

Enchanting Exploration

It's been said that Los Cabos is one of those rare destinations that has something for everyone. Parents? Check. Kids? Definitely. Friends or couples who just want to get away from it all? Absolutely. No matter what kind of excursion you're looking for, it's easy to arrange an itinerary that will satisfy a wide variety of tastes.

BY LAURA JENKINS

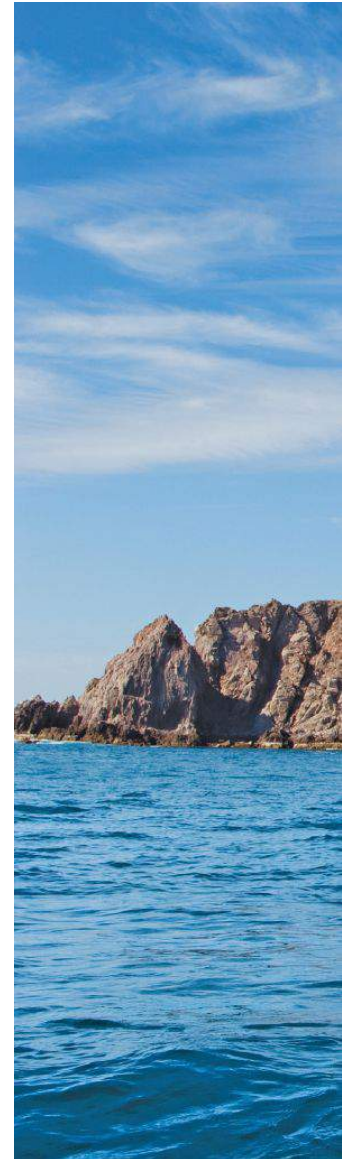




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DID YOU KNOW?

The camels you'll find in Los Cabos are originally from Texas. They are descendants of the Camel Corps set up during the Civil War to travel the Southwest.



COUPLES

Love is in bloom year-round in the Baja peninsula, and Los Cabos is the perfect place to spark or rekindle a romance. The Pueblo Bonito Pacifica Golf & Spa Resort is a five-star adults-only, all-inclusive hideaway, which means that once you arrive, there's nothing left to do but relax and enjoy your stay. Snag a cozy Bali bed from the hotel and spend the day in each other's arms. Take a break and enjoy an open-air couple's massage, or nibble on gourmet food while doing a wine or tequila tasting.

If you're feeling more adventurous, both Payless Car Rental and Budget consistently offer affordable rates so that you can set off on your own adventure in no time. Driving to San José del Cabo for a romantic evening might begin with a hand-in-hand stroll through the district's world-class art galleries, followed by a delectable evening at one of the area's many award-winning fine-dining restaurants.

For those who enjoy more active pursuits, a couple's trip to the area's waterfalls and canyons or a

hike through this lovely oasis in the desert is a must. The spectacular granite formations and variety of wildlife make for memorable and exciting photo opportunities.

For a dreamy, secluded outing, go on a horseback ride to the Lighthouse of Cabo Falso, where you will marvel at the breathtaking views from 500 feet above the water. You can complete your day by having a romantic dinner at El Farallón at Capella Pedregal. This famed restaurant's cliffside setting overlooks the Pacific Ocean and is



known for being one of the most romantic — and satisfying — dining experiences in Los Cabos.

ESCAPE WITH THE GUYS

In Los Cabos you can jump right into some good old-fashioned fun with your buddies, traversing the Desert Park Natural Reserve on ATVs, near Meliá Cabo Real. But don't limit that adrenaline rush to land-based adventures.

Group fishing trips are also wildly popular in Los Cabos, with companies offering a variety of boats, destinations

and excursion times. Why not bond with friends while deep-sea fishing in the "Marlin Capital of the World"?

If you're more inclined to work on your swing, then a day at one of Los Cabos' golf resorts is in order. Challenging courses in the middle of this sun-drenched paradise make for some of the most sought-after fairways in the world.

GIRLS' GETAWAYS

It's been said that girls just want to have fun, but they also want to be spoiled and pampered along the

way. Los Cabos is the grande dame of girls-only vacations, with more spas, shopping, sun soaking and dance parties than you could desire.

Start your holiday with a little retail therapy at one of Los Cabos' exclusive shopping hot spots. The Shoppes at Palmilla caters to world travelers and local sophisticates alike: Hit Casa Vieja for the latest Mexican and Latin American designer attire. Another popular retail destination is Luxury Avenue, home to household names like Carolina Herrera, Salvatore Ferragamo, Fendi and Chopard.

SIGHTSEEING AND ATTRACTIONS

To get the fun in the sun started, frolic in the surf atop a WaveRunner, or show off your bikini body while getting a workout on a stand-up paddle board. You can fly high above the surf as you parasail in pairs, or simply congregate by the pool, taking some time to catch up with each other as enthusiastic cabana boys wait on you.

No girls' trip would be complete without indulging in a spa treatment or two. Reserve the Crystal Champagne Terrace Suite at the Cabo Azul Resort, and you and your girlfriends can have the entire rooftop to yourselves. A crystal whirlpool tub, a rock-walled outdoor shower and a cushy daybed are just a few of the amenities you'll enjoy between treatments.

After you've shopped, played hard, worked on that tan and indulged in lavish therapies, what's there left to do but party? Grab some mouthwatering bites at your resort and then slip into a killer outfit for a night of electrifying dance clubs, welcoming bars and legendary hot spots, where revelers bask in high-energy vibes in what feels

**TOP FIVE SPOTS FOR A SELFIE**

Admit it: When you're vacationing in a drop-dead gorgeous location, you want others to see exactly what you've been up to. Be sure to shoot some selfies at these iconic Los Cabos locations, so that others can delight in your good fortune:

- > by an infinity pool, using the Sea of Cortés or the Pacific Ocean as your backdrop.
- > on a boat right in front of El Arco.
- > with a mariachi band, fitting as many members of the group within the frame as you can.
- > at Sunset Da Mona Lisa or Pueblo Bonito's Sunset Beach, with the sun sinking behind you.

like a never-ending party. If you're feeling daring, shake your booty on the storied stage at the Mango Deck on Médano Beach.

BABY BOOMERS

If you've been there and done that but still want to explore the exciting and the beautiful, then let the spirit of Los Cabos carry you away.

Rent some gear, hail a water taxi and head to Pelican Rock if snorkeling is your game. You'll be amazed with the stunning local marine life. Los Cabos offers some of the best whale-watching opportunities on the continent. During the season, which runs from October through January, you'll have your pick of capable guides, who range from marine biologists to locals who grew up interacting with these aquatic giants. Nothing beats seeing a majestic marine titan up close, but they shouldn't be the only

creatures you expect to see. Dolphins, sea lions and even marlin often show up to get their glimpse of the whale watchers. You can have a grand old time aboard the *Buccaneer Queen*, where your whale-watching adventure includes continental breakfast and all the scenery you can take in.

KIDS AND FAMILY FUN

There's nothing worse than taking a family vacation where the bulk of the activities aren't kid-friendly. Fortunately, Los Cabos couldn't be any more family-centric, and the attractions are exciting for kids and adults alike.

One thing parents love most about Los Cabos is that there are plenty of opportunities to combine learning with leisure. Take your future marine biologists to swim with dolphins, or better yet, sign them up to be trainers for the day. They can learn firsthand about the anatomy,



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physiology and unique habits of these fascinating creatures.

Sign your budding chef up for the kids' cooking classes at Esperanza—An Auberge Resort. Chef Guillermo, the resort's pastry chef, will teach children how to make healthy recipes and traditional Mexican goodies. At Capella Pedregal, young chefs are introduced to the preparation of indigenous foods, including tortillas a mano, flautas, churros and more. Take your future archeologists on Capella Pedregal's Sierra de la Laguna excursion, where they'll be guided on

a fossil-seeking mission, followed by a tour of Santiago and a hike through the Sierra de la Laguna mountains.

For thrill-seeking grown-ups, as well as kids ages eight and above, outdoor zip lines promise all-day excitement that includes much more than just a ride across Baja California Sur's terrain. Some outfitters also offer rock climbing walls, suspended bridges, cliffside rappelling and much more. Delight in a day of adventure, enjoying Los Cabos' legendary weather while everything from bottled water and snacks to transportation

arrangements is handled by your experienced guides.

Hacienda Encantada Resort and Spa has a delightfully unique roster of kid-friendly activities. Spanish language classes, Mexican handcrafts and pottery painting, treasure hunts, Xbox competitions, horseback riding and bicycle tours are all family favorites that will leave the kids begging to come back next year. ■



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