

SPECIAL TOURIST SECTION



OVERVIEW

Los Cabos, (that's the term for the entire tip of Baja, literally it means the cape,) consists of two towns connected by the corridor. The corridor is the 18 miles of fourlane highway with the fancy high rise hotels strewn along the route. You can't see most of them from the highway, but they're practically chock-a-block. Driving in from the airport you will usually zip right by San Jose and that's a shame,

succession of pristine beaches, sheltered coves, and promontories. Many sprawling resorts have sprouted along the coast, along with golf courses and a spiffy collection of new health spas for the golf widows. Depending on your viewpoint the corridor can be seen as either a secluded paradise thankfully short on the commercialism and clamor of Cabo San Lucas, or like being marooned in the middle of

Undoubtedly there's more to do in Cabo San Lucas and lots more people out and about than in its quieter sister city of San Jose. Its busy marina draws visitors for boat excursions and to the sport fishing dock to see the day's catch. There are also

considerably more dining, shopping and night life options. As for scenery, Cabo's setting is more dramatic: This is the true end of the Baja peninsula and the point where the Pacific and Sea of Cortez come together. What you won't find here are any historic buildings, since Cabo only began to develop as a city in the 1970's. Most attractions of interest to

visitors are within four or five blocks of the marina. Several new shopping malls anchor the marina's east side, while the sprawling Hotel Plaza So Glorias dominates the rest of the town's waterfront. Across from the marina, facing a string of deluxe beachfront resorts, is beautiful Medano Beach, Cabo San Lucas' swimming beach and a haven for all sorts of water sports. Medano is ground zero for the beach action.

FISHING CHARTERS

There are two kinds of fishing boats to charter: pangas and cruisers. Pangas are basically big row boats with outboard motors and not much in the way of amenities. The cruiser is the more modern looking fiberglass boat with shelter from the sun and bathroom facilities, and usually electronic fish finding gear. Expect to pay more for the cruisers. There are three main areas to charter boats: the marina in Cabo San Lucas, the Palmilla beach near the Palmilla hotel on the corridor, and La Playa beach near the town of San Jose. Don't be confused, La Playa is often called La Playita.

Both Palmilla and La Playita are beach launch areas that specialize in pangas, although they will also take you out through the surf in a panga to meet up with a cruiser that's anchored out and can't get through the

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surf. People do this to avoid driving in to Cabo, but it's a messy, often wet experi-

ence. You usually need to pick up *continued on page 32*

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because its very different from the town of Cabo San Lucas and has its own charm. San Jose is about 200 years old, and some of its buildings are nearly original, with two foot thick walls. The main street of this well kept town is lined with large shady trees, and it looks, unlike Cabo San Lucas, like a genuine old Mexican town, town square, beautiful twin spired church, and all. By city ordinance, Colonial era buildings are protected. Especially noteworthy are houses along Doblado, Hidalgo, Morelos and Obregon streets. San Jose also has a section of art galleries and restaurants that's fun to stroll. If you walk

nowhere. There's plenty of open space, but no settlements other than the upscale resort enclaves that dot the coast. The fourlane cruises through the area, with numerous dirt road turnoffs that go to nearby beaches. The area's beaches are spectacular and almost always deserted. This is prime surfing and beach combing territory; however, most of the beaches are not suitable for swimming due to strong undertow. And there will be no warning signs. Be careful. **Cabo San Lucas** Cabo San Lucas is considered by many visitors to be the epicenter of the Los Cabos resort scene. While San Jose earns high marks for

OTHER STUFF

Yes, a foreigner can own land in Mexico, and it's safe and snug as long as you use a U.S. based escrow and title company. Food and water is generally safe,

be afraid, like most Mexicans, they're pretty nice people and will treat you about as well as you treat them. Do not pay them on the spot, if

you do, you deserve to lose your money. Just say no, you prefer to pay at the station. That will result in them either letting you go if you're innocent, or a quick trip to the station house if you really did commit a boo boo. Just think of the war stories you'll have. Driving is not difficult, but parking is. Lock your car if you leave stuff in it, and be aware that the color of your plates screams rental car. If you get it towed or an officer threatens to tow it, just walk away and go down to the rental company and get another one. They have lots, and they are better prepared to deal with this.

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the streets, you will see dozens of shops, and can peek through corridors of buildings to discover lovely courtyard restaurants, secluded from the hustle and bustle of the street, but still right in the heart of town. **The corridor** Stretching along 18 miles of sea coast that link the towns of San Jose and Cabo San Lucas, the corridor is a scenic

its historic charm, Cabo San Lucas has sprung up from nowhere in the last 10 years. To some, the city is a curious and somewhat frenzied mix of loud bars, hip nightclubs, chain restaurants, designer boutiques, and timeshare sales booths. Others rave about the city's diverse gourmet dining, abundant shopping, and familiar American style vacation diversions.

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however exercise normal caution, and do drink the bottled water. Tourist restaurants and hotels can be counted on to provide safe water, including the ice. Crime is not a major problem, however there's always petty theft everywhere, so keep an eye on your belongings, and don't leave them on the beach while you're swimming because the peddlers are a problem. Police can sometimes be a nuisance, but only if you allow it. Observe the traffic laws and if you break one, the fine is modest, but you do have to go down to the cop shop to pay it. Don't

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