



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Best Things to Do in Los Cabos

Cabo San Lucas, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Get your volun-tourism on at Cabo San Lucas Sea Turtle Rescue. Every summer the sea turtles, who faithfully return to deposit hundreds of eggs on Los Cabos beaches, with a hatching season of June to December. The one-week schedule for guests at Cabo San Lucas Sea Turtle Rescue includes training handling the eggs, taxonomy and lessons about the species. Beach patrols ensure the safe release of hatched turtles, and finally their release complete the satisfying experience. The week concludes with an evening in Cabo San Lucas.

My List

contact:

tel: +52 624 143 0016 (Tourist Information)

location:

Highway 1 Km 11
Cabo San Lucas BCS 23410

hours:

24 hrs

1 Playa Santa Maria

DESCRIPTION: Come early for this prime snorkeling location. Playa Santa Maria is well-known as one of the best beaches near Cabo for underwater wildlife; its curved north wall shelters a reef where tropical fish live and eat. Most of the tour operators offering snorkeling tours will be bringing tourists to this beach and typically arrive around 10a. Beat the crowds (and the blanket and jewelry sellers) and have the beach to yourself by arriving earlier. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +52 624 143 0016 (Tourist Information)

<http://www.visitloscabos.org/beaches.html>

location:

West of downtown
Cabo San Lucas BCS 23410

hours:

24 hrs

2 Playa del Amante

DESCRIPTION: Frequently pictured in brochures of Cabo, this is the beach next to the famous rock arch formation, Arch of Poseidon, at Land's End. Water taxis wait for your signal to deliver you to this famous beach. Just a rock wall (and a matter of yards) from the Pacific Ocean, this area is sheltered from the pounding waves. Named for its romantic and semi-remote area, it's rarely unpopulated enough to feel particularly romantic. Snorkelers tend to prefer the viewing at the eastern end of the beach. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +52 624 143 0505
fax: +52 624 143 0887
<http://www.amigosdelmar.com/>

location:

Boulevard Marina
Cabo San Lucas BCS 23410

hours:

Daily by appointment

3 Amigos del Mar

DESCRIPTION: Amigos del Mar is the oldest dive shop in Cabo San Lucas, introducing SCUBA diving to Cabo San Lucas over 30 years ago. Conveniently located on Marina Boulevard, Amigos Del Mar runs novice and expert dives to San Lucas Bay, Cabo Pulmo, Gordo Banks, Chileno Bay and Santa Maria. The shop is recognized by PADI, SSI, NAUI, and NASDS and offers a variety of certification courses. With colorful underwater flora and fauna, winter water temperatures averaging 68 degrees F° and summer averages at 80 degrees F°, Cabo is the perfect choice for divers. © NileGuide



contact:

tel: +52 624 145 6010

location:

Boulevard Marina
Cabo San Lucas BCS 23410

4 Cabo Sports Center

DESCRIPTION: Right on the marina, this rental zone offers all you need to take advantage of the beauty found in and around Cabo. Whether you are a mountain biker or a surfer, this store has your rental needs covered. Check out the boogie boards and snorkel equipment. If you are tired of the water (or too sunburned to be in it any longer), rent some golf clubs and head to the beautiful greens along the Cabo Corridor. Whatever your pleasure, the staff will help you understand



your equipment and give you tips on the best places to go for maximum outdoor enjoyment. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 619 275 4225 / +1 800 727 2252 (Toll Free)
<http://bajabeyond.com/turtles.html>

location:

Km 30 Highway 19
Cabo San Lucas BCS 23410

5 Cabo San Lucas Sea Turtle Rescue

DESCRIPTION: Get your volun-tourism on at Cabo San Lucas Sea Turtle Rescue. Every summer the sea turtles, who faithfully return to deposit hundreds of eggs on Los Cabos beaches, with a hatching season of June to December. The one-week schedule for guests at Cabo San Lucas Sea Turtle Rescue includes training handling the eggs, taxonomy and lessons about the species. Beach patrols ensure the safe release of hatched turtles, and finally their release complete the satisfying experience. The week concludes with an evening in Cabo San Lucas. © NileGuide



"Photo courtesy of Cabo San Lucas Sea Turtle Rescue"

contact:

tel: +52 624 143 6399

location:

Guerrero
Cabo San Lucas BCS 23410

hours:

7p-10p first and third
Thursdays of each month

6 Dinner With the Artists

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Call ahead to verify the event schedule at Galeria Restaurant.

DESCRIPTION: Feed your inner artist at Dinner with the Artists. Los Cabo's natural beauty and human-made art provide ample inspiration for creative expression. Whether it's whales migrating at sunrise or the magnificent rock formations, Baja's beauty is meant to be shared in a multitude of media. Dinner with the Artists is an opportunity to meet with renowned local artists over dinner at the Galeria Restaurant. Guests can browse through some of the artists' highlighted pieces, talk them about their creations, learn about the artists directly and have a delectable dinner. Diners at the artist gathering receive a special rate from the restaurant. Participating artists often include MacClure, Ortega, Tamas and other artists featured at the Golden Cactus Gallery located downtown. The gallery's address is listed. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: 52.0
<http://www.canopycostaazul.com/>

location:

Canon Costa Azul
San Jose BCS 23400

7 Costa Azul Xtreme Canopy Tour

DESCRIPTION: Expert guides with the Costa Azul Xtreme Canopy Tour take guests on exciting adventurous cable rides high above the Costa Azul canyon. Over three miles of zip-lines hover above the river. A total of 10 zip lines enable spectacular views of desert and river scenery. Located near San Jose del Cabo, Double zip-lines enable guests to race in secure harnesses. Other activities onsite include the Tarzan Swing and 180-foot free-rappelling cable. The tour includes round-trip hotel or cruise ship transportation, all safety equipment, soft drinks and water. © NileGuide



Cabo San Lucas Snapshot

Local Info

Introduction

176km(109 miles) S of La Paz; 35km(22 miles) W of San José del Cabo;
1,803km(1,118 miles) SE of Tijuana

The hundreds of luxury hotel rooms along the corridor north of Cabo San Lucas have transformed the very essence of this formerly rustic and rowdy outpost. Although it retains boisterous nightlife, Cabo San Lucas is no longer the simple town Steinbeck wrote about and enjoyed. Once legendary for the big-game fish that lurk offshore and for the beachside festivities that ensued after reeling them in, Cabo San Lucas now draws more people for its nearby fairways and greens-- and the world-class golf being played on them. Cabo San Lucas has become Mexico's most elite resort destination, catering to travelers getting away for long weekends or indulging in sports and relaxation.

Travelers here can enjoy a growing roster of adventure-oriented activities, and playtime doesn't end when the sun goes down. The nightlife here is as hot as the desert in July, and oddly casual, having grown up away from the Corridor's glitzy resorts and rebelling against the well-groomed style of mainland Mexico. It remains the raucous, playful party scene that helped put Cabo on the map. A collection of popular restaurants and bars along Cabo's main street stay open and active until the morning's first fishing charters head out to sea. Despite the growth in diversions, Cabo remains more or less a one-stoplight town, with almost everything within easy walking distance along the main strip.

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History

Before Cabo San Lucas was known as the tourist town it is today, the beaches were inhabited by a nomadic Guaycura Amerindian group called Pericu. The Pericú were hunters and gatherers; the shores around Cabo made it easy to live off of shellfish, small game and wild plants. There

is also evidence that they were skilled weavers and potters as well.

The Cabo coastline remained untouched by European explorers until 1542, when Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Spaniard, made the first contact with the Pericu people while exploring the waters of the Pacific for the Spanish monarchy. The Spanish forces remained because of the threat of English pirates in the area. The harbor at Cabo San Lucas continued to be used by pirates until the mid-18th Century as a hiding place after attacks on Manila Galleons(you can see a ship similar to these in the harbor). The pirates also enjoyed the many coves and inlets, perfect places for stashing loot. After pirating became a thing of the past, the port was mostly ignored because of the lack of fresh water available there.

More activity came to the harbor at the end of the 19th Century. Baja-californianos began exporting bark from the local palo blanco tree, to be processed and used in leather tanning. This made Cabo San Lucas a main shipping port. With the increase of nautical traffic, the Faro Viejo lighthouse was built in 1890 by port authorities at the nearby Cabo Falso.

The abundance of tuna in Cabo was discovered in the early 20th Century, and in 1917 an American tuna cannery was moved from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas to take advantage of this new resource. This brought a new population that continued to grow even as the native population dwindled. By the 1930s, a small fishing village had developed to supply the cannery. The harbor was then occupied by about 400 people, all of whom were involved in the canning industry. This remained the driving force of the local economy until 1941, when a hurricane destroyed a large part of the factory. The damage was devastating and Cabo San Lucas was all but abandoned during World War II, when Japanese submarines patrolled the coast.

After the war, leisure travel became a popular activity and Cabo was rediscovered as a game-fish paradise. Word of mouth

brought a sport-fishing craze to the cape in the 1950s and 1960s and Cabo became a hot spot for catching prize-winning marlin and other swordfish. During this time, the small village grew in size to about 1500 residents(not including the many seasonal fishermen that were brought in by plane or boat to fish the cape). The slow but steady pace of growth changed in 1973 when the Transpeninsular Highway was completed. This new link by land between the United States and Cabo San Lucas brought even more traffic to the area. The city soon became a popular destination for people traveling by car and recreational vehicle, in addition to those who already came by boat or plane.

Nowadays, the small fishing village has become a bustling tourist attraction. Cabo San Lucas has increased its numbers and now boasts a population of almost 25,000. The majority of people who call this place home make their living from the tourist industry and most of them are recent arrivals seeking work. Many small shops and boutiques line the streets with souvenirs and handcrafted Cabo clothing. Tour guides are ready to show off the spectacular coastline(and the sights under the water too). Affordable boating adventures and tours await those ready to take to the waves and are a sign that Cabo is no longer an exclusive yacht club just for the upper class sports fishermen.

Great fishing is not the only activity that brings people to the southernmost tip of the Baja peninsula. First class golfing attracts sportsmen of a different kind, while the beaches bring legions of sunbathers each year. Scuba diving is also a popular draw for visitors; the beautiful waters are great for watching exotic, colorful marine life.

Despite deep roots in the past, so richly displayed at the Museo de las Californias, Cabo San Lucas has a distinctly modern feel. It is far enough away from home to be a great getaway, without feeling too foreign. American dollars(and other foreign

Cabo San Lucas Snapshot continued

currency) are widely accepted here, as are most major credit cards.

©

Hotel Insights

Up until 300 hundred years ago, pirates from around the world chose this area for their anchorage. Today the pirates are gone, and it is a more benign traveler who seeks repose in this sheltered port town. Considered one of the best vacation destinations in the world, Cabo offers a small-town feel with all of the activities, accommodations, beautiful weather and beaches that any tourist expects. Your selection of where to stay is quite varied; part of your selection process, however, should be based on what you plan to do while here. While choosing to stay in one area over another does not limit your options, it is possible to narrow down the choices based on the atmosphere and nearby attractions.

The most important thing to do is to first decide what area of Cabo San Lucas you want to stay in depending on your interests and lifestyle. Almost every price range and level of accommodation is located in each area and the hotels listed represent only a sampling of the available choices.

Pacific Ocean/Pedregal Hills

Starting north of town, in the Pacific Ocean/Pedregal Hills area, you can choose between three hotels: the Solmar Suites, Hotel Finisterra and the Terra Sol Beach Resort. These exclusive resorts share the Solmar Beach. This beach is dangerous because of undertows, but delightfully peaceful for sunning and relaxation. Minutes from downtown, these spots offer a break from the busy streets, but are still close to nightlife and other activities. The Finisterra offers views of both the bay and the Pacific Ocean, as it spans the top of the Pedregal Hills. The cliff-side rooms offer direct views of the ocean and the authentic decor is tastefully displayed. In contrast, the Solmar Suites focuses on creating a more romantic ambiance. All suites are oceanfront and there is a lovely Italian restaurant called Romeo & Julieta. Staying

at the Terra Sol Beach Resort will introduce you to unparalleled privacy and tranquility. Nearest of the three to the water's edge, and the most deluxe, the hotel attracts a particularly sophisticated crowd seeking peace and sun on their vacation.

Downtown

The hotels in the downtown area tend to be a little less expensive than some in the other areas. These hotels don't have adjacent swimming beaches, although the Chile Pepper Inn, with its lovely garden courtyard, and the romantic Los Milagros both have pools. The first of these, and the less expensive, is stylishly decorated with chili pepper motifs. The second offers larger rooms and gardens so lovely that many people choose to be married here. Another option in the area, the Best Western Hotel Cabo Las Flores, provides a pool, restaurant and quality accommodations.

Marinas de Baja

Adjacent to downtown and near the Marinas de Baja are several beautiful hotels, such as the Marina Fiesta. While its views are largely of the marina and there is no swimming beach, the massive swimming pool with gorgeous patio more than compensates. Nearby, the Marina Cabo Plaza and the Plaza Las Glorias Hotel are all within two blocks of downtown and just steps away from the Medano Beach.

Medano Beach

Following the bay to the east brings you to Medano Beach. Nearest downtown and right on the beach, the well-established Melia San Lucas offers luxurious accommodations and an enduring reputation for quality service. Take advantage of its delightful activity and rental area. The Melia offers all sorts of water sports and the staff will assist you in planning and making reservations for your offsite activities. Some of the higher class offerings on this beach are the Pueblo Bonito Rose Resort, the Hacienda Beach Resort and the Villa Del Palmar. Each of these has massive spas and offers

all manner of pampering, and excellent restaurants.

San José

Continuing east for the next several miles towards San José, there is a selection of more secluded hotels with plenty of dining options, activities in-house and facilities, including car and equipment rentals. The lovely Hotel Twin Dolphin is nine miles from downtown and sits high upon a bluff overlooking the ocean. It has an easy footpath down to the popular and safe Santa Maria snorkeling beach. One of the earliest hotels to be built in this area, it provides its own fleet of sport-fishing boats for guest use. In an eco-friendly gesture of melding with its natural surroundings, this hotel offers raked sand, flowering desert bushes and stone step paths rather than the typical manicured lawns. Beyond the Twin Dolphin you will find the Sheraton's Cabo Del Sol/Hacienda Del Mar, the Melia Los Cabos Beach and Golf Resort and other hotels of equal grandeur.

Outside San José

Hotels continue to dot the edge of the bay all the way to San José. Golfing has grown tremendously here in the last ten years and many of the resorts that continue east along this stretch to San José have golf courses attached or nearby. If your focus will be golfing rather than downtown nightlife, it would be wisest for you to choose this area. Each hotel offers markets and restaurants, so there is no need for you to go into town at all if you choose not to. Of the many hotels in this area, the Westin Regina Resort is perhaps the best known. Its man-made beach compensates for the undertow of the ocean in this area and offers safe swimming for its guests. Its spectacular architectural structure looks like two towers joined by a several-storied bridge. Just another mile along the beach is Las Ventanas al Paraiso. Built in 1997, it is the epitome of contemporary design. Its spacious rooms are each more than 1000 square feet (93 square meters) and suites offer telescopes for viewing whales and

Cabo San Lucas Snapshot continued

ships, whirlpool tubs and fireplaces for a cool evening.

©

Restaurants Insights

Long a home to sunshine fun, Cabo is gaining respect for a sophisticated new dining scene that has exploded in the area. The Mexican government opened the area to development in 1990, bringing some exceptional restaurants along with the new resorts. Increasing tourism has also led to the opening of many new restaurants downtown, and a greater variety in the Cabo dining experience.

Whatever your dining decisions, the restaurant experience in Cabo promises to be memorable and offers plenty of variation. The combination of flourishing seafood markets, vacation wonderland environment, activities that will leave you famished and an ambiance that is both romantic and stimulating guarantees that you will enjoy Cabo's gastronomical delights.

Downtown

Nearly every place in town offers fresh seafood, purchased from the fish market each day, and fresh in Cabo means it was still swimming that morning! One popular seafood location in the downtown area is Mariscos Mocambo. Housed in a large palapa, dining is available either indoors or outside. Much loved by those who like seafood but not its typically high price, most meals cost less than MXN85.

It is not surprising that the most successful of older eateries are good, down-home Mexican restaurants. In the downtown area and across from the town square is Mi Casa Restaurant & Cantina, which is a favorite with locals and tourists alike. Originally a church, this is a colorful location with brightly painted walls and a courtyard dining area. Recognized for its traditional dishes, the quality and quantity of its portions are superb. As you wait for your entree, nibble on a poblano pepper filled with seafood or try some tiny tamales. Watch as the house tortillas are pressed and cooked in the courtyard. Candles are

lit at each table as daylight wanes. Relax and listen to the four-person mariachi band (Friday to Sunday during the winter season).

Marina

Marina-side, Seafood Mama's is a romantic choice for seafood lovers, and offers a delightful view of the Sea of Cortez. Brasil Steakhouse, a newcomer to the dining scene, yet a welcoming and festive downtown location that offers an all-you-can-eat, sit-down dinner. It begins with appetizers of hot chicken wings, soup of the day, three types of salads and other treats. Then, waiters bring grilled meats such as New York steak, BBQ ribs, chicken, fillet mignon and eight other meat choices. The traditional Brazilian drink Caipirinha, is recommended; this is the only spot in Cabo you will find it. The garden-like dining room is decorated with plants and fountains.

Medano

Another seafood location downtown is Peacock's Bar and Restaurant. Since 1989 this back patio dining room has been head-and-shoulders above many of its competitors. Part of its success is due to more than 30 varieties of appetizers. Try the seafood stuffed eggplant (MXN50) or Mexican-style escargots (MXN75). Keep your appetite in check though, because the seared yellow fin tuna (MXN140) or Blackened Cabrilla (MXN150) is on its way. Peacock's also offers duck, leg of lamb, New York steaks and much more.

Savor the salt air along with your margarita at one of the many beachside restaurants such as The Office. Whether the sun is coming up or going down, you can almost always find a bite to eat here. While the food is good, the location right on Medano Beach is outstanding. If you are looking for something more up-market, go to Edith's, just a half-block away. This lovely outdoor patio restaurant has linen-draped tables, a fine wine selection and a view of Land's End. Fresh salsas and tortillas complement the many seafood specials and grilled entrees. While you dine, a live jazz band plays softly in the background. If you are tired of seafood, try the steak seared at

the outside mesquite grill (MXN275), or a chicken or pasta entree. If you aren't, (and why should you be?), there are excellent lobster, shrimp and fish dishes also.

Just several blocks away from the beach is a romantic dining experience. Casa Rafael's offers three dining rooms to choose from for your dinner party: the Ocean Room with tropical fish in a huge aquarium; the Garden Room set in a lush jungle-like garden; and a poolside dining area around an open-air pool deck. One of Cabo's widest selections in wine and fine liquors is available here; you are sure to find the proper accompaniment for your meal. Each selection from its menu is made-to-order, so substitutions and special requests are welcomed. After dinner, head to the Piano Bar or Cigar Room for a drink. Reservations are a must and the sooner made, the better.

El Corredor

Heading out of the city and down the Cabo Corridor toward San Jose gives you the option of some of the more recent additions to the restaurant scene. The only businesses along this route are the hotels and their respective restaurants. At the Villa Del Palmar, just outside Cabo, the Bella California provides an unforgettable romantic dining experience. Be sure to make reservations early and ask for a beachside table. It offers impeccable service and a clever combination of flavors from its eclectic menu; many fresh seafood entrees are available. Down the Corridor about six miles (ten kilometers) farther is a well-known favorite, Pitahayas, part of the Hacienda Del Mar hotel that also offers beachside dining. It boasts an underground wine cellar and a mix of native spices used in its Pacific Rim-style cuisine. Reservations and formal dress are strongly encouraged at this fine dining venue. A less formal experience with an equally impressive view can be had at the cliff-top Villa Serena.

©

Cabo San Lucas Snapshot continued

Nightlife Insights

If you poll ten people in downtown Cabo after 8pm and ask why they chose Cabo as a destination, chances are that they will say "to party." Downtown Cabo is certainly the place to be for that; in fact, some might say it is incomparable. The combination of sand, sea and surf seems to make people a little loco, and in this town, drinks flow freely at any hour. The many people who aren't downtown at night though, are vacationing here for other reasons: to relax, golf, fish, sunbathe, dive or snorkel. The mixture of visitors traveling to Los Cabos is changing. It is not just about the nightlife scene anymore.

Nightclubs & Nightlife

If you have arrived for the partying scene, you won't be disappointed. From live rock bands at Cabo Wabo Cantina to crazy beach volleyball games at Sunrise Charlie's to the one-of-a-kind Giggling Marlin, or the "three for the price of one" margarita-zone, known as Rio Grill, you could bar-hop all night long without having to leave the downtown/marina area. There is fun to be had around every corner and even on Medano Beach. This section of swimming beach touts The Office, Mango Deck and the Crazy Lobster as some of its hot spots. And this is just a small sample of what this town has to offer the party animal.

Historical Sights

Most travelers are also interested in exploring some culture when they travel to another country. Cabo, since it is such a young town, has only two historical buildings. The oldest of buildings is the Iglesia de San Lucas, a church from 1730. Interestingly, the church founder, a Spanish missionary, was killed in a disagreement with the locals over their practice of polygamy. The other historical attraction is the lighthouse, El Faro De Cabo Falso, that dates back to 1890. These recent constructions, of course, reflect only the dominant culture of the Spanish. For a nice depiction of native cultures from this area, check out the painted murals in the church turned restaurant, Mi Casa Restaurant & Cantina.

Arts & Culture

If you are interested in demonstrations that will provide some insight into this region and its peoples, tour Cuca's blanket factory and see how blankets have been loomed for centuries here. These gifted artisans are capable of taking your custom design and creating a blanket for you within 24 hours. Or head to the Glass Blowing Factory and be amazed by the skills of the craftsmen as they spin and shape glass into beautiful pieces of art. The Artisan's Market and Handicrafts Market are other great places to see the culture and artisans of this area. Using family designs passed down from one generation to the next, sandals are cut and shaped, dresses are embroidered in age-old designs, beads are turned into jewelry and cotton becomes rhapsody dresses. These shops are great options if you want the opportunity to get to know the people, see their craft traditions first hand, and then take a piece of Cabo artistry back home with you.

Festivals & Celebrations

Mexicans have long been recognized for their colorful festivals and Cabo's citizens are fond of celebrating. If you happen to be in Cabo during a celebration, you really should attend. It will give you an opportunity to understand Los Cabos and its heritage in a unique way. Some of the most important celebrations are: the Virgin of Guadalupe Celebration on December 12, and the Cabo San Lucas Festival (Festival of the Patron Saint) on October 18. Each of Mexico's cities has patron saints that guide and protect the people of the city. One of the most important saints in Cabo is San Luis, because he protects the fishermen at sea, and the celebration in his name includes much feasting, dancing, parades, local musicians playing in the streets and, of course, drinking. The Virgin of Guadalupe celebration honors the patron saint of Mexico. During these festival days, many of the resorts have begun offering specific cultural nights.

Also, many of the big resorts put on a dinner show or hold a Mexican fiesta night once a week just for vacationers to

enjoy. Some of those locations include the Hacienda Beach Resort, the Melia San Lucas and Solmar Suites (all of these on Saturday nights). The fiestas are mini-parties and typically include traditional songs and dances presented in authentic costume and a dinner of traditional dishes. Make sure to ask the chefs or wait staff to identify the dishes you are not familiar with. These fiestas, while not entirely authentic, are a terrific way to experience something of traditional Mexican culture, not to mention food. Meals are enormous, with plenty of choice to justify the steep prices, and a very festive atmosphere. Note that it may be wise to go easy with the free tequila shots that are traditionally offered at these occasions.

Shopping

Shopping is another fun way to spend your day and there are lots of shops to choose from. If you are looking for souvenirs, you can find those everywhere. Whether you buy from a beachside salesman or in a brightly lit shop, there are T-shirts, jewelry, pottery and many other souvenirs of every size and color. Especially worthy of note is the talavera, pottery from Puebla, Mexico of a very high quality, with prices to match and a tradition that dates back centuries. You can find this at the Necri store and several others in Cabo. Necri also carries pewter from Mexico City.

A terrific store for women's clothing is Magic of the Moon. It is filled with hand-sewn clothing made in Cabo and specializes in Cha-Cha-Cha blouses, skirts and bustiers. For fine jewelry go several doors down to Taxco Silver. Carrying a wide selection of high quality silver, they offer many choices including fashionable chokers and bracelets. There are many more to choose from including the Dos Lunas Boutique, El Callejon and El Perico, each carrying fine quality items for a perfect treat for yourself or someone else.

Sports & Activities

If you are interested in outdoor entertainment, look to the sea. Choose from water sports like jet-skiing, water skiing, snorkeling, scuba diving, swimming and

Cabo San Lucas Snapshot continued

surfing. The 80F/27C ocean temperatures are inviting to all who love water. If you want to be on the water, but not in it, try parasailing, fishing, whale watching, party cruises, dinner cruises and more. Back on dry land, meanwhile, the innumerable golf courses in Cabo are giving the Sea of Cortez a run for its money when it comes to entertainment.

Whatever your reason for choosing Cabo as your destination, the soul of Cabo and the beauty of the area will win you over. This lively city will provide you with unforgettable memories of your days in the sun.

©

Things to Do Insights

Since World War II, when pilots spotted huge fish from their planes off Baja's southern tip, Cabo has been a fishing hotspot of steadily growing importance. Fishing is now one of the largest revenue generators for the city, thanks in part to great fishing grounds and to major tournaments like the Bisbee's Black & Blue Marlin Jackpot Tournament, with prizes of more than USD 2 million.

Fishing

If you have come for the fishing, you will have many options to choose from. One of the most recommended operators is the Pisces 20 sport fishing company; its boat took first prize in 1996 and 1997 at the Cabo San Lucas Gold Cup Fishing Tournament. Since the early 1980s it has offered guide and boat services to avid fishermen and women around the world. You may opt for a 28-foot or a 31-foot boat and then choose between all-inclusive trips or semi-inclusive trips. Another local tour company, the Solmar Fleet, offers a wide variety of boats, long and short range trips and other options available. Trip prices start at MXN2750 for up to three people, or MXN7100 for up to eight people. Be sure to ask for your hotel desk for recommended guides and boats.

A completely different style of fishing involves no planning and little cost. Head

to the marina district or the Medano Beach and signal one of the locals or pangaros sitting by a boat filled with fishing gear. While the biggest marlin and tuna are at fishing grounds 10 miles further south than these small boats will go, the guides will take you out into the bay with its abundant grouper, yellowtail, snapper and other fish. If you have your own gear, or can rent some, so much the better, as these small operations don't always have the best equipment. Or, do as the locals do and just fish from the beaches or the Cannery piers for free. Amazing catches can be pulled from these shallow waters.

Water Adventures & Activities

Although some Cabo veterans might disagree, there is more to life than fishing. Fortunately, there are plenty of other tours and activities available for the active, semi-active or inactive person. If you are a water person, consider the snorkel or scuba tours offered by Sun Rider, Tio Sports, or Baja Sports. Each company takes guests to the Santa Maria Beach for clear water and fish viewing off the reef there. Some snorkel trips and scuba diving trips go to Lover's Beach where there are many hot spots. Scuba is also very popular at the Cabo Pulmo Beach at 22 miles (36 kilometers) east of Cabo. Most of the operators can offer classes that will certify you in scuba within several days.

Cruises provide a relaxing view of the bay and of the city from a different angle. From a fully-restored 19th-century Pirate Ship to glass-bottomed boats to catamarans, each offers something unique. A 45-minute ride in a glass-bottomed boat (MXN75) is one of the best values. Seas permitting, it will take you out to Lover's Beach, around the corner from Land's End, and offers an interesting view of what lies beneath the surface while you travel. The Pez Gato catamaran offers a sunset cruise that includes all you can drink in the price. For two hours you get unlimited margaritas and a lovely view of the city and bay at sunset (MXN330). The Pez Gato also offers a "romantic-style" cruise available with less partying but more class. If you are in Cabo between January and March, be

sure to look out for migrating whales. Many cruise tour companies offer whale-watching excursions. With binoculars, you may also be able to see the whales from shore.

If you seek a more adrenaline-filled day, try a jet ski rental or some water skiing from either Juancho's or Tio Sports. Also for the adventurer (but possibly the couch potato, too), the parasailing offered is a beautiful way to see the expanded Cabo horizon from high above the water. You don't even have to get wet. Typical charges are MXN330 to 440 for an eight to ten minute ride. Juancho's and Baja Sports both offer reasonable pricing and services from Medano Beach.

Walking tour

If you are not a water person, you may want to take a walking tour of town. Park at the marina (it provides a large parking lot for visitors at no charge) then walk two blocks north to the town square on Avenue Cabo San Lucas, to begin your tour. This area is filled with park benches and shade trees around a flat stone patio. You could stop here for a quick picnic before you start out. Take some time to look around; the plaza is bordered by the new Museo de las Californias, colorful Mexican store fronts, restaurants such as Mi Casa and Pancho's Restaurant. Here you will find the closest thing to a traditional Mexican atmosphere in this resort town.

As you return to the marina, keep your eyes open for the historic Iglesia de San Lucas, which was built in the 1740s. This mission church is between Calle Madero and Zapata streets, on Avenida Cabo San Lucas and is the oldest building in the city. Walking back to the marina, you can see the Cannery piers off to your right, which are the only still functioning remains from the tuna fishing era of the 1930s. Go straight ahead with the marina on your right and the shops and restaurants to your left. There is a lovely boardwalk that passes by the Handicrafts Market (open daily) then circles the downtown district from the waterside. You will be amazed at how many countries are represented in the harbor

Cabo San Lucas Snapshot continued

below you (the home ports are listed below the ship's names).

From there, you can choose to do a wide, complete circle and explore the downtown, winding back to the marina and your car, or you may continue on to the Medano Beach, which is also called "hotel row" due to its abundance of hotel and resorts lined next to each other. One experience that you should not miss is a few moments at the umbrella-covered, patio-style tables on Medano Beach. Waiters from The Office restaurant will bring you whatever you would like to drink or eat, while you sit back and soak up the view of this beautiful bay and the arches at Land's End.

Horseback & ATV rides

Looking for something with a faster pace? Check out the horseback riding on the beach or the many tours offered throughout the area, such as the Red Rose Riding Stables. Or try an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) tour. This typically costs around MXN500 for one person or MXN715 for two people per machine. Sergio's Rentals has one of the best safety records in this higher risk activity. For safety purposes, they take only small groups on tours when navigating downtown traffic. One of the most interesting horse and ATV tours (and the longest) will take you to the old town of La Candelaria, a shipwreck site and the ruins of El Faro de Cabo Falso, an 1890 lighthouse.

Nearly all of the active sports will include waivers of responsibility. While the typical tour operator will have your safety as their top priority, it never hurts to ask for references from people within your hotel. This is a fun-loving town with lots to do. There will be no shortage of tours presented to you that you will enjoy thoroughly, no matter how crazy, or cautious, you are.

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Travel Tips

Planning a Trip

Getting There & Departing

By Plane-- Local airline numbers are as follows: **Alaska Airlines** (tel. 624/146-5100 or 624/146-5101) and **Mexicana** (tel. 624/143-5352, 624/143-5353, or 624/146-5001).

By Car-- From La Paz, the best route is Highway 1 south past the village of San Pedro, and then Highway 19 south through Todos Santos to Cabo San Lucas, a 2-hour drive.

By Bus-- The bus terminal (tel. 624/143-5020) is on Héroes at Morelos; it is open daily from 7am to 10pm. Buses go to La Paz every 2 hours starting at 7:15am, with the last departure at 8:15pm. To and from San José, the more convenient and economical **Suburbacos** public bus service runs every 15 minutes and costs \$2.50.

Orientation

Arriving-- At the airport, either buy a ticket for a colectivo (shuttle) from **Josefinos** (tel. 624/146-5354), the authorized transportation booth inside the building (about \$13), or arrange for a rental car, the most economical way to explore the area. Up to four people can share a private taxi, which costs about \$60.

The walk from the bus station to most of the budget hotels is manageable with light luggage or backpacks, and taxis are readily available.

Visitor Information-- The **Los Cabos Tourism Office** (tel. 624/146-9628) is in San José, in the Plaza San José, Locales 3 and 4, and is open daily from 8am to 3pm. The English-language **Los Cabos Guide**, **Los Cabos News**, **Destino Los Cabos**, and the irreverent and extremely entertaining **Gringo Gazette** are distributed free at most hotels and shops, and have up-to-date information on new restaurants and clubs. If you fall so deeply in love with Los Cabos as to want to own a piece of it, **The Baja Real Estate Guide** (www.tregintl.com) is a great place to start, as it's a comprehensive listings magazine not affiliated with any particular real-estate brokerage or agent.

City Layout-- The small town spreads out north and west of the harbor of Cabo San Lucas Bay, edged by foothills and desert

mountains to the west and south. The main street leading into town from the airport and San José del Cabo is Lázaro Cárdenas; as it nears the harbor, Marina Boulevard branches off from it and becomes the main artery that curves around the waterfront.

Getting Around

Plan to walk everywhere within San Lucas proper. The town is fairly concentrated and provides a wealth of people-watching opportunities. Taxis are easy to find but are expensive within Cabo, in keeping with the high cost of everything else. Expect to pay about \$15 to \$25 for a taxi between Cabo and the Corridor hotels.

For day trips to San José del Cabo, catch a bus or a cab. You'll see car-rental specials advertised in town, but before signing on, be sure you understand the total price, including insurance and taxes. Rates can run between \$50 and \$75 per day, with insurance an extra \$10 per day. One of the best and most economical agencies is **Advantage Rent-A-Car** (tel. 624/143-0909 or tel./fax 624/143-0466), on Lázaro Cárdenas between Leona Vicario and Morelos. VW sedans rent for \$80 per day, and weekly renters receive 1 free day. A collision damage waiver will add \$22 per day to the price. If you pick up the car downtown, you can return it to the airport at no extra charge.

Festivals & Events in Cabo San Lucas

October 18 is the feast of the patron saint of Cabo San Lucas, celebrated with a fair, feasting, music, dancing, and other special events. However, the biggest event of the year for more than 25 years, also in late October, has been Bisbee's Black & Blue Tournament, which draws thousands of party-ready anglers in search of the multimillion-dollar purse that comes with catching the biggest marlin.

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Fun Facts

Cabo San Lucas State: Baja California Sur
Country: Mexico

Cabo San Lucas by the Numbers

Cabo San Lucas Snapshot continued

Population: 56,811(2005 Census) Average
 January Temperature: 20°C/ 68°F Average
 July Temperature: 32°C/ 90°F Average
 Annual Rainfall: 17.78 cm/ 7 in. Average
 Days of Sun: 350 Major language: Spanish.
 Nearly extinct languages: Aguasteco and
 Kiliwa

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: Tourism Electricity:
 110-120 volts AC Time Zone:
 GMT-7(GMT-6 daylight saving time/
 Mountain Time(MST) Country Dialing Code:
 +52 Area Code: 624

Did You Know?

Cabo San Lucas was the main staging
 area for pirates during the late 1500s who
 feasted on Spanish galleons heavy with
 gold. It is also believed that Cabo San
 Lucas has been inhabited by humans for
 approximately 14,000 years.

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Weather

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature C												
Average High	24	23	24	27	28	28	32	33	33	31	28	25
Average Mean	20	20	20	23	24	24	28	29	30	27	23	22
Average Low	17	17	17	19	20	20	24	25	26	24	19	19
Temperature F												
Average High	74	77	81	86	89	94	96	95	94	90	83	77
Average Mean	64	66	68	72	75	80	84	85	84	79	73	67
Average Low	54	55	56	58	61	66	73	75	75	68	63	58
Rainy Days	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	1
Rain Fall (cm)	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.6	6.8	3.4	1.0	1.4
Rain Fall (in)	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.8	2.7	1.3	0.4	0.6

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