

CABO SAN LUCAS

SPRING & SUMMER GUIDE 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Cabo San Lucas this spring and summer

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 555,000 hotels, 200,000 vacation rentals, 175,000 attractions and 780,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. "You can buy beer on the beach, but why pay \$3.00 each, when you can bring your own from a superette in town? Just pack a **soft cooler**."—TripAdvisor Member, Syracuse, N.Y.
2. Cabo is **casual**. Pack dress clothes only "if you plan on going to some of the nicer resorts for dinner."—TripAdvisor Member
3. You'll most likely go under da' sea so "bring your **water cameras**."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Alamitos, Calif.

Inside CABO SAN LUCAS

Named for the cape extending eastward from Baja's southernmost tip, Cabo San Lucas has spent the last four decades changing from a simple town to a tourist hot spot. But in its heart, it's still that sleepy, one-stoplight town, no matter how busy its roads have gotten and how boisterous its nightlife has become.

Here, there is something to suit every vacationer, from deep-sea fishermen to party-boat revelers...from golfers to shoppers...from beach bums to diehard divers...from those who prefer fine dining establishments to those looking for the inexpensive local hangouts...and from those who enjoy taking in a breathtaking sunrise to high-energy partygoers who go to bed just before the sun comes up.

Oh, and as if it couldn't get any better, Cabo San Lucas has more than 300 days of sunshine a year. Really.

Top VIEWS



CABO SAN LUCAS BEST VIEWS



You'd be hard-pressed to find a bad view from Cabo's miles of beaches. "Most resorts, homes and Cabo itself are built around the view of **Land's End**—the tip of Baja California—and **the Arch (El Arco)**. You can see them from almost any place"—TripAdvisor Member

Once you have seen Cabo's famous landmarks from shore, you'll probably want to see them up close. All types of watercraft are available to escort you to these natural wonders. If you disembark at Land's End, visit **Lover's Beach (Playa del Amor)**, an ideal location for snorkeling, whale watching and admiring the resident sea-lion colony.

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Wide Open Cabo, Paseo de la Gaviota, Interior Plaza Nauteca, 624 105 0500
2. El Arco
3. Diamante Golf Course, Highway 1, 624 172 5812
4. Cabo Real Golf Course, Km. 19.5 Carretera Transpeninsular, 624 173 9400
5. Pedregal de Cabo San Lucas, Southernmost tip of Baja California peninsula
6. Chileno Beach, Highway 1, Km. 14.5
7. Marina Cabo San Lucas, Lote A-18, De la Darsena, 624 173 9140
8. Playa del Amor (Lover's Beach), Baja Peninsula
9. Playa Palmilla, Highway 1, Km. 24
10. Santa Maria Beach, Highway 1, Km. 11

FAMILIES



"Our time on the **Cabo Submarine** was well worth it! The staff was friendly and knowledgeable, and we got to see lots of colorful fish. A great way for the whole family to see water-life right in front of your eyes."—TripAdvisor Member

Cabo Submarine, Boulevard Marina, Hotel Tesoro, 624 143 8718

Swim with dolphins at **Cabo Dolphins**; it's "tons of fun!"—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia, Pa.

Cabo Dolphins, Boulevard Paseo de la Marina, Lote 7, 624 173 9500

Playa El Médano provides several miles of safe swimming beach. Get your SPF 45 ready!

Playa El Médano, Cabo San Lucas Bay

"Dancing on tables is normal (and we did it!)"

ROMANCE



"The **Rissalena** is a spacious, beautiful boat with a wonderful crew who provide personalized service. Our every need was anticipated and met with friendly service, from the bottomless drinks and wonderful food, to blankets provided when the weather turned windy and cool."—TripAdvisor Member, Richmond, Virginia

Rissalena Cruises, 521 143 3048

El Faro de Cabo Falso is a majestic adobe lighthouse overlooking the sea. Bring a picnic and enjoy the view.

El Faro de Cabo Falso, Highway 19 to Km. 2

For more passion than romance, head to **El Squid Roe**, "a nightclub where dancing on tables is normal (and we did it!)"—TripAdvisor Member, New York

El Squid Roe, Lazaro Cardenas, 624 143 0655

Where to PLAY



BUDGET

“**Nowhere Bar** is the best people watching place in town. Great location and the two-for-one specials on beer are great.”—TripAdvisor Member, Syracuse, N.Y.

Nowhere Bar, Plaza Bonita, Boulevard Marina 17, 624 143 4493

“I suggest **Salvadors Sportfishing Charters**. We have always had great luck with them—fast boats to get on the fish first, best gear and great crews!”—TripAdvisor Member, Las Vegas, Nev.

Salvadors Sportfishing, Marina Dock 3, Main Cabo Marina, 406 980 1588

“The **beach** is free!”—TripAdvisor Member, Texas

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 10 million traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

“The **Desert Safari** was wonderful and very informative. The guide was very knowledgeable about the history of the peninsula and the local flora and fauna, but also kept everything fun. He even brought grasshoppers for an appetizer with the tequila tasting!”—TripAdvisor Member, Russellville, Ala.

4x4 Desert Safari, Av. Paseo de la Marina, Lote 7a, 624 173 9500

“Much to do for the nature lover. Rock climbing, sport fishing, snorkeling and diving.”—TripAdvisor Member, Massachusetts

“...the **MOST fun you can have in Cabo with your clothes on.**”

White-knuckle it at **Wide Open Cabo** on a 1,500-acre private baja facility. It's “the **MOST fun** you can have in Cabo with your clothes on.”—TripAdvisor Member, Novato, Calif.

Wide Open Cabo, Marina Local B1, Interior Plaza Nauteca, 949 635 2292



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

At **The Glass Factory**, “if you leave a small tip they will let you try your hand at blowing some glass. Go early. Take some singles, have fun.”—TripAdvisor Member

The Glass Factory, Lazaro Cardenas S/N Edificio Posada Local 6-A, 624 143 0120

“Historic Cabo San Lucas is the place to stop and see the old buildings of the area. The **Iglesia de San Lucas** church was built in the 1730s and retains the old mission-style architecture used in its construction.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

Iglesia de San Lucas, Avenida Cabo San Lucas and Zapata Street, 624 143 2666

Education or entertainment? You decide. The old village of **La Candelaria**, in the Santa Catarina Mountains north of Cabo, remains a center for the ancient practices of witchcraft.

La Candelaria, Highway 19



RELAXATION

“There is a very well hidden secret in Cabo - **SHOTS Bar**. It was like being home. The owners greet everyone and know your name before you get to order the **MOST perfect margarita** known to man. It is such a fun place to experience.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kansas City, Mo.

SHOTS Bar, Lazaro Cardenas, 624 143 9121

“**Cabo Real** is a nice golf course with friendly staff. The course has a nice layout and great views of the Sea of Cortez. The spacing was great—never ran into anybody and never saw anyone else except at the club house.”—TripAdvisor Member

Cabo Real Golf Course, Km. 19.5 Carretera Transpeninsular, 624 173 9400

The Spa at Esperanza offers the full spectrum of treatments and unique features like indoor steam caves. “We had a two hour couples massage which was fabulous. We had our own private outdoor area with a good size pool to relax in (30 min.) before we received our body exfoliation (30 min.) and then our one hour massage.”—TripAdvisor Member, Santa Barbara, Calif.

The Spa at Esperanza, Carretera Transpeninsular Km. 7, Manzana 10, Punta Ballena, 624 145 6400

“...great views of the Sea of Cortez.”

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



"Taxis are not allowed into the airport for pick up. You can take a **bus**, which costs around \$12 per person. The bus will wait until it's full before leaving."—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

Or, from the airport, take "a nice modern air-conditioned **van** (Baja Ground Services at \$72 for two people round trip)."—TripAdvisor Member, Syracuse, N.Y.

Baja Ground Services, 800 352 4990

"**CaboRey** is an exceptionally organized catamaran. We recommend this 3-hour shore excursion."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Alamitos, Calif.

CaboRey, Marina Cabo San Lucas, 624 105 1976

Want more information on Cabo San Lucas? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Cabo San Lucas or any other destination you choose.



WHERE to eat

FAMILIES

Enjoy Mexican steaks, a festive country show and a friendly atmosphere at **La Casa Country Restaurant**. It "has the best steaks and GREAT entertainment while you eat."—TripAdvisor Member, York, Pa.

La Casa Country Restaurant, Ave. Lázaro Cardenas S/N, 624 105 1999

"**Maro's Shrimp House** was wonderful and serves such huge portions! My godson could barely finish his steak & lobster! He said it was his best meal in Cabo."—TripAdvisor Member, Houston, Texas

Maro's Shrimp House, Av. Hidalgo S/N, 624 355 8060

"**Desperados** is a great restaurant with outstanding atmosphere. A friend told us about the nachos there, and made a bet with our son that he couldn't finish them by himself. He didn't even get half way though them they were so big!"—TripAdvisor Member, Burlington, Wash.

Desperados Restaurant & Cantina, Morelos esq. Niños Heroes, 624 143 4331

ROMANCE

For a "very romantic and awesome view", try the **Sunset Da Mona Lisa**. "The yellowfin tuna tartare was incredible, and the drinks were great. When the sun went down, they brought out the space heaters and we enjoyed looking at the sparking lights. There is no better overall dining experience."—TripAdvisor Member

Sunset Da Mona Lisa, Transpeninsular Km. 6, Misiones Del Cabo, 624 145 8077

"My boyfriend took me to **Hacienda El Coyote** for my birthday and everything was wonderful. It has a beautiful tequila lounge with over 200 tequilas. Our server was very knowledgeable and we were seated near a koi pond and waterfall."—TripAdvisor Member, Kerrville, Texas

Hacienda El Coyote, Cabo San Lucas Ave. & Maroína Blvd, 624 144 4731

"Other restaurants claim to be the most romantic in Cabo, but **Hacienda** surpasses them in every way—food, ambience, service, value. Everything was perfectly prepared and the prices were shockingly reasonable. This is an absolute must if you're looking for a beautiful restaurant, great service, wonderful food, and a spectacular view."—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Hacienda Cocina y Cantina, Calle Gomez Farias s/n, 624 163 3144

WHERE to eat



BUDGET



Los Ajos has an \$8 buffet that's really good, more home cooking style than gourmet."—TripAdvisor Member, Las Vegas, Nev.

Los Ajos, Lazaro Cardenas between Leona Vicario and Narciso Mendoza, 624 143 7706

Gordo Lele's Taco Stand has "the best carne asada tacos ever! The decor is awesome, and the owner makes you feel right at home. Love the tacos, and best of all, they were about a buck a piece! Lunch for two with beers was about \$10."—TripAdvisor Member

Gordo Lele's Taco Stand, Matamoros between Lázaro Cárdenas and Niños Héroes

Maria Corona Restaurant "is beautiful, with great ambiance. Looking at it, you would think it is an expensive restaurant, but the prices are surprisingly low. The food was incredible! The service was also wonderful."—TripAdvisor Member, Colorado

Maria Corona Restaurant, 16 de Septiembre between Morelos and Leona Vicario, 624 143 0123

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS



La Fonda offers an outstanding dining experience, with a wide variety of classic Mexican dishes."—TripAdvisor Member, Pound Ridge, N.Y.

La Fonda, Hidalgo 12, 624 143 6926

El Burro Loco offers "a 30-inch burrito that would feed a few people. You could order four or five of those to feed the bunch."—TripAdvisor Member, Portland, Ore.

El Burro Loco, Leona Vicario, 624 143 8980

Enjoy sushi, sashimi and Japanese dishes with imaginative flair at **Arts and Sushi, Goyito San**.

Arts and Sushi, Goyito San, Plaza Bonita on Lazaro Cárdenas, 624 144 4554

HIDDEN GEMS



Alcaravea Gourmet "is a hidden jewel in Cabo. The quality of the food is outstanding, and it's priced accordingly. The service is great, always friendly. The chef always thanks you for your business on your way out."—TripAdvisor Member, Mexico

Alcaravea Gourmet, Av. Ignacio Zaragoza esq. 16 de Septiembre, 624 164 2939

Mexico and Italy meet at **Misiones de Kino & Pasta Bella Restaurant & Bar**. It's "a superb place with an amazing chef and great decor. I went 3 times in one week—it is that good! It's a hidden treasure."—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

Misiones de Kino & Pasta Bella Restaurant & Bar, V. Guerrero & 5 de Mayo, 624 105 1408

"Someone told us the food at **La Ricazon** was terrific, so we figured we'd check it out. We were glad we did! The food was outstanding. I'm going to miss those smoked marlin tacos for the rest of my life. The mountain of seafood on the tostadas was amazing. I just wish it were closer to our real home!"—TripAdvisor Member, Redwood City, Calif.

La Ricazon, Camino Viejo a San Jose s/n, 624 105 1616

SPECIAL EVENTS



Cabo San Lucas' main square, Plaza Amelia Wilkes, comes alive every Thursday evening, during **Live Music Thursdays**. Join the locals in a street party featuring music, dancing, and traditional Mexican snacks such as tamales and champurrado, a flavorful hot chocolate drink.

Live Music Thursdays, Plaza Amelia Wilkes, 624 143 4777 (Tourist info line)

Grab a spot in the shade along the route for the **Two Cabos Bike Race** and watch as hundreds of cyclists brave the blazing summer sun in their ride from San José del Cabo to Cabo San Lucas. (July)

Two Cabos Bike Race, Highway 1, 624 143 4777 (Tourist info line)

Every year, Mexico celebrates **St. James**, the patron saint of Spain, with street parties, parades and reenactments of famous battles. Festivities begin in the afternoon, with riders on white horses marching through the town square, and continue into the night as revelers carry the party from the bars out into the streets. (July 25)

Festival of St. James, Various venues in Los Cabos, 624 143 4777 (Tourist info line)

Join divers of every level in celebrating the beauty of the sea at some of the most renowned dive locations in the world. The **Los Cabos Summer Dive Fiesta** gives participants the opportunity to get up close and personal with whale sharks, manta rays and angelfish, while participating in underwater photography contests and treasure hunts. (August)

Los Cabos Summer Dive Fiesta, Marina Boulevard, 624 143 4777 (Tourist info line)

Join all of Mexico in celebrating **Independence Day**. The party starts the evening of the 15th with fireworks, folk dancing and mariachi bands. Celebrations continue the next day, with marching bands and parade floats, open-air markets, picnics, concerts, and even a rodeo! (September 15 – 16)

Independence Day, Various venues in Los Cabos, 624 143 4777 (Tourist info line)

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

With two- and three-bedroom villas, **Villa La Estancia** is “like being at home! We had four children, ranging in age from 8 to 16. Everyone loved the accommodations! Our two-bedroom villa was spacious and beautifully decorated. The grocery store, pharmacy, deli and “Internet cafe were very convenient.”—TripAdvisor Member, Columbus, Ohio

Villa La Estancia, Km. 0.5 Camino Viejo a San Jose, 877 845 5247

“My family and I recently spent five days at the **One&Only Palmilla**. We felt relaxed and pampered from the moment we were picked up from the airport. Everything is personalized, including the afternoon snack selection, the evening turndown service and even the sewing kit!”—TripAdvisor Member

One&Only Palmilla, Km. 7.5, San Jose del Cabo, 624 146 7000

“My family and I stayed at the **Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach** and absolutely loved it. The facilities are immaculate, and the views are breathtaking. We have three teenage girls who are dying to return this summer!”—TripAdvisor Member, Mesquite, Texas

Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach, Predio Paraiso Escondido, 624 142 9999

Have questions about Cabo San Lucas? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.



ROMANCE

An oceanfront haven, **Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Holistic Retreat & Spa** “never seemed crowded and was quiet and romantic.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Holistic Retreat & Spa, Cabo Pacifica S/N, 624 142 9696

“I’ve stayed in some of the best hotels in the world, and the service, cleanliness and charm of **El Nido Hacienda Escondida** left a lasting impression. The common areas are just beautiful, with plants and flowers everywhere. The upper deck with Jacuzzi is very romantic at night.”—TripAdvisor Member

El Nido Hacienda Escondida, Boulevard Miguel Angel Herrera & Callejon el Dorado, 624 143 2053

“My boyfriend and I just got back from our stay at **Los Milagros Hotel** and we did not want to leave! As soon as we stepped through the iron doors from the crowded streets of Cabo, we knew we had found an oasis of gurgling water, quiet music, sweet incense and lots of chirping birds.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

Los Milagros Hotel, Matamoros 116, 624 143 4566

BUDGET

Siesta Suites is clean, quiet and comfortable. “This place was PERFECT! It was very inexpensive, right in the heart of downtown, a few blocks from the Marina, and so COZY and comfortable.”—TripAdvisor Member, Phoenix, Ariz.

Siesta Suites, Calle Emiliano Zapata, 624 143 2773

“If you don’t like the elbow-to-elbow hotels on the beach, and don’t want to pay hundreds of dollars a night, then the **Cabo Inn Hotel** is your place. It has a relaxing, laid back atmosphere, tons of greenery, and the staff are very friendly and helpful.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sitka, Alaska

Cabo Inn Hotel, 20 De Noviembre Y Leona Vicario, 624 143 0819

Hotel Mar de Cortez, a Colonial-style, low-rise hotel, is the “best kept secret in Cabo. It’s like escaping to paradise!”—TripAdvisor Member, Benicia, Calif.

Hotel Mar de Cortez, Avenida Lazaro, Cardenas & Vicente Guerrero S/N, 624 143 0032

LUXURY

Esperanza is a tranquil retreat. “When we checked in, the bathtub was drawn and strewn with rose petals and there was fruit and an ice-bucket full of fresh lemonade and ice tea. The room itself was great. The bed was so comfortable, and there’s a great outdoor seating area and hammock.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Esperanza—an Auberge Resort, Carretera Transpeninsular, Km. 7, Manzana 10, Punta Ballena, 624 145 6400

“We had high expectations for our stay at **Capella**, and we were not disappointed. The room was beautiful, with everything perfect and at our finger tips. The service was exceptional, from the welcome to the goodbye.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

Capella Pedregal, Camino Del Mar 1, 624 163 4300

“The location of the **Grand Solmar** is stunning - overlooking the Pacific Ocean. You could hear the waves crashing from the balcony. The beach is very private and there are no vendors permitted. The staff were very courteous and the food was gourmet and beautifully presented.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Gatos, Calif.

Grand Solmar Land’s End Resort & Spa, Av. Solmar No. 1 - A, Col Centro, 310 459 7276

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

With only six guest rooms, “**Los Nidos** was the perfect tropical desert paradise. We couldn’t believe we were so close to Cabo. The property is in an upscale residential area, quiet and beautifully landscaped.”—TripAdvisor Member, Moab, Utah

Los Nidos Inn, Col. Lomas Del Tule, 877 417 9658

A European-style boutique hotel, **Casa Natalia** is “a gem in the making! If you want a quiet oasis of civility and charm, then you will love this hotel.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

Casa Natalia, Blvd. Mijares 4, San Jose Del Cabo, 624 142 5100

“...a quiet oasis of civility and charm...”

“Staying at **Casa Contenta** was like visiting old friends I didn’t know I had!” The owners “are personable and friendly world travelers who have landed in a beautiful little corner of paradise that they’re willing to share. They helped me to have the vacation I really wanted to have.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Casa Contenta Luxury Bed and Breakfast, El Tezal, 624 143 6038

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