

[Money Glitz](#)[Weekend Glitz](#)[Property](#)[Overseas Property](#)[Education](#)[Overseas Education](#)[Travel](#)[The Standard Overseas Property](#)

Latest news on overseas property investment

Calling Los Cabos

Travel | Anne Cooke 29 Mar 2023



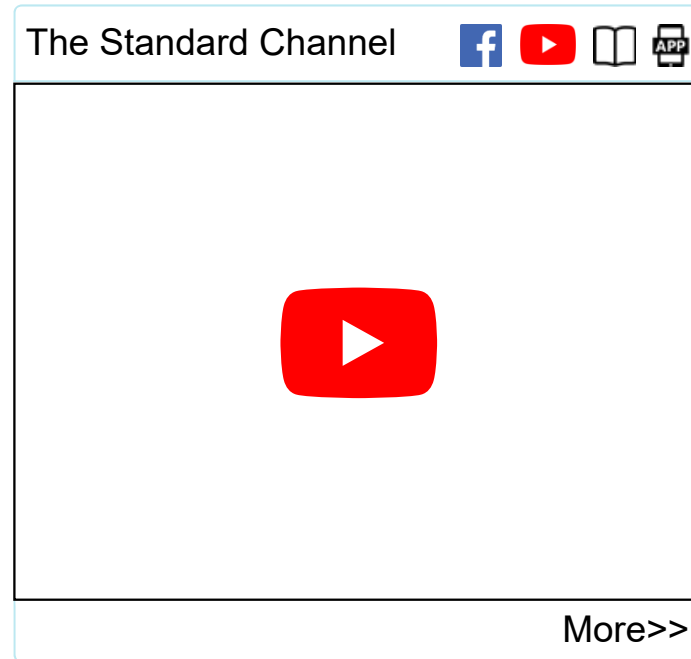
©Steve Haggerty

When Adina Lopez moved back to Los Cabos, at the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California Sur, she didn't expect to find hidden treasure. After a decade abroad, she assumed that her hometown hadn't changed. An exclusive vacation destination when she left, it was certainly still a millionaire's playground.

Then she joined the Los Cabos Tourism Board and discovered the real Baja Sur.

Exploring the mountains and desert, guiding tourists and absorbing the region's unique cultural heritage revealed the unexpected: centuries of human history, ancient cave paintings and isolated villages and ranches.

"Tourists see beach photos and think of Acapulco and Cancun," she said as we headed for the Sierra de la Laguna, a UNESCO biosphere reserve. "It's different here," she said, turning to point out a Lomboy tree.



We hadn't been to Los Cabos for years. So when my cousin Eric invited us to join him and his wife, we jumped at the chance. An airline pilot with connections, he wrangled last-minute reservations at two resorts - the Esperanza-Auberge Resort Collection and the Hacienda del Mar.

For four decades and more, hotels and resorts of every size and type have been nudging up Baja's ragged east coast, built on cliffs overlooking the Sea of Cortez. Even the cheapest have pools and beach access. But five-star resorts like the Esperanza-Auberge, on seven carefully manicured hectares, are a horse of a different color.

Checked in at the gate, you enter a private village, clusters of buildings connected by winding paths and framed by flowering bushes and trees. Some are condominiums owned by residents or time-share owners, called "club" members. Others are ordinary hotel rooms.

Eager to explore, we woke up early and jogged for a half-hour before Eric arrived with a rental car. Heading for Cabos' signature feature, El Arco, we walked along the water's edge, then drove downtown, noting the older buildings and looking for new ones in the neighborhood, said to be a favorite with Gen Z tourists.

Passing the Nick-San restaurant, in its 29th year, we spotted the owner, Angel Carbajal, who remembered us. Invited back for dinner, we all sat down together to sample Nick-San's signature meal: delicious Japanese-sized bites of fish, shrimp, chicken or vegetables, flavored by Mexican spices and secret sauces.

Next on our list was San Jose del Cabo, founded by missionaries in 1730. Bigger and newer, it mixed historic sites and places with contemporary shops, art galleries, restaurants and a huge modern shopping center.



Farther on was Todos Santos and its historic arts district, crowded by tourists ducking in and out for a look, window shopping and lounging at outdoor cafes. A refuge for surfers and free spirits, the town was alive with street art, colorful flags and music.

At dinner time we headed to Eric's favorite restaurant, YaYa, a year old and a rising star. Created by owner-chef Eliana Godinez, who studied in Italy, her recipes infuse Italian recipes with farm-to-table produce. The place buzzed. Why "YaYa?" we asked.

"YaYa is my grandma's nickname," she chuckled, embarrassed. "I learned from watching her in the kitchen. That's why my kitchen is open to the dining room. You can watch us cook."

On our last night at the Esperanza we ate at the Cocina del Mar, at a table near the water.

Talking with chef Alexis Palacios when he circled the room, he explained that his recipes depend on the season's fresh, local ingredients. And the fish have to be fresh; he buys them daily from local fishermen.

"Our farmers and fishermen supply almost everything," he said. "And we want to support them. I wouldn't buy anything shipped three days earlier and refrigerated unless I absolutely had to."

As the sky darkened and the candles flickered on, the stars came out. And as we left, the Cocina's weekly fireworks exploded into the sky.

It was time to move to the Hacienda del Mar, a Spanish colonial-style resort on 11 hectares. Designed and painted traditional reds, tans and yellows, it felt like Mexico. Hosting both time-share owners and hotel guests, the Hacienda offered the usual "activities," from restaurants and bars to sports and dance classes.

But the swimming pools were adjacent, in a wavy line overlooking the Sea of Cortez. And the view of the sea, a shimmering blue, made a difference.

By 9 am every day, every beach chair was taken, occupied not only by people who simply sat there and gazed seaward, but by couples sunning, sisters on vacation, women with friends, men talking football and parents with kids. Some actually stayed into the afternoon.

But we weren't among them, at least not every day. Los Cabos' famous outdoor sports beckoned, from sailing and deep-sea fishing to paddle-boarding, windsurfing and snorkeling.

Guided hikes to the barren, needle-sharp summit of 927-meter Mount Picachos, in the Sierra de la Lagunas. Jeep trips through the desert - like ours with Adina.

"Next stop is the Oasis, and after that, the waterfall," she said as we parked on a hill and climbed out for a look. "Where?" I thought. And there it was, a meandering lake in a quarter-mile long hollow, flanked by thousands of green palms.

Another 20 minutes, turning at the Sol de Mayo Ecological Reserve sign, and we reached the trailhead. Descending into the gorge, picking our way between the rocks, two Canadians passed us, hurrying.

Moments later we saw them in the water, laughing and screaming, "It's freezing cold." Then we arrived and saw the waterfall and the pond.

"Beautiful, isn't it?" said Adina as we sat on a rock and watched the ribbon of water pour over the rocks. "You know," she said, "the ranchers living around here raise cattle and horses, and they water their gardens and they don't waste a drop," she said.

Other Travel News

[More Travel News >>](#)

Going fourth (29 Mar 2023)

Everybody in the pool! (29 Mar 2023)

Sweet Danish taster trip (22 Mar 2023)

Money's on Foxwoods (22 Mar 2023)

O, what a life! (22 Mar 2023)

Life in the fast lane (16 Mar 2023)

First and foremost (16 Mar 2023)

Electrifying view of Niagara Falls (16 Mar 2023)

Tiptoe through the tulips (8 Mar 2023)

The whole point of new hotels (8 Mar 2023)

Today's Standard

KOKO MARE
The Crown of Tomorrow

● KOKO 3030 巨鑽
● 世界著名建築師設計住宅項目，集職、商、居住環境
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優

行險 登 閣 結 繩 為
即將 觀 即 加 推

● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優

● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優

● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優

● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優
● 項目位於上海，享有優越的地理之優

We pay good prices for vintage wines, old coins, and stamps
Also interested in other vintage liquors, coins, stamps and early banknotes

Hennessy XO, thick bragg distributed by Jewell Matheson HK\$2,500

1556 Hong Kong hundred dollar banknote issued by Standard Chartered HK\$5,700

30th Anniversary Founding of China 1979 Commemorative Gold Coins HK\$28,000

1980 Chinese golden monkey stamp HK\$8,000

Marshall Cordon Bleu in gold packaging HK\$4,100

Wah Hing Company

The Standard

Trademark and Copyright Notice: Copyright 2023, The Standard Newspaper Publishing Ltd., and its related entities. All rights reserved.

Use in whole or part of this site's content is prohibited. Use of this Web site assumes acceptance of the [Terms of Use](#), [Privacy Policy Statement](#) and [Copyright Policy](#). Please also read our [Ethics Statement](#).

