

Hidalgo y Costilla led Mexican-born peasants and indigenous groups in a rebellion against Spanish colonialists that erupted into the Mexican War of Independence. In 1813, José María Morelos led the Mexican Congress in signing its declaration of independence. The war ended on August 14, 1821 with Spain acknowledging Mexican independence in the Treaty of Córdoba.

During the Mexican-American War from 1846 to 1848, American troops invaded the Baja Peninsula, but later withdrew. Baja Sur was left out of the Mexican Cession in which the United States gained all of California and southwestern Mexican territories through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, signed in 1848.

Although its surrounding areas were caught up with the political upheaval of the nineteenth century, Cabo San Lucas continued as an undeveloped coastal fishing town until the early twentieth century. Fishermen searching for tuna and marlin began to frequent Cabo in the 1930s. After the Second World War, Hollywood stars and real estate investors, like Desi Arnaz, built resorts, hotels, and timeshare condominiums in the area, hoping to benefit from the town's fishing fame.

Beginning in the 1970s, the Mexican government saw the tourist opportunities available in the Baja Peninsula and its tourism agency, Fonatur, worked to make Cabo an attractive destination. An airport and highway infrastructure made Cabo San Lucas more accessible to foreign tourists, especially from the United States and Canada.

Today Cabo San Lucas boasts six championship golf courses, in addition to numerous resorts along the coast. The Los Cabos area remains a popular destination for Hollywood stars, fishermen, water sports fanatics, and anyone else seeking a tropical getaway. In 2002, the Asian Pacific Economic Conference took place in Los Cabos, confirming the area's growing influence in the Mexican economy through international tourism.

CABO SAN LUCAS POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Located on Calle Cabo San Lucas, the church, **Iglesia de San Lucas** was built in 1730 and founded by the Spanish missionary Nicolás Tamaral.

2 **Playa El Médano** or "The Dune Beach" is the central beach area in Cabo and offers many opportunities for water sports, as well as a view of the Land's End and Lovers' Beach.

3 **Playa del Amor** or "Lovers' Beach," is a hidden point where the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific Ocean and is only accessible by water. Once known as the Playa de Doña Chepa, John Steinbeck described this site in his book *Log from the Sea of Cortez*.

4 **El Arco**, the famous natural rock arch, close to Playa del Amor, can be seen from nearby beaches in Cabo.

Beyond Cabo San Lucas

5 Overlooking the Sea of Cortez, the crystal-blue waters of **Chileno Bay** offer some of the best snorkeling in Cabo.

6 Often referred to as the cultural counterpart to the beach paradise of Cabo San Lucas, the town of **San José del Cabo** is only eighteen miles away from Cabo and offers historic sites, a protected estuary for over 100 species of birds, and many beaches.

7 **Cactimundo Los Cabos Botanical Garden** is an ecological preserve for cacti and other desert plants, this garden, located in San José, is one of the leading sites in Latin America dedicated to the protection of endangered desert flora.

8 **Cabo Pulmo** is a small town 45 miles northeast of San José that is worth visiting for the coral reefs, dive opportunities, and secret caves along the beach.

9 **Todos Santos** is an old Jesuit mission called "All Saints," that is home to art galleries and the legendary Hotel California that is immortalized by the 1976 Eagles' song by the same name.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Cabo San Lucas and its scenic surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, please be advised to take only necessary items and to secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Though prices in restaurants and retail stores are usually fixed, bargaining is widely practiced in open markets.

Tipping: A tip of 15% or more is appropriate in restaurants. Check your bill, because a 10% service fee may already be added.

Local Cuisine: As a coastal town, Cabo San Lucas is known for its variety of fresh seafood dishes. Some favorites include: *Pacific lobster*, usually served with lemon and butter or in a salad with greens. *Tacos de pescado*, tacos made with lightly fried fish and corn tortillas, topped with a variety of condiments.

Drink Specialties: *Margarita* – This ubiquitous drink, whether made frozen or "on the rocks," is made with tequila, triple sec, and lime juice.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Mexico's fine silver jewelry, precious stones, and leather goods can be found in Cabo San Lucas, as well as crafts featuring replicas of pre-Columbian pottery and paintings.

Puerto Paraiso Mall is located near the pier, and offers three floors of shops, restaurants, and recreation. Along the Boulevard Marina, the main road in the center of Cabo, there are many excellent jewelry and art stores.

LOCAL CURRENCY The Mexican peso (MXN) is used in Cabo San Lucas, though U.S. dollars are widely accepted. The symbol \$ refers to pesos, not U.S. dollars, unless specifically noted.

ATM's are usually available, especially in heavily trafficked tourist areas.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES A Post Office is located on Avenida Lázaro Cárdenas and Francisco Villa on the highway to San José del Cabo.

Place a call with your personal calling card using the following access numbers:

AT&T: 01.800.288.2872 or 001.800.462.4240
MCI: 001.800.674.7000

TOURIST INFORMATION There is a Tourist Information kiosk located at the pier.

TRANSPORTATION Taxis are widely available in Cabo. Taxi rides are often shared among different groups of people.

The Subercabos bus line is the primary mode of public transportation in the city and travels along Lazaro Cardenas Blvd.

Most American companies do not allow rented cars to be driven into Mexico. Driving in Los Cabos is not advised.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Órale - Mexican slang for "That's great" or "Alright"

¡Aguas! - Literally means "waters," but implies "Watch out!"

Simón - Slang for "yes"

