



## **Los Cabos, Mexico - General Information and Frequently Asked Questions**

*(this information has been gathered from multiple Los Cabos websites)*

### **Los Cabos Area**

Los Cabos (that's the term for the entire tip of Baja; literally, it means the cape) consists of two towns — Cabo San Lucas and San Jose — connected by an 18-mile corridor running along the seacoast with fancy high rise hotels strewn along the route. The corridor is a scenic 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 nowhere. There's plenty of open space, but no settlements other than the upscale resort enclaves that dot the coast. A four-lane highway 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. There will NOT be warning signs, so be careful!

### **San Jose**

Driving in from the airport, you will usually zip right by San Jose. That's a shame, because San Jose is 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 2-foot thick walls. The main street of this well-kept town is lined with large shady trees and, unlike Cabo San Lucas, it looks like a genuine old Mexican town with a town square, a 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 is fun to stroll. If you walk 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.



## **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 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.

Undoubtedly, there's more to do in Cabo San Lucas 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 in Cabo since it only began to develop as a city in the 1970s.

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 Beach is ground zero for the beach action.

## **Telephone Instructions**

Phone dialing 101 — Land lines.

The area code for Los Cabos is 624. It includes Cabo San Lucas, San Jose, and Los Barriles. To dial land-to-land phones within the Los Cabos area, just dial the seven-digit phone number. For example, the Gringo Gazette in Los Cabos would be 143-0865.

Dialing long distance from Los Cabos is just like dialing long distance in the States except you dial 01 instead of 1 before an area code. So, to call the Gringo Gazette from another city, you would dial 01 (624) + 143-0865.

Todos Santos and La Paz are in the 612 area code. To dial within the La Paz area, just dial the seven-digit number. For example, the restaurant La PazLapa would be 123-4757. If you are calling the restaurant from the Los Cabos area code (624), you must dial long distance: 01 (612) 123-4757.



Calling from outside the country to Los Cabos, dial 011-52 (624) + phone number. The 011 tells the phone company you want an overseas connection, 52 is the country code for Mexico, and the rest is just the area code and phone number. That's if you are calling from a land line. If you are calling a cell phone in Los Cabos, you now have to throw in an additional "1" before the area code. As in 011-52 + 1 (624) + phone number.

To call from outside of the country to La Paz, substitute the 612 area code. Thus, you would dial 011-52 (612) + phone number (ie, the long distance operator [011], Mexico's country code [52], La Paz's area code [612], the seven-digit phone number). Remember, if you are calling a cell phone in La Paz from outside the country, you now have to use an additional "1" before the area code.

Phone dialing 102 — Cell phones.

To call a cell phone that is outside your area code, you need to dial 045 before the area code and phone number. For example, to call a cell phone in La Paz from a land line in Los Cabos, you'll dial 045 (612) + the seven-digit phone number. The 045 tells the phone company that the caller pays for the call.

To call a cell phone number that is either in the same or a different area code but still within Mexico, dial the seven-digit number starting with the area code, even though you are in the same area code. For example, if you are in the Los Cabos area and you want to call a La Paz cell number, dial (612) + phone number. If you are in La Paz and want to call a La Paz cell, you must dial (612) + seven-digit phone number.

From out of the country to a Los Cabos or La Paz cell number, you now have to throw in an additional "1" before the area code, as in 011-52 + 1 (624) + seven-digit phone number. Remember that?

Cell phones are getting trickier, so you have to get it in your head that the only time you treat them any different is when you are in the same area code. The 044 is currently only used when dialing from a land line to a cell number in your same area code. The 045 is used when calling from a land line to a cell phone outside your area. To call from cell to cell within Mexico, just dial the area code + the seven-digit phone number.

### **Where is Cabo San Lucas?**

Cabo San Lucas is located at the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula in the State of Baja California Sur. Cabo is approximately 1,000 miles south of San Diego, California, 10 degrees below the Tropic of Cancer at a latitude of approximately



22 degrees. Cabo San Lucas is approximately 20 miles southwest of the Los Cabos International Airport.

### **What is Los Cabos and where is it located?**

Los Cabos is the municipality which includes the cities of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo, and located in the state of Baja California Sur.

### **Driving in Los Cabos and Baja California - What is required?**

No special permits or bonds are needed, unless you plan to continue on to Mexico's mainland. You will need a valid drivers license issued by your state of residence. Be sure to get Mexican insurance before crossing the border, as your U.S. insurance is not valid in Mexico. Do not drive in Mexico without insurance! While you are purchasing insurance, get a map that shows the locations of gas stations. Keep your gas tank as close to full as possible, even if it means extra stops. You never know when the next gas station will be closed or out of gas. It is a good idea to carry a gas can, with gas in it. The roads are constantly patrolled by the Green Angels (daytime hours only) who will help with gas and very minor repairs. These angels of mercy will pass by eventually, although you will probably be helped before they do by others passing by. The roads are generally safe, but narrow by U.S. standards, be extra careful. Do not drive at night unless you are curious about the real meaning of "Road Kill". Even in the daytime, you will need to watch out for cattle and other animals crossing the highway.

### **What is the legal drinking age in Mexico?**

The legal drinking age in Mexico is 18 years of age. Please be careful, as over indulging is quite common and generally leads to trouble. Drinking Alcohol in Public - while this is tolerated to an extent, it is illegal to drink alcoholic beverages on the street, in vehicles, at the beach and other public places. It is an offense to drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

### **What time zone is Los Cabos in and does the time change with daylight savings time?**

Los Cabos and Baja California Sur are located within the Mountain Time Zone. The time changes here whenever Daylight Savings Time changes.



### **Taxi Service - What are the taxi rates in Los Cabos?**

Taxis are available from the airport and at most locations in Los Cabos. At the airport the collective taxi (a small 9 passenger van) costs about \$12.00 per person to Cabo San Lucas. There are larger buses available for about \$12.00 per person. The collective taxis and buses will make several stops on the way from the airport to your hotel. Getting back to the airport from Cabo will cost about \$55 to \$90 for a private taxi. Most hotels offer shuttle service for a reduce rate.

### **What is the weather like in Los Cabos?**

The average year-round temperature is 78F. During the high tourist season, October to April, the temperature is typically 80F during the day and cools to the 60 is at night. In the low season, May to September, the temperature will go up to 100+F during the day and stay in the upper 70's and low 80's in the evening. The average year-round water temperature in the Sea of Cortez is 75F. The climate is arid with over 300 days of sunshine, with some reports of over 350 days. Average annual rainfall is 5-10 inches(12.7-25.4cm), most with occurring during the months of September and October. Check out the current weather using our weather links page.

### **Where are the United States Consular Agency and Canada consulate located?**

United States of America Consular Agency  
Mr. Michael J. Houston, Consular Agent,  
Boulevard Marina, Local C-4,  
Plaza Nautica, Cabo San Lucas,  
Baja California Sur, Mexico.  
Telephone: (624) 143-3566  
Fax: (624) 143-6750  
E-mail: [usconsulcabo@yahoo.com](mailto:usconsulcabo@yahoo.com)

Canada Consulate  
Ms. Peggy Dillman, Representative,  
#9 Plaza Jose Green (Banamex),  
Boulevard Mijares, San Jose del Cabo,  
Baja California Sur, Mexico.  
Telephone: (624) 142-4333  
Fax: (624) 142-4262.



### **What Currency is used in Los Cabos?**

The currency is the Mexican Peso. Exchange rates at booths and hotels are slightly lower than banks, but you may have to wait in line a lot longer. Banks are open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or later, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Some do not exchange travelers check's. Ask before you line up. Shops and restaurants accept dollars and credit cards. Both towns have ATMs and American Express offices. Cash is dispensed in pesos.

### **Credit Cards - will I be able to use credit cards?**

All major credit cards are accepted in Los Cabos and in Mexico - VISA and MasterCard are the most widely accepted. American Express is accepted in some stores and restaurants, but VISA and MasterCard are preferred. The Discover Card is not yet accepted. It is suggested that you ask the merchant, in advance, which credit cards are accepted.

### **Will I be able to get cash from the banks with my credit cards?**

All of the banks will give cash advances, most have ATM machines at their locations, for after hours cash.

### **Water - Can I drink the water in Los Cabos?**

The water supply for all of Los Cabos is piped from aquifers in the Sierra de La Laguna range. All major hotels and restaurants have purified water. Bottled water is available in tourist areas. The water here is very pure, but be careful. The pipes used for distribution of the water supply and other factors can lead to contamination. Although many people drink the water directly from the tap, it is not recommended. Anywhere in the world a change in drinking water can cause stomach distress. We recommend that you drink only bottled or purified water. If there is any doubt in your mind, do not hesitate to ask for purified water "Agua Purificada" or bottled water.

### **Medical Care - What about hospitals, doctors and dentists?**

Both towns have modern hospitals and good medical and dental facilities. A diver's decompression chamber is in Cabo San Lucas at the Hospital de Especialidades. Phone: 143-3666. We have a nice new hospital in Cabo San Lucas and we have some competent doctors, many speak English. The



equipment here is usually older and somewhat out of date, compared to what you are probably used to. The hospital is not equipped for severe trauma cases. Check with your hotel for the name of an English-speaking doctor, write their phone numbers down and carry them with you. Medical service here is nowhere near as sophisticated as in the U.S. or Canada. Our Medical, Health and Emergency Services page has a listing of medical services.

### **What do you need to travel in Mexico? - Mexico's Entry Requirements:**

Beginning on January 23, 2007 all travelers traveling air must have a valid passport. To enter Mexico you need to obtain a Tourist Card (FMT). To get your Tourist Card you will need to prove citizenship, a passport is best for this purpose. The Government of Mexico requires that all U.S. citizens present proof of citizenship and photo identification for entry into Mexico. U.S. citizenship documents such as a certified copy (not a simple photocopy) of a U.S. birth certificate, a Naturalization Certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Certificate of Citizenship are acceptable. However, the U.S. Embassy recommends traveling with a valid U.S. passport to avoid delays or misunderstandings. All travelers traveling air must have a valid passport.

Change in Entry/Departure Requirements - Beginning on January 23, 2007, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative will require U.S. citizens to present a valid U.S. passport or other accepted identification when entering or departing the United States by air or sea travel to or from Mexico or Canada. Please visit the U.S. Department of State official Travel Initiative web site at <http://travel.state.gov/> for more information.

If you are driving, stop at the border and inquire as to the location of the immigration office and get your Tourist Card there, there is an immigration office in Ensenada and an officer now stationed at the check point just south of Guerrero Negro. If you cannot obtain a Tourist Card from anyone during your trip, stop at the Immigration Office in La Paz or Cabo San Lucas immediately upon arrival, to obtain your visa.