant is now one of Cabo's most popular and, thanks to the recent Michelin Guide, one of the most recognized, as Flora Field's Kitchen was awarded a Green Michelin Star and a Bib Gourmand. Produce is sourced from the onsite 25-acre gardens and meats and dairy from the nearby 150-acre ranch – although, for sustainability reasons, don't expect to see any beef on the menu.

"We raise chickens for eggs and have a butcher program on-site," Gloria and Patrick Greene told the Michelin Guide. "We continue working to realize efficiencies between the farm, ranch, restaurant, and market. For example, we send our "spent" flowers out to the chickens who love to peck at the drying seed heads; vegetable trimmings go to the pigs and chickens."

Just like the restaurant's setting, the menu is cool and laidback – but that no-faff, no-frills attitude doesn't mean there's no flavor. Comforting options like Neapolitan flatbreads, punchy gazpacho, and fresh salads. Even the cocktails can't escape the seed-to-plate mindset and are made with seasonally harvested vegetables. A carrot juice margarita, anyone?

El Farallon



Perched atop one of the Waldorf Astoria Los Cabos Pedregal's cliff faces, dining at El Farallon feels like dining at the edge of the world. While the restaurant regularly plays host to Michelin-starred chefs during its in-demand residencies, year-round it serves a seafood-focused menu. Presented to guests on a blackboard in the property's spin of a fresh fish market, it displays the day's freshest catch and produce – from yellowtail and parrotfish, sea bass and irresistible local chocolate clams (and they're not the dessert kind).

Of course, when we're talking about front-row seats at one of the most breathtaking vantage points in all of Los Cabos, getting a table is always going to prove tricky. Luckily, sitting on El Farallon's cliffside tables is well worth making the reservation in advance.

Comal



Found at the luxurious Chileno Bay Resort and Residences, Comal restaurant continues the resort's long-standing reputation for excellence and is continuously regarded as one of the best restaurants in Los Cabos.

The name Comal derives from a traditional cast-iron pan that has been used in Mexican cooking for centuries and is typically passed down through generations. Comal's menu stays true to the origins of its name, showcasing Latin American-inspired recipes with a contemporary twist. In addition to the main menu, guests can also revel in the live-action Raw Bar, offering up the freshest selection of local fish.

Comal is also considered one of Los Cabos's most romantic dining spots, but be quick, as the coveted seafront tables with dramatic views across the Sea of Cortez are booked up by loved-up couples far in advance.

SPONSORED CONTENT

Los Cabos' Restaurants Top the MICHELIN Guide Mexico Selection 2024

By [Los Cabos Tourism Board](#) | May 22, 2024

13 Restaurants Across the Destination Recognized for Their Quality Gastronomic Offerings

Los Cabos has been recognized in the first-ever MICHELIN Guide for Mexico, which featured 13 restaurants across the destination, including one MICHELIN Star, two Green Stars, two Bib Gourmands and nine recommended restaurants. Los Cabos, which has been known for its unique gastronomic offering, was recognized for not only its fine dining, but also sustainable and affordable restaurants.



Flora's Field Kitchen - Flora Farms - Los Cabos

One restaurant in Los Cabos – [Concina de Autor](#), located at Grand Velas Los Cabos and led by master chefs Sidney Schutte and Francisco Sixto – earned the prestigious MICHELIN Star. This recognition highlights the restaurant's use of quality ingredients, flavorful dishes, and consistent delivery.

Two restaurants in Los Cabos were presented with a MICHELIN Green Star, honoring their commitment to more sustainable gastronomy and a more ethical future. These include [Flora's Field Kitchen](#), led by chef Rebecca Weitzman, and [Acre](#), located at Acre Resort and led by chef Arturo Rivero. These restaurants showcased their endeavors to source local products from their own farms, feature producers and artisans, reduce waste and support their local communities.

Flora's Field Kitchen was additionally recognized with a MICHELIN Bib Gourmand, along with [Metate](#), led by chef Abraham Tamez. These restaurants were rewarded for their commitment to offering foodies and travelers with exceptional gastronomic experiences at affordable prices.

"We are honored to have so many deserving restaurants in Los Cabos recognized in the first MICHELIN Guide Mexico," said Rodrigo Esponda, Managing Director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board. "Los Cabos' diverse landscape, natural ecosystems and unique location have positioned the destination as the largest producer of organic produce in Mexico. The destination's regenerative farming and sustainable fishing practices allow local restaurants and chefs to provide fresh caught seafood that is locally sourced and organic produce that inspires renowned chefs to turn gastronomy into a creative art and exceptional experience."

The complete list of restaurants in the MICHELIN Guide Mexico selection 2024 also recognized additional recommended restaurants in Los Cabos that can be enjoyed by all travelers visiting the destination, including the following:

- [Arbol](#), located at Las Ventanas Al Paraiso, A Rosewood Resort
- [CarbónCabrón](#)
- [Comal](#), located at Chileno Bay Resort & Residences
- [Los Tres Gallos](#)
- [Lumbre](#)
- [Manta](#), located at The Cape, A Thompson Hotel
- [Nao](#)
- [Omakai](#)
- [Ruba's Bakery](#)

Los Cabos offers delicious culinary options across the destination from Cabo San Lucas, San José del Cabo to the East Cape. Visitors can find authentic Mexican cuisine celebrating national traditions to unique specialties inspired by a mix of influences across the globe.

To learn more about Los Cabos' gastronomy and find its gastronomy guide, please visit visitoscabos.travel/gastronomy.

FoodSided

Shake up an authentic Mexican sour cocktail to toast Mexican culture



While many people long to escape to a Mexican resort with its stunning beach, shaking up a taste of that luxurious locale can be enjoyed anywhere. Instead of sipping on another margarita, this authentic Mexican sour cocktail, Damiana Sour, offers an exhilarating flavor that impresses even the most discerning palate.

From tequila to mezcal, traditional Mexican spirits often are the base of many traditional cocktails. While the liquor is vital to the beverage's overall balance, the other ingredients are key to the creativity served in every glass.

Although restaurants can often look to pair food and beverages based on complementary flavors, some mixologists go a little deeper for their flavor inspiration. For example, Los Cabos based Beverage Consultant, Osvaldo Vazquez looked to a native plant to be the basis of a Mexican sour cocktail.

While hibiscus is often a floral note in a margarita or a mezcalita, that plant is not the only option available. Damiana, a native Mexican herb, offers a depth of flavor that makes people take notice.

Looking at Mexican culture and heritage, the Damiana herb is said to symbolize resilience and tradition. While some people might appreciate the sentiment behind the herb, the flavor is the real reason why people want to incorporate it into a cocktail.

For anyone who has not enjoyed this herb before, some people say it has a flavor similar to a fig, but it does not have a lot of sweetness. The slightly earthy and floral note makes it a great addition to a tea or multi-layered beverage.

In the Damiana Sour, by Osvaldo Vazquez, the cocktail's complexity is quite enticing. The combination of the Damiana liqueur with the tartness from the lime juice and the sweetness from the agave provides the perfect balance.

Also, the foam adds a hint of whimsy and a stunning appearance that makes the cocktail a must share. Sometimes it is the little flourishes that have people asking for a second round.



Here's how to make the Damiana Sour.

Ingredients:

2 oz Tequila, General Gorostieta Blanco

1 oz Damiana Guaycura (U.S.) or Damiana Punto G Licor (MX)

½ oz Lime Juice

¼ oz Agave Honey

8 drops of Angostura Bitters (U.S.) or Aztec Ruda Bitters (MX)

½ Dash of Fee Foam (U.S.) or Foamer Don Foamy (MX)

Pensamientos flowers (Pansies) for garnish

Method:

In a chilled cocktail shaker, combine all the ingredients.

Shake vigorously until well mixed.

Pour the mixture into a tumbler glass with an ice ball.

Garnish with edible flowers and a few drops of bitters.

Serve and enjoy responsibly.

Even though this sour cocktail might be a little more complicated than a margarita, the flavor is worth the extra effort. For the next taco night, date night, or just because, consider the Damiana Sour and shake up a new flavor that will become a new favorite.



Miami Beach: Don't come. Los Cabos: You're invited (conditions apply): Travel Weekly



Miami Beach made it very clear in a viral video message to spring breakers: We don't want you. Not this year, not ever. If you insist on coming, we will do our best to make you miserable, hassling you with random bag checks, DUI checkpoints, restricted access to the beach, curfews and \$100 parking. Step out of line in the slightest and there's a good chance we'll arrest you.

I have never seen a community give the finger to potential visitors quite the way that Miami Beach just did. To say that it was a breakup message understates the tone. It was more like a restraining order.

I showed the video last week at the South by Southwest festival at the beginning of a panel I moderated on the topic of community-based tourism.

The Miami Beach approach is certainly one way that a community can take control of visitation and is a cautionary tale for destinations that sense they are in the early stages of tourism-gone-wild.

But the panel discussion that followed demonstrated that many communities that detect early warning signals have turned the tables through collaboration among community leaders, local businesses and tourism interests.

Among those regions where communities have come together to figure out how to both increase the social, economic and environmental well-being of the destination and provide a more rewarding experience for visitors is Los Cabos.

The Los Cabos Tourism Board, which sponsored the panel, is the destination management organization not only for the well-known destinations of Cabo San Lucas, San Jose del Cabo and Todos Santos but for much of the Mexican state of Baja California Sur, including coastal villages along the Pacific and the Sea of Cortes as well as inland towns and the city of La Paz.

"This is a critical topic for communities," said the board's managing director, Rodrigo Esponda. Tourism is increasing in the state, exposing more and more geographical areas to visitation. To maintain a balance that both protects communities and provides the positive aspects of economic growth in a way that benefits everyone, including tourists, Esponda holds town halls and conducts surveys to assess sentiment.

"Divisions are natural," he said. To reach a balanced approach, he relies on statistics and data -- carrying capacity controls, for instance -- to ensure that everyone's arguments are factually based. For example, the number of people who can dive in Cabo Pulmo National Park is restricted based on what will ensure that the reefs and fish are protected.

But even with controls in place, the residents of Cabo Pulmo felt the destination was being too aggressively promoted and contacted Esponda with the message, "We're no longer in alignment."

Esponda pulled back promotions of Cabo Pulmo. "Tourism is fluid," he said, and decisions are often revisited and recalibrated.

Also on the panel was Juliet Kinsman, the sustainability editor of Conde Nast Traveler. Semantics matter, she implied. Whereas the travel industry typically speaks of products and destinations, "it's not just a destination," she said. "It's a home. A community. And 'community-based tourism' is not just a trend, not just a buzzword."

Rather, she said, it's about a visitor's presence helping a community. She warned about the danger of "social-washing," i.e., presenting a touristic experience as beneficial to a community when it is not.

Diana Flores, captain and quarterback of Mexico's world champion women's national flag football team, is an ambassador for the Los Cabos Tourism Board and was also on the panel. Her birth year straddles the line between millennials and Gen Z.

"Ironically, these are both the most-connected and most-disconnected generations," she said. "Connected globally but often disconnected from the present moment and from interactions with people."

As a result, however, they "are driven to connect, to feel belonging to a community. Tourism can open the door to opportunities. One value that has shaped me and others in my generation is leaving everywhere I go a better place than when I arrived."

Prior to the panel, Esponda told me that "destination management organizations have a big responsibility to listen to communities. Allowing them to affirm and assert their identity, based on the traditions and culture of the community, helps maintain a through line from their ancestors to their descendants without their values being derailed by tourism."

Allied Market Research has estimated that community-based tourism will grow at 14% annually to reach \$2.14 billion by 2032.

Over the decades, some tourism marketers have insincerely promoted products using catchphrases like "authentic," "immersive" and "transformational." Community-based tourism holds the potential to fulfill these promises without social-washing.

When Miami Beach told spring breakers, "don't come," that was, in fact, an assertion of the community's will. But while slamming the door in some faces, they were also careful to suggest that the message was not intended for everyone and even offered the possibility of redemption to those they turned away. The video concludes: "Maybe we can talk when you're done with your spring break phase."

INSIDEHOOK

✈ LEISURE > TRAVEL

How to Enjoy the Quiet Side of Cabo

From luxury treehouse lodging to sailing to farm-to-table dinners, Los Cabos can be surprisingly chill and relaxing



My lifelong perception of what I called “Cabo” centered around debauchery, spring break and tequila shots, for which I will blame/credit Sammy Hagar, who introduced me to the area via the 1988 Van Halen classic “Cabo Wabo.”

A February trip from New York to the Cabo San Lucas airport did little to assuage my long-held opinions. My partner and I were the oldest people on the flight — the average age hovered around 20-25, and most people traveled in groups of four or more. The plane ride was loud, the passengers unseasoned (seriously, don’t reserve an aisle and window seat and then expect to talk over me) and the first impressions of the airport were worrisome. Why was I paying \$25 (cash only) for a mediocre margarita?

And from that moment on, everything got quiet. In a good way.

There’s a peaceful and purposely slow side to Los Cabos, primarily found in the area known as San José del Cabo and its surrounding properties. Here, about 20 miles from the rowdiness of Cabo San Lucas, we discovered a different and restful energy.

It wasn't necessarily "silent" (more on that in a minute) but the vibe was far more relaxed. We indulged in farm-to-table dining, mezcal tastings, boating adventures and long walks. It was an area built for couples and adulting — a respite from the Cabo norm, at least as seen from this side of the border.

There are plenty of hotels in the area, but we spent four days and three nights at ACRE Resort, intermingling on-site activities with plenty of quick car trips to nearby properties, towns and one quick dip into the nearby waters for a daylong sailing adventure. We started the vacation in a luxury treehouse and ended with a beautiful multi-course meal high in the surrounding desert mountains, taking in the sunset with about 10 other people at a secluded open-air restaurant.

Most of our activities took place in and around San José del Cabo, a coastal city overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Cortez, located 20 minutes northeast of the more populated (and popular) Cabo San Lucas. Collectively, the area is known as "Los Cabos." San José and surrounding areas are certainly more laid back — that said, you'll need to take a car/taxi to and from pretty much anywhere.



And those cars may take you to some unexpected places. On our bumpy ride to ACRE, an eco-friendly resort full of luxury treehouses and multi-story villas, we spent miles going uphill on windy dirt roads. We passed plenty of construction, suggesting those dirt trails may be paved sooner than later.

Even the property where we stayed acknowledged the current rugged path to arrival. "Please note that the dirt road crossing the dry river bed from the town towards Animas Bajas is only suitable with 4x4 vehicles when it rains," the ACRE website warns.



Your treehouse stay

ACRE (that's "ak-ray" not "a-ker" as I embarrassingly said aloud on arrival) is an oasis in this desert region. As in, it's deliberately lush. "We've basically created our own ecosystem," said Emilio, one of the property employees who took us on a golf cart tour. It's an impressive 25 acres of greenery, complete with an herb garden, cacti, agave plants, an animal sanctuary and citrus orchard.

We stayed in one of the 13 treehouses, semi-hidden with the palms. Now, luxury treehouse is sort of like glamping; it's elevated (literally) but not quite a high-end hotel. We had a king bed, bathrooms, a deck and an outdoor shower. And, yes, there is decent wifi. The views were amazing, though the property's wildlife, continuing construction and post-wedding parties meant that "quiet" was a relative term. By day, however, it was certainly a calming, secluded place to rest.



As for food, your on-site options are exquisite albeit limited; you'll most likely have breakfast at a cafe near the property's entrance and all your other meals/drinks at the property's namesake bar/restaurant. Which is worth several repeat visits: 70% of the ingredients used there are sourced from the ACRE's working farm. We enjoyed a pre-meal mezcal tasting and a grilled octopus and summer risotto dinner the first night, but we easily could have had all of our meals there.

ACRE is a beautiful property, and there's a strong wellness theme at work here; activities include swimming in a zero-edge solar heated pool, yoga, jogging, biking and bocce, plus spa treatments, access to an art and movement academy and two pickleball courts. And animals are everywhere, from free-ranging peacocks to rescued baby goats, donkeys and dogs (plus, randomly and exciting to me, plenty of rabbits).



If you simply want to relax, you could probably fill two days at ACRE and never leave. If you get a chance and you tire of the treehouses, the property also offers some amazing two- and three-bedroom villas (available for fractional ownership, but there are ways to stay in them as a guest).

But honestly, you'll want to take advantage of the surrounding area. Grab a car ride and head to town.



Your day trip

Tucked in the foothills of the Sierra de la Laguna Mountains you'll find Flora Farms, located five minutes down the road from ACRE ("Maybe more if there are cows in the road," said our driver Angel, chuckling. Again, the roads are a bit rustic.). Flora is a 25-acre organic working farm home to several stores, restaurants, a nature-based spa service and about a thousand places to hold a dazzling picturesque wedding.

It's a pretty ideal place for families, as there are movie nights, food and art classes, musical performances and an abundance of restaurant options. We ate at Flora's Field Kitchen, a farm-to-table experience (even the meat is sourced from a nearby 150-acre ranch) that included some wonderful cocktails — including a carrot-infused margarita — an array of artisanal pizzas and, oddly, the best arugula we've ever had. Not so traditional for the area, but certainly delicious.



Your night on the town

San José Del Cabo is a little sleepier than its sister city of Cabo San Lucas. But there's a cool art district, plenty of bars and you're walking distance from the water. One random find: Cuervo's House, a quaint little restaurant run by descendants of the Cuervo family (so, yes, you'll also find a lot of tequila here). Ignore the many, many shops selling Viagra and other prescribed meds over the counter (or don't, I'm not your dad).

When you're ready for a lovely meal, head over to Don Sanchez, an open-air restaurant headed by Chef Edgar Román that offers a contemporary take on Mexican cuisine and cocktails, with an emphasis on seafood and other locally sourced ingredients. Start with some colorful drinks, end with their local take on a pavlova (and pair it with a Carajillo). It's also a good time to check out Mexican wine, which after this trip I can say is extremely underappreciated and pairs well with just about anything.



Your perfect sunset meal

Head out far into the mountains to find Monte Cardon, a slow-food, farm-to-table, open-air Baja-Mediterranena dining destination that opened this year. Once again, you'll find yourself on a winding dirt road that seemingly leads nowhere (and you may encounter some wildlife along the way). But at the hillside's summit, you'll discover Cabo's best views, overlooking the desert landscape. Ideally, you'll take part in the Chef's Dining Table, available three days a week and based and prepped around the daily harvest and raise from the neighbor farms.



Your water adventure

Our only trip into Cabo San Lucas involved a daylong sailing trip on a catamaran around the Sea of Cortez, where our itinerary consisted of sunbathing, swimming and snacking (and plenty of cocktails). Seeing The Arch is pretty much a prerequisite on any boat tour, and there are a number of options to view that and get on the water. We used Cabo Adventures, which offers sailing, snorkeling/scuba, jet ski, private yacht and whale-watching expeditions.

If you have time after your boat trip, this might be the moment to check out some of the rowdier or boisterous adventures in Cabo San Lucas — perhaps a stop at Sammy Hagar's Cabo Wabo Cantina?

Some useful resources

Los Cabos Tourism Board: The best all-in-one resource for the area.

ACRE Resort

Cabo Adventures

Flora Farms

INSIDEHOOK

✈ LEISURE > TRAVEL

How to Enjoy the Quiet Side of Cabo

From luxury treehouse lodging to sailing to farm-to-table dinners, Los Cabos can be surprisingly chill and relaxing

BY KIRK MILLER | May 25, 2024 10:07 pm



My lifelong perception of what I called “Cabo” centered around debauchery, spring break and tequila shots, for which I will blame/credit Sammy Hagar, who introduced me to the area via the 1988 Van Halen classic “[Cabo Wabo](#).”

A February trip from New York to the Cabo San Lucas airport did little to assuage my long-held opinions. My partner and I were the oldest people on the flight — the average age hovered around 20-25, and most people traveled in groups of four or more. The plane ride was loud, the passengers unseasoned (seriously, don’t reserve an aisle and window seat and then expect to talk over me) and the first impressions of the airport were worrisome. Why was I paying \$25 (cash only) for a mediocre margarita?

And from that moment on, everything got quiet. In a good way.

There’s a peaceful and purposely slow side to Los Cabos, primarily found in the area known as San José del Cabo and its surrounding properties. Here, about 20 miles from the rowdiness of Cabo San Lucas, we discovered a different and restful energy.

It wasn’t necessarily “silent” (more on that in a minute) but the vibe was far more relaxed. We indulged in farm-to-table dining, mezcal tastings, boating adventures and long walks. It was an area built for couples and adulting — a respite from the Cabo norm, at least as seen from this side of the border.

There are plenty of hotels in the area, but we spent four days and three nights at [ACRE Resort](#), intermingling on-site activities with plenty of quick car trips to nearby properties, towns and one quick dip

into the nearby waters for a daylong sailing adventure. We started the vacation in a luxury treehouse and ended with a beautiful multi-course meal high in the surrounding desert mountains, taking in the sunset with about 10 other people at a secluded open-air restaurant.

Most of our activities took place in and around San José del Cabo, a coastal city overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Cortez, located 20 minutes northeast of the more populated (and popular) Cabo San Lucas. Collectively, the area is known as “Los Cabos.” San José and surrounding areas are certainly more laid back — that said, you’ll need to take a car/taxi to and from pretty much anywhere.



And those cars may take you to some unexpected places. On our bumpy ride to ACRE, an eco-friendly resort full of luxury treehouses and multi-story villas, we spent miles going uphill on windy dirt roads. We passed plenty of construction, suggesting those dirt trails may be paved sooner than later.

Even the property where we stayed acknowledged the current rugged path to arrival. “Please note that the dirt road crossing the dry river bed from the town towards Animas Bajas is only suitable with 4×4 vehicles when it rains,” the ACRE website warns.



Your treehouse stay

ACRE (that's "ak-ray" not "a-ker" as I embarrassingly said aloud on arrival) is an oasis in this desert region. As in, it's deliberately lush. "We've basically created our own ecosystem," said Emilio, one of the property employees who took us on a golf cart tour. It's an impressive 25 acres of greenery, complete with an herb garden, cacti, agave plants, an animal sanctuary and citrus orchard.

We stayed in one of the 13 treehouses, semi-hidden with the palms. Now, luxury treehouse is sort of like glamping; it's elevated (literally) but not quite a high-end hotel. We had a king bed, bathrooms, a deck and an outdoor shower. And, yes, there is decent wifi. The views were amazing, though the property's wildlife, continuing construction and post-wedding parties meant that "quiet" was a relative term. By day, however, it was certainly a calming, secluded place to rest.



As for food, your on-site options are exquisite albeit limited; you'll most likely have breakfast at a cafe near the property's entrance and all your other meals/drinks at the [property's namesake bar/restaurant](#). Which is worth several repeat visits: 70% of the ingredients used there are sourced from the ACRE's working farm. We enjoyed a pre-meal mezcal tasting and a grilled octopus and summer risotto dinner the first night, but we easily could have had all of our meals there.

ACRE is a beautiful property, and there's a strong wellness theme at work here; activities include swimming in a zero-edge solar heated pool, yoga, jogging, biking and bocce, plus spa treatments, access to an art and movement academy and two pickleball courts. And animals are everywhere, from free-ranging peacocks to rescued baby goats, donkeys and dogs (plus, randomly and exciting to me, plenty of rabbits).



If you simply want to relax, you could probably fill two days at ACRE and never leave. If you get a chance and you tire of the treehouses, the property also offers some amazing two- and three-bedroom villas (available for fractional ownership, but there are ways to stay in them as a guest). But honestly, you'll want to take advantage of the surrounding area. Grab a car ride and head to town.



Your day trip

Tucked in the foothills of the Sierra de la Laguna Mountains you'll find [Flora Farms](#), located five minutes down the road from ACRE ("Maybe more if there are cows in the road," said our driver Angel, chuckling. Again, the roads are a bit rustic.). Flora is a 25-acre organic working farm home to several stores,

restaurants, a nature-based spa service and about a thousand places to hold a dazzling picturesque wedding.

It's a pretty ideal place for families, as there are movie nights, food and art classes, musical performances and an abundance of restaurant options. We ate at Flora's Field Kitchen, a farm-to-table experience (even the meat is sourced from a nearby 150-acre ranch) that included some wonderful cocktails — including a carrot-infused margarita — an array of artisanal pizzas and, oddly, the best arugula we've ever had. Not so traditional for the area, but certainly delicious.



Your night on the town

San José Del Cabo is a little sleepier than its sister city of Cabo San Lucas. But there's a cool art district, plenty of bars and you're walking distance from the water. One random find: [Cuervo's House](#), a quaint little restaurant run by descendants of the Cuervo family (so, yes, you'll also find a lot of tequila here). Ignore the many, many shops selling Viagra and other prescribed meds over the counter (or don't, I'm not your dad).

When you're ready for a lovely meal, head over to [Don Sanchez](#), an open-air restaurant headed by Chef Edgar Román that offers a contemporary take on Mexican cuisine and cocktails, with an emphasis on seafood and other locally sourced ingredients. Start with some colorful drinks, end with their local take on a pavlova (and pair it with a Carajillo). It's also a good time to check out Mexican wine, which after this trip I can say is extremely underappreciated and pairs well with just about anything.



Your perfect sunset meal

Head out far into the mountains to find [Monte Cardon](#), a slow-food, farm-to-table, open-air Baja-Mediterranena dining destination that opened this year. Once again, you'll find yourself on a winding dirt road that seemingly leads nowhere (and you may encounter some wildlife along the way). But at the hillside's summit, you'll discover Cabo's best views, overlooking the desert landscape. Ideally, you'll take part in the Chef's Dining Table, available three days a week and based and prepped around the daily harvest and raise from the neighbor farms.



Your water adventure

Our only trip into Cabo San Lucas involved a daylong sailing trip on a catamaran around the Sea of Cortez, where our itinerary consisted of sunbathing, swimming and snacking (and plenty of cocktails). Seeing [The Arch](#) is pretty much a prerequisite on any boat tour, and there are a number of options to view that and get on the water. We used [Cabo Adventures](#), which offers sailing, snorkeling/scuba, jet ski, private yacht and whale-watching expeditions.

If you have time after your boat trip, this might be the moment to check out some of the rowdier or boisterous adventures in Cabo San Lucas — perhaps a stop at [Sammy Hagar's Cabo Wabo Cantina](#)?

Some useful resources

- [Los Cabos Tourism Board](#): The best all-in-one resource for the area.
- [ACRE Resort](#)
- [Cabo Adventures](#)
- [Flora Farms](#)

INSIDEHOOK

✈ LEISURE > TRAVEL

How to Enjoy the Quiet Side of Cabo

From luxury treehouse lodging to sailing to farm-to-table dinners, Los Cabos can be surprisingly chill and relaxing

BY KIRK MILLER | May 25, 2024 10:07 pm



My lifelong perception of what I called “Cabo” centered around debauchery, spring break and tequila shots, for which I will blame/credit Sammy Hagar, who introduced me to the area via the 1988 Van Halen classic “[Cabo Wabo](#).”

A February trip from New York to the Cabo San Lucas airport did little to assuage my long-held opinions. My partner and I were the oldest people on the flight — the average age hovered around 20-25, and most people traveled in groups of four or more. The plane ride was loud, the passengers unseasoned (seriously, don’t reserve an aisle and window seat and then expect to talk over me) and the first impressions of the airport were worrisome. Why was I paying \$25 (cash only) for a mediocre margarita?

And from that moment on, everything got quiet. In a good way.

There’s a peaceful and purposely slow side to Los Cabos, primarily found in the area known as San José del Cabo and its surrounding properties. Here, about 20 miles from the rowdiness of Cabo San Lucas, we discovered a different and restful energy.

It wasn’t necessarily “silent” (more on that in a minute) but the vibe was far more relaxed. We indulged in farm-to-table dining, mezcal tastings, boating adventures and long walks. It was an area built for couples and adulting — a respite from the Cabo norm, at least as seen from this side of the border.

There are plenty of hotels in the area, but we spent four days and three nights at [ACRE Resort](#), intermingling on-site activities with plenty of quick car trips to nearby properties, towns and one quick dip

into the nearby waters for a daylong sailing adventure. We started the vacation in a luxury treehouse and ended with a beautiful multi-course meal high in the surrounding desert mountains, taking in the sunset with about 10 other people at a secluded open-air restaurant.

Most of our activities took place in and around San José del Cabo, a coastal city overlooking the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Cortez, located 20 minutes northeast of the more populated (and popular) Cabo San Lucas. Collectively, the area is known as “Los Cabos.” San José and surrounding areas are certainly more laid back — that said, you’ll need to take a car/taxi to and from pretty much anywhere.



And those cars may take you to some unexpected places. On our bumpy ride to ACRE, an eco-friendly resort full of luxury treehouses and multi-story villas, we spent miles going uphill on windy dirt roads. We passed plenty of construction, suggesting those dirt trails may be paved sooner than later.

Even the property where we stayed acknowledged the current rugged path to arrival. “Please note that the dirt road crossing the dry river bed from the town towards Animas Bajas is only suitable with 4×4 vehicles when it rains,” the ACRE website warns.



Your treehouse stay

ACRE (that's "ak-ray" not "a-ker" as I embarrassingly said aloud on arrival) is an oasis in this desert region. As in, it's deliberately lush. "We've basically created our own ecosystem," said Emilio, one of the property employees who took us on a golf cart tour. It's an impressive 25 acres of greenery, complete with an herb garden, cacti, agave plants, an animal sanctuary and citrus orchard.

We stayed in one of the 13 treehouses, semi-hidden with the palms. Now, luxury treehouse is sort of like glamping; it's elevated (literally) but not quite a high-end hotel. We had a king bed, bathrooms, a deck and an outdoor shower. And, yes, there is decent wifi. The views were amazing, though the property's wildlife, continuing construction and post-wedding parties meant that "quiet" was a relative term. By day, however, it was certainly a calming, secluded place to rest.



As for food, your on-site options are exquisite albeit limited; you'll most likely have breakfast at a cafe near the property's entrance and all your other meals/drinks at the [property's namesake bar/restaurant](#). Which is worth several repeat visits: 70% of the ingredients used there are sourced from the ACRE's working farm. We enjoyed a pre-meal mezcal tasting and a grilled octopus and summer risotto dinner the first night, but we easily could have had all of our meals there.

ACRE is a beautiful property, and there's a strong wellness theme at work here; activities include swimming in a zero-edge solar heated pool, yoga, jogging, biking and bocce, plus spa treatments, access to an art and movement academy and two pickleball courts. And animals are everywhere, from free-ranging peacocks to rescued baby goats, donkeys and dogs (plus, randomly and exciting to me, plenty of rabbits).



If you simply want to relax, you could probably fill two days at ACRE and never leave. If you get a chance and you tire of the treehouses, the property also offers some amazing two- and three-bedroom villas (available for fractional ownership, but there are ways to stay in them as a guest). But honestly, you'll want to take advantage of the surrounding area. Grab a car ride and head to town.



Your day trip

Tucked in the foothills of the Sierra de la Laguna Mountains you'll find [Flora Farms](#), located five minutes down the road from ACRE ("Maybe more if there are cows in the road," said our driver Angel, chuckling. Again, the roads are a bit rustic.). Flora is a 25-acre organic working farm home to several stores,

restaurants, a nature-based spa service and about a thousand places to hold a dazzling picturesque wedding.

It's a pretty ideal place for families, as there are movie nights, food and art classes, musical performances and an abundance of restaurant options. We ate at Flora's Field Kitchen, a farm-to-table experience (even the meat is sourced from a nearby 150-acre ranch) that included some wonderful cocktails — including a carrot-infused margarita — an array of artisanal pizzas and, oddly, the best arugula we've ever had. Not so traditional for the area, but certainly delicious.



Your night on the town

San José Del Cabo is a little sleeper than its sister city of Cabo San Lucas. But there's a cool art district, plenty of bars and you're walking distance from the water. One random find: [Cuervo's House](#), a quaint little restaurant run by descendants of the Cuervo family (so, yes, you'll also find a lot of tequila here). Ignore the many, many shops selling Viagra and other prescribed meds over the counter (or don't, I'm not your dad).

When you're ready for a lovely meal, head over to [Don Sanchez](#), an open-air restaurant headed by Chef Edgar Román that offers a contemporary take on Mexican cuisine and cocktails, with an emphasis on seafood and other locally sourced ingredients. Start with some colorful drinks, end with their local take on a pavlova (and pair it with a Carajillo). It's also a good time to check out Mexican wine, which after this trip I can say is extremely underappreciated and pairs well with just about anything.



Your perfect sunset meal

Head out far into the mountains to find [Monte Cardon](#), a slow-food, farm-to-table, open-air Baja-Mediterranea dining destination that opened this year. Once again, you'll find yourself on a winding dirt road that seemingly leads nowhere (and you may encounter some wildlife along the way). But at the hillside's summit, you'll discover Cabo's best views, overlooking the desert landscape. Ideally, you'll take part in the Chef's Dining Table, available three days a week and based and prepped around the daily harvest and raise from the neighbor farms.



Your water adventure

Our only trip into Cabo San Lucas involved a daylong sailing trip on a catamaran around the Sea of Cortez, where our itinerary consisted of sunbathing, swimming and snacking (and plenty of cocktails). Seeing [The Arch](#) is pretty much a prerequisite on any boat tour, and there are a number of options to view that and get on the water. We used [Cabo Adventures](#), which offers sailing, snorkeling/scuba, jet ski, private yacht and whale-watching expeditions.

If you have time after your boat trip, this might be the moment to check out some of the rowdier or boisterous adventures in Cabo San Lucas — perhaps a stop at [Sammy Hagar's Cabo Wabo Cantina](#)?

Some useful resources

- [Los Cabos Tourism Board](#): The best all-in-one resource for the area.
- [ACRE Resort](#)
- [Cabo Adventures](#)
- [Flora Farms](#)



Insider Video: Why Los Cabos Remains a Top Luxury Destination in Mexico



Rodrigo Esponda, director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board, talks with James Shillinglaw of Insider Travel Report at last month's Virtuoso Travel Week in Las Vegas, about his destination's continuing focus on creating a haven for luxury travelers. Esponda details the newest luxury hotel developments, new air service and new luxury experiences for high-end travelers. For more information, visit www.visitloscabos.travel.com

interval™

South Baja, Mexico

Baja Bound

Home to nature preserves, stunning beaches, and laid-back towns, Mexico's South Baja region is a destination that promises a wonderful mix of adventure, culture, and relaxation. From the bohemian town of Todos Santos, with its chic boutiques and inspiring art galleries, to the energetic buzz of Cabo San Lucas that draws surfers, golfers, and party people alike, there is something for all tastes.



Must-Do: Spend as much time on — and under — the water as possible. The Sea of Cortez is called “the world’s aquarium” for good reason. Whales migrate to the area from December to April, and they are a wonder to behold up close during a boat tour. Snorkeling and scuba diving in Cabo Pulmo, home to an endless variety of tropical fish and curious sea creatures, are spectacular year-round activities.

Eat: For farm-fresh dining at its peak, San José del Cabo’s Flora Farms, Tamarindos, and ACRE each serve innovative menus using their own harvested ingredients. They also offer cooking classes, so you can learn to recreate your favorite dishes at home.

Day-Trip: Todos Santos, a seaside village that's home to artists and surfers, is quickly becoming a Baja California Sur hotspot. Spend the day browsing galleries and boutiques and cool off with a drink at the infamously named Hotel California. Wrap up your excursion with a sunset dinner at El Mirador Oceanview Restaurant, offering panoramic vistas of the beach, desert, and mountains.



Los Angeles Times

Into the Wild Blue 'Under'



Diving is Worth Traveling For – Here Are the Best Places Worldwide to Sink In

My obsession with the ocean started early, in the days when I was so little that my very tall father could hoist me on his shoulder and jump waves near the Santa Monica Pier. I learned to swim in the Pacific Ocean and added every stroke to my skills, swimming on teams for ten years.

But all along, I knew what I really wanted to do was scuba dive, as I avidly watched “The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau” and dreamed of swimming with the sharks deep under the sea, while breathing slowly and easily using an oxygen tank. Life intervened and it took me until I was in my thirties to take the plunge, getting my Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Open Water certification in Australia at the still-vibrant Great Barrier Reef. And it turned out I was right, I absolutely adored it from my first submersion, immediately feeling the true zen of being at one within the ocean.

Today, more than 35 years and over 700 dives later, I’m ready to tell you my top places worth traveling to in order to go diving. Note: I am a warm-water diver, so don’t expect to see anywhere that your wetsuit needs to be more than 3mm thick!



Palau (Micronesia)

Palau, the small island country in Micronesia, is the place to make No. 1 on your diving bucket list. With incredibly clear, clean (and protected) water that teems with sharks, sea turtles, Moray eels, manta rays and more, and legendary coral-rich dives like Blue Corner and the incredible Big Drop Off (the Ngemelis Wall, that descends to 1000 feet down), it is mind boggling. You can even do a dive with a Nautilus, brought up from the deep. Spend a week with the PADI five star center Sam's Tours and you'll be hooked on Palau. I've been there twice and had some of the most epic dives of my life there.

The Maldives

Like Palau, the Maldives is a long trip from the USA, but well worth the 30-hour journey for pristine diving experiences. Land on Velaa Private Island for the ultimate Maldivian experience, staying in an overwater bungalow with butler service and indulging at this dreamy place. The diving here is first-rate (done from the resort's private boat), as is the internationally influenced world-class cuisine and vast wine cellar/list. See manta rays, those huge, gentle sea creatures, as well as massive sea turtles, beautiful coral pinnacles and bommies, and, depending on the season, whale sharks and other breathtaking undersea creatures. It's truly an amazing place.



Fiji and the Cousteau Legacy

Fiji is definitely one of the world's best dive spots, as Jean-Michel Cousteau (Jacques' son) agrees. His eponymous Fiji resort is in a wonderful location to dive healthy reefs with the friendliest people on the planet. I actually went diving with Cousteau while there, making for a distinctly surreal experience for my inner 10-year-old self. Just recently, I discovered the spectacular new Waya Island Resort in the Yasawa island chain. Only 34 guests enjoy this secluded getaway, eating amazing food and hopping over by speedboat to Barefoot Kuata, where they make dives to see Fiji's legendary bull sharks. That slightly insane, completely exhilarating dive is unparalleled, as bull sharks swim right at you, in a (somewhat) controlled underwater environment. It's uniquely fantastic, especially if you love sharks as much as I do.



Turks and Caicos

In the Caribbean region today, the all-too-common encroachment of high temperatures in the water is sadly causing a lot of coral bleaching. Happily, the 340 miles of the Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef has not been compromised and the diving remains incredible. I discovered this at Sailrock South Caicos, the luxurious secluded resort, where diving trips are intimate experiences handled by resort activities director Ben Zirin, who knows all the best dive spots. For a perfect diving day, see black-tip sharks, spotted eagle rays, sea turtles, stingrays, barracudas and more while swimming through colorful coral bommies, then wine and dine in style back at the sophisticated resort restaurant The Cove. More beautiful reefs await off Grace Bay and its 12-Mile Beach in Providenciales, so build in some bottom time there, too.



Mexico's Sea of Cortez: Loreto and La Paz

Jacques Cousteau once called Baja California's Sea of Cortez "the world's aquarium," and he wasn't kidding. This magical place truly teems with undersea life. In La Paz, northeast of and quite near Los Cabos, begin at the PADI five-star Cortez Club dive center with trips into protected waters to dive with hammerhead sharks, wildly playful sea lions, moray eels, sea turtles – and you might just see a marlin zoom by, too! Listen for humpback whales singing, as this is where they have their babies; and devote a day to snorkeling with whale sharks (no diving allowed). In Loreto, a more secluded lovely spot to the north, Dolphin Dive Baja whisks you out into the warm sea for dives at pristine reefs, shipwrecks and coral caves in waters that are filled with dolphins, those amazing mammals that just might say hello as you dive under this fabulous sea.

Egypt's Red Sea

Getting to the Red Sea in Egypt had long been a dream, and when I recently got there, it was extraordinary. I went far to the south, first to luxurious Soma Bay and then the truly remote Marsa Alam, both places offering unique diving opportunities at PADI-certified centers. Their massive house reefs are literally right out the door. Grab your dive buddy and tanks and in you go without an escort to see gorgeous neon-blue spotted stingrays, octopus, and huge schools of tropical fish and brilliant coral. Boats take you further, to dive with dolphins, into wrecks and to the famed Elphinstone, the subterranean mountain beloved by hammerhead and oceanic whitetip sharks. All this in the middle of the Bedouin-inhabited desert makes for a unique and intensely satisfying diving adventure.

Other Favorites

Add French Polynesia's Bora Bora and Rangiroa to your list if you love shark diving; and Belize to do its famed Blue Hole, a giant, empty hole that gives you bragging rights but not much to see on a very deep

dive. Bali's Nusa Penida Island has rocket-fast drift dives that are a blast; and seek out Hawaii's best dive, the Cathedral, close to Lanai. Australia's Great Barrier Reef has suffered extensive coral bleaching but is still legendary and a must-do at least once. Try Ningaloo Reef in Western Australia for unspoiled, off-the-beaten-path beauty and great diving.

And ponder on what Jacques Cousteau once said as you go: "Man only has to sink beneath the surface and he is free."

SPONSORED CONTENT

Los Cabos' Restaurants Top the MICHELIN Guide Mexico Selection 2024

By [Los Cabos Tourism Board](#) | May 22, 2024

13 Restaurants Across the Destination Recognized for Their Quality Gastronomic Offerings

Los Cabos has been recognized in the first-ever MICHELIN Guide for Mexico, which featured 13 restaurants across the destination, including one MICHELIN Star, two Green Stars, two Bib Gourmands and nine recommended restaurants. Los Cabos, which has been known for its unique gastronomic offering, was recognized for not only its fine dining, but also sustainable and affordable restaurants.



Flora's Field Kitchen - Flora Farms - Los Cabos

One restaurant in Los Cabos – [Cocina de Autor](#), located at Grand Velas Los Cabos and led by master chefs Sidney Scutte and Francisco Sixto – earned the prestigious MICHELIN Star. This recognition highlights the restaurant's use of quality ingredients, flavorful dishes, and consistent delivery.

Two restaurants in Los Cabos were presented with a MICHELIN Green Star, honoring their commitment to more sustainable gastronomy and a more ethical future. These include [Flora's Field Kitchen](#), led by chef Rebecca Weitzman, and [Acre](#), located at Acre Resort and led by chef Arturo Rivero. These restaurants showcased their endeavors to source local products from their own farms, feature producers and artisans, reduce waste and support their local communities.

Flora's Field Kitchen was additionally recognized with a MICHELIN Bib Gourmand, along with [Metate](#), led by chef Abraham Tamez. These restaurants were rewarded for their commitment to offering foodies and travelers with exceptional gastronomic experiences at affordable prices.

"We are honored to have so many deserving restaurants in Los Cabos recognized in the first MICHELIN Guide Mexico," said Rodrigo Esponda, Managing Director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board. "Los Cabos' diverse landscape, natural ecosystems and unique location have positioned the destination as the largest producer of organic produce in Mexico. The destination's regenerative farming and sustainable fishing practices allow local restaurants and chefs to provide fresh caught seafood that is locally sourced and organic produce that inspires renowned chefs to turn gastronomy into a creative art and exceptional experience."

The complete list of restaurants in the MICHELIN Guide Mexico selection 2024 also recognized additional recommended restaurants in Los Cabos that can be enjoyed by all travelers visiting the destination, including the following:

- [Arbol](#), located at Las Ventanas Al Paraiso, A Rosewood Resort
- [CarbónCabrón](#)
- [Coma](#), located at Chieno Bay Resort & Residences
- [Los Tres Gallos](#)
- [Lumbre](#)
- [Manta](#), located at The Cape, A Thompson Hotel
- [Nao](#)
- [Omakai](#)
- [Rubia's Bakery](#)

Los Cabos offers delicious culinary options across the destination from Cabo San Lucas, San José del Cabo to the East Cape. Visitors can find authentic Mexican cuisine celebrating national traditions to unique specialties inspired by a mix of influences across the globe.

To learn more about Los Cabos' gastronomy and find its gastronomy guide, please visit visitoscabos.travel/gastronomy.



The 8 Best Adults-Only All-Inclusive Resorts in Cabo

Getaway to play, relax and dine in a tropical kid-free setting.



Los Cabos, which incorporates Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo, is an oceanfront tourist destination in Baja California, Mexico. It's popular for its beautiful beaches, picturesque sunsets, world-class margaritas, festive nightlife, delicious Mexican food and luxury resorts.

If you're looking for a girls getaway or romantic escape, Cabo has a number of stunning adults-only resorts. Make your vacation easier by staying at a resort that is also all-inclusive, so you don't have to worry too much about the budget since most things are included. U.S. News has compiled a list of the top adults-only all-inclusive resorts in Cabo so you can treat yourself to luxurious accommodations, varied dining options and entertaining activities – without the kids.

Breathless Cabo San Lucas Resort & Spa



Adults will love the adults-only Breathless Cabo San Lucas Resort & Spa on Medano Beach (one of the most popular swimmable beaches in Cabo), with two infinity pools and suites with views of the marina. The all-inclusive "Unlimited-Luxury" experience at this Hyatt resort includes unlimited dining and drinks at a dozen different restaurants and bars; room service and pool or beach service; and nightly entertainment such as live music, cultural events and themed nights.

Upgrade to an Xhale Club suite for access to the private Xhale Club with complimentary food and drinks throughout the day, upgraded minibar and bath amenities, and free access to the spa's humid areas. Make time to get pampered with a relaxing couples massage at the spa or enjoy a romantic dinner for two on the beach. Recent visitors praised the excellent service and amazing views at Breathless Cabo San Lucas

Le Blanc Spa Resort Los Cabos



This beautiful resort offers adults a luxury escape with butler service, eight elegant restaurants, three bars, a state-of-the-art fitness facility and a variety of workout classes (including aquatic spin). Excursions such as whale watching, camel safari, golf and more are also available at Le Blanc Spa Resort Los Cabos. Previous guests commented that the range of activities was a favorite perk.

The all-inclusive rate covers accommodations, dining, top-shelf drinks, wellness experiences like hydrotherapy, exercise classes and access to the outdoor pools. Compliment your stay with a massage, facial or body wrap at the spa. The ultra-luxe accommodations include butler service, nightly petit fours, snacks, a bottle of wine, a bottle of tequila, robes and slippers, and an exclusive beach bag. The rooms and suites feature ocean or garden views.

Marquis Los Cabos



At the beachfront Marquis Los Cabos, adults will be spoiled with five restaurants, a coffee shop, a lounge bar, three beachfront pools and the Spa Marquis. Slow down and unwind by spending time on the beach or at the pool, enjoying live music, relaxing in the spa lounge, indulging in the hydrotherapy circuit, or getting a signature spa treatment. For a more active vacation, choose from activities like golf, archery, pickleball, tequila tastings, dance lessons and more. You can also enjoy theme nights such as a festive Latin dance show, a Mexican cultural party or a casino night.

The resort's all-inclusive plan includes dining and alcohol in four of the restaurants, in the cafe and by room service, in addition to daily minibar refreshments, activities, nightly entertainment, and access to the fitness center and tennis courts. Recent travelers praised the food offerings, especially dining at Sakke. There are a variety of room and suite options, ranging from 650 square feet to 2,604 square feet – all with a private balcony or outdoor space.

Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort



For a romantic getaway on a secluded beach, Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort is a wonderful option in Cabo. The well-appointed guest rooms and suites are equipped with private terraces and balconies that offer ocean or garden views. This adults-only resort also features a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course, four restaurants and bars, two swimming pools, an on-site fitness center, and the award-winning Armonia Spa. The attentive staff have been given kudos by many recent guests.

For a VIP experience, book a suite in The Towers – a luxury resort within a resort. Six of its suites even come with private plunge pools. Staying in The Towers grants access to an exclusive oceanfront lounge, beachfront fine dining and a fitness center with ocean views. Guests at Pueblo Bonito Pacifica also have access to additional amenities at sister resorts – Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach, Los Cabos and Rosé – and at Quivira Golf Club.

Hotel Riu Palace Baja California



This adults-only hotel on Medano Beach not only has reserved beach access, but also four pools – two with swim-up bars. Guests at Hotel Riu Palace Baja California can dine at the buffet or choose from one of the specialty restaurants, cafes or bars for a variety of menu options and drinks. There is no shortage of entertainment, including shows, live music, a night club, RiuParty events, activities and even the Splash Water World water park for adults. You can also stay active at the tennis or pickleball courts, or lift weights at the gym. Leave time to unwind with a relaxing trip to the Renova Spa for a massage.

For an extra-special trip, stay in an Elite Club by RIU room for upgraded amenities, including ocean view rooms, a welcome gift, premium in-room liquor, a bottle of wine and aromatherapy in your room. You'll also be given access to exclusive areas, such as specialty restaurants, a pool deck and a lounge. Reviewers praise the cleanliness of the accommodation and the friendliness of the staff, though some felt it is in need of an update.

Paradisus Los Cabos

At the Paradisus Los Cabos, located in San Jose del Cabo, guests will be treated to breathtaking views of the Sea of Cortez, a variety of restaurants from Mexican to Asian fusion, treatments at the YHI Spa, and golf at the Cabo Real Golf Club. The accommodations are bright and comfortable with private terraces overlooking the garden or ocean. Activities include Latin dance lessons, beach volleyball, sushi classes, tequila and mezcal tastings, and more.

If you want the best that money can buy, previous guests recommend The Reserve suites. They include access to a private lounge with a check-in/check-out area and premium drinks, coffee and snacks. You'll also be spoiled with a private concierge, a private pool with food and beverage service, exclusive areas at the resort, and more. Guests at The Reserve can even book complimentary destination inclusive experiences off-site, such as cooking classes, yoga by a cenote and art workshops.

Grand Velas Boutique Los Cabos

The newly opened Grand Velas Boutique Los Cabos is a boutique all-inclusive adults-only hotel perfect for relaxing. Highlights include signature facilities and services, such as a Michelin-starred consulting chef and innovative spa treatments at SE Spa. Guests can find deep relaxation with sound therapy, work up a sweat at the fitness center, take a dip in the beautiful infinity pool or stroll the scenic private beach area. To get to know the landscape and culture of the area, consider booking a paid excursion for activities like whale watching, sailing or scuba diving. Many people who stayed here recently gave glowing reviews of the property, highlighting the personalized service, decor and ambience

Guests can choose to dine at the buffet or the two signature restaurants. There are also two bars and an agave tasting room. As a special perk, guests of Grand Velas Boutique will also have access to sister property Grand Velas Los Cabos' gourmet dinner restaurants with no additional charge. Grand Velas Boutique's contemporary suites with a Mexican flare provide guests with a relaxing retreat to start and end the day. Each suite includes an indoor or outdoor hot tub, welcome bottles of wine and mezcal, in-room aromatherapy, a daily stocked minibar, a pillow menu and a shower with vitamin C. For a true luxury experience, the Elite King Suite is equipped with a private fire pit, a plunge pool and an indoor hot tub.

Secrets Puerto Los Cabos Golf & Spa Resort



This sprawling property features a dozen restaurants and bars, the nearly 13,000-square-foot Secrets Spa, an infinity pool, golf at the nearby Puerto Los Cabos Golf Course and a multipurpose fitness center. The excellent food and service are what recent guests appreciated the most. Spend your time enjoying complimentary activities on property, such as volleyball, archery, yoga and water aerobics. Entertainment is also available throughout the day or night, with live music, movies, dance lessons, theme nights, shows and more.

The beautifully decorated rooms and suites reflect the local culture with rich, earth-toned furnishings and Mexican artwork. The indoor-outdoor, dog-friendly rooms include separate living areas, balconies or terraces with expansive ocean or garden views, soaking tubs, daily refreshed minibars, and 24-hour room service and concierge service. Upgrade to a Preferred Club suite, and you'll also have access to a private lounge with complimentary drinks and food, upgraded minibar and bath amenities, access to a private pool, and more.

PASSPORT

TRAVEL • CULTURE • STYLE • ADVENTURE • ROMANCE

LGBTQ+ Los Cabos, México

Luxury, Adventure and Great Food In Mexico

by Mark Chesnut



Los Cabos, Mexico is quickly establishing itself as a welcoming hotspot for LGBTQ+ travelers seeking luxury, outdoor experiences, sophisticated cuisine.

Long gone are the days when vacation destinations based their LGBTQ+ appeal solely on nightlife. Our community is diverse, after all, and a widening recognition of our varied interests means that more cities and countries around the world are aiming to entice us with experiences that go way beyond disco balls and go-go boys. Such is the case with Los Cabos, Mexico, which is quickly establishing itself as a hotspot for LGBTQ+ travelers seeking luxury, outdoor experiences, sophisticated cuisine, and a decidedly welcoming environment.

There are many reasons why Los Cabos is gaining ever-greater recognition with LGBTQ+ travelers. I witnessed several during my most recent visit, including their festive Los Cabos Pride, the destination's annual LGBTQ+ pride celebration, and the LGBT Travel Symposium (lgbttravelsymposium.com), an international tourism conference that attracted more than 50 travel advisors, destination wedding planners, influencers and media representatives, all of whom specialize in LGBTQ+ travel.

Being present for these two major events in Los Cabos provided a unique opportunity to not only experience various aspects of the destination's unique offerings, but also to see it all through the eyes of other travel industry experts who know a thing or two about what LGBTQ+ travelers like.



Los Cabos Background

First, a bit of history. Los Cabos is actually a collection of destinations located at the tip of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula. Its primary towns of Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo are divided by a long corridor that's dotted with some of Mexico's most luxurious hotels. Los Cabos, in fact, has become increasingly well known as more international luxury hotel brands have continued to debut there in recent years (and there are even more in the works). Increased accessibility has also helped; there are now more than 550 weekly flights into Los Cabos International Airport, with nonstop flights from most major U.S. hubs as well as many cities in the western United States and Canada.



The destination's proximity to southern California, coupled with its wide array of exclusive, private villas and accommodations, has also helped to make this a favored getaway for Hollywood celebrities. Much like Acapulco was once a revered playground for the rich and famous decades ago, Los Cabos now attracts an A-list of visitors, although you're not likely to run into them, since they tend to take refuge in more secluded, very posh settings, far from curious eyes.

The rise of Los Cabos as an upscale tourism hub is especially impressive when you consider that just a few decades ago, there was barely anything here. Three indigenous groups called this region home in previous centuries, but there was never a major colonial-era settlement. In the 20th century, a handful of Hollywood elite began visiting, not for glamorous accommodations or spa treatments, but rather to enjoy its peaceful isolation and great fishing. In the mid 1970s, Mexico's government designated the region for development as a tourism destination, and growth has been exponential since then, even as Los Cabos has still maintained its strong focus on natural attractions and beauty. It may be a preferred place for luxury hotels, championship golf, and sophisticated cuisine, but it's also a wonderful location to connect with nature, both on land and in the water.

Now, tourism officials are hoping for a surge of interest from LGBTQ+ travelers, and they're making great efforts to push that goal forward. The Los Cabos Tourism Board (visitloscabos.travel), for example, was a cohost of the LGBT Travel Symposium, along with OutThere (outthere.travel), a British-based luxury travel magazine, and Queer Destinations (queerdestinations.com), a company that provides LGBTQ+ sensitivity training and certification for destinations and travel-related businesses.

The region's commitment to the LGBTQ+ segment became especially clear in 2022, when Los Cabos became the first destination to become certified by Queer Destinations. "It's one of our biggest achievements so far," said Cynthia Ontiveros, special segments manager at the Los Cabos Tourism Board. "Los Cabos is not known as a huge gay destination compared to other destinations in Mexico, so we're trying to make it more inclusive."

Ontiveros, who's lived in Los Cabos since 2001, has seen lots of positive progress. "Back in the day, we didn't really see much [of the LGBTQ+ community]," she said. "Now that the destination is working and we're promoting ourselves, everybody is coming out of their shell and saying, 'yes, we've got to make sure we don't miss out.' It's been amazing."

In addition to the tourism board, additional organizations that have become Queer Destinations certified include Hacienda del Mar Los Cabos, a luxury hotel, Wild Cabo Tours, a local tour operator, and Don Sanchez, one of the destination's celebrated restaurants. Those businesses, as well as several others, rolled out the red carpet for symposium attendees during pride week, showcasing just how friendly they can be.

Oriol Palmies, founder of Queer Destinations, which is under contract with the Mexican government to create marketing strategies for multiple destinations around the country, praises the allure that Los Cabos has for LGBTQ+ travelers. "Los Cabos has everything from flight connectivity to diversity of accommodations. The luxury, the weather, and nature, are all the [elements you need] for a perfect product for the LGBTQ community. There's a type of traveler in the community that is looking for luxury and high end, and Los Cabos is naturally the best place for that."

Palmies finds lots to personally love in the destination. "Nature is the biggest part of it, combined with luxury, high-end accommodations and gastronomy, together with being in touch with nature," he said.

"That's the most interesting part for me. Going out there and scuba diving trip or snorkeling and being by the beach. There is so much nature and biodiversity. You can have a very luxurious experience, but still be in touch with the beauty of nature."

Uwern Jong, OutThere's "experientialist-in-chief" and one of the symposium organizers, is another expert who sees the destination's potential. "Los Cabos has long been a supporter of the LGBTQ community," he said. "It's really important that destinations like this reaffirm their stance. Bringing the symposium here is one of the many steps [the tourism board] is taking to reaffirm that this is a destination for the LGBTQ community."

Jong said he's especially drawn to the sun, the sea, the food, and the people of Los Cabos. "I quite like the fact that everything is very laid back and there is luxury," he said. "For me personally, as a luxury travel storyteller, there is just so much to tell here; providers who really understand how to deal with customers. I think that goes a long way to explain why it's such a good LGBTQ destination. People here take personalization seriously, and personalization is a key to dealing with diversity."

Shawn Kirshenman, an advisor at Woodside Travel, a Virtuoso member travel agency in Seattle, agreed about the destination's sales potential with upscale clients. "It's a luxury destination with anything you could ask for," he said. "There are luxury properties, there's phenomenal dining, there are beautiful beaches, great weather, and many nonstop flights, so it's easy from most places in the United States."

LOS CABOS PRIDE

The best time to witness this destination's LGBTQ+ friendliness is during Los Cabos Pride (visitloscabos.travel/events/lgbtq-events/loscabos-pride), which takes place in June in downtown Cabo San Lucas. This vibrant parade and festival begins, thankfully, just as the sun sets, which makes for more pleasant marching temperatures.

This is the type of smaller-scale, laidback event that you can either march in yourself or simply watch. Music, dancing and chanting, as well as some fun floats, made the 2023 edition especially fun, and I was impressed that the parade, which attracts mostly locals, included large numbers of hotel staff who wore official gear showcasing the pro-LGBTQ+ stance of companies including Grupo Posadas and Marriott International. At the end of the parade route, a sizeable festival awaits, and I was wowed by the talents of local musical performers as well as an appearance by Valentina, co-host of RuPaul's new program, "Drag Race Mexico."

Rene Larios, co-owner and founder of Gay Cabo (gaycabo.com), a local LGBTQ+ travel company, has lived in Los Cabos for about 20 years and is thrilled with how the pride event has grown. "It's been 17 years since we first participated in pride," he said. "The evolution has been exponential, with more and more people. And now we're working with the Tourism Board, so it will be even bigger. The Tourism Board [wants] Los Cabos to become a destination for pride. That's what we're working on."



GREAT HOTELS IN LOS CABOS

Luxury hotel fans will be in heaven in Los Cabos with so many different options available, so you can pick the property that best fits your personal preferences. I stayed at two host hotels during the travel symposium. Hacienda del Mar Los Cabos (Corredor Turistico KM 10, Lote D. Tel: +52-624-145-8000. [marriott.com](https://www.marriott.com)) exudes classic elegance, with architectural and design elements derived from a traditional Mexican hacienda. Bubbling fountains, winding walkways, and beautiful landscaping set the scene for an upscale stay. I was especially impressed with the cuisine at Hacienda del Mar, from rainbow-hued coffee break treats during the convention to a sizeable breakfast buffet and superb, open air lunch buffet served on a terrace. Even room service was good, especially the sopa de tortilla, a traditional Mexican tortilla soup that was rich and satisfying.



I also enjoyed a two-night stay at Corazon Cabo Resort and Spa (Pelicanos 225, El Medano Ejidal, Cabo San Lucas. Tel: +52-624-980-0604. corazoncabo.com). This chic, 305-room property is especially noteworthy for its location right in Cabo San Lucas, making it possible to walk or take a quick car ride to shopping, dining, and even the marina. The rooms are spacious and attractive and the cuisine is delectable, but my own personal favorite part of this hotel is the spectacular rooftop bar, restaurant, and pool, which is billed as the city's highest.

Additional luxury hotel options in Los Cabos include Solaz, a Luxury Collection Resort, Los Cabos (Carretera Transpeninsular KM 18.5. Tel: 833-8876529. marriott.com) a visually striking property that reopened in January 2023 following a major upgrade. This decidedly modern property is graced with lovely infinity pools, stylish guestrooms, a spa, excellent cuisine, and even its own museum dedicated to the region's history.

Also of note is the beautiful Waldorf Astoria Los Cabos Pedregal (Camino del Mar 1, Cabo San Lucas. Tel: +52-624-163-4300. waldorfastorialoscabospedregal.com). Reached via what is billed as "Mexico's only private tunnel," the property is a sumptuous oasis of calm, with accommodations including villas, casitas, and private homes furnished with all the luxuries of home and then some. The Waldorf Astoria Spa provides an array of treatments, while the multiple restaurants serve cuisine from around the world (the hotel even hosts culinary weekends from time to time).

I toured yet another stunning accommodation option during an LGBT Travel Symposium cocktail party: Villa Peñasco, a private villa managed by Cabo Villas (Tel: 800-745-2226. cabovillas.com). This six-bedroom, 9,000-square-foot residence, available for just over \$4,000 a night, provides an absolutely gorgeous setting for a friends or family getaway, destination wedding, or other celebration. Its swimming pool and vistas are the things that Hollywood movies are made of. For private catering for special events at locations like this and elsewhere, I can personally recommend Matter of Taste (cateringincabo.com) and the Main Event Cabo (maineventcabo.com), both of which provided outstanding service to our group.

DINING AND NIGHTLIFE IN LOS CABOS

If you were expecting nonstop, Puerto-Vallarta-style LGBTQ+ nightlife in Los Cabos, think again. There is only one dedicated gay bar in Los Cabos: Chandelier's (Francisco I Madero 8, Centro, Cabo San Lucas. Tel: +52 624 121 5302. facebook.com/ChandeliersNightClub), a dance club that hosts drag queen and go-go boy performances. Most LGBTQ+ travelers, however, don't visit Los Cabos for the nightlife. This destination shines more in its ability to satisfy the needs of travelers looking for luxurious accommodations, eye-catching natural beauty, attentive service, and great cuisine.

Los Cabos is, indeed, a culinary hotspot, and I sampled many tasty dishes at several LGBTQ+ friendly venues during my most recent visit. Among my favorites was Nao Cabo (El Mercado, Corredor Turístico KM 24.5. Tel: +52-624-317-9672. naocabo.com), a trendy hotspot for Mediterranean specialties with all-white décor. Its headed by Chef Alex Branch, who was also known for his gustatory creativity at luxury hotels including the Capella Pedregal Resort and One&Only Palmilla.

I also thoroughly enjoyed my time at Don Sanchez (27 Antonio Mijares Boulevard, San Jose del Cabo. Tel: +52-624-142-2444), where the lovely setting, a giant, thatch-roofed palapa on a terrace, just steps away from San José del Cabo's many art galleries, matches perfectly with the menu of Mexican contemporary cuisine. Another excellent choice for Mexican favorites is Los Tres Gallos (Leona Vicario esquina, 20 de Noviembre S/N, Cabo San Lucas. Tel: +52-624-130-7709. lostresgallos.com), where I dug into a generously proportioned buffet served in a picturesque interior patio.

THINGS TO DO IN LOS CABOS

There are lots of ways to arrange memorable activities in Los Cabos. LGBTQ+ travelers will do especially well if they work with a friendly operator that can tailor experiences to their needs. Gay Cabo (gaycabo.com), for example, crafts bespoke experiences that range from tourism activities to shopping excursions, restaurant recommendations and reservations, destination weddings, and even real estate shopping for those looking to buy a piece of paradise.

It's pretty much a given that any first-time visitor to Los Cabos will want to spend some time on the water. I've enjoyed countless yacht excursions from the Cabo San Lucas marina, and the sight of the iconic arch, a natural rock formation that juts from the water, is one of the biggest rewards. During this visit, Queer Destinations-certified Wild Cabo Tours (Calle Melchor Ocampo 3320, Cabo San Lucas. Tel: +52-624-105-0117. wildcabotours.com) hosted a sunset boat tour, which is one of the best time of days to head out and enjoy the sights. The company also offers whale watching tours, which are among the most rewarding activities for nature lovers.

I also found myself wonderfully challenged during an excursion with Cabo Adventures (Boulevard Paseo de la Marina Lt 7-A, Cabo San Lucas. Tel: +52-624-191-9799. cabo-adventures.com). The Electric Bike Beach and Desert Adventure included a fast-paced ebike ride through the sands of the desert and the beach, with lots of dramatic scenery and great photo opportunities.



Visitors can also immerse themselves in the Los Cabos culinary world. I learned a lot during a salsa-making class at Flora Farms (Animas Bajas, San Jose del Cabo. Tel: +52-624- 142-1000. florafarms.com), a lovely, 25-acre organic farm where you can dine from a menu made with locally sourced produce and even join a variety of open-air cooking classes. There's also a spa and a limited number of private residences available for vacation rental, if you're in the mood for true immersion.



Culinary travel has remained high on the list of trends for travelers, and there are myriad gourmet goings-on across the globe that will appeal to just about every palate on your client list.

Campante Bar Tempts Culinary Travelers in Oaxaca



Campante Bar, located atop Hotel Azul in Oaxaca, Mexico, opened earlier this month in homage to its namesake premium artisanal spirit, Mezcal Campante. This rooftop bar aims to share the rich diversity of

Mexican spirits, meaning your clients can explore a wide selection including Mexican rum, whisky, gin, vodka and various agave spirits like Pox, Comiteco, Tuxca and Sotol. The bar offers signature cocktails, neat pours and curated tasting flights with small food pairings. Designed by Roberto Michelsen and Maria Santibanez, Campante Bar provides a serene setting with delicious views of this historical gem of a city.

For more information, visit hotelazuloaxaca.com.

Up Norway and Kistefos Museum Blend Architecture & Gastronomy



Up Norway has joined Kistefos Museum to introduce an art and architecture immersion north of Oslo. The package, available now through October 13th, includes private museum and sculpture park tours led by Senior Curator Kate Smith and local guides, offering insights into the museum's history and the contemporary art it houses.

This season features a new sculpture by Tatiana Trouvé, adding to works by notable artists like Yayoi Kusama and Anish Kapoor. The experience peaks at 'The Twist,' a bridge and gallery known for its unique architecture, where your clients will enjoy a four-course meal and a live octet performance.

The package is available for up to four guests at a time and includes pickup from Oslo in a Jaguar, guided tours, dinner and music within The Twist.

For more information, visit upnorway.com.

The Butcher's Cellar: Hell's Kitchen Meets Waco, Texas



The Butcher's Cellar, a new restaurant by Matt and Tiffany Fatheree of The Findery, has opened in Woodway, a suburb of Waco. The restaurant features a menu crafted by Hell's Kitchen chefs Alejandro Najar and Alyssa Osinga, focusing on locally sourced small plates, seafood, and steaks.

Under the direction of Executive Chef Alejandro Najar (a Season 21 finalist), the menu offers a variety of small plates, including milk buns with seasonal butter and pickles, tomato and burrata salad, and roasted bone marrow. Sushi options feature crab torch and press and lobster sushi tacos.

Seafood dishes include oysters with tangerine mignonette, crudo with citrus aguachile and a seafood plateau. Hot options feature scallops with blood orange and King Salmon with trout roe. The steak selections, many sourced from Iron Table Wagyu in Gatesville, Texas, range from filet mignon and ribeye to a 36-ounce tomahawk.

The cocktail program, designed by Bar Manager Ali Lindsey, blends classic and innovative drinks. Signature cocktails include Purple Reign, 37, Summer Fling and Carajillo.

For more information, visit butcherscellar.com.

Casetta Firenze Offers Culinary Workshops in Tuscany



This summer, book your clients at Casetta Firenze, a luxury farmhouse in Tuscany's Chianti region, where they can choose from three culinary workshops led by experts in pasta making, traditional Tuscan dishes and vegetarian cuisine. Each workshop includes a multi-course meal paired with seasonal wines.

Pasta Lessons by Patrizia

Patrizia, Casetta's resident cook, specializes in traditional Italian pasta. She teaches guests to make three types of pasta, complemented by prosecco. Her popular dishes include Tortelli di patate ai colori dell'estate, featuring fresh summer vegetables, and Pappa al pomodoro, a Tuscan bread and tomato soup.

Traditional Tuscan Feast by Jeff

Jeff, Casetta's Culinary Ambassador, offers a multi-course class in classical Tuscan dishes. His menu includes Fregnacce maremmane, crepe pouches filled with ragu and stracchino cheese and prosciutto-wrapped chicken cutlets with porcini mushrooms and capers.

Vegetarian Cuisine with Chef Fabrizio

Fabrizio, owner of Maggese in San Miniato, hosts an immersive cooking class at his restaurant. Guests learn about new Italian cuisine and enjoy a curated meal. Sample dishes include Rasnal, an Etruscan soup with cannellini beans, and Tesoro del nord, a cake of cabbage, potatoes, and black truffle.

Casetta also offers a Secret Sustainable Food Tour, highlighting culinary traditions and sustainable cooking methods. Owner Xenia Lemos has curated this tour with a network of producers focused on organic ingredients and sustainability.

For more information, visit casetta.net.

In Costa Rica, Hotel Belmar Blends Dining With Sustainability



In 2024, Costa Rica's Hotel Belmar introduces a groundbreaking approach to dining and sustainability, focusing on local sourcing. Under the watchful eye of Chef Alvaro Rodríguez, the hotel now emphasizes organic produce from its garden and nearby farms. Its updated menu features a reduced carbon footprint through increased plant-based offerings and sustainable seafood, cutting back on meat and dairy.

A standout dish, the Tamarind Chickpea Tempeh, showcases the hotel's commitment to environmental stewardship and culinary excellence. Furthermore, Hotel Belmar has enhanced its seafood selection from the Gulf of Nicoya, supporting responsible fishing practices.

The hotel's commitment extends beyond the menu. It employs traditional culinary techniques like pickling and fermenting to minimize food waste and maximize the use of seasonal ingredients. Innovative methods transform cooking byproducts into gourmet additions, reinforcing Hotel Belmar's sustainability ethos.

Additionally, the hotel's beverage offerings, developed with consultant Chris Bidmead, embody the "garden-to-glass" philosophy. Signature cocktails and fermented beverages are crafted from 100 percent local ingredients, aligning with the hotel's sustainability vision. This initiative not only advances the culinary experience but also strengthens the connection between hospitality and conscientious food consumption.

For more information, visit hotelbelmar.net.

Sip With a View at the New Bar Tontine @ The Wall Street Hotel



The Wall Street Hotel, in partnership with JF Restaurants by Chef John Fraser, unveils Bar Tontine, a new rooftop bar concept on the 15th floor, set to enhance Manhattan's Financial District nightlife. Offering views of Lower Manhattan and the East River, Bar Tontine invites your clients to enjoy an array of summer wines in collaboration with La Fête du Rosé and custom sparkling cocktails with Fever-Tree mixers. The menu, focusing on sophisticated snacks such as raw oysters and charcuterie, complements the innovative drink selection. The venue's design, inspired by Paris's Maison de Verre, features a 180-degree terrace that combines industrial chic with traditional elegance, creating a serene escape from the urban environment.

For more information, visit thewallsthotel.com.

Family-Friendly Dining in St. Maarten

Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, Casino & Spa in St. Maarten introduces Cantina Paradiso, a new Mexican-inspired restaurant led by Chef Francisco Almonte. This addition enhances the resort's dining variety, offering a seaside dining experience. Your clients are greeted with a margarita or lemonade in an open-air atmosphere adorned with lively decor. The buffet features tortilla chips, guacamole, salsa and a selection of appetizers and mains, including tacos and burritos, alongside kid-friendly dishes. Desserts such as rice pudding and churros round off the menu. Sonesta Maho Beach Resort is a top choice for families seeking a summer destination, thanks to its accessibility from the U.S. and great climate.

For more information, visit sonesta.com.

MICHELIN Stars and Other Culinary News

MICHELIN stars are coveted by just about every restaurant on the planet. They significantly elevate a restaurant's status, symbolizing exceptional culinary excellence and innovation. These stars attract global

attention, boost patronage and enhance reputation, making them coveted accolades that can define a chef's career and a restaurant's success in the competitive hospitality industry.



In Mexico, Velas Resorts' Cocina de Autor restaurants, located at Grand Velas Los Cabos and Grand Velas Riviera Maya, have each been awarded a MICHELIN star in the first MICHELIN Guide to Mexico. These accolades reflect the resorts' dedication to superior culinary experiences, included in the resorts' all-inclusive rate. Led by chefs with MICHELIN star backgrounds, including Sidney Schutte and Francisco Sixtos in Los Cabos and Chef Nahum Velasco in Riviera Maya, the restaurants offer multi-course tasting menus that showcase Mexican culinary diversity and local ingredients, complemented by drink pairings featuring Mexican wines and spirits. The Cocina de Autor concept, developed by chefs Bruno Oteiza and Mikel Alonso, embodies the rich traditions and culture of Mexico, emphasizing local produce. Of note: The brand recently debuted its Mole and Mezcal pairings, available at the properties in Los Cabos, Riviera Maya, and Riviera Nayarit.

For more information, visit [grandvelas.com](https://www.grandvelas.com).

Ha', located at Hotel Xcaret Mexico and led by chefs Carlos Gaytán and Cristian Castillo Sánchez, has also been honored with a MICHELIN star for 2024. This accolade is Ha's debut in receiving such a prestigious recognition, highlighting Grupo Xcaret's commitment to culinary innovation. Chef Gaytán, celebrated for his contributions to Mexican cuisine both in Mexico and internationally, recently expanded his culinary ventures to Downtown Disney in Anaheim, California. Ha' offers a nine-course tasting menu that intricately blends Mexican flavors and traditions, available to both resort guests and the public via reservation. The celebration continues at the Rivera Río brothers' Lumbre and Centli restaurants, and Jonathan Gómez Luna of Chino Poblano, which also received a MICHELIN star, enhancing the stature of Xcaret's Gastronomic Collective.

For more information, visit [hotelxcaret.com](https://www.hotelxcaret.com).

Robb Report

Mexico Finally Has a Michelin Guide—Here Are the First 18 Restaurants to Earn Stars

The country is now home to two two-star restaurants and 16 one-stars.



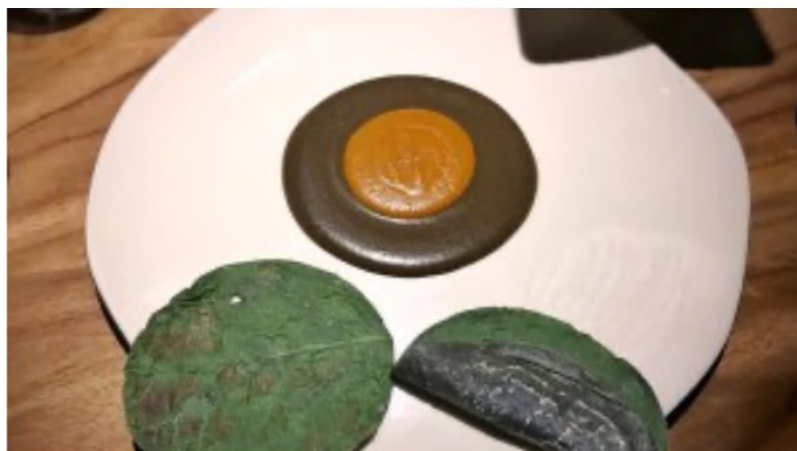
Mexico just got a little bit starrier.

On Tuesday, the Michelin Guide announced its first-ever rankings for the country, with two two-star restaurants and 16 one-star spots. The establishments span Mexico City, Baja California, Baja California Sur, Nuevo Leon, Oaxaca, and Quintana Roo. Notably, all restaurants were shut out of the three-star category, Michelin's highest honor.

Unsurprisingly, Enrique Olvera's Pujol received two stars. The restaurant is one of the most famous in the country, attracting hordes of tourists and locals alike. There, Olvera serves up both a taco omakase and a seasonal tasting menu, with Michelin calling out dishes such as scallop ceviche with egg salad and grilled Baja coast rockfish with butternut-squash puree and sherry foam. The other two-star is Jorge Vallejo and Alejandra Flores's Quintonil, where the tasting menu features plates like crab and blue corn tostada with pipian verde and crème fraîche sorbet with caviar and Melipona honey.

The one-star restaurants largely focus on Mexican eateries, with the outliers being described by Michelin as contemporary cuisine, seafood, and creative cuisine. In the latter category sits Elena Reygadas's Rosetta—she was named the best female chef in the world by the World's 50 Best Restaurants organization last year, so it should come as no surprise that Reygadas has made the grade here. And while most every restaurant is what we would consider fine dining, one taqueria does appear on the list:

Taquería El Califa de León in Mexico City. Opened more than 50 years ago, the restaurant serves a Gaonera taco with thinly sliced beef filet cooked to order and just salt and lime to finish. The Michelin Guide calls the taco, with a handmade corn tortilla, “elemental and pure.”



Michelin has been on something of a tear recently when it comes to expansion. In North America alone, the guide has added five other locales in the past couple of years: Florida, Toronto, and Vancouver received lists in 2022, while Colorado and Atlanta joined the rankings last year. Some of that growth has been criticized, as Michelin partners with local tourism boards and governments to bring its guide to certain areas. But Gwendal Poullennec, the international director of the guide, has defended the company’s decision to work with what it calls “destination marketing organizations,” and he recently told Bon Appetit that even more growth is on the way.

For now, though, Mexico can celebrate being the latest country to join the fold.

The full list of Mexico’s Michelin-starred restaurants is below.

Two Stars:

Quintonil

Pujol

One Star:

Em

Esquina Común

Rosetta

Sud 777

Taquería El Califa de León

Animalón

Conchas de Piedra

Damiana

Cocina de Autor Los Cabos

KOLI Cocina de Origen

Pangea

Los Danzantes Oaxaca

Levadura de Olla Restaurante

Cocina de Autor Riviera Maya

Le Chique

HA'

SPONSORED CONTENT

Los Cabos' Restaurants Top the MICHELIN Guide Mexico Selection 2024

By [Los Cabos Tourism Board](#) | May 22, 2024

13 Restaurants Across the Destination Recognized for Their Quality Gastronomic Offerings

Los Cabos has been recognized in the first-ever MICHELIN Guide for Mexico, which featured 13 restaurants across the destination, including one MICHELIN Star, two Green Stars, two Bib Gourmands and nine recommended restaurants. Los Cabos, which has been known for its unique gastronomic offering, was recognized for not only its fine dining, but also sustainable and affordable restaurants.



Flora's Field Kitchen - Flora Farms - Los Cabos

One restaurant in Los Cabos – [Cocina de Autor](#), located at Grand Velas Los Cabos and led by master chefs Sidney Schutte and Francisco Sixto – earned the prestigious MICHELIN Star. This recognition highlights the restaurant's use of quality ingredients, flavorful dishes, and consistent delivery.

Two restaurants in Los Cabos were presented with a MICHELIN Green Star, honoring their commitment to more sustainable gastronomy and a more ethical future. These include [Flora's Field Kitchen](#), led by chef Rebecca Weitzman, and [Acre](#), located at Acre Resort and led by chef Arturo Rivero. These restaurants showcased their endeavors to source local products from their own farms, feature producers and artisans, reduce waste and support their local communities.

Flora's Field Kitchen was additionally recognized with a MICHELIN Bib Gourmand, along with [Metate](#), led by chef Abraham Tamez. These restaurants were rewarded for their commitment to offering foodies and travelers with exceptional gastronomic experiences at affordable prices.

"We are honored to have so many deserving restaurants in Los Cabos recognized in the first MICHELIN Guide Mexico," said Rodrigo Esponda, Managing Director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board. "Los Cabos' diverse landscape, natural ecosystems and unique location have positioned the destination as the largest producer of organic produce in Mexico. The destination's regenerative farming and sustainable fishing practices allow local restaurants and chefs to provide fresh caught seafood that is locally sourced and organic produce that inspires renowned chefs to turn gastronomy into a creative art and exceptional experience."

The complete list of restaurants in the MICHELIN Guide Mexico selection 2024 also recognized additional recommended restaurants in Los Cabos that can be enjoyed by all travelers visiting the destination, including the following:

- [Arbol](#), located at Las Ventanas Al Paraiso, A Rosewood Resort
- [CarbónCabrón](#)
- [Coma](#), located at Chieno Bay Resort & Residences
- [Los Tres Gallos](#)
- [Lumbre](#)
- [Manta](#), located at The Cape, A Thompson Hotel
- [Nao](#)
- [Omakai](#)
- [Rubia's Bakery](#)

Los Cabos offers delicious culinary options across the destination from Cabo San Lucas, San José del Cabo to the East Cape. Visitors can find authentic Mexican cuisine celebrating national traditions to unique specialties inspired by a mix of influences across the globe.

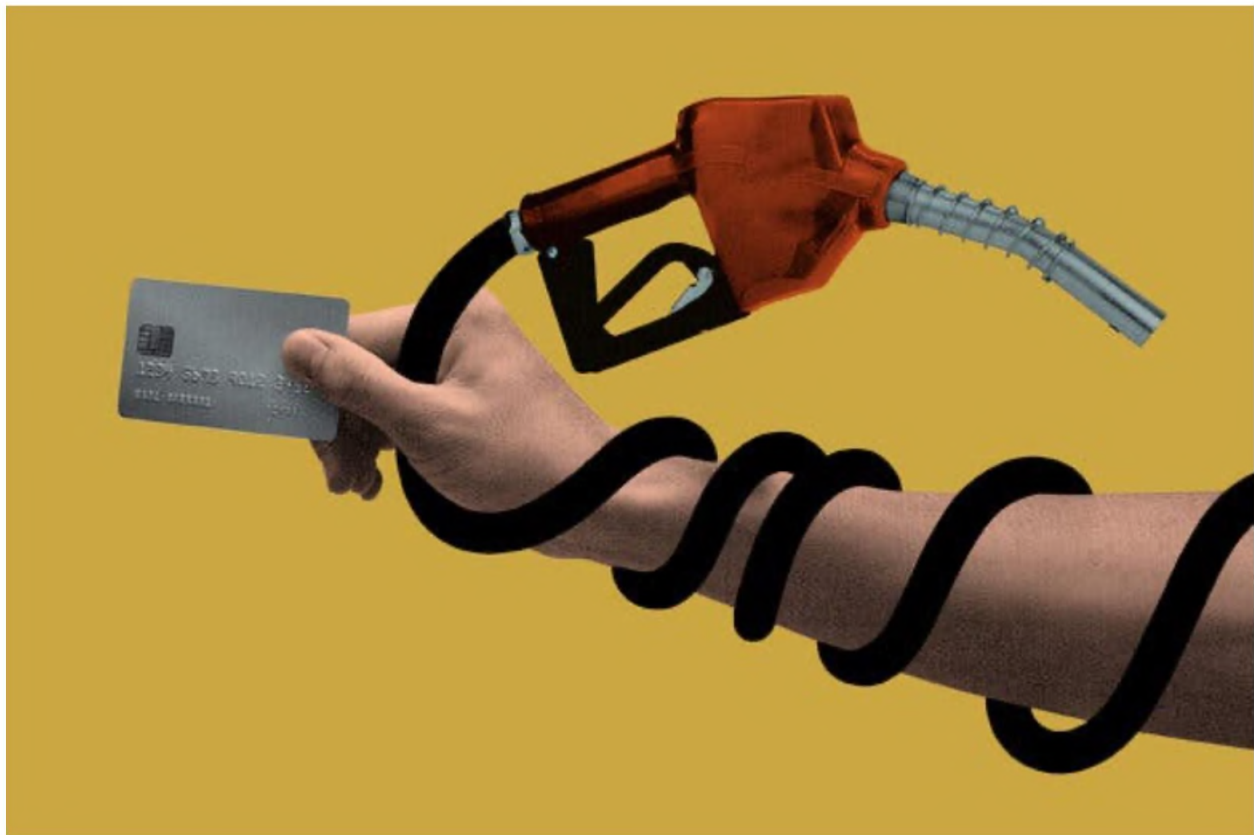
To learn more about Los Cabos' gastronomy and find its gastronomy guide, please visit visitloscabos.travel/gastronomy.

The New York Times

TRIPPED UP

Help! A Gas Station Charged Me \$1,500 and My Bank Won't Believe It's Fraud.

After returning home from a wedding in Mexico, a traveler found a huge charge on his credit card and suspected a gas station attendant was responsible. Wells Fargo didn't believe him.



Dear Tripped Up,

Last October, my extended family spent a week in Todos Santos, in Mexico's Baja California peninsula, for a wedding. All went well, but when I got back, I noticed an unusual charge on my credit card: \$1,500.49, made on the day we flew home to the United States from San José del Cabo. The merchant appeared to be a restaurant in Mexico City. I recalled that when we went to fill up the rental car at a Chevron station near the airport, the attendant placed the card in a hand-held machine and then told me it had been rejected, requiring me to use a second card. Nothing else unusual happened that day, and reviews on Google for this gas station contain eerily similar accusations of fraudulent charges from other

tourists. I disputed the charge, but Wells Fargo repeatedly denied my claim, even when I asked the Better Business Bureau to intercede. Can you help? Nate, Wayland, Mass.

Dear Nate,

We cannot be sure the fraud occurred at the gas station, but if so, it's a clever scam. The worker presumably slipped your card into a bogus card reader and charged you \$1,500 just as you were rushing to return your rental car and catch a flight out of the country, knowing you were unlikely to report the crime to Mexican authorities. It's a good reminder for travelers that we need to be ever vigilant on vacation, even when we're cranky or tired or stressed or otherwise out of our element.

It's also a good excuse to consider how dependent we have become on our credit card issuers to save the day in such situations. As you found out, that doesn't always happen.

Humor me while I consider the situation from the perspective of a bank like Wells Fargo. What might seem like obvious fraud when it happens to us is not necessarily a crystal clear crime to a fraud claims team tasked with sifting out their clients who are honest vacationers from others who may themselves be fraudsters.

Since I trust you are in the former camp, I reached out to Wells Fargo and soon afterward, a representative got in touch with you by phone and agreed to refund the charge, plus interest. A week later, you received a check for \$1,609.96.

"We take customer concerns seriously and seriously investigate all customer claims," wrote Jennifer Langan, a spokeswoman for the company, in an email statement to me. "We worked directly with our customer on this matter, and it is resolved."

But, of course, it should have been resolved earlier and without my intervention. Was there anything you should have done differently? Was there anything Wells Fargo should have done differently?

The answers are yes and yes.

Though you explicitly gave your permission for Wells Fargo to discuss the incident with me, Ms. Langan told me the company would not talk about the particulars of your case. But she did leave a clue, writing to me that Wells Fargo encourages customers to act "when they receive a fraud alert, phone call or correspondence about a transaction."

So I asked you to look through your phone and email messages with Wells Fargo at the time of your travel, and the bank did send you a fraud alert, via text, at about the time of the transaction. You didn't get it at the time, you said, because you had not been able to receive messages while in Mexico. And you somehow missed it when you got back home.

Though I encourage everyone to disconnect while traveling, I will henceforth recommend an exception for text messages so you can monitor your credit card transactions. (You might even consider having your bank alert you every time a transaction occurs, even if it is not suspicious, which can also be helpful in monitoring what exchange rate you're getting.)

What happened on Wells Fargo's end that led them to reject your claim multiple times? Though I couldn't get specific details from Ms. Langan, we do know exactly what the Wells Fargo representative said, since you recorded the call with her permission.

The agent told you it was "normal procedure" for Wells Fargo's fraud teams to deny fraud claims if a chip card was in the owner's possession the entire time, which you told them it was. But technically speaking, that was incorrect: The card was briefly out of your hands when the station attendant took it and inserted in a hand-held machine at your car window.

OK, so you didn't see the text alert and didn't correctly parse exactly what "in your possession" meant. But given your continued appeals and the online reviews of the gas station and others in the area that corroborate your account, it's disappointing Wells Fargo continued to be so stubborn.

The representative you spoke to conceded the team who worked on your case could have done better. "We are going to try to revise our procedures," she said, noting that she had coached the person who made the decision on how to do "better, thorough research."

That's good to hear, although I'd feel more confident if I had heard it straight from an official company source rather than on a recorded phone call.

Here's another piece of advice for travelers as mobile card readers become the default form of payment in many places: When possible, ask for the machine and to insert (or tap) the card yourself, watching the screen carefully. In much of the world (though for some reason, not in many American restaurants), the days of a merchant taking your card to the back to run it through a machine (and potentially a skimmer to steal your information) are long gone.

Though you were quite reasonably frustrated with Wells Fargo, let's be clear here. The real villains are those who committed this crime in the first place and somehow, whether at the gas station or elsewhere, managed to charge \$1,500 to a business called Comida Corrida in faraway Mexico City.

I got in touch with Grupo Horizon, which operates the Chevron Emerald gas station you went to, as well as dozens of Chevron stations in the states of Baja California Sur and Sinaloa.

Gilberto Gómez, the company's business director, responded by email, saying he was unaware of such issues and encouraged you to send him details. "We take follow-ups to this kind of complaint very seriously and meticulously," he wrote in Spanish. "If there is any harm to our customers attributable to the gas station, we address it." (I've given you his email address and you told me you would follow up with him.)

But considering the Google reviews at this location and several other (non-Chevron) gas stations in the region, I am skeptical that Grupo Horizon is not aware of the problem. Mr. Gómez did not respond when I followed up twice about whether he had seen the Google reviews.

I also got in touch with the Los Cabos Tourism Board. When its managing director, Rodrigo Esponda, got back to me, he said he was "deeply concerned about the situation," and had spoken to the Baja California Sur state attorney's office, which told him it was investigating the matter. He also recommended that tourists who have complaints about a business in the region should register them with Mexico's federal consumer protection organ, Profeco.

In the meantime, could the solution simply be to pay cash at Cabo-area gas stations? Alas, no: There are also reports of gas station attendants switching out large bills customers pay with for smaller ones and demanding more. And don't even get me started on the Tripped Up complaints that come about the poor customer service travelers encounter in car rental agencies near Mexican beach destinations. The best solution for sun-seekers may be to skip the car rental altogether and hire a driver, use car-share services or take public transportation.

Subject: FW: 7 relaxation rituals from around the world
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 at 8:52:04 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Andrea Romero
To: LosCabos
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

Morning team – The time article was included in their newsletter. This is great. Can we count this as additional reach for this story?

ANDREA ROMERO
Senior Vice President PR
M (917) 679-5826

Ogilvy

13 WTC
75 GREENWICH ST
NEW YORK, NY 10007

From: TIME <Time@newsletters.time.com>
Date: Monday, June 24, 2024 at 7:09 AM
To: Andrea Romero <andrea.romero@ogilvy.com>
Subject: 7 relaxation rituals from around the world

External:

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser](#)

RHONE
»»»

Summer Sale

Up to **60%** off

300+ select styles

[Shop Sale](#)

TIME

The Brief



1. How People Relax Around the World

BY MELINDA FULMER

[**READ MORE »**](#)



2. Here's a Look at Trump's VP Shortlist and Why Each Contender May Get Picked

BY JILL COLVIN / AP

[**READ MORE »**](#)



3. Why Extreme Heat Causes Amtrak Delays

BY CHANTELE LEE

[READ MORE »](#)



4. As Employers Embrace AI, Workers Fret—and Want More Input

BY KEVIN J. DELANEY

[READ MORE »](#)

An advertisement for Norwegian Cruise Line. On the left, a man and a woman are standing on a ship's deck, looking out at a scenic view of snow-capped mountains and a blue lake. The NCL logo and "NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE" are in the top left. On the right, a blue background contains the text "35% OFF ALL CRUISES*" and "FREE UNLIMITED OPEN BAR AIRFARE* & MORE*" in large yellow letters. Below this is a yellow "BOOK NOW" button. At the bottom left, it says "Powered by LivIntent" and at the bottom right, there is a small play button icon.

NCL NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE®

35% OFF
ALL CRUISES*

FREE
UNLIMITED OPEN BAR
AIRFARE* & MORE*

BOOK NOW

*Buy an air ticket and the 2nd guest free for free. **Terms & Conditions Apply.

Powered by LivIntent



5. The Brilliance of Charli XCX's *Brat* Rollout

BY MOISES MENDEZ II

[READ MORE »](#)



6. Taylor Swift Joined Onstage in London by Boyfriend Travis Kelce

BY CHAD DE GUZMAN

[READ MORE »](#)



7. The Sorry Saga of Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus

BY CHARLIE CAMPBELL

[READ MORE »](#)



8. How Doctors Came to Play a Key Role in the Abortion Debate

BY EMMA PETERSON AND DANIEL MARTINEZ HOSANG / MADE BY HISTORY

[READ MORE »](#)



9. The Ghost of Marlon Brando Haunts *The Bikeriders*—and Not in a Good Way

BY STEPHANIE ZACHAREK

[READ MORE »](#)



10. The Best Casual Pants for Men

BY TIME STAMPED

[READ MORE »](#)



Listen to Person of the Week

[LISTEN NOW](#)



Want more from TIME? Sign up for our other newsletters.

[SIGN UP NOW](#)



[SUBSCRIBE TO TIME](#)

TIME may receive compensation for some links to products and services in this email. Offers may be subject to

change without notice.

Connect with Time via [FACEBOOK](#) | [TWITTER](#) | [NEWSLETTER](#)

[UNSUBSCRIBE](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#)
[YOUR CALIFORNIA PRIVACY RIGHTS](#)

TIME Customer Service, P.O. Box 37508, Boone, IA 50037-0508

Questions? Contact thebrief@time.com

Copyright © 2022 TIME USA, LLC. All rights reserved.

TIME

HEALTH • REST AND RELAXATION

How People Relax Around the World

6 MINUTE READ



It's no secret that Americans are among the most stressed-out people in the world, prone to overwork and spending what little free time we have on performance-based hobbies.

"Americans do not have a great relationship with relaxation," says Iris Mauss, professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley. Even though we are aware of the need for downtime, she says, we just can't seem to escape the hustle culture that tells us we must earn any downtime we take. "People here define themselves by their work and activity."

While Americans are burning the candle at both ends, many other cultures have no problem making time for a little R&R each day. Here are 7 relaxation rituals from around the world—and why they might be worth a try.

Forest bathing in Japan

Taking a regular walk in the woods is more than a hobby in Japan. It's a form of preventative medicine called *shinrin-yoku*, credited with improving sleep quality, mood, and immunity.

Forest bathing researcher Dr. Qing Li, associate professor at the Nippon Medical School in Tokyo and author of *Forest Bathing: How Trees Can Help You Find Health and Happiness*, says that this practice works by opening our five senses to the natural world, soothing our nervous and endocrine systems. What's more, breathing in phytoncides, or organic compounds released from plants, delivers antimicrobial benefits and has been shown to stimulate a type of disease-fighting white blood cell.

Self-massage in India

For many generations in India, a daily pre-shower massage with oil was standard to start the day feeling alert, calm, and focused, says Zubinji Billimoria, a Los Angeles-based certified practitioner of Ayurveda, an ancient Indian system of medicine. While most of us find it difficult to commit to anything before 6:30 a.m., research has shown that a massage practice at this time pays dividends in stress reduction when done regularly, even if it's just once a week. You're helping to counteract the stimulating modern lifestyle of cell phones, TV, and video games that makes people anxious, impatient, and unable to focus or sleep, while also supporting the body's natural circadian rhythm, or biological clock, Billimoria says.

To start, massage oil down your head, neck, shoulders, arms, and back, before circling in a clockwise motion on your chest, down the sides of your legs, and up the insides, ending up at the belly, rubbing again in a clockwise motion. Leave the oil on for at least 30 minutes, and then shower.

Sauna culture in Finland

Saunas may be relegated to spa days in the U.S., but in Finland—the happiest country in the world seven times in a row, according to the World Happiness Report—they are a weekly ritual and part of the nation's cultural DNA. Sauna is so ingrained in Finnish society that it's recognized by UNESCO's list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and celebrated in Finnish songs, beliefs, and folklore. About 90% of Finns go to a public sauna at least once a week, according to the Finnish Heritage Agency. Health benefits of sweating in a sauna's dry heat include improvements in blood pressure, reduced incidence of cardiovascular disease and dementia, and increased endorphins, according to a review study in *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. To reap these benefits, sit in the heat for five to 20 minutes at a time, alternating with a cooling swim, shower, or break outside.

Temazcal ceremonies in Mexico

In temazcal rituals, an ancient practice of Indigenous cultures in both North and South America, sweating is more than just relaxation or pain relief. It's a sacred practice led by a trained healer—a sort of therapy. Held inside a beehive-shaped mud or stone lodge, participants sweat as hot lava stones are covered with water and herbs and the guide leads them through a meditation with drums, flutes, and chanting, helping to release pent-up emotions, says Roselia Flandes, spa director at the Conrad Punta Mita in Riviera Nayarit, which organizes temazcal ceremonies for guests.

"It's like a church, but it's not religion," says Marili Samayoa Monzon, a medicine woman who leads ceremonies at her practice in Los Cabos, Mexico, as well as the One&Only Palmilla and White Lodge. Monzon says the heat forces people to turn inward and often brings up memories and emotions that she is trained to help participants process. Growing in popularity, she says, wellness enthusiasts often come back monthly or even weekly to her temazcal to ease physical and mental distress.

Friluftsliv in Norway

Norwegians enjoy spending time in nature in all kinds of weather, a concept known as friluftsliv. This term means appreciating and connecting with nature, whether snowshoeing through a thick blanket of snow or strolling through a field of spring wildflowers. Spending time in nature has been shown to lower blood pressure and improve mental well-being. A 2019 meta-analysis of 84 previous studies found that immersive nature experiences delivered clear benefits to self-esteem, self-efficacy, resilience, and academic and cognitive performance.

“The relationship between nature connectedness and happiness appears to be positive and significant,” says study author Colin Capaldi, an epidemiologist at the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Il Dolce Far Niente—or “the sweetness of doing nothing”—in Italy

Italians have seemingly perfected the art of balanced living, taking time each day to savor life’s simple pleasures. Whether it’s lingering over an aperitivo at an outdoor café, enjoying a leisurely meal with family or friends, or just basking in the sunshine, Italians prioritize leisure and living each day to the fullest, says Massimo Braglia, a Bologna native who blogs about Italian culture and language at the Italian Way of Life.

One of his most enjoyable days in recent memory was spending an entire day with his brother in Bologna, just sitting outside people-watching.

Siesta in Spain

A little over a decade ago, it looked like Spain’s beloved ritual of an afternoon nap after lunch would be abolished to align work days and productivity with the rest of Europe. It didn’t happen. In fact, as climate change boosted temperatures across Europe last year, more people reportedly embraced the siesta to escape the heat plaguing the city midday.

There’s good reason to consider a post-lunch snooze. One University of London study found that taking a short daytime nap delays the brain shrinkage that comes with aging. Another study from researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, found that taking an hour-long nap helped improve students’ ability to learn and perform better on tests.

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

16 Best All-inclusive Resorts in Mexico

These all-inclusive resorts set the standard for superlative stays in Mexico.



Mexico may not have invented the all-inclusive vacation, but it certainly perfected it. The country has thousands of all-inclusive resorts across its coastlines, from the Sea of Cortez to the Pacific to the Caribbean Sea. The sugary shores of Mexico are peppered with world-class all-inclusive resorts perfect for family getaways, couples escapes, or relaxing getaways for friends. That, combined with the ease of access to Mexico from anywhere in the United States, is one of the leading reasons why Mexico is one of the world's most perfect vacation destinations.

The only difficulty is selecting which all-inclusive is right for you. From the Baja peninsula's rugged desert landscape to the Caribbean's translucent waters, from amenity-packed family getaways to tranquil, intimate five-star resorts, Mexico has an all-inclusive to match every travel style.

Our picks of the best all-inclusive resorts in Mexico combine Travel + Leisure World's Best winners, It List properties, and editor-loved favorites. They have been selected for their stunning design, excellent service, location, restaurants, and amenities. Discover our picks for the best all-inclusive resorts in Mexico.

Hotel Xcaret Arte



What We Like

A dizzying number of options plus exquisite attention to detail make this one of the most exciting resorts in the Riviera Maya.

What to Consider

With 900 rooms, the resort layout can initially be confusing.

Perhaps one of the most memorable all-inclusive resorts in Mexico, Hotel Xcaret Arte will wow travelers on arrival, and the surprises don't stop there. The 900-suite, adults-only resort is the sister property to Hotel Xcaret Mexico, the family-friendly version just next door. Hotel Xcaret Arte was a game-changer when it opened in 2021, with a jungle aesthetic designed to take visitors back to the earliest days of the Yucatan Peninsula. Think on-site rivers, thick jungle foliage, and even a cenote-inspired spa. The hotel is popular for honeymooners, though guests are permitted ages 16 and older, so it's a wonderful option for families with older children. What sets this resort apart is its overwhelming inclusions, from the 10 restaurants to the eight on-site workshops, unlimited access to the Grupo Xcaret theme parks, and access to Xcaret Xailing, which ferries guests to Isla Mujeres for the day. Unsurprisingly, this resort was named on T+L's World's Best Awards list for 2023.

The Details:

What's included: WiFi, Grupo Xcaret theme parks, transfers to and from Cancun airport

Who is going: Adults-only

Location: Playa del Carmen

Starting rate: \$962 per night

Grand Velas Riviera Maya



What We Like

This five-star all-inclusive resort overlooks a sparkling 1,000-foot stretch of white-sand beach.

What to Consider

It has limited evening activities, which is a plus for some.

Grand Velas Riviera Maya is a Mexican Caribbean legend, sporting a stunning stretch of white sand beach and luxurious suites with amenities like jetted tubs and butler service. The resort is family-friendly, with plenty of services geared towards kids, including a baby concierge, but with adults-only sections, it's a resort that suits everyone. A 2023 World's Best Awards winner, the resort is blessed with one of the best spas in the region. Guests come for the hydrotherapy circuit and stay for the lengthy list of holistic treatments. By day, guests lounge at the three pool complexes, and by night, they dine at the eight specialty restaurants. The property is extensive, so shuttle service is offered to the many different corners of the resort. Riding from the furthest building takes about five minutes to the beach.

The Details:

What's included: WiFi, non-motorized water sports, Life Fitness Center and classes

Who is going: Family-friendly. Kids Club ages 4 to 12. Teens Club ages 13 and older.

Location: Riviera Maya

Starting rate: \$1247 per night

Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit



What We Like

This resort has one of the best beach fronts in the Bay of Banderas.

What to Consider

Reservations are required at the three specialty restaurants.

If we compare all-inclusive resorts near Puerto Vallarta with the best beaches, the winner is Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit. Overlooking a long stretch of powdery soft sand, this all-inclusive resort does not compromise on location and views. A World's Best Awards-winner for the past three years, the resort features a three-tier infinity pool and luxury suites with ocean views and private balconies. A great family option, the resort has a comprehensive kids club, a teens club, and a baby concierge. Guests can dine at the seven restaurants or indulge in the 20-room SE Spa.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-fi, activities, nighttime entertainment, parking

Who is going: Family-friendly. Kids Club ages 4 to 12. Teens Club ages 13 and older.

Location: Nuevo Nayarit

Starting rate: \$913 per night

Grand Velas Los Cabos



What We Like

This resort features some of the loveliest suites in Los Cabos, all with ocean views.

What to Consider

The beach here is not safe for swimming, which is not uncommon for Los Cabos.

Grand Velas raised the bar on its brand with the debut of the Grand Velas Los Cabos. I visited in 2022, the same year it placed on the World's Best Awards list, and was thoroughly impressed with what the resort offers guests. The experience begins with a complimentary glass of bubbles on an expansive terrace overlooking the pool and the Sea of Cortez. From there, I was whisked off to a Grand Class Corner Suite with its own plunge pool on the terrace. However, guests don't have to upgrade for the royal treatment. Starting rooms here are the Ambassador Suites, all Oceanview, and begin at 1,000 square feet. All rooms are entirely all-inclusive, meaning all food and top-shelf liquor is included — including Don Julio 70, a divine sipping tequila. If you make two reservations at this resort, let them be at Velas 10 for superior steak and Cocina de Autor, an eight-course tasting menu included in the all-inclusive rate.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, Cocina de Autor fine dining experience, parking, premium mini bar

Who is going: Family-friendly. Kids Club ages 4 to 12. Teens Club ages 13 and older.

Location: Los Cabos Corridor

Starting rate: \$1346 per night

Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort



What We Like

This quiet and relaxing adults-only resort has two beautiful pools and a spectacular slice of oceanfront.

What to Consider

Some reviewers note that the rooms need a refresh.

Located on a stunning stretch of beach, tucked away from the energy of Cabo San Lucas, Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf and Spa Resort is a quiet, adults-only haven overlooking the Pacific. One of the best all-inclusive resorts in Los Cabos, Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort placed on our World's Best list in 2021 and 2023. Guests are treated to two beautiful pools, a lovely beach setup, a calming spa, several restaurants, and easy access to the Quivira Golf Club. For a little extra oomph, guests can book The Towers at Pacifica, a luxury resort within the resort. The two sleek towers feature 47 guest rooms and private terraces, including six suites with private plunge pools. All of The Towers suites come with enhanced amenities and 24-hour butler service. Other exclusive perks include a beachfront fine dining restaurant and a separate fitness center.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, four restaurants on-site plus restaurants at sister resorts, daily activities, butlers for suites

Who is going: Adults-only

Location: Cabo San Lucas

Starting rate: \$553 per night

Marquis Los Cabos



What We Like

Stylish rooms all feature balconies and ocean views.

What to Consider

Restaurants require reservations and can fill up if the resort is at capacity.

Overlooking the rugged stretch of the Los Cabos Tourist Corridor, Marquis Los Cabos is a quiet, sophisticated adults-only resort that keeps stealing readers' hearts — it was a World's Best Awards winner in 2021 and 2023. Spacious rooms and private balconies woo travelers with views out to sea. Select suites boast private pools for even more seclusion. By day, guests can lounge by the oceanfront infinity pools or dip into the 13,000-square-foot Spa Marquis. In the evening, grab a cocktail and wait for the sky to paint itself in fiery colors as the sun starts to set. The resort's restaurants are included in the all-inclusive package, but guests can upgrade to a signature dining experience at Canto del Mar. The resort's executive chef designed this multi-course masterpiece and wine-pairing, fusing contemporary French cuisine with Los Cabos ingredients.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-fi, five restaurants, daily activities, night entertainment and theme nights

Who is going: Adults-only

Location: Los Cabos Corridor

Starting rate: \$734 per night

Atelier Playa Mujeres



What We Like

This gorgeous resort is beloved for its stellar service, impeccable food, and lovely stretch of Caribbean beach.

What to Consider

Guests have reviewed that rooms need better sound insulation.

The adults-only Atelier Playa Mujeres is a stunner. Beckoned in with a boho-chic design, guests are rewarded with sweeping oceanfront views and a dizzying array of luxe amenities. The 593-room resort, a 2023 World's Best resort, has a brag-worthy 3,000-square-foot Inspira Suite. Even entry-level rooms begin at more than 700 square feet. Outside the rooms, guests can frolic between the 13 restaurants and 12 bars, splash around in the palatial 14,000-square-foot pool, unwind at the triplex spa, or enjoy a round of golf at the 18-hole golf course.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-fi, 20+ restaurants and bars, upscale minibar, all-day activities

Who is going: Adults-only

Location: Cancun

Starting rate: \$660 per night

Grand Velas Boutique Los Cabos



What We Like

This intimate sister resort is reserved for adults only and sits next door to Grand Velas Los Cabos.

What to Consider

Most restaurants are at family-friendly Grand Velas Los Cabos.

If you love everything about Grand Velas Los Cabos but dream of an adults-only experience, then Grand Velas Boutique Los Cabos is a must for your bucket list. The newest addition to the Grand Velas family, this intimate 79-suite resort is adjacent to its older sister and caters exclusively to adults. The all-inclusive resort is the perfect complement to its sister, with a cozy-chic design and sparkling infinity pool overlooking the Pacific. Suites begin at more than 900 square feet, each with a private terrace and Jacuzzi. Select rooms have plunge pools and fire pits on their balconies. All rooms have bougie perks like Dyson hair dryers and shower heads infused with a Vitamin C elixir for extra skin and hair nourishment.

Travel + Leisure contributor Susmita Baral visited the resort in March 2024. She writes, "The shining star of the property is its oceanfront infinity pool. And for those who want a little more ocean action, there are even umbrellas and daybeds on the beach, where I hung out keeping my eyes peeled for signs of whales."

She notes that the all-inclusive includes an array of tasting experiences. The Agave tasting room has a curated selection of tequila and mezcal and plenty of tequila tastings. While the resort has three restaurants on the property, guests of the Boutique have access to all the restaurants and bars at Grand Velas Los Cabos.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, all restaurants at Grand Velas Los Cabos, Agave Tasting Room experiences, parking

Who is going: Adults-only

Location: Los Cabos Tourist Corridor

Starting rate: \$1240 per night

Hotel Xcaret Mexico



What We Like

Guests have unlimited, all-inclusive access to any of Grupo Xcaret's theme parks.

What to Consider

With 900 rooms, this is one of the largest resorts in the region.

It's always challenging to pick favorites, especially when it comes to Mexico's all-inclusive resorts. For families, I continuously land on Hotel Xcaret Mexico, the first Xcaret resort to open in the company's portfolio in 2017. The hotel's All-Fun Inclusive concept provides unlimited access and transportation to Grupo Xcaret parks, with trips to underground caves, zip lining, snorkeling, and other activities included. Meals and beverages at all on-site restaurants and bars are top-level, and guests can even take advantage of the included ferry service to Isla Mujeres. Designed with the same theme as its adults-only iteration, this jungle-shrouded mega resort truly offers something for everyone. It even has a section exclusively for adults with a private rooftop pool and bar area.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-fi, round-trip transportation from the airport, access to Grupo Xcaret parks, ferry service to Isla Mujeres with Xcaret Xailing

Who is going: Family-friendly. Unlimited access to the eight theme parks, non-motorized aquatic activities, Kids Club

Location: Playa del Carmen

Starting rate: \$900 per night

Mahekal Beach Resort



What We Like

Perched on a beautiful stretch of beach, this resort is also within walking distance to Playa del Carmen's Quinta Avenida.

What to Consider

Rooms do not have televisions — a plus for some.

Whenever someone asks me about the best all-inclusive resorts in Playa del Carmen, I point them to Mahekal Beach Resort. This special beachfront property is unique because it offers travelers the best of both worlds: a prime sun-bleached beach location and an address right in the heart of downtown Playa del Carmen. The luxe resort is designed like a dreamy castaway village, with palapa-topped bungalows, oasis-style pools, and open-air restaurants. A chic outdoor living room with oversized poufs creates a welcoming lounge space on the sand. Guests can book the all-inclusive package or a half-board set-up if they want to go out and explore the bars and restaurants of downtown Playa del Carmen.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, two restaurants, national beers, house brand wine and liquor, 10 percent off spa treatments, yoga classes, and bicycles

Who is going: Family-friendly. Children's pool, ceramic painting classes, ping pong, pool tables

Location: Playa del Carmen

Starting rate: \$459 per night

Pueblo Bonito Mazatlan Beach Resort



What We Like

This all-inclusive resort is a short distance from the famous Zona Dorada and sits on a broad stretch of popular beachfront.

What to Consider

It is an all-inclusive optional resort, so be sure you are booking the all-inclusive package.

Mazatlan is one of Mexico's underrated beach destinations. Far more popular with national tourists than U.S. tourists, this gorgeous historic city rewards visitors with stunning historic downtown and miles upon miles of golden sand beaches. Within a short reach of the famous Zona Dorada beach district, Pueblo Bonito Mazatlan Beach Resort has been a legendary property of the destination for decades. The broad, beautiful beach out front offers impressive views, while the resort's two free-form pools have hot tubs and a swim-up bar. Guests have several restaurants on-site, but they also have access to the restaurants at the sister property, Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, onsite restaurants and restaurants at sister property, daily on-site activities, parking

Who is going: Family-friendly

Location: Mazatlan's Zona Dorada

Starting rate: \$377 per night

Garza Blanca Los Cabos



What We Like

This Los Cabos oceanfront resort has eight fabulous pools, including a glamorous rooftop pool with stellar views.

What to Consider

Reservations are technically not required at restaurants, but you may be disappointed if you don't make them in advance.

Garza Blanca has been turning heads on all of Mexico's coasts, from the original in Puerto Vallarta to its resort in Cancun and finally the one in Los Cabos. This family-friendly stunner features large luxury residences and one-bedroom suites that are perfect for couples. Guests can soak up the sun from eight pools, including an adults-only rooftop infinity pool. The all-inclusive package includes all meals, beverages, room service, and organized activities. One of the resort's most beloved spaces is the Spa Imagine, a sprawling sun-drenched space with a sparkling hydrotherapy circuit and soothing therapy suites.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, outdoor activities, parking, adults-only The Rooftop

Who is going: Family-friendly. Kids Club ages 4-12.

Location: Los Cabos Tourist Corridor

Starting rate: \$625 per night

Hotel Mousai Puerto Vallarta



What We Like

All the spacious suites have private balconies and plunge pools.

What to Consider

The beachfront is located at its sister property, a shuttle ride away.

Puerto Vallarta has a long list of all-inclusive resorts, but the best in town is undoubtedly Hotel Mousai. I like it so much I've visited it three times. The dual-tower hotel (with a third on the way) is just south of the Zona Romantica on a jungle-covered mountainside overlooking the Bay of Banderas. I love this resort for its funky, off-beat design that swings between Art Deco and the 80s. Think opulent chandeliers and neon. The two Mousai towers are the adults-only resort within the larger Garza Blanca Preserve Resort & Spa. Each tower has its own sleek infinity pool, while all suites have their own private plunge pools on the terraces. Guests can dine at any of the six Hotel Mousai restaurants and the additional three at Garza Blanca.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, onsite restaurants plus facilities at its sister resort, two rooftop infinity pools, and plunge pools in every room.

Who is going: Adults-only

Location: Puerto Vallarta

Starting rate: \$630 per night

Casa de la Playa



What We Like

Each expansive suite has its own heated pool and separate Jacuzzi.

What to Consider

This is one of the more expensive resorts in Mexico.

Grupo Xcaret's latest resort, Casa de La Playa, has also earned a spot on this list, and it is the company's most luxurious property to date. The intimate, adults-only resort has just 63 suites, each with jaw-dropping ocean views, 1,000 square feet of space, and private pools. Like its sibling properties, Casa de la Playa goes overboard on inclusions, like the all-inclusive park access and sailing to Isla Mujeres. But this resort goes a step further with tailor-made experiences, including everything from morning purification rituals to private adventure tours through underground caverns. Dining is excellent here, with restaurant concepts cooked up by celebrity chefs like Martha Ortiz, Virgilio Martinez, and the Rivera-Rio brothers.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, access to all Xcaret parks and Xcaret Xailing, on-site chocolateria, rooftop skybox, exclusive experiences

Who is going: Adults-only

Location: Playa del Carmen

Starting rate: \$2,900 per night

UNICO 20°87° Hotel Riviera Maya



What We Like

All suites have a soaking tub or swim-out access, and the resort has one of the best pool scenes in Riviera Maya.

What to Consider

Restaurant reservations are required.

A consistent favorite in the Riviera Maya since 2017, UNICO 20°87° Hotel Riviera Maya is a fabulous option for couples or friends looking for a relaxing and fun all-inclusive getaway. I was drawn to this resort for its enormous suites (and snazzy in-suite amenities like hoodie robes and balcony soaking tubs). Suites on the ground floor have swim-out access to the pools, which are the heart and soul of the social scene at the resort. You'll find activities, live entertainment, and a lively bar scene here. At night, guests can choose from specialty restaurants — Cueva Siete and Mura House are musts — then withdraw to Palmera Lounge, a Cuban-style bar throwing it back to Havana in the 1940s, with lively entertainment and sexy cocktails.

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, five signature restaurants, live entertainment, yoga, Mixology Master Class

Who is going: Adults-only

Location: Riviera Maya

Starting rate: \$515 per night

Grand Fiesta Americana Los Cabos All Inclusive Golf and Spa



What We Like

A fabulous resort for the entire family, this all-inclusive has many pools, lots of restaurants, a great kids club, and is near two golf courses.

What to Consider

The golf clubs are not technically part of the resort.

A fun, activity-heavy vibe sets the tone for this all-inclusive beachfront resort. Think tequila and regional wine tastings, cooking classes, and time parties. Rates include these, plus the Fiesta Kids Club and a wide range of dining options. The resort has a luxe spa, as well as a golf course.

"It's impossible to forget the family trip I took with my husband and our two kids here," said T+L contributor Terry Ward. "We'd start every morning on our balcony with nature's cure, watching a parade of passing humpback whales spouting just offshore during their winter migratory journey along the coastline. The hotel's private beach is drop-dead gorgeous, too, and if you're here during the winter months, be sure to look up from your lounge chair to scout the water for breaching whales and their babies. It's pure magic."

The Details:

What's included: Wi-Fi, free airport transfer, dog-friendly

Who is going: Family-friendly. Kids Club ages 4-12

Location: Los Cabos Tourist Corridor

Starting rate: \$458 per night

TRAVEL✈️ NOIRE

CABO VS. CANCÚN: WHICH MEXICAN DESTINATION IS BEST FOR YOU?

If you're contemplating a trip south of the border, you'll want to read our Cabo vs. Cancún guide to ensure you have the best experience.

Another month of summer sunshine has nearly slipped by us, meaning we're inching closer to the early sunsets and chilly temperatures of autumn. You may be craving this relief amid the relentless July heat, but once the seasonal shift actually kicks in, people begin checking out flight deals to the closest tropical paradise. For many Americans, that would be Mexico, which is home to countless luxurious resorts, white sand beaches, historic sites and delicious culinary experiences. If you're contemplating taking a trip south of the border soon, you'll want to read our Cabo vs. Cancún guide to ensure you have the best experience possible.

Why Visit Cabo?

Cabo is located on the southernmost tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula, where the Pacific Ocean meets the Sea of Cortés. Overall, the popular tourist destination has more of a desert feeling than Cancún, and travelers on the west coast tend to favor it as their flight time is shorter. More than 20 U.S. cities offer direct flights to the San José del Cabo International Airport, but that's not all the former fishing village has to offer.

Farm-To-Table Food Is a Must-Try Dining Experience

Foodies should pick Cabo over Cancún in a heartbeat when scouting out the perfect Mexican vacation spot. Their tasty meals are centered around the sea and the ingredients it provides, such as smoked marlin or chocolate clam. While the best resorts in the area are praised for their restaurants, Cabo has more opportunities to dine off the resort. Just outside the city, you can find one-of-a-kind farm-to-table experiences at Acre, Tamarindos and Flora Farms. For those seeking something more elevated, Travel + Leisure suggests the five and seven-course tasting menus at Sunset Monalisa.

Luxury Hotels Provide the Vacation of Your Dreams

Some travelers are comfortable saving coins by shacking up in a hostel, but in Cabo, those accommodations are hard to find. Instead, the area is filled with top of the line timeshares, resorts and private villas. For those hoping to avoid crowds, smaller boutique hotels like El Ganzo and Acre have been popping up. Otherwise, you're likely to end up at a Waldorf Astoria or the One&Only Palmilla.

In What Areas Does Cancún Shine?

In the Cabo vs. Cancún debate, there are several reasons why the latter comes out on top. It has an entirely different vibe, situated on the Caribbean Sea and surrounded by thick jungle. Cancún is in the

eastern part of Mexico, making it an obvious choice for people flying in from Midwest or East Coast. Over 30 American cities offer direct flights – New York, Miami, Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago and more.

Swimmable Beaches With Sun-Kissed White Sand

The beaches in Cabo sure are beautiful, but it's hard to find one where swimming in the ocean is safe. The same can't be said for Cancún, where visitors happily enjoy the white sand beaches that span the 14 miles of the city's Hotel Zone. If you want to avoid the crowds, just a 45-minute drive from the airport is Costa Mujeres. There, you can book accommodations that are newer and more quiet than well known fan favorites.

Variety in Accommodations Means More Affordable Prices

Speaking of hotels, prices in Cancún are typically cheaper than in Cabo. This is because the eastern jungle oasis was largely created specifically for tourists and their diverse needs. Many people want to soak in the beauty and culture of Mexico, but not all of them can afford to do so from a five-star resort. Thankfully, the dozens of options throughout Cancún assure that you can find a spot that won't break your budget or compromise your safety.

Cabo vs. Cancún: Where Are These Dream Vacation Destinations Equal?

So, when it comes to Cabo vs. Cancún, which one is right for you? Only you can say for sure, based on your needs, budget and preferences. We've already given you plenty to think about as you plan your next trip, but it's important to note where both destinations are mostly equal too.

Beautiful, Unique Locations

Each offers stunning views of the water, nature and historic monuments. Cabo will let you tap into your inner cowboy while you admire the Sierra de la Laguna mountain range. Meanwhile, Cancún places you near the Maya Ruins, which some people come to Mexico specifically to explore. Also in the area are Tulum and Bacalar, one of the country's largest freshwater lakes.

Diverse Indoor and Outdoor Activities

For those who like to party, you can always find something happening in either Cabo or Cancún. The desert-like hotspot tends to be extra busy in the springtime as students flock there, but San José del Cabo is generally more quiet, hosting live bands at small restaurants and cafes.

As far as other activities go, there's no limit to how much outdoor fun can be had in Mexico (as long as you apply SPF, that is). In Cabo Pulmo National Park you'll find ATV trails, horseback riding and scuba diving; the city also happens to be one of the world's best destinations for deep-sea fishing and whale watching. Over in Cancún, the local cenotes draw people in, taking them on a tour through the underground rivers and caves from Maya mythology. You can dive with sharks off the coast of Cozumel, do some designer shopping in the Hotel Zone or explore nearby gems like Isla Holbox and Isla Contoy.

Overall Safety

It's more important than ever to be vigilant when traveling, but as long as you respect local laws you should be safe during your visit to Mexico. Both Cabo and Cancún welcome millions of tourists annually, the majority of whom come and go without any trouble. The U.S. State Department urges Americans to exercise caution in Quintana Roo or the Baja California Sur, meaning keep a close watch on your belongings, don't accept drinks from strangers and treat others the way you want to be treated.

TRAVEL ✈️ NOIRE

CITY GUIDES

CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Cabo San Lucas, Mexico is the ultimate destination for celebrating Afro-Mexican culture, luxury relaxation, and all kinds of adventure. Cabo San Lucas sits on the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula with amazing panoramic photo ops. From exploring ancient ruins to snorkeling in crystal-clear waters, this Mexican coastal town has endless opportunities for exploration and rejuvenation. Iconic sights like the Arco de San Lucas and Mount Solmar complement amazing activities like whale watching, snorkeling, and surfing.

- **Best time to travel:** December to April (peak season), June to October (off-season), May and November (shoulder season)
- **Time zone:** Mountain Standard Time (MST)
- **Currency:** Mexican Peso (MXN)
- **Language:** Spanish
- **Noteworthy:** Carnaval San José (February), [Mexican Independence Day](#) (September), [Día de los Muertos](#) (November), [Sabor a Cabo](#) (December)
- **Best for:** Adventurers and Beach Getaway, Romantic and Honeymoon Trips, Food and Spirit Enthusiasts, Culture and History Buffs

Get Away: Getting To and Around Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

By Air

Direct flights to Los Cabos International Airport from major cities like Los Angeles, Houston, and Phoenix are readily available. Numerous airlines offer competitive fares and are just a short drive away from the sun-kissed shores of Cabo San Lucas.

By Car

The stunning landscapes and colorful streets of Cabo San Lucas deserve to be explored freely and safely. Renting a car from reputable agencies grants easy access to scenic coastal highways and breathtaking beaches. Visitors can drive through charming villages and participate in fun activities throughout this Mexican paradise.

By Public Transit

Cabo San Lucas has public transit available with a budget-friendly and efficient local bus system to visit the city and its surrounding areas. With routes extending to popular destinations like Medano Beach and El Arco, the affordable fares and frequent services make it convenient to get around the coast.

Explore Cabo San Lucas, Mexico on Foot

Enjoy a sensory journey through the heart of the town by exploring on foot like wandering around to see the colorful boats at the local marina. There are memories to be made and souvenirs to take home from the charming shops and restaurants. Embrace the rhythm of the city like a local and soak up the sun, surf, and serenity of Cabo San Lucas.

Gourmet



Torote Restaurant At Valle Del Sol

The farm-to-table cuisine at Torote Restaurant At Valle Del Sol uses Mexican ingredients to create a Mediterranean menu with a twist. The Head Chef and mixologist curated a dining experience with breakfast, brunch, and dinner menus alongside a special "Spoiled Pets Menu" for any pets traveling along.



Metate Cabo

Metate Cabo showcases the ancestral techniques passed down through generations infusing each dish with an explosion of Mexican flavors. The menu includes grilled bone marrow and stuffed ancho peppers with decadent Mexican desserts like Paricutin cake and Metate flan.



Baja Cantina

For an authentic taste of Cabo, guests can enjoy Baja Cantina's world-class menus including all-day breakfast with refreshing juices. The lunch and dinner menu serves classic Mexican dishes complemented by the laid-back bar offering creative beverages.



Anica Restaurant

Anica Restaurant serves classic American cuisine with Mexican flair on a stunning backdrop of Grand Solmar at Rancho San Lucas. Paying homage to its heritage, Anica blends local ingredients and tribal cooking techniques that celebrate the region's rich culinary traditions.



Neveria Alebrijes

Neveria Alebrijes serves high-quality frozen treats from classic favorites to exotic and gourmet creations crafted with natural flavors. The selections include cream-based or water-based palettes, alcohol-infused popsicles, and a line of keto and vegan-friendly desserts.



The Office On The Beach

The Office On The Beach is a great spot for digital nomads under the warm sun and soothing waves at Médano Beach. They serve favorites like ceviche, fried fish, or burritos paired with classic Mexican margaritas, Cuba Libres, and ice-cold beers.



Don Sanchez Restaurant

Hailed as one of downtown San Jose del Cabo's finest contemporary restaurants, Don Sanchez Restaurant celebrates Mexico's freshest ingredients. Chef Edgar Román's signature cuisine shines in the farm-to-fork menu that reflects the diverse heritage of Mexico.

Stay



Casa del Pescador

Casa del Pescador offers gorgeous views with beach access, an outdoor grill, and a heated pool with a swim-up bar. This Misiones condo has 24-hour security, private keypad entry, a fully equipped kitchen, and two King-sized beds for ultimate comfort.



Villa Del Arco Resort & Spa

With a breathtaking backdrop of Medano Beach, Villa Del Arco Resort & Spa offers gourmet cuisine and an award-winning spa. With a commitment to sustainability, environmentally-conscious guests can immerse in luxury while admiring the natural beauty of Cabo San Lucas.



ME Cabo by Meliá

With pet-friendly accommodations, ME Cabo by Meliá has the most beautiful backdrop at the only swimmable beach in Los Cabos. Guests can enjoy exclusive perks like free massages, select restaurant discounts, and private shuttle transport with select bookings.



Hotel Rui Palace

The all-inclusive Hotel Rui Palace has the best entertainment with top-tier dining and stunning beachfront views at every angle. Luxurious amenities include minibars, access to pools, swim-up bars, and the Renova Spa to relax in every moment.



The White Lodge

The White Lodge, known for its off-the-beaten-track luxury, has cottages that complement the natural glory of Baja's southern coast. The sustainability-focused boutique hotel celebrates the region's heritage with the holistic ZENICA Ancestral Spa and a farm-to-table restaurant, Azul Cortés.

Play



ATV Tour, Camel Ride, Tequila Tasting, and Mexican Buffet Lunch

Explore Baja's untamed beauty on this all-inclusive safari tour including an ATV tour, camel ride, and a Mexican buffet lunch. This excursion has photo ops with majestic camels, fun through rugged terrain, and local food and spirits.



Outdoor Ziplining and UTV Adventure

The outdoor ziplining and UTV adventure comes with breathtaking canyon vista views and rides through the ecological wonders. With professional gear, hotel pickup, and a satisfying lunch included, this adrenaline-fueled activity works for large groups.



Los Cabos Luxury Sailing, Snorkel, and Lunch Cruise

This Los Cabos luxury cruise offers a day of sailing opulence along the coastline with fresh seafood and unlimited drinks. To experience the local marine life, snorkeling gear and stand-up paddleboards are provided during the tour.



Mexican Spirits Culture & Flavors

Learn about Mexico's rich cultural tapestry with an immersive experience in ancestral distillates at the Mexican Spirits Culture & Flavors workshop. From world-renowned tequilas to artisanal mezcals, this experience promises a relaxed atmosphere and an option for a private class.



AvoCabo Eat Like A Local Food Tour

Escape the tourist traps and indulge in the local foodie scene with AvoCabo Eat Like A Local Food Tour. Led by knowledgeable guides, guests visit five handpicked eateries cherished for their high-quality ingredients, family-owned charm, and hearty portions.



Aztecas Taco Cooking Class

The Aztecas Taco Cooking Class teaches the ancient secrets of preparing traditional Mexican dishes, harvested from the local rancho community. From grinding spicy salsa to crafting tortillas from scratch, this farm-to-table experience includes a shared meal with the local family.



Todos Santos Sunset Hike

Escape the ordinary and embrace the wild beauty of the Todos Santos Sunset Hike where visitors trek through ancient trails. With stops along the desert road and Pacific cliffs, this Baja excursion promises a sunset backdrop with panoramic photography opportunities.



Baja Wellness Experience

The Baja Wellness Experience by Ofelia Bojorquez offers ancestral healing practices such as breathwork, cacao ceremonies, and sound healing. From immersive yoga workshops to empowering women's circles, guests receive a deeper mind, body, and soul rejuvenation.

TRAVEL WEEKLY

MEXICO

July 17, 2024

UP TO 30% OFF

Hilton
ALL-INCLUSIVE

travel impressions

INSIGHT BY MEAGAN DRILLINGER



Los Cabos eyes continued smart growth

With an anticipated 4.3 million tourists expected this year, the destination has growth on its mind, with a focus on quality over quantity.

[READ MORE](#)

NEWS



Will Mexico's new leader help ease tensions with U.S. over aviation?

Advertisement

Ocean
By H10 Hotels

Premium Stays for Guests, Top Commissions for You

[Register Here](#)

FEATURED STORY



St. Regis Punta Mita, a Nayarit grande dame, gets a whole lot of TLC

The luxury property got a \$45 million propertywide renovation in time for its 15th anniversary, with new beachfront villas and restaurants among the highlights.

TRAVEL WEEKLY

THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY'S TRUSTED VOICE

Los Cabos eyes continued smart growth

International tourism is on track to reach prepandemic levels by the end of this year, according to the UNWTO. Los Cabos, however, has been ahead of the curve for the past three years. The Los Cabos Tourism Board reports that the Baja California Sur travel capitals of San Jose del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas reached a full recovery in 2021 with a 20 percent growth in visitation when compared to 2019. With an anticipated 4.3 million tourists expected this year, the destination has growth on its mind, with a focus on quality over quantity.

Growth is an important part of any tourism strategy. But the challenge that destinations face today is the marriage of growth and sustainability. Overtourism has been a hot topic as of late. Booking.com's 2023 Sustainable Travel Report, which collects responses from more than 33,000 travelers worldwide, reports that 76 percent of respondents are prioritizing sustainable travel.

"We need to sustain the growth that we have. Now that we have achieved that, we need to focus on quality versus to keep growing in a way that would not be positive," said Rodrigo Esponda, director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board.

Los Cabos has a lot going for it, and travelers who know Los Cabos don't need to be convinced of the destination's attributes. Esponda told Travel Weekly that 75 percent of the destination's customer base did not consider any alternative to Los Cabos for their vacations last year.

"That's a big advantage, and we need to make sure we keep the core conditions for those travelers with a [highly positive] customer experience," he said.

Los Cabos' main tourism pillars include gastronomy, arts and culture and diversity of experiences. One of the farm-to-table capitals of Mexico, the culinary landscape of Los Cabos focuses on local ingredients and sustainable farm and fishing practices from fine dining to food trucks. The destination is home to 13 Michelin-recognized restaurants, one of the highest concentrations among destinations in Mexico.

For arts and culture, the Art Walk in downtown San Jose has played a key role in the growth of the destination. The Art Walk is a weekly event held every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. between November and June.

"The Art Walk gives visitors the chance to stroll around the galleries and chat with artists; and the artists equally are from very different backgrounds with different styles and perspectives," Esponda said. "You can chat with someone trained in Europe in one gallery and then go next door to chat with someone who is self-made. And then to another gallery to chat with someone who uses technology. It's all different and all shows innovation in the art landscape."

As for diversity of offerings, Los Cabos is a leader in Mexico's beach tourism, but beyond the beach the region has cultural small towns, marine life, nature and adventure travel.

Of course, managing a projected 4 million tourists and counting per year does require development. But developing sustainably is top of mind for Los Cabos. Part of the management strategy is spacing out how much development is permitted, scaling back on the size of each project and creating developments meant for longer-term stays. For example, Los Cabos currently has 18,000 rooms online and is expected to grow by only 700 rooms in the next three years.

Over the next three years, the following projects will be coming online:

- SoHo House & Beach Club, 70 rooms, set to open this year
- St. Regis Los Cabos at Quiver, 120 rooms, set to open this year
- St. Residences, 25 rooms, set to open this year
- Vidanta The Estates, 20 rooms, set to open this year
- Park Hyatt Los Cabos, 197 rooms, opening in 2025
- Amanvari, 55 rooms, opening in 2025
- SIRO Palmilla, 120 rooms, opening in 2027

"The projects in Los Cabos take a long time to be done," Esponda said. "There are projects that have been in the pipeline for three to four years. Those developments include not only hotels, but villas, condos and branded residences, which means people are making a full-time investment."

On top of providing long-term options and hotel rooms, the destination is also focusing on building up housing and education opportunities for the locals who help make tourism possible in Los Cabos. Ninety percent of residents of Los Cabos rely directly or indirectly on the destination's tourism industry.

"We are the municipality with the lowest poverty rate, connected to tourism, because we have the formal conditions for employment, we provide a path for workers to get the right training and also get the right support," Esponda said.

TRAVEL WEEKLY

THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY'S TRUSTED VOICE

INSIGHT ■ MEXICO INSIGHT

Michelin stars rise at four Mexico all-inclusives

By Meagan Drillingier | Jun 05, 2024

🖨️ | A+ A-

There was once a time when a "culinary program" at an all-inclusive resort was little more than an all-day buffet and a theme night here and there. Those days are no more. In the past 10 years, the modern all-inclusive resort has turned the traditional model on its head.

Today's all-inclusive resorts have traded buffet lines and budget accommodations for butler service and Bali beds. But what has significantly changed about all-inclusive resorts are the food and beverage programs -- so much so that now four all-inclusive resorts in Mexico have restaurants that have earned Michelin stars.

Bringing Michelin-starred chefs into all-inclusive resorts isn't new, but now the actual restaurants within the all-inclusive resorts are becoming part of the international Michelin constellation. The Michelin Guide Mexico 2024 release, which came out last month, has welcomed four all-inclusive resort restaurants into the exclusive fold. Here they are:

- The Cocina de Autor Los Cabos is located within the gorgeous Grand Velas Los Cabos resort. The oceanfront restaurant sets the tone for an elegant experience with a dimly lit cocktail lounge where diners gather for a drink before proceeding into the grand dining room. The multicourse tasting menu is rooted in Mexican ingredients but draws in global elements. Think sea scallops with miso butter or beef tenderloin with celery root puree, poached beets and maitake mushrooms.
- Not to be outdone, Cocina de Autor Riviera Maya has also found itself on the Michelin list. Located at the Grand Velas Riviera Maya, the cooking here is similar in prestige to its Los Cabos sister, with a constantly changing menu that swings slightly differently. Think spider crab with jackfruit, roasted pork with black garlic and honey made from the property's own Melipona beehives.
- Also on the Riviera Maya, Azul Beach Resort's Le Chique is now shining with a Michelin star. Le Chique has consistently been named one of the top 50 restaurants in Latin America, but earning a Michelin star is certainly a whole new accomplishment. The tasting menu spans Mexico's regions, with a presentation rooted in theatrics and experimental gastronomy: green passion fruit filled with foie gras parfait or bruleed bone marrow served with escamoles.
- Finally, Hotel Xcaret Mexico's Ha' restaurant is one more all-inclusive dining experience not to be missed. The restaurant features Mexican flavors and ingredients with a decidedly French twist. Mushroom beignets are decorated with cauliflower crisps and served in a truffle and mint sauce, while the filet mignon and potato mille-feuille is topped with house-cured ikura. If you opt for the wine pairing, you will have the opportunity to learn about the wide world of Mexican wines.

There's no denying that the all-inclusive resort evolution continues, with luxury options now rivaling five-star European Plan resorts. Foodies who once balked at the idea of staying at an all-inclusive may suddenly find themselves coveting what are becoming the hottest reservations in town.

TRAVEL WEEKLY

New resorts are springing up in top Mexico destinations



From the jungles of Tulum to the historical town of Merida and the desert beachscape of Los Cabos, new resorts and hotels are making waves -- or will be before too long -- in some of the country's hottest destinations.

Formerly known as Rancho Pescadero, the Kimpton Mas Olas in Todos Santos has re-emerged under a new name and a fresh perspective about an hour north of Cabo San Lucas on the Baja peninsula. Situated on 30 oceanfront acres, this revitalized retreat is dedicated to wellness and gourmet experiences. The property has nine gardens that provide ingredients for its wellness and culinary programs as well as a spa with its own apothecary.



Mas Olas offers beautiful villas complete with hidden outdoor showers and plunge pools. Foodies will love the on-site dining options, including Kahal, which specializes in seafood with an ocean view. Activities are designed to connect guests with the landscape, from herb foraging and custom lotion-making to grounding earthing meditations and garden-to-table workshops.

The Trobbu Boutique Collection is stepping into the spotlight with its first property, the Trobbu Tulum, set to open in January. The all-inclusive, luxury villa resort will be located in the Tulum jungle, featuring 10 villas each spanning 2,745 square feet.

Each villa can host up to eight guests and includes three bedrooms, three-and-a half baths, an infinity pool, a decked terrace with sun loungers, a bar and grill area and a fully equipped kitchen. Guests can enjoy a spa and fitness center; a menu that includes Mexican, Italian and Lebanese dishes as well as fresh seafood and pizza; and even themed culinary nights. Activities include everything from wine tasting and cooking classes to cenote visits and yacht rentals.

Scheduled to launch this year, the Hotel Sevilla by Grupo Habita will include a transformation of a 16th-century colonial villa in the heart of Merida. The Hotel Sevilla retains the raw structures of the original building while incorporating modern design elements. The property features 22 rooms and suites, each with tall ceilings and modern interiors. The suites are arranged around two expansive patios. Guests can relax by the pool, enjoy shaded terraces and visit the spa, restaurant and bar. Additionally, street-level spaces will house a collection of chic shops.



For clients who want a fusion of adventure and luxury, the Viatura Hacienda Xtojil is a new glamping experience in the Yucatan jungle that launched earlier this year. The 15 upscale tents are equipped with plush bedding, private bathrooms, air conditioning and private terraces. Guests can enjoy activities like nature walks, stargazing sessions, Mayan cooking classes and sound healing. The glamping resort has a pool and a Nomad Center, which is essentially a business center but one geared toward the digital nomad and remote-worker lifestyle.

The St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira will open in early 2025 within the Quivira Los Cabos community, with 120 guestrooms and 60 residences against a 2.5-mile stretch of beach. Guests can expect oceanview rooms with St. Regis Butler Service; three signature dining venues -- a specialty restaurant, a beachfront grill and an al fresco, poolside restaurant; plus a host of recreational facilities. These include a fitness and wellness center, swimming pools, a saltwater lagoon, luxury cabanas and a destination spa.

A bit further in the future, Belmond plans to make a grand entrance into the Yucatan Peninsula with its acquisition and transformation of the Hacienda Katanchel, not far from Merida. Belmond plans to turn the historical estate, dating back to the 17th century, into one of Mexico's most beautiful hacienda hotels by

2027. The hacienda's name, Katanchel, translates to "where one asks for the arch of heaven" in the Mayan language, hinting at its past as an astronomical observatory.

Spanning more than 500 acres, the Hacienda Katanchel is more than just a historical site. It features a cenote, a sacred well, lush tropical landscaping, even the remnants of an ancient Mayan pyramid. The culturally rich property will be restored to create 35 independent suites.

Also new on the scene is the Fragata Beach Club in Playa Del Carmen, an adults-only oasis accessible for a \$50 day pass. Menu items include pool snacks like tuna tostadas, burgers and nachos. In the evening, Fragata is open for dinner and serves dishes like grilled octopus, seafood barbecue and steaks in addition to the fresh catch of the day.

TRAVELAGE WEST

How Los Cabos Grew By 1 Million Visitors While Demanding the Highest ADRs in Mexico



In 2023, Los Cabos welcomed a record 3.86 million travelers — 1 million more than it saw in 2019 — while enjoying the highest average daily rates (ADR) in all of Mexico (more than \$500 per night).

And according to Rodrigo Esponda, managing director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board, 20% of travelers visit four or more times a year, and 30% of guests are booked through a travel advisor.

"The best clients who come to Los Cabos come through a travel advisor, because advisors know what to do," he said. "And the ROI is super high from advisors."

According to Esponda, this success is largely thanks to Los Cabos' private trust fund for tourism promotion, FIPROTUR, which is celebrating five years this year.

Los Cabos has two different, but complementary, ways to fund its tourism pursuits. One is through a government grant from the nationwide tourism tax, which allowed for the creation of the Los Cabos Tourism Board some 25 years ago. But the other way — which is unique to the destination — is FIPROTUR, which was created in 2019 following the dissolution of the Mexico Tourism Board.



Currently, the private trust comprises 81 paying partners in the destination, from hotels, event companies and restaurants, to banks and destination management companies.

"It creates a culture internally in the destination," Esponda said. "Now, we get into different meetings."

The trust has allowed Los Cabos to develop the destination in a multifaceted way, and it clearly has given Los Cabos a big advantage: It has allowed the destination to open and maintain an office in Los Angeles, successfully handle crises, maximize new opportunities, segment its visitors, produce commercial intelligence, promote the destination to travel advisors, market the destination and more.

Esponda also highlighted the flexibility of the funds.

"Whatever happens, we have a way to respond very quickly," he said.

“ The best clients that come to Los Cabos come through a travel advisor, because advisors know what to do. ”

During the pandemic, for example, the trust allowed tourism employees to continue to receive their salaries. It also helped Los Cabos act fast and become the first destination to receive health certifications from Forbes Travel Guide, which contributed to the destination recovering 90% of pre-pandemic tourist arrivals by 2022.

The trust has also allowed Los Cabos to quickly take advantage of opportunities that help raise its profile, such as inclusion in the Michelin Guide 2024 which Esponda says has been motivating all the

destination's restaurants to innovate and deliver even better cuisine. (Thirteen restaurants were recognized, including Cocina de Autor Los Cabos, which received one Michelin star.)

And because paying members represent a mix of stakeholders, Los Cabos can develop and promote more than just its hotels, which is not usually the case for destinations funded by revenue from hotel taxes. In turn, this has helped lift the entirety of the destination — even areas without hotels, such as its rural and mountainous areas, which helps with the destination's overall sustainability goals.

According to Esponda, the fund continues to grow in members and financial contributions — and there's no doubt that the trust has fueled the marketing and financial success Los Cabos enjoys.

What's Next?

Los Cabos Tourism Board has several goals for 2025.

One is to focus on quality growth versus quantity, which Esponda says is possible thanks to the trust fund.

“ We grew 34% more in visitors since 2019, with ADR increasing almost 60%.”

"Members need to get onboard and understand this concept," he said.

While the destination has attracted more visitors than ever, it has also achieved an attractive ADR, proof that it is focusing on quality. Esponda also shared that Los Cabos is on track to reach about the same number of travelers as it did last year — which is a number it wants to sustain, rather than rapidly grow.

"We grew 34% more in visitors since 2019, with ADR increasing almost 60%," Esponda said. "We need to ensure we have strategic management for this growth."



Another aim is to focus on the most demanded segments by travelers, especially luxury travel.

"In the last two to three years, tourism has changed more than [in] the last 20," Esponda said. "Post-pandemic, now that everything is open, we need to find innovation and find the segments where we have competitive advantage."

Esponda pointed to the fact that Los Cabos has two different destinations in one, which is something highlighted by its latest luxury hotel opening, Four Seasons Resort and Residences Cabo San Lucas at Cabo del Sol. (Four Seasons has two properties in Los Cabos — the other being Four Seasons Los Cabos at Costa Palmas in the lesser-developed East Cape area.)

At the recent Virtuoso Travel Week conference, Esponda educated travel advisors on the "new endemic wonders of Los Cabos," including natural destination highlights such as Cabo Pulmo National Park, where the reefs are increasing due to careful preservation.



Advisors will have to stay up to date on the new offerings, as well. Golfing clients will be excited to try the four new golf courses coming to the destination in the next two years. And then there are the hotels. More than 700 hotel rooms are expected to open over the next three years — with all properties offering branded residences — for a projected investment of \$700 million into the destination (or, as Esponda says, “\$1 million per hotel room”).

The last hotel in the pipeline for this year is the 70-room Tropicana Los Cabos, Tapestry Collection by Hilton, set in a historic building. Some of the upcoming hotels for next year include Soho House Los Cabos (30 rooms), St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira (99 rooms), The Residences at St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira (25 rooms), Park Hyatt Los at Cabo del Sol (168 rooms) and Amanvari (22 rooms). Grand Hyatt is scheduled for 2026 (300 rooms), and Siro Palmilla (120 rooms) is planned for 2027.

Thanks to the foundation set by the first five years of FIPROTUR, Los Cabos is well on its way to achieving its goal to grow revenue, while maintaining its reputation as a high-quality destination for luxury travel.

TRAVELAGE WEST

Where to Dive With Sharks in Mexico



With Discovery Channel's Shark Week already underway, now is the season when more eyes are focused on some of the world's most legendary undersea predators. It's also a good time for shark fans to start planning a trip to Mexico, where they'll find lots of opportunities to view various species.

We've already covered where to swim with whale sharks in Mexico, but dedicated enthusiasts shouldn't limit themselves to just that variety. Dozens of other shark species also swim in Mexico's waters, after all, and several can be viewed by intrepid travelers — especially those with scuba diving skills.

The Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), is an ideal place to begin research on shark diving trips. The organization provides details on its site about the best dive destinations in Mexico, the best times to visit and approved dive shops, resorts and liveaboard ships.

Shark Diving on Mexico's Caribbean Coast

On Mexico's Caribbean coast, Phantom Divers, an official PADI dive center in Playa del Carmen, offers a variety of diving tours focused on viewing bull sharks, which visit the region between November and March. Options include Bull Shark Encounter, a static dive in 80 feet of water; Bull Shark Discovery, which includes a drift dive for 45 minutes at a depth of 60 feet; and PADI Shark Observer, a one- to two-day course dedicated to the topic of safe and responsible bull shark diving.

Also on the Caribbean coast is Squalo Divers, which offers bull shark diving excursions from Cancun, and Dune Mexico, which offers daily afternoon dives during bull shark season, each including an educational briefing at the company's dive center in Playa del Carmen. These outings are for experienced, certified divers, and it's always a good idea to check the requirements for any dive trip.



Shark Diving on Mexico's Pacific Coast

The west coast provides still more chances to spot sharks, and Los Cabos serves as the main gateway for shark-themed exploration. Cabo Pulmo — a UNESCO World Heritage Site located about two hours from Los Cabos — is sometimes called the “aquarium of the world” thanks to the more than 800 species of marine life that live in its waters, including bull sharks, tiger sharks, hammerhead sharks and both blacktip and whitetip sharks. Cabo Shark Dive, based in Cabo San Lucas, offers a full-day Cabo Pulmo dive tour, with stops at dive sites appropriate for all levels of experience.

Also based in Cabo San Lucas is Dive Ninja Expeditions, which offers a Blue Water Excursion, available as either a full- or half-day tour that provides opportunities to spot silky, mako, hammerhead and blue sharks.

Those looking to spend more time exploring should consider a multiday trip to the Revillagigedo Archipelago, a group of four volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean, about 240 miles off the coast. The destination, often referred to by the name of one of the islands, Socorro, is a prime spot for viewing multiple shark species. Dive Ninja Expeditions is offering a Ninja New Years Socorro 2026 package that includes eight nights on a liveaboard ship, four meals per day and multiple dives to view marine life, which can include spotting more than 10 species of sharks (whitetip, hammerhead and tiger sharks are among those most commonly spotted). Liveaboard accommodation categories include triple rooms, staterooms and suites.

Nautilus Adventures, meanwhile, offers liveaboard itineraries to Socorro from November through July, with activities including a photo and video workshop, cocktail hours and up to four dives per day. Ships that sail the itinerary include the 116-foot Cabo San Lucas-based Nautilus Gallant Lady, which hosts 12 divers in six cabins and features a lounge, dining room, hot tub, sun deck and crow's nest.

Dive enthusiasts should take note of a recent change to the roster of shark-spotting possibilities: The waters surrounding Guadalupe Island, located in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Baja California, have been indefinitely closed for diving by the Mexican government. The region has long been a top site for great white shark cage diving, with some 170 great white sharks visiting from July to November, according to PADI statistics. Companies including Squalo Divers and Nautilus Adventures normally offer shark diving tours; a date has not been announced for reopening the waters for divers.

TRAVELAGE WEST

Why Mexico Remains a Favorite for Travelers From the West Coast



Growing up in Southern California, our annual family trips to Puerto Vallarta provided opportunities to experience Mexico's food, music, people and culture firsthand. During college, I spent many weekends in Rosarito with friends, eating grilled lobster washed down with ice-cold Coronas. Since then, I've visited Punta Mita, Cancun, Riviera Maya, Mayakoba and, most recently, Costalegre — all destinations that are easily accessible from the Western United States.

The ease of traveling to Mexico from the U.S. West has always been a big plus for travelers who would rather spend their time in a destination than getting there. And while some clients have the luxury of a longer vacation, travel advisors often find that the availability of nonstop flights from a variety of West Coast cities also makes it possible for them to enjoy shorter stays, especially in particularly close Mexico destinations, such as Los Cabos.

Rodrigo Esponda, managing director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board, notes that Los Cabos offers both a wide variety of experiences and convenient connectivity from the Western U.S., making it "perfect for a weekend getaway."

And Janel Carnero, a travel advisor with Embark Beyond, adds that Mexico's easy access makes it a standout for clients.

“In a few short hours, clients from the West can be enjoying a cocktail on a white-sand beach, trekking through the jungle to explore ancient Maya temples or immersing themselves in local culture,” she said. “It doesn’t matter if it’s a solo trip, a family vacation, a honeymoon, a girls’ getaway or a company retreat — there’s a quick nonstop flight. And who doesn’t love that?”



Abundant Opportunities

Ease of travel isn’t the only appeal of a Mexico vacation. The country’s wide variety of possible pursuits also creates opportunities for clients who have already visited Mexico to do so again — and hopefully discover something new.

“I have clients who have done trips to Riviera Maya or Cancun, and are looking for something different,” said Kendra Wagner, founder of Kendra Wagner Travel. “They want unique opportunities focused on cultural immersion, local connections and authentic food experiences like private cooking classes.”

For those clients — as well as new travelers to Mexico — Wagner finds that suggesting a variety of daily activities provides an understanding of everything there is to do, and may even introduce travelers to something they never knew existed.

“When we focus on tailor-made itineraries, clients’ eyes are opened to places and experiences they never would have considered,” she said. “This is one of the biggest reasons I advocate for clients to get off property when in Mexico. Participating in cultural activities and connecting with locals allows them to see the country from a different perspective.”



She's also seen clients spend part of their vacations in lesser-known areas outside of more commonly visited places such as Riviera Maya, Cancun, Los Cabos or Mexico City.

"Doing a trip to Los Cabos but then spending a couple days in Todos Santos is more intriguing to clients now than in 2019," Wagner explained. "Travelers also realize they can go to the same destination but do a completely different trip. That's something I love about Mexico; the options are endless."

One relatively new "outside the box" recommendation is Naviva, a Four Seasons Resort. The all-inclusive, adults-only luxury tented resort neighbors the brand's Punta Mita property and is just 45 minutes from Puerto Vallarta International Airport — and even clients who've visited Punta Mita have never experienced it like this.

"Naviva [reinforces] everything our guests love about this destination while offering an entirely new experience," said Rainer Stampfer, president of global operations for hotels and resorts at Four Seasons. "This exceptional project is a testament to our dedication to innovating the guest experience and creating unique concepts ... that meet guest needs in meaningful, personalized ways."

per square foot than anywhere else in Mexico," according to Esponda. And even more are being added. Recent openings in 2024 and upcoming 2025 debuts include Todos Santos Boutique Hotel, Four Seasons Resort and Residences Cabo San Lucas at Cabo Del Sol, Park Hyatt Los Cabos at Cabo Del Sol, a Soho House property and an upcoming St. Regis resort.

Bringing the Value

Another motivating factor for clients to choose Mexico over other destinations? The value of a vacation there is often too good to pass up.

"The value is absolutely appealing," Carnero said. "[The same] budget might get clients flights and hotels in Europe, but in Mexico that can get them ... their whole trip, depending on the resort, of course. While there are great destinations in Europe, Mexico lays the claim for convenience and cost."

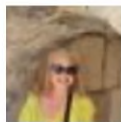
In addition to being more affordable than Europe — especially in the current climate, with the region seeing ongoing sky-high demand and accordingly high airfares and in-destination pricing — Wagner notes that Mexico's prices are also much lower than many Caribbean islands. This makes it possible for

clients to find reasonably priced accommodations while still having access to four- and five-star experiences, whether that's an all-inclusive hotel or a boutique property.

"Mexico has something to offer every type of traveler," Esponda said. "From wellness and gastronomy to culture and adventure, the country can be anything you make it and appeals to a wide array of customers."



Los Cabos Continues to Up the Ante on Its Tourism Offerings



by [Claudette Covey](#)

Last updated: 4:15 PM ET, Mon July 8, 2024

Without a doubt, Los Cabos serves as one of the travel industry's most salient success stories, in large part due to its mission of perpetually raising the bar on its tourism offerings.

"We have found a balance between maintaining our growth without sacrificing quality, which is crucial to the locals here in Los Cabos," said Rodrigo Esponda, managing director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board. "Ninety percent of the people in [Los Cabos](#) rely directly or indirectly on the tourism industry and we are committed to driving a tourism operation that contributes positively to the destination's social, economic and environmental well-being while serving visitor interests."



Rodrigo Esponda (Source: Los Cabos Tourism Board)

Quality Over Quantity

“[Los Cabos](#) has been extremely fortunate over the last four years to have experienced a quick recovery and, on top of that, historic growth in visitation,” Esponda added. “We love to see so many visitors experience the destination, but working on making our visitation numbers grow and grow is not our main goal.

“Instead, we believe that by prioritizing the quality of experiences and ensuring that our infrastructure can support sustainable tourism, we will create a more resilient and attractive destination for travelers.

“Our vision is to focus our growth on quality over quantity, meaning improved destination offerings and experiences over increased visitation in order to give our visitors a top-quality service. To truly focus on quality, we cannot aim for rapid growth.

Los Cabos’ Storytelling Evolution

“Los Cabos’ vision and storytelling has evolved to meet the expectations of our travelers, our environment and our community,” Esponda said. “Today, we are focusing on what makes us a distinct destination – gastronomy, unique wellness-based activities and luxury offerings.” On the gastronomy front, Esponda noted that Los Cabos is “one of the few destinations in Mexico that topped the list of the first-ever MICHELIN Guide for Mexico, released May 2024. In all, 13 different restaurants in Los Cabos were featured in the guide.” The destination has also expanded its wellness activities and is supporting local vendors that offer Temazcal rituals, astrotourism and wellness retreats, he said.



Paddleboarding around the Arch of Cabo San Lucas. (Source: Los Cabos Tourism Board)

Global Market Expansion

“While the U.S. is Los Cabos’ main sourcing market with 83.8 percent of its market share among all international arrivals by air, we have been receiving increased interest and visitation from travelers across the globe,” Esponda said. “We are continuing to [focus efforts on global market expansion](#) to strengthen the confidence of these international travelers in Los Cabos’ tourism offerings. In some markets, such as Germany, we have solidified our position.”

Luxury Hotel Growth

Los Cabos is expecting upward of \$700 million in investments in [the luxury accommodations sector](#) during the next three years. “The upcoming hotel openings will be bringing over 700

rooms to the destination, from luxury properties that will continue to elevate the destination's offerings," Esponda said.

"One key aspect that differentiates the properties that are coming to Los Cabos is that all of them are opening branded residences along with their projects. This speaks about the confidence and commitment these investors have in the destination. Los Cabos is currently the number one destination in Mexico attracting foreign investment.

"In the first quarter of 2024, of the \$469 million in foreign direct investment that Mexico received in the tourism sector, Baja California Sur, where Los Cabos is located, represented almost 35 percent, or \$161.1 million, of this tourism investment captured by the country."

New Luxury Properties

Upcoming luxury property openings in 2025 include the Soho House & Beach Club, St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira, St. Regis Residences, Vidanta the Estates, Park Hyatt Los Cabos and Amanvari, with SIRO Palmilla set to debut in in 2027.

In the final analysis – and as evidenced the formidable growth in the luxury hotel sector – Los Cabos is the rapidly expanding its luxury market. "Our more affluent travelers show a high interest in personalized service and specialized experiences to help make their wellness vacation come to life," Esponda said. "Our focus on quality and, ultimately, higher standard of service and value to our visitors shines through here.



Top Hotel & Resort News From June



Hotels and resorts made quite a few headlines in June, but this list is curated to offer small bites of the top news you need to know. From new data on the slowing U.S. hotel industry to newly debuted resorts in popular locales, check out the hotel and resort news you might've missed in June.

US Hotel Forecast Downgraded Amid Waning Demand for Budget Stays



STR and Tourism Economics have lowered their 2024-25 U.S. Hotel Forecast as slow-growing wages, high cost of living and high interest rates are beginning to slow travel, especially amongst lower and middle-income Americans.

Overall hotel demand in the U.S. fell only 0.5 percent in April, but demand for midscale properties fell 2.7 percent, with economy hotel demand falling 3.9 percent.

"Still-elevated interest rates and easing wage growth have contributed to cautious business investment and pinched spending by many middle- and lower-income consumers," said Aran Ryan, director of industry studies at Tourism Economics, "Looking beyond this near-term pull-back in demand at lower-tier properties, we expect moderate travel growth to resume, supported by a tempered economic expansion and the continued rebound of group, business, and international travel."

Iberostar To Open First Resort in Aruba, JOIA Aruba by Iberostar



Family-owned Spanish hotel company Iberostar announced it would open its first resort in Aruba later this year. JOIA Aruba by Iberostar will be a family-friendly all-inclusive resort located along Eagle Beach just a short drive from Oranjestad.

When it opens, it'll feature 240 suites, including swim-up suite options, a spa, casino, event spaces, an 18-hole golf course, three main dining options and more.

"We are delighted to introduce Iberostar's inaugural resort in Aruba, a stunning destination that shares our passion for quality and commitment to a model of responsible tourism," said Phil Mc Aveety, CEO, Iberostar Hotels & Resorts. "JOIA Aruba by Iberostar is a testament to our promise of providing guests with exceptional experiences. We are very pleased to expand Iberostar's presence in the Americas, aiming to contribute positively within the local community with a shared sense of prosperity and commitment to sustainability."

Four Seasons Makes Debut in Cabo San Lucas



Four Seasons Resort and Residences Cabo San Lucas at Cabo Del Sol opened as the Cabo's newest luxury beachfront escape in June. Located along the scenic Sea of Cortez, the resort boasts 96 rooms and 61 residences, villas and estates.

The resort offers amenities like eight restaurants and drinking venues, three pools, a spa, kids club, adventure center, art gallery and retail shop featuring local artisans.

"Our accommodations are redefining luxury beachfront living," said Edgar Niebla, the property's resort manager. "From our 847-square-foot guest rooms to our 7,255-square-foot oceanfront one-bedroom villas, we are welcoming guests to their Mexican home-away-from-home."

How the Top Hotel Rewards Programs Rank for 2024



A new report identified the top hotel rewards programs of the year, and it's official: World of Hyatt is the best of the best in 2024.

The new report, conducted by WalletHub, ranked the programs with 20 metrics. World of Hyatt offers the most money in rewards value per \$100 spent, at \$14.72 in rewards value per \$100 spent.

In order, other high-ranking loyalty rewards programs include Wyndham Rewards, Sonesta Travel Pass, Marriott Bonvoy, Hilton Honors, Choice Privileges, IHG One Rewards and Best Western Rewards.

"When people look for ways to save on summer travel, taking advantage of hotel loyalty programs usually isn't at the top of the list, but maybe it should be," said WalletHub Editor John Kiernan in a statement.

“Hotel rewards programs are free to join, and WalletHub’s latest research shows that the five best programs save members an average of 10 percent on their hotel spending.”

US Hotels Add 700 Jobs in May



A report published in June by the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) found that while hotels in the U.S. added 700 new jobs in May, it’s still far below the 191,500 workers that are still needed to maintain and manage hotels across the nation.

Hotels in the U.S. currently employ 1.92 million people, and that number still hasn’t recovered completely from the pandemic, when many hotel employees left for other opportunities as the industry stalled.

While hotels continue to offer record-breaking high wages and increased benefits, it’s only done so much to attract more workers. The AHLA continues to advocate for the government’s role in expand the H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker visa, pass the Closing the Workforce Gap Act of 2024 and the Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act, which would allow asylum seekers the ability to work 30 days after they apply for asylum.

“Congress and the administration can provide relief to hoteliers by taking a number of key steps to increase the pool of available workers,” said AHLA Interim President & CEO Kevin Carey. “Those include expanding the number of H-2B visas, extending the certification period for H-2B employees, and making it easier for qualified asylum seekers to start working in the U.S.”

US House of Representatives Passes No Hidden FEES Act



Those eager to save money and enjoy greater transparency when it comes to shopping for accommodations can rejoice: the United States House of Representatives has passed the bipartisan No Hidden FEES Act, the first step towards making the law a reality.

The act would establish a single standard for mandatory and transparent fees displayed to consumers prior to booking across the lodging industry. Hidden fees have especially raised the ire of American consumers against large hotel corporations.

“It makes sense for all lodging businesses – from short-term rentals to online travel agencies, metasearch sites, and hotels – to tell guests up front about mandatory fees,” said AHLA Interim President & CEO Kevin Carey. “That’s why AHLA has led efforts supporting federal legislation to establish a single and transparent standard for mandatory lodging fee displays and an even competitive playing field.”



Los Cabos, San Francisco 49ers Unveil 'Day With the 49ers' Clinic



The Los Cabos Tourism Board and the San Francisco 49ers unveiled the “Day With the 49ers” clinic on May 31, 2024, a community event designed to unite 100 kids, including those who are athletes, and families.

The event, which is a result of a multi-year collaboration formed last year between Los Cabos and the 49ers, will be held at Bicentenario Stadium and provide attendees with “the chance to train like the 49ers and meet featured guests,” the Los Cabos Tourism Board said.

Guests will include Hall of Fame Player Patrick Willis, a Hall of Fame player, World Flag Football Champion and Los Cabos Brand Ambassador Diana Flores Los Cabos Tourism Board Managing Director Rodrigo Esponda.

“Through strategic partnerships with organizations that align with Los Cabos’ wellness vision, we are not only enhancing our status as a destination that promotes wellbeing but showing that strategic partnerships can bring strong benefits to our local community,” Esponda said.

Los Cabos is a place where athletes can come to recharge, heal, and find whatever their idea of wellness is. We are passionate about ensuring our efforts as a tourism board benefit the local community, which relies heavily on visitors. This clinic is a perfect example of how our efforts can bring truly unique and beneficial opportunities to the people who reside in this beautiful destination.”

Added Brent Schoeb, chief marketing & revenue officer of the San Francisco 49ers: “Expanding football’s reach is important to us, so we’re excited to grow the game while highlighting community development and enriching opportunities for those who call Los Cabos home.”



The 8 Best Adults-Only All-Inclusive Resorts in Cabo

Getaway to play, relax and dine in a tropical kid-free setting.



Los Cabos, which incorporates Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo, is an oceanfront tourist destination in Baja California, Mexico. It's popular for its beautiful beaches, picturesque sunsets, world-class margaritas, festive nightlife, delicious Mexican food and luxury resorts.

If you're looking for a girls getaway or romantic escape, Cabo has a number of stunning adults-only resorts. Make your vacation easier by staying at a resort that is also all-inclusive, so you don't have to worry too much about the budget since most things are included. U.S. News has compiled a list of the top adults-only all-inclusive resorts in Cabo so you can treat yourself to luxurious accommodations, varied dining options and entertaining activities – without the kids.

Breathless Cabo San Lucas Resort & Spa



Adults will love the adults-only Breathless Cabo San Lucas Resort & Spa on Medano Beach (one of the most popular swimmable beaches in Cabo), with two infinity pools and suites with views of the marina. The all-inclusive "Unlimited-Luxury" experience at this Hyatt resort includes unlimited dining and drinks at a dozen different restaurants and bars; room service and pool or beach service; and nightly entertainment such as live music, cultural events and themed nights.

Upgrade to an Xhale Club suite for access to the private Xhale Club with complimentary food and drinks throughout the day, upgraded minibar and bath amenities, and free access to the spa's humid areas. Make time to get pampered with a relaxing couples massage at the spa or enjoy a romantic dinner for two on the beach. Recent visitors praised the excellent service and amazing views at Breathless Cabo San Lucas

Le Blanc Spa Resort Los Cabos



This beautiful resort offers adults a luxury escape with butler service, eight elegant restaurants, three bars, a state-of-the-art fitness facility and a variety of workout classes (including aquatic spin). Excursions such as whale watching, camel safari, golf and more are also available at Le Blanc Spa Resort Los Cabos. Previous guests commented that the range of activities was a favorite perk.

The all-inclusive rate covers accommodations, dining, top-shelf drinks, wellness experiences like hydrotherapy, exercise classes and access to the outdoor pools. Compliment your stay with a massage, facial or body wrap at the spa. The ultra-luxe accommodations include butler service, nightly petit fours, snacks, a bottle of wine, a bottle of tequila, robes and slippers, and an exclusive beach bag. The rooms and suites feature ocean or garden views.

Marquis Los Cabos



At the beachfront Marquis Los Cabos, adults will be spoiled with five restaurants, a coffee shop, a lounge bar, three beachfront pools and the Spa Marquis. Slow down and unwind by spending time on the beach or at the pool, enjoying live music, relaxing in the spa lounge, indulging in the hydrotherapy circuit, or getting a signature spa treatment. For a more active vacation, choose from activities like golf, archery, pickleball, tequila tastings, dance lessons and more. You can also enjoy theme nights such as a festive Latin dance show, a Mexican cultural party or a casino night.

The resort's all-inclusive plan includes dining and alcohol in four of the restaurants, in the cafe and by room service, in addition to daily minibar refreshments, activities, nightly entertainment, and access to the fitness center and tennis courts. Recent travelers praised the food offerings, especially dining at Sakke. There are a variety of room and suite options, ranging from 650 square feet to 2,604 square feet – all with a private balcony or outdoor space.

Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort



For a romantic getaway on a secluded beach, Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort is a wonderful option in Cabo. The well-appointed guest rooms and suites are equipped with private terraces and balconies that offer ocean or garden views. This adults-only resort also features a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course, four restaurants and bars, two swimming pools, an on-site fitness center, and the award-winning Armonia Spa. The attentive staff have been given kudos by many recent guests.

For a VIP experience, book a suite in The Towers – a luxury resort within a resort. Six of its suites even come with private plunge pools. Staying in The Towers grants access to an exclusive oceanfront lounge, beachfront fine dining and a fitness center with ocean views. Guests at Pueblo Bonito Pacifica also have access to additional amenities at sister resorts – Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach, Los Cabos and Rosé – and at Quivira Golf Club.

Hotel Riu Palace Baja California



This adults-only hotel on Medano Beach not only has reserved beach access, but also four pools – two with swim-up bars. Guests at Hotel Riu Palace Baja California can dine at the buffet or choose from one of the specialty restaurants, cafes or bars for a variety of menu options and drinks. There is no shortage of entertainment, including shows, live music, a night club, RiuParty events, activities and even the Splash Water World water park for adults. You can also stay active at the tennis or pickleball courts, or lift weights at the gym. Leave time to unwind with a relaxing trip to the Renova Spa for a massage.

For an extra-special trip, stay in an Elite Club by RIU room for upgraded amenities, including ocean view rooms, a welcome gift, premium in-room liquor, a bottle of wine and aromatherapy in your room. You'll also be given access to exclusive areas, such as specialty restaurants, a pool deck and a lounge. Reviewers praise the cleanliness of the accommodation and the friendliness of the staff, though some felt it is in need of an update.

Paradisus Los Cabos

At the Paradisus Los Cabos, located in San Jose del Cabo, guests will be treated to breathtaking views of the Sea of Cortez, a variety of restaurants from Mexican to Asian fusion, treatments at the YHI Spa, and golf at the Cabo Real Golf Club. The accommodations are bright and comfortable with private terraces overlooking the garden or ocean. Activities include Latin dance lessons, beach volleyball, sushi classes, tequila and mezcal tastings, and more.

If you want the best that money can buy, previous guests recommend The Reserve suites. They include access to a private lounge with a check-in/check-out area and premium drinks, coffee and snacks. You'll also be spoiled with a private concierge, a private pool with food and beverage service, exclusive areas at the resort, and more. Guests at The Reserve can even book complimentary destination inclusive experiences off-site, such as cooking classes, yoga by a cenote and art workshops.

Grand Velas Boutique Los Cabos

The newly opened Grand Velas Boutique Los Cabos is a boutique all-inclusive adults-only hotel perfect for relaxing. Highlights include signature facilities and services, such as a Michelin-starred consulting chef and innovative spa treatments at SE Spa. Guests can find deep relaxation with sound therapy, work up a sweat at the fitness center, take a dip in the beautiful infinity pool or stroll the scenic private beach area. To get to know the landscape and culture of the area, consider booking a paid excursion for activities like whale watching, sailing or scuba diving. Many people who stayed here recently gave glowing reviews of the property, highlighting the personalized service, decor and ambience

Guests can choose to dine at the buffet or the two signature restaurants. There are also two bars and an agave tasting room. As a special perk, guests of Grand Velas Boutique will also have access to sister property Grand Velas Los Cabos' gourmet dinner restaurants with no additional charge. Grand Velas Boutique's contemporary suites with a Mexican flare provide guests with a relaxing retreat to start and end the day. Each suite includes an indoor or outdoor hot tub, welcome bottles of wine and mezcal, in-room aromatherapy, a daily stocked minibar, a pillow menu and a shower with vitamin C. For a true luxury experience, the Elite King Suite is equipped with a private fire pit, a plunge pool and an indoor hot tub.

Secrets Puerto Los Cabos Golf & Spa Resort



This sprawling property features a dozen restaurants and bars, the nearly 13,000-square-foot Secrets Spa, an infinity pool, golf at the nearby Puerto Los Cabos Golf Course and a multipurpose fitness center. The excellent food and service are what recent guests appreciated the most. Spend your time enjoying complimentary activities on property, such as volleyball, archery, yoga and water aerobics. Entertainment is also available throughout the day or night, with live music, movies, dance lessons, theme nights, shows and more.

The beautifully decorated rooms and suites reflect the local culture with rich, earth-toned furnishings and Mexican artwork. The indoor-outdoor, dog-friendly rooms include separate living areas, balconies or terraces with expansive ocean or garden views, soaking tubs, daily refreshed minibars, and 24-hour room service and concierge service. Upgrade to a Preferred Club suite, and you'll also have access to a private lounge with complimentary drinks and food, upgraded minibar and bath amenities, access to a private pool, and more.

yahoo!life

This foodie-favorite Los Cabos all-inclusive resort shines bright with a Michelin star

Grand Velas Los Cabos is one of the few all-inclusive resorts in the world to have a Michelin-starred restaurant



All-inclusive resorts may not be for everyone, but these days they are certainly designed for foodies. Well, at least a few of them are, and the ones that were created with gourmet cuisine in mind are just as wow-worthy as traditional luxury resorts.

This has not always been the case, as the reputation for all-inclusive resorts in the past has been more about buffet lines and mediocre menus. But times have changed as all-inclusive resorts have started to prioritize the culinary experience, making food and beverage programs reason enough to book.

Take, for example, Grand Velas Los Cabos. Arguably my favorite all-inclusive resort in Los Cabos (combined with its adults-only sister resort, Grand Velas Boutique Los Cabos), this resort got the details right.

From the glass of champagne on arrival to the sprawling suites, private plunge pools, and, now a Michelin-starred restaurant, I'm always looking for a reason to get back to this stellar luxury all-inclusive resort in Los Cabos.

The Vibe

The entire resort experience begins with a glass of complimentary champagne on the lobby terrace overlooking the pools and the ocean. Vacation mode is instantly activated. But this is only the beginning.

The entire vibe of the resort is relaxed, yet upscale, with tiered pools and breezy, open-air spaces. Restaurants are decorated in different styles, so you feel like you're getting something new with each experience.

The oceanfront pool is reserved for adults only, while the upper two pools are family-friendly. I love a resort that can play to all demographics without one feeling too overwhelmed by the other.

The beach is small, but lovely, however like most beaches in Los Cabos, this one is unsafe for swimming.

The Rooms

I checked into a Grand Class Corner Suite and it was fantastic. All rooms at Grand Velas Los Cabos are considered to be suites, but the Grand Class Corner Suites are the closest to the ocean and come with plunge pools on the terrace.

The starting room category is the Ambassador Suite, which has ocean views and starts at 1,000 square feet. All rooms are fully all-inclusive, which means all food and all top-shelf liquor. Mini bars are fully stocked with beer and wine and all rooms come with a complimentary bottle of tequila.

The Dining

This is where Grand Velas Los Cabos truly shines. The resort features several specialty restaurants, including French, Italian, and casual pool fare. But the standouts for me are Velas 10 and the now-Michelin-starred Cocina de Autor.

Velas 10 serves up succulent steak and seafood. My husband and I ambitiously ordered the tomahawk steak for two, served piping hot with beautiful grill marks and a thick, salty crust. The sides here are killer, like the mashed potatoes and the macaroni and cheese. Don't skip the homemade chocolate bread with a side of bone marrow butter.

Cocina de Autor is the shining star these days, serving an eight-course tasting menu and wine pairing. Every dish in this gastronomic journey is a surprise as two Michelin-starred chef Sidney Schutte flexes his masterful skills.

The Wellness

SE Spa is one for the record books, with customizable aromatherapy and pressure. Each massage is prefaced with a Water Ritual, which is a classic hydrotherapy circuit with steam rooms, sauna, ice rooms, and a massage pool.

The Bottom Line

I recommend this resort for couples and families, particularly those with a discerning taste for great food. For those who want an adults-only experience, Grand Velas Boutique Hotel is everything you'll love about the original, with more intimacy and quiet.