

MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR

NORTE



ENGLISH VERSION

 **CONACULTA**



Instituto Nacional
de Antropología
e Historia

La Paz



This city, capital of the state, was founded in 1535 by Hernán Cortés. It has interesting places such as the **Nuestra Señora de la Paz-Airapí Cathedral**, the **Velasco Garden** and the fountain representing the **Hongo de Balandra**, the **Palacio Municipal**, the **Regional History and Anthropology Museum**, the **Gray Whale Community Museum**, the **Jesús Castro Agúndez Cultural Unit**, the **Profesor Armando Manríquez State Cultural House**, the **Art Center**, **Popular Culture and Traditions** (in the **Old Casa de Gobierno**), the **La Paz Cultural Center** (in the **Old Palacio del Ayuntamiento**), the **Juárez Theater**, the **City Theater** and the **Casa del Artesano or Artisan's House**. Other attractions are the **La Paz Serpentarium**, the **Revolución Park**, the **Madero**

Market, the **Bravo Market** and the **Álvaro Obregón Boardwalk**. Besides, it has a lot of beaches such as **Coromuel**, **Pichilingue**, **Balandra**, **La Concha**, **El Caimancito**, **El Tesoro**, **Punta Arena**, **Cueva del León**, **Las Cruces**, **El Tecolote**, **El Sargento**, **La Ventana**, **Ensenada de Muertos** and **El Mechudo**. From **Marina Palmira**, by boat, you reach the islands of **Espíritu Santo**, **Jacques Cousteau** (before **Isla Cerralvo**), shelter for seals, fish and all kinds of birds, **San José** and **El Pardino**, they are considered one of most beautiful places in México due to the contrast between the lime stone red and the turquoise blue of the sea waters. We recommend to visit the Beaches: **Ballena**, **Bahía de Candelero**, **Punta Lupona** and **San Gabriel**. Visit as well the **El Mogote Peninsula** and the **Jacques Cousteau Sea and Shore Observatory**



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Nuestra Señora de la Paz-Airapí Cathedral

Adolfo López Mateos and San Carlos Ports



Great for ecotourism. From San Carlos you can visit **San Juanico Bay** and **Margarita and Magdalena Islands**, with fine sand dunes, it is here where the grey whales arrive. The **Grey Whale International Festival** is celebrated here.

Biosphere Reserve Sierra la Laguna



It is the biggest reserve of the state. Different from other mountain ranges because it is covered by coniferous forests and oak combined with cactus and desert plants.

San Javier



Its main attraction is the **San Francisco Javier-Viggé Biaundó Mission**, the first mission built in the Californias, by the priest Miguel del Barco in 1744. Also visit **Las Parras** and **Sierra de la Giganta Oasis**.

Guerrero Negro



It is home to the biggest salines of the world and the **Sistema Lagunar Ojo de Liebre** in the **El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve**, shelter of the gray whale. It has religious monuments like the **Virgen de Guadalupe** and **San Judas Tadeo Sanctuary**, a small church which welcomes to the town. **Malarrimo Beach** is famous for the sea current of Kurosiwo or from Japan dragging all kinds of rare objects.

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El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve



It is one of the biggest protected areas of the country. It is the habitat of the gray whale and the big-horn sheep and a great diversity of cactus such as the yucca, the cardon and the cholla, with ages up to 200 years old. Besides it houses the cave paintings of **Sierra de San Francisco**.

Missions Route in El Camino Real



In 1696 priests Eusebio Kino and Juan María de Salvatierra started their expedition to Las Californias, which ended with the foundation of **Loreto**, capital of all the Californias and the missions: **Nuestra Señora de Loreto-Conchó**, **San Francisco Javier-Viggé Biaundó**, **San José de Comondú**, **La Purísima Concepción**, **Santa Rosalía de Mulegé**, **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, **San Ignacio de Kadakaamán**, **San Juan Bautista**, **San Luis Gonzaga-Chiriyahui**, **Nuestra Señora de los Dolores**, **Nuestra Señora del Pilar de la Paz-Airapí**, **Santa Rosa de las Palmas**, **Santiago de los Coras** and **San Jose del Cabo-Añuití**.

Cave Art of the Sierra de San Francisco



It is one of the most important sets of cave art of Mexico. It has been considered humanity's cultural heritage for its size, the quality of the representations, its variety, colors and extraordinary preservation state. This group of sites with cave painting is associated to the nomad groups that dwelled in the region up to the Spanish colonization in the 18th century, and is aged between 1100 BC and AD 1300. Some of these sites can be visited: **La Pintada**, **Las Flechas**, **Los Músicos**, **Boca de San Julio**, **La Soledad** and **Cuesta Palmarito**.



PHOTO: ANDRÉ CABROLIER/RAICES



Bahía Concepción.

Bahía de Loreto National Park

Here we find the greatest variety of marine mammals registered in the country. It is made up by **La Giganta Sierra** and **Danzante, Del Carmen Coronado, Monserrat** and **Santa Catalina Islands**.

Islands and protected areas of the Gulf of California

This broad zone, that has been appointed natural world heritage site, it covers 244 islands, islets and coastal zones, this area can be considered a kind of laboratory, as al-

most all mayor processes related with the oceans occur in this place. It is also a place with exceptional natural beauty, which combines rugged cliffs, beaches, the sea itself and a desert environment.

El Vizcaíno Whale Sanctuary

It is considered a natural world heritage site, it covers the coastal lagoons of **Ojo de Liebre** and **San Ignacio**, whose characteristic make them ideal for breeding and wintering of species such as the gray whale, the spotted fur seal, the Californian sea lion, the northern elephant seal, and the blue whale.



Gray whale.

BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR



San José del Cabo



Founded in 1730 by the Jesuit priest Nicolas Tamaral. Here you can find the **San José del Cabo-Añuñi Mission**, built in 1735; the **Centenario Clock**, the **Palacio Municipal**, the **Art Garden** and the **plazuela**. Between Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo is the **Nautic Corridor** with 26 km of beaches of soft sands, **Punta Colorada**, **Buena Vista** and **Los Frailes**, and the waters of the Gulf of California. It has natural beauties like the **Estero de San Jose**, **Cabo Pulmo** and the **La Zorra Canyon**. In Miraflores, the **Pitahaya Festival** is celebrated.

Loreto



This magical town was the first capital of the Californias, from here the religious orders left to the peninsula in the 17th century. It has interesting places such as **Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Loreto-Concho**, the **Mission Museum**, the **Edificio Municipal**, the **Casa de Piedra** and the **Boardwalk**. Nearby are the **Bahía de Loreto National Park** made up by the **Danzante**, **Coronado**, **Carmen**, **Monserat** and **Catalina Islands**, as well as **Concepcion Bay**, the most beautiful in the peninsula, located between Loreto and Mulegé. The **Loreto-Nopolo Corridor**, 28 kilometers long, is sheltered by **La Giganta** and **San Francisco Sierras**.



PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

San José del Cabo.

Mulegé



It was founded in 1705, and it is an oasis in the middle of the Californian desert. Here you find the **Santa Rosalia de Mulege Mission**; the **Regional Museum**, located in the **Antigua Cananea** or prison without bars (the only one in the country). Other attractions are **Concepción Bay**, the **Bocana Estuary** and the **Cerro Amarillo Hill**, where the people of California headed by seamen Pineda and Mijares fought and defeated the Yankee invaders in the war of 1847.

El Triunfo



Mining settlement famous for its old buildings and houses. The symbol of the town is the foundry known as **La Ramona**, built in 1860. We recommend to visit the **Museum of Music**, which was the first one of its kind in the country and the **Cactus Sanctuary**, 50 ha. of natural reserve. The **Pitahaya Festival** is celebrated here.

FOLK ART

Baja California Sur's handcrafting tradition is closely linked to its geographical location, which gives it mainly raw materials coming from its broad coastal zone. Without any doubt the most representative product is jewelry, made out of **pearls** from the Sea of Cortes and **mother-of-pearl**, Mexico's own oyster. Also standing out are the marine figures carved in **palofierro** and **sea shells**. Other handcrafts are the **cue-ras** and **tehuas**, typical from the central towns.

CUISINE

The regional cuisine masterfully uses the great variety of products offered by the sea. Among the most popular dishes are the **chocolate clam** grilled in its shell, the **shrimps** in different preparations, the **sea-food paella**, the **lobster** and the **abalone chorizo**; as well as the **pastel de habas** and the **cecina con especias aromáticas**. Among the sweets are **panocha de gajo**, and in beverages the **licor de damiana**, extracted from the herb of the same name, the **rompope**, the wines and the **café de talega**.



Shrimps Tacos.

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Todos Santos



This magical town, also called the "window of the Pacific", was founded in 1723. It is located in the Valle del Pilar, between the **Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve** and the Pacific Ocean. It has interesting places like the **Santa Rosa de las Palmas Mission**, built in the 18th century; the **General Manuel Márquez de León Theater**, the **Profesor Nestor Agundez Cultural Center**, the **Julian Perez Theater**, the **Hotel California** dated from 1928, the **Siglo XXI Cultural Center** and the **Art Galleries**. It has beaches like **Los Cerritos**, **La Lobera**, **San Pedrito**, **Punta Lobos**, **Pescadero**, **La Poza**, **Batequitos** and **Los Esteros**. Here activities such as the **Art Festival**, the **Mango Festival** and the **Wine Festival** are carried out.

Ciudad Constitución



This town has gained land to the desert and it is now the agricultural heart of the **Santo Domingo Valley**, where they grow mainly figs, grapes and dates. Rural tourism is practiced here, in which the visitor participates in the harvesting and processing of those crops. The town of **San Luis Gonzaga** is nearby, its main attraction is the Jesuit mission of **San Luis Gonzaga-Chiriyahui**.

Cabo Pulmo National Park



It is the only coral reef in the Gulf of California and has one of the highest biological diversities of the Mexican Pacific.



PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Todos Santos

Cabo San Lucas



Once shelter of conquerors and pirates, it is now the most important nautical touristic destiny of the state, one of the most important activities here is sport fishing: it is known as the "marlin world capital". It has captivating places such as the **República Cultural Pavilion** and the **Cabo San Lucas Natural History Museum**; the renowned researcher Jacques Cousteau gave it the name of "the world's aquarium", because it has countless fish, corals and whales: gray, humpback, sperm and blue, the latter considered one of the biggest living beings in the planet, they measure up to 30 m long. It is worth to visit the **Dedo de Neptuno** and **Finisterra**: unique geological formations in the world where the Pacific Ocean and the Cortés Sea merge. Other sites of interest are the **Cascadas de Arena**, the **Santa María** and **Chileno bays** and **El Médano beach**.



PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Cabo San Lucas

Santa Rosalía de Mulegé



A mining town with quaint wooden buildings in pastel colors. Attractions include **Santa Rosalía de Mulege Mission**, the **Palacio** and the **Municipal Archive**, the **Santa Rosalía History Museum** and the **Hotel Frances**. The **Santa Barbara Church**, built with iron and designed by Alexandre Gustave Eiffel with beautiful stained glass. Nearby is **San Marcos Island**, which has the largest gypsum mines in the world.

San Ignacio



It has magnificent places such as the **San Ignacio Lagoon**, sanctuary of the gray whale, the **Tres Virgenes Volcano**, **Punta Abreojos**, the **Asuncion Bay** and the **San Ignacio Dam**. Located in the town is **San Ignacio-Kadakaaman Mission**, one of the best preserved on the peninsula, built out of stone in 1728, whose interior houses a wood carved gold plated altarpiece. Other attractions are the **plazuela**, the **old houses**, and the date, fig, grapes, citrics, avocado and olive **plantations**.

Church of Nuestra Señora de Loreto-Conchó.



PHOTO

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And don't miss ...

- Visit the cave paintings of the Sierra de San Francisco
- Visit the Jesuit missions
- Go to Todos Santos, magical town
- Visit La Paz
- Enjoy a good seafood dish
- Visit the Desierto del Vizcaíno
- Go to the Gulf of California
- Watch the whales in El Vizcaíno
- Go to Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo
- Visit Loreto

Tourist information

www.visitbajasur.travel

La Paz

Ministry of Tourism Information Module: Km. 5.5 Carretera to north, Fraccionamiento Fidepaz, C.P. 23090, 612-124-0103, ext. 116

Downtown Information Module: Álvaro Obregón between Bravo and Rosales, Centro, C.P. 23000, 612-122-5939

La Paz Tourism Trustee: Calle 16 de Septiembre, at the corner of Belisario Domínguez, Antiguo Palacio Municipal, C.P. 23000, 612-122-4624, www.golapaz.com

Los Cabos

Touristic Information Module: Plaza Puerto Paraíso, second floor (in front of the Malecón)

Los Cabos Conventions and Visitors Office: Av. Lázaro Cárdenas no. #, Edif. Posada, P.B., Local 7 EXT., Col. El Médano, C.P. 23410, Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., 624-143-4777

Cámara Nacional de la Industria de Restaurantes y Alimentos Condimentados (CANIRAC): La Paz: Félix Ortega no. 565 between Ignacio Allende and Benito Juárez, Col. Centro, C.P. 23000, 612-122-2381, canirac.lapaz@yahoo.com.mx

CANIRAC Los Cabos: Av. Miguel Hidalgo, Esq. Antonio Mijares, no. 205, Col. Centro, C.P. 23450, 624-143-3944, caniracloscabos@gmail.com

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: 066

La Paz

Red Cross: 612-122-1222

Fire Station: 612-122-0054

Federal Highway Patrol: 612-122-5735

Protección Civil: 612-121-3634

Loreto

Red Cross: 613-135-1111

Emergency: 066

Los Cabos

Red Cross: 624-145-0396

Emergency: 066

Todos Santos

Red Cross: 612-145-0396

Emergency: 066



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