

BOKANA TRAVEL

MEXICO · CARIBBEAN

TRAVEL GUIDE 2026

LOS CABOS

The Arch, humpback whales from December to April, the Cabo Pulmo reef and San José del Cabo's galleries, at the tip of Baja California Sur.

Travel. Discover. **Connect.** bokanatravel.co

THE ESSENTIALS

WHERE THE DESERT MEETS TWO SEAS

Los Cabos is the municipality at the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula. It's made up of two towns linked by a tourist corridor of beaches and hotels: Cabo San Lucas, with its marina, the Arch and the nightlife, and San José del Cabo, quieter, with a plaza, a mission church and a gallery district. Here cactus desert runs right down to the shore, and the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific Ocean.

Winter is the time to go. From mid-December to mid-April, humpback and gray whales arrive to give birth and raise their calves, and the days are dry and mild. From your base you can take a boat to Playa del Amor, snorkel the reef at Cabo Pulmo, spend a day in the town of Todos Santos or walk the galleries at the Thursday Art Walk. Treat the ocean with respect: several Pacific-side beaches aren't safe for swimming.

WHERE IT IS

Southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, in the state of Baja California Sur, Mexico. Los Cabos International Airport (SJD) is about 11 km (7 mi) from San José del Cabo and about 40 km (25 mi) from Cabo San Lucas.

GETTING THERE

There's no nonstop flight from Colombia. With Copa: Medellín to Panama in about 1 hr 20 min, then Panama to Los Cabos in about 5 hr 20 min, a route that runs Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. From the airport, Cabo San Lucas is another 35 to 40 minutes by road.

WEATHER

Sunny desert climate. In winter, highs of 26 to 28 °C (79 to 82 °F) and cool nights of 13 to 14 °C (55 to 57 °F); in summer, highs of 33 to 35 °C (91 to 95 °F). It barely rains, except from August to October, with September the wettest month.

DOCUMENTS

Valid passport (ideally 6 months), INM electronic pre-registration with QR code, return ticket, hotel booking, proof of funds and payment of the Embrace It visitor fee. No visa required.

MONEY

Mexican peso (MXN). Cards are accepted at hotels, restaurants and tours; carry pesos in cash for water taxis, tips, taco stands and small shops.

LANGUAGE

Spanish. English is very common in the tourist zone, since most visitors come from the United States and Canada.

TIME ZONE

Baja California Sur is on UTC-7 all year, with no daylight saving time: two hours behind Colombia.

PLUGS

Types A and B (flat-pin plugs, same as Colombia), 127 V, 60 Hz. No adapter needed.

DON'T MISS

HIGHLIGHTS

01
THE ARCH AND PLAYA DEL AMOR

The rock formation at the very end of the peninsula is Los Cabos' signature view. You can only get there by sea, by water taxi, kayak or tour from the marina or Médano Beach. Next to it is Playa del Amor (Lover's Beach), with calm water, and on the other side Playa del Divorcio (Divorce Beach), on the Pacific, where swimming isn't allowed.

02
WHALE WATCHING

From December 15 to April 15, tours leave Cabo San Lucas to see humpback and gray whales with their calves. January and February are usually the best months. Pick operators with expert guides who keep their distance from the animals.

03
CABO PULMO

A national park since 2000 and a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site, about two hours by car from San José del Cabo. It protects the only hard coral reef in the Gulf of California, around 20,000 years old and home to more than 300 fish species. Come for snorkeling, diving and kayaking.

04
SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO AND THE ART WALK

The historic center revolves around Plaza Mijares and the mission church. On Thursdays from November to June, 5 to 9 p.m., the gallery district stays open late, the streets go pedestrian-only and entry is free.

05
TODOS SANTOS

A town founded by Jesuit missionaries in 1723, just over an hour north of Cabo San Lucas. Expect art galleries, brick houses, the famous Hotel California and surf beaches like Los Cerritos and San Pedrito.

06
BEACHES FOR SWIMMING

For a swim, head to the sheltered bays along the tourist corridor, like Chileno and Santa María, with clear water for snorkeling, or Médano Beach in front of Cabo San Lucas, which has lifeguards. All three hold Blue Flag certification.





PLAN YOUR TRIP

WHEN TO GO

The best season runs from December to April: dry, sunny days, cool nights and, from December 15 to April 15, whale season, peaking in January and February. May and June stay dry but get very hot. The eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15 to November 30, with most activity between late June and early October; August and September bring most of the rain.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

BEST

DEC – MAR

The best time to go.

GOOD

APR – JUL · NOV

A good time, with a catch on weather or crowds.

RAINY

AUG · OCT

More rain: keep plans flexible.

AVOID

SEP

Wettest month; peak storm season.

WHAT YOU NEED TO TRAVEL

For Colombian passport holders: no visa is needed for tourist stays of up to 180 days, but you must complete the INM electronic pre-registration and show the purpose of your trip and proof of funds at the immigration interview. Baja California Sur also charges the Embrace It visitor fee. Meeting every requirement doesn't guarantee entry: the immigration officer makes the final call. Traveling on another passport? Requirements differ, so message us and we'll check yours.

- Valid Colombian passport, ideally with at least 6 months of validity.
- Mandatory electronic pre-registration for air arrivals on the National Migration Institute portal (inm.gob.mx). It's free and generates a QR code: print it and keep it on your phone too.
- Ticket out of Mexico (back to Colombia or on to another destination).
- Hotel booking with proof of payment, or an invitation letter if you're staying with family or friends.
- Trip itinerary with activities and transportation booked.
- Proof of funds: Colombia's Foreign Ministry suggests being able to show USD 100 to 500 per day of your stay (cash, cards or bank statements). A letter from your employer stating your vacation dates helps.
- When you arrive by air, your entry record is digital (Digital Multiple Immigration Form, FMM): check the number of days you've been granted and download your digital FMM from the INM portal.
- Embrace It: Baja California Sur's visitor fee for international travelers over 12 staying more than 24 hours. In 2026 it costs MXN 488 per person. Pay only online at embraceit.bcs.gob.mx, before your trip or on arrival. You'll get a certificate with a QR code that can be requested during your stay or at entry points.
- Mexico requires no vaccines for entry, including yellow fever. Keep your routine vaccinations up to date.
- Minors traveling without one parent: a notarized exit permit from the parent who isn't traveling, per Migración Colombia rules.

Checked in October 2026 with Colombian Foreign Ministry: complete the pre-registration before traveling to Mexico. Rules change, so confirm with the official source before you travel, or message us and we'll help.

WHAT WE'D TELL A FRIEND

BOKANA TIPS

1 Check the flag before you swim

Many Pacific-side beaches in Los Cabos have heavy surf and dangerous currents. Swim in sheltered bays like Médano, Chileno or Santa María, and never at Playa del Divorcio.

2 Pay Embrace It before you fly

Use only the official portal, embraceit.bcs.gob.mx, and save the QR code on your phone. Be wary of sites that charge a commission for the same thing.

3 Book whale tours early

From January to March, tours fill up. Pick operators with expert guides and a hydrophone (an underwater mic for whale song) who keep their distance and don't chase the animals.

4 Mind the time difference

Los Cabos is two hours behind Colombia. Factor that in for morning tours, your connection in Panama and calls home.

5 Pack a layer for the evening

In winter the days are hot, but nights drop to 13 or 14 °C (55 to 57 °F). A light sweater is enough. In summer, bring sunscreen, a hat and plenty of water: the desert sun is strong.

6 Do Cabo Pulmo by car, unhurried

The only way in is by road in your own or a rental car, about two hours from San José del Cabo. Leave early, bring cash and pay for the CONANP (Mexico's protected areas agency) access wristband.

7 Track storms in season

If you travel between June and November, check alerts from the National Hurricane Center and Mexico's National Weather Service, and buy travel insurance that covers cancellations.

TRAVEL MINDFULLY

Wear mineral sunscreen and don't touch or stand on the coral at Cabo Pulmo, the only hard coral reef in the Gulf of California. On whale tours, choose operators who keep their distance and don't chase the animals: they come to these waters to give birth and raise their calves. Bring a reusable bottle and leave no trash on the beach.

WHERE TO EAT

OUR RESTAURANT PICKS

Chosen for their food, their track record and what past diners say. Price: $ budget · $$ mid-range · $$$ splurge.

TACOS GARDENIAS $

Tacos and seafood · Paseo de la Marina, El Médano (Cabo San Lucas)

★ **4.6** · 2,521 reviews on Google Maps

A family-run taquería with a rustic feel and a loyal local following. A good place to try Baja-style fish and shrimp tacos without hotel-zone prices.

What diners love: Reviewers single out the fish and shrimp tacos, generous portions and the free salsa and toppings bar. They call it casual, quick and fairly priced.

Order: Fish tacos and a campechana (mixed seafood cocktail)

It's near the marina and Médano Beach, so it makes a good lunch after your boat trip to the Arch.

MARISCOS EL TORO GÜERO $

Baja California Sur seafood · Calle Adolfo López Mateos, Mariano Matamoros (Cabo San Lucas)

★ **4.4** · 3,702 reviews on Google Maps

A neighborhood seafood spot where locals eat, away from the marina. It shows how seafood is done in Baja California Sur: ceviches, aguachiles (lime-and-chile cured shrimp) and molcajetes (seafood served sizzling in a stone bowl).

What diners love: Reviewers praise the fresh seafood, the ceviche, the shrimp tacos and big portions at fair prices. Some say service can be slow.

Order: Seafood molcajete or octopus tostada

It closes around 7 p.m., so plan it for lunch. There's another location in San José del Cabo.

LA LUPITA TACO & MEZCAL $$

Creative tacos and mezcal · Gallery District, downtown San José del Cabo

★ **4.6** · 2,415 reviews on Google Maps

Right in the gallery district, it's the natural place to end an Art Walk night. A long menu of creative tacos and a good mezcal list.

What diners love: Reviewers love the range of tacos, like miso fish, chipotle shrimp and duck, plus the live music and attentive service. They suggest booking on weekends.

Order: Miso fish tacos and a mezcal margarita

Opens at noon. It fills up on Art Walk Thursdays, so book on OpenTable.

FLORA FARMS $$$

Farm-to-table · Ánimas Bajas (San José del Cabo)

★ **4.7** · 3,669 reviews on Google Maps

A restaurant on an organic farm on the outskirts of San José del Cabo. Seasonal cooking with what's harvested on site, served at outdoor tables among the crops.

What diners love: Reviewers highlight the farm setting, the cocktails, the salads and the pork chops, along with careful service. Most agree it's expensive, but the quality is high.

Order: Farm pork chop and a garden salad

Book ahead and arrive before sunset. Open for lunch and again for dinner.

JAZAMANGO $$

Baja farm cooking and wood fire · La Huerta neighborhood (Todos Santos)

★ **4.5** · 1,244 reviews on Google Maps

One of the most reviewed restaurants in Todos Santos, with farm-to-table cooking and a wood-fired oven. A good reason to stay in town for dinner.

What diners love: Reviewers praise the fresh food, the octopus, the tostadas and the wood-fired pizzas, plus the garden setting and friendly staff. They mention generous portions.

Order: Grilled octopus and Baja oysters

Opens in the evening, from 5 p.m. Book on OpenTable in high season.

LOCAL FLAVORS

WHAT TO EAT

BAJA-STYLE FISH TACOS

Battered, fried fish on a corn tortilla with cabbage, salsa and lime. You'll find them at stands and taquerías any time of day.

MACHACA DE PESCADO

Sun-dried, shredded fish cooked with egg, tomato and onion. A classic Baja California Sur breakfast.

ALMEJA CHOCOLATA

Baja California Sur's signature shellfish, a clam named for its chocolate-brown shell. It's served raw with lime and chile, or tatemada, roasted over charcoal.

DAMIANA LIQUEUR

The region's traditional drink, made with the wild damiana herb. Herbal and sweet; sip it neat, on the rocks or in a margarita.



BOKANA
TRAVEL

PICTURE YOURSELF IN LOS CABOS? LET'S PLAN IT TOGETHER.

Join one of our groups on your own, or bring your people on a private trip.
Scan the code or message us.

Chat with us on WhatsApp

WhatsApp +57 315 817 6079

bokanatravel@gmail.com

bokanatravel.co/en/destinations/los-cabos/

SOURCES

Cancillería de Colombia: antes de viajar a México, diligencie el pre-registro
Cancillería de Colombia: recomendaciones para viajar a México (26 de marzo de 2024)
Instituto Nacional de Migración: portal de servicios, pre-registro y FMM digital
Embajada de México en Colombia: Soy colombiano, ¿qué necesito para viajar a México?
Infobae: trámite en línea para colombianos que viajan a México (20 de mayo de 2026)
Embrace It, portal oficial del Gobierno de Baja California Sur
Península Digital: ajustan el cobro de Embrace It a 488 pesos (13 de enero de 2026)
Conexión Turística: Baja California Sur actualiza a 488 pesos el programa Embrace It (enero de 2026)
Ministerio de Sanidad de España: requisitos de vacunación por país
Visit Los Cabos: nueva ruta directa Panamá–Los Cabos de Copa Airlines
Copa Airlines: vuelos de Panamá a San José del Cabo
Copa Airlines: vuelos de Medellín a Panamá
Visit Los Cabos: información del aeropuerto de San José del Cabo
Wikipedia: Cabo San Lucas (tabla climática 1991–2020 y zona horaria)
Wikipedia: husos horarios de México
NOAA National Hurricane Center: climatología de la temporada del Pacífico oriental
Visit Los Cabos: todo sobre el avistamiento de ballenas
Visit Los Cabos: Cabo Pulmo
CONANP: Parque Nacional Cabo Pulmo, ubicación y cobro de derechos
Visit Los Cabos: Todos Santos
Cabo San Lucas.net: Playa del Amor, Playa del Divorcio y El Arco
Cabo San Lucas Beaches: Divorce Beach
Forbes México: Art Walk, la cara más artística de San José del Cabo
Art Cabo: San José del Cabo Art Walk

Photos: Diego Delso (CC BY-SA 4.0), Wikimedia Commons (cover) · Diego Delso (CC BY-SA 4.0), Wikimedia Commons · Diego Delso (CC BY-SA 4.0), Wikimedia Commons · Legion007k (CC BY-SA 4.0), Wikimedia Commons.

Bokana Travel. In compliance with Colombian Laws 679 of 2001 and 1336 of 2009, Bokana Travel rejects the exploitation, pornography, sex tourism and any form of sexual abuse of children and adolescents.