

Diving Mexico - Baja California

Sea of Cortez

CABO SAN LUCAS / CABO PULMO / GORDO BANKS

...a holiday not just diving



Los Cabos is located in the very south point of the **Baja peninsula** and is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and the **sea of Cortez**.

Right in this place is located the Sea Lion colony which is the most representative diving site of Los Cabos.

Diving in the **Sea of Cortez** can be an amazing experience for any diver, with shipwrecks, caves,



reefs, and sandfalls to explore. The Sea of Cortez is considered to be one of the most fertile bodies of water in the world. This warm body of water supports over 800 species of fish, from cold-water California-related species to tropical fish and pelagics such as whale sharks, giant manta rays and hammerhead sharks.



The **Cabo San Lucas Bay** provides excellent diving conditions. It is a unique area for diving since several of the finest snorkeling and scuba diving sites are only a 15 to 25 minute boat ride from the downtown marina. Diving conditions are great all year. **June to December** offer the greatest visibility, warmest water and longest periods of calm weather. Visibility can exceed 100 feet, and the temperature averages between 78 and 85 degrees F. A deep submarine trench closely follows the bay and creates an unusual marine environment that attracts an abundance of marine life. Here the water is warm and the currents are gentle.



Time of Year	Water Temperature	Visibility
June - July	65-75°F	25-60 ft
August - November	78-86°F	40-90 ft
December - January	68-74°F	30-60 ft
February - May	64-70°F	20-50 ft

Dive Sites: Cabo San Lucas Bay



The North Wall (10' to 120')

is adjacent to Pelican Rock. The shallows provide a smooth, sandy bottom perfect diving classes but it gradually slopes off to 30' where a wall dramatically drops hundreds of feet. Along the top of the wall you'll find a large variety of marine life, including large coral heads, moray eels, puffers, tropical fish, octopus, hermit crabs, urchins, cone-head crabs and lobster. Farther down, you might see diamond and bulls-eye rays eagle rays, mantas, sea turtles, an occasional whale shark or even the local white tip shark.

Sand Falls (15' to 140')

was originally discovered by Jacques Costeau forty years ago and is situated on the edge of a deep submarine cCanyon. The falls start at about 90' where sand gathers on the slope and eventually begins to slide under its own weight descending down to depths of up to 400'. Sand Falls is home to more than 300 species of marine life including octopus, schools of barracuda, rays and large fish coming in from the nearby deeper water. This is an excellent night dive sight.

Sea Lion Colony (20' to 70')

is a dive that gives even the novice diver an excellent opportunity to join and observe the sea lions in their own habitat. The sea lions are playful and active creatures. The females are very friendly and often seem to show off, swimming in circles and spirals in front of divers while the larger males keep more to themselves. You'll also see lots of other marine life, including eels, angelfish, parrotfish, garden eels, spotted box fish puffers, giant hawkfish and barberfish. You might also see tuna, barracuda, herring, turtles and schools of jack.



Neptune's Finger (30' to 120')

is located off the edge of Lover's Beach and is a great spot for exploring the deep ridge along the edge of the Cabo San Lucas Bay. The ridge starts at about 80' and drops down to more than 600'. This is a good location for watching passing schools of manta rays, exploring small Sand Falls and enjoying the macro life present in the shallows along the rocks that create the finger. Countless species of life can be witnessed here. This is a deep dive, for advanced divers only.

The South Wall (90' to 120')

is deep and only for advanced divers. The depth provides a look at the amazing geology of the Cabo San Lucas Bay. Very similar to the Middle Wall, it is home to large amounts of marine life and pristine coral formations.

The Middle Wall (100')

is a deep site for advanced divers only. This area provides a look at pristine fan corals, gorgonians and large schools of fish deep along the wall. It is common to see large grouper, sea bass, yellow snapper and countless other species here.

Land's End (25' to 80')

is the name given to the place where the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific. This site may experience currents, especially in the shallower areas. Large bait schools the size of a football field can sometimes be found here. Mackerel, barracuda, sardines and other species congregate here attracting sea lions, bonita, yellow-fin tuna, roosterfish and other predators in search of easy hunting. Large mantas pass by periodically.



La Anegada

is one of Cabo's most versatile dive sites and it's also an excellent night dive. Following the edge of the Cabo San Lucas Bay is a spectacular submarine canyon. The steep, jagged canyon walls are softened by a colorful variety of gorgonian corals and sea fans and a huge number of tropical reef fish thrive along the canyon ledges. Large schools of snapper, goatfish, porkfish, grunts and jacks gather in swirling masses to feed in the nutrient laden currents.

Pelican Rock (15' to 120')

is the perfect dive site and it's an excellent choice for every level of diver, from beginner/resort diver to the more experienced. The shallows provide a smooth, sandy bottom in 15' of water - perfect for dive classes. More experienced divers can drop down the face of the wall to 90' and view the deep hidden pinnacle rocks. The depth creates almost perfect visibility and provides a glimpse of pristine fan corals and gorgonians on the underwater edge of the Cabo San Lucas Bay. Intermediate divers may want to stop at 50' to 70' and explore the base of the main pinnacle. This area is home to the same variety of marine life found at Sand Falls and the North Wall: Mexican parrot fish, porcupine fish, box puffers, Mexican clown fish, octopus, goat fish, surgeon fish, yellow snapper, buttercups, and many others. In addition, it's not uncommon to see eagle rays, mantas, sea lions, white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles and an occasional whale shark lurking along the face of the deep wall.

The Shipwreck (50' to 70')

is a small shipwreck that gets smaller every year due to erosion and the constant motion of the Pacific current. This boat used to bring people back and forth from Mazatlan to Cabo San Lucas. This is a newer dive site and it's located outside the bay in the Pacific Ocean.

Dive Sites: The Corridor



Chilenio Bay/Reef (30' to 80')

is an excellent diving and snorkeling area located half way between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo. A long reef about a half-mile off shore encloses a shallow bay with depths up to about 20'. Inside the bay, a honeycombed maze of finger-shaped outcroppings covered with coral trees are home to a large variety of schooling tropical fish, sea turtles, moray eels and the occasional manta. A colorful collection of invertebrates, starfish, sea fans, sea urchins and sponges fill the nooks, crannies and sea floor. This is an excellent site for underwater photography.

Santa Maria Canyon & Reef (10' to 70')

is another sheltered cove that's great for snorkeling and diving. In the summer months schools of mantas can be seen jumping from the water just outside the cove. Colorful gorgonians and sea fans line the rock walls where colorful tropical reef fish are in abundance. This is a great dive for the photographer. The Santa Maria Canyon starts just outside the cove and boasts an underwater maze of large boulders and crevices stretching out from the western edge of the small bay.

Whales Head (30' to 60')

is an easy dive for beginners and there's a lot to see, from spectacular rock formations to sea turtles, octopus, moray eels, small nurse sharks, guitarfish, puffer fish, large sting rays and bat rays.

Twin Dolphin (30' to 50')

is a maze of large boulders covering the bottom that creates an intricate maze of canyons and channels. Large grouper, sting rays, urchins, coral heads and passing pelagics can be seen here.

Santa María Cove/Canyon (30' to 70')

is an underwater maze of large boulders and crevices stretching out from the western edge of the small bay and the sheltered cove is a great spot for both snorkeling and diving. Large coral heads, fans, gorgonians and a huge concentration of tropical fish inhabit the area and in the summer schools of mantas can be seen jumping from the water just outside the cove. This is a great site for underwater photography.

The Blow Hole (30' to 90')

gets its name from a small blowhole on the shore. The site is located just beyond the Santa Maria Cove and the best diving is at 80' where a maze of rock and coral conceal an abundance of local marine life. It's common to see schools of puffer fish, buttercups, Mexican parrot fish and other species. In the winter, this is also an excellent place to catch a glimpse of passing whales.

Dive Sites: Offshore

Gordo Banks (85' to 140')...subjected to condition



is for experienced divers only and is legendary for its schools of hammerhead sharks, giant Pacific mantas and whale sharks. This site lies 8 miles off the coast of San Jose del Cabo where three deep sea mounts (110' to 130') attract bait fish and predators of all types seeking refuge from the harsh currents of the open Sea of Cortez. Operators who serve Gordo Banks often have strict prerequisites for divers: everything from a recent day of local diving to

a minimum number of logged dives, so be sure to check when you book your trip. The water temperature ranges from 60 to 70 degrees in the winter to as high as 90 degrees in the summer. The visibility is from 20' to 100' during the winter and from 60' to 100' in the summer.

Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park (25' to 80')

was officially declared a marine preserve by the Mexican Government in June, 1995. It's approximately 11 miles long with at least 8 different fingers of coral reef and is considered by many to be the only substantial living coral reef on the west coast of North America. (However, living hard coral reefs also exist near La Paz, Cabo San Lucas, Gordo Banks and on the north coast of the Sea of Cortez) This remote site is a haven for divers who wish to enjoy the sea and have an amazing day of diving away from Los Cabos. Several reefs are available for exploring. The reef attracts schools of rays, turtles, huge gropers, schools of jacks, pork fish, tropical fish, and even a whale shark every once in a while. In total, there are more than 300 species of tropical fish and over 2000 invertebrates in this biologically diverse natural ecosystem. There more than a dozen sites to explore, including the coral reef, a shipwreck and a large sea lion colony. The Park is an excellent adventure for divers of all skill levels. In optimum conditions, visibility reaches 140' or more and the water temperature peaks near 90 degrees.



(Cabo Pulmo) El Islotes

is small island that protrudes just slightly from the surface but widens into a thick hearty structure under water. This pinnacle-like structure is like diving in the round. It features many varieties of sea fans, gorgonian, and colonial cup corals that have become the signature of the Sea of Cortez. The structure itself is similar to the topography of the nearby beach, with large boulders providing small caverns with portholes for great photo opportunities. Huge bumbhead parrot fish, and scrawled leather jacket file fish are residents, as well as a seasonal, schools of swarming big eye jacks.



(Cabo Pulmo) El Cantil (55')

or "the canyons" is another very popular reef for a number of reasons. It includes many small caverns that harbor large grouper and dog-toothed snapper. There are many ledges and crevices to that provide protection to octopus, resting turtles, playful puffer fish, schools of goat fish, surgeon fish and a wide variety of star fish. Since Cabo

Pulmo is now a protected area, a large school of bat rays has taken residence here and it is not uncommon to see manta rays as well. The top side of this site is covered with what seems to be acres of elegant stony coral which provides a safe environment for frog fish, damsel, wrasse, and other colorful tropical reef fish.

(Cabo Pulmo) El Bajo (40' to 60')

is one of the favorite dive sites of most visitors to Cabo Pulmo. The boat ride is not more than 10 minutes out to the reef. We enter into the drifting current and glide over a pristine coral reef 55' below the surface. Large groupers, amberjacks, schools of big eyed jacks, yellow snapper and others, too numerous to mention, are frequently sighted here. Schools of mantas are known to move gracefully across the



sands on either side of the reef. Some divers have commented that "the visibility would have been better but we couldn't see through all the fish!". Surrounded by sand and thousands of garden eels, it's not unusual to see large pargo and grouper and you might spot whale sharks, porpoise, and manta rays. Swim into the current to prolong your dive but remember that this is a national park. Gloves, knives and the touching of anything are all strictly prohibited.

(Cabo Pulmo) El Moro (40' to 60')

is another fine section of the reef at Cabo Pulmo. Running parallel to El Bajo, it has many of the same features and marine life that you will witness at El Bajo. Be sure to look into the cracks and crevices to see large lurking grouper, giant green moray eels and other life.

(Cabo Pulmo) Las Casitas (25' to 40')

The little houses is a system of caves in shallow waters at the south end of the Bay. The unique geological formations are interesting. Of course you will witness the same corals, fans, tropical fish and Pelagics common to the area

Dive Sites: La Paz / The Islands

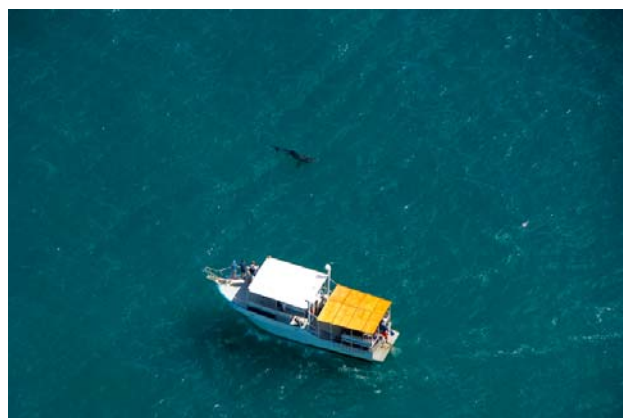


Diving in La Paz is a whole day of adventure and worth the extra effort! La Paz offers a number of dive sites to choose from including four different ship wrecks and a huge sea lion colony with several hundred sea lions in residence throughout the year. You may also see hammer

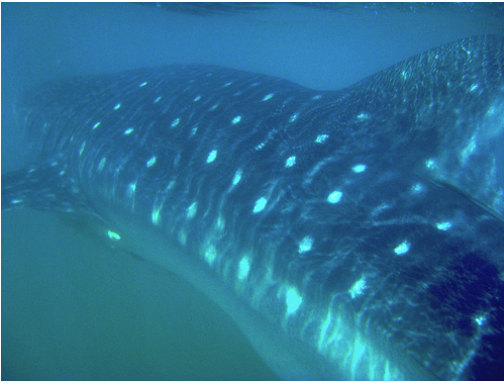
head sharks, whale sharks, and big Cuban mantas. All these species can be bigger than 8 feet long.



Day trips to La Paz are provided year-round from Cabo San Lucas by Blue Adventures. Pick-ups begin at 5:00am in San Jose del Cabo and 5:30am in Cabo San Lucas. Travel time to La Paz is about 2 hours from Cabo. The dive boat departs at 8:00am from the marina at Pichilique just North of La Paz. There are two options of diving itineraries. Divers can choose to attempt Whale Shark encounters in the Bay of La Paz with the assistance of a local ultra-light airplane. Then, travel to the Sea Lion colony at Los Islotes and the sunken United States WWII cruisers donated to Mexico by Washington. The other option involves a two hour boat ride to El Bajo to glimpse a school of Hammerhead Sharks on the Sea Mount, and then, a trip South to Isla Cerralvo to dive with Giant Pacific Manta Rays. Both are three tank dive trips and provide the best Baja California has to offer.



Los Islotes (25' to 50')



a good beginners' site, is situated half a mile north of Isla Espiritu Santo and Los Islotes, two large rock islets, one of which is a natural arch. Diving through the centre of this natural rock formation brimming with life you can expect to see dense schools of silver sardines, blue and gold king angel fish and yellow surgeon fish amongst golden cup corals. These islets are home to a colony of more than 200 Californian brown sea

lions. These inquisitive creatures take great interest in those visiting their home. One can often turn to find the pups pulling at your fins, eager to play, showing off and turning circles around your comparatively clumsy underwater movements. The larger bulls become very territorial during the mating season in protection of their harem. Underwater exploration of these islands is always exciting and offers a unique experience with each visit.



El Baja (60' to 100+)

is a seamount located about 8 miles from Los Islotes. Here you will find three distinct underwater peaks stretching along a three hundred yard line with the northern most rising to within 83ft of the surface, the central peak to within 52ft and the southern to within 69ft. The central peak, with its shallow depths and relatively flattop, is the primary dive site and anchoring location. El Baja is one of the premier dive sites in the world for schooling hammerhead sharks. The schools range from just a few sharks to hundreds, travelling in a clockwise direction around the seamount for



some unknown reason. While schooling, hammerheads are not aggressive and actually appear disinterested in divers. The seamount is also home to an abundance of sea life, schooling amber jacks and tuna, octopus and the impressive Panamic green moray; a colony of over fifty can be found in a small canyon. Aside from possible encounters with hammerheads frequent visitors to the seamount include; whale sharks and giant pacific manta rays. This dive is for experienced divers with an Advanced Open Water certification only.

Cabo San Lucas

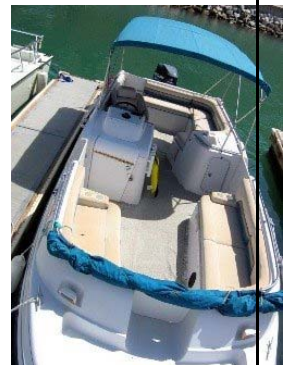
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Pacific Ocean

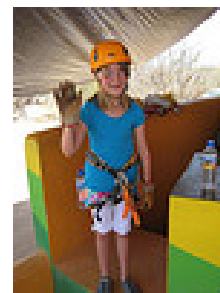
1. Amaron Restaurant	16. Casa Rafael's Hotel	31. La Golondrina Restaurant	46. Plaza Golden Palace
2. Amerimed Hospital	17. Castillo Blaney Hotel	32. La Panga Antiguo Cabo	47. Plaza San Basilio
3. Buzconner Queen	18. Casanova Restaurant	33. Mango Deck Restaurant	48. Port Captain's Office
4. Bank-Banamax	19. Charter de Los Cabos	34. Marina Cabo Plaza	49. Post Office (Correo)
5. Bank-Bancomer	20. DHL Office	35. Marina Mercado	50. Pub de la Chapu
6. Bank-Banorte	21. Dollar Rent a Car	36. ME by World Cabo	51. Realty Executives
7. Bank-HSBC	22. Edith's Restaurant	37. Nikki Beach	52. Red Cross (Cruz Roja)
8. Bank-Santander	23. Fire Dept/Tourist Police	38. No Worry's	53. Silverados Sportfishing
9. Bank-Scotiabank	24. Giggling Martin Bar	39. Paradise Sportfishing	54. Sportfishing Dock
10. Beach Clubs Restaurants	25. Galeria La Grande	40. Passion Club & Lounge	55. Sunset Weddings
11. Bus Station	26. Hospital de Especialidades	41. Payless Car Rental	56. Thrifty Car Rental
12. Cabo Dolphins	27. Immigration Office	42. Peacocks	57. The Original Park
13. Cabo Magic Sportfishing	28. IMSS Hospital	43. Plaza Aramburo	58. Tutto Bene Wine Store
14. Cabo Wabo	29. La Casa del Pico	44. Plaza de Los Mariachis	59. US. Consular Office
15. Cabo Hats	30. La Fonda Restaurant	45. Plaza del Sol	60. Winner 7

PEMEX Gas Station

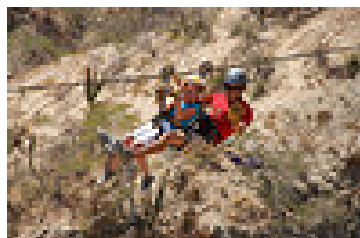
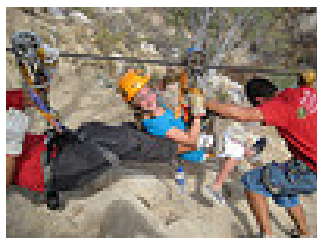


NON DIVING ACTIVITIES

WILDCANYONADVENTURES



[HTTP://WWW.WILDCANYON.COM.MX](http://www.wildcanyon.com.mx)



**BIG PLUNGE
MONSTER ZIP
DIVE BOMB**

Wild Canyon is home of ten MONSTER ZIPS(zip lines) including the longest in the baja of 815 meters, where you'll reach speeds up to 90 km/h. The BIG PLUNGE - a 100m high gondola-based bungee jump and the DIVE BOMB pendulum swing - a ride that is sure to have your adrenaline pumping the entire time!



HORSEBACK RIDING

Cuadra San Francisco Cabo Horses

[HTTP://WWW.LOSCABOSHORES.COM/](http://www.loscaboshorses.com/)

RED ROSE RIDING STABLES / Rancho Collins Horses

One hour – desert trail rides to the hills of Cabo Real to see the Great Thorn Forest or along a beautiful beach.

Two hour – rides in the desert where you'll experience many mysteries and rugged beauty.

Pass through the Arroyo San Carlos or Venado Blanco viewing awe inspiring rock formations and narrow canyons.

Or one hour to the beach and one hour to the hills of Cabo Real. It is like you are in a cowboy movie!



One hour trail ride

Médano Beach Trail Rides with spectacular views of The Arch, Cabo and Cabo San Lucas Bay.

Two hour trail ride

This exclusive trail takes you down shady paths, past our historic cemetery and then over the dunes to beautiful El Medano Beach.

Early morning is the ideal time to ride before the heat of the day sets in. Late afternoon for the sunset beach ride.

We recommend that you wear long pants, sock and tennis shoes

ATV Tours (all terrain vehicles)



Baja's Activities <http://www.bajasactivities.com/>

Cactus ATV tour http://www.cactusatvtours.com/about_us.htm



Desert-Beach Tour "Migriño"

Enjoy fresh Pacific Ocean air on your ATV tour to Playa Migriño

Our ATV tour will take you to the Pacific Ocean beach of Migriño, you will drive through desert and mountain areas until you arrive to the beautiful white sand beach.

Ride your ATV across the sands or relax on the beach and where whale watching is an added bonus between January and March of each year when gray whales pass the Baja Peninsula during their migration north.

Jeans and closed shoes are recommended for this three-hour tour. You can ride single or double, and we provide head gear, goggles, bandanas and water.

Total time is three hours including free transportation to the starting point which is about 25 miles north of Cabo San Lucas. Actual ATV driving time is two hours. A drivers license and credit card must be presented at the starting point to check-out ATVs.

Itinerary (12-22/11/2010) 11 days

12/11/2010

Hong Kong...Vancouver YVR) 1 night stay Vancouver downtown

13/11/2010

Vancouver...San Jose Cabo (SJD) direct flight

13-20/11/2010

8N/7D at Hotel Tesoro

6 days Diving at Local Cabo,Cabo Pulmo,Gordo Banks

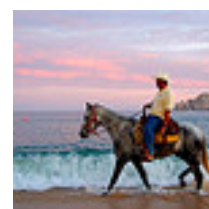
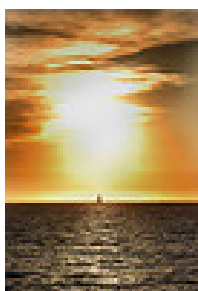
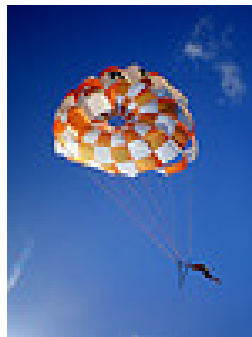
20/11/2010

SJD...Vancouver (direct flight)

21/11/2010

Vancouver...Hong Kong (direct flight)

arrive Hong Kong on 22/11/2010 0610 am



	13-Nov-09	14-Nov-09	15-Nov-09	16-Nov-09	17-Nov-09	18-Nov-09	19-Nov-09
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
		Dive 1	Dive 2	Dive 3	Dive 4	Dive 5	Dive 6
Morning	Check in Tesoro Resort	Cabo Local dive X3	Cabo Pulmo day trip X3	Cabo Local dive x3	Cabo Pulmo or Gordo Banks day trip X3	Cabo Local dive X3	Cabo Local dive X2
Afternoon							Monster Zip
Evening				Optional night dive		Optional night dive	

20-Nov-09
Day 8
ATV tour
Check out Tesoro