

LUXURY IN LOS CABOS

Where two seas converge, so do seekers of luxury experiences. Los Cabos—bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west and the Sea of Cortez on the east—greet visitors with an array of sophisticated options.

By Susan H. Burnell

Los Cabos has been compared to the Riviera for its dazzle and to “Arizona with a beach” for its climate and geography. Yet Los Cabos has its own cachet: a blend of warm hospitality, excitement, relaxation, Mexican tradition and ultramodern vibe.

Linked by a 20-mile coastal corridor, the dual destinations of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo have distinct personalities. San Jose del Cabo is full of historic and artistic treasures and entices visitors to explore its cobblestone streets amid 18th-century architecture. Cabo San Lucas, dotted with resorts, golf courses and sweeping mountain-desert-beach vistas, is a Baja Peninsula paradise. Vibrant nightlife is part of the Los Cabos experience, with wine bars, microbreweries, tequila lounges, late-night dance clubs and live music venues up and down the corridor.

Grand Getaways: Los Cabos Resorts

Secluded villas, sumptuous seaside suites, serene spas and signature restaurants can be found at the grand resorts of Cabo San Lucas. Many offer all-inclusive packages designed to make vacations even more carefree.

Reachable via a private 300-meter tunnel carved through the heart of a mountain, **Capella Pedregal Resort and Spa** offers dramatic oceanside views and private plunge pools. The flagship luxury hotel of the Capella brand extends gracious Mexican hospitality with a full menu of vacation packages. Choose “Romance Under the Stars” with a private beachside dinner or “Family Connection” with a family photo shoot on the beach and a sunset cruise on the Capella yacht.



Hotel El Ganzo Rooftop Infinity Pool



Fundadores Beach Club at Puerto Los Cabos

Las Ventanas al Paraíso—“Windows to Paradise”—ensconces guests in soothing style. The resort offers 71 suites and 18 private residences nestled along a picturesque white-sand beach. The four Las Ventanas restaurants celebrate traditional local and Mexican flavors, including fresh seafood. Diners also enjoy spectacular views: The Sea Grill at Las Ventanas describes its location simply as “the edge of the gorgeous Sea of Cortez.”

Hotel El Ganzo is a destination with creative genius. Visiting artists and musicians present their original compositions on site at this lively, trendsetting boutique property. A beach club, marina, five-star spa and gourmet cuisine harmonize beautifully with El Ganzo’s art-of-relaxation theme. At the new **Puerto Los Cabos Golf Course** nearby, the art of golf presides. The designs of both Greg Norman and Jack Nicklaus comprise the current 18-hole course.

Ah, the Spas!

With a wealth of exotic treatment options to relax, rejuvenate and invigorate, the spas of Los Cabos are some of the best known in the world.

Beyond pure pleasure, spa treatments at **Rancho La Puerta** aim to balance mind, body and spirit. Guests can enjoy a hydrating warm-stone deep-moisture facial, gentleman’s facial, head-to-toe candle oil massage, Five Elements therapy and custom aromatherapy. To complement spa therapies, the culinary experience at the Ranch includes superb “Slow Food” menus with local seasonal fruits and vegetables, many from its own organic farm.



The One&Only Spa at Palmilla



Puerto Los Cabos Golf Course

Grupo QUESTRO

Auriga, a gem within Las Ventanas al Paraíso, was voted *Travel + Leisure's* "Best Hotel Spa in the World" in 2012. Auriga now features three new treatments that bring out the culture, history and flavors of Baja—"magic" hot and cold Baja stones; ancient traditional massage; and moisturizing treatments with Baja herbs, fresh mango, aloe vera and coconut.

Considered Mexico's premier destination spa, the **One&Only Spa at Palmilla** combines ancient healing techniques with cutting-edge therapies. Focus is on the mind-body connection, with fitness, nutrition and spiritual healing activities included on the spa activity calendar.

Dining: Fresh Catches

From the sapphire waters that surround the Baja Peninsula come dorado (mahi-mahi), tuna, striped marlin and boatloads of other fresh seafood. A favorite visitor pastime is walking down to the marina to watch fishing vessels dock, loaded with the day's catch.

Local chefs compete to create the most exotic flavor combinations based upon the region's readily available fish and shellfish. **Market Restaurant**, located within the One&Only, features the menus of Michelin-starred chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten. His specialties combine Euro-Asian cuisine with Mexican ingredients.

Flora's Field Kitchen at Flora Farm pleases palates and sustainable food enthusiasts with organic ingredients harvested from its 150-acre ranch. An on-site bakery provides whole wheat and herb breads, *pain à l'ancienne*, and other fresh breads to complement Field Kitchen meals.

Relaxation rules at **Bar Esquina**. Cabo's newest first-class restaurant is removed from the mega-resort scene yet tuned in to the hottest and most authentic regional food trends. Bar Esquina features Mexican-influenced Mediterranean fare, fresh fish from the Pacific and the Sea of Cortez, and mesquite-grilled meat dishes. A recent menu paired the day's catch with white bean and chorizo ragout.

Edith's was founded by Edith Jiménez, who interprets family recipes from the Mexican state of Guerrero. Especially welcoming to groups, Edith's offers dramatic views of the world-famous Arch at Land's End. Menus delight with choices like Coqueta "flirt" salad, dressed with a honey, ginger and hibiscus flower liqueur; and Aztec soup garnished with roasted guajillo peppers, cheese and avocado.

Shopping, Snorkeling and a Wild Canyon Camel Quest

At the heart of San Jose del Cabo's historic district is the Church of San Jose. Restored in 1940 and remodeled since, the colonial-style building is downtown's most-visited attraction. Within the district are art galleries and folk art finds, including Huichol art, crafted by one of the few Mexican indigenous groups to retain its cultural identity.

A trip to Los Cabos isn't complete without a tour to the Arch at Land's End. Reachable by glass-bottom boat, the natural stone formation rises where the Sea of Cortez and the Pacific Ocean meet. You can find spectacular underwater vistas just below the surface of the Los Cabos waters, and snorkeling tours of Santa Maria Bay and Chileno Bay are especially popular. Make your vacation especially memorable with sunset sailboat cruises, arranged dolphin encounters, whale watching and even a camel ride through Wild Canyon Park.

Los Cabos. Luxuriate where two seas converge.

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