

# Times Square Chronicles

## Los Cabos Tourism Board Hosts New York City Breakfast



Published 14 hours ago on November 6, 2025

By [ElizaBeth Taylor](#)



On Oct, 28, an intimate breakfast with the **Los Cabos Tourism Board** took place at Kahlo Restaurant. A dozen invited guests came to experience and learn about one of Mexico's most fascinating destinations. Over coffee, *pan dulce*, and delicious morning entrees. Data for the New York and Northeast travel market to Los Cabos were shared along with the destination's upcoming luxury developments. In addition, information was shared about sustainability, wellness and more in Los Cabos and Mexico at large.



Whether celebrating one year or 50, a trip to Los Cabos is a vacation you will never forget. The pristine blue waters of the Sea of Cortez create the perfect backdrop for any kind of getaway. If you're planning

your next travel adventure, ready for some fun with friends, family, the love of your life or fortunate enough to conduct business on the beach, Los Cabos holds the key to every door in your imagination.

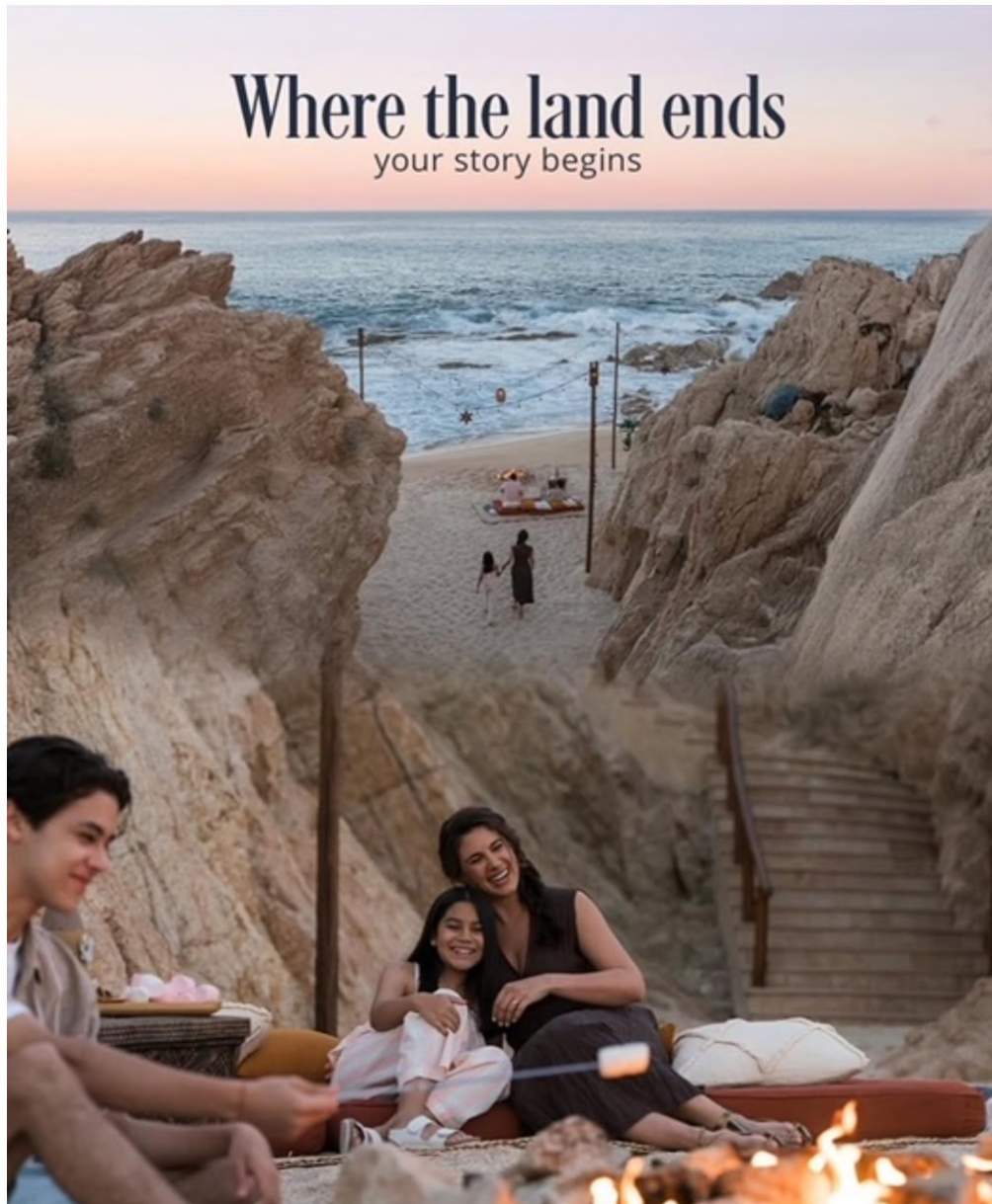


Los Cabos always welcomes you whether by air, land or sea for a relaxing and enjoyable stay in paradise. There are more than 550 weekly flights from 40 destinations, connecting different places in the United States, Canada, and Latin America. There are also nearly 40 direct flights from New York City during the peak season of November to April.

The top priority is the health and wellbeing of travelers, their loved ones and the community. The Los Cabos Tourism Board works with national and local health authorities, hospitals, care units, airport, port, hotels, resorts, and travel partners to implement health and security.

Where the land ends your story begins is often a description for the destination that boasts the title of the world's largest aquarium. From land to sea it is simply splendid. Enjoy a day at the beach or take in a

morning of rounds at the world's best golf courses where sights of the mountains to the ocean captivate your gaze.



Culinary delights are just as enticing. Gastronomy lovers can enjoy fresh food with incredible farm and ocean to table experiences. Several local restaurants are included in *Michelin's* first-ever guide for Mexico, highlighting the country's thriving culinary scene. And shoppers will fall in love as well with new store openings with high-end merchandise to local finds.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

# Mexico News

— DAILY —

## New hotels and resorts in Los Cabos, 2025-2030

Chris Sands

November 8, 2025



The long-awaited St. Regis Los Cabos hotel at Quivira is expected to open by summer 2026. (Blasson Property Investments)

At least nine new hotels and resorts are slated to open in Los Cabos between now and 2030, adding an estimated 1,000 new rooms to the current inventory of [21,744](#), and bringing the total number of such properties up from 185 to 194.

The number of new hotels and resorts expected during this timeframe is in line with the pace of recent development. For example, 14 new accommodations premiered between 2015 and 2020, with eight more opening in the last five years. However, what's really interesting is not the numbers but rather the properties themselves and the luxury brands behind them.

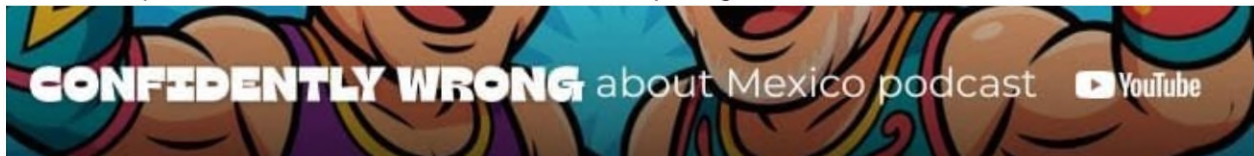


The Park Hyatt Los Cabos at Cabo del Sol opens this month in Los Cabos. (Hyatt)

### **Los Cabos continues its transformation as a luxury destination**

Over the past decade, several prominent [luxury hospitality](#) brands have opened hotels and resorts in Los Cabos, including the Ritz-Carlton, Four Seasons, Waldorf Astoria, and Nobu. That trend will continue moving forward, as St. Regis, Soho House, Aman, Raffles and Delano all enter the market.

Here's an update on what new hotels and resorts are opening and when:



### **Park Hyatt Los Cabos at Cabo del Sol**

This resort has experienced numerous recent delays, a phenomenon not exactly unknown when it comes to opening new hotels ... especially in Los Cabos. However, the Park Hyatt Los Cabos at Cabo del Sol is currently accepting reservations and officially opens this month along La Ruta Escénica, less than 7 miles from Cabo San Lucas.

The Park Hyatt will feature 163 guest rooms and suites, and a host of high-end amenities, including five swimming pools and, at 59,000 square feet, the most expansive fitness and wellness facilities on the Baja California peninsula. Guests will also have tee time access to the Tom Weiskopf-designed Cabo del Col Desert Course.

### **Soho House Los Cabos**

Soho House has also seen some delays, not to mention confusion about the number of accommodations. When the project was first announced, it was expected to include 70 available accommodations for members. That number will actually only be 15 (12 casas and 3 casonas), albeit with an additional 45 residences and 5 villas built for owners.

Like Park Hyatt, Soho House will be set within the Cabo del Sol development, and when completed, will feature a signature restaurant, a trio of bars, a beach club, and a Soho Health Club with gym and wellness facilities. The architectural firm that designed Soho House, Sordo Madaleno in Mexico City, is lauded in Los Cabos for its elegant work on the iconic Westin Los Cabos and Solaz Los Cabos projects. Estimates for Soho House's opening are early 2026.

The best option: The Family Plan

Mexico News  
— DAILY —

+ MNDKIDS



The Soho House in Los Cabos is expected to be an oasis of gracious living when it premieres soon. (Soho House)

#### [St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira](#)

Speaking of delays, the St. Regis has dealt with several — from the coronavirus pandemic to labor shortages — since [announcing a 120-room hotel and 60 residences](#) at Quivira on the Pacific Coast of Cabo San Lucas in 2017. However, the hotel is on track to open in the summer of 2026, according to the [latest updates](#), and residences are also proceeding apace. Most have been sold, with many owners able to move in by the end of this year.

Guests at the hotel, when it does welcome them, will have access to the Jack Nicklaus-crafted golf course at Quivira, which features some truly spectacular views. The signature restaurant, meanwhile, will be helmed by acclaimed Mexican chef Carlos Gaytan, who earned a coveted Michelin star in 2013 for his Chicago-based Mexique.

#### [Amanvari](#)

The 1,500-acre Costa Palmas development at La Ribera on the East Cape is already home to one luxury resort: the Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos at Costa Palmas, which opened in 2019. In 2026, it should be

joined by another, that being the five-star Amanvari from the Swiss boutique luxury hospitality brand Aman.

The resort will feature only [18 freestanding casitas](#), along with at least 24 residences. The former will be built on stilts with wraparound decks, swimming pools, and access to the onsite temazcal sweat lodge and open-air yoga pavilion. In return for the exclusivity and the attendant personalized service of such an intimate property — Aman typically features staff-to-guest ratios of 4:1 or even 6:1 — casitas are expected to fetch in the neighborhood of US \$3,000 per night.

#### [Grand Hyatt Los Cabos at Oleada](#)

The Oleada Golf Links from four-time major champion Ernie “Big Easy” Els is scheduled to be completed by mid-2026 as part of the 860-acre Oleada development on the Pacific Coast of Cabo San Lucas, nestled between Diamante and Rancho San Lucas. Thus, the golf course will be ready and waiting for guests when the Grand Hyatt opens its 300-room property, reportedly by the end of next year. However, that won't be the luxury accommodation option at Oleada.

#### [Conrad Los Cabos](#)

The Conrad Los Cabos from Hilton — the Conrad chain is named for Hilton Hotels founder Conrad Hilton — will join Grand Hyatt at Oleada by 2027 with a property consisting of 130 guestrooms, 40 residences, and, of course, numerous amenities. The design is courtesy of [Architectos Legorreta](#), one of Mexico's most acclaimed firms.



The 300-room Grand Hyatt Los Cabos at Oleada is expected to open by the end of 2026. (Oleada Los Cabos)

#### [SIRO Palmilla](#)

Hospitality brand SIRO from Kerzner International is a wellness specialist. No surprise, then, that the SIRO Palmilla, expected to open in 2027 in the Palmilla Reserve, just over a mile from the iconic One&Only Palmilla, reflects a focus on nutrition, fitness, relaxation and recovery. Perhaps the most

intriguing amenity at the 120-room resort will be the onsite Recovery Lab, which will feature everything from cryotherapy chambers and vibroacoustic therapy beds to infrared and oxygen therapies.

**Delano East Cape and Raffles Estera East Cape Resort & Residences**

Not much is known at present about these properties from luxury hospitality brands Delano and Raffles, since both were only recently announced. The Delano East Cape is expected to open in 2029, as is the Raffles Estera East Cape, but each could experience the sort of delays common to hotel and resort projects in Mexico.

It's not even known, for instance, exactly where on the East Cape these resorts will be located, although that should be confirmed as soon as construction begins. What is confirmed is that the Delano East Cape will have 117 guestrooms and 60 residences, as well as 100 meters of beachfront access on the Gulf of California (known to locals as the Sea of Cortés). Raffles, meanwhile, will offer 80 guestrooms and 46 residences.



## The 10 best hotels in Los Cabos

[Chamida Ford](#)

Nov 26, 2025 • 5 min read



The best hotels in Los Cabos. Los Cabos Tourism Board

On the tip of the [Baja Peninsula](#) lies Los Cabos: a year-round, coastal getaway with mesmerizing marine life, beaches that stun and hotels for whatever mood you're trying to set. Whether you're planning a bacation, some kind of "moon," an epic girls' trip or a multigenerational bonding moment, Los Cabos can provide.

These [10 hotels](#) are the region's best, possibly perfect, winter escapes.



Waldorf Astoria. Los Cabos Tourism Board

Advertisement

## 1. The Waldorf Astoria in Pedregal

### Best for authentic luxury

[The Waldorf Astoria in Pedregal](#) is everything you want in a luxe hotel. The immaculately designed rooms manage to feel both warm and inviting. Make no mistake, the hotel maintains Waldorf's signature style, but the nods to [Oaxaca](#) and Bajan design help it feel unique to Los Cabos. With infinity pools that seem to melt into the ocean and a world-class spa complete with tailored massages, you'll leave feeling refreshed. Beyond relaxing, you'll find a variety of activities ranging from working with onsite healers through yoga and cacao rituals to Mexican wine tasting and cooking lessons.



Esperanza Beach Resort. Los Cabos Tourism Board

## 2. Esperanza Beach Resort

### Best for families

Nestled on a private cove, [Esperanza](#) is perfect for those looking to really get away. As the only private beach resort in Los Cabos, there is something extra special about your time here. From the way the architecture melds with the natural landscape of scraggly rocks and dramatic bluffs to experiences like foraging for sea urchins with the hotel's chef, you will feel transported. Plus, with its own kids' and teens' club, it is an ideal option for families.



Todos Santos Boutique Hotel. Los Cabos Tourism Board

### 3. Todos Santos Boutique Hotel

#### Best for city living

For those who prefer city views to ocean vistas and want to venture off campus, the [Todos Santos Boutique Hotel](#) is a fantastic option. The design throughout the hotel is stellar, inspired by the building's long history with bits of its 1890s originality. With hand-painted murals throughout and only 10 rooms, you'll find that privacy, attention to detail and elevated stays go hand in hand. The staff encourages guests to disconnect from the stressors of everyday life and leave phones on do-not-disturb. Whether you are relaxing here or out exploring the city, you can feel fully immersed in the history of Los Cabos.



Amet Nature Retreat. Los Cabos Tourism Board

Advertisement

#### **4. Amet Nature Retreat**

##### **Best for getting into nature**

If escaping to the wilderness is what your soul is craving, head to [Amet Nature Retreat](#), where enjoying the natural wonders of Los Cabos is the main goal. The hotel is shrouded in trees with easy access to waterfall and hot spring hikes, UTV explorations, birdwatching at dawn and kayaking on lagoons. With both suites and elevated glamping style tents, you can feel as embraced in the outdoors as you please.



Paradero Todos Santos. Yoshihiro Koitani Photography

## 5. Paradero Todos Santos

### Best for lovers of architecture

Blending seamlessly with the desert landscape, [Paradero Todos Santos](#) leans into the tan rocky structures with its modern brutalist architecture. This stunning haven feels removed from the rest of the world, surrounded by an expansive and uninhabited landscape. While more inland than your typical Los Cabos stay, it is only a 10-minute drive to the beach. Plus, the hotel has a range of beach activities at your disposal that they can arrange and provide transportation to. Surf, watch for whales, and dine with an ocean view.



The Four Seasons. Los Cabos Tourism Board

## 6. Four Seasons Resort and Residences Cabo San Lucas at Cabo Del Sol

### Best for golfers

Los Cabos has a robust offering of golf courses, but the [Four Seasons](#) is our favorite. While you stay at the Four Seasons, you have access to the [Cabo Del Sol Golf Course](#), which is just a quick golf cart ride from the hotel. The course has ocean views from every hole, meaning you can still enjoy the beauty of Los Cabos while playing a round. For the non-golfers in the family, the resort has a swimmable beach, an array of pools to savor, cooking classes, stargazing and boating excursions.



Montage Los Cabos. Los Cabos Tourism Board

## 7. Montage Los Cabos

### Best for beachgoers

Nestled on a bay, the [Montage](#) is a beachfront oasis. For those who love to spend their time playing in the sand and enjoying calm waters, the Montage is ideal. With night diving available for scuba divers as well as kayaking, snorkeling and fishing excursions, everyone in your family can enjoy Los Cabos' crystal-clear waters. Ride horses along the sandy shores or grab a surfboard and ride the waves; endless ways exist to make the most of the beach at this resort.



Drift Hotel. Los Cabos Tourism Board

## 8. Drift

### Best for surfers

The [Drift](#) hotel, located in [San José del Cabo](#), is the perfect place for surfers looking for a calmer atmosphere than you will find at the larger resorts of Los Cabos. This boutique hotel is in the heart of town, with access to local restaurants like [Flora Farms](#) and [Acre](#), both upscale farm-to-table dining experiences. Drift also offers a complimentary surf package where you are able to borrow surfboards, Bluetooth speakers and a soft rack for your car. Drift is ideal for travelers with their own car and plans to explore Los Cabos for a while.



Marquis Los Cabos. Los Cabos Tourism Board

## 9. Marquis Los Cabos

### Best for couples

When you arrive at [Marquis Los Cabos](#), it is impossible to ignore the sweeping views of the Sea of Cortez. Considered an adult-only paradise, the Marquis is ideal for couples looking to escape to the beach and reconnect with each other. The all-inclusive resort has five restaurants on campus with options to dine alfresco or unwind in a moody atmosphere offering a range of cuisines. You'll also find a fantastic spa offering classic services, such as massages and facials, as well as advanced packages like hydrotherapy. Marquis can help you explore beyond the hotel with activities like historic art walks through town and water activities. Here, you and your partner will want for nothing.



The Cape, a Thompson Hotel.

## 10. The Cape, a Thompson Hotel

### Best for amenities fans

With a saltwater pool carved into the natural formations of the land and a rooftop lounge to watch the sun sink into the ocean-filled horizon, this sleek and modern hotel puts the stunning ocean views at the forefront of its design. Beyond the views, [The Cape, a Thompson Hotel](#), is buzzing with activities. It offers workout classes to start your day, wine tastings, and every Thursday night, you'll find live music and grilling at their restaurant, The Ledge. While swimming in the ocean here isn't advised, you will have access to a lengthy infinity pool steps from the beach.



**Los Cabos Tourism Executive Details New and Noteworthy Destination Developments**

by [Claudette Covey](#)

Last updated: 11:00 AM ET, Sun November 30, 2025



*The new ad campaign is designed to broaden the narrative on Los Cabos. (Photo Credit: Los Cabos Tourism Board)*

TravelPulse caught up with Rodrigo Esponda, managing director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board, for an update on a wide variety of subjects, including the destination's new campaign, "Where the Land Ends, Your Story Begins," the ever-expanding number of new resorts, the continued growth of the luxury market and more.

Here's what he had to say.

**What distinguishes the new campaign from those of the past?**

The "[Where the Land Ends, Your Story Begins](#)" campaign represents a pivotal and strategic evolution in our messaging and vision. We are moving beyond simply showcasing our breathtaking natural beauty to inviting a deeply personal and transformative experience for every traveler.

The campaign broadens the narrative of Los Cabos, emphasizing that we are far more than just a beach vacation; we are a dynamic tapestry of desert, coastal and marine ecosystems offering endless adventures.

Through our new campaign, we are seeking to redefine luxury and wellness, illustrating that these concepts extend beyond traditional spas and yoga to include authentic, immersive experiences.

Marine safaris offer educational experiences that connect visitors with nature. Sunrise kayaking and bird watching offer a serene setting and encourage a deep appreciation for one's surroundings, and our pristine golf courses engage the mind, body and soul all at once.



*Whale-watching in Los Cabos is a popular activity. (Photo Credit: Los Cabos Tourism Board)*

Our holistic approach highlights Los Cabos' rich cultural heritage, revered gastronomy and diverse activities, positioning it as a premium yet accessible destination that offers tailor-made experiences for every interest, ultimately encouraging visitors to discover their own unique narrative within our extraordinary landscape.

#### **What are the latest developments regarding new hotels and resorts?**

[Los Cabos](#) is undergoing an extraordinary period of growth in its hotel infrastructure, particularly within the luxury segment. We have a projected \$900 million investment in new luxury hotel developments over the next three to four years, which will add hundreds of rooms from some of the world's most prestigious brands.

This includes upcoming openings such as Soho House & Beach Club, St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira and St. Regis Residences, Park Hyatt Los Cabos, Rosewood Residences Old Lighthouse, Amanvari, Grand Hyatt, SIRO Palmilla, and Raffles Hotel and Resort.

The opening of *Ánima Village* in December 2025 will elevate our luxury retail and lifestyle offerings, bringing top-tier brands to Los Cabos, including Hermès and the first Zimmermann store in Latin America

In all, Los Cabos is the home to 15 [Virtuoso](#) hotels, six Preferred Hotels & Resorts, three Leading Hotels of the World and nine AAA 5-Diamond hotels.

**How was business this year compared to last year?**

Los Cabos has been able to sustain growth in international visits this year through our proximity and connectivity with the US, unique and personalized travel experiences, excellent customer service and overall value.



*Los Cabos offers travelers an array of active pursuits, which include e-biking. (Photo Credit: Los Cabos Tourism Board)*

Hotel occupancy is at 74% as of August 2025, which is two percentage points higher compared to the same time period in 2024, with an average daily rate of \$352. Total air passengers from January to August 2025 have also increased by almost two percentage points when compared to last year, for a total of 2.63 million visitors.

Additionally, we've seen a strong and sustained demand for luxury experiences, demonstrated by the 13.2% increase in international private plane arrivals compared to 2024, including an astounding 81% increase since 2019.

Also, tourist satisfaction indicators remain at their highest levels, and repeat visitors continue to increase. Seventy-one percent of tourists rate Los Cabos as “more than expected,” and the percentage of returning visitors has stayed around 40% throughout 2025.

### **Are you witnessing any changes in terms of guest demographics?**

While the US continues to be a top priority market for the destination – over half of travelers visiting Los Cabos come from the US – one of the changes we’ve seen recently is a more discerning, wellness-minded traveler. Twenty-three percent of all travelers to Los Cabos now report wellness among their top priorities when visiting, and these individuals are spending an average of \$3,000 per trip specifically on our wellness offerings.

Year-over-year in-destination spending has been rising as well, showing that travelers across demographics are increasingly willing to invest in richer, more meaningful experiences at the destination.

### **What’s new on the airline front?**

Along with the increase in international private plane arrivals, Los Cabos receives 600-plus weekly direct flights globally, with direct connectivity from 32 cities across the US and 330-plus weekly direct flights.

Additionally, three new flights from the US began operating this year. Volaris began operating flights from Oakland, Calif., to Los Cabos on March 30 and from Ontario, Calif., to Los Cabos on July 4. Southwest connected Nashville, Tenn., with Los Cabos on March 8.

In the next six months, scheduled air seats from the US are expected to reach 1.51 million, which is an 11.5% increase from the same time period in 2024.

### **What can travel advisors tell their clients regarding safety issues in Los Cabos?**

Security is paramount in Los Cabos, and we have a comprehensive, multi-layered strategy in place to ensure visitors feel and are safe and secure at the destination.

Our approach includes a reinforced military presence, an enhanced Marine-led safety model, a dedicated security committee for coordinated strategies and a unified public-private security initiative with 24-hour surveillance across all major hotels. This ensures a safe and secure environment, allowing travelers to feel confident and at ease.

### **How important are sustainability issues to Los Cabos?**

Los Cabos is also committed to a [holistic approach to sustainability](#), focusing on the betterment of the local community, protection of its natural ecosystems and preservation of its culture.

To that end, a breadth of conscious, nature-centered experiences are available to explore, including visits with rescued and rehabilitated camels, conservation and rescue programs for the destination's turtle hatchlings and more.

Part of Los Cabos' sustainability vision is a shift in focus to community-based tourism, which is the active engagement and collaboration with its local communities.

For example, located in the heart of downtown San Jose del Cabo, the Sabores San Jose is a weekly celebration of the culinary richness of the area, offering attendees a cultural journey filled with color, flavor and authentic Baja spirit.

## yahoo!creators

**I just ate my way through Cabo — these are the 5 restaurants I'd book again on my next visit**  
Michelin meals, cliffside sunsets with live music, and flavors I'm still thinking about — these spots are absolutely worth planning your trip around.

Jill Schildhouse

Mon, December 8, 2025 at 12:07 PM CST



I've done Cabo the usual ways before — pool days, beach bars, frozen drinks you forget by morning. This time, I wanted something different. I chose a non-all-inclusive hotel and built my itinerary around restaurants that are redefining what dining in Cabo looks like. Cabo's elevated culinary scene isn't just an upgrade — it's a complete reintroduction to a place I thought I already understood.

Yes, most of these meals are splurges — I'm not going to pretend otherwise — but they earn the price tag with thoughtful cooking, surprising flavors and settings that make the experience part of the memory. These aren't just "nice for a vacation" meals. They're destination-worthy.

If you're ready to experience Cabo through flavor, not just sunshine, start with these five standouts.

[Manta at The Cape](#)



**What to order:** tasting menu, tuna sashimi, miso fish tacos, chile-crusted ribeye, miso dark-chocolate flan  
Manta — the signature restaurant at The Cape, A Thompson Hotel and a [MICHELIN Guide Restaurant](#) — is built on [Enrique Olvera's](#) belief that the Pacific isn't a border; it's a bridge. The menu connects Japanese, Peruvian, and Mexican ingredients and techniques with the confidence of a chef who's shaped Mexico's rise in global dining.



I went straight for the five-course family-style tasting menu (\$147 USD per person). Course after course pushed flavor forward without turning fussy: a beetroot ceviche with ginger-habanero heat and a silky bean hummus, followed by aji amarillo-sharpened tuna sashimi and a seafood aguachile that hit citrus, spice and freshness in perfect balance. Then came the show-stopper: a chile-crust ribeye with steamed spinach and sesame — rich, smoky, and impossible to leave on the plate.

The sommelier surprised me with Mexican wine pairings that felt adventurous, not experimental. And the avocado-forward Casa Dragones cocktail? Let's just say I'm now a believer.

**Bottom line:** Book this if you want to see just how good Cabo can be.

**Pro tip:** Sunset seating. Always.

[Ruba's Bakery & Bistro](#)



**What to order:** short rib brioche, birria sandwich with consommé

[Ruba's Bakery & Bistro](#) has back-to-back [Michelin recognition](#) (2024 and 2025), but you'd never know it from the vibe: a long bar built out of a boat, a colorful patio dripping with murals and greenery, and a steady hum of locals who clearly know exactly what they're doing.

We split two sandwiches and couldn't decide which was superior: the short rib brioche stacked with a perfectly runny poached egg and horseradish dressing that woke everything up, and the birria sandwich — gooey jack cheese inside, rich consommé on the side — that we dunked until the last drop disappeared. Zero crumbs survived.



This is Michelin-level comfort food — generous, unfussy, unforgettable.

**Bottom line:** Breakfast here will ruin every other breakfast on your trip.

**Pro tip:** Patio or bust — it's half the joy.

[Acre](#)



**What to order:** soft-shell crab taco, crispy rice with caviar, whole fish a la talla, frozen key lime pie, mango cocktails

[Acre](#) is a jungly dreamscape: treehouses you can stay in, a mango orchard that fuels the cocktails, and a menagerie of sweet-faced farm animals in a sanctuary to interact with. It's the kind of hotel that reminds you travel is supposed to feel magical.

We sat on the lush open-air patio of the restaurant, and the chef took the lead. Cheddar biscuits arrived warm with honey butter and moringa leaf — flaky and dangerously addictive. A soft-shell crab taco balanced crunch and citrus with a little wasabi pop. New York steak tacos dripped with melted Chihuahua cheese. We devoured tuna crudo, crispy rice topped with caviar, roasted shishitos, and a whole fish a la talla.



Then came the frozen key lime pie. I'm a chocolate-only dessert person, yet I am still thinking about that delicious pie.

We'd done a mango mixology class earlier — shaking cocktails made from fruit we'd literally seen hanging above us — and that connection made every sip taste better.

**Bottom line:** The definition of a “don't rush this” dinner.

**Pro tip:** Book around golden hour — the lighting is unreal.

[Sunset Monalisa](#)



**What to order:** kampachi carpaccio, yellowtail tuna on black brioche, black-truffle fettuccine  
There are memorable meals — and then there are cinematic ones. [Sunset Monalisa](#) is terraced into a cliff overlooking the iconic Arch, and every seat faces the show. As the sky turned gold, a guitarist set the mood; as it turned pink, two opera singers walked directly to our table and performed “Time to Say Goodbye.” I had goosebumps.



Each evening, Sunset Monalisa pauses for Symphony of the Whales — a gong, conch shells and a soprano’s voice joining recorded whale song from the Sea of Cortez. It’s a moment designed to pull you into the ocean’s rhythm before dinner even begins.

We surrendered to the Signature six-course menu (\$167 USD per person). The progression was stunning without being stiff: kampachi carpaccio brightened with preserved lemon and fennel gazpacho; a yellowtail brioche with bone marrow mayo, ponzu and truffle; and a black-truffle fettuccine so decadent the whole table paused to process it. My favorite course? Bone marrow topped with yellowfin tuna tartare, aged ponzu, arugula, and served alongside sourdough. I'd eat it daily if I could.



Proposals happen here almost every night. In 2025, they hosted around 100 weddings. It's not hard to understand why.

**Bottom line:** The place to celebrate something — or someone — important.

**Pro tip:** First seating = sunset → twilight → stars. Trust me.

**Cocina de Autor at Grand Velas**



**What to order:** chef's tasting menu — let the story unfold

If you want a tasting menu that feels like a conversation with the region, [Cocina de Autor](#) delivers. The 4,680 MXN (~\$250 USD) experience unfolds like chapters.

A welcome bite of escamole — delicate and surprising — set the tone. Then: red snapper katsubushi in a whisper-light dashi with hoja santa and grapefruit; Wagyu tartare layered with miso mayo and smoked cheese; a totoaba dish celebrating Baja's waters, elevated with jalapeño and nixtamal; and a triple-seared Angus steak with bourbon amanzu — bold without overpowering freshness.



Dessert — a coconut mousseline with mango-yuzu and basil latte — was the kind of clean finish that makes you want one more bite, not a nap.

We dined under the night sky, relaxed, unhurried — the opposite of performative luxury.

**Bottom line:** For food lovers who want meaning on the plate.

**Pro tip:** Clear your evening — this is not a quick dinner.

**If you go: Where to stay**

**The Cape, A Thompson Hotel**

Ocean views from every room — and Manta downstairs, which is wildly convenient. Clean lines, killer scenery, comfy poolside cabanas, beach access, incredible room service food, and easy access to the hotspots.



**Esperanza, Auberge Collection**

Luxurious, tranquil, and home to a spa treatment that reset my entire nervous system (the 90-minute Esperanza Signature Massage) . A perfect counterbalance to big nights out.



### Acre Resort

Treehouse suites hidden in a lush mango orchard make this one of Cabo's most unique places to stay. If you want endless ambiance — lantern-lit pathways, design-forward rooms, and that incredible restaurant just steps away — Acre delivers atmosphere you can't replicate at a traditional resort.



**Final thoughts**

Cabo isn't just a beach destination anymore — it's a culinary one. These meals changed how I think about this place and how I'll plan every future visit. Once you taste Cabo like this, there's no going back.

# Mexico News

— DAILY —

## MND Local: More flights, more unauthorized beach vendors and other seasonal news from Los Cabos

[Chris Sands](#)

December 10, 2025



Los Cabos always maintains its laid-back attitude, even when there's breaking news. (Marco Samaniego/Unsplash)

“Few elements shape the development and sustainability of a tourism destination as decisively as air connectivity,” Rodrigo Esponda Cascajares, Managing Director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board, wrote in a recent article for [Mexico Business News](#). “The destination’s capacity to connect with national and international markets determines not only how many visitors it attracts, but the very trajectory of its economic and social development. Connectivity is the bridge between opportunity and viability and, when managed strategically, the cornerstone of sustainable tourism.

“A widely held belief in the tourism industry is that airlines will only inaugurate a route once passenger demand justifies it. In practice, however, that view is overly simplistic. Air routes are not purely reactive outcomes of demand; they are strategic enablers of growth.”

## **2 new flights announced for Los Cabos 2026, and another is expected soon**



Esponda’s belief in the power of connectivity as a driver for tourism in Los Cabos has long been evident. Since he assumed his current job nearly a decade ago, in October 2016, new flights **connecting Los Cabos to the world** have appeared with regularity. Currently, for example, there are flights to Los Cabos from 32 destinations in the U.S., 16 within Mexico, 11 in Canada, one in Europe, and one in Central America – the latter connecting to markets in the Caribbean and South America. And yes, more are on the way in 2026.

In fact, during the **Los Cabos VIP Summit** in November, the 19th edition of the business forum that brings together key players in the tourism sector, Esponda confirmed two new non-stop flights from Indianapolis and Las Vegas, via Southwest Airlines, that will begin service during the coming year.



Non-stop flights from Indianapolis to Los Cabos on Southwest will commence on March 5, 2026, or just in time for Spring Break. Flights from [Las Vegas](#), meanwhile, are slated to begin next June and will be notable as the only non-stop service available to Los Cabos from “Sin City.” Las Vegas to Puerto Vallarta flights start at the same time and are part of a broader strategy by Southwest to expand its international service.

A third new flight for 2026 should also be announced at some point, as Esponda told me during a recent interview that he’s expecting a flight from Boston to Los Cabos to be added by the end of next year.

## **Out-of-control beach vendors in Cabo San Lucas**

Only a few months ago, during the summer, Los Cabos looked as if it had finally solved the problem of unauthorized vendors on Cabo San Lucas' ever-popular Playa El Médano. At the time, it was **reported** that 300 unauthorized vendors had been swept from the pristine two-mile stretch of golden sand by municipal officials, and that only the 698 properly permitted vendors would remain to annoy tourists and locals alike. Not only that, but new uniforms and ID cards had been issued to avoid any future confusion.

However, on Nov. 10, when the **Los Cabos Coordinating Council** (CCC) called a press conference to announce that the problem of unauthorized vendors had increased, confusion once again seemed to reign. Although, to be clear, when they said the number of unpermitted vendors was 300 – the same number quoted just months earlier – it felt more like business as usual.

### **An ongoing issue**

Several groups have chimed in on the effects of the ongoing issue. The head of the CCC noted that unauthorized vendors were in effect taking money out of the pockets of those who are permitted, a point also made by the head of the Revolutionary Workers' Confederation (COR), who, while speaking on behalf of the vendors, noted that Médano Beach has become oversaturated with unlicensed sandy salespeople. The head of the Hotel Association, meanwhile, reported the obvious: that tourists are complaining. Because ... of course. No one's idea of a great vacation is having to say "No, gracias," every 30 seconds.

The problem was soon addressed, with a government representative saying that most of the unauthorized vendors have **now been removed**. But the odds of the problem popping up again in the near future seem pretty high, based on past results. As to why that is, Adrián Mendoza, leader of the COR, may have hit on the reason when he cited a lack of institutional control. Julio Castillo Gómez, president of the CCC, went even further, per **Peninsular Digital**, suggesting that "if any alleged collusion between officials and the unregulated vendors is confirmed, then complaints will be filed with the Public Prosecutor's Office."

## **Los Cabos golf course wins prestigious award**

Solmar Golf Links, the picturesque Greg Norman-designed course originally known as Rancho San Lucas Golf Club when it premiered in 2020 on the Pacific Coast of Cabo San Lucas, has been named **Latin America's Best Course** for 2025 by the World Golf Awards. It's not the first layout on the Baja California peninsula to earn the distinguished title – Danzante Bay in Loreto won it in 2019. But it's certainly a feather in the cap for one of Los Cabos' best but most underrated courses.

Known for Norman's British-style revetted bunkering and the distinctive island green on the par-3 17th, **Solmar Golf Links** has also garnered good press for its environmentally responsible approach to course design. SeaDwarf Paspalum, in which the fairways and greens are covered, is a grass known to reduce water and fertilizer requirements. Solmar Golf Links is also one of two courses in Los Cabos certified by Audubon International for its wildlife and habitat management. (Fred Couples' Twin Dolphin is the other.)

Of course, it bears noting that Solmar Golf Links isn't the only local course to receive plaudits. Two local loops made Golf Digest's list of the "**World 100 Greatest Golf Courses**" for 2024-2025: Jack Nicklaus-designed Cabo del Sol Cove Club (#100) and the Davis Love III-crafted Diamante Dunes Course (#47).



## 5 perfect days in Los Cabos

By Laura Begley Bloom Dec 11, 2025 • 13 minutes read



Balandra Beach in Los Cabos. *Image: OttawaRazor/Tripadvisor*

Thirty years ago I came to [Los Cabos](#) as a single girl on assignment to write a honeymoon article. And I fell hard for this area at the tip of Mexico's [Baja California](#). Since then, my relationship with Los Cabos has continued as the area evolved from a quiet fishing destination into a place with Michelin-recognized dining, high-end resorts, and access to some of the richest marine life on the planet.

What hasn't changed is the variety of what you'll find here. Los Cabos can be as glamorous or as easygoing as you want. You can grab a cerveza at a barefoot beach bar in [Cabo San Lucas](#) or sip craft cocktails at a glass-walled lounge overlooking Land's End. Wander through eclectic boutiques in [Todos Santos](#) or shop for world-class art at a high-end gallery in [San Jose del Cabo](#). Snorkel along coral reefs in [Cabo Pulmo](#) or charter a catamaran to take you whale watching. That mix is what keeps me coming back.

Over the years, I've built a long list of go-to spots. And lucky for you, this itinerary narrows it down to the best of the best, cross-referenced with Tripadvisor reviews to make sure your vacation is top-notch.

### Is five days in Los Cabos enough?

Five days is the sweet spot. It gives you time to experience the full sweep of the region: the iconic beaches of [Cabo San Lucas](#), the creative energy of [Todos Santos](#), the coastal charm of La Paz, the wild reef system of Cabo Pulmo, and the galleries and farm-to-table scene in [San Jose del Cabo](#). You're not rushing, you're not backtracking, and you get to see how each part of the peninsula has its own vibe.

Definitely rent a car to explore on your own. The drive is part of the experience. Roads are well maintained and clearly marked, though the route between Todos Santos and [Cabo Pulmo](#) can be winding and remote. (If you're coming for less time, check out our [three-day](#) or [four-day](#) itineraries.)

## DAY ONE



Arch Tour, Cabo San Lucas. Image: [diabloplumero/Tripadvisor](#)

### MORNING: Cabo beaches and El Arco

The first thing to know about Los Cabos is that it's big—really big. It's named for the two main towns, [Cabo San Lucas](#) and [San Jose del Cabo](#), which are linked by a 20-mile corridor lined with resorts and beaches. But there's so much more to the area, which keeps expanding with new developments in the surrounding Baja Peninsula. Spend the first day exploring in Cabo, starting with breakfast at [El Jarro Cafe & Grill](#). This tiny 15-seater serves traditional Mexican breakfasts, smoothies, and the best cappuccino in town. Regulars recommend the chilaquiles (order them with spicy shrimp) and the fresh-squeezed juices. Heads up: It's cash only, though everyone here accepts U.S. dollars.

After breakfast, sign up for [a glass-bottom boat trip](#) out to [El Arco](#), the dramatic rock formation that marks the southernmost tip of Baja, aka Land's End. This is where the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific, and you'll spot sea lions as you approach [Playa de los Amantes](#) (Lovers Beach). Just be aware that swimming here is risky because the currents are strong. Hilariously, [Divorce Beach](#) is located right around the corner on the more rugged Pacific side, but it's way too rough for swimming.

**Travelers say:** *"If you are a boat person, you could charter for the day but a short tourist trip [to El Arco] was enough to take some cool pics, see some wildlife, and take in the rock formations."* —[@lindseycriss](#)

### AFTERNOON: Tacos and shopping in downtown Cabo

Back on shore, head to [Medano Beach](#), which has calm, swimmable water. There are a lot of open-air beach bars and restaurants here; my pick is [Sand Bar](#), where you can dine with your toes in the sand and take a dip in between courses. Reviewers rave about the marlin tacos.

With lunch done, you have two options. Want to get sporty? Rent a paddleboard at [Cabo SUP](#) and spend some time paddling around. Or wander through the [marina](#) and downtown. On one trip to Cabo, the airline lost my luggage, and the shopping here saved me. There are places like [Anna Boutique Los Cabos](#), which has a few locations (including [Puerto Paraiso Mall](#)), selling breezy linen outfits and flowy dresses. [Eclectic Array](#) supports artisans around Mexico, showcasing hand-embroidered clothing for men and women, pottery, candles, and more. An American expat and her daughter own [Silver Exposure](#), which carries locally made silver jewelry. And if you're into cigars, stop by [J&J La Casa del Habano Los Cabos](#), which stocks rare varieties of stogies from Cuba (if that's not your thing, they also serve killer mojitos).

### EVENING: Cabo sunsets and sushi

There's nothing like a Cabo sunset, and one of the best places to see it is [Sunset Monalisa](#). Set high on the cliffs, it's got views overlooking Land's End. Get there an hour before sunset to snag a seat on the terrace, and you'll see why this is one of the most photographed spots in town. The tequila menu here is endless: You can try a flight with a few different sips. Or order one of the 7 Deadly Sins cocktails like the Lust, a blackberry-flavored spin on a margarita.

For dinner, my pick is [Nick-San](#), a Cabo institution where I've eaten more times than I can count. You might not think of ordering sushi in Mexico, but the fish is as fresh as it gets, caught just offshore. I always order the yellowfin tuna belly tostadas topped with avocado and habanero-infused red onion and the clear lobster roll, made with lobster tempura and finished with mustard sauce and curry oil.

### DAY TWO



Salad at Jazamango. Image: SDTraveler01/Tripadvisor

### **MORNING: A Baja road trip**

This morning, swing by [The Cabo Coffee Company](#), which serves up brews made with Oaxaca-grown, Baja-roasted beans (you'll want to buy a couple bags to bring home). Reviewers love the bagel sandwiches and the cinnamon rolls. Now you're fueled up for the drive to [Todos Santos](#), one of Mexico's Pueblos Magicos (magical towns), which are recognized for their cultural heritage. The drive from Cabo San Lucas to Todos Santos is part of the fun. You'll see cactus-studded desert on one side and endless blue sea on the other.

The town itself is a literal oasis, covered in palm trees that are fed by an underground aquifer. Grab a coffee at [Taller 17](#), then explore the tiny, walkable downtown, which is packed with well-curated boutiques, galleries, and cafes. [Saguaro Living](#) is all about cool trucker hats and surf-inspired T's. [Kere](#) carries linen dresses and raffia bags in desert-inspired colors. [Nomad Chic](#) features artisanal clothes and accessories sourced locally and from other like-minded destinations (Oaxaca, Peru, Greece, Bali). Finally, you can get your art fix at [Galeria de Todos Santos](#), one of the town's original galleries, showcasing works by local and international artists.

### **AFTERNOON: Art, shopping, and beach time in Todos Santos**

For lunch, head to [The Green Room](#), set right on the sand. You enter through a tunnel of vines that sets the mood, then emerge onto a wide Pacific beach. Don't miss the catch-of-the-day ceviche. After lunch, pop over to [Playa Los Cerritos](#), a nearby beach that's safe for swimming and popular with the surf set. If you're a dog lover, you're in luck. The nearby [Cerritos Beach Dogs](#), a nonprofit coffee shop and rescue center, adopts out adorable stray pups.

***Travelers say:** "[Playa Los Cerritos is a] great beach, beautiful water, much warmer than California. Water very clean and lots [of] waves, perfect for surfers and for people who enjoy swimming with waves. The waters are a bit rough with some undertow, be careful with kids. You can go and rent chairs and [an] umbrella." —@Fkrasil*

### **EVENING: Farm-to-table dinner in Todos Santos**

For dinner, make your way just outside of town to the open-air [Jazamango](#), a restaurant from Baja-born chef Javier Plascencia. It's surrounded by gardens and the menu reflects what's grown on-site or sourced from local ranches and the sea. Highlights include shrimp adobo tacos and wood-fired braised beef short rib empanadas. The grilled bone marrow with black garlic molasses glaze is a fan favorite, too.

End your day at [La Copa Bar](#) in the center of town. I came here on one of my early trips, and it's still one of the sexiest spots in Todos Santos, with beamed ceilings, stone arches, and a creative craft cocktail list. Order a smoky mezcal martini.

### **DAY THREE**



Elevated View of Balandra Bay. Image: Jeremy Woodhouse/Getty Images

### **MORNING: A drive through the Sierra de la Laguna Mountains to Balandra Beach**

Today it's time to trade margaritas for marine life in the Sea of Cortez, which Jacques Cousteau called "the aquarium of the world." First stop: the up-and-coming coastal city of [La Paz](#). Before leaving Todos Santos, grab breakfast at [Cafe La Esquina](#), an open-air local favorite known for its healthy eats. Order a smoothie and eggs served with homemade tortillas. From Todos Santos, it's about a 1.5-hour drive to La Paz. The route cuts through the lower edge of the [Sierra de la Laguna Mountains](#), filled with cacti and desert arroyos, before descending toward the turquoise coastline.

Make your way to [Playa Balandra](#) in La Paz, one of the most stunning beaches in Mexico. It's a shallow, shell-shaped bay with white sand and water so clear it looks Photoshopped. At low tide, you can walk from one side of the bay to the other. Bring everything you need (chairs, towels, sun protection), since there are no services here. Want a great view? Hike up the short cliffside trail for panoramic views of the lagoon.

**Travelers say:** "[For Playa Balandra], you need to buy a ticket (can be purchased online in advance). It is a popular beach, however the number of visitors is limited so it won't be too crowded." —

[@TandTSwitzerland](#)

### **AFTERNOON: Exploring La Paz**

Downtown La Paz is just 25 minutes away from the beach. For lunch, go to [Mc Fisher](#), a local spot known for its fish tacos and ceviche. Order the gobernadora, a cheesy shrimp-and-pepper creation. If you're visiting from late fall through early spring, book a [tour to swim with whale sharks](#). (It's one of the few places on the planet where you can swim with these gentle giants.) Other times of the year, you can join a [marine-life cruise](#) through the Sea of Cortez and you'll probably spot dolphins, rays, and sea turtles.

After, take a stroll along the [malecon](#), a waterfront promenade lined with sculptures and cafes. Just off this thoroughfare, don't miss [Casa Parra Gallery](#), which showcases paintings by local artists and Mexican folk art.

#### **EVENING: Sunset and a seafood feast**

La Paz sunsets are legendary, with bright pink skies that reflect across the bay. You'll get a spectacular view at [Cardon](#), a modern Mexican restaurant with floor-to-ceiling windows. The restaurant was named a Travelers' Choice Best of the Best for 2025 thanks to fan-favorite dishes like the artichoke and pumpkin carpaccio.

#### **DAY FOUR**



Diver at Cabo Pulmo Marine Preserve. *Image: DiveCaboPulmo/Tripadvisor*

#### **MORNING: A scenic road trip along the coast**

Today you're off to [Cabo Pulmo](#), a UNESCO-listed marine reserve on the Sea of Cortez. Fuel up at [Vrentino Baking & Co.](#), a sunny spot that serves hearty dishes like biscuits with eggs and chorizo. From La Paz, it's a 2.5-hour drive to Cabo Pulmo. The first half of the route hugs the coastline with sweeping ocean views. The last stretch from [La Ribera](#) to the town of [Cabo Pulmo](#) follows a dusty, winding road. Don't rush: This is where the East Cape feels wild and untouched, with endless blue water on one side and desert mountains on the other.

#### **AFTERNOON: Cabo Pulmo's marine magic**

Once you arrive in Cabo Pulmo, you'll probably be hungry. Grab lunch at [Tacos & Beer Cabo Pulmo](#), serving up a simple menu of quesadillas, tacos, ceviches, and ice-cold cervezas right on the beach. Cabo Pulmo is an amazing conservation success story. After decades of overfishing, locals joined forces in the 1990s to protect the area, banning commercial fishing and allowing the reef to recover. These days, it's home to more than 800 species of marine life, from sea turtles to manta rays. Join a guided snorkel or

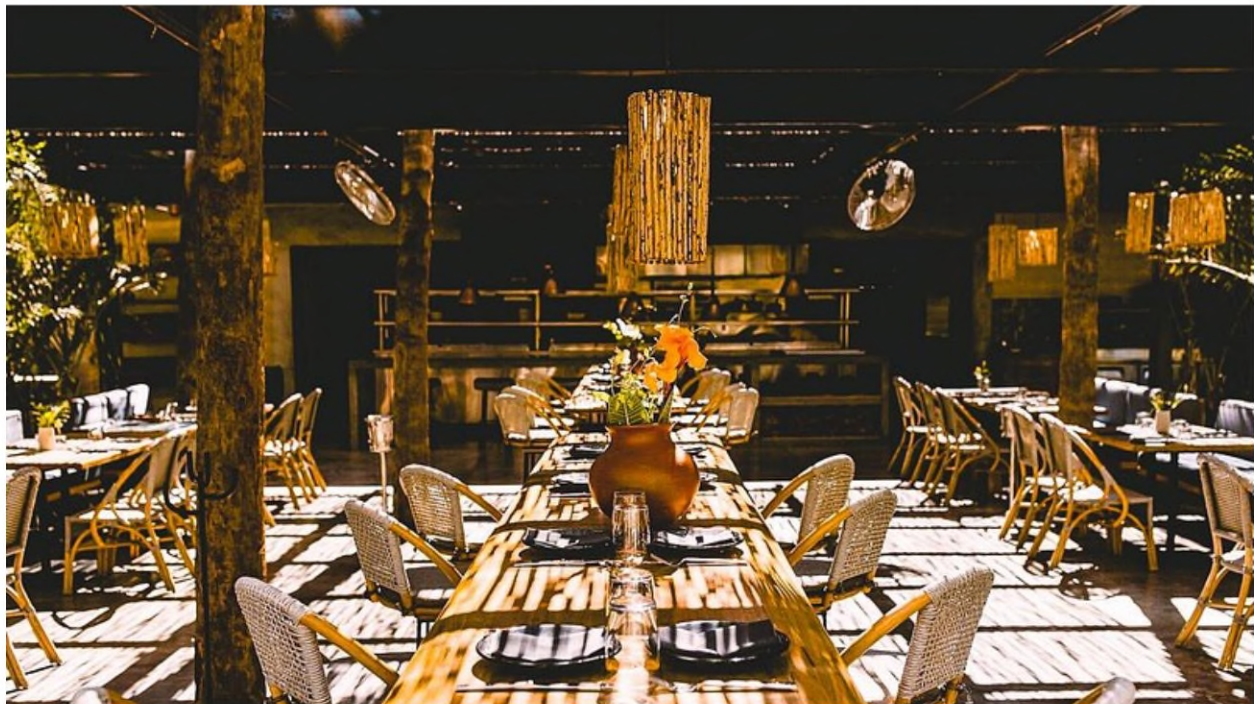
dive trip with [Eco Adventures Cabo Pulmo](#). Snorkelers can explore the reef just offshore, while divers can venture to deeper sites like El Vencedor, a sunken ship.

**Travelers say:** “Totally amazing experience [in Cabo Pulmo]...We saw a mom and baby Humpback Whale breach several times! We also snorkeled with Sea Turtles and Sea lions and saw many sharks from the boat. Best tour ever.” —[@anne\\_c](#)

### **EVENING: A quiet night under the stars**

Once your tour wraps, check into one of the bungalows at [El Encanto de Cabo Pulmo](#), an eco-chic hideaway. For dinner, grab a table [La Palapa](#), a tiny, family-run spot open to the ocean. Reviewers love the shrimp in garlic sauce. (Note that it’s cash only.) After dinner, don’t forget to look up: Cabo Pulmo has some of the best star watching on the planet, with the Milky Way stretching across the sky.

### **DAY FIVE**



Dining at Acre Restaurant & Cocktail Bar. Image: KentM959/Tripadvisor

### **MORNING: Brunch at Flora Farms**

Wake up early: The sunrises on the East Cape are spectacular. Grab a quick breakfast at [Duna Coffee Shop](#), a sunny spot right in town (order the chilaquiles poblanos), then begin the two-hour drive south to [San Jose del Cabo](#). Stop en route at [Flora Farms](#), a 25-acre working farm outside town. It’s worth every bump on the dirt road to get to this pretty spot, which helped kickstart a local farm-to-table movement when it opened in 1996. Explore the fields and boutiques stocked with handmade soaps, ceramics, clothes, and more. If you have time, pop into the [Farm Spa](#) for a massage with local oils or sign up for a hands-on cooking class.

**Travelers say:** “Flora Farms seems to be the #1 recommended destination in Cabo. We had a tough time getting dinner reservations but snuck in to breakfast last minute. So glad we did—breakfast was less crowded and cooler, and the grounds were lovely in the morning. Worth the visit.” —[@Cabesa25](#)

## **AFTERNOON: Shopping and art in San Jose del Cabo**

[Flora's Field Kitchen](#), the restaurant at Flora Farms, is wildly popular at dinnertime, but at lunchtime, you have a much better shot at getting a table (though it's still a good idea to reserve in advance). The menu changes seasonally, but you can't go wrong with the catch of the day, which is usually served with farro and fresh herbs. After lunch, head to San Jose's arts district, which is home to cute little boutiques and sophisticated galleries. Shop for colorful market bags and pottery at [El Armario Art & Coffee](#), which calls itself "the most charming corner" in town (and it is). [Eduardo Sanchez Jewelry](#) is best known for setting vintage coins in necklaces and bracelets. [Galeria Corsica](#) features works by some of Mexico's top contemporary artists. If you're in town on a Thursday evening, stick around for the [Art Walk](#), with open studios, wine tastings, and live music. Pro-tip: Though the Art Walk officially goes from 5 to 9 p.m., if you get there at 3:30 or 4, you can explore before the crowds descend.

## **EVENING: Dinner under the stars in the desert**

End the day at Acre, one of San Jose's hottest dining destinations (it recently received a nod from Michelin). Hidden in the desert just outside town, it's a sustainable restaurant and boutique hotel surrounded by palm groves and farmland. Come early for a cocktail in the open-air bar, then sit down to dinner under a canopy of twinkling lights. The menu changes with the seasons but might include dishes like soft shell crab tacos with ponzu or whole fish grilled in a charcoal oven with dry chili sauce. If you're not ready to leave, you don't have to: Acre also has a handful of chic treehouses where you can spend your last night.

## **Where to stay for five days in Los Cabos**

**Cabo San Lucas:** If you want to be in the middle of the action, stay in Cabo San Lucas. You'll be close to the marina, beaches, and nightlife. At [The Cape, a Thompson Hotel](#), every room faces the sea and you can catch spectacular sunsets from the rooftop bar. If you prefer something a little more intimate, [Casa Dorada Los Cabos Resort & Spa](#) has a prime Medano Beach location with easy access to El Arco. For old-school luxury, [Waldorf Astoria Los Cabos Pedregal](#) raises the bar with cliffside infinity pools, private plunge pools in every room, and a restaurant carved into the rocks ([El Farallon](#)) that will blow your mind.

**The Corridor:** The 20-mile stretch between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo is lined with oceanfront resorts, from splashy all-inclusives to low-key hideaways, plus a handful of acclaimed golf courses. [Esperanza, Auberge Resorts Collection](#) delivers romance and privacy with oceanfront casitas and a world-class spa. For a more affordable (but still polished) option, [Marquis Los Cabos, All Inclusive Resort & Spa](#) offers sweeping sea views and a peaceful adults-only vibe.

**Todos Santos:** Todos Santos is all about boutique properties that are as stylish as the town itself. The 10-room [Todos Santos Boutique Hotel](#) is a glamorous spot set right in town. It was originally built in 1890 for a Spanish countess, and you can almost picture her lounging by the pool. I'm also a fan of the 32-room [Hotel San Cristobal](#), which was developed by a company called Bunkhouse that's known for cool hotels in Texas. Set on a wide, empty stretch of beach just outside town, it's effortlessly chic with white modernist buildings, polished concrete walls, and pops of color from handwoven Mexican blankets. Guests can unwind by the infinity pool or join experiences like swimming with whale sharks or ceviche-making classes.

**La Paz:** The relaxed coastal city of La Paz is worlds away from the buzzing resort scene in Los Cabos. The best known property is the [Hotel Indigo Costa Baja Resort & Spa](#), set within a marina complex. Travelers love its oversized rooms and easy access to water excursions. If you want to be in the center of town, check out [Hotel Catedral](#), a modern property just steps from the malecon with a rooftop pool.

**Cabo Pulmo**: Cabo Pulmo is remote and unplugged. The best base is [El Encanto de Cabo Pulmo](#), a collection of solar-powered casitas with handcrafted furniture and kitchens stocked with basics so you can cook if you want to. For divers, there's [Cabo Pulmo Beach Resort](#), which has simple solar-powered bungalows and scuba packages that make it easy to get out on the water (you can also get PADI certified here).

**San Jose del Cabo**: San Jose has a low-key, artsy vibe. If you're coming for the galleries, stay at [Casa Natalia](#), a boutique hotel right in the historic center with a plunge pool. If a sleek resort is more your thing, go for [Viceroy Los Cabos](#), a modernist stunner with five pools (including one for adults only) and a fitness center helmed by celebrity trainer Harley Pasternak. If you're here for the farm-to-table dining, check out the treehouse digs at [Acre Hotel](#), set just outside town.



## Del Cabo Events Marks 20 Years in Luxury Events

Posted by [Business Travel Destinations](#) | Dec 14, 2025 | [Business Travel News](#), [Travel Brief](#)

# TRAVEL BRIEF

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**Los Cabos, Mexico** — Del Cabo Events celebrated **20 years of leadership and innovation** in luxury event design and production, reinforcing its role as a key partner for corporate meetings, incentives and large-scale events in Los Cabos and beyond.

Founded in 2005, [Del Cabo Events](#) delivers highly customized experiences that blend creative vision with operational precision. Over the past two decades, the company has produced thousands of events. These range from intimate gatherings to complex corporate programs. And they serve clients across Mexico, the United States, and Europe.

### **Why this matters for business travel and meetings.**

Los Cabos continues to grow as a premier destination for meetings, incentives, and executive events. Del Cabo Events plays an active role in this industry. For planners sourcing trusted, on-the-ground partners, the company's scale, integrated services and long-standing local expertise are important considerations.

With deep relationships across the destination's top resorts and venues, Del Cabo Events supports corporate groups seeking distinctive experiences that reflect brand objectives and the character of Baja California Sur. Learn more about the destination's meetings appeal at [Visit Los Cabos](#).

### **A milestone that signals continued growth.**

Founder and CEO **Yahwe García** describes the 20-year milestone as a reflection point and a launchpad.



Del Cabo Events founder Yahwe García (right), team and friends celebrate their 20th Anniversary. Courtesy image.

"Getting to 20 years is a testament to the talent, passion and vision of our team," García said. "This anniversary marks the beginning of a new era of expansion and innovation for Del Cabo Events."

That forward-looking focus includes ongoing investment in talent, technology and inventory to ensure the company remains aligned with evolving client expectations and global design trends.

### **Celebrating Mexican culture through design.**

As part of its anniversary, Del Cabo Events introduced its first large-format art book, *Mesa Mexicana: Traditions in Art and Flavor*. The project highlights Mexico's culinary and artisanal heritage through a Los Cabos lens and was developed in collaboration with leading hotels in the region.

The publication focuses on the company's approach to events: rooted in place, visually compelling and designed to create lasting emotional impact. (Contact Del Cabo Events to find the book.)

### **Expanding beyond Los Cabos.**

While Los Cabos remains its foundation, Del Cabo Events has expanded steadily. A Puerto Vallarta branch opened three years ago. And the team now produces events in destinations including Cancun, [Mexico City](#), Las Vegas, New York City, Rome and San José, Costa Rica.

Looking ahead to 2026, the company plans to launch **Yaya Rentals by Del Cabo Events** in San Miguel de Allende. This will extend its extensive furniture and décor capabilities into another high-demand destination for events and incentive travel.

### **An integrated model built for scale.**

Del Cabo Events operates through four specialized brands that work together seamlessly:

- **Del Cabo Events:** Corporate meetings, incentives and large-scale productions
- **Del Cabo Weddings:** Custom wedding planning and design
- **Aria Vera:** High-impact floral and artistic installations
- **Yaya Rentals:** A catalog of more than 350,000 furniture and décor items

According to the company, they are the **largest events business of its kind in Mexico** and among the largest globally, offering planners a single-source partner capable of managing complex programs end to end.

As Los Cabos continues to attract global meetings and incentive programs, Del Cabo Events' 20-year milestone highlights the importance of experienced, destination-rooted partners in delivering successful business events that resonate long after attendees return home.



## Los Cabos Has Something for Everyone — Why the 'Magical' Destination Needs to Be on Your Bucket List



Source: Los Cabos Tourism Board

If you're thinking about your next vacation, Los Cabos is the place to go!

[Jaclyn Roth](#)

Dec. 16 2025, Published 1:52 a.m. ET

If you need a beach vacation ASAP, then [Los Cabos](#) should be on your list.

Just a quick flight from the West Coast — or a direct flight from JFK — the destination has something for everyone.

"Los Cabos offers a distinct travel experience where the desert meets the sea and the mountains, providing a unique backdrop for any visit. Here, guests can enjoy a diverse range of activities, from championship golf and world-class dining to simply relaxing by an infinity pool with stunning ocean views. The destination perfectly combines luxury accommodations with authentic Mexican hospitality. It's an ideal escape for those seeking both thrilling adventures and serene indulgence. With abundant sunshine year-round, Los Cabos ensures a memorable and revitalizing getaway for every traveler," Los Cabos Tourism Board – **Rodrigo Esponda**, Managing Director exclusively tells *OK!*



Source: Los Cabos Tourism Board

Los Cabos has an "incredibly diversity of activities," Esponda reveals.

"For the adventurous, there's world-class sportfishing, ATV rides through our unique desert landscape, snorkeling and diving in the vibrant Sea of Cortés, and exploring the [iconic Arch](#), also known as Lands End in Cabo San Lucas. Golf enthusiasts will find some of the most stunning courses globally, designed by legends like **Jack Nicklaus** and [Tiger Woods](#)," he shares.

He adds, "For those seeking relaxation, our resorts offer unparalleled spa treatments and immersive wellness programs. Our culinary scene is a star in itself, from Michelin-starred chefs to authentic local flavors. Looking ahead to 2025 and 2026, we're incredibly excited about several new developments that further enhance our luxury offerings, including highly anticipated ultra-luxury resorts such as the [Amanvari](#), the [St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira](#), the [Park Hyatt Los Cabos](#), [Soho House & Beach Club](#), [Rosewood Residences Old Lighthouse](#) and [SIRO Palmilla](#)."



Source: Los Cabos Tourism Board

There are plenty of resorts to stay at.

The food, which Esponda describes as a "true culinary paradise," is to die for — and there's a little bit of everything.

From Michelin-recognized restaurants to the most authentic local spots. While standout destinations like [Acre](#), with its idyllic farm-to-table concept, [Manta at The Cape](#), [Sunset Monalisa](#), and [Cocina del Mar at Esperanza](#), [Auberge Resorts Collection](#), showcase world-class oceanfront fine dining, and [Cocina de Autor at Grand Velas Los Cabos](#) delivers unforgettable chef-driven tasting menus, the magic of the destination goes far beyond the high-end scene," Esponda says.

"What truly defines Los Cabos' gastronomy is that everywhere you eat, it's delicious. Thanks to the region's deep farm-to-table culture, local producers, and access to incredibly fresh ingredients, even small bakeries, street carts, and neighborhood eateries offer exceptional flavors. Discovering local gems like Ruba's Bakery only reinforces this proof that in Los Cabos, every bite, at every level is undeniably delicious," he continues.



Source: Los Cabos Tourism Board

Los Cabos is blessed with 'spectacular weather almost year-round.'

Fortunately, Los Cabos is blessed with "spectacular weather almost year-round," Esponda says.

"We proudly boast over 350 sunny days annually, characterized by a wonderfully warm and dry climate, complemented by refreshing ocean breezes for most of the year. This consistent, pleasant weather means you can truly enjoy all our outdoor activities without interruption, from relaxing on pristine beaches to golfing on championship courses, making it an ideal destination no matter when you choose to visit," he says.



Source: Los Cabos Tourism Board

October to May is widely considered Los Cabos' peak season.

October to May is widely considered Los Cabos' peak season, offering absolutely perfect weather with warm, sunny days and refreshingly cooler, pleasant evenings. "This period also coincides with the magical whale-watching season, from mid-December to April, when humpback whales migrate to our warm waters. June to September marks our 'green season,' which brings hotter temperatures and a higher chance of tropical showers, typically in the late afternoon. However, during these months, the ocean is wonderfully warm for swimming, you'll find fewer crowds, and often better value, making it a beautiful time to experience our lush desert landscape after a refreshing rain," Esponda reveals.

# We Visited 100+ Beach Vacation Spots — These Were Our Favorites

**GOOD HOUSEKEEPING**

**KAREN CICERO**

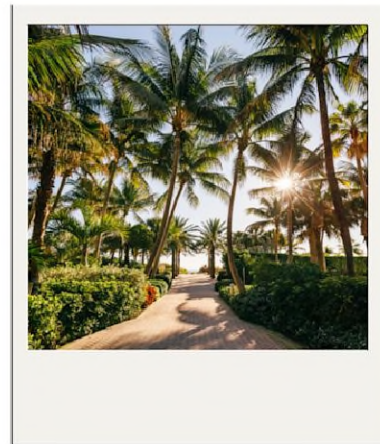
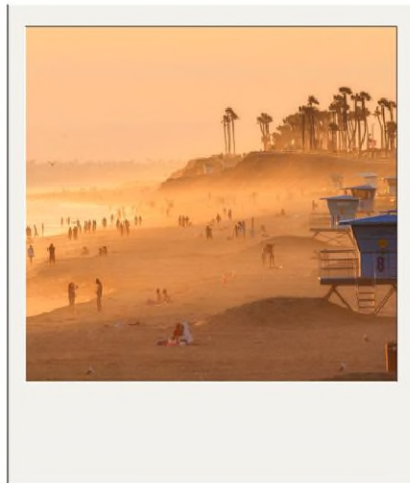
Tue, November 18, 2025 at 9:00 AM EST



The Beach Vacations We Can't Stop Dreaming About Getty Images

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Beautiful beaches are universally alluring—but only a few live up to the dream vacations that stay with you long after you've brushed off the sand. For Good Housekeeping's 2026 Travel Awards, our editors and testers explored coastlines near and far to uncover those rare destinations that pair stunning scenery with standout experiences. Whether you're after a serene escape, a family adventure, or a chic seaside stay, these winners make every moment feel like the perfect beach day.



Getty Images

## Beach Towns

### Huntington Beach, California

It's easy to get the family on board with a vacation to **Huntington Beach**, a 10-mile stretch of sand known for its surf culture. Your crew can ride the waves (lessons are available for kids as young as 4 or 5) or just watch the pros do it. Surfing aside, the beach here is gloriously family-friendly—wide, lifeguarded, and dotted with activities including a new inclusive playground. Hundreds of fire rings scattered about the town's three main beaches entice flip-flop-clad families to roast marshmallows as the sun goes down.

**TESTER NOTES:** "From a kids' reading nook at the outdoor shopping center to beach mats that help wheelchair users get to the shoreline, I saw all kinds of thoughtful touches around this town that is only about 15 minutes from Anaheim," said our tester, who stayed at the beachy-chic Paséa Hotel and Spa, which they thought teens would love. "Restaurants at all price points are far more elevated than in your typical beach town—Primecut Taqueria was my favorite grab-and-go spot, and Duke's Huntington Beach serves up both fun food and a surf vibe," they added.



at [surfcityusa](#)

### Newport, Rhode Island

Set against the ocean, **Newport** is simultaneously romantic and family-friendly. No matter whose hand you're holding, you'll enjoy strolls downtown, where there's a happy mix of kitschy stores and boutiques, and along the cliff walk—a popular path with stunning ocean views that runs alongside

Gilded Age mansions that merit their own visits. Attractions like the Sailing Museum and the Newport Car Museum are a great way to spend the day and cater to people of all ages.

**TESTER NOTES:** “Newport is charming, fun, and packed tightly into a little downtown area that’s easy to walk around,” said our tester, who visited with her baby and her 7-year-old. “The Sailing Museum turned out to be one of our favorite spots. Wonderfully designed, it’s filled with colorful and fascinating exhibits and memorabilia.” Her family stayed at the Wayfinder Hotel, tucked away from the hubbub of downtown. “It had a pool, a fantastic restaurant, and free parking,” she said.



## at discovernewport

### **St. Pete–Clearwater, Florida**

A beach getaway and a city vacation rolled into one, **St. Pete–Clearwater** blends sunny shoreline with world-class attractions. In the morning, you can splash around near some of the 36 miles of Gulf Coast beaches (including Clearwater Beach, which has fun inflatable slides on its powdery white sand). Then seek p.m. shade at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, which rescues and rehabs dolphins, or the Dali Museum, which showcases works from the Spanish surrealist and other icons.

**TESTER NOTES:** “This destination gives off European vibes, but you can also get your typical ‘beach town’ vacation fix,” said our tester, who stayed with her spouse at the Vinoy Resort & Golf Club. “The Dali Museum was one of the most incredible ones I’ve experienced,” she added. She loved Sunken Gardens, which was full of flora and flamingos: “It is retro, has a history to it, and feels like the perfect place to bring your kids but also enjoy as adults.” Another tester, traveling with her teen, raved about her stay at the Island Grand at Tradewinds resort.



at visitstpeteclearwater

### Wilmington, North Carolina, and Island Beaches

If the beaches near **Wilmington** look familiar but you've never set foot on their golden sand, you probably recognize them from *The Summer I Turned Pretty*. All three seasons of this Amazon hit show were filmed in Wilmington's historic downtown and on three North Carolina barrier islands

(Wrightsville Beach, Kure Beach, and Carolina Beach) about 20 to 30 minutes east. You'll want to explore the entire trio, because each has a slightly different vibe.

**TESTER NOTES:** "I saw people riding bikes everywhere, especially along Wilmington's Riverwalk and on the beach roads," said our tester, whose family loved staying at Trailborn Surf & Sound in Wrightsville Beach because it had "great amenities" and "super quick access to the beach." Other highlights for her family included dining at the Bluewater Waterfront Grill, "where the boats come and go," and touring a World War II battleship that gave them "a great sense of the area's history."



## at wilmingtonandbeaches

### **The Palm Beaches, Florida**

America's first resort destination gets better every year. **The Palm Beaches**, a 47-mile stretch of sunny shoreline encompassing more than three dozen cities from Jupiter to Boca Raton, boasts a wide selection of new and recently glowed-up resorts, restaurants, and attractions. Whether you want to peek in on the upgraded sea turtle hospital at Juno Beach's Loggerhead Marine Life Center or grab the best sammie of your life at the viral Buccan sandwich counter in West Palm, it's all waiting for you in this vacation spot that is warm 365 days a year.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Plan on visiting for a week or more, because there's so much to see and do," said our tester, who stayed with her parents in a newly renovated two-bedroom suite at the Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Resort, adding, "We joked that it was our 'eating vacation' because nearly everything we tried between beach time, thrifting ventures, and sightseeing was scrumptious. It's a tough call, but the waterfront dining at the Beacon in Jupiter was our favorite spot; it felt like a slice of Italy in Florida."



at [thepalmbeaches.com](http://thepalmbeaches.com)

### Los Cabos, Mexico

What's not to love about **Los Cabos**? This sunny spot on the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula, where the desert mountains meet the Pacific Ocean, woos all types of travelers.

Whether you're hoping to flop on the beach with a good book, explore the magnificent marine life

with the kids, or go clubbing, you'll find options for everyone. LGBTQ+ travelers, take note that Los Cabos was one of the first "queer-certified" vacation destinations.

**TESTER NOTES:** Knowing his kids would want to swim daily, our tester stayed at Chileno Bay Resort & Residences because it was one of the few properties in a sheltered cove protected from rough waters. "It was totally five-star in its location and service but completely unpretentious," he said. His family of four also enjoyed a kayak and snorkel tour from High Tide Sea Expeditions that took them past Cabo's famous arches (*shown*).



at [visitloscabos.travel](https://www.visitloscabos.travel)

### **Greater Miami & Miami Beach, Florida**

Generations of girlfriends have flocked to **Greater Miami & Miami Beach**. Here, vibrant art deco architecture meets world-class dining, lively beaches, and indulgent spas, setting the stage for an unforgettable escape. To elevate your stay, consider aligning your trip with one of the region's legendary festivals, such as Art Basel Miami Beach (December 5 through December 7, 2025) or the South Beach Wine & Food Festival (February 18 through February 22, 2026).

**TESTER NOTES:** "Book your girls' trip to the new Andaz Miami Beach by Hyatt," advised our tester. "The property was absolutely gorgeous—every detail was elegant, and I truly was on cloud nine! Their website doesn't do justice to how stunning the hotel, restaurants, and grounds really are." She also recommends heading to Coral Gables, a city just a few miles west of downtown Miami, to stroll its "charming streets" and discover another part of the bustling city.



at miamiandbeaches

### Curaçao

A coastal gem, this Dutch Caribbean island near Venezuela boasts 35 beaches, and it's hard not to love them all. Curaçao stretches 38 miles, allowing you to beach-hop and discover two or three distinct shores in a single day. From lively **Mambo Beach**, steps from shops and seaside cafés, to

the tranquil **Playa Kalki**, a cove beloved by snorkelers, every beach offers its own unique charm and personality.

**TESTER NOTES:** “All the beaches were so gorgeous, calm, and swimmable,” said our tester, who visited with her best friend. “We went to Kokomo, which was a popular beach club with snorkeling, one day. Our favorite beach was Playa Jereme, because it was quieter and had pristine waters. The view was breathtaking.” Our tester stayed at Lion’s Dive Beach Resort, which she thought would be a solid budget-friendly hotel for families looking for spacious beachfront accommodations.



## at curacao

### **Destin–Fort Walton Beach, Florida**

Your kids can spread their (water) wings at **Destin–Fort Walton Beach**. Located in the state’s panhandle near warm Caribbean-like waters, this no-passport-needed spot introduces tiny tourists to snorkeling, fishing, kayaking, and more through its brilliant Little Adventurers program. Its website suggests activities by age group—some are free, and for others you’re directed to local outfitters. The destination also recently introduced the “Ask a Scout” program, which allows moms and dads to query local parents.

**TESTER NOTES:** “We loved the Dolphin Cruise suggested through the Little Adventurers program,” said our tester, who brought her 2-year-old. “We saw so many dolphins out in the wild jumping in the waves!” Our tester stayed at the Emerald Grande, which has multi-bedroom suites. “My son couldn’t get enough of the hotel pool and the beach that you could take a shuttle to,” she added. “The water was crystal clear, the sand was nice, and a beautiful pelican floated near us all morning.”



at destinfbw

### Traverse City, Michigan

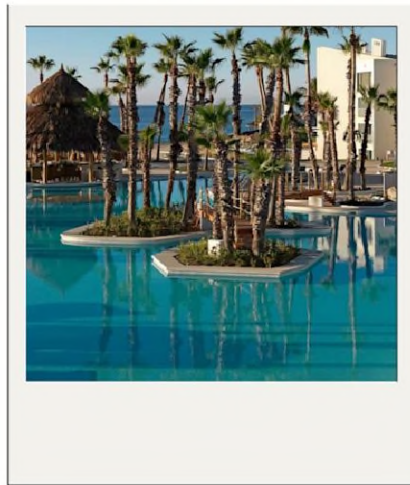
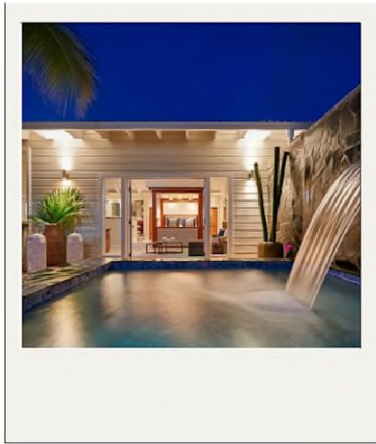
Set along the shimmering shores of Lake Michigan, **Traverse City** is a hidden gem for non-Midwesterners. Twenty-thousand-year-old glacial deposits in Grand Traverse Bay and nearby Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore tint the water an almost Caribbean shade of blue,

especially on sunny days. Beyond its lakeside allure, Traverse City charms visitors with a vibrant downtown brimming with its own local art scene and picturesque orchards.

**TESTER NOTES:** “A perfect day trip, the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, takes you in and through the dunes, with awe-inspiring views and breathtaking stops along the way,” said our tester, who visited with her spouse. “There are moments where you have to remind yourself that you’re in Michigan. The soft white sand and the perfectly clear blue waters rival those anywhere in the world.” The couple stayed at Hotel Indigo, noting that it was “walkable to almost everywhere we wanted to visit in town” and that its rooftop bar had “strong pours, great views, and even better vibes.”



at traversecity



serenityatcoconutbay, paradisusloscabosresort, stolentime

## All-Inclusive Beach Resorts for Adults

### Almare, a Luxury Collection All-Inclusive Resort Isla Mujeres, Mexico

Couples will relish their “just the two of us” time at **Almare**, a newish resort on an island about seven miles from Cancun, to which a bougie catamaran whisks you from a marina near the airport. With only 109 rooms, Marriott’s first luxury property in Mexico is intimate, and its design emphasizes privacy. You won’t find all-you-can-eat buffets or large-scale parties: The vibe is more refined (case in point: a local flutist performs at the rooftop restaurant). Cultural touches abound, from the Mayan calendar in the tranquil lobby to a Cacao Experience option in which you craft your own chocolate.

**TESTER NOTES:** “Every meal felt like a highlight,” said our tester, who visited with her husband. “You could tell they were trying to source locally—the food was infused with Mayan tradition, and it was healthful and delicious and seemed sustainable too!” She added that the overall experience felt “thoughtful and elevated” and that she was impressed with the attentiveness of the staff.



at marriott

### **Secrets Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres Resort & Spa, Mexico**

The secret is out: A Hyatt all-inclusive hotel chain, the **Secrets Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres**, is the dreamiest couples' destination. At this property in a secluded area on the Yucatán Peninsula, a dozen or so miles from the hustle and bustle of Cancun, all 505 rooms are suites—some of them

swim-out style with access to a pool from the terrace. The property's Unlimited Luxury program for all guests provides top-shelf spirits, reservation-free dining, and a vast array of activities, no cheesy wristbands required.

**TESTER NOTES:** Calling the resort “stunning,” our tester complimented the lush greenery and the well-maintained pools and common spaces. “My husband and I enjoyed seeing Yucatan art throughout the property, especially wood carvings and murals,” she said. Other highlights for the couple included the spa (“Our massages were in the most beautiful bungalows”) as well as the Italian restaurant Portofino and the 24-hour cafe offering coffee drinks, pastries, and gelato.



## at **hyattinclusivecollection**

### **Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

An off-the-beaten-path honeymoon spot, the new **Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** is becoming easier to reach: Beginning December 20, 2025, Delta Airlines will fly directly from Atlanta to St. Vincent, joining other carriers that take off from New York City, Charlotte, and Miami. Nestled on a private cove bordered by a forest, the property attracts honeymooners and couples celebrating milestone anniversaries with overwater and beachfront villas that give off White Lotus vibes. Breakfast in bed, personalized snack and drink delivery, and bonding activities perfect for two (from a hot stone couple's massage to a round of pickleball) will let you start your life as a married couple off right.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our honeymoon was extremely relaxing and romantic!" said our tester. She raved about the property's "extremely tranquil" grounds and the resort's "very laid-back, private atmosphere." They found the service impeccable, and the couple's favorite touch was having a bath run when they returned to the room every night. On the food front, "the sushi and desserts were top-tier at every restaurant," she added.



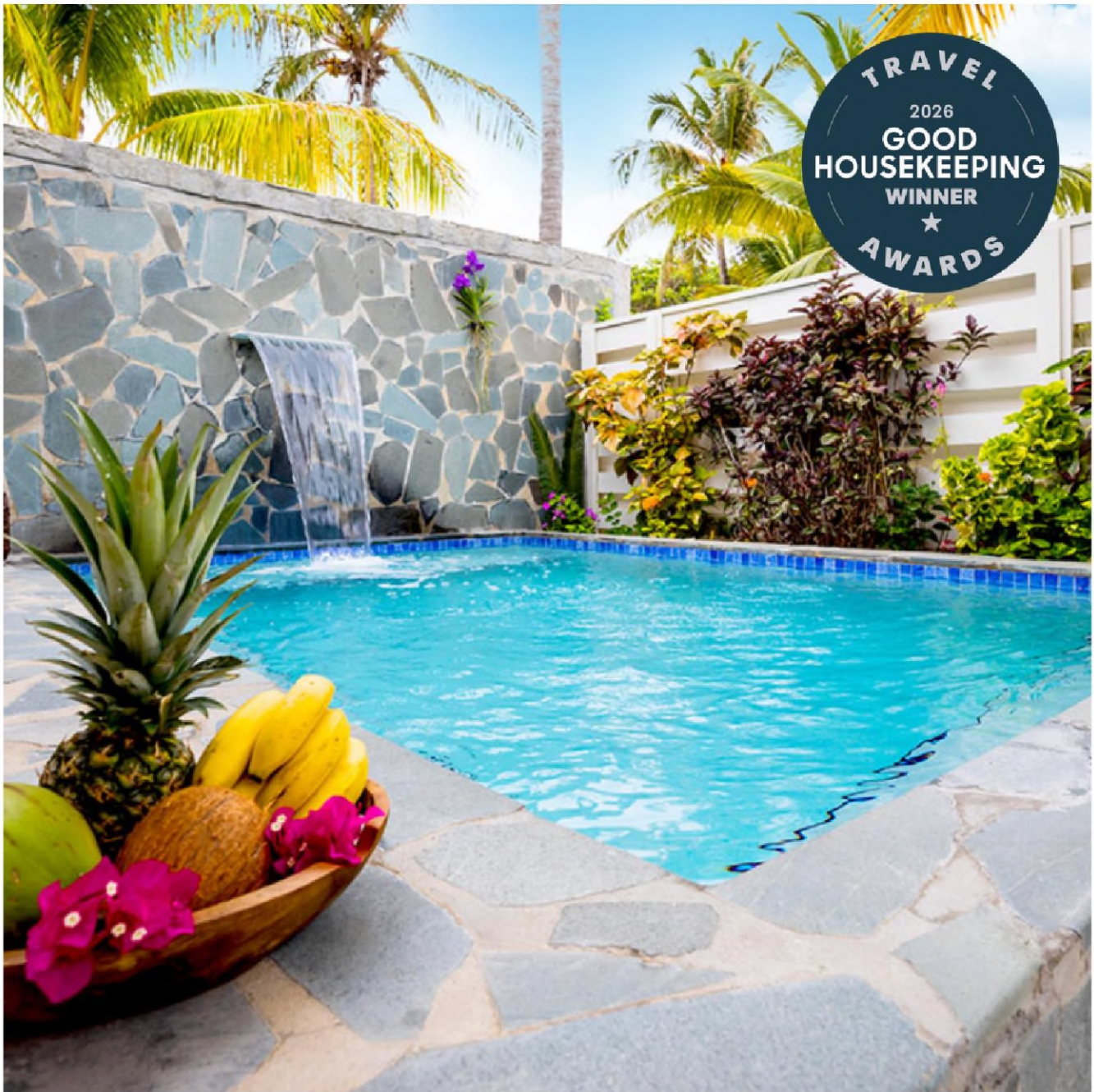
at sandals

### Serenity at Coconut Bay, St. Lucia

From the moment you're greeted by a butler with fresh coconuts, you know that your vacay at **Serenity at Coconut Bay** will be pure bliss. The couples-only resort, which tends to attract a 20- and 30-something crowd, gives all guests a dreamy vacation nest: a plunge-pool suite with a king-

size four-poster bed and an oversize tub along with butlers who will quickly learn your preferences. The location is another plus: While most resorts on the island require a long, windy drive from the airport, Serenity is only 10 minutes from it.

**TESTER NOTES:** “The grounds at Serenity were beautifully maintained,” said our tester, who stayed with her boyfriend in a Grande Plunge Pool Butler Suite. “It is gorgeously landscaped and impeccably clean!” She rated the service as five-star, saying the staff remembered their names and favorite drinks. But her favorite experience turned out to be the snorkeling excursions offered through the resort: “We were taken to an open-water snorkeling location with the bluest, clearest, most stunning water I have ever seen.”



at [serenityatcoconutbay.com](https://www.serenityatcoconutbay.com)

### **Turtle Island Resort, Nanuya Levu, Fiji**

Home to only 14 couples at a time, **Turtle Island Resort** is a ferry or seaplane ride from Fiji's main island of Viti Levu and delivers the personal attention you didn't even know you needed. Each

couple receives a “Mama” who will unpack their bags, tidy their villa, organize activities, and pull off special requests (like a birthday cake). The couples’ job: Bask in the Blue Lagoon worry-free.

**TESTER NOTES:** “All the meals were wonderful, and the staff serving us were so patient and a joy to be around. By the end of the trip, we cancelled any private dinner we had and ate with the group!” said our tester, who noted that many guests were celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries. Our tester also raved about the water activities: “The snorkeling was stunning, even just out in the main beach area in front of our villa. The coral was pristine, and we saw purple starfish! We also went crab hunting, which was unlike anything I’ve ever experienced.”



at turtlefiji

### **Paradisus Los Cabos**

Rather than catering exclusively to couples, **Paradisus Los Cabos** appeals to a wide variety of adult travelers—whether families with grown kids, mother-daughter pairs, or a bunch of besties. Spacious suites, including some with two double beds, provide more flexible sleeping arrangements than are available at many other adult-only resorts. Featuring four pools and seven restaurants, the resort has a vibe that is a nice balance of laid-back and lively. Jewelry making and tequila tasting are highlights, as are a wide range of cultural experiences.

**TESTER NOTES:** “This property has beautiful views and the bonus of a swimmable beach, which is rare because of the rough currents,” said our tester. She recommends upgrading to the Reserve area, where a dedicated concierge makes dining reservations, offers pillow and room scent choices, and notes drink preferences for the minibar. A stay at the Reserve also includes a private ocean-view lounge and access to an exclusive beachfront restaurant.



at paradisusloscabosresort

### **Margaritaville Island Reserve Resort Riviera Maya, Mexico**

You can do pools your way at **Margaritaville Island Reserve Resort Riviera Maya**, about 15 miles from Cancun's airport. Dip into your suite's plunge pool (floating taco bar optional), or head to the splashy oceanfront public pool for a DJ-led party. This palm-tree-lined resort works just as well for

groups of friends as for couples, and it shouldn't be hard to convince someone to join you for mixology classes, a snorkeling session, a water volleyball game, or a sunset bonfire.

**TESTER NOTES:** "It was a fun trip from the moment we got a frozen margarita lolly at check-in," said our tester, who brought his girlfriend. "This is the type of trip you take when all you want to do is relax," he added. "Our favorite meal was at Landshark Brewery & Grill. They brew beer on-site and then serve it straight from the brewing machines, which was awesome. We also really enjoyed the buffet restaurant, which had shows on some nights."



## at margaritavilleresorts

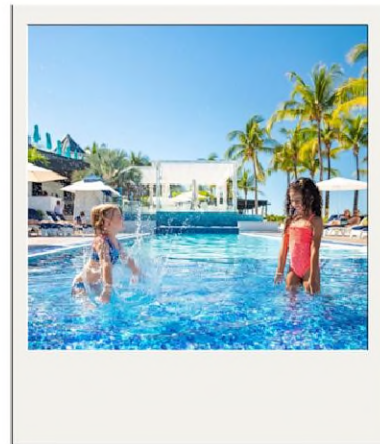
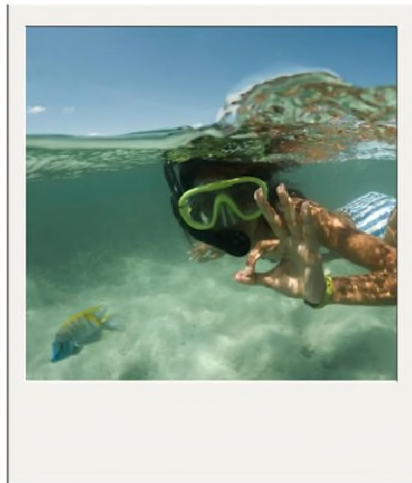
### **StolenTime Saint Lucia**

If you've been prioritizing everyone except yourself, you're overdue for vacation at **StolenTime**, a 100-room resort whose slogan is "It's about time you introduced your body to your mind." While the heavenly spot on a large beach seems more couple-centric (the rooms sleep two) than girlfriend getaway-oriented, the truth is that all adults will love it here. With everything from holistic spa practices and Ayurvedic treatments like Shirodara to activities such as yoga, archery, and art classes, you can simultaneously grow as a person and get the relaxation you need.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The food was delicious, and the fitness classes challenged me more than I expected," said our tester, who visited with a friend. She couldn't get enough of the striking grounds featuring gorgeous old-growth Caribbean gardens. "In this hurricane-prone part of the world, I can't remember ever seeing things like 150-year-old trees and lush gardens," she said. "It's a really special place if you appreciate flowering plants. I geeked out over the gardens." She added, "The attention to guests is perfect. Very sweet staff—they learn your preferences, appear to help, and quickly disappear if not needed. They invite you to things but do not pressure you."



at stolentime



clubmed, beaches, cbayresort

## All-Inclusive Beach Resorts for Families

### Club Med Cancun, Mexico

Thank you, **Club Med Cancun**, for getting it. In a popular vacation spot for families, the property stands out for its creative supervised clubs broken down into five age groups. From flying trapeze lessons for kids 4 and up to teen-only parties, Club Med's activities crack the code for under-18 vacationers being excited about being dropped off for a while. When the gang's all back together, families can enjoy the new themed Splash Park and Mini Pool & Playground.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Club Med Cancun is on the nicest stretch of beach, integrated so well into the landscape, which is in stark contrast to the buildings everywhere else. The main snorkeling area was just off the shore, so we could access that at no extra charge, while all the other hotels billed it as an excursion," said our tester, a frequent traveler. She added, "The food was exceptional, especially the Mexican items, and I have never seen such an extensive breakfast buffet. The kids repeatedly said that it was the best vacation of their lives."



at clubmed

### **Dreams Madeira Resort, Spa & Marina, Portugal**

Your family will be living the dream at the newly remodeled **Dreams Madeira Resort, Spa & Marina** on an island about 600 miles away from mainland Portugal, which you can fly to directly from a few East Coast cities or connect to in Lisbon. Buildings, including a working lighthouse with a

restaurant, are arranged village-style so you'll really feel the European beach town charm. All rooms are spacious by EU standards, and you can book a townhouse that sleeps up to 10. But with appealing activities and a kids' club, we don't expect you'll be in the room much.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We had a fantastic European beach trip away from crowds," said our tester, who brought her husband and three young daughters. The family had "incredible experiences all around," like hiking in a UNESCO forest, going on a dolphin-watching tour, and swimming in a natural pool with marine life. One of the major highlights of their trip was the resort's delicious cuisine. "The food and service were top-notch. My kids tried so many foods for the first time!" Plus, they found the staff "some of the nicest people I've ever met anywhere," noting that "everyone seemed to genuinely love being around kids and enjoy their jobs."



at [hyattinclusivecollection](#)

### **Nickelodeon Resort Riviera Maya, Mexico**

Stylish design meets slime at **Nickelodeon Resort Riviera Maya**, a kid-friendly property that may take you back to your own childhood. Subtle Nick touches adorn the rooms (which also have a swim-out pool) and it's fun to hunt for them. AquaNick, the resort's incredible water park,

unleashes gooey green slime every afternoon and water fun at the splash pad and slides all day long. While many scheduled character meet-and-greets, including a flash-mob, happen daily, randomly bumping into Blue, Chase, or Leonardo is always a delight.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our family trip was pure joy from start to finish," said our tester, who visited with her spouse and three children. "Making pizzas with the Ninja Turtles and walking the Orange Carpet were unforgettable moments." She also appreciated that the resort was well-equipped and provided a changing table, baby bath, and stool to make traveling with the littles easier for everyone.



at [karismahotels.com](https://www.karismahotels.com)

### **Beaches Resorts, Turks & Caicos and Jamaica**

Know what's better than taking a trip with the kids? Inviting the grandparents to come along. At **Beaches Resorts**, a pair of all-inclusives in Turks & Caicos and Negril, Jamaica, the grands can bask in the youngest generation's joy of meeting Elmo, ordering juice from the kid-size swim-up pool bar, and squealing in the tiny turquoise waves. Oceanfront villas fit large groups—Negril's Firesky Villas are the newest and nicest, but that may change in March when the Turks & Caicos location adds its sixth village, Treasure Beach.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Even though they're 6 and 9, my kids loved interacting with the Sesame characters around the resort," said our tester, who celebrated her anniversary at the Negril location. "My mother-in-law watched the kids, and we went to the resort's adult-only restaurant. It was very romantic!" Another tester, who vacationed with her baby, spouse, and parents in Turks & Caicos, reported that the resort's beach was the highlight of her trip: "It's one of the most beautiful beaches I've seen, thanks to the supersoft white sand and crystal blue, calm water that feels never-ending."



at beaches

### Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, Vieux Fort, St. Lucia

Families return year after year to four-time winner **Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa**—and it's not hard to see why. More value-priced than its island counterparts and way closer to the airport, this gem is known for its great food (the jerk chicken spot is a cult fave) and classic kids' activities. It

even has a petting zoo! Pools stay open around the clock for early risers, and well-vetted excursions from the resort will transport you to the island’s famous mud baths.

**TESTER NOTES:** “We took our 4-year-old once to the kids’ club for two hours, and after that he asked to go back every day,” said our tester, who also complimented the meals and the restaurant staff. “The food was outstanding, much better than at other all-inclusive resorts we’ve stayed at over the years, and the restaurants were so accommodating. One night our son, who likes pasta, wouldn’t eat his spaghetti. Our waiter changed it out for ziti—no problem!”



## at cbayresort

### **Bluefields Bay Villas & Suites, Jamaica**

A family-run resort on the western coast of Jamaica, **Bluefields Bay Villas & Suites** had been a refuge for weary parents since the 1980s, offering a “vacation nanny” to help entertain kids, a private chef to cook meals, and a housekeeper to do laundry. It was bliss. But in late October, Hurricane Melissa significantly damaged the boutique property. While the owners are starting to rebuild, the resort will remain closed until further notice. Check back here for updates.

**TESTER NOTES:** “Our vacation nanny jumped right in to make my 18-month-old feel comfortable with her,” said our tester, who visited in summer. “She took him on walks on the property and helped with feeding and getting him ready for naps and bedtime so my husband and I could enjoy some alone time at the pool and beach. I can’t stress enough how much we loved our trip.”



\$1.00 at bluefieldsvillas

### **Ava Resort Cancun, Mexico**

For a middle-of-the-school-year recharge, the year-old **Ava Resort Cancun** earns an A+. Its eco-friendly saltwater lagoon—nearly the size of three football fields—is a showstopper, and tweens and teens gravitate to the huge inflatable-obstacle course in the middle. Littles zoom down slides

and through splash zones at Sunny's Water Park. A two-story kids' club offers supervised play and twice-daily family hours during which your whole crew can join in. To boot, all accommodations are ocean-facing with smart TVs, Nespresso machines, and room service. (Have you ever seen the excitement of a kid lifting a silver lid to reveal a grilled cheese?)

**TESTER NOTES:** "There's so much to love about this resort—the kids' club setup, the lagoon, the food," said our tester, a registered dietitian. "Livo was our favorite restaurant, serving fresh Mediterranean dishes. The pop-up taco shop was a highlight for lunch, with tacos made to order right in front of us. Poolside food was a treat too, with creative global flavors beautifully presented." The entertainment and the activities such as escape rooms, bowling, and magic shows were also a highlight, with our tester finding that there was "truly something for everyone to enjoy."



at avaresortcancun

### Joia Aruba by Iberostar

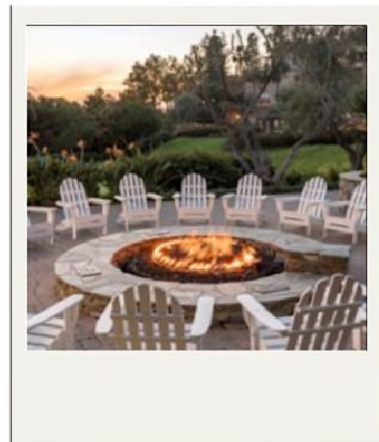
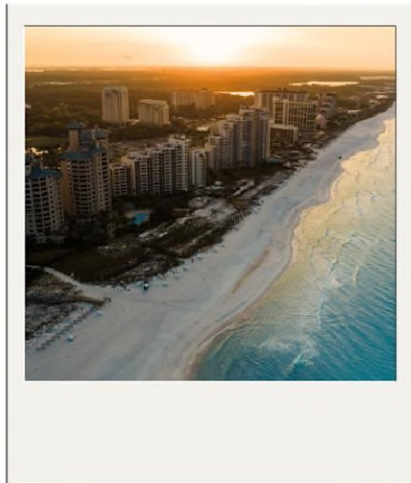
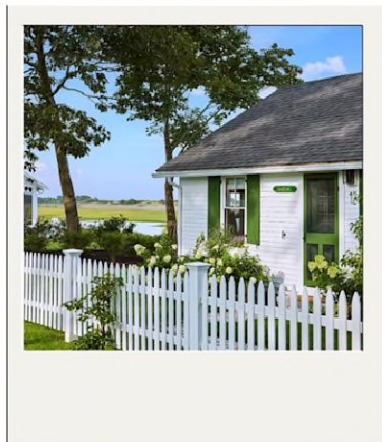
Located on one of the island's most celebrated stretches of sand, the year-old **Joia Aruba by Iberostar** fills a niche for family travelers. It has the relaxing vibe of an adult-only resort without the age restrictions, so families that include teens as well as grown kids can vacation together.

Your crew could easily walk to Eagle Beach, consistently ranked among the world's best, or take in the turquoise panorama from the resort's rooftop infinity pool. The property's three restaurants are rolled into the all-inclusive plan, or you can choose a room-only option that doesn't include food and drinks.

**TESTER NOTES:** "This hotel is gorgeous; I loved the modern aesthetic," said our tester. "The grounds were immaculate and easy to navigate." She especially enjoyed the resort's brunch buffet, which had "every food you could think of plus an area where they'd make food by request."



at iberostar



sandestin, marriott, dunesonthewaterfront

## Beach Villas for Big Groups

### The Dunes on the Waterfront, Ogunquit, Maine

No one is going to appreciate the cottage-core vibe of **The Dunes on the Waterfront** more than your besties. Scattered about 12 acres of farmland overlooking a tidal river that meets the ocean, the 21 newly renovated one- to three-bedroom cottages with green shutters, scalloped tables, farmhouse sinks, and other dreamy features are the perfect spot for friends' trips. Service is equally delightful: Every morning the staff delivers coffee and fresh baked goods to fuel you for a bike ride (cute bikes are available to borrow) or a kayak trip along the river. Prefer to go to the beach or downtown? They'll grab the golf cart and drive you there. Just plan ahead: The seasonally operated property reopens in May, with reservations accepted starting in mid-March.

**TESTER NOTES:** “We enjoyed the on-property heated pool, which was the perfect temperature and had two tubes to float around in,” said our tester, who visited with friends. “And the yellow umbrellas and seating were so aesthetic.”



at [dunesonthewaterfront.com](https://www.dunesonthewaterfront.com)

**Marriott's Newport Coast Villas, Newport Beach, California**

Like a home away from home, **Marriott's Newport Coast Villas** provide families with a coveted feature while on vacation: space. The two-bedroom rentals, which sleep up to eight guests, each have a kitchen and two full bathrooms, handy for getting out the door quickly and over to the property's splash pad or pickleball court. Family programming, from scavenger hunts to poolside trivia contests, unfolds all day long. To help you get your beach fix, shuttles run to nearby Crystal Cove State Park.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We played basketball and football as a family," said our tester, who brought her kids, 7 and 13. "Set away from the main area so as not to disturb other guests, there's a great kids' pool with two large slides and a water park." Our tester called the vibe "very family-oriented and multigenerational," noting that even when school was in session, plenty of kids were around.



at marriott

### Seabrook, Washington

Whether you're a party of four or a party of 24, there's a vacation rental for you at **Seabrook**, a planned beach town with almost everything you need on the premises. The homes aren't cookie-cutter: For the 250 or so available to rent, you can use more than a dozen filters on the website to

narrow your selection and then view photos of the options so you can be sure you are aligned with the decor of the one you select. Many are near the resort's moody but marvelous beach (note that you'll need a wetsuit to swim even in August), and most are walkable to the restaurants, shops, and grocery store in the town square. Kids love getting around on bikes, and you'll see many "parked" outside the arcade and pools.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Walking along the beach turned out to be our favorite pastime, but we also tremendously enjoyed the indoor pool and the playground with a zip line and swings," said our tester, who stayed with her family of five in a house called Goat With the Flow.



## at seabrookwa

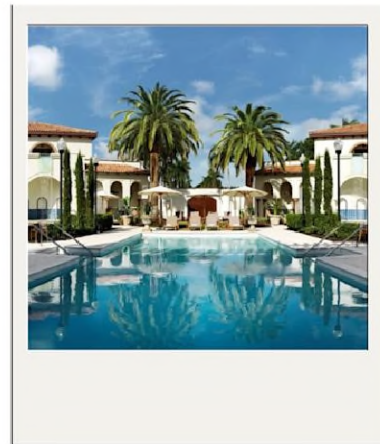
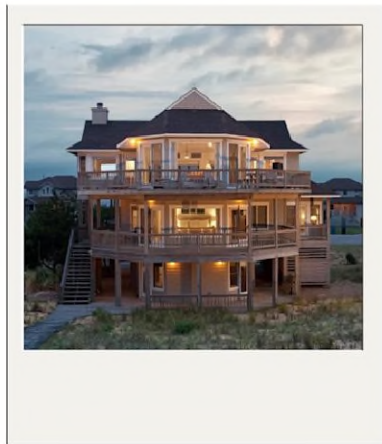
### **SanDestin Golf and Beach Resort, Miramar Beach, Florida**

It sure feels like the Caribbean at this Florida resort. Located on the state's Gulf Coast, known for powdery white sand and turquoise water, the **SanDestin Golf and Beach Resort** offers condos, villas, and even a classic hotel. Osprey Point, the newest option, features stylish two- to four-bedroom units that have large kitchens with quartz countertops, marble backsplashes, and high-end appliances. If you don't feel like cooking, the property's seven restaurants will have you covered. Golfing is big at this resort, and an 18-hole mini golf course will get the whole family on the green.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The pool was the highlight of our trip. It wasn't too crowded, and it was very clean," said our tester, who stayed in a three-bedroom unit at Osprey Point. She described the resort as beautiful and conveniently located, with no shortage of good food and activities for the family.



at sandestin



The Sanderling Resort, The Ritz-Carlton, thebocaraton

## East Coast Beach Resorts

### The Sanderling Resort, Duck, North Carolina

An adult-oriented resort in this neck of the woods is hard to come by, but **The Sanderling Resort** pulls through for couples. Its 123 rooms and suites recently underwent a glow-up for the property's 40th anniversary, and we're swooning over the poster beds, floral pillows, and color palette. And the view? That's as good as ever, since the property sits between the Atlantic Ocean and Currituck Sound on a prime spot of beach.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Relaxed, timeless, and upscale" is how our tester, who visited with his fiancée, described the resort's vibe, which offered a variety of thoughtfully curated activities. One of the highlights of their trip was their 4x4 beach tour in Corolla, where they saw wild horses up close. "It offered a unique connection to the area's natural history that many resorts don't provide." Other favorites included jet skiing in the sound to enjoy coastal scenery and a relaxing couple's massage. "The combination of a peaceful spa and exciting water-based activities allowed us to tailor our weekend exactly to what we wanted, both rest and adventure," he said. Food-wise, on-property

restaurants were delicious, especially Theodosia. "It felt like each dining experience was unique, but consistently high-quality."



at the sanderling

**The Boca Raton, Florida**

The kids have it made at **The Boca Raton**, an iconic, glamorous resort that feels perfectly comfortable with your tot's sippy cups and sand buckets. The best proof is at the Harborside Pool Club, where a giant pirate ship-themed splash pad is flanked by a row of kid-only cabanas themed after some favorite interests, from princesses to cooking. Poolside ice cream here gets an upgrade with "tackle boxes" full of toppings that kids can use to make their own creation. The Beach Club, one of the five hotels within the property, was renovated less than a year ago.

**TESTER NOTES:** "I've rarely seen a luxury hotel so comfortable with having kids on property," said our tester, a travel editor and mom. "The kids are treated like VIPs!" She suggests that families stay at The Tower, the hotel closest to the Harborside Pool Club, noting that it was renovated in 2022 and still gleams.



at thebocaraton

### **Margaritaville Beach House, Key West, Florida**

With a lagoon-style pool that stays open late, afternoon ice pops, and some bunk-bed rooms, **Margaritaville Beach House** puts a family twist on the brand's vibe. Most guests bring kids or teens and spend the day at Smathers Beach—it's the largest one in Key West and just across the

street from the resort. Or they hop on the free resort shuttle to Old Town, the historic district on the western half of the island, where the Key West Aquarium is located. At night, many families return for dinner and plunge in the pool before they do it all over again tomorrow.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We enjoyed lounging at the pool, especially after dinner once it was cooler," said our tester, who brought her 15-year-old. "We also had fun playing cornhole on our walks back and forth to the pool and on-site restaurant." She added that the resort's game room was nice to have during rainy weather.



## at margaritavilleresorts

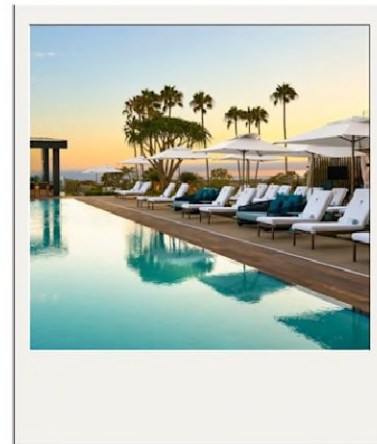
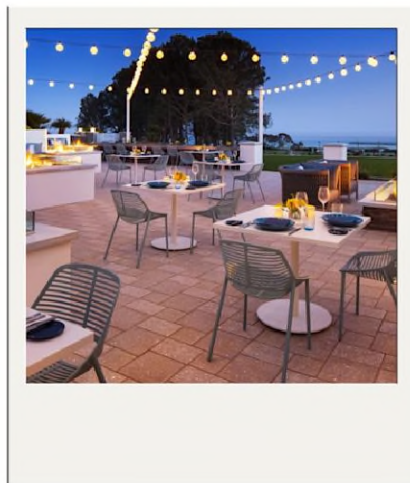
### **The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota, Florida**

If you're a sit by the beach eating ice cream sandwiches kind of family, get yourself to **The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota's** private club for sand-seekers that's a three-mile shuttle ride from the property's home in the cultural district. Forget about fighting for a lounge there: On the prime stretch of white-sand beach, comfy seating and ice cream sammies are aplenty. For kids who prefer pools, the club has one of those too, plus locker rooms with showers, hair dryers, and beauty products so you can leave all the sand behind.

**TESTER NOTES:** "For being such a luxury resort, we were worried it would not be kid-friendly. My kids were welcomed with open arms, and they had the time of their lives," said our tester, who highly recommends having dinner at Jack Dusty and upgrading your room to club level so you can access the lounge with "amazing wines on tap, plus great coffees, cookies, and other snacks."



at ritzcarlton.com



surfsand, marriott

## West Coast Beach Resorts

### Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa, Dana Point, California

Perched atop a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean mid-way between San Diego and Los Angeles, the Victorian-inspired **Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa** caters to all types of travelers, but families and foodies especially will be in their happy place. For kiddos, it all starts at the check-in desk, where they can pick up a scavenger hunt kit and a whale-shaped water toy (the area is known as the whale-watching capital of the world). The super sleuths will be sure to spot the splash zone, with its surf board water pop-up, and may even join one of the kids' camp activities, such as relay races. While the resort has only one sit-down restaurant, Lantern's Edge, you'll want to eat every meal there.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Lantern's Edge was one of the best fine-dining family meals we have experienced, while traveling or at home," said our tester, a food editor who vacationed with her

wife and two children. “The breakfasts were also terrific; we had both à la carte options and the buffet. Everything was reasonably portioned and well presented, with touches like ubé and mochi.”



at marriott

**The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa, California**

After a fun-filled, lively day at Legoland California, there's no better spot to decompress than **The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa**. You'll feel as if you're stepping into a serene oasis as you pass through the resort's coveted private entrance to the park. We highly recommend taking the free resort shuttle one day to lifeguarded Tamarack State Beach, a local favorite that usually has gentle waves and offers restrooms and rinse-off spots.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We loved the various courtyards of the Westin, along with the pool, the cozy couches, the firepits, and other relaxing spots. They felt distinctly Southern California," said our tester. "It was great being able to dine by the pool, soak in the hot tubs, and watch the kids play. The overall ambiance of the hotel made the entire experience feel like a genuine treat."



at marriott

**Surfsand Resort, Cannon Beach, Oregon**

Hello, Haystack Rock! The iconic formation sits outside the recently renovated **Surfsand Resort**. Grab a cup of coffee from the lobby and head out during the morning's low tide—the sea stars and other marine life hugging the rocks will be most visible then. Families and couples get equal

treatment at Surfsand: Kids dig using the lobby's claw machine to grab a piece of taffy and enthusiastically join in on daily sand dollar searches, while adults lean into the local beer tastings and hot tubs. And the cookies served every afternoon are loved by all.

**TESTER NOTES:** "You can book a hotel package that includes a bonfire on the beach at night right down from the iconic rock. It was the highlight of our trip," said our tester. "They set up wood, lit it on fire, and gave us fixings for s'mores." She also loved the view of Haystack Rock from the property's Wayfarers Restaurant, which serves an impressive crab bake.



## at surfsand

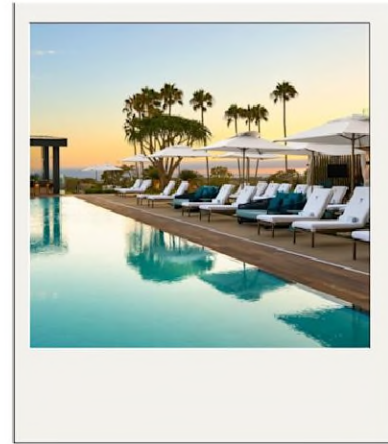
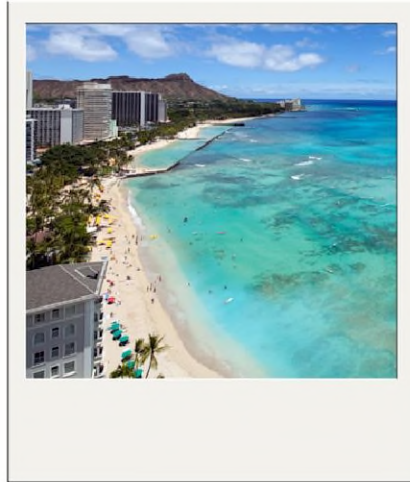
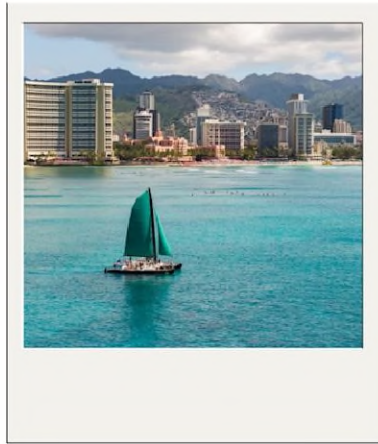
### **Vea Newport Beach, California**

You may or may not go to the beach at this newish So Cal hotel, but you'll likely have an ocean view. More than 90% of **Vea Newport Beach's** stylish rooms and suites (including a very merry holiday-themed one) face the water. Guests can hop in a free shuttle to nearby Newport Beach, but many traveling without kids soak up the pool vibes at the hotel, especially the spa's adult-only saltwater option. Art installations in common spaces and the View restaurant also elevate the hotel experience.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The hotel's gym and spa were standouts," said our tester. "Though I visited with my family, most resort guests in the fall seemed to be young professionals. But it is family-friendly —I think it would be a great place to take teens and young adults. It has a hip vibe that resonates with Gen Z."



at marriott



hyatt, marriott

## Hawaiian Beach Resorts

### Sheraton Waikiki Beach Resort, Hawaii

Hang 10 or hang out? Families can do both at the **Sheraton Waikiki Beach Resort**, in a prime spot on the famous strip of lifeguarded beach. While the waves in front of the hotel are usually gentle, nearby swells attract surfers. The resort offers beginner surfing lessons and a slew of other quintessential Hawaiian classes such as hula and lei making. Beautifully decorated two-bedroom Ohana suites that sleep six are game changers for families with three or more kids.

**TESTER NOTES:** “You could make the case that this hotel has the single best location in Oahu for families,” said our tester, who surfed with his wife and three kids. “One day we had a cabana near the pool with stunning ocean views. We rotated between surfing, the shady cabana, and chilling out in the hot tubs and Helumoa Playground Pool.” Our tester also raved about the resort’s large lobby, where his family played pool and grabbed a snack after dinner: “The vibe was epic.”



at marriott

### Wailea Beach Resort, Maui, Hawaii

Once a spot that was almost exclusively family-focused, the **Wailea Beach Resort** now appeals to adult travelers as well. The Olakino Wellness Pool Experience for guests 18 and older pampers with micro-spa services (think short massages and cooling masks), chef-curated healthy bites, and a

saline infinity pool with in-water chaises overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Stay in the uber-romantic new Sunken Garden Oasis room, with a roomy lanai plus an outdoor bathtub and a firepit with comfy seating.

**TESTER NOTES:** Our tester and her partner tried the wellness pool experience: “We had an incredible head-and-shoulder massage with a gorgeous view of the infinity pool and ocean,” she said. “Throughout the day, we were offered face masks and snacks like mini acai bowls and fresh fruit cups.” The resort’s luau was another trip highlight, thanks to its “entertaining performances” that our tester said were among the most beautiful she had ever seen.



at marriott

### **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa, Hawaii**

Your crew won't have to rush to get back to the **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa** to swim, because its pools never close. But this property on the lushest of all the Hawaiian islands does turn off the lights at night to help light-sensitive local birds. The result: Swimming under the stars becomes a thing, and it's absolutely magical for couples and families with teens. By day or at night, you can explore long, winding lazy river sections with twists and turns and little waterfalls with grottos. Then rest easy in modern, spacious rooms or suites conducive to traveling with three generations.

**TESTER NOTES:** "From the luau to nighttime swimming, our entire trip to the Grand Hyatt Kauai was a highlight reel of great experiences and great hospitality," said our tester. His family of five surfed the wave breaks in front of the resort, but he noted, "Just a mile away from the hotel, there is a string of famous beaches that have calm waters and fun waves for families plus lots of sea turtles."



at hyatt

### Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa, Oahu, Hawaii

You don't have to choose between a beach and a city vibe at **Moana Surfrider**—simply walk from the front door to the back. The resort's grand entrance, on one of Oahu's busy streets, puts you in the heart of shopping and dining, but exit out the back and you're in Waikiki beach paradise, with

oceanfront restaurants and a porch with rocking chairs that remind you that this beauty of a hotel will be 125 years old next year. Just in time for its birthday celebration, newly renovated Tower rooms, many with stunning views of the ocean and Diamond Head, have all-ages appeal.

**TESTER NOTES:** “The Moana Surfrider is perfectly positioned right between one of the most legendary surfing beaches in the world and the heart of Waikiki,” said our tester. Still, you’ll want to remain on property for at least some meals: “We also enjoyed an incredible four-course meal at The Beachhouse at the Moana,” our tester added. “I would like to have its Pistachio Raspberry Tart again right now! So delicious!”



at marriott.com

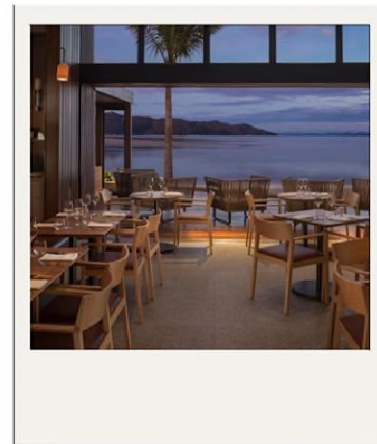
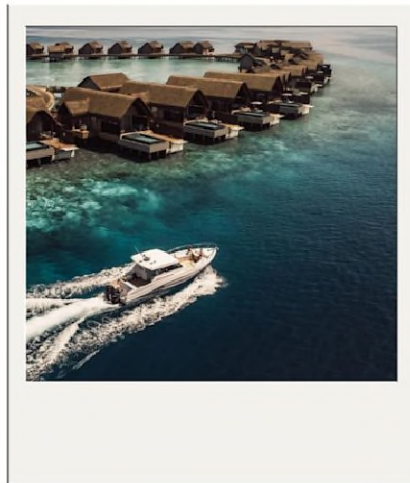
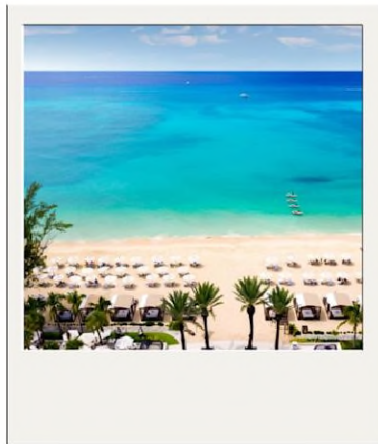
## **Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa, Hawaii**

The newly renovated **Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa** leaves families starstruck, and not just because of its rooftop Tour of the Stars program, led by an astronomer using a high-powered telescope. A longtime favorite of families, the resort does a great job showcasing all the Hawaii-centric activities you'll want to do (make a lei, take in a luau) and some you didn't know were possible (like chatting it up with the lobby's tropical birds). The incredible pool complex more than makes up for the fact that the resort's beach is pretty narrow. Venture off the property one day to Oneuli Beach in Kihei to see what no major resort on the island has—black sand.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our favorite restaurant was Japengo, with its large, spread-out seating area," said our tester, who was celebrating his anniversary with his wife and kids. "Besides having great food, it's the perfect place for sunset pictures." Our tester, who dabbles in golf, also enjoyed the hotel's YoMaui Golf experience: "The clarity of the simulator made me feel like I was right on the golf course!"



at hyatt



joali, marriott, ihg

## International Beach Resorts

### Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort, Willemstad

The **Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort** promises a spectacular getaway for virtually every type of traveler, and we're convinced. From high-octane water sports and dive excursions to relaxing spa treatments and private beach yoga, the resort boasts a remarkable range of activities that deliver epic thrills. The complimentary Green Turtle Kids Club rises to the occasion to help tiny tourists make vacation friends they might also hang out with later at the kids' pool and beach.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The resort's beach was definitely the highlight of our trip! It was absolutely stunning," said our tester, who brought a friend. "There was virtually no seaweed, the water was vibrantly turquoise, and the sand was powdery soft and so bright. It was rarely crowded." She also reported that their scuba diving experience at the resort was fantastic: "We were able to go straight from sunbathing to our excursion with zero travel time. My friend and I had never been scuba diving, but we were immediately put at ease. The reef was filled with fish!"



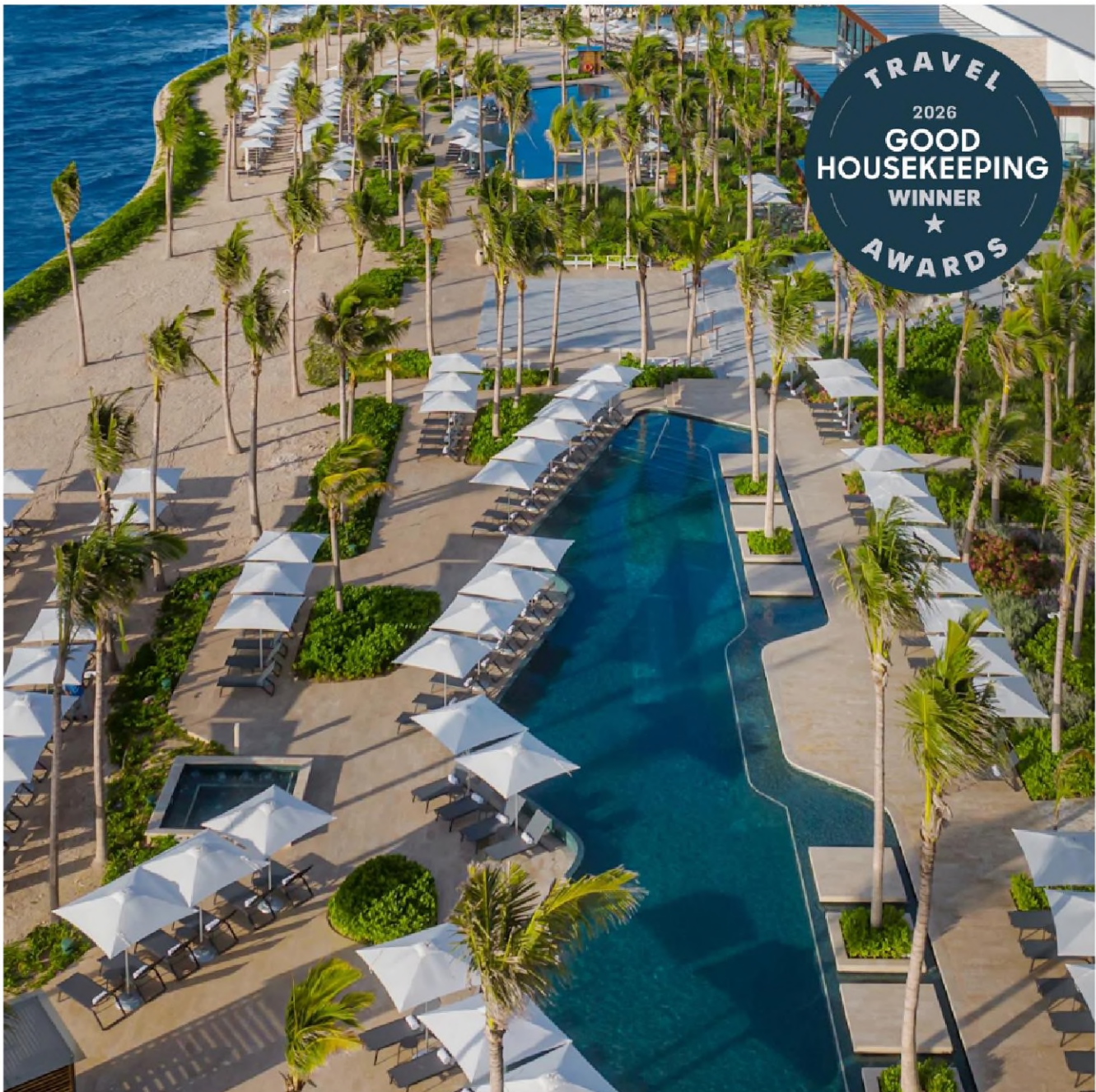
at marriott

### Conrad Tulum Riviera Maya, Mexico

After zipping around the Yucatán Peninsula all day to explore the Mayan ruins, you'll want to return to a peaceful spot where you can cool off in the water and have one of the best meals of your life —and that's **Conrad Tulum Riviera Maya**. Autor, a Michelin-guide restaurant right on the property,

wows taste buds with its four-course tasting menu, which includes a vegetarian version. The spa, with a lounge designed like a cenote, leans into Mayan influences and local touches: For instance, it creates its own scrubs using herbs grown on the property.

**TESTER NOTES:** “As you pull up to the property, you’re greeted by lush foliage and beautiful ocean views. There are multiple pools, all with ocean views as the backdrop, surrounded by comfortable daybeds and lounge chairs,” said our tester. “Every room has a private soaking tub outside on the balcony, and my boyfriend and I loved spending our evenings in ours.”



## at hilton

### **Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection San Pedro, Belize**

The top reason to go to **Alaia Belize**, which is likely to be two plane rides away: the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve, the largest in the Northern Hemisphere. Just 600 yards from the resort, the reef is why snorkeling, scuba diving, and cave-tubing here are off the charts. An on-site shop makes it easy to nab the gear you need, and a concierge service will whisk you to a “secret beach.” Couples looking for a romantic getaway will have the best time here, though the resort is open to all ages. If you mostly plan to eat at the resort’s six restaurants rather than in San Pedro, look into the all-inclusive plan, available for stays of four nights or longer.

**TESTER NOTES:** “This was the greatest trip my husband and I have ever taken,” said our tester. “The snorkeling is the absolute best, and the cave tube tour/zip lining was exhilarating.” They also enjoyed the adult-only infinity pool.



at marriott

### Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas

Thrills run deep at **Atlantis**, one of the largest resorts in the world. Between its water park and its marine life center, your crew can tube into white-water rapids, slide through a shark-filled lagoon, and high-five a bottlenose dolphin all on the same day. The kids' and teens' clubs are next-level,

with a cooking studio, a floor-to-ceiling gaming tree, and dance parties. With 40 restaurants and three Michelin-starred chefs, expect your taste buds to be thrilled too.

**TESTER NOTES:** Atlantis has five towers, and our tester stayed with her family at The Reef. “We used the kitchenette for breakfast each morning, and having the beach and pool access so close was lovely,” she said. She also highly recommends booking the dolphin experience. “My 6-year-old was especially enamored with our sweet dolphin, Electra,” said our tester. “Electra made sounds at us, waved, and even gave kisses and high-fives. The feel of my hand hitting the dolphin fin is not something I will soon forget!”



## at atlantisbahamas

### **W Punta de Mita, Punta Mita, Mexico**

You can always count on W hotels for fun vibes, and this location in Punta Mita (about an hour from Puerto Vallarta) expertly blends surf culture and local artistry. A ceviche bar in a vintage Chevy truck is just one unique touch; there's also a 460-foot-long "Camino Huichol" walkway, a mosaic made of over 3 million bright blue and green tiles. While **W Punta de Mita** appeals mostly to couples, families with tweens and teens won't feel out of place, and you could argue that the resort's family pool one-ups the adult-only option.

**TESTER NOTES:** Finding this the perfect place for someone looking to unwind or get away, our tester and her college-age son enjoyed the natural beauty and the food at the resort most. "Our dinner at Rubra was amazing," said our tester. "The menu incorporates fresh native ingredients in unique ways and serves them on locally crafted plates." Her son also enjoyed his first surf lesson at the resort, calling it "top-notch."



at marriott

**InterContinental Hayman Great Barrier Reef, Grand Hayman, Australia**

A private island resort in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef will sweep you off your feet from the moment you arrive by boat or helicopter from the closest airport in Hamilton Island (about a 2 1/2-hour flight from Sydney). Colorful coral gardens teeming with tropical fish surround

**InterContinental Hayman Great Barrier Reef.** Guests can also enjoy helicopter flights over iconic landmarks like the Heart Reef (a heart-shaped coral formation) alongside a wide range of water activities like guided jet ski tours, snorkeling in secluded coves, and glass-bottomed-boat reef explorations. Though the 75-year-old property does have some activities for children and families, couples are its main focus. Its annual Stay with Pride package celebrates the LGBTQ+ community.

**TESTER NOTES:** “It’s an authentic slice of Australian paradise,” said our testers, an Australian couple. “From the moment you arrive, you’re surrounded by lush, tropical beauty that feels both pristine and purposefully designed. It’s a beautifully secluded destination for those wanting to recharge, connect with nature, and enjoy quality food and wine in a relaxed, scenic setting.”



at [ihg.com](https://www.ihg.com)

### **Andaz Peninsula Papagayo, Costa Rica**

On a 15-mile coastline that's as buzzy for both its biodiversity and its A-list vacationers, the **Andaz Peninsula Papagayo** makes family getaways smooth sailing. Cold towels and coconut water await you in the open-air lobby before you hop on a golf cart to your room or multi-bedroom villa.

There'll be no roughing it here. Two beaches provide quick excitement: You'll spy crabs and turtles at the on-property beach and then take a short boat ride to the new beach club, where you can sit in a thatched cabana and be serenaded by howler monkeys. When you're ready for a break, drop off kids ages 4 to 11 at the complimentary supervised club, which is focused on creativity.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The activities were exceptional," said our tester, who visited with her family. "My husband and daughters especially enjoyed their surf lesson, where they caught warm water waves while the monkeys frolicked on the shore, watching." Overall, she described it as "a truly incredible experience" and appreciated the free water sports and snorkeling gear.



at hyatt

### **Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa, Cayman Islands**

An easy escape from the East Coast, the **Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa** puts you in the heart of the island's best stretch of sand. The turquoise water is so clear there that it looks like the color in the pool next to the beach! The waves give the right amount of joy for littles and make it a perfect place for guests of all ages to try stand-up paddleboarding, which is free. The island's famous Stingray City is just a short boat ride away.

**TESTER NOTES:** "My favorite restaurant at the resort was The Beach House," said our tester. "It offers a Toes in the Sand option where they set out a table on the beach and serve you dinner there. It was a great experience." Though the resort is kid-friendly, it draws more couples outside of holiday periods.



at marriott

### **Joali Maldives, Muravandhoo Island, Maldives**

Once you're at **Joali Maldives**, you're completely surrounded by the Indian Ocean with nowhere else to go—and it's bliss. The 5-year-old property, which bills itself as the first "art-immersive resort," is as stunning as the surroundings. Staying in thatched-roof overwater bungalows, dining in a manta-shaped treehouse, and taking one-on-one ceramic classes at the island's art house adds

up to a memorable mother-daughter trip, but the whole family and even couples will want in on this experience too. To get there, you'll take a 50-minute journey on a seaplane from the capital, Malé.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our overwater bungalow was absolutely spectacular!" said our tester, who visited with her teen daughter. "The furnishings were modern, chic, and functional. The details were unmatched. The headboards were made with coconut shells, and the ceiling fan was shaped like the gorgeous flowers that were peppered throughout the property."



at joali.com

### **The Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club**

Affectionately nicknamed “The Pink Palace,” **The Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club**, with its cotton candy hue, is a sweet pick for families and couples who want an elevated yet easygoing visit to Bermuda, less than a three-hour flight from many East Coast cities. More than 100 of the 380-plus rooms in the landmark property received a glow-up this year and were converted to roomier suites. (Stay in the Bermudiana Wing for a remodeled room.) But honestly, don’t expect to be inside much, as the infinity pool and the pink-sand beach will be far too enticing.

**TESTER NOTES:** A shuttle whisks you from the property to a private beach club, home to two ocean pools with a private cove and a floating platform and hammocks. “The club was so relaxing,” our tester said. “You could sit there for hours enjoying food, drinks, and the ocean view.” If you do want to get off the property, our tester noted that the town is just a five-minute walk away.



at [thehamiltonprincess.com](https://thehamiltonprincess.com)

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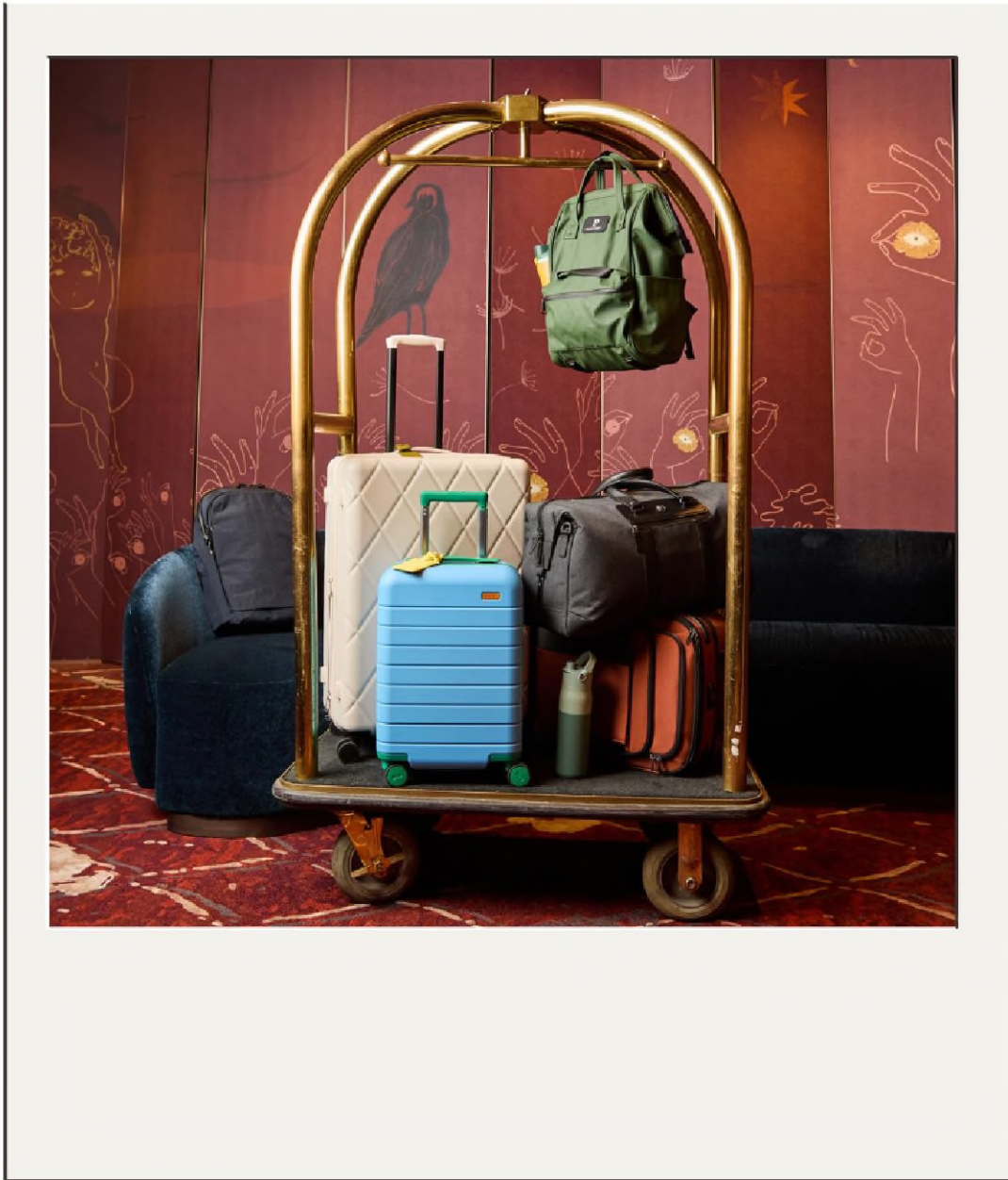


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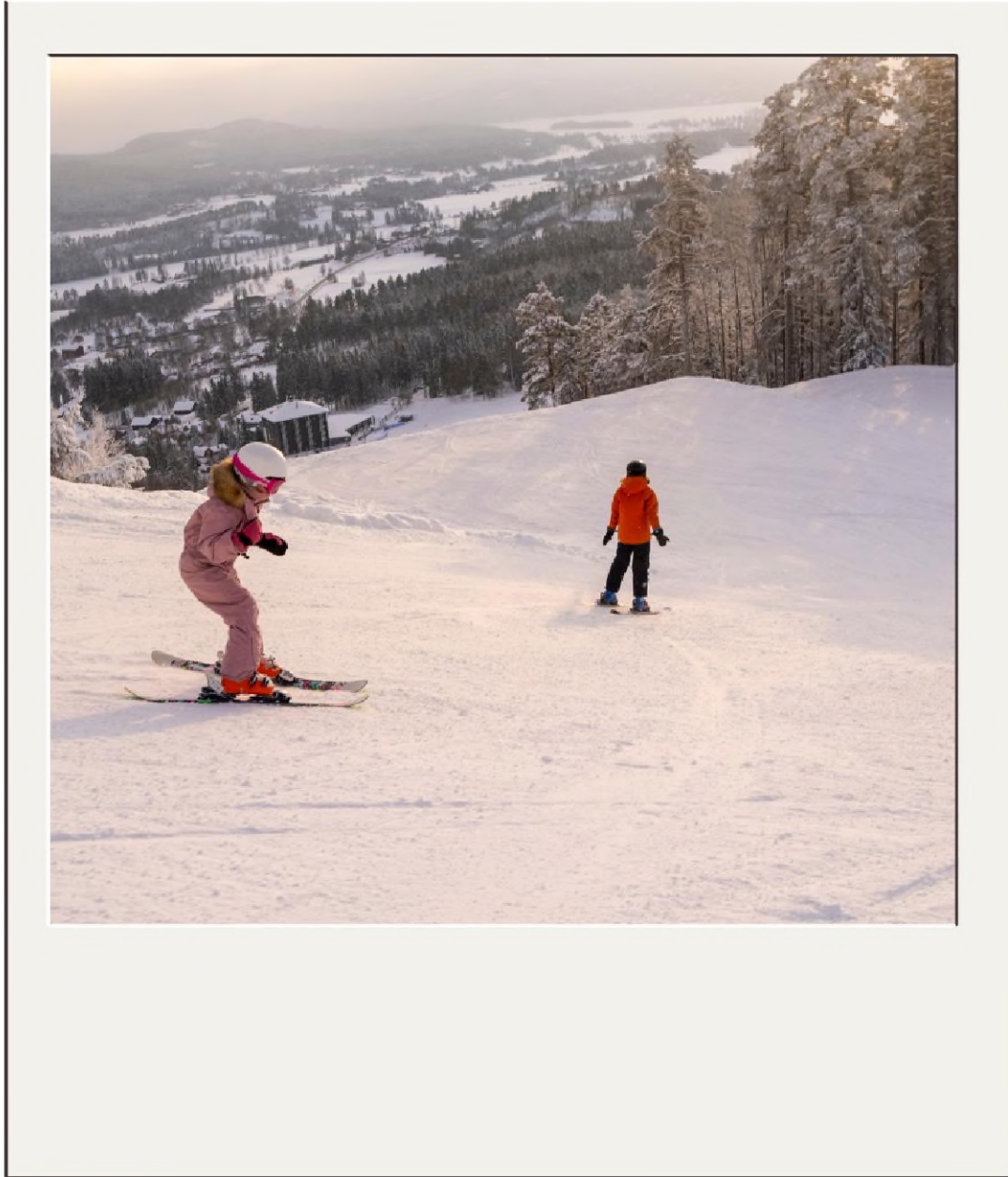


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## How a Los Cabos Wellness Retreat Led Me to Reconnect With My Body After Breast Cancer Surgery



Today, I think of my life in two distinct chapters: before BC and after BC.

Last Labor Day, I had just arrived in Telluride, Colorado, for the Film Festival. The mountains glowed with golden light, evoking a sense of enchantment and possibility. Within days, the glow vanished. My doctor broke the spell with the news: I had breast cancer. I needed to return to New York City immediately to meet with a surgeon and discuss treatment options.

Deep down, I wasn't surprised. Breast cancer runs in my family, and I knew my risk was high. My decision to have a double mastectomy felt inevitable—but it wasn't easy. I'd never had surgery before, and this

was a brutal introduction. Still, I wanted to do everything I could to avoid a recurrence. I worked on making peace with my choice, even as I recalibrated what my future—and body—might look like.

For me, the hardest part of having cancer wasn't the medical ups and downs—it was telling my two sons, then 20 and 23. One was studying in Dublin, the other working in London. Breaking the news over a Zoom call broke my heart. I tried to reassure them that I'd be okay, even though I wasn't sure myself. Would I be fine? Would they?

One of the first things cancer changed was travel. Since the boys had left home, we celebrated the end of each year with family trips—France, Portugal, and other places where we could reconnect, explore together, and forge new traditions. This time, we stayed close to home. No wandering unfamiliar streets. Instead, we walked well-worn paths in New York, visited old friends, watched the skaters at Bryant Park, and cocooned indoors—just my boys, a tree, and me.



### **A Healing Journey Begins**

My first surgery was a relief: successful, with clear lymph nodes and no complications. My doctor and I agreed to delay the second surgery to allow time for physical and emotional healing. I returned to work and started a weekly yoga class to ease the tightness in my chest and shoulders.

A month later, my husband and I returned to Telluride for our annual winter trip. I couldn't ski or carry my own bags, but I could sit on the deck and take in the snow-covered mountains. It was enough.

But even as the scars on my chest healed, my heart remembered the pain and fear. So when my editor asked me to cover the SOUL Wellness Retreat in Los Cabos, the opportunity seemed heaven-sent. I was ready to shift from being a patient to being a person again. And I wanted to put into practice what I'd been learning in yoga: meditation, gratitude, and letting go.

### **Turning the Page at Nobu Hotel**

When we stepped out of Los Cabos International Airport, the heat hit like a wall. But after an hour's drive through Baja's cactus-studded desert, we arrived at Nobu Hotel Los Cabos—hidden at the end of a winding road in the private Diamante community. It felt like I'd stumbled upon a secret retreat I didn't know I needed.





We were greeted with chilled towels and matcha lemonade, rich in antioxidants. That small, thoughtful moment grounded me in the present. As we walked through the Zen Rock Garden and open-air lobby, I took a deep breath. It felt good to arrive.

With 200 rooms and suites, plus 60 residences, Nobu blends Japanese minimalism with Mexican craftsmanship. My room—over 500 square feet—was larger than my first New York apartment. A reading nook, a private balcony overlooking the pool, and in the distance, the Pacific. The centerpiece was an onsen-style soaking tub, set beneath a skylight and framed by a wall of river rocks. Just stepping into the space was an invitation to slow down. It wasn't just a room; it was a sanctuary.

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"Los Cabos showed me that wellness isn't a checklist—it's a gradual unfolding. It's the warmth of the sun, the scent of the sea and desert, the taste of food just harvested from the earth. It's a reminder that healing has its own time and pace. And sometimes, often, it begins by simply being still."

— Lisa Greissinger

At the SOUL Wellness Retreat, each day brought a different kind of restoration. Mornings began with ocean views, the sound of the ocean, and a soy matcha latte on my balcony. Then yoga, sound healing, or breathwork. After class, we faced the vast Pacific and journaled: "Set your intentions. Let go of what no longer serves you."

I wrote about everything I was carrying: Will I see my children settled? What form will my body finally take? Will the cancer come back? When will I feel like "me" again? How soon will I feel ready to really travel? What will my next, more complicated surgery be like? Will the pain be manageable?

Then I let the questions go—at least for the moment.

At the 13,000-square-foot Esencia Wellness Spa, I booked an aromatherapy massage. Treatments included volcanic stone therapy and sea salt scrubs infused with local herbs and essential oils. Even with 13 treatment rooms, I never felt rushed. A spa butler guided me from check-in through the hydrotherapy circuit to my massage, where the therapist was sensitive and skilled with my post-mastectomy body.

My frequent trips to the Nobu Hotel Cabos' outdoor hydrotherapy garden became another space for renewal. I'd move from the steam room to melt away the tension before moving to the invigorating bucket shower, soaking in the jacuzzi, braving the energizing cold plunge, and finally, a snooze in the walled garden. Each cycle left me more balanced and centered.

#### AN EMERGING WELLNESS DESTINATION

Long known for its natural beauty and ocean adventures, Los Cabos is quickly becoming a destination for restorative travel—the kind that encourages you to slow down, reflect, and reconnect with yourself. This year, Michelin awarded green stars to two local standouts—[Flora's Field Kitchen](#) and [Acre](#)—for their commitment to sustainable gastronomy (plus five new One Star restaurants). The region is now drawing wellness seekers not just for its landscape, but for its experiences: sunrise beachfront yoga, cacao ceremonies, spa rituals rooted in indigenous tradition, and food that nourishes the body and soul.

Every meal at Nobu was a reminder that wellness doesn't mean deprivation. At the Mediterranean-inspired Muna, we had short ribs with jocoque (a rich, tangy dairy similar to buttermilk) and endive. At the Mexican-inspired Pacific, whole baby corn came with toasted grasshopper mayonnaise. Regional flavors gave me a real sense of place. Next door, the open-air M Bar was perfect for sunset mocktails—fragrant with thyme, basil, orgeat, and fresh berries—or a craft cocktail, if that's your thing.

#### **Among the Trees and Hilltops**

After Nobu's serene luxury, Acre Resort was a lush escape. We were there for a farm-to-table lunch and a hands-on soy candle workshop. Acre's tropical oasis also houses an animal rescue sanctuary (yes, emotional support dogs!), an art studio, and a Tree House Spa, offering restorative treatments like cactus detox wraps and lavender scrubs with herbs grown on-site. Guests can stay in one of 12 luxe tree houses

suspended above the Earth for an elevating experience, or in one of the 10 family-friendly haciendas. It felt like a place for both escape and connection.

We also visited Monte Cardón, where chef Ubaldo Martínez creates personalized, hyper-local meals using ingredients harvested within 12 miles in his slow food kitchen. Before dinner, we participated in a traditional cacao ceremony, rooted in Mayan healing practices—that moment changed everything.

We ground cacao beans into paste, set intentions, and sat in silence. As I worked the beans and silently meditated, tears came unexpectedly. I acknowledged the fear I still carried as a breast cancer survivor and reconnected with my body as it is. The experience was both cathartic and healing—and I walked away feeling lighter, like a weight had been lifted.



### **Space to Heal**

Los Cabos showed me that wellness isn't a checklist—it's a gradual unfolding. It's the warmth of the sun, the scent of the sea and desert, the taste of food just harvested from Earth. It's a reminder that healing has its own time and pace. And sometimes, often, it begins by simply being still. Healing isn't just medical—it's in movement, stillness, ritual, and reconnection. When I arrived, I didn't know exactly what I needed emotionally, but now I was ready to face my next surgery.

When I left Nobu Hotel Los Cabos, I wasn't just rested—I was restored. Los Cabos gave me the space, silence, and inspiration to reset my post-mastectomy body and mind. It wasn't a luxury wellness escape; it was a journey to identify myself as a breast cancer survivor.



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[Life](#) > [Travel](#)

## We Visited 100+ Beach Vacation Spots – These Were Our Favorites

Our testers traveled coast to coast (and abroad) for Good Housekeeping's 2026 Travel Awards. Here are the winning beaches you'll never want to leave.



⌚ 1 MIN READ

**B**eautiful beaches are universally alluring—but only a few live up to the dream vacations that stay with you long after you’ve brushed off the sand. For [Good Housekeeping's 2026 Travel Awards](#), our editors and testers explored coastlines near and far to uncover those rare destinations that pair stunning scenery with standout experiences. Whether you’re after a serene escape, a family adventure, or a chic seaside stay, these winners make every moment feel like the perfect beach day.

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## Explore All Winners

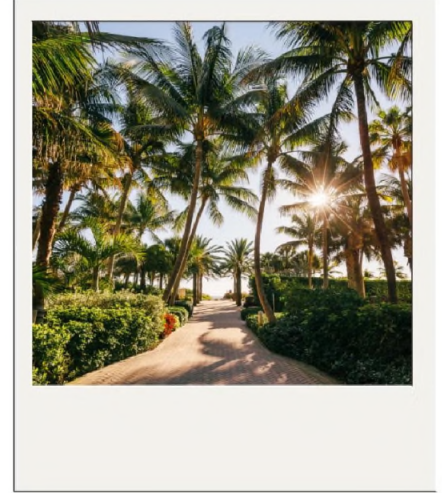
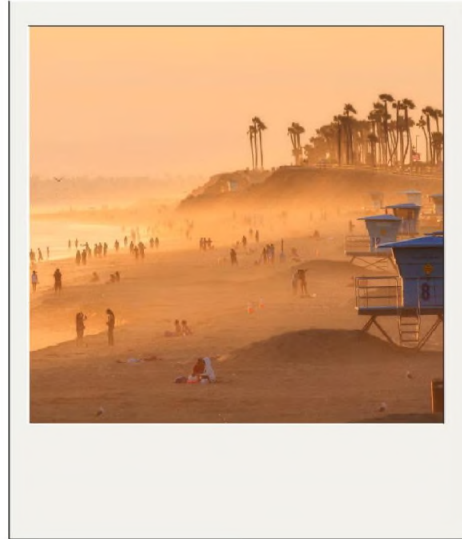
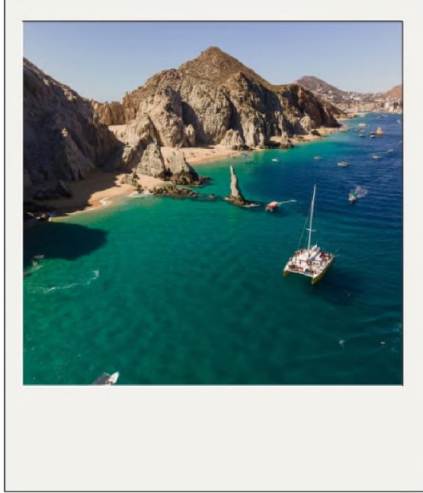


Good Housekeeping 2026 Travel Awards

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## Beach Towns

### SURFSIDE ESCAPE



### Huntington Beach, California

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It's easy to get the family on board with a vacation to **Huntington Beach**, a 10-mile stretch of sand known for its surf culture. Your crew can ride the waves (lessons are available for kids as young as 4 or 5) or just watch the pros do it. Surfing aside, the beach here is gloriously family-friendly—wide, lifeguarded, and dotted with activities including a new inclusive playground. Hundreds of fire rings scattered about

### NAUTICAL NEW ENGLAND



### Newport, Rhode Island

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Set against the ocean, **Newport** is simultaneously romantic and family-friendly. No matter whose hand you're holding, you'll enjoy strolls downtown, where there's a happy mix of kitschy stores and boutiques, and along the cliff walk—a popular path with stunning ocean views that runs alongside Gilded Age mansions that merit their own visits. Attractions like the Sailing Museum and the Newport

the town's three main beaches entice flip-flop-clad families to roast marshmallows as the sun goes down.

**TESTER NOTES:** "From a kids' reading nook at the outdoor shopping center to beach mats that help wheelchair users get to the shoreline, I saw all kinds of thoughtful touches around this town that is only about 15 minutes from Anaheim," said our tester, who stayed at the beachy-chic Paséa Hotel and Spa, which they thought teens would love. "Restaurants at all price points are far more elevated than in your typical beach town—Primecut Taqueria was my favorite grab-and-go spot, and Duke's Huntington Beach serves up both fun food and a surf vibe," they added.

Car Museum are a great way to spend the day and cater to people of all ages.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Newport is charming, fun, and packed tightly into a little downtown area that's easy to walk around," said our tester, who visited with her baby and her 7-year-old. "The Sailing Museum turned out to be one of our favorite spots. Wonderfully designed, it's filled with colorful and fascinating exhibits and memorabilia." Her family stayed at the Wayfinder Hotel, tucked away from the hubbub of downtown. "It had a pool, a fantastic restaurant, and free parking," she said.

#### COAST MEETS CULTURE



#### St. Pete–Clearwater, Florida

##### LEARN MORE

A beach getaway and a city vacation rolled into one, **St. Pete–Clearwater** blends sunny shoreline with world-class attractions. In the morning, you can splash around near some of the 36 miles of Gulf Coast beaches (including Clearwater Beach, which has fun inflatable slides on its powdery white sand). Then seek p.m. shade at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, which rescues and rehabs dolphins, or the Dali Museum, which showcases works from the Spanish surrealist and other icons.

#### CAROLINA CHARM



#### Wilmington, North Carolina, and Island Beaches

##### LEARN MORE

If the beaches near **Wilmington** look familiar but you've never set foot on their golden sand, you probably recognize them from *The Summer I Turned Pretty*. All three seasons of this Amazon hit show were filmed in Wilmington's historic downtown and on three North Carolina barrier islands (Wrightsville Beach, Kure Beach, and Carolina Beach) about 20 to 30 minutes east. You'll want to explore the entire trio, because each has a slightly different vibe.

**TESTER NOTES:** “This destination gives off European vibes, but you can also get your typical ‘beach town’ vacation fix,” said our tester, who stayed with her spouse at the Vinoy Resort & Golf Club. “The Dali Museum was one of the most incredible ones I’ve experienced,” she added. She loved Sunken Gardens, which was full of flora and flamingos: “It is retro, has a history to it, and feels like the perfect place to bring your kids but also enjoy as adults.” Another tester, traveling with her teen, raved about her stay at the Island Grand at Tradewinds resort.

**TESTER NOTES:** “I saw people riding bikes everywhere, especially along Wilmington’s Riverwalk and on the beach roads,” said our tester, whose family loved staying at Trailborn Surf & Sound in Wrightsville Beach because it had “great amenities” and “super quick access to the beach.” Other highlights for her family included dining at the Bluewater Waterfront Grill, “where the boats come and go,” and touring a World War II battleship that gave them “a great sense of the area’s history.”

#### SUNSHINE AND SOPHISTICATION



### The Palm Beaches, Florida

#### LEARN MORE

America’s first resort destination gets better every year. **The Palm Beaches**, a 47-mile stretch of sunny shoreline encompassing more than three dozen cities from Jupiter to Boca Raton, boasts a wide selection of new and recently glowed-up resorts, restaurants, and attractions. Whether you want to peek in on the upgraded sea turtle hospital at Juno Beach’s Loggerhead Marine Life Center or grab the best sammie of your life at the viral Buccan sandwich counter in West Palm, it’s all waiting for you in this vacation spot that is warm 365 days a year.

**TESTER NOTES:** “Plan on visiting for a week or more, because there’s so much to see and do,” said our tester, who

stayed with her parents in a newly renovated two-bedroom suite at the Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Resort, adding, “We joked that it was our ‘eating vacation’ because nearly everything we tried between beach time, thrifting ventures, and sightseeing was scrumptious. It’s a tough call, but the waterfront dining at the Beacon in Jupiter was our favorite spot; it felt like a slice of Italy in Florida.”

**BAJA BLISS**



**Los Cabos, Mexico**

**MIAMI MAGIC**



**Greater Miami & Miami Beach, Florida**

**LEARN MORE**

What's not to love about **Los Cabos**? This sunny spot on the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula, where the desert mountains meet the Pacific Ocean, woos all types of travelers. Whether you're hoping to flop on the beach with a good book, explore the magnificent marine life with the kids, or go clubbing, you'll find options for everyone. LGBTQ+ travelers, take note that Los Cabos was one of the first "queer-certified" vacation destinations.

**TESTER NOTES:** Knowing his kids would want to swim daily, our tester stayed at Chileno Bay Resort & Residences because it was one of the few properties in a sheltered cove protected from rough waters. "It was totally five-star in its location and service but completely unpretentious," he said. His family of four also enjoyed a kayak and snorkel tour from High Tide Sea Expeditions that took them past Cabo's famous arches (*shown*).

**LEARN MORE**

Generations of girlfriends have flocked to **Greater Miami & Miami Beach**. Here, vibrant art deco architecture meets world-class dining, lively beaches, and indulgent spas, setting the stage for an unforgettable escape. To elevate your stay, consider aligning your trip with one of the region's legendary festivals, such as Art Basel Miami Beach (December 5 through December 7, 2025) or the South Beach Wine & Food Festival (February 18 through February 22, 2026).

**TESTER NOTES:** "Book your girls' trip to the new Andaz Miami Beach by Hyatt," advised our tester. "The property was absolutely gorgeous—every detail was elegant, and I truly was on cloud nine! Their website doesn't do justice to how stunning the hotel, restaurants, and grounds really are." She also recommends heading to Coral Gables, a city just a few miles west of downtown Miami, to stroll its "charming streets" and discover another part of the bustling city.

**DUTCH CARIBBEAN DREAM****Curaçao****LEARN MORE**

A coastal gem, this Dutch Caribbean island near Venezuela boasts 35 beaches, and it's hard not to love them all. Curaçao stretches 38 miles, allowing you to beach-hop and

**PANHANDLE PERFECTION****Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Florida****LEARN MORE**

Your kids can spread their (water) wings at **Destin-Fort Walton Beach**. Located in the state's panhandle near warm Caribbean-like waters, this no-

discover two or three distinct shores in a single day. From lively **Mambo Beach**, steps from shops and seaside cafés, to the tranquil **Playa Kalki**, a cove beloved by snorkelers, every beach offers its own unique charm and personality.

**TESTER NOTES:** “All the beaches were so gorgeous, calm, and swimmable,” said our tester, who visited with her best friend. “We went to Kokomo, which was a popular beach club with snorkeling, one day. Our favorite beach was Playa Jereme, because it was quieter and had pristine waters. The view was breathtaking.” Our tester stayed at Lion’s Dive Beach Resort, which she thought would be a solid budget-friendly hotel for families looking for spacious beachfront accommodations.

passport-needed spot introduces tiny tourists to snorkeling, fishing, kayaking, and more through its brilliant Little Adventurers program. Its website suggests activities by age group—some are free, and for others you’re directed to local outfitters. The destination also recently introduced the “Ask a Scout” program, which allows moms and dads to query local parents.

**TESTER NOTES:** “We loved the Dolphin Cruise suggested through the Little Adventurers program,” said our tester, who brought her 2-year-old. “We saw so many dolphins out in the wild jumping in the waves!” Our tester stayed at the Emerald Grande, which has multi-bedroom suites. “My son couldn’t get enough of the hotel pool and the beach that you could take a shuttle to,” she added. “The water was crystal clear, the sand was nice, and a beautiful pelican floated near us all morning.”

#### GREAT LAKES GETAWAY



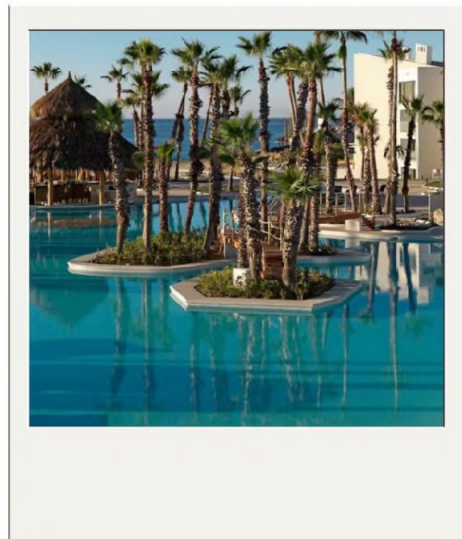
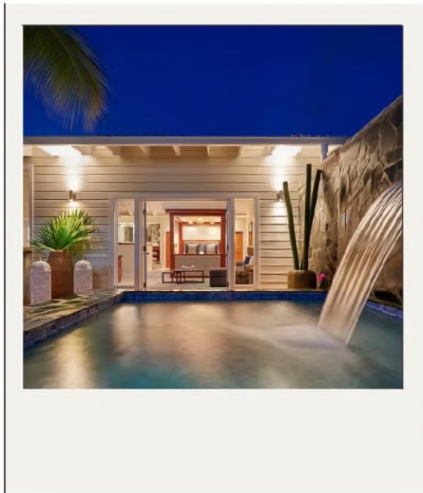
### Traverse City, Michigan

#### LEARN MORE

Set along the shimmering shores of Lake Michigan, **Traverse City** is a hidden gem for non-Midwesterners. Twenty-thousand-year-old glacial deposits in Grand Traverse Bay and nearby Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore tint the water an almost Caribbean shade of blue, especially on sunny days. Beyond its lakeside allure, Traverse City charms visitors with a

vibrant downtown brimming with its own local art scene and picturesque orchards.

**TESTER NOTES:** “A perfect day trip, the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, takes you in and through the dunes, with awe-inspiring views and breathtaking stops along the way,” said our tester, who visited with her spouse. “There are moments where you have to remind yourself that you’re in Michigan. The soft white sand and the perfectly clear blue waters rival those anywhere in the world.” The couple stayed at Hotel Indigo, noting that it was “walkable to almost everywhere we wanted to visit in town” and that its rooftop bar had “strong pours, great views, and even better vibes.”



SERENITYATCOCONUTBAY, PARADISUSLOSCABOSRESORT, STOLENTIME

## All-Inclusive Beach Resorts for Adults

### SECLUDED SERENITY



#### Almare, a Luxury Collection All-Inclusive Resort Isla Mujeres, Mexico

##### LEARN MORE

Couples will relish their “just the two of us” time at **Almare**, a newish resort on an island about seven miles from Cancun, to which a bougie catamaran whisks you from a marina near the airport. With only 109 rooms, Marriott’s first luxury property in Mexico is intimate, and its design emphasizes privacy. You won’t find all-you-can-eat buffets or large-scale parties: The vibe is more refined (case in point: a local flutist performs at the rooftop restaurant). Cultural touches abound, from the Mayan calendar in the tranquil lobby to a Cacao Experience option in which you craft your own chocolate.

**TESTER NOTES:** “Every meal felt like a highlight,” said our tester, who visited with her husband. “You could tell they

### 5-STAR SUITES



#### Secrets Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres Resort & Spa, Mexico

##### LEARN MORE

The secret is out: A Hyatt all-inclusive hotel chain, the **Secrets Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres**, is the dreamiest couples’ destination. At this property in a secluded area on the Yucatán Peninsula, a dozen or so miles from the hustle and bustle of Cancun, all 505 rooms are suites—some of them swim-out style with access to a pool from the terrace. The property’s Unlimited Luxury program for all guests provides top-shelf spirits, reservation-free dining, and a vast array of activities, no cheesy wristbands required.

**TESTER NOTES:** Calling the resort “stunning,” our tester complimented the lush greenery and the well-maintained pools and common spaces. “My husband and I enjoyed seeing Yucatan art throughout the property, especially wood carvings and murals,”

were trying to source locally—the food was infused with Mayan tradition, and it was healthful and delicious and seemed sustainable too!” She added that the overall experience felt “thoughtful and elevated” and that she was impressed with the attentiveness of the staff.

she said. Other highlights for the couple included the spa (“Our massages were in the most beautiful bungalows”) as well as the Italian restaurant Portofino and the 24-hour cafe offering coffee drinks, pastries, and gelato.

#### HONEYMOON HAVEN



**Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

#### LEARN MORE

An off-the-beaten-path honeymoon spot, the new **Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** is becoming easier to reach: Beginning December 20, 2025, Delta Airlines will fly directly from Atlanta to St. Vincent, joining other carriers that take off from New York City, Charlotte, and Miami. Nestled on a private cove bordered by a forest, the property attracts honeymooners and couples celebrating milestone anniversaries with overwater and beachfront villas that give off White Lotus vibes. Breakfast in bed, personalized snack and drink delivery, and bonding activities perfect for two (from a hot stone couple’s massage to a round of pickleball) will let you start your life as a married couple off right.

**TESTER NOTES:** “Our honeymoon was extremely relaxing and romantic!” said our tester. She raved about the property’s “extremely tranquil” grounds and the resort’s “very laid-back, private atmosphere.” They found the service

#### TROPICAL TRANQUILITY



**Serenity at Coconut Bay, St. Lucia**

#### LEARN MORE

From the moment you’re greeted by a butler with fresh coconuts, you know that your vacay at **Serenity at Coconut Bay** will be pure bliss. The couples-only resort, which tends to attract a 20- and 30-something crowd, gives all guests a dreamy vacation nest: a plunge-pool suite with a king-size four-poster bed and an oversize tub along with butlers who will quickly learn your preferences. The location is another plus: While most resorts on the island require a long, windy drive from the airport, Serenity is only 10 minutes from it.

**TESTER NOTES:** “The grounds at Serenity were beautifully maintained,” said our tester, who stayed with her boyfriend in a Grande Plunge Pool Butler Suite. “It is gorgeously landscaped and impeccably clean!” She rated the service as five-star, saying the staff remembered their names and favorite drinks. But her favorite experience turned out to be the

impeccable, and the couple's favorite touch was having a bath run when they returned to the room every night. On the food front, "the sushi and desserts were top-tier at every restaurant," she added.

snorkeling excursions offered through the resort: "We were taken to an open-water snorkeling location with the bluest, clearest, most stunning water I have ever seen."

**PARADISE FOR TWO****Turtle Island Resort, Nanuya Levu, Fiji****LEARN MORE**

Home to only 14 couples at a time, **Turtle Island Resort** is a ferry or seaplane ride from Fiji's main island of Viti Levu and delivers the personal attention you didn't even know you needed. Each couple receives a "Mama" who will unpack their bags, tidy their villa, organize activities, and pull off special requests (like a birthday cake). The couples' job: Bask in the Blue Lagoon worry-free.

**TESTER NOTES:** "All the meals were wonderful, and the staff serving us were so patient and a joy to be around. By the end of the trip, we cancelled any private dinner we had and ate with the group!" said our tester, who noted that many guests were celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries. Our tester also raved about the water activities: "The snorkeling was stunning, even just out in the main beach area in front of our villa. The coral was pristine, and we saw purple starfish! We also went crab hunting, which was unlike anything I've ever experienced."

**EVERY-ADULT RETREAT****Paradisus Los Cabos****LEARN MORE**

Rather than catering exclusively to couples, **Paradisus Los Cabos** appeals to a wide variety of adult travelers—whether families with grown kids, mother-daughter pairs, or a bunch of besties. Spacious suites, including some with two double beds, provide more flexible sleeping arrangements than are available at many other adult-only resorts. Featuring four pools and seven restaurants, the resort has a vibe that is a nice balance of laid-back and lively. Jewelry making and tequila tasting are highlights, as are a wide range of cultural experiences.

**TESTER NOTES:** "This property has beautiful views and the bonus of a swimmable beach, which is rare because of the rough currents," said our tester. She recommends upgrading to the Reserve area, where a dedicated concierge makes dining reservations, offers pillow and room scent choices, and notes drink preferences for the minibar. A stay at the Reserve also includes a private ocean-view lounge and access to an exclusive beachfront restaurant.

**GOOD VIBES ONLY**

### Margaritaville Island Reserve Resort Riviera Maya, Mexico

**LEARN MORE**

You can do pools your way at **Margaritaville Island Reserve Resort Riviera Maya**, about 15 miles from Cancun's airport. Dip into your suite's plunge pool (floating taco bar optional), or head to the splashy oceanfront public pool for a DJ-led party. This palm-tree-lined resort works just as well for groups of friends as for couples, and it shouldn't be hard to convince someone to join you for mixology classes, a snorkeling session, a water volleyball game, or a sunset bonfire.

**TESTER NOTES:** "It was a fun trip from the moment we got a frozen margarita lolly at check-in," said our tester, who brought his girlfriend. "This is the type of trip you take when all you want to do is relax," he added. "Our favorite meal was at Landshark Brewery & Grill. They brew beer on-site and then serve it straight from the brewing machines, which was awesome. We also really enjoyed the buffet restaurant, which had shows on some nights."

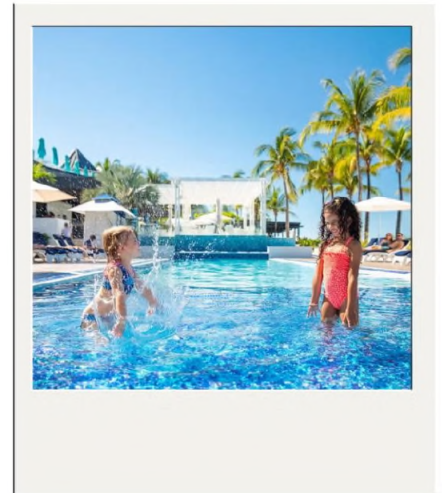
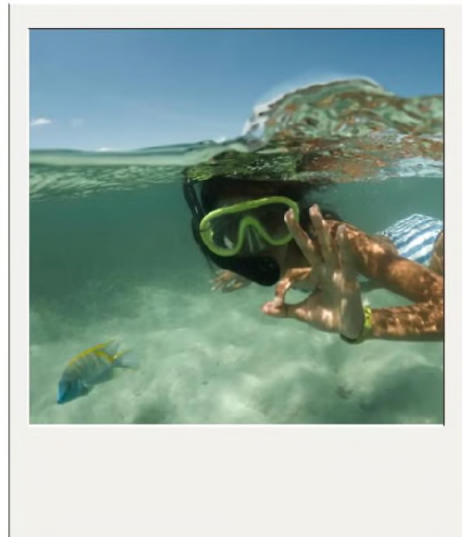
**SELF-CARE SANCTUARY**

### StolenTime Saint Lucia

**LEARN MORE**

If you've been prioritizing everyone except yourself, you're overdue for vacation at **StolenTime**, a 100-room resort whose slogan is "It's about time you introduced your body to your mind." While the heavenly spot on a large beach seems more couple-centric (the rooms sleep two) than girlfriend getaway-oriented, the truth is that all adults will love it here. With everything from holistic spa practices and Ayurvedic treatments like Shirodara to activities such as yoga, archery, and art classes, you can simultaneously grow as a person and get the relaxation you need.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The food was delicious, and the fitness classes challenged me more than I expected," said our tester, who visited with a friend. She couldn't get enough of the striking grounds featuring gorgeous old-growth Caribbean gardens. "In this hurricane-prone part of the world, I can't remember ever seeing things like 150-year-old trees and lush gardens," she said. "It's a really special place if you appreciate flowering plants. I geeked out over the gardens." She added, "The attention to guests is perfect. Very sweet staff—they learn your preferences, appear to help, and quickly disappear if not needed. They invite you to things but do not pressure you."



CLUBMED, BEACHES, CBAYRESORT

## All-Inclusive Beach Resorts for Families

**FAMILY FUN****Club Med Cancun, Mexico****LEARN MORE**

Thank you, **Club Med Cancun**, for getting it. In a popular vacation spot for families, the property stands out for its creative supervised clubs broken down into five age groups. From flying trapeze lessons for kids 4 and up to teen-only parties, Club Med's activities crack the code for under-18 vacationers being excited about being dropped off for a while. When the gang's all back together, families can enjoy the new themed Splash Park and Mini Pool & Playground.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Club Med Cancun is on the nicest stretch of beach, integrated so well into the landscape, which is in stark contrast to the buildings everywhere else. The main snorkeling area was just off the shore, so we could access that at no extra charge, while all the other hotels billed it as an excursion," said our tester, a frequent traveler. She added, "The food was exceptional, especially the Mexican items, and I have never seen such an extensive breakfast buffet. The kids repeatedly said that it was the best vacation of their lives."

**EUROPEAN ALLURE****Dreams Madeira Resort, Spa & Marina, Portugal****LEARN MORE**

Your family will be living the dream at the newly remodeled **Dreams Madeira Resort, Spa & Marina** on an island about 600 miles away from mainland Portugal, which you can fly to directly from a few East Coast cities or connect to in Lisbon. Buildings, including a working lighthouse with a restaurant, are arranged village-style so you'll really feel the European beach town charm. All rooms are spacious by EU standards, and you can book a townhouse that sleeps up to 10. But with appealing activities and a kids' club, we don't expect you'll be in the room much.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We had a fantastic European beach trip away from crowds," said our tester, who brought her husband and three young daughters. The family had "incredible experiences all around," like hiking in a UNESCO forest, going on a dolphin-watching tour, and swimming in a natural pool with marine life. One of the major highlights of their trip was the resort's delicious cuisine. "The food and service were top-notch. My kids tried so many foods for the first time!" Plus, they found the staff "some of the nicest people I've ever met anywhere," noting that "everyone seemed to genuinely love being around kids and enjoy their jobs."

**THE SLIME OF YOUR LIFE**

### Nickelodeon Resort Riviera Maya, Mexico

**LEARN MORE**

Stylish design meets slime at **Nickelodeon Resort Riviera Maya**, a kid-friendly property that may take you back to your own childhood. Subtle Nick touches adorn the rooms (which also have a swim-out pool) and it's fun to hunt for them. AquaNick, the resort's incredible water park, unleashes gooey green slime every afternoon and water fun at the splash pad and slides all day long. While many scheduled character meet-and-greets, including a flash-mob, happen daily, randomly bumping into Blue, Chase, or Leonardo is always a delight.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our family trip was pure joy from start to finish," said our tester, who visited with her spouse and three children. "Making pizzas with the Ninja Turtles and walking the Orange Carpet were unforgettable moments." She also appreciated that the resort was well-equipped and provided a changing table, baby bath, and stool to make traveling with the littles easier for everyone.

**MULTIGEN GEM**

### Beaches Resorts, Turks & Caicos and Jamaica

**LEARN MORE**

Know what's better than taking a trip with the kids? Inviting the grandparents to come along. At **Beaches Resorts**, a pair of all-inclusives in Turks & Caicos and Negril, Jamaica, the grands can bask in the youngest generation's joy of meeting Elmo, ordering juice from the kid-size swim-up pool bar, and squealing in the tiny turquoise waves. Oceanfront villas fit large groups—Negril's Firesky Villas are the newest and nicest, but that may change in March when the Turks & Caicos location adds its sixth village, Treasure Beach.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Even though they're 6 and 9, my kids loved interacting with the Sesame characters around the resort," said our tester, who celebrated her anniversary at the Negril location. "My mother-in-law watched the kids, and we went to the resort's adult-only restaurant. It was very romantic!" Another tester, who vacationed with her baby, spouse, and parents in Turks & Caicos, reported that the resort's beach was the highlight of her trip: "It's one of the most beautiful beaches I've seen, thanks to the supersoft white sand and crystal blue, calm water that feels never-ending."

**FAMILY FAVORITE**

**Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, Vieux Fort, St. Lucia**

**LEARN MORE**

Families return year after year to four-time winner **Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa**—and it's not hard to see why. More value-priced than its island counterparts and way closer to the airport, this gem is known for its great food (the jerk chicken spot is a cult fave) and classic kids' activities. It even has a petting zoo! Pools stay open around the clock for early risers, and well-vetted excursions from the resort will transport you to the island's famous mud baths.

**RESORT REVIVAL**

**Bluefields Bay Villas & Suites, Jamaica**

**LEARN MORE**

A family-run resort on the western coast of Jamaica, **Bluefields Bay Villas & Suites** had been a refuge for weary parents since the 1980s, offering a “vacation nanny” to help entertain kids, a private chef to cook meals, and a housekeeper to do laundry. It was bliss. But in late October, Hurricane Melissa significantly damaged the boutique property. While the owners are starting to rebuild, the resort will remain closed until further notice. Check back here for updates.

**TESTER NOTES:** “We took our 4-year-old once to the kids’ club for two hours, and after that he asked to go back every day,” said our tester, who also complimented the meals and the restaurant staff. “The food was outstanding, much better than at other all-inclusive resorts we’ve stayed at over the years, and the restaurants were so accommodating. One night our son, who likes pasta, wouldn’t eat his spaghetti. Our waiter changed it out for ziti—no problem!”

**TESTER NOTES:** “Our vacation nanny jumped right in to make my 18-month-old feel comfortable with her,” said our tester, who visited in summer. “She took him on walks on the property and helped with feeding and getting him ready for naps and bedtime so my husband and I could enjoy some alone time at the pool and beach. I can’t stress enough how much we loved our trip.”

#### SNOWBIRDS REFUGE



**Ava Resort Cancun, Mexico**

#### LEARN MORE

For a middle-of-the-school-year recharge, the year-old **Ava Resort Cancun** earns an A+. Its eco-friendly saltwater lagoon—nearly the size of three football fields—is a showstopper, and tweens and teens gravitate to the huge inflatable-obstacle course in the middle. Littles zoom down slides and through splash zones at Sunny’s Water Park. A two-story kids’ club offers supervised play and twice-daily family hours during which your whole crew can join in. To boot, all accommodations are ocean-facing with smart TVs, Nespresso machines, and room service. (Have you ever seen the excitement of a kid lifting a silver lid to reveal a grilled cheese?)

**TESTER NOTES:** “There’s so much to love about this resort—the kids’ club

#### MODERN LUXURY



**Joia Aruba by Iberostar**

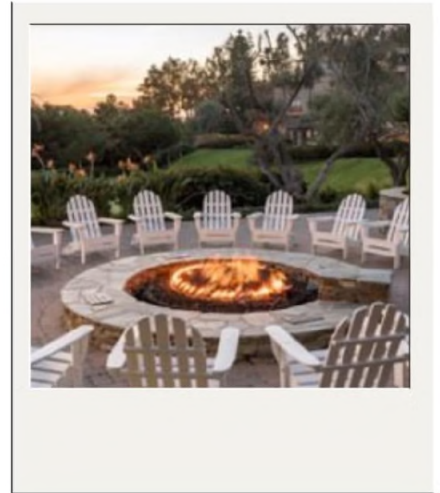
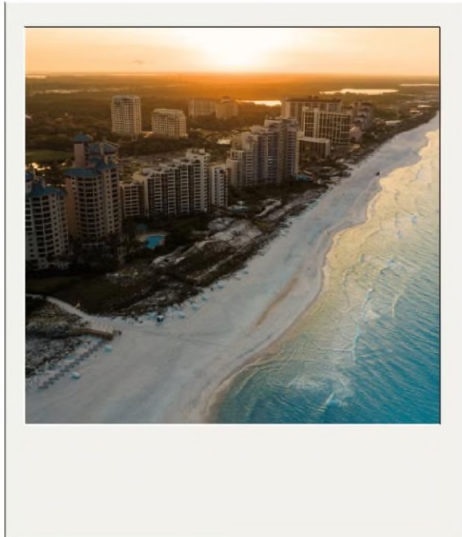
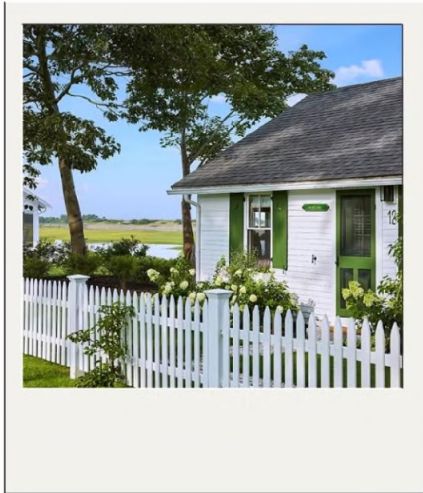
#### LEARN MORE

Located on one of the island’s most celebrated stretches of sand, the year-old **Joia Aruba by Iberostar** fills a niche for family travelers. It has the relaxing vibe of an adult-only resort without the age restrictions, so families that include teens as well as grown kids can vacation together. Your crew could easily walk to Eagle Beach, consistently ranked among the world’s best, or take in the turquoise panorama from the resort’s rooftop infinity pool. The property’s three restaurants are rolled into the all-inclusive plan, or you can choose a room-only option that doesn’t include food and drinks.

**TESTER NOTES:** “This hotel is gorgeous; I loved the modern aesthetic,” said our tester. “The grounds were immaculate and easy to

setup, the lagoon, the food,” said our tester, a registered dietitian. “Livo was our favorite restaurant, serving fresh Mediterranean dishes. The pop-up taco shop was a highlight for lunch, with tacos made to order right in front of us. Poolside food was a treat too, with creative global flavors beautifully presented.” The entertainment and the activities such as escape rooms, bowling, and magic shows were also a highlight, with our tester finding that there was “truly something for everyone to enjoy.”

navigate.” She especially enjoyed the resort’s brunch buffet, which had “every food you could think of plus an area where they’d make food by request.”



SANDESTIN, MARRIOTT, DUNESONTHEWATERFRONT

## Beach Villas for Big Groups

### SERENE SEASIDE COTTAGES



**The Dunes on the Waterfront,  
Ogunquit, Maine**

**LEARN MORE**

No one is going to appreciate the cottage-core vibe of **The Dunes on the Waterfront** more than your besties. Scattered about 12 acres of farmland overlooking a tidal river that meets the ocean, the 21 newly renovated one- to three-bedroom cottages with green

### SPACIOUS SOCIAL STAY



**Marriott's Newport Coast Villas,  
Newport Beach, California**

**LEARN MORE**

Like a home away from home, **Marriott's Newport Coast Villas** provide families with a coveted feature while on vacation: space. The two-bedroom rentals, which sleep up to eight guests, each have a kitchen and two full bathrooms, handy for getting

shutters, scalloped tables, farmhouse sinks, and other dreamy features are the perfect spot for friends' trips. Service is equally delightful: Every morning the staff delivers coffee and fresh baked goods to fuel you for a bike ride (cute bikes are available to borrow) or a kayak trip along the river. Prefer to go to the beach or downtown? They'll grab the golf cart and drive you there. Just plan ahead: The seasonally operated property reopens in May, with reservations accepted starting in mid-March.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We enjoyed the on-property heated pool, which was the perfect temperature and had two tubes to float around in," said our tester, who visited with friends. "And the yellow umbrellas and seating were so aesthetic."

out the door quickly and over to the property's splash pad or pickleball court. Family programming, from scavenger hunts to poolside trivia contests, unfolds all day long. To help you get your beach fix, shuttles run to nearby Crystal Cove State Park.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We played basketball and football as a family," said our tester, who brought her kids, 7 and 13. "Set away from the main area so as not to disturb other guests, there's a great kids' pool with two large slides and a water park." Our tester called the vibe "very family-oriented and multigenerational," noting that even when school was in session, plenty of kids were around.

#### WALKABLE WONDERLAND



### Seabrook, Washington

#### LEARN MORE

Whether you're a party of four or a party of 24, there's a vacation rental for you at **Seabrook**, a planned beach town with almost everything you need on the premises. The homes aren't cookie-cutter: For the 250 or so available to rent, you can use more than a dozen filters on the website to narrow your selection and then view photos of the options so you can be sure you are aligned with the decor of the one you select. Many are near the resort's moody but marvelous beach (note that

#### GULFSIDE GOLF



### SanDestin Golf and Beach Resort, Miramar Beach, Florida

#### LEARN MORE

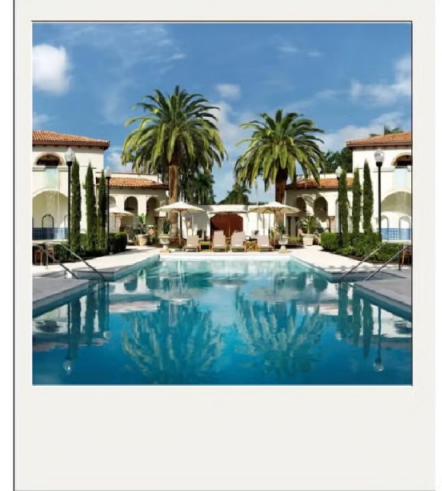
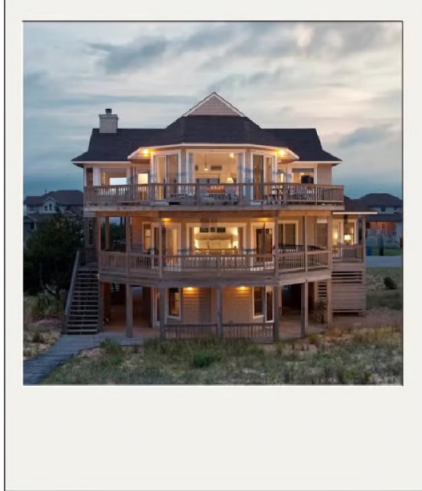
It sure feels like the Caribbean at this Florida resort. Located on the state's Gulf Coast, known for powdery white sand and turquoise water, the **SanDestin Golf and Beach Resort** offers condos, villas, and even a classic hotel. Osprey Point, the newest option, features stylish two- to four-bedroom units that have large kitchens with quartz countertops, marble backsplashes, and high-end appliances. If you don't feel like cooking, the

you'll need a wetsuit to swim even in August), and most are walkable to the restaurants, shops, and grocery store in the town square. Kids love getting around on bikes, and you'll see many "parked" outside the arcade and pools.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Walking along the beach turned out to be our favorite pastime, but we also tremendously enjoyed the indoor pool and the playground with a zip line and swings," said our tester, who stayed with her family of five in a house called Goat With the Flow.

property's seven restaurants will have you covered. Golfing is big at this resort, and an 18-hole mini golf course will get the whole family on the green.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The pool was the highlight of our trip. It wasn't too crowded, and it was very clean," said our tester, who stayed in a three-bedroom unit at Osprey Point. She described the resort as beautiful and conveniently located, with no shortage of good food and activities for the family.



THE SANDERLING RESORT, THE RITZ-CARLTON, THEBOCARATON

## East Coast Beach Resorts

### SOUND AND SEA



**The Sanderling Resort, Duck, North Carolina**

**LEARN MORE**

An adult-oriented resort in this neck of the woods is hard to come by, but **The Sanderling Resort** pulls through for couples. Its 123 rooms and suites recently underwent a glow-up for the property's 40th anniversary, and we're swooning over the poster beds, floral pillows, and color palette. And the view? That's as good as ever, since the property sits between the Atlantic

### FAMILY-FRIENDLY ELEGANCE



**The Boca Raton, Florida**

**LEARN MORE**

The kids have it made at **The Boca Raton**, an iconic, glamorous resort that feels perfectly comfortable with your tot's sippy cups and sand buckets. The best proof is at the Harborside Pool Club, where a giant pirate ship-themed splash pad is flanked by a row of kid-only cabanas themed after some favorite interests, from princesses to cooking. Poolside ice cream here gets an upgrade with "tackle boxes" full of

Ocean and Currituck Sound on a prime spot of beach.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Relaxed, timeless, and upscale" is how our tester, who visited with his fiancée, described the resort's vibe, which offered a variety of thoughtfully curated activities. One of the highlights of their trip was their 4x4 beach tour in Corolla, where they saw wild horses up close. "It offered a unique connection to the area's natural history that many resorts don't provide." Other favorites included jet skiing in the sound to enjoy coastal scenery and a relaxing couple's massage. "The combination of a peaceful spa and exciting water-based activities allowed us to tailor our weekend exactly to what we wanted, both rest and adventure," he said. Food-wise, on-property restaurants were delicious, especially Theodosia. "It felt like each dining experience was unique, but consistently high-quality."

toppings that kids can use to make their own creation. The Beach Club, one of the five hotels within the property, was renovated less than a year ago.

**TESTER NOTES:** "I've rarely seen a luxury hotel so comfortable with having kids on property," said our tester, a travel editor and mom. "The kids are treated like VIPs!" She suggests that families stay at The Tower, the hotel closest to the Harborside Pool Club, noting that it was renovated in 2022 and still gleams.

**CAREFREE ISLAND OASIS**



**Margaritaville Beach House, Key West, Florida**

**LEARN MORE**

With a lagoon-style pool that stays open late, afternoon ice pops, and some bunk-bed rooms, **Margaritaville Beach House** puts a family twist on the brand's vibe. Most guests bring kids or teens and spend the day at Smathers Beach—it's the largest one in Key West and just across the street from the resort. Or they hop on the free resort

**KID-FRIENDLY BEACH CLUB**



**The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota, Florida**

**LEARN MORE**

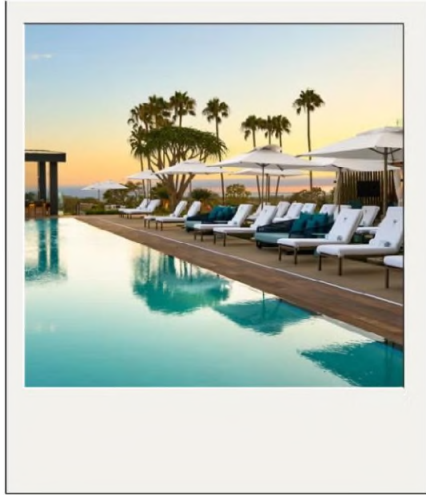
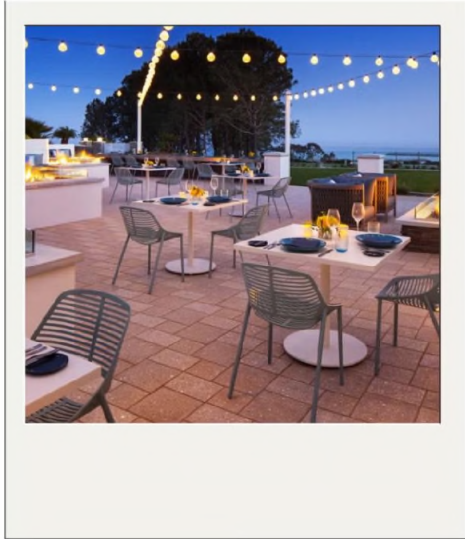
If you're a sit by the beach eating ice cream sandwiches kind of family, get yourself to **The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota's** private club for sand-seekers that's a three-mile shuttle ride from the property's home in the cultural district. Forget about fighting for a lounge there: On the prime stretch of white-sand beach, comfy

shuttle to Old Town, the historic district on the western half of the island, where the Key West Aquarium is located. At night, many families return for dinner and plunge in the pool before they do it all over again tomorrow.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We enjoyed lounging at the pool, especially after dinner once it was cooler," said our tester, who brought her 15-year-old. "We also had fun playing cornhole on our walks back and forth to the pool and on-site restaurant." She added that the resort's game room was nice to have during rainy weather.

seating and ice cream sammies are aplenty. For kids who prefer pools, the club has one of those too, plus locker rooms with showers, hair dryers, and beauty products so you can leave all the sand behind.

**TESTER NOTES:** "For being such a luxury resort, we were worried it would not be kid-friendly. My kids were welcomed with open arms, and they had the time of their lives," said our tester, who highly recommends having dinner at Jack Dusty and upgrading your room to club level so you can access the lounge with "amazing wines on tap, plus great coffees, cookies, and other snacks."



SURFSAND, MARRIOTT


**VISIT**  
*Myrtle Beach*  
 SOUTH CAROLINA

# The only thing this year-round destination is missing is you

## SPRING

Experience the bloom of this coastal destination as the weather warms up.

1. Wander through the blooming **Brookgreen Gardens**.
2. Explore Murrells Inlet with a **Sea Adventure** high-speed thrill ride.
3. Savor coastal flavors with oysters at the beloved **Sea Captain's**.
4. Enjoy kid-friendly fun at **PopSicle** high-tech mini-golf experience at **Tiger Woods**.
5. Catch live music at historic **ho The Bowery**.


 SWIPE & DRAG LEFT TO SEE THE NEXT SLIDE

### West Coast Beach Resorts

**HIGH STANDARDS**

### Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa, Dana Point, California

**LEARN MORE**

Perched atop a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean mid-way between San Diego and Los Angeles, the Victorian-inspired **Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa** caters to all types of travelers, but families and foodies especially will be in their happy place. For kiddos, it all starts at the check-in desk, where they can pick up a scavenger hunt kit and a whale-shaped water toy (the area is known as the whale-watching capital of the world). The super sleuths will be sure to spot the splash zone, with its surf board water pop-up, and may even join one of the kids' camp activities, such as relay races. While the resort has only one sit-down restaurant, Lantern's Edge, you'll want to eat every meal there.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Lantern's Edge was one of the best fine-dining family meals we have experienced, while traveling or at home," said our tester, a food editor who vacationed with her wife and two children. "The breakfasts were also terrific; we had both à la carte options and the buffet. Everything was reasonably portioned and well presented, with touches like ubé and mochi."

**CALIFORNIA COOL**

### The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa, California

**LEARN MORE**

After a fun-filled, lively day at Legoland California, there's no better spot to decompress than **The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa**. You'll feel as if you're stepping into a serene oasis as you pass through the resort's coveted private entrance to the park. We highly recommend taking the free resort shuttle one day to lifeguarded Tamarack State Beach, a local favorite that usually has gentle waves and offers restrooms and rinse-off spots.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We loved the various courtyards of the Westin, along with the pool, the cozy couches, the firepits, and other relaxing spots. They felt distinctly Southern California," said our tester. "It was great being able to dine by the pool, soak in the hot tubs, and watch the kids play. The overall ambiance of the hotel made the entire experience feel like a genuine treat."

**TOP OF THE ROCK**

### Surfsand Resort, Cannon Beach, Oregon

**LEARN MORE**

Hello, Haystack Rock! The iconic formation sits outside the recently renovated **Surfsand Resort**. Grab a cup of coffee from the lobby and head out during the morning's low tide—the sea stars and other marine life hugging the rocks will be most visible then. Families and couples get equal treatment at Surfsand: Kids dig using the lobby's claw machine to grab a piece of taffy and enthusiastically join in on daily sand dollar searches, while adults lean into the local beer tastings and hot tubs. And the cookies served every afternoon are loved by all.

**TESTER NOTES:** "You can book a hotel package that includes a bonfire on the beach at night right down from the iconic rock. It was the highlight of our trip," said our tester. "They set up wood, lit it on fire, and gave us fixings for s'mores." She also loved the view of Haystack Rock from the property's Wayfarers Restaurant, which serves an impressive crab bake.

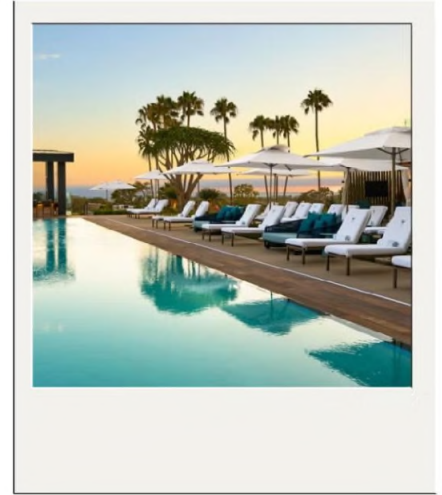
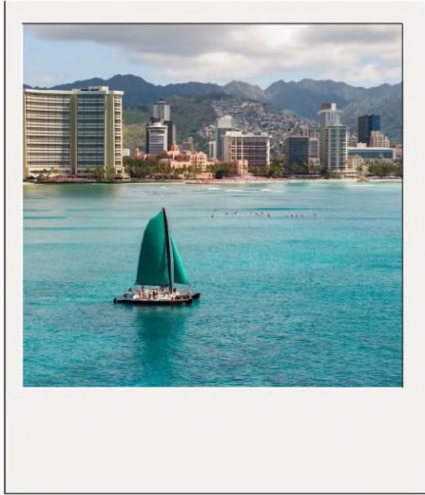
**COASTAL CHIC**

### Vea Newport Beach, California

**LEARN MORE**

You may or may not go to the beach at this newish So Cal hotel, but you'll likely have an ocean view. More than 90% of **Vea Newport Beach's** stylish rooms and suites (including a very merry holiday-themed one) face the water. Guests can hop in a free shuttle to nearby Newport Beach, but many traveling without kids soak up the pool vibes at the hotel, especially the spa's adult-only saltwater option. Art installations in common spaces and the View restaurant also elevate the hotel experience.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The hotel's gym and spa were standouts," said our tester. "Though I visited with my family, most resort guests in the fall seemed to be young professionals. But it is family-friendly—I think it would be a great place to take teens and young adults. It has a hip vibe that resonates with Gen Z."



HYATT, MARRIOTT

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## Hawaiian Beach Resorts

**SUN AND SURF**

**Sheraton Waikiki Beach Resort,  
Hawaii**

**LEARN MORE**

Hang 10 or hang out? Families can do both at the **Sheraton Waikiki Beach Resort**, in a prime spot on the famous strip of lifeguarded beach. While the waves in front of the hotel are usually gentle, nearby swells attract surfers. The resort offers beginner surfing lessons and a slew of other quintessential Hawaiian classes such as hula and lei making. Beautifully decorated two-bedroom Ohana suites that sleep six are game hangers for families with three or more kids.

**TESTER NOTES:** “You could make the case that this hotel has the single best location in Oahu for families,” said our tester, who surfed with his wife and three kids. “One day we had a cabana near the pool with stunning ocean views. We rotated between surfing, the shady cabana, and chilling out in the hot tubs and Helumoa Playground Pool.” Our tester also raved about the resort’s large lobby, where his family played pool and grabbed a snack after dinner. “The vibe was epic.”

**WAILEA WONDER**

**Wailea Beach Resort, Maui,  
Hawaii**

**LEARN MORE**

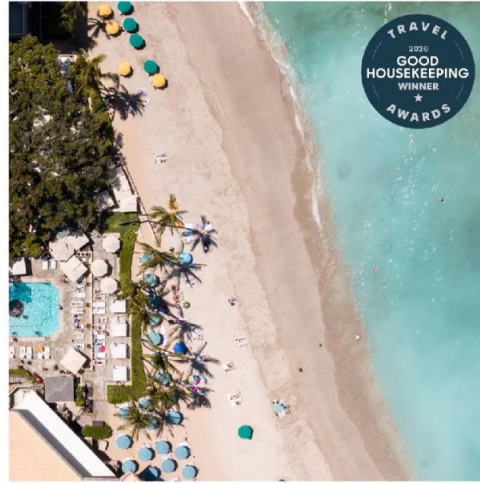
Once a spot that was almost exclusively family-focused, the **Wailea Beach Resort** now appeals to adult travelers as well. The Olakino Wellness Pool Experience for guests 18 and older pampers with micro-spa services (think short massages and cooling masks), chef-curated healthy bites, and a saline infinity pool with in-water chaises overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Stay in the uber-romantic new Sunken Garden Oasis room, with a roomy lanai plus an outdoor bathtub and a firepit with comfy seating.

**TESTER NOTES:** Our tester and her partner tried the wellness pool experience: “We had an incredible head-and-shoulder massage with a gorgeous view of the infinity pool and ocean,” she said. “Throughout the day, we were offered face masks and snacks like mini acai bowls and fresh fruit cups.” The resort’s luau was another trip highlight, thanks to its “entertaining performances” that our tester said were among the most beautiful she had ever seen.

**SWIM UNDER THE STARS****Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa, Hawaii****LEARN MORE**

Your crew won't have to rush to get back to the **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa** to swim, because its pools never close. But this property on the lushest of all the Hawaiian islands does turn off the lights at night to help light-sensitive local birds. The result: Swimming under the stars becomes a thing, and it's absolutely magical for couples and families with teens. By day or at night, you can explore long, winding lazy river sections with twists and turns and little waterfalls with grottos. Then rest easy in modern, spacious rooms or suites conducive to traveling with three generations.

**TESTER NOTES:** "From the luau to nighttime swimming, our entire trip to the Grand Hyatt Kauai was a highlight reel of great experiences and great hospitality," said our tester. His family of five surfed the wave breaks in front of the resort, but he noted, "Just a mile away from the hotel, there is a string of famous beaches that have calm waters and fun waves for families plus lots of sea turtles."

**ALL-AGES APPEAL****Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa, Oahu, Hawaii****LEARN MORE**

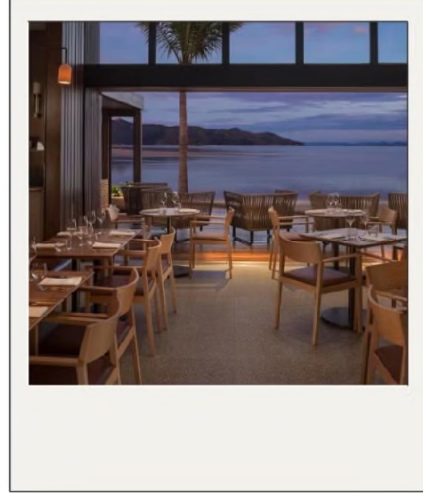
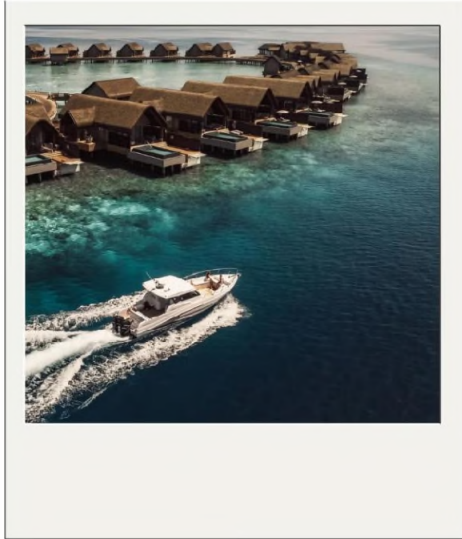
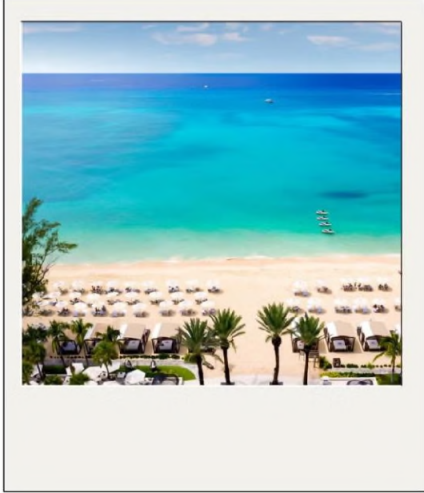
You don't have to choose between a beach and a city vibe at **Moana Surfrider**—simply walk from the front door to the back. The resort's grand entrance, on one of Oahu's busy streets, puts you in the heart of shopping and dining, but exit out the back and you're in Waikiki beach paradise, with oceanfront restaurants and a porch with rocking chairs that remind you that this beauty of a hotel will be 125 years old next year. Just in time for its birthday celebration, newly renovated Tower rooms, many with stunning views of the ocean and Diamond Head, have all-ages appeal.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The Moana Surfrider is perfectly positioned right between one of the most legendary surfing beaches in the world and the heart of Waikiki," said our tester. Still, you'll want to remain on property for at least some meals: "We also enjoyed an incredible four-course meal at The Beachhouse at the Moana," our tester added. "I would like to have its Pistachio Raspberry Tart again right now! So delicious!"

**WEST MAUI STAR****Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa, Hawaii****LEARN MORE**

The newly renovated **Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa** leaves families starstruck, and not just because of its rooftop Tour of the Stars program, led by an astronomer using a high-powered telescope. A longtime favorite of families, the resort does a great job showcasing all the Hawaii-centric activities you'll want to do (make a lei, take in a luau) and some you didn't know were possible (like chatting it up with the lobby's tropical birds). The incredible pool complex more than makes up for the fact that the resort's beach is pretty narrow. Venture off the property one day to Oneuli Beach in Kihei to see what no major resort on the island has—black sand.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our favorite restaurant was Japengo, with its large, spread-out seating area," said our tester, who was celebrating his anniversary with his wife and kids. "Besides having great food, it's the perfect place for sunset pictures." Our tester, who dabbles in golf, also enjoyed the hotel's YoMaui Golf experience: "The clarity of the simulator made me feel like I was right on the golf course!"



JOALI, MARRIOTT, IHG



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## International Beach Resorts

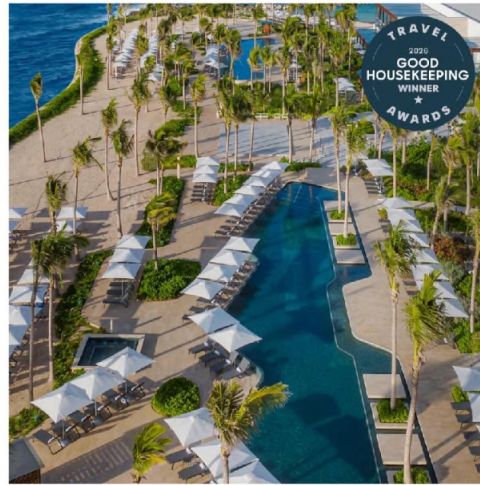
**BEAUTIFUL BLUE BEACH**

**Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort,  
Willemstad**

**LEARN MORE**

The **Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort** promises a spectacular getaway for virtually every type of traveler, and we're convinced. From high-octane water sports and dive excursions to relaxing spa treatments and private beach yoga, the resort boasts a remarkable range of activities that deliver epic thrills. The complimentary Green Turtle Kids Club rises to the occasion to help tiny tourists make vacation friends they might also hang out with later at the kids' pool and beach.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The resort's beach was definitely the highlight of our trip! It was absolutely stunning," said our tester, who brought a friend. "There was virtually no seaweed, the water was vibrantly turquoise, and the sand was powdery soft and so bright. It was rarely crowded." She also reported that their scuba diving experience at the resort was fantastic: "'We were able to go straight from sunbathing to our excursion with zero travel time. My friend and I had never been scuba diving, but we were immediately put at ease. The reef was filled with fish!"

**MAYAN TREASURE**

**Conrad Tulum Riviera Maya,  
Mexico**

**LEARN MORE**

After zipping around the Yucatán Peninsula all day to explore the Mayan ruins, you'll want to return to a peaceful spot where you can cool off in the water and have one of the best meals of your life—and that's **Conrad Tulum Riviera Maya**. Autor, a Michelin-guide restaurant right on the property, wows taste buds with its four-course tasting menu, which includes a vegetarian version. The spa, with a lounge designed like a cenote, leans into Mayan influences and local touches: For instance, it creates its own scrubs using herbs grown on the property.

**TESTER NOTES:** "As you pull up to the property, you're greeted by lush foliage and beautiful ocean views. There are multiple pools, all with ocean views as the backdrop, surrounded by comfortable daybeds and lounge chairs," said our tester. "Every room has a private soaking tub outside on the balcony, and my boyfriend and I loved spending our evenings in ours."

**REEF AND RELAX**

**Alaia Belize, Autograph  
Collection San Pedro, Belize**

**LEARN MORE**

The top reason to go to **Alaia Belize**, which is likely to be two plane rides away: the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve, the largest in the Northern Hemisphere. Just 600 yards from the resort, the reef is why snorkeling, scuba diving, and cave-tubing here are off the charts. An on-site shop makes it easy to nab the gear you need, and a concierge service will whisk you to a “secret beach.” Couples looking for a romantic getaway will have the best time here, though the resort is open to all ages. If you mostly plan to eat at the resort’s six restaurants rather than in San Pedro, look into the all-inclusive plan, available for stays of four nights or longer.

**TESTER NOTES:** “This was the greatest trip my husband and I have ever taken,” said our tester. “The snorkeling is the absolute best, and the cave tube tour/zip lining was exhilarating.” They also enjoyed the adult-only infinity pool.

**OCEANFRONT ADVENTURES**

**Atlantis Paradise Island,  
Bahamas**

**LEARN MORE**

Thrills run deep at **Atlantis**, one of the largest resorts in the world. Between its water park and its marine life center, your crew can tube into white-water rapids, slide through a shark-filled lagoon, and high-five a bottlenose dolphin all on the same day. The kids’ and teens’ clubs are next-level, with a cooking studio, a floor-to-ceiling gaming tree, and dance parties. With 40 restaurants and three Michelin-starred chefs, expect your taste buds to be thrilled too.

**TESTER NOTES:** Atlantis has five towers, and our tester stayed with her family at The Reef. “We used the kitchenette for breakfast each morning, and having the beach and pool access so close was lovely,” she said. She also highly recommends booking the dolphin experience. “My 6-year-old was especially enamored with our sweet dolphin, Electra,” said our tester. “Electra made sounds at us, waved, and even gave kisses and high-fives. The feel of my hand hitting the dolphin fin is not something I will soon forget!”

**BEACHY AND BOHEMIAN****W Punta de Mita, Punta Mita, Mexico****LEARN MORE**

You can always count on W hotels for fun vibes, and this location in Punta Mita (about an hour from Puerto Vallarta) expertly blends surf culture and local artistry. A ceviche bar in a vintage Chevy truck is just one unique touch; there's also a 460-foot-long "Camino Huichol" walkway, a mosaic made of over 3 million bright blue and green tiles. While **W Punta de Mita** appeals mostly to couples, families with tweens and teens won't feel out of place, and you could argue that the resort's family pool one-ups the adult-only option.

**TESTER NOTES:** Finding this the perfect place for someone looking to unwind or get away, our tester and her college-age son enjoyed the natural beauty and the food at the resort most. "Our dinner at Rubra was amazing," said our tester. "The menu incorporates fresh native ingredients in unique ways and serves them on locally crafted plates." Her son also enjoyed his first surf lesson at the resort, calling it "top-notch."

**AUTHENTIC AUSTRALIA**

**InterContinental Hayman Great  
Barrier Reef, Grand Hayman,  
Australia**

**LEARN MORE**

A private island resort in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef will sweep you off your feet from the moment you arrive by boat or helicopter from the closest airport in Hamilton Island (about a 2 1/2-hour flight from Sydney). Colorful coral gardens teaming with tropical fish surround **InterContinental Hayman Great Barrier Reef**. Guests can also enjoy helicopter flights over iconic landmarks like the Heart Reef (a heart-shaped coral formation) alongside a wide range of water activities like guided jet ski tours, snorkeling in secluded coves, and glass-bottomed-boat reef explorations. Though the 75-year-old property does have some activities for children and families, couples are its main focus. Its annual Stay with Pride package celebrates the LGBTQ+ community.

**TESTER NOTES:** "It's an authentic slice of Australian paradise," said our testers, an Australian couple. "From the moment you arrive, you're surrounded by lush, tropical beauty that feels both pristine and purposefully designed. It's a beautifully secluded destination for those wanting to recharge, connect with nature, and enjoy quality food and wine in a relaxed, scenic setting."

**PURA VIDA PARADISE**

**Andaz Peninsula Papagayo,  
Costa Rica**

**LEARN MORE**

On a 15-mile coastline that's as buzzy for both its biodiversity and its A-list vacationers, the **Andaz Peninsula Papagayo** makes family getaways smooth sailing. Cold towels and coconut water await you in the open-air lobby before you hop on a golf cart to your room or multi-bedroom villa. There'll be no roughing it here. Two beaches provide quick excitement: You'll spy crabs and turtles at the on-property beach and then take a short boat ride to the new beach club, where you can sit in a thatched cabana and be serenaded by howler monkeys. When you're ready for a break, drop off kids ages 4 to 11 at the complimentary supervised club, which is focused on creativity.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The activities were exceptional," said our tester, who visited with her family. "My husband and daughters especially enjoyed their surf lesson, where they caught warm water waves while the monkeys frolicked on the shore, watching." Overall, she described it as "a truly incredible experience" and appreciated the free water sports and snorkeling gear.

**CAYMAN CALM**

**Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa, Cayman Islands**

**LEARN MORE**

An easy escape from the East Coast, the **Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa** puts you in the heart of the island's best stretch of sand. The turquoise water is so clear there that it looks like the color in the pool next to the beach! The waves give the right amount of joy for littles and make it a perfect place for guests of all ages to try stand-up paddleboarding, which is free. The island's famous Stingray City is just a short boat ride away.

**TESTER NOTES:** "My favorite restaurant at the resort was The Beach House," said our tester. "It offers a Toes in the Sand option where they set out a table on the beach and serve you dinner there. It was a great experience." Though the resort is kid-friendly, it draws more couples outside of holiday periods.

**MALDIVIAN MEMORIES**

**Joali Maldives, Muravandhoo Island, Maldives**

**LEARN MORE**

Once you're at **Joali Maldives**, you're completely surrounded by the Indian Ocean with nowhere else to go—and it's bliss. The 5-year-old property, which bills itself as the first "art-immersive resort," is as stunning as the surroundings. Staying in thatched-roof overwater bungalows, dining in a manta-shaped treehouse, and taking one-on-one ceramic classes at the island's art house adds up to a memorable mother-daughter trip, but the whole family and even couples will want in on this experience too. To get there, you'll take a 50-minute journey on a seaplane from the capital, Malé.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our overwater bungalow was absolutely spectacular!" said our tester, who visited with her teen daughter. "The furnishings were modern, chic, and functional. The details were unmatched. The headboards were made with coconut shells, and the ceiling fan was shaped like the gorgeous flowers that were peppered throughout the property."

**BERMUDA'S BEST**

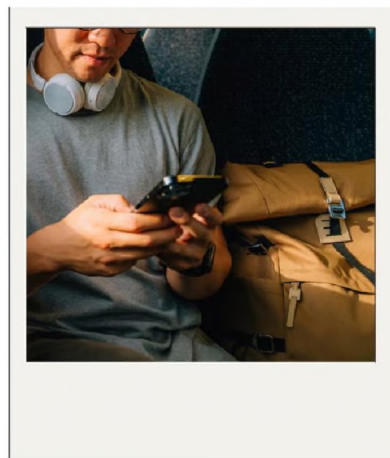
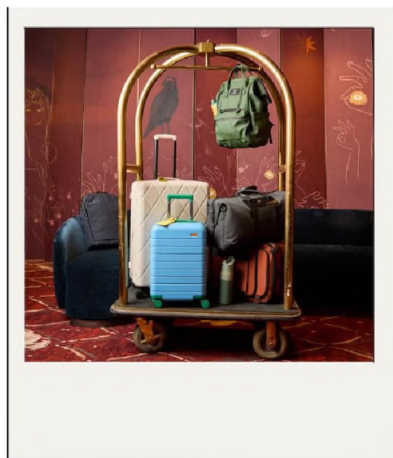
### The Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club

#### LEARN MORE

Affectionately nicknamed “The Pink Palace,” **The Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club**, with its cotton candy hue, is a sweet pick for families and couples who want an elevated yet easygoing visit to Bermuda, less than a three-hour flight from many East Coast cities. More than 100 of the 380-plus rooms in the landmark property received a glow-up this year and were converted to roomier suites. (Stay in the Bermudiana Wing for a remodeled room.) But honestly, don’t expect to be inside much, as the infinity pool and the pink-sand beach will be far too enticing.

**TESTER NOTES:** A shuttle whisks you from the property to a private beach club, home to two ocean pools with a private cove and a floating platform and hammocks. “The club was so relaxing,” our tester said. “You could sit there for hours enjoying food, drinks, and the ocean view.” If you do want to get off the property, our tester noted that the town is just a five-minute walk away.

## Check Out More Winners

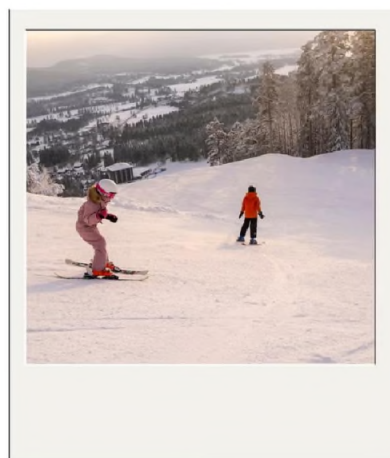
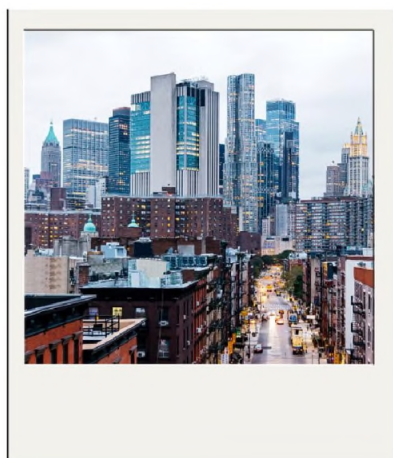


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**KAREN CICERO**

Karen is a seasoned journalist who specializes in travel, book, lifestyle and food coverage. Cicero has visited almost every state with her family (look out Wyoming, she's coming for you next!). She has spoken at several travel industry conferences, including PRSA and the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Alliance and was previously the senior editor at *Parents*. A mom who goes overboard for all the holidays, Cicero lives in the Christmas city itself: Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

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# Mexico News

## DAILY

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## How Mango Deck became the most iconic beachfront bar and restaurant in Los Cabos



Chris Sands October 15, 2025



*Every day is a party at Mango Deck on Medano Beach, which is why it's one of Cabo San Lucas' most iconic destinations. (Instagram)*

Mango Deck is unquestionably one of the bars and restaurants most associated with [Los Cabos tourism](#). Centrally located on Playa El Médano, the biggest and most popular beach in

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# Mexico News

## DAILY

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## Everything in store for Los Cabos in 2026



Chris Sands December 6, 2025

2



*Los Cabos will see more flights and new hotels, resorts and golf courses in 2026, adding more luster to an already sparkling destination. (Marriott)*

Rodrigo Esponda Cascajares is a tireless promoter of Los Cabos tourism, and a big reason the destination has seen such remarkable growth over the past decade. When I last caught up with the managing director of FITURCA (the Los Cabos Tourism Board) in early November, he was at the [World Travel Market](#) in London, a three-day gathering that brought together over 46,500 attendees from 182 countries.

Esponda, the only representative from a Mexican destination in attendance, was trying to raise Los Cabos' profile in the British market — the source of only a little over 5,000 tourists annually — and to strengthen future connectivity in Europe, a subject addressed in conversations with continental airline companies.



Rodrigo Esponda has been the Managing Director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board since October 2016. (FITURCA)

But despite his busy schedule, he still had time to connect via a Microsoft Teams meeting call and discuss what's next for Los Cabos in 2026.

### **Is your strategy in 2025 similar to the one for 2026?**

Well, it's been a very interesting year in 2025, because we've been growing a little. We believe we will end the year with some growth compared to last year, probably 2.5% overall, which is very good given the context in which the tourism industry is moving forward.



Especially since we've been focused on quality, not quantity. That's something **we've discussed before**. So, in that sense, having travelers stay longer and spend more at the destination is more important than having a lot more passengers.

That loyalty base makes Los Cabos unique. So we believe we need to continue that strategy in 2026. We have some exciting additions in terms of **connectivity in the United States and other markets**.

This year, we're growing in some cities we've been targeting in the United States, like Nashville, Tennessee, and Kansas City. These are secondary markets in the U.S. for Los Cabos. But they're important. It's part of the destination's evolutionary nature, in the sense that once



we gain a solid understanding of the primary markets – Chicago, Los Angeles and New York – then we have to add more secondary markets.

Nashville, Tennessee, is one of them. Ontario, California, is another, which, although close to Los Angeles, is a secondary market that can add some additional travelers to our destination. Indianapolis is another market that's constantly growing.

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*Copa Airlines will begin flights to Los Cabos from Panama, with connections from Central and South America in December 2025. (Copa Airlines)*

And as you know, we've just started our second season of nonstop service to Frankfurt with Condor. And in December, we'll have Copa Airlines' flight from Panama with connections to Central and South America. So these markets are an important complement to the mix of travelers arriving at the destination.

### **And that focus on connectivity will continue in 2026?**

We believe that will continue. We have some markets in the United States that we will continue to focus on, such as Boston, which is an affluent market in the Northeast, but it's a long journey with a six-hour flight. So it's been a process getting airlines to commit to that, but we believe that by the end of 2026, we'll be able to have that route added.

And we need to consolidate those two important milestones we have with the Copa and Condor flights in the third season, as the European market is very well advanced. So we know that, for example, some groups are looking at the next season of Condor flights from Europe. So we've been working on it.

And we had a couple of interesting conversations with tour operators about that. Our priority for this year is to finalize things, to make sure that everyone in the local industry is aware of the relevance and focuses more on quality and consistency. That, well, you grew a little, but

you achieved a lot because you didn't have to discard a product, you didn't have to do anything wrong, and you can diversify.

And so, for next year, we believe it will be the same, that in 2026 we will probably close with a little over 3% growth in international visitors. And it's the same, with some interesting additions in terms of hotels, in terms of the destination, but we need to be more concerned with the visitor experience, rather than just seeking growth, because the nature of the destination isn't mass tourism.

### **Last year, Los Cabos topped four million visitors, correct?**

We closed last year with 3.7 million visitors. Of those, 2.3 million were international visitors, and the rest were domestic visitors. However, of those domestic visitors, 25% were international visitors connecting through Mexico.



*Los Cabos, the municipality that's home to Cabo San Lucas, receives nearly four million visitors annually. (Cabo Adventures)*

We'll close with a very similar number this year. Last year it was 3.7 million, so this year we'll probably get to 3.8 million.

### **You mentioned Boston. Are there other areas in the U.S. or Canada where you feel you could improve or are trying to increase connectivity?**

Well, in Canada, we're growing by 20% this year. But last year we had 200,000 Canadian travelers. So 40,000, that's the additional number we'll have this year in terms of Canada. It's significant, but it doesn't make up 10% of the 2.3 million (international visitors). So those additional 40,000 out of the 2.3 million are part of that mix we have.

We've been growing in Canada from Toronto, not Vancouver, which is the natural market, but Toronto, which is the most affluent market in Canada. And we're trying to get a flight from Florida. We have a good number of travelers coming from various Florida cities: Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando and Tampa.

Orlando is interesting because there would be some travelers from Los Cabos who would want to go to Orlando for Disneyland, the parks and the entertainment.

So it wouldn't just be travelers from Florida, but also some travelers from Los Cabos and La Paz who wanted to go to Orlando. So we're trying to make it happen. However, we don't have a very clear path forward with the airlines as to whether it will happen in 2026.

We do in Boston. They mention that they expect to have that nonstop flight by winter 2026. But that's a key market for us that we're looking to secure.

### **Can you tell me a little bit about the resorts and golf courses that might be opening next year and beyond?**



*Oleada's golf course, designed by four-time major champion Ernie Els, is expected to open in 2026. (Oleada Los Cabos)*

This Nov. 16 is the opening of the Park Hyatt. So that will happen this year. And then, in 2026, we have **three new resorts** that are opening: Amanvari, St. Regis and Soho House. We've been meeting with the teams from all three brands. Amanvari is very excited and already has a GM, a sales director, and, as you know, they're doing a lot of work. St Regis, the same. Soho House will probably be later in 2026.

And then, in 2027, we have the SIRO Palmilla, which is part of Kerzner International. There are also two projects on the Pacific coast. One is connected to a golf resort, which is the Conrad Los Cabos at the Oleada resort. It's about 10 minutes from Diamante towards Todos Santos. That's where it's being developed. I visited it the other day.

The residential project is further along, but the golf course is still in development. There are **three golf courses coming** in addition to the one in Oleada. There's another one in Quivira. That would be an interesting project because it would complement what they already have.

There's also another one coming at Diamante, which is a Tiger Woods course (Legacy Club). Those three are already under construction. We don't know if it will be in 2026 or more towards 2027, but the fact that we have three golf courses so far along is very good, and as you know, we're also hosting the **World Wide Technology Championship**, the only PGA Tour event in Los Cabos.

It all started today. Michael Phelps (the Olympic swimmer who won a record 23 gold medals) played in the Pro-Am yesterday, and everyone was very happy to be there. He (Phelps) has a house at Diamante.

I should also mention there are two properties, from Raffles and Delano, in development on the East Cape. The Delano was the most recent hotel to be announced. It will probably be a long-term development, like the Amanvari, for example, which has been under construction for six years.

### **What are you trying to improve for next year?**



*Service at resorts like One&Only Palmilla is spectacular, and Los Cabos as a whole is seeking to bring its service to another level. (One&Only Palmilla)*

A big concern we have is training in terms of the hospitality standards we need to offer.

We have a partnership with a tour guide specializing in quality and service standards. We just completed a full week of training with them on these standards, and I believe it is crucial that we maintain and manage this level of service. To achieve this, we need to ensure we're covering various areas.

We need to make sure people understand the importance of service, and that word of mouth remains the number one element for travelers visiting Los Cabos. Let's put it in the context that everything we do in marketing is about reaching different markets, meeting with colleagues, explaining the destination, doing activations, and all that, and recommending the destination to them. I think that's incredibly powerful.

The most important thing is how to ensure that when travelers leave the destination, they are completely satisfied.

### **Is the hotel tax that funds FITURCA also helping to pay for infrastructure projects like the downtown renovation in Cabo San Lucas? How does this work?**

Of that 4% hotel tax, which funds FITURCA, 1% is earmarked for the Urban Infrastructure Trust (FOIS), which amounts to approximately 275 million pesos this year. This is directly related to the number of tourists visiting the destination.

And that's a very strong point. Let's say we bring in more tourists, and those tourists are staying in hotels or Airbnbs. So, that hotel tax is added to the infrastructure fund. And that's a very good point because someone might say, "Oh, why not use FITURCA's financing to pay for roads or build some **infrastructure projects**?" And we're already contributing directly to infrastructure projects.

So that 1% is connected because the more tourists we bring, the more funding they (the local government) have, but we don't participate in that decision-making process. We only contribute to the activities so they have more funding, which is good, but we don't know the process for how they address infrastructure needs or how they would directly use those 275 million pesos.



**Is there anything else you'd like to add for our readers' benefit?**

*Anyone who stays at a hotel or resort in Los Cabos helps to fund not only FITURCA, but also infrastructure projects designed to improve the destination as a whole. (Zadún, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve)*

Yes, I have one final point, which we discussed last time, and that is that tourism is truly providing a very positive source of income and improving conditions for the community in Los Cabos. And I think we need to make sure everyone understands the importance of that and that we're not just looking to bring tourists; we're looking to bring the right tourists to the destination.

*Chris Sands is the former Cabo San Lucas local expert for the USA Today travel website 10 Best and writer of Fodor's Los Cabos travel guidebook. He's also a contributor to numerous websites and publications, including Tasting Table, Marriott Bonvoy Traveler, Forbes Travel Guide, Porthole Cruise, Cabo Living and [Mexico News Daily](#).*

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# We Visited 100+ Beach Vacation Spots — These Were Our Favorites

Story by Karen Cicero • 1d • 1 min read



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## Beach Towns



Feedback



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It's easy to get the family on board with a vacation to **Huntington Beach**, a 10-mile stretch of sand known for its surf culture. Your crew can ride the waves (lessons are available for kids as young as 4 or 5) o...

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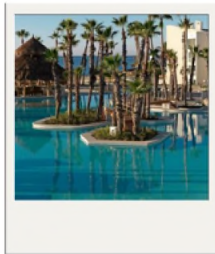
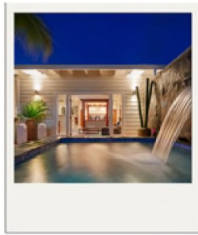
**Los Cabos, Mexico**

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What's not to love about **Los Cabos**? This sunny spot on the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula, where the desert mountains meet the Pacific Ocean, woos all types of travelers. Whether you're hoping t...

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## All-Inclusive Beach Resorts for Families



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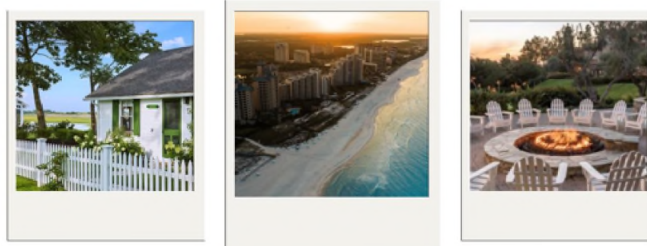
**Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, Vieux Fort, St. Lucia**

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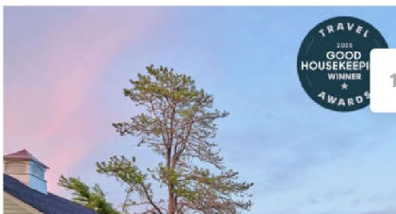
Families return year after year to four-time winner **Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa**—and it's not hard to see why. More value-priced than its island counterparts and way closer to the airport, this gem is know...

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## Beach Villas for Big Groups



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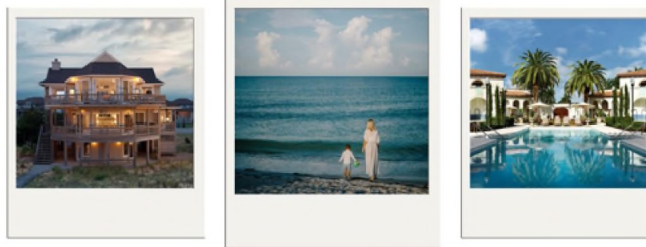
The Dunes on the Waterfront, Ogunquit, Maine

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No one is going to appreciate the cottage-core vibe of **The Dunes on the Waterfront** more than your besties. Scattered about 12 acres of farmland overlooking a tidal river that meets the ocean, the 21 newly ...

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## East Coast Beach Resorts



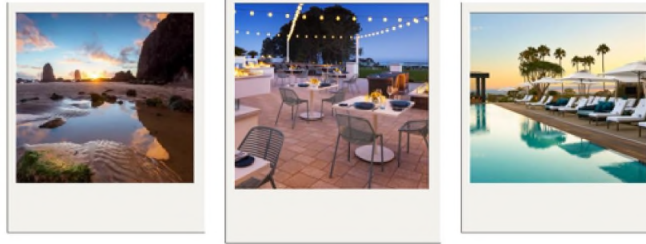
The Sanderling Resort, Duck, North Carolina

©thesanderling

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An adult-oriented resort in this neck of the woods is hard to come by, but **The Sanderling Resort** pulls through for couples. Its 123 rooms and suites recently underwent a glow-up for the property's 40th anni...

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## West Coast Beach Resorts

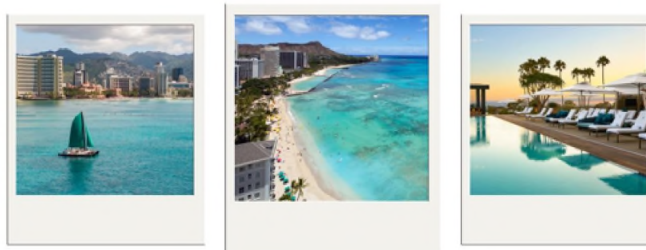


Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa, Dana Point, California  
©marriott

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Perched atop a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean mid-way between San Diego and Los Angeles, the Victorian-inspired **Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa** caters to all types of travelers, but families a...

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## Hawaiian Beach Resorts





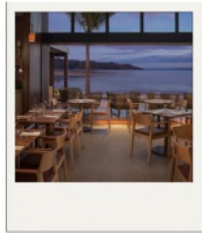
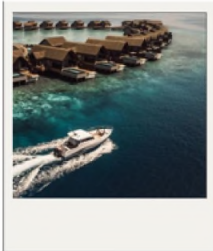
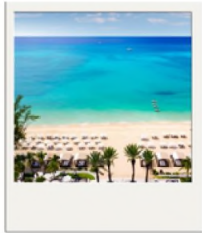
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## International Beach Resorts



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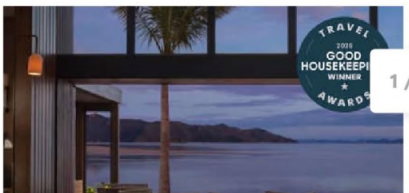
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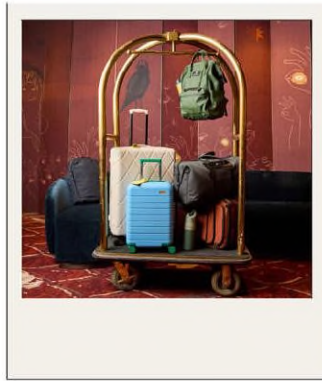
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# ‘I always felt like I didn’t have enough’: Why this American woman moved from California to Mexico 20 years ago

Story by Tamara Hardingham-Gill, CNN • 5mo • 10 min read

As a single mother of three “living paycheck to paycheck” in California, Janet Blaser had become resigned to constantly worrying about paying her bills and always “feeling less than.”

However, she began reevaluating her life after a series of events led her to take a “random vacation” to Mazatlán, Mexico in April 2005.

“I really wanted an adventure,” Janet tells CNN Travel.

Less than a year later, she relocated from Santa Cruz, California, to the vibrant city, situated along Mexico’s west coast.

“It’s home now,” she adds.

## ‘I felt invisible’



L Janet says that she’s much happier in Mexico and has managed to create a great life there.  
- Matt Mawson

So what led Janet, originally from Long Island, New York, to pack up her life and move hundreds of miles away?

“My mom was ill and dying,” she says. “And she really, really encouraged me to follow my dreams.”

Janet goes on to explain that her mother was “full of regrets” about “things she hadn’t done” as she neared the end of her life, and this “stuck” in her head.

Around the same time, Janet, who had worked as a reporter for years, was at a crossroads professionally and felt as though she needed to “think outside the box.”

“I was 50,” she says. “So I wasn’t the candidate that people wanted.”

Her children were all grown up by this point, and she was frustrated that she didn’t own her own home after living in California for half of her life, and felt as though she’d never be able to achieve this.

“The prices were unbelievable,” she adds, admitting that she “kind of felt invisible, or a little useless.”

Keen for a change of scenery, Janet decided to travel to Mazatlán, a city she’d never visited previously, after reading about it online.

“I was in California, where there were so many Mexican Americans,” she says, explaining that she’d visited the country once previously, but had mainly vacationed in the Caribbean over the years.

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MEXICO/CARIBBEAN

# ELEVATED ESCAPES

By Lydia Gregory

The Cenote Spa at the recently opened Devossion by Live Aqua Playa del Carmen.

"Everybody has a different meaning for what luxury is, but it has to be authentic and really provide value to the traveler," says Rodrigo Esponda, Managing Director of **Los Cabos Tourism Board**.

Across Mexico and the Caribbean, brands and destinations are echoing this theme. Here's a sampling.

## The Magic of Mexico

"It doesn't matter what destination," continues Esponda, "everybody understands luxury in a different way, and for some luxury would be indeed staying in a super luxurious hotel, but for some others it would be staying in a moderately priced hotel, but going out and having high-end experiences.... I think the fact that the high-end luxury brands have been coming to [Los Cabos] is precisely a reflection of this, that they see that the travelers are looking for high value experiences, and that they are willing to pay a little bit more to stay in a destination where quality is more important than quantity."

The destination continues to see a strong influx of top-tier properties. **Park Hyatt Los Cabos at Cabo del Sol** had a planned opening late this month as of press time, and barefoot-white linen luxury is already

available at the new **NEST Baja** in the East Cape (about a 20-minute drive from San Jose). Part of **Design Hotels Collection by Marriott International** and **Namron Hospitality's** first in BCS, it has 10 oceanview suites and cottages (think rooftop decks, plunge pools on terraces and indoor fireplaces). Spring of 2026 will welcome **Amanvari** (and its corresponding *Aman Spa*) to the luxe Costa Palmas community, also on the East Cape, with only 18 keys.

Tucked away in another planned community is **The St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira** (opening date TBD) with 15 exquisite 5-bedroom villas with infinity pools, including what's set to be the most expensive villa in the destination—named after John Jacob Astor. Other ultra-luxe properties on the drawing table include **SIRO Palmilla** (2027), a **Kerzner International** property; **Raffles Estera East Cape Resort & Residences** (2029)—a first for the brand in the Americas; and **Delano East Cape** (2029).

In Nayarit—famous for its upscale properties—**Montage Punta Mita** (145 guestrooms) and **Pendry Punta Mita** (125 guestrooms) broke ground this summer in preparation for a 2027 opening. Both

family-friendly properties will feature spas, signature children's clubs and more.

Newly opened, super-chic, tiny and way off the beaten path on the beaches of Oaxaca are **Casa Yati** and **La Valise Mazunte** (both by **Namron Hospitality**). Casa Yati is an 8-room retreat—seven *King* suites and one *Signature Suite*—while La Valise takes surf-chic to new heights with six suites and the exquisite *Villa Pentagonos* and its infinity pool. Both are an ode to the best of Oaxaca's rich artistry, natural materials and, of course, its inimitable cuisine.

Across the country in the Riviera Maya, the bar on luxury of the all-inclusive kind continues to be raised. "In the luxury world, the all-inclusive model has gained strength because true luxury today is about freedom and peace of mind," says Rodrigo Motavelazco, Global Director of Sales at **Grupo Xcaret**. "Guests don't want to think about logistics; they want to be fully present in each moment. At [the 63-suite] **La Casa de la Playa**, we take this idea beyond inclusions: we craft an 'all-experience' concept where every detail is curated.

"What sets us apart is not quantity, but quality and intention." For 2026, Motavelazco sees personalization, ➤

october 2025 33

## TRAVEL+ LEISURE

# How a Los Cabos Wellness Retreat Led Me to Reconnect With My Body After Breast Cancer Surgery



Today, I think of my life in two distinct chapters: before BC and after BC.

Last Labor Day, I had just arrived in Telluride, Colorado, for the Film Festival. The mountains glowed with golden light, evoking a sense of enchantment and possibility. Within days, the glow vanished. My doctor broke the spell with the news: I had breast cancer. I needed to return to New York City immediately to meet with a surgeon and discuss treatment options.

Deep down, I wasn't surprised. Breast cancer runs in my family, and I knew my risk was high. My decision to have a double mastectomy felt inevitable—but it wasn't easy. I'd never had surgery before, and this was a brutal introduction. Still, I wanted to do everything I could to avoid a recurrence. I worked on making peace with my choice, even as I recalibrated what my future—and body—might look like.

For me, the hardest part of having cancer wasn't the medical ups and downs—it was telling my two sons, then 20 and 23. One was studying in Dublin, the other working in London. Breaking the news over a Zoom call broke my heart. I tried to reassure them that I'd be okay, even though I wasn't sure myself. Would I be fine? Would they?

One of the first things cancer changed was travel. Since the boys had left home, we celebrated the end of each year with family trips—France, Portugal, and other places where we could reconnect, explore together, and forge new traditions. This time, we stayed close to home. No wandering unfamiliar streets. Instead, we walked well-worn paths in New York, visited old friends, watched the skaters at Bryant Park, and cocooned indoors—just my boys, a tree, and me.



### **A Healing Journey Begins**

My first surgery was a relief: successful, with clear lymph nodes and no complications. My doctor and I agreed to delay the second surgery to allow time for physical and emotional healing. I returned to work and started a weekly yoga class to ease the tightness in my chest and shoulders.

A month later, my husband and I returned to Telluride for our annual winter trip. I couldn't ski or carry my own bags, but I could sit on the deck and take in the snow-covered mountains. It was enough.

But even as the scars on my chest healed, my heart remembered the pain and fear. So when my editor asked me to cover the SOUL Wellness Retreat in Los Cabos, the opportunity seemed heaven-sent. I was ready to shift from being a patient to being a person again. And I wanted to put into practice what I'd been learning in yoga: meditation, gratitude, and letting go.

### **Turning the Page at Nobu Hotel**

When we stepped out of Los Cabos International Airport, the heat hit like a wall. But after an hour's drive through Baja's cactus-studded desert, we arrived at Nobu Hotel Los Cabos—hidden at the end of a winding road in the private Diamante community. It felt like I'd stumbled upon a secret retreat I didn't know I needed.





We were greeted with chilled towels and matcha lemonade, rich in antioxidants. That small, thoughtful moment grounded me in the present. As we walked through the Zen Rock Garden and open-air lobby, I took a deep breath. It felt good to arrive.

With 200 rooms and suites, plus 60 residences, Nobu blends Japanese minimalism with Mexican craftsmanship. My room—over 500 square feet—was larger than my first New York apartment. A reading nook, a private balcony overlooking the pool, and in the distance, the Pacific. The centerpiece was an onsen-style soaking tub, set beneath a skylight and framed by a wall of river rocks. Just stepping into the space was an invitation to slow down. It wasn't just a room; it was a sanctuary.

“

"Los Cabos showed me that wellness isn't a checklist—it's a gradual unfolding. It's the warmth of the sun, the scent of the sea and desert, the taste of food just harvested from the earth. It's a reminder that healing has its own time and pace. And sometimes, often, it begins by simply being still."

— Lisa Greissinger

At the SOUL Wellness Retreat, each day brought a different kind of restoration. Mornings began with ocean views, the sound of the ocean, and a soy matcha latte on my balcony. Then yoga, sound healing, or breathwork. After class, we faced the vast Pacific and journaled: "Set your intentions. Let go of what no longer serves you."

I wrote about everything I was carrying: Will I see my children settled? What form will my body finally take? Will the cancer come back? When will I feel like "me" again? How soon will I feel ready to really travel? What will my next, more complicated surgery be like? Will the pain be manageable?

Then I let the questions go—at least for the moment.

At the 13,000-square-foot Esencia Wellness Spa, I booked an aromatherapy massage. Treatments included volcanic stone therapy and sea salt scrubs infused with local herbs and essential oils. Even with 13 treatment rooms, I never felt rushed. A spa butler guided me from check-in through the hydrotherapy circuit to my massage, where the therapist was sensitive and skilled with my post-mastectomy body.

My frequent trips to the Nobu Hotel Cabos' outdoor hydrotherapy garden became another space for renewal. I'd move from the steam room to melt away the tension before moving to the invigorating bucket shower, soaking in the jacuzzi, braving the energizing cold plunge, and finally, a snooze in the walled garden. Each cycle left me more balanced and centered.

#### AN EMERGING WELLNESS DESTINATION

Long known for its natural beauty and ocean adventures, Los Cabos is quickly becoming a destination for restorative travel—the kind that encourages you to slow down, reflect, and reconnect with yourself. This year, Michelin awarded green stars to two local standouts—[Flora's Field Kitchen](#) and [Acre](#)—for their commitment to sustainable gastronomy (plus five new One Star restaurants). The region is now drawing wellness seekers not just for its landscape, but for its experiences: sunrise beachfront yoga, cacao ceremonies, spa rituals rooted in indigenous tradition, and food that nourishes the body and soul.

Every meal at Nobu was a reminder that wellness doesn't mean deprivation. At the Mediterranean-inspired Muna, we had short ribs with jocoque (a rich, tangy dairy similar to buttermilk) and endive. At the Mexican-inspired Pacific, whole baby corn came with toasted grasshopper mayonnaise. Regional flavors gave me a real sense of place. Next door, the open-air M Bar was perfect for sunset mocktails—fragrant with thyme, basil, orgeat, and fresh berries—or a craft cocktail, if that's your thing.

#### **Among the Trees and Hilltops**

After Nobu's serene luxury, Acre Resort was a lush escape. We were there for a farm-to-table lunch and a hands-on soy candle workshop. Acre's tropical oasis also houses an animal rescue sanctuary (yes, emotional support dogs!), an art studio, and a Tree House Spa, offering restorative treatments like cactus detox wraps and lavender scrubs with herbs grown on-site. Guests can stay in one of 12 luxe tree houses

suspended above the Earth for an elevating experience, or in one of the 10 family-friendly haciendas. It felt like a place for both escape and connection.

We also visited Monte Cardón, where chef Ubaldo Martínez creates personalized, hyper-local meals using ingredients harvested within 12 miles in his slow food kitchen. Before dinner, we participated in a traditional cacao ceremony, rooted in Mayan healing practices—that moment changed everything.

We ground cacao beans into paste, set intentions, and sat in silence. As I worked the beans and silently meditated, tears came unexpectedly. I acknowledged the fear I still carried as a breast cancer survivor and reconnected with my body as it is. The experience was both cathartic and healing—and I walked away feeling lighter, like a weight had been lifted.



### **Space to Heal**

Los Cabos showed me that wellness isn't a checklist—it's a gradual unfolding. It's the warmth of the sun, the scent of the sea and desert, the taste of food just harvested from Earth. It's a reminder that healing has its own time and pace. And sometimes, often, it begins by simply being still. Healing isn't just medical—it's in movement, stillness, ritual, and reconnection. When I arrived, I didn't know exactly what I needed emotionally, but now I was ready to face my next surgery.

When I left Nobu Hotel Los Cabos, I wasn't just rested—I was restored. Los Cabos gave me the space, silence, and inspiration to reset my post-mastectomy body and mind. It wasn't a luxury wellness escape; it was a journey to identify myself as a breast cancer survivor.



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# Los Cabos 2025-2030: The Ultimate Guide to New Hotels and Resorts in Mexico's Luxury Hotspot

Published on November 9, 2025



Los Cabos, Mexico, is becoming an even more luxurious destination for travellers seeking high-end getaways. Between now and 2030, at least nine new hotels and resorts



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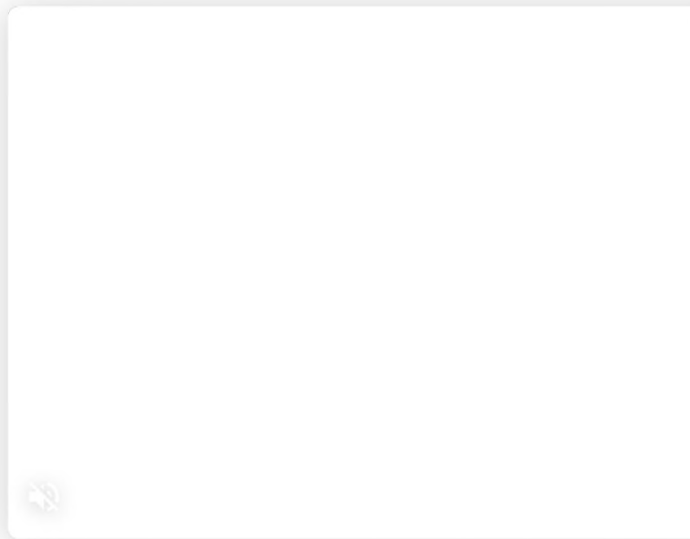
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### A Surge of Luxury in Los Cabos

Los Cabos has long been known for its sunny beaches, beautiful resorts, and vibrant nightlife. But with the addition of these new luxury hotels and resorts, the destination is about to enter a new era. Big names in hospitality, including St. Regis, Soho House, Aman, and Raffles, will be setting up shop in the region, bringing fresh offerings for guests looking for an elevated experience.

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The region's transformation into a luxury travel hub is a direct result of growing demand for high-end vacation experiences. As a top vacation spot, Los Cabos attracts more than 3 million tourists each year, and this expansion in luxury accommodations is aimed at satisfying the increasing demand.

### Upcoming Resort Openings: What to Expect

Park **Hyatt** Los Cabos at **Cabo del Sol**





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The Park Hyatt adds a new level of sophistication to the area and is set to become a top choice for travellers seeking an exclusive yet comfortable retreat.

### Soho House Los Cabos

Soho House, renowned for its private members-only clubs, is preparing to open its doors in early 2026. Located within the Cabo del Sol development, this stylish resort will feature just 15 accommodations for members, as well as 45 residences and five villas. Soho House's signature restaurant, beach club, and health club with gym and wellness facilities will ensure that guests have access to all the luxury and exclusivity the brand is known for.

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offerings.

### **St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira**

After a few delays, St. Regis Los Cabos at Quivira is set to open its doors in the summer of 2026. This stunning property will offer 120 rooms and 60 residences, along with access to the Jack Nicklaus-crafted golf course at Quivira. Guests can look forward to enjoying exquisite culinary experiences, including a signature restaurant led by renowned Mexican chef Carlos Gaytan. The St. Regis will undoubtedly appeal to golf enthusiasts and those seeking a refined, luxury experience.

### **Amanvari at Costa Palmas**

Aman is a brand synonymous with exclusivity and privacy. Set to open in 2026, Amanvari will be a peaceful retreat with just 18 freestanding casitas, designed with wraparound decks, private swimming pools, and access to wellness facilities like a temazcal sweat lodge and open-air yoga pavilions. Nestled in the 1,500-acre Costa Palmas development on the East Cape, Amanvari will be one of the most luxurious resorts in Los Cabos, offering personalized service and intimate experiences for those willing to pay top-tier prices.

### **What This Means for Travellers**

Los Cabos' evolution into a luxury hotspot will benefit travellers in many ways. The region is already home to some of the world's most iconic luxury resorts, and with these new additions, the destination will offer even more variety for



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Los Cabos is ready to welcome you with open arms and luxury amenities.

### Why Los Cabos Remains the Ultimate Getaway

The addition of these nine new resorts is just the latest chapter in Los Cabos' ongoing story as one of Mexico's premier vacation destinations. With its stunning natural beauty, luxury offerings, and excellent service, it's no wonder that the region continues to attract top-tier hotel brands. For travellers looking to indulge in some of the best hospitality the world has to offer, Los Cabos will remain a leading destination for years to come.

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# Why Los Cabos is the Ultimate MICE Destination: Luxury, Adventure, and Culture

📅 Published on November 12, 2025 By: **Tuhin Sarkar**



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📍 [Los Cabos](#), located at the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula, is rapidly gaining recognition as one of the premier destinations for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE). Known for its stunning natural beauty, luxurious resorts, world-class infrastructure, and unique cultural offerings, Los Cabos has become a go-to destination for professionals and organizations looking for more than just a venue. This article delves into what makes Los Cabos a standout destination for business events, its rich culture, exclusive experiences, and how the region has successfully blended tradition with modernity to create a truly unique space for business and leisure.

### **Los Cabos: A Unique Destination for MICE Events**

Los Cabos' success as a top MICE destination can be attributed to its mix of factors: its stunning landscapes, excellent connectivity, robust infrastructure, and most importantly, its ability to offer both business and leisure experiences in a single package. According to recent



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The destination boasts a diverse range of hotels—95 in total—with medium-sized groups being the target audience for many of the venues. Hotels in Los Cabos average between 200-300 rooms, making them ideal for accommodating medium-sized conventions. These venues offer exceptional service, state-of-the-art facilities, and luxurious amenities, making it easy for businesses to seamlessly blend work with relaxation.

### **World-Class Infrastructure and Accessibility**

Accessibility is a key factor in Los Cabos' success as a meeting destination. The region offers direct flights from 32 cities in the United States and 11 cities in Canada, as well as seasonal flights from Frankfurt, Germany, and Panama. This extensive flight network makes it easy for international attendees to travel to Los Cabos without hassle. Once you arrive, Los Cabos' infrastructure continues to impress with high-quality roads, luxury hotels, reliable suppliers, and a



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you're looking to host a golf tournament, a conference, or a networking event, Los Cabos can deliver an unparalleled experience.

### Safety and Sustainability in Los Cabos

Safety is a top priority in Los Cabos, and the region has a reputation as one of the safest tourist destinations in Mexico. The well-established security measures ensure that visitors can feel confident exploring the area both during the day and night. Furthermore, sustainability is a key pillar of the region's growth strategy. Los Cabos is dedicated to promoting sustainable tourism, working closely with local businesses and conservation groups to preserve its natural resources.

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The focus on sustainability is especially evident in the region's commitment to marine conservation. The Sea of Cortez, which borders Los Cabos, is home to 30% of the world's marine mammal species, making it one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world. Through initiatives like the Cabo Pulmo National Park, which has become a model for marine conservation, Los Cabos is committed to protecting its natural environment for future generations.

### Los Cabos: A Cultural Immersion Like No Other

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The area is known for its exceptional seafood, with many endemic species only found in the Sea of Cortez.

Additionally, Los Cabos is the number one region in Mexico for organic vegetable production, making it a hotspot for fresh, sustainable, and locally grown food. Visitors can indulge in a wide range of culinary experiences, from casual street food to Michelin Guide-rated restaurants. ⚡ [Los Cabos](#) is home to 21 restaurants, seven of which are located outside luxury hotels, offering an eclectic mix of flavors and dishes that combine traditional Mexican ingredients with modern cooking techniques.

### **A Day in Los Cabos: What to Expect from Your Experience**

When visiting Los Cabos, the experience goes far beyond attending meetings or conferences. The region offers countless opportunities for adventure and relaxation. Picture this: after a productive morning meeting at a luxury resort, you find yourself kayaking in the turquoise waters of the Sea of Cortez, followed by a gourmet seafood lunch in a local restaurant overlooking the ocean. In the evening, you could be dining under the stars at a restaurant that has been serving the freshest fish caught that very day.

The region's warm climate and stunning scenery provide the perfect backdrop for outdoor activities such as hiking, water sports, and fishing. Whether you're looking to unwind or engage in some adrenaline-pumping adventures, Los Cabos has something for everyone. And for those with an interest in astronomy, Los Cabos offers an exclusive opportunity to



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One of the highlights of Los Cabos is Cabo Pulmo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is renowned for its marine biodiversity. Located just a short drive from the heart of Los Cabos, Cabo Pulmo is home to one of the oldest and most well-preserved coral reefs in the Eastern Pacific. The park offers an incredible opportunity for visitors to experience the wonders of underwater life through scuba diving and snorkeling.

Cabo Pulmo is also a symbol of successful conservation efforts, showcasing how eco-tourism can help protect natural resources while providing educational experiences for visitors. Divers and snorkelers can expect to see a wide variety of marine life, from rays and dolphins to sharks and vibrant fish. For anyone interested in nature and sustainability, Cabo Pulmo is an unmissable destination within Los Cabos.

### **Why Choose Los Cabos for Your Next Meeting or Convention?**

There are countless reasons why Los Cabos should be at the top of your list for your next corporate event or incentive program. The region offers an exceptional blend of natural beauty, luxury accommodation, excellent connectivity, and a rich cultural heritage that will leave your guests with lasting memories. The MICE industry in Los Cabos is thriving, with high-quality venues and a dedicated team working to ensure that every event runs smoothly.

Whether you're hosting a small executive meeting or a large



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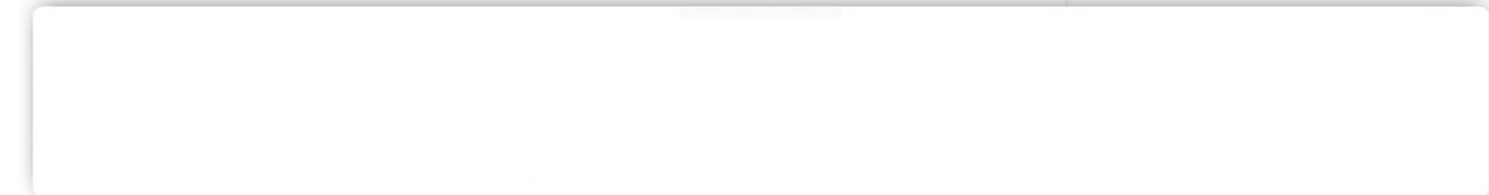
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### Conclusion: Los Cabos Awaits You

Los Cabos is more than just a vacation destination—it’s a place where business, leisure, and culture come together in perfect harmony. From its stunning natural beauty to its world-class hotels, top-tier golf courses, and diverse culinary offerings, Los Cabos is a destination that provides everything you need for a successful meeting, convention, or incentive trip. Its rich cultural history, warm hospitality, and commitment to sustainability ensure that every visit is not only productive but also deeply enriching. So, if you’re looking for a destination that offers both business excellence and unique experiences, look no further than Los Cabos.

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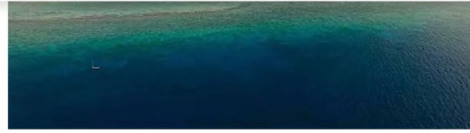


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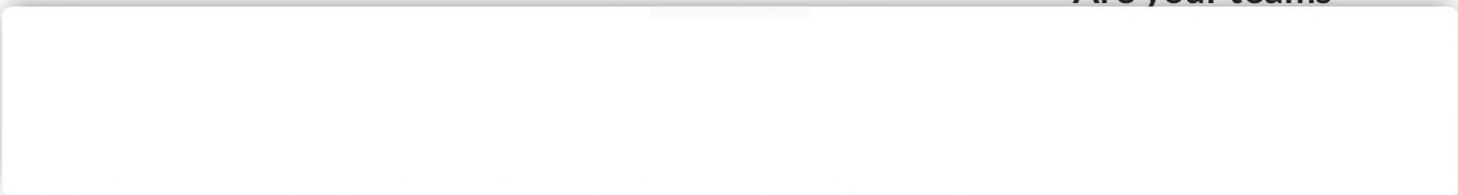
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# Los Cabos Wins 2026 Good Housekeeping Family Travel Award for Best Family-Friendly Destination: All You Need To Know

 Published on November 19, 2025





**Los Cabos** has again reaffirmed its status as one of the most suitable places for family vacations, since it was recently awarded by **Good Housekeeping's 2026 Family Travel Awards**. With its breathtaking nature and a lot of fun things to do for families, Los Cabos remains the most accessible for families looking for adventures, relaxation, and memorable events.

As a premier vacation spot for families, Los Cabos is recognized for its unique combination of breathtaking desert landscapes and top-tier infrastructure. Whether seeking thrilling adventures, cultural exploration, or simply relaxing by the beach, Los Cabos caters to families of all interests. The destination offers an expansive range of accommodations, from all-inclusive resorts featuring dedicated kids' clubs and family-friendly pools to private villas designed for personalized service and comfort.

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## Family-Friendly Activities Across Land and Sea

Los Cabos offers something for every member of the family, ensuring that all generations can enjoy their time together. For nature lovers and adventure seekers, the destination offers a diverse range of activities. Families can enjoy whale watching excursions during migration season, which presents a unique opportunity to witness these majestic creatures in their natural habitat. Snorkelling and diving in the protected waters of Cabo Pulmo, one of the most vibrant marine parks in the region, provide unforgettable underwater experiences.

For those who prefer to stay on land, Los Cabos offers scenic horseback riding along its sandy beaches, ATV desert tours, and zip-line adventures through lush canyons. The region is also home to beginner-friendly surf spots, making it a fantastic destination for families to try surfing together. The family-friendly accommodations allow for relaxation after a day full of activities, with many offering amenities like spacious rooms, private pools, and even child-care services to ensure a stress-free holiday.

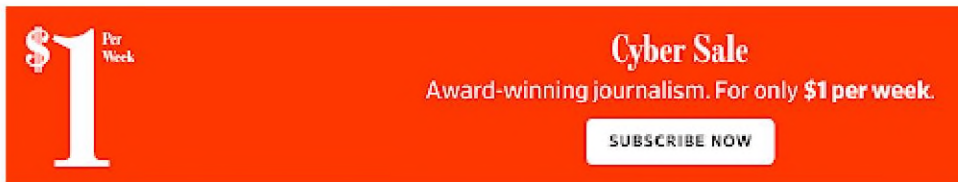
## Cultural Immersion and Culinary Delights

Beyond the adventure and outdoor activities, Los Cabos offers families a chance to immerse themselves in the rich local culture. The historic town of San José del Cabo is a

culture while indulging in delicious cuisine. ^

The food scene in Los Cabos is another highlight, with a vast array of options that cater to all tastes, from authentic Mexican dishes to international cuisine. Many restaurants offer kid-friendly menus, ensuring that even the youngest members of the family have a satisfying meal to enjoy after a day of exploring.

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## A Commitment to Sustainable Tourism

The Los Cabos Tourism Board remains committed to preserving the region's natural beauty and cultural heritage while offering world-class tourism experiences. As sustainability becomes increasingly important to travelers, Los Cabos continues to lead the way in responsible tourism practices. From eco-friendly resorts to marine conservation efforts, the destination strives to balance growth with environmental stewardship, ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same stunning landscapes and vibrant culture that make Los Cabos so special.

## The Los Cabos Family Experience

With over 2 million visitors each year, Los Cabos is a proven favorite for families seeking a secure, family-friendly environment. Its exceptional combination of outdoor adventures, cultural experiences, luxurious accommodations, and sustainable tourism practices makes it

preferences.



The 2026 Good Housekeeping Family Travel Award is a testament to Los Cabos' consistent ability to provide unforgettable moments for families. As the destination continues to grow in popularity, it remains dedicated to enhancing its offerings, ensuring that every family that visits can create cherished memories.

## Discover Why Los Cabos is a Top Choice for Family Travel

Los Cabos has rightfully earned its place among the top family travel destinations in the world. Its wide range of family-friendly accommodations, diverse activities, and commitment to sustainability ensure that every family has a memorable and enjoyable experience. For families looking to create lasting memories while enjoying the beauty of Mexico, Los Cabos is the perfect destination to visit in 2026 and beyond.

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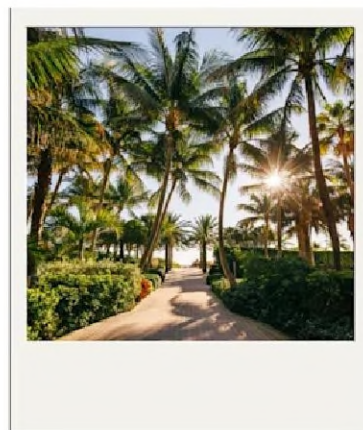
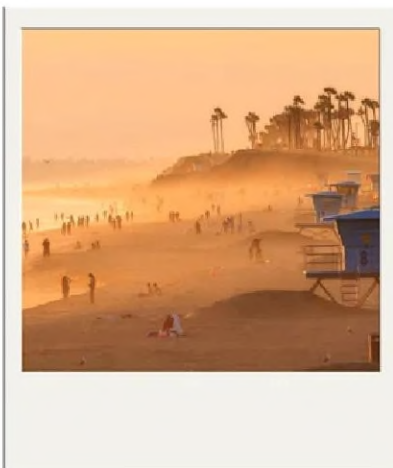


The Beach Vacations We Can't Stop Dreaming About Getty Images

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Beautiful beaches are universally alluring—but only a few live up to the dream vacations that stay with you long after you've brushed off the sand. For Good Housekeeping's 2026 Travel Awards, our editors and testers explored coastlines

near and far to uncover those rare destinations that pair stunning scenery with standout experiences. Whether you're after a serene escape, a family adventure, or a chic seaside stay, these winners make every moment feel like the perfect beach day.



Getty Images

## Beach Towns

### Huntington Beach, California

It's easy to get the family on board with a vacation to **Huntington Beach**, a 10-mile stretch of sand known for its surf culture. Your crew can ride the waves (lessons are available for kids as young as 4 or 5) or just watch the pros do it. Surfing aside, the beach here is gloriously family-friendly—wide, lifeguarded, and dotted with activities including a new inclusive playground. Hundreds of fire rings scattered about the town's three main beaches entice flip-flop-clad families to roast marshmallows as the sun goes down.

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**TESTER NOTES:** "From a kids' reading nook at the outdoor shopping center to beach mats that help wheelchair users get to the shoreline, I saw all kinds of

thoughtful touches around this town that is only about 15 minutes from Anaheim,” said our tester, who stayed at the beachy-chic Paséa Hotel and Spa, which they thought teens would love. “Restaurants at all price points are far more elevated than in your typical beach town—Primecut Taqueria was my favorite grab-and-go spot, and Duke’s Huntington Beach serves up both fun food and a surf vibe,” they added.



[at surfcityusa](#)

## Newport, Rhode Island

Set against the ocean, **Newport** is simultaneously romantic and family-friendly. No matter whose hand you're holding, you'll enjoy strolls downtown, where there's a happy mix of kitschy stores and boutiques, and along the cliff walk—a popular path with stunning ocean views that runs alongside Gilded Age mansions that merit their own visits. Attractions like the Sailing Museum and the Newport Car Museum are a great way to spend the day and cater to people of all ages.

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**TESTER NOTES:** "Newport is charming, fun, and packed tightly into a little downtown area that's easy to walk around," said our tester, who visited with her baby and her 7-year-old. "The Sailing Museum turned out to be one of our favorite spots. Wonderfully designed, it's filled with colorful and fascinating exhibits and memorabilia." Her family stayed at the Wayfinder Hotel, tucked away from the hubbub of downtown. "It had a pool, a fantastic restaurant, and free parking," she said.



[at discovernewport](#)

## St. Pete–Clearwater, Florida

A beach getaway and a city vacation rolled into one, **St. Pete–Clearwater** blends sunny shoreline with world-class attractions. In the morning, you can splash around near some of the 36 miles of Gulf Coast beaches (including Clearwater Beach, which has fun inflatable slides on its powdery white sand). Then seek p.m. shade at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, which rescues and

rehab dolphins, or the Dali Museum, which showcases works from the Spanish surrealist and other icons.

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**TESTER NOTES:** “This destination gives off European vibes, but you can also get your typical ‘beach town’ vacation fix,” said our tester, who stayed with her spouse at the Vinoy Resort & Golf Club. “The Dali Museum was one of the most incredible ones I’ve experienced,” she added. She loved Sunken Gardens, which was full of flora and flamingos: “It is retro, has a history to it, and feels like the perfect place to bring your kids but also enjoy as adults.” Another tester, traveling with her teen, raved about her stay at the Island Grand at Tradewinds resort.



[at visitstpeteclearwater](#)

## Wilmington, North Carolina, and Island Beaches

If the beaches near **Wilmington** look familiar but you've never set foot on their golden sand, you probably recognize them from *The Summer I Turned Pretty*. All three seasons of this Amazon hit show were filmed in Wilmington's historic downtown and on three North Carolina barrier islands (Wrightsville Beach, Kure Beach, and Carolina Beach) about 20 to 30 minutes east. You'll want to explore the entire trio, because each has a slightly different vibe.

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**TESTER NOTES:** “I saw people riding bikes everywhere, especially along Wilmington’s Riverwalk and on the beach roads,” said our tester, whose family loved staying at Trailborn Surf & Sound in Wrightsville Beach because it had “great amenities” and “super quick access to the beach.” Other highlights for her family included dining at the Bluewater Waterfront Grill, “where the boats come and go,” and touring a World War II battleship that gave them “a great sense of the area’s history.”



[at wilmingtonandbeaches](#)

## The Palm Beaches, Florida

America's first resort destination gets better every year. **The Palm Beaches**, a 47-mile stretch of sunny shoreline encompassing more than three dozen cities from Jupiter to Boca Raton, boasts a wide selection of new and recently glowed-up resorts, restaurants, and attractions. Whether you want to peek in on the upgraded sea turtle hospital at Juno Beach's Loggerhead Marine Life Center or grab the best sammie of your life at the viral Buccan sandwich counter in West Palm, it's all waiting for you in this vacation spot that is warm 365 days a year.

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**TESTER NOTES:** "Plan on visiting for a week or more, because there's so much to see and do," said our tester, who stayed with her parents in a newly renovated two-bedroom suite at the Palm Beach Marriott Singer Island Resort, adding, "We joked that it was our 'eating vacation' because nearly everything we tried between beach time, thrifting ventures, and sightseeing was scrumptious. It's a tough call, but the waterfront dining at the Beacon in Jupiter was our favorite spot; it felt like a slice of Italy in Florida."



[at thepalmbeaches.com](https://thepalmbeaches.com)

## Los Cabos, Mexico

What's not to love about **Los Cabos**? This sunny spot on the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula, where the desert mountains meet the Pacific Ocean, woos all types of travelers. Whether you're hoping to flop on the beach with a good book, explore the magnificent marine life with the kids, or go clubbing, you'll find options for everyone. LGBTQ+ travelers, take note that Los Cabos was one of the first "queer-certified" vacation destinations.

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**TESTER NOTES:** Knowing his kids would want to swim daily, our tester stayed at Chileno Bay Resort & Residences because it was one of the few properties in a sheltered cove protected from rough waters. "It was totally five-star in its location and service but completely unpretentious," he said. His family of four also enjoyed a kayak and snorkel tour from High Tide Sea Expeditions that took them past Cabo's famous arches (*shown*).



at [visitloscabos.travel](https://visitloscabos.travel)

## Greater Miami & Miami Beach, Florida

Generations of girlfriends have flocked to **Greater Miami & Miami Beach**. Here, vibrant art deco architecture meets world-class dining, lively beaches, and indulgent spas, setting the stage for an unforgettable escape. To elevate your stay, consider aligning your trip with one of the region's legendary festivals, such as Art Basel Miami Beach (December 5 through December 7, 2025) or the South Beach Wine & Food Festival (February 18 through February 22, 2026).

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**TESTER NOTES:** "Book your girls' trip to the new Andaz Miami Beach by Hyatt," advised our tester. "The property was absolutely gorgeous—every detail was elegant, and I truly was on cloud nine! Their website doesn't do justice to how stunning the hotel, restaurants, and grounds really are." She also recommends heading to Coral Gables, a city just a few miles west of downtown Miami, to stroll its "charming streets" and discover another part of the bustling city.



[at miamiandbeaches](#)

## Curaçao

A coastal gem, this Dutch Caribbean island near Venezuela boasts 35 beaches, and it's hard not to love them all. Curaçao stretches 38 miles, allowing you to beach-hop and discover two or three distinct shores in a single day. From lively **Mambo Beach**, steps from shops and seaside cafés, to the tranquil **Playa Kalki**, a cove beloved by snorkelers, every beach offers its own unique charm and personality.

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**TESTER NOTES:** “All the beaches were so gorgeous, calm, and swimmable,” said our tester, who visited with her best friend. “We went to Kokomo, which was a popular beach club with snorkeling, one day. Our favorite beach was Playa Jereme, because it was quieter and had pristine waters. The view was breathtaking.” Our tester stayed at Lion’s Dive Beach Resort, which she thought would be a solid budget-friendly hotel for families looking for spacious beachfront accommodations.



at curacao

## **Destin–Fort Walton Beach, Florida**

Your kids can spread their (water) wings at **Destin–Fort Walton Beach**. Located in the state’s panhandle near warm Caribbean-like waters, this no-passport-needed spot introduces tiny tourists to snorkeling, fishing, kayaking, and more through its brilliant Little Adventurers program. Its website suggests activities by age group—some are free, and for others you’re directed to local outfitters. The destination also recently introduced the “Ask a Scout” program, which allows moms and dads to query local parents.

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**TESTER NOTES:** “We loved the Dolphin Cruise suggested through the Little Adventurers program,” said our tester, who brought her 2-year-old. “We saw so many dolphins out in the wild jumping in the waves!” Our tester stayed at the Emerald Grande, which has multi-bedroom suites. “My son couldn’t get enough of the hotel pool and the beach that you could take a shuttle to,” she added. “The water was crystal clear, the sand was nice, and a beautiful pelican floated near us all morning.”



[at destinfwb](#)

## Traverse City, Michigan

Set along the shimmering shores of Lake Michigan, **Traverse City** is a hidden gem for non-Midwesterners. Twenty-thousand-year-old glacial deposits in Grand Traverse Bay and nearby Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore tint the water an almost Caribbean shade of blue, especially on sunny days. Beyond its lakeside allure, Traverse City charms visitors with a vibrant downtown brimming with its own local art scene and picturesque orchards.

**TESTER NOTES:** "A perfect day trip, the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, takes you in and through the dunes, with awe-inspiring views and breathtaking stops along the way," said our tester, who visited with her spouse. "There are moments where you have to remind yourself that you're in Michigan. The soft white sand and the perfectly clear blue waters rival those anywhere in the world." The couple stayed at Hotel Indigo, noting that it was "walkable to almost everywhere we wanted to visit in town" and that its rooftop bar had "strong pours, great views, and even better vibes."



at [traversecity](#)



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## All-Inclusive Beach Resorts for Adults

### Almare, a Luxury Collection All-Inclusive Resort Isla Mujeres, Mexico

Couples will relish their “just the two of us” time at **Almare**, a newish resort on an island about seven miles from Cancun, to which a bougie catamaran whisks you from a marina near the airport. With only 109 rooms, Marriott’s first luxury property in Mexico is intimate, and its design emphasizes privacy. You won’t find all-you-can-eat buffets or large-scale parties: The vibe is more refined (case in point: a local flutist performs at the rooftop restaurant). Cultural touches abound, from the Mayan calendar in the tranquil lobby to a Cacao Experience option in which you craft your own chocolate.

**TESTER NOTES:** “Every meal felt like a highlight,” said our tester, who visited with her husband. “You could tell they were trying to source locally—the food was infused with Mayan tradition, and it was healthful and delicious and seemed sustainable too!” She added that the overall experience felt “thoughtful and elevated” and that she was impressed with the attentiveness of the staff.



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at marriott

### **Secrets Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres Resort & Spa, Mexico**

The secret is out: A Hyatt all-inclusive hotel chain, the **Secrets Playa Blanca Costa Mujeres**, is the dreamiest couples' destination. At this property in a secluded area on the Yucatán Peninsula, a dozen or so miles from the hustle and

bustle of Cancun, all 505 rooms are suites—some of them swim-out style with access to a pool from the terrace. The property's Unlimited Luxury program for all guests provides top-shelf spirits, reservation-free dining, and a vast array of activities, no cheesy wristbands required.

**TESTER NOTES:** Calling the resort “stunning,” our tester complimented the lush greenery and the well-maintained pools and common spaces. “My husband and I enjoyed seeing Yucatan art throughout the property, especially wood carvings and murals,” she said. Other highlights for the couple included the spa (“Our massages were in the most beautiful bungalows”) as well as the Italian restaurant Portofino and the 24-hour cafe offering coffee drinks, pastries, and gelato.



at [hyattinclusivecollection](#)

## Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

An off-the-beaten-path honeymoon spot, the new **Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** is becoming easier to reach: Beginning December 20, 2025, Delta Airlines will fly directly from Atlanta to St. Vincent, joining other carriers that take off from New York City, Charlotte, and Miami. Nestled on a private cove bordered by a forest, the property attracts honeymooners and couples celebrating milestone anniversaries with overwater and beachfront villas that give off White Lotus vibes. Breakfast in bed, personalized snack and drink delivery, and bonding activities perfect for two (from a hot stone couple's massage to a round of pickleball) will let you start your life as a married couple off right.

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**TESTER NOTES:** "Our honeymoon was extremely relaxing and romantic!" said our tester. She raved about the property's "extremely tranquil" grounds and the resort's "very laid-back, private atmosphere." They found the service impeccable, and the couple's favorite touch was having a bath run when they returned to the room every night. On the food front, "the sushi and desserts were top-tier at every restaurant," she added.



at sandals

### Serenity at Coconut Bay, St. Lucia

From the moment you're greeted by a butler with fresh coconuts, you know that your vacay at **Serenity at Coconut Bay** will be pure bliss. The couples-only resort, which tends to attract a 20- and 30-something crowd, gives all guests a dreamy vacation nest: a plunge-pool suite with a king-size four-poster bed and an oversize tub along with butlers who will quickly learn your preferences. The

location is another plus: While most resorts on the island require a long, windy drive from the airport, Serenity is only 10 minutes from it.

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**TESTER NOTES:** “The grounds at Serenity were beautifully maintained,” said our tester, who stayed with her boyfriend in a Grande Plunge Pool Butler Suite. “It is gorgeously landscaped and impeccably clean!” She rated the service as five-star, saying the staff remembered their names and favorite drinks. But her favorite experience turned out to be the snorkeling excursions offered through the resort: “We were taken to an open-water snorkeling location with the bluest, clearest, most stunning water I have ever seen.”



[at serenityatcoconutbay.com](https://serenityatcoconutbay.com)

### **Turtle Island Resort, Nanuya Levu, Fiji**

Home to only 14 couples at a time, **Turtle Island Resort** is a ferry or seaplane ride from Fiji's main island of Viti Levu and delivers the personal attention you didn't even know you needed. Each couple receives a "Mama" who will unpack their bags, tidy their villa, organize activities, and pull off special requests (like a birthday cake). The couples' job: Bask in the Blue Lagoon worry-free.

**TESTER NOTES:** "All the meals were wonderful, and the staff serving us were so patient and a joy to be around. By the end of the trip, we cancelled any private dinner we had and ate with the group!" said our tester, who noted that many guests were celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries. Our tester also raved about the water activities: "The snorkeling was stunning, even just out in the main beach area in front of our villa. The coral was pristine, and we saw purple starfish! We also went crab hunting, which was unlike anything I've ever experienced."



at turtlefiji

## Paradisus Los Cabos

Rather than catering exclusively to couples, **Paradisus Los Cabos** appeals to a wide variety of adult travelers—whether families with grown kids, mother-daughter pairs, or a bunch of besties. Spacious suites, including some with two double beds, provide more flexible sleeping arrangements than are available at many other adult-only resorts. Featuring four pools and seven restaurants, the resort has a vibe that is a nice balance of laid-back and lively. Jewelry making and tequila tasting are highlights, as are a wide range of cultural experiences.

**TESTER NOTES:** “This property has beautiful views and the bonus of a swimmable beach, which is rare because of the rough currents,” said our tester. She recommends upgrading to the Reserve area, where a dedicated concierge makes dining reservations, offers pillow and room scent choices, and notes drink preferences for the minibar. A stay at the Reserve also includes a private ocean-view lounge and access to an exclusive beachfront restaurant.



[at paradisusloscabosresort](#)

### **Margaritaville Island Reserve Resort Riviera Maya, Mexico**

You can do pools your way at **Margaritaville Island Reserve Resort Riviera Maya**, about 15 miles from Cancun's airport. Dip into your suite's plunge pool (floating taco bar optional), or head to the splashy oceanfront public pool for a DJ-led party. This palm-tree-lined resort works just as well for groups of friends as for couples, and it shouldn't be hard to convince someone to join you for mixology classes, a snorkeling session, a water volleyball game, or a sunset bonfire.

**TESTER NOTES:** “It was a fun trip from the moment we got a frozen margarita lolly at check-in,” said our tester, who brought his girlfriend. “This is the type of trip you take when all you want to do is relax,” he added. “Our favorite meal was at Landshark Brewery & Grill. They brew beer on-site and then serve it straight from the brewing machines, which was awesome. We also really enjoyed the buffet restaurant, which had shows on some nights.”



[at margaritavilleresorts](https://margaritavilleresorts.com)

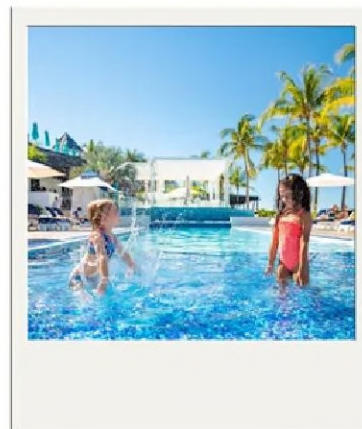
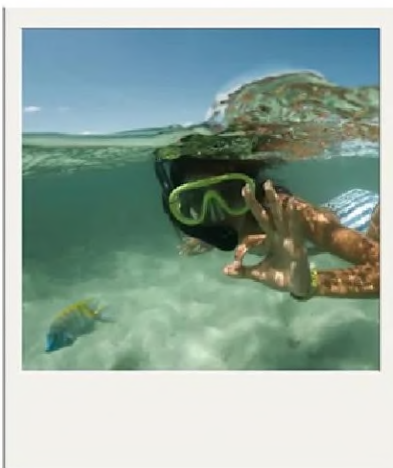
**StolenTime Saint Lucia**

If you've been prioritizing everyone except yourself, you're overdue for vacation at **StolenTime**, a 100-room resort whose slogan is "It's about time you introduced your body to your mind." While the heavenly spot on a large beach seems more couple-centric (the rooms sleep two) than girlfriend getaway-oriented, the truth is that all adults will love it here. With everything from holistic spa practices and Ayurvedic treatments like Shirodara to activities such as yoga, archery, and art classes, you can simultaneously grow as a person and get the relaxation you need.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The food was delicious, and the fitness classes challenged me more than I expected," said our tester, who visited with a friend. She couldn't get enough of the striking grounds featuring gorgeous old-growth Caribbean gardens. "In this hurricane-prone part of the world, I can't remember ever seeing things like 150-year-old trees and lush gardens," she said. "It's a really special place if you appreciate flowering plants. I geeked out over the gardens." She added, "The attention to guests is perfect. Very sweet staff—they learn your preferences, appear to help, and quickly disappear if not needed. They invite you to things but do not pressure you."



at stolentime



clubmed, beaches, cbayresort

## All-Inclusive Beach Resorts for Families

### Club Med Cancun, Mexico

Thank you, **Club Med Cancun**, for getting it. In a popular vacation spot for families, the property stands out for its creative supervised clubs broken down into five age groups. From flying trapeze lessons for kids 4 and up to teen-only parties, Club Med's activities crack the code for under-18 vacationers being excited about being dropped off for a while. When the gang's all back together, families can enjoy the new themed Splash Park and Mini Pool & Playground.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Club Med Cancun is on the nicest stretch of beach, integrated so well into the landscape, which is in stark contrast to the buildings everywhere else. The main snorkeling area was just off the shore, so we could access that at no extra charge, while all the other hotels billed it as an excursion," said our tester, a frequent traveler. She added, "The food was exceptional, especially the Mexican items, and I have never seen such an extensive breakfast buffet. The kids repeatedly said that it was the best vacation of their lives."



[at clubmed](#)

### **Dreams Madeira Resort, Spa & Marina, Portugal**

Your family will be living the dream at the newly remodeled **Dreams Madeira Resort, Spa & Marina** on an island about 600 miles away from mainland Portugal, which you can fly to directly from a few East Coast cities or connect to in Lisbon. Buildings, including a working lighthouse with a restaurant, are arranged village-style so you'll really feel the European beach town charm. All rooms are spacious by EU standards, and you can book a townhouse that sleeps up to 10.

But with appealing activities and a kids' club, we don't expect you'll be in the room much.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We had a fantastic European beach trip away from crowds," said our tester, who brought her husband and three young daughters. The family had "incredible experiences all around," like hiking in a UNESCO forest, going on a dolphin-watching tour, and swimming in a natural pool with marine life. One of the major highlights of their trip was the resort's delicious cuisine. "The food and service were top-notch. My kids tried so many foods for the first time!" Plus, they found the staff "some of the nicest people I've ever met anywhere," noting that "everyone seemed to genuinely love being around kids and enjoy their jobs."



at [hyattinclusivecollection](#)

## Nickelodeon Resort Riviera Maya, Mexico

Stylish design meets slime at **Nickelodeon Resort Riviera Maya**, a kid-friendly property that may take you back to your own childhood. Subtle Nick touches adorn the rooms (which also have a swim-out pool) and it's fun to hunt for them. AquaNick, the resort's incredible water park, unleashes gooey green slime every afternoon and water fun at the splash pad and slides all day long. While many scheduled character meet-and-greets, including a flash-mob, happen daily, randomly bumping into Blue, Chase, or Leonardo is always a delight.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our family trip was pure joy from start to finish," said our tester, who visited with her spouse and three children. "Making pizzas with the Ninja Turtles and walking the Orange Carpet were unforgettable moments." She also appreciated that the resort was well-equipped and provided a changing table, baby bath, and stool to make traveling with the littles easier for everyone.



at [karismahotels.com](https://www.karismahotels.com)

## Beaches Resorts, Turks & Caicos and Jamaica

Know what's better than taking a trip with the kids? Inviting the grandparents to come along. At **Beaches Resorts**, a pair of all-inclusives in Turks & Caicos and Negril, Jamaica, the grands can bask in the youngest generation's joy of meeting Elmo, ordering juice from the kid-size swim-up pool bar, and squealing in the tiny turquoise waves. Oceanfront villas fit large groups—Negril's Firesky Villas are the newest and nicest, but that may change in March when the Turks & Caicos

location adds its sixth village, Treasure Beach.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Even though they're 6 and 9, my kids loved interacting with the Sesame characters around the resort," said our tester, who celebrated her anniversary at the Negril location. "My mother-in-law watched the kids, and we went to the resort's adult-only restaurant. It was very romantic!" Another tester, who vacationed with her baby, spouse, and parents in Turks & Caicos, reported that the resort's beach was the highlight of her trip: "It's one of the most beautiful beaches I've seen, thanks to the supersoft white sand and crystal blue, calm water that feels never-ending."



at beaches

## **Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, Vieux Fort, St. Lucia**

Families return year after year to four-time winner **Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa**—and it's not hard to see why. More value-priced than its island counterparts and way closer to the airport, this gem is known for its great food (the jerk chicken spot is a cult fave) and classic kids' activities. It even has a petting zoo! Pools stay open around the clock for early risers, and well-vetted excursions from the resort will transport you to the island's famous mud baths.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We took our 4-year-old once to the kids' club for two hours, and after that he asked to go back every day," said our tester, who also complimented the meals and the restaurant staff. "The food was outstanding, much better than at other all-inclusive resorts we've stayed at over the years, and the restaurants were so accommodating. One night our son, who likes pasta, wouldn't eat his spaghetti. Our waiter changed it out for ziti—no problem!"



[at cbayresort](#)

### **Bluefields Bay Villas & Suites, Jamaica**

A family-run resort on the western coast of Jamaica, **Bluefields Bay Villas & Suites** had been a refuge for weary parents since the 1980s, offering a “vacation nanny” to help entertain kids, a private chef to cook meals, and a housekeeper to do laundry. It was bliss. But in late October, Hurricane Melissa significantly damaged the boutique property. While the owners are starting to rebuild, the resort will remain closed until further notice. Check back here for updates.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our vacation nanny jumped right in to make my 18-month-old feel comfortable with her," said our tester, who visited in summer. "She took him on walks on the property and helped with feeding and getting him ready for naps and bedtime so my husband and I could enjoy some alone time at the pool and beach. I can't stress enough how much we loved our trip."



\$1.00 at bluefieldsvillas

**Ava Resort Cancun, Mexico**

For a middle-of-the-school-year recharge, the year-old **Ava Resort Cancun** earns an A+. Its eco-friendly saltwater lagoon—nearly the size of three football fields—is a showstopper, and tweens and teens gravitate to the huge inflatable-obstacle course in the middle. Littles zoom down slides and through splash zones at Sunny’s Water Park. A two-story kids’ club offers supervised play and twice-daily family hours during which your whole crew can join in. To boot, all accommodations are ocean-facing with smart TVs, Nespresso machines, and room service. (Have you ever seen the excitement of a kid lifting a silver lid to reveal a grilled cheese?)

**TESTER NOTES:** “There’s so much to love about this resort—the kids’ club setup, the lagoon, the food,” said our tester, a registered dietitian. “Livo was our favorite restaurant, serving fresh Mediterranean dishes. The pop-up taco shop was a highlight for lunch, with tacos made to order right in front of us. Poolside food was a treat too, with creative global flavors beautifully presented.” The entertainment and the activities such as escape rooms, bowling, and magic shows were also a highlight, with our tester finding that there was “truly something for everyone to enjoy.”



[at avaresortcancun](#)

### **Joia Aruba by Iberostar**

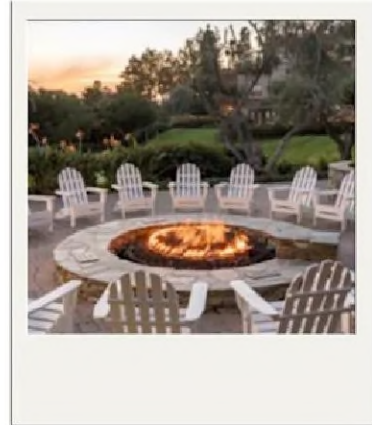
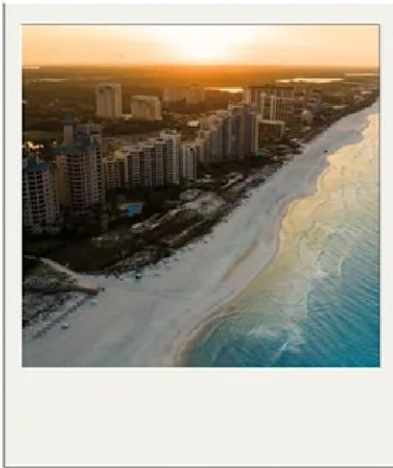
Located on one of the island's most celebrated stretches of sand, the year-old **Joia Aruba by Iberostar** fills a niche for family travelers. It has the relaxing vibe of an adult-only resort without the age restrictions, so families that include teens as well as grown kids can vacation together. Your crew could easily walk to Eagle Beach, consistently ranked among the world's best, or take in the turquoise panorama from the resort's rooftop infinity pool. The property's three

restaurants are rolled into the all-inclusive plan, or you can choose a room-only option that doesn't include food and drinks.

**TESTER NOTES:** "This hotel is gorgeous; I loved the modern aesthetic," said our tester. "The grounds were immaculate and easy to navigate." She especially enjoyed the resort's brunch buffet, which had "every food you could think of plus an area where they'd make food by request."



at iberostar



sandestin, marriott, dunesonthewaterfront

## Beach Villas for Big Groups

### The Dunes on the Waterfront, Ogunquit, Maine

No one is going to appreciate the cottage-core vibe of **The Dunes on the Waterfront** more than your besties. Scattered about 12 acres of farmland overlooking a tidal river that meets the ocean, the 21 newly renovated one- to three-bedroom cottages with green shutters, scalloped tables, farmhouse sinks, and other dreamy features are the perfect spot for friends' trips. Service is equally delightful: Every morning the staff delivers coffee and fresh baked goods to fuel you for a bike ride (cute bikes are available to borrow) or a kayak trip along the river. Prefer to go to the beach or downtown? They'll grab the golf cart and drive you there. Just plan ahead: The seasonally operated property reopens in May, with reservations accepted starting in mid-March.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We enjoyed the on-property heated pool, which was the perfect temperature and had two tubes to float around in," said our tester, who visited with friends. "And the yellow umbrellas and seating were so aesthetic."



[at dunesonthewaterfront.com](https://dunesonthewaterfront.com)

### **Marriott's Newport Coast Villas, Newport Beach, California**

Like a home away from home, **Marriott's Newport Coast Villas** provide families with a coveted feature while on vacation: space. The two-bedroom rentals, which sleep up to eight guests, each have a kitchen and two full bathrooms, handy for getting out the door quickly and over to the property's splash pad or pickleball court. Family programming, from scavenger hunts to poolside trivia

contests, unfolds all day long. To help you get your beach fix, shuttles run to nearby Crystal Cove State Park.

**TESTER NOTES:** “We played basketball and football as a family,” said our tester, who brought her kids, 7 and 13. “Set away from the main area so as not to disturb other guests, there’s a great kids’ pool with two large slides and a water park.” Our tester called the vibe “very family-oriented and multigenerational,” noting that even when school was in session, plenty of kids were around.



at marriott

## Seabrook, Washington

Whether you're a party of four or a party of 24, there's a vacation rental for you at **Seabrook**, a planned beach town with almost everything you need on the premises. The homes aren't cookie-cutter: For the 250 or so available to rent, you can use more than a dozen filters on the website to narrow your selection and then view photos of the options so you can be sure you are aligned with the decor of the one you select. Many are near the resort's moody but marvelous beach (note that you'll need a wetsuit to swim even in August), and most are walkable to the restaurants, shops, and grocery store in the town square. Kids love getting around on bikes, and you'll see many "parked" outside the arcade and pools.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Walking along the beach turned out to be our favorite pastime, but we also tremendously enjoyed the indoor pool and the playground with a zip line and swings," said our tester, who stayed with her family of five in a house called Goat With the Flow.



at seabrookwa

### **SanDestin Golf and Beach Resort, Miramar Beach, Florida**

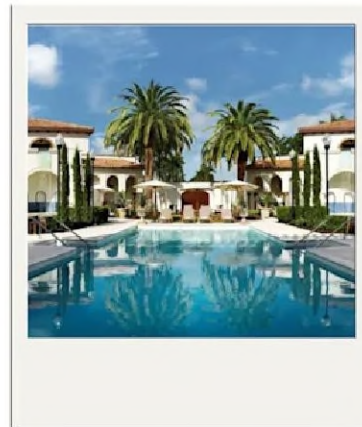
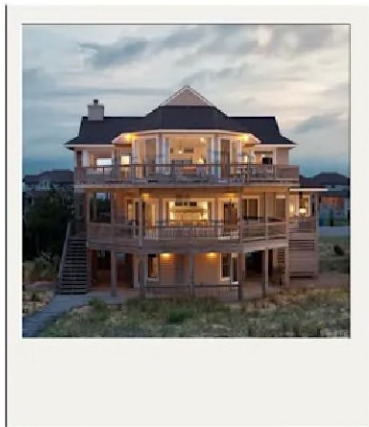
It sure feels like the Caribbean at this Florida resort. Located on the state's Gulf Coast, known for powdery white sand and turquoise water, the **SanDestin Golf and Beach Resort** offers condos, villas, and even a classic hotel. Osprey Point, the newest option, features stylish two- to four-bedroom units that have large kitchens with quartz countertops, marble backsplashes, and high-end appliances. If you don't feel like cooking, the property's seven restaurants will

have you covered. Golfing is big at this resort, and an 18-hole mini golf course will get the whole family on the green.

**TESTER NOTES:** “The pool was the highlight of our trip. It wasn’t too crowded, and it was very clean,” said our tester, who stayed in a three-bedroom unit at Osprey Point. She described the resort as beautiful and conveniently located, with no shortage of good food and activities for the family.



at sandestin



The Sanderling Resort, The Ritz-Carlton, thebocaraton

## East Coast Beach Resorts

### The Sanderling Resort, Duck, North Carolina

An adult-oriented resort in this neck of the woods is hard to come by, but **The Sanderling Resort** pulls through for couples. Its 123 rooms and suites recently underwent a glow-up for the property's 40th anniversary, and we're swooning over the poster beds, floral pillows, and color palette. And the view? That's as good as ever, since the property sits between the Atlantic Ocean and Currituck Sound on a prime spot of beach.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Relaxed, timeless, and upscale" is how our tester, who visited with his fiancée, described the resort's vibe, which offered a variety of thoughtfully curated activities. One of the highlights of their trip was their 4x4 beach tour in Corolla, where they saw wild horses up close. "It offered a unique connection to the area's natural history that many resorts don't provide." Other favorites included jet skiing in the sound to enjoy coastal scenery and a relaxing couple's massage. "The combination of a peaceful spa and exciting water-based activities allowed us to tailor our weekend exactly to what we wanted, both rest and adventure," he said. Food-wise, on-property restaurants were delicious,

especially Theodosia. "It felt like each dining experience was unique, but consistently high-quality."



[at thesanderling](#)

### The Boca Raton, Florida

The kids have it made at **The Boca Raton**, an iconic, glamorous resort that feels perfectly comfortable with your tot's sippy cups and sand buckets. The best proof is at the Harborside Pool Club, where a giant pirate ship-themed splash pad is flanked by a row of kid-only cabanas themed after some favorite interests,

from princesses to cooking. Poolside ice cream here gets an upgrade with "tackle boxes" full of toppings that kids can use to make their own creation. The Beach Club, one of the five hotels within the property, was renovated less than a year ago.

**TESTER NOTES:** "I've rarely seen a luxury hotel so comfortable with having kids on property," said our tester, a travel editor and mom. "The kids are treated like VIPs!" She suggests that families stay at The Tower, the hotel closest to the Harborside Pool Club, noting that it was renovated in 2022 and still gleams.



[at thebocaraton](#)

## **Margaritaville Beach House, Key West, Florida**

With a lagoon-style pool that stays open late, afternoon ice pops, and some bunk-bed rooms, **Margaritaville Beach House** puts a family twist on the brand's vibe. Most guests bring kids or teens and spend the day at Smathers Beach—it's the largest one in Key West and just across the street from the resort. Or they hop on the free resort shuttle to Old Town, the historic district on the western half of the island, where the Key West Aquarium is located. At night, many families return for dinner and plunge in the pool before they do it all over again tomorrow.

**TESTER NOTES:** "We enjoyed lounging at the pool, especially after dinner once it was cooler," said our tester, who brought her 15-year-old. "We also had fun playing cornhole on our walks back and forth to the pool and on-site restaurant." She added that the resort's game room was nice to have during rainy weather.



[at margaritavilleresorts](#)

### **The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota, Florida**

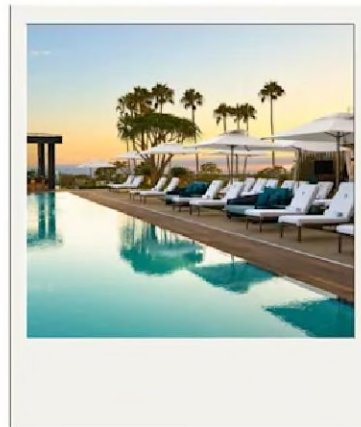
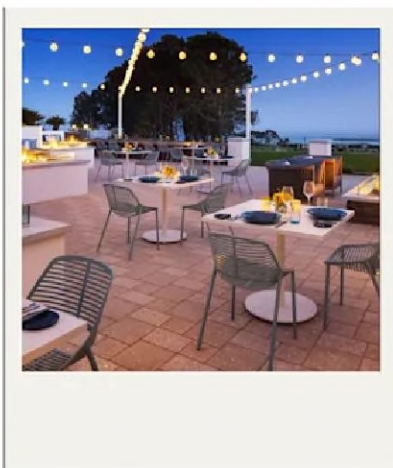
If you're a sit by the beach eating ice cream sandwiches kind of family, get yourself to **The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota's** private club for sand-seekers that's a three-mile shuttle ride from the property's home in the cultural district. Forget about fighting for a lounge there: On the prime stretch of white-sand beach, comfy seating and ice cream sammies are aplenty. For kids who prefer pools, the

club has one of those too, plus locker rooms with showers, hair dryers, and beauty products so you can leave all the sand behind.

**TESTER NOTES:** "For being such a luxury resort, we were worried it would not be kid-friendly. My kids were welcomed with open arms, and they had the time of their lives," said our tester, who highly recommends having dinner at Jack Dusty and upgrading your room to club level so you can access the lounge with "amazing wines on tap, plus great coffees, cookies, and other snacks."



[at ritzcarlton.com](https://www.ritzcarlton.com)



surfsand, marriott

## West Coast Beach Resorts

### Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa, Dana Point, California

Perched atop a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean mid-way between San Diego and Los Angeles, the Victorian-inspired **Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort & Spa** caters to all types of travelers, but families and foodies especially will be in their happy place. For kiddos, it all starts at the check-in desk, where they can pick up a scavenger hunt kit and a whale-shaped water toy (the area is known as the whale-watching capital of the world). The super sleuths will be sure to spot the splash zone, with its surf board water pop-up, and may even join one of the kids' camp activities, such as relay races. While the resort has only one sit-down restaurant, Lantern's Edge, you'll want to eat every meal there.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Lantern's Edge was one of the best fine-dining family meals we have experienced, while traveling or at home," said our tester, a food editor who vacationed with her wife and two children. "The breakfasts were also terrific; we had both à la carte options and the buffet. Everything was reasonably portioned and well presented, with touches like ubé and mochi."



at marriott

### **The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa, California**

After a fun-filled, lively day at Legoland California, there's no better spot to decompress than **The Westin Carlsbad Resort & Spa**. You'll feel as if you're stepping into a serene oasis as you pass through the resort's coveted private entrance to the park. We highly recommend taking the free resort shuttle one day to lifeguarded Tamarack State Beach, a local favorite that usually has gentle waves and offers restrooms and rinse-off spots.

**TESTER NOTES:** “We loved the various courtyards of the Westin, along with the pool, the cozy couches, the firepits, and other relaxing spots. They felt distinctly Southern California,” said our tester. “It was great being able to dine by the pool, soak in the hot tubs, and watch the kids play. The overall ambiance of the hotel made the entire experience feel like a genuine treat.”



at marriott

**Surfsand Resort, Cannon Beach, Oregon**

Hello, Haystack Rock! The iconic formation sits outside the recently renovated **Surfsand Resort**. Grab a cup of coffee from the lobby and head out during the morning's low tide—the sea stars and other marine life hugging the rocks will be most visible then. Families and couples get equal treatment at Surfsand: Kids dig using the lobby's claw machine to grab a piece of taffy and enthusiastically join in on daily sand dollar searches, while adults lean into the local beer tastings and hot tubs. And the cookies served every afternoon are loved by all.

**TESTER NOTES:** "You can book a hotel package that includes a bonfire on the beach at night right down from the iconic rock. It was the highlight of our trip," said our tester. "They set up wood, lit it on fire, and gave us fixings for s'mores." She also loved the view of Haystack Rock from the property's Wayfarers Restaurant, which serves an impressive crab bake.



[at surfsand](#)

## **Vea Newport Beach, California**

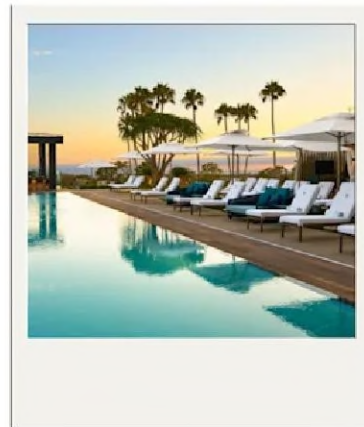
You may or may not go to the beach at this newish So Cal hotel, but you'll likely have an ocean view. More than 90% of **Vea Newport Beach's** stylish rooms and suites (including a very merry holiday-themed one) face the water. Guests can hop in a free shuttle to nearby Newport Beach, but many traveling without kids soak up the pool vibes at the hotel, especially the spa's adult-only saltwater

option. Art installations in common spaces and the View restaurant also elevate the hotel experience.

**TESTER NOTES:** “The hotel's gym and spa were standouts,” said our tester. “Though I visited with my family, most resort guests in the fall seemed to be young professionals. But it is family-friendly—I think it would be a great place to take teens and young adults. It has a hip vibe that resonates with Gen Z.”



at marriott



hyatt, marriott

## Hawaiian Beach Resorts

### Sheraton Waikiki Beach Resort, Hawaii

Hang 10 or hang out? Families can do both at the **Sheraton Waikiki Beach Resort**, in a prime spot on the famous strip of lifeguarded beach. While the waves in front of the hotel are usually gentle, nearby swells attract surfers. The resort offers beginner surfing lessons and a slew of other quintessential Hawaiian classes such as hula and lei making. Beautifully decorated two-bedroom Ohana suites that sleep six are game changers for families with three or more kids.

**TESTER NOTES:** "You could make the case that this hotel has the single best location in Oahu for families," said our tester, who surfed with his wife and three kids. "One day we had a cabana near the pool with stunning ocean views. We rotated between surfing, the shady cabana, and chilling out in the hot tubs and Helumoa Playground Pool." Our tester also raved about the resort's large lobby, where his family played pool and grabbed a snack after dinner: "The vibe was epic."



at marriott

## Wailea Beach Resort, Maui, Hawaii

Once a spot that was almost exclusively family-focused, the **Wailea Beach Resort** now appeals to adult travelers as well. The Olakino Wellness Pool Experience for guests 18 and older pampers with micro-spa services (think short massages and cooling masks), chef-curated healthy bites, and a saline infinity pool with in-water chaises overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Stay in the uber-

romantic new Sunken Garden Oasis room, with a roomy lanai plus an outdoor bathtub and a firepit with comfy seating.

**TESTER NOTES:** Our tester and her partner tried the wellness pool experience: “We had an incredible head-and-shoulder massage with a gorgeous view of the infinity pool and ocean,” she said. “Throughout the day, we were offered face masks and snacks like mini acai bowls and fresh fruit cups.” The resort’s luau was another trip highlight, thanks to its “entertaining performances” that our tester said were among the most beautiful she had ever seen.



at marriott

## Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa, Hawaii

Your crew won't have to rush to get back to the **Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa** to swim, because its pools never close. But this property on the lushest of all the Hawaiian islands does turn off the lights at night to help light-sensitive local birds. The result: Swimming under the stars becomes a thing, and it's absolutely magical for couples and families with teens. By day or at night, you can explore long, winding lazy river sections with twists and turns and little waterfalls with grottos. Then rest easy in modern, spacious rooms or suites conducive to traveling with three generations.

**TESTER NOTES:** "From the luau to nighttime swimming, our entire trip to the Grand Hyatt Kauai was a highlight reel of great experiences and great hospitality," said our tester. His family of five surfed the wave breaks in front of the resort, but he noted, "Just a mile away from the hotel, there is a string of famous beaches that have calm waters and fun waves for families plus lots of sea turtles."



at hyatt

### **Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa, Oahu, Hawaii**

You don't have to choose between a beach and a city vibe at **Moana Surfrider**— simply walk from the front door to the back. The resort's grand entrance, on one of Oahu's busy streets, puts you in the heart of shopping and dining, but exit out the back and you're in Waikiki beach paradise, with oceanfront restaurants and a porch with rocking chairs that remind you that this beauty of a hotel will be 125 years old next year. Just in time for its birthday celebration, newly renovated

Tower rooms, many with stunning views of the ocean and Diamond Head, have all-ages appeal.

**TESTER NOTES:** “The Moana Surfrider is perfectly positioned right between one of the most legendary surfing beaches in the world and the heart of Waikiki,” said our tester. Still, you’ll want to remain on property for at least some meals: “We also enjoyed an incredible four-course meal at The Beachhouse at the Moana,” our tester added. “I would like to have its Pistachio Raspberry Tart again right now! So delicious!”



at marriott.com

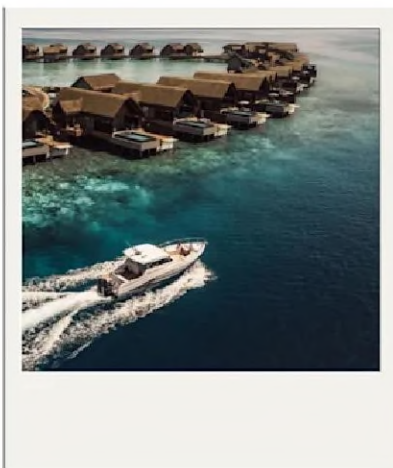
## Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa, Hawaii

The newly renovated **Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa** leaves families starstruck, and not just because of its rooftop Tour of the Stars program, led by an astronomer using a high-powered telescope. A longtime favorite of families, the resort does a great job showcasing all the Hawaii-centric activities you'll want to do (make a lei, take in a luau) and some you didn't know were possible (like chatting it up with the lobby's tropical birds). The incredible pool complex more than makes up for the fact that the resort's beach is pretty narrow. Venture off the property one day to Oneuli Beach in Kihei to see what no major resort on the island has—black sand.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our favorite restaurant was Japengo, with its large, spread-out seating area," said our tester, who was celebrating his anniversary with his wife and kids. "Besides having great food, it's the perfect place for sunset pictures." Our tester, who dabbles in golf, also enjoyed the hotel's YoMaui Golf experience: "The clarity of the simulator made me feel like I was right on the golf course!"



at hyatt



joali, marriott, ihg

## International Beach Resorts

### Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort, Willemstad

The **Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort** promises a spectacular getaway for virtually every type of traveler, and we're convinced. From high-octane water sports and dive excursions to relaxing spa treatments and private beach yoga, the resort boasts a remarkable range of activities that deliver epic thrills. The complimentary Green Turtle Kids Club rises to the occasion to help tiny tourists make vacation friends they might also hang out with later at the kids' pool and beach.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The resort's beach was definitely the highlight of our trip! It was absolutely stunning," said our tester, who brought a friend. "There was virtually no seaweed, the water was vibrantly turquoise, and the sand was powdery soft and so bright. It was rarely crowded." She also reported that their scuba diving experience at the resort was fantastic: ""We were able to go straight from sunbathing to our excursion with zero travel time. My friend and I had never been scuba diving, but we were immediately put at ease. The reef was filled with fish!"



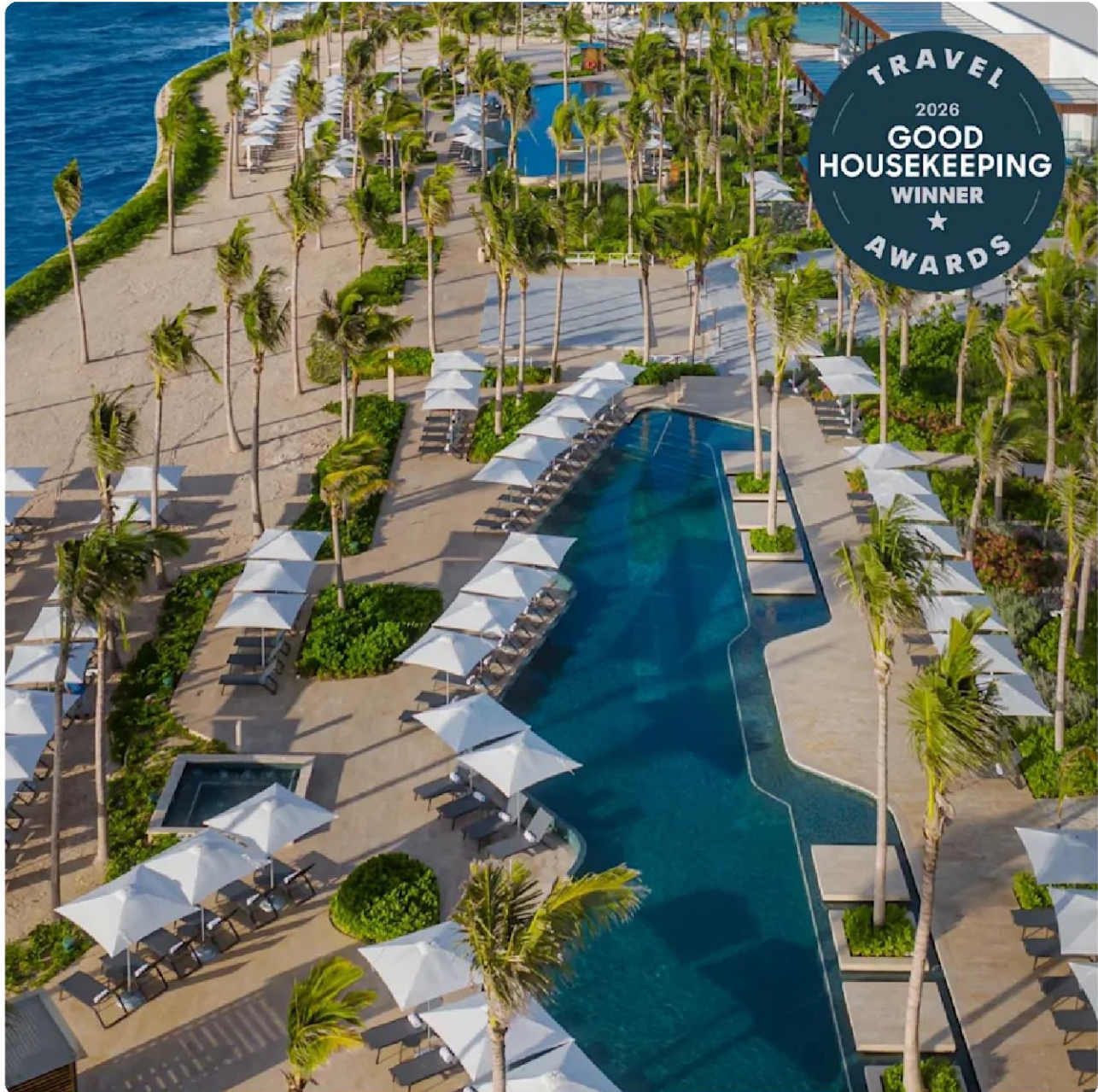
at marriott

### **Conrad Tulum Riviera Maya, Mexico**

After zipping around the Yucatán Peninsula all day to explore the Mayan ruins, you'll want to return to a peaceful spot where you can cool off in the water and have one of the best meals of your life—and that's **Conrad Tulum Riviera Maya**. Autor, a Michelin-guide restaurant right on the property, wows taste buds with its four-course tasting menu, which includes a vegetarian version. The spa, with

a lounge designed like a cenote, leans into Mayan influences and local touches: For instance, it creates its own scrubs using herbs grown on the property.

**TESTER NOTES:** “As you pull up to the property, you’re greeted by lush foliage and beautiful ocean views. There are multiple pools, all with ocean views as the backdrop, surrounded by comfortable daybeds and lounge chairs,” said our tester. “Every room has a private soaking tub outside on the balcony, and my boyfriend and I loved spending our evenings in ours.”



at hilton

## **Alaia Belize, Autograph Collection San Pedro, Belize**

The top reason to go to **Alaia Belize**, which is likely to be two plane rides away: the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve, the largest in the Northern Hemisphere. Just 600 yards from the resort, the reef is why snorkeling, scuba diving, and cave-tubing here are off the charts. An on-site shop makes it easy to nab the gear you need, and a concierge service will whisk you to a “secret beach.” Couples looking for a romantic getaway will have the best time here, though the resort is open to all ages. If you mostly plan to eat at the resort’s six restaurants rather than in San Pedro, look into the all-inclusive plan, available for stays of four nights or longer.

**TESTER NOTES:** “This was the greatest trip my husband and I have ever taken,” said our tester. “The snorkeling is the absolute best, and the cave tube tour/zip lining was exhilarating.” They also enjoyed the adult-only infinity pool.



at marriott

### Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas

Thrills run deep at **Atlantis**, one of the largest resorts in the world. Between its water park and its marine life center, your crew can tube into white-water rapids, slide through a shark-filled lagoon, and high-five a bottlenose dolphin all on the same day. The kids' and teens' clubs are next-level, with a cooking studio, a floor-to-ceiling gaming tree, and dance parties. With 40 restaurants and three Michelin-starred chefs, expect your taste buds to be thrilled too.

**TESTER NOTES:** Atlantis has five towers, and our tester stayed with her family at The Reef. "We used the kitchenette for breakfast each morning, and having the beach and pool access so close was lovely," she said. She also highly recommends booking the dolphin experience. "My 6-year-old was especially enamored with our sweet dolphin, Electra," said our tester. "Electra made sounds at us, waved, and even gave kisses and high-fives. The feel of my hand hitting the dolphin fin is not something I will soon forget!"



at atlantisbahamas

## **W Punta de Mita, Punta Mita, Mexico**

You can always count on W hotels for fun vibes, and this location in Punta Mita (about an hour from Puerto Vallarta) expertly blends surf culture and local artistry. A ceviche bar in a vintage Chevy truck is just one unique touch; there's also a 460-foot-long "Camino Huichol" walkway, a mosaic made of over 3 million bright blue and green tiles. While **W Punta de Mita** appeals mostly to couples, families with tweens and teens won't feel out of place, and you could argue that the resort's family pool one-ups the adult-only option.

**TESTER NOTES:** Finding this the perfect place for someone looking to unwind or get away, our tester and her college-age son enjoyed the natural beauty and the food at the resort most. "Our dinner at Rubra was amazing," said our tester. "The menu incorporates fresh native ingredients in unique ways and serves them on locally crafted plates." Her son also enjoyed his first surf lesson at the resort, calling it "top-notch."



at marriott

### **InterContinental Hayman Great Barrier Reef, Grand Hayman, Australia**

A private island resort in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef will sweep you off your feet from the moment you arrive by boat or helicopter from the closest airport in Hamilton Island (about a 2 1/2-hour flight from Sydney). Colorful coral gardens teeming with tropical fish surround **InterContinental Hayman Great Barrier Reef**. Guests can also enjoy helicopter flights over iconic landmarks like the Heart Reef (a heart-shaped coral formation) alongside a wide range of water

activities like guided jet ski tours, snorkeling in secluded coves, and glass-bottomed-boat reef explorations. Though the 75-year-old property does have some activities for children and families, couples are its main focus. Its annual Stay with Pride package celebrates the LGBTQ+ community.

**TESTER NOTES:** "It's an authentic slice of Australian paradise," said our testers, an Australian couple. "From the moment you arrive, you're surrounded by lush, tropical beauty that feels both pristine and purposefully designed. It's a beautifully secluded destination for those wanting to recharge, connect with nature, and enjoy quality food and wine in a relaxed, scenic setting."



at ihg.com

## **Andaz Peninsula Papagayo, Costa Rica**

On a 15-mile coastline that's as buzzy for both its biodiversity and its A-list vacationers, the **Andaz Peninsula Papagayo** makes family getaways smooth sailing. Cold towels and coconut water await you in the open-air lobby before you hop on a golf cart to your room or multi-bedroom villa. There'll be no roughing it here. Two beaches provide quick excitement: You'll spy crabs and turtles at the on-property beach and then take a short boat ride to the new beach club, where you can sit in a thatched cabana and be serenaded by howler monkeys. When you're ready for a break, drop off kids ages 4 to 11 at the complimentary supervised club, which is focused on creativity.

**TESTER NOTES:** "The activities were exceptional," said our tester, who visited with her family. "My husband and daughters especially enjoyed their surf lesson, where they caught warm water waves while the monkeys frolicked on the shore, watching." Overall, she described it as "a truly incredible experience" and appreciated the free water sports and snorkeling gear.



at hyatt

### **Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa, Cayman Islands**

An easy escape from the East Coast, the **Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach Resort & Spa** puts you in the heart of the island's best stretch of sand. The turquoise water is so clear there that it looks like the color in the pool next to the beach! The waves give the right amount of joy for littles and make it a perfect place for guests of all ages to try stand-up paddleboarding, which is free. The island's famous Stingray City is just a short boat ride away.

**TESTER NOTES:** “My favorite restaurant at the resort was The Beach House,” said our tester. “It offers a Toes in the Sand option where they set out a table on the beach and serve you dinner there. It was a great experience.” Though the resort is kid-friendly, it draws more couples outside of holiday periods.



at marriott

### Joali Maldives, Muravandhoo Island, Maldives

Once you're at **Joali Maldives**, you're completely surrounded by the Indian Ocean with nowhere else to go—and it's bliss. The 5-year-old property, which bills itself as the first "art-immersive resort," is as stunning as the surroundings. Staying in thatched-roof overwater bungalows, dining in a manta-shaped treehouse, and taking one-on-one ceramic classes at the island's art house adds up to a memorable mother-daughter trip, but the whole family and even couples will want in on this experience too. To get there, you'll take a 50-minute journey on a seaplane from the capital, Malé.

**TESTER NOTES:** "Our overwater bungalow was absolutely spectacular!" said our tester, who visited with her teen daughter. "The furnishings were modern, chic, and functional. The details were unmatched. The headboards were made with coconut shells, and the ceiling fan was shaped like the gorgeous flowers that were peppered throughout the property."



[at joali.com](https://joali.com)

## The Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club

Affectionately nicknamed “The Pink Palace,” **The Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club**, with its cotton candy hue, is a sweet pick for families and couples who want an elevated yet easygoing visit to Bermuda, less than a three-hour flight from many East Coast cities. More than 100 of the 380-plus rooms in the landmark property received a glow-up this year and were converted to roomier suites. (Stay in the Bermudiana Wing for a remodeled room.) But honestly, don’t

expect to be inside much, as the infinity pool and the pink-sand beach will be far too enticing.

**TESTER NOTES:** A shuttle whisks you from the property to a private beach club, home to two ocean pools with a private cove and a floating platform and hammocks. “The club was so relaxing,” our tester said. “You could sit there for hours enjoying food, drinks, and the ocean view.” If you do want to get off the property, our tester noted that the town is just a five-minute walk away.



[at thehamiltonprincess.com](https://thehamiltonprincess.com)

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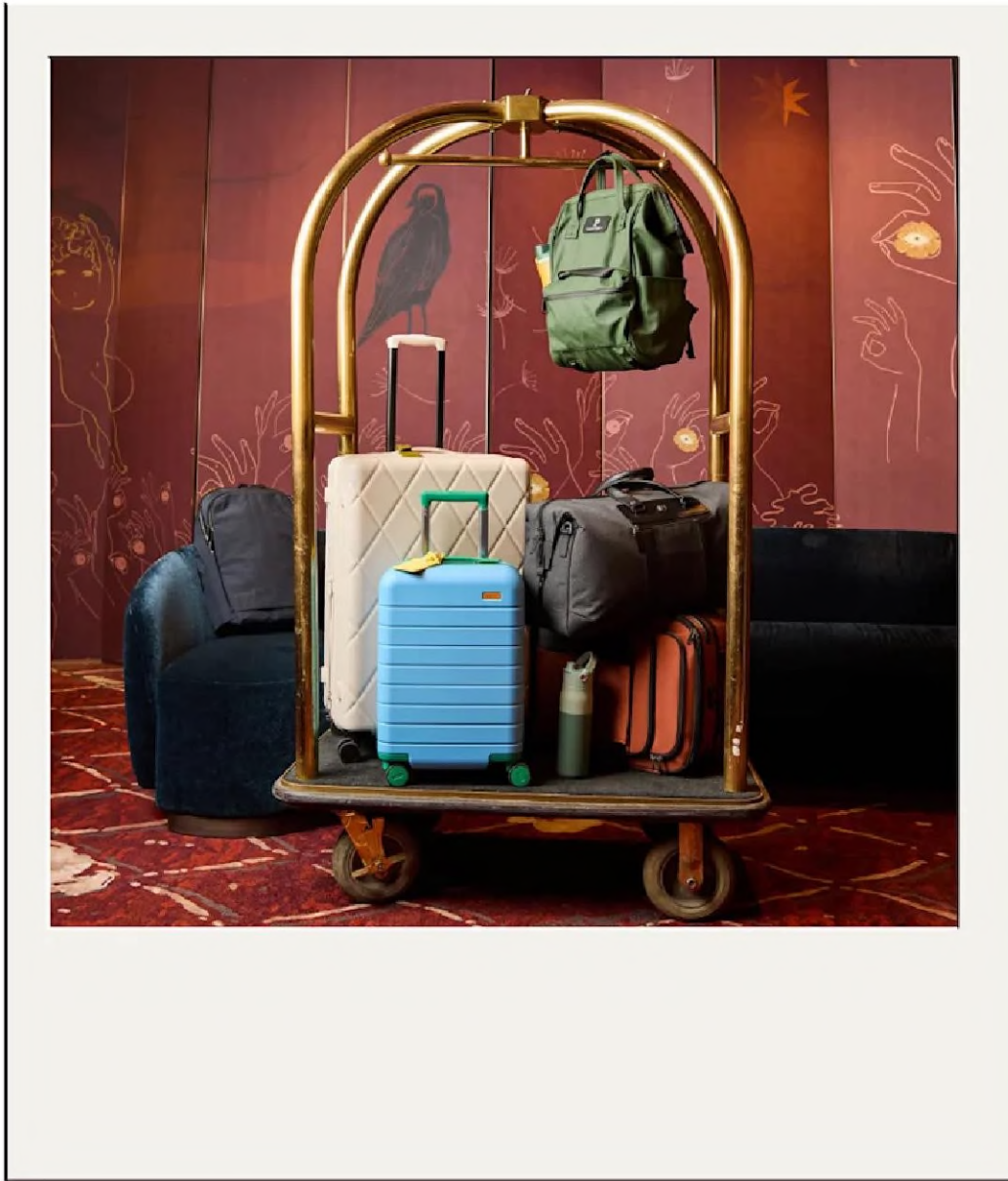


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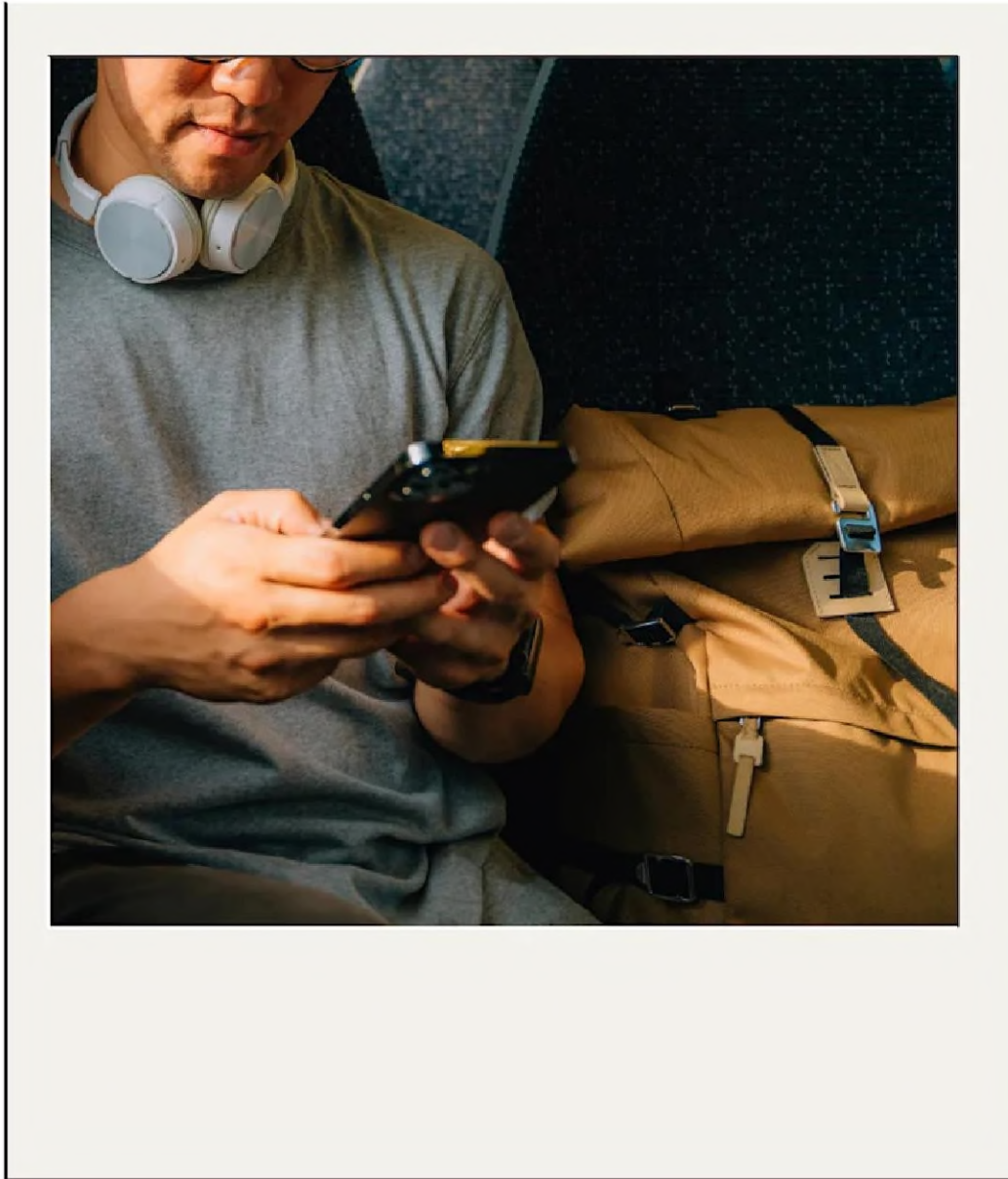


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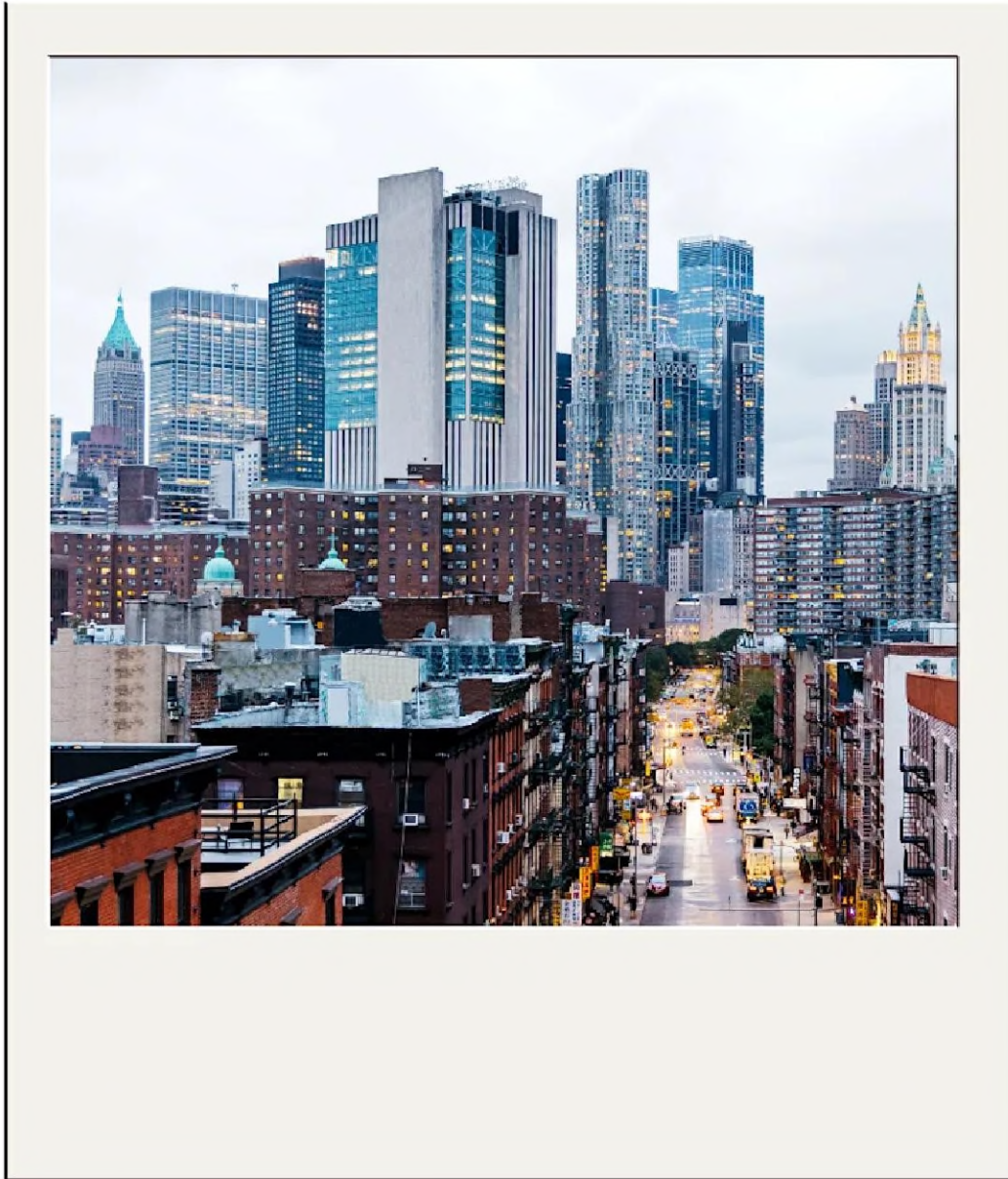


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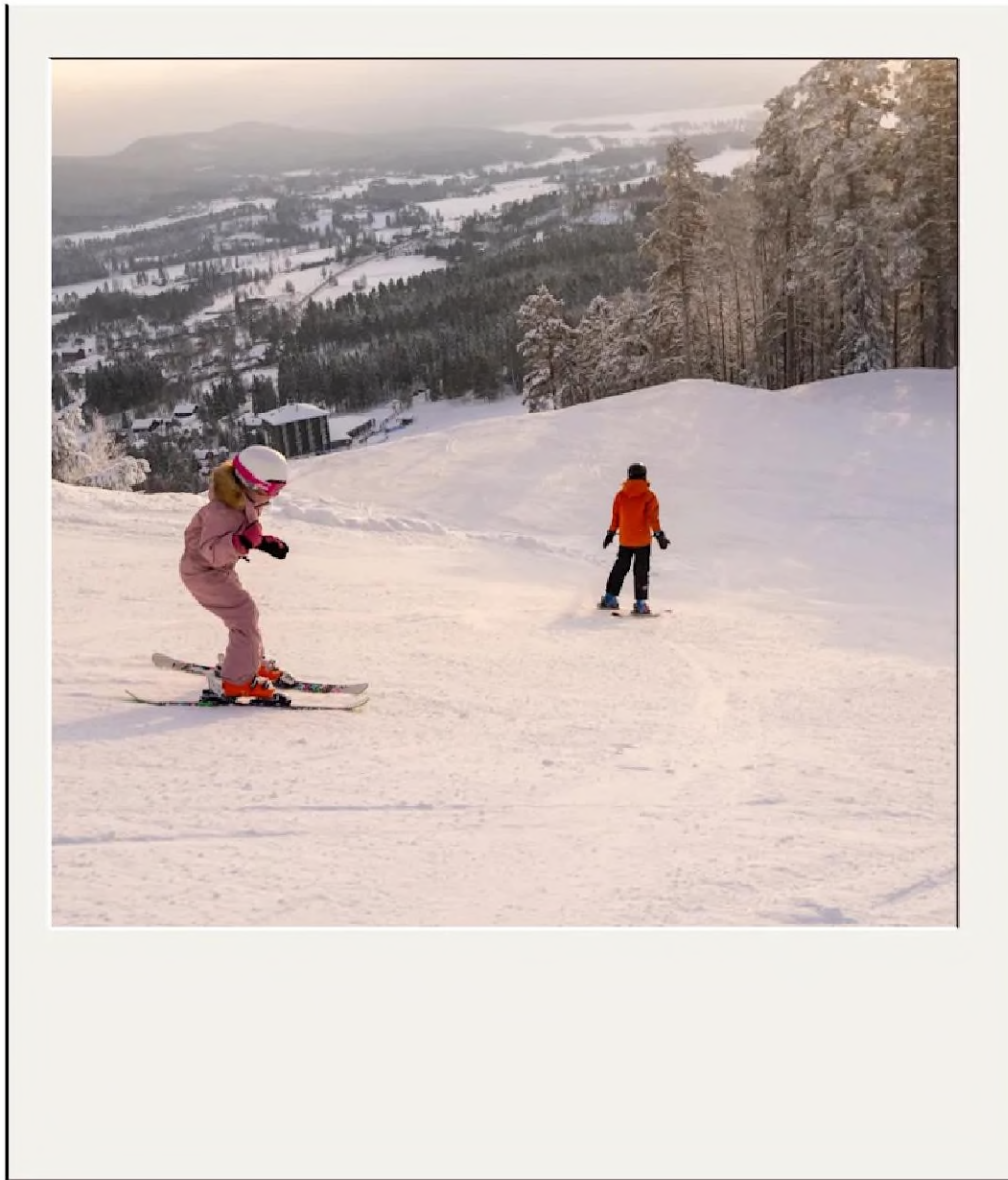


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## How a Los Cabos Wellness Retreat Led Me to Reconnect With My Body After Breast Cancer Surgery



Today, I think of my life in two distinct chapters: before BC and after BC.

Last Labor Day, I had just arrived in Telluride, Colorado, for the Film Festival. The mountains glowed with golden light, evoking a sense of enchantment and possibility. Within days, the glow vanished. My doctor broke the spell with the news: I had breast cancer. I needed to return to New York City immediately to meet with a surgeon and discuss treatment options.

Deep down, I wasn't surprised. Breast cancer runs in my family, and I knew my risk was high. My decision to have a double mastectomy felt inevitable—but it wasn't easy. I'd never had surgery before, and this was a brutal introduction. Still, I wanted to do everything I could to avoid a recurrence. I worked on making peace with my choice, even as I recalibrated what my future—and body—might look like.

For me, the hardest part of having cancer wasn't the medical ups and downs—it was telling my two sons, then 20 and 23. One was studying in Dublin, the other working in London. Breaking the news over a Zoom call broke my heart. I tried to reassure them that I'd be okay, even though I wasn't sure myself. Would I be fine? Would they?

One of the first things cancer changed was travel. Since the boys had left home, we celebrated the end of each year with family trips—France, Portugal, and other places where we could reconnect, explore together, and forge new traditions. This time, we stayed close to home. No wandering unfamiliar streets. Instead, we walked well-worn paths in New York, visited old friends, watched the skaters at Bryant Park, and cocooned indoors—just my boys, a tree, and me.



### **A Healing Journey Begins**

My first surgery was a relief: successful, with clear lymph nodes and no complications. My doctor and I agreed to delay the second surgery to allow time for physical and emotional healing. I returned to work and started a weekly yoga class to ease the tightness in my chest and shoulders.

A month later, my husband and I returned to Telluride for our annual winter trip. I couldn't ski or carry my own bags, but I could sit on the deck and take in the snow-covered mountains. It was enough.

But even as the scars on my chest healed, my heart remembered the pain and fear. So when my editor asked me to cover the SOUL Wellness Retreat in Los Cabos, the opportunity seemed heaven-sent. I was ready to shift from being a patient to being a person again. And I wanted to put into practice what I'd been learning in yoga: meditation, gratitude, and letting go.

### **Turning the Page at Nobu Hotel**

When we stepped out of Los Cabos International Airport, the heat hit like a wall. But after an hour's drive through Baja's cactus-studded desert, we arrived at Nobu Hotel Los Cabos—hidden at the end of a winding road in the private Diamante community. It felt like I'd stumbled upon a secret retreat I didn't know I needed.





We were greeted with chilled towels and matcha lemonade, rich in antioxidants. That small, thoughtful moment grounded me in the present. As we walked through the Zen Rock Garden and open-air lobby, I took a deep breath. It felt good to arrive.

With 200 rooms and suites, plus 60 residences, Nobu blends Japanese minimalism with Mexican craftsmanship. My room—over 500 square feet—was larger than my first New York apartment. A reading nook, a private balcony overlooking the pool, and in the distance, the Pacific. The centerpiece was an onsen-style soaking tub, set beneath a skylight and framed by a wall of river rocks. Just stepping into the space was an invitation to slow down. It wasn't just a room; it was a sanctuary.

“

"Los Cabos showed me that wellness isn't a checklist—it's a gradual unfolding. It's the warmth of the sun, the scent of the sea and desert, the taste of food just harvested from the earth. It's a reminder that healing has its own time and pace. And sometimes, often, it begins by simply being still."

— Lisa Greissinger

At the SOUL Wellness Retreat, each day brought a different kind of restoration. Mornings began with ocean views, the sound of the ocean, and a soy matcha latte on my balcony. Then yoga, sound healing, or breathwork. After class, we faced the vast Pacific and journaled: "Set your intentions. Let go of what no longer serves you."

I wrote about everything I was carrying: Will I see my children settled? What form will my body finally take? Will the cancer come back? When will I feel like "me" again? How soon will I feel ready to really travel? What will my next, more complicated surgery be like? Will the pain be manageable?

Then I let the questions go—at least for the moment.

At the 13,000-square-foot Esencia Wellness Spa, I booked an aromatherapy massage. Treatments included volcanic stone therapy and sea salt scrubs infused with local herbs and essential oils. Even with 13 treatment rooms, I never felt rushed. A spa butler guided me from check-in through the hydrotherapy circuit to my massage, where the therapist was sensitive and skilled with my post-mastectomy body.

My frequent trips to the Nobu Hotel Cabos' outdoor hydrotherapy garden became another space for renewal. I'd move from the steam room to melt away the tension before moving to the invigorating bucket shower, soaking in the jacuzzi, braving the energizing cold plunge, and finally, a snooze in the walled garden. Each cycle left me more balanced and centered.

#### AN EMERGING WELLNESS DESTINATION

Long known for its natural beauty and ocean adventures, Los Cabos is quickly becoming a destination for restorative travel—the kind that encourages you to slow down, reflect, and reconnect with yourself. This year, Michelin awarded green stars to two local standouts—[Flora's Field Kitchen](#) and [Acre](#)—for their commitment to sustainable gastronomy (plus five new One Star restaurants). The region is now drawing wellness seekers not just for its landscape, but for its experiences: sunrise beachfront yoga, cacao ceremonies, spa rituals rooted in indigenous tradition, and food that nourishes the body and soul.

Every meal at Nobu was a reminder that wellness doesn't mean deprivation. At the Mediterranean-inspired Muna, we had short ribs with jocoque (a rich, tangy dairy similar to buttermilk) and endive. At the Mexican-inspired Pacific, whole baby corn came with toasted grasshopper mayonnaise. Regional flavors gave me a real sense of place. Next door, the open-air M Bar was perfect for sunset mocktails—fragrant with thyme, basil, orgeat, and fresh berries—or a craft cocktail, if that's your thing.

#### **Among the Trees and Hilltops**

After Nobu's serene luxury, Acre Resort was a lush escape. We were there for a farm-to-table lunch and a hands-on soy candle workshop. Acre's tropical oasis also houses an animal rescue sanctuary (yes, emotional support dogs!), an art studio, and a Tree House Spa, offering restorative treatments like cactus detox wraps and lavender scrubs with herbs grown on-site. Guests can stay in one of 12 luxe tree houses

suspended above the Earth for an elevating experience, or in one of the 10 family-friendly haciendas. It felt like a place for both escape and connection.

We also visited Monte Cardón, where chef Ubaldo Martínez creates personalized, hyper-local meals using ingredients harvested within 12 miles in his slow food kitchen. Before dinner, we participated in a traditional cacao ceremony, rooted in Mayan healing practices—that moment changed everything.

We ground cacao beans into paste, set intentions, and sat in silence. As I worked the beans and silently meditated, tears came unexpectedly. I acknowledged the fear I still carried as a breast cancer survivor and reconnected with my body as it is. The experience was both cathartic and healing—and I walked away feeling lighter, like a weight had been lifted.



### **Space to Heal**

Los Cabos showed me that wellness isn't a checklist—it's a gradual unfolding. It's the warmth of the sun, the scent of the sea and desert, the taste of food just harvested from Earth. It's a reminder that healing has its own time and pace. And sometimes, often, it begins by simply being still. Healing isn't just medical—it's in movement, stillness, ritual, and reconnection. When I arrived, I didn't know exactly what I needed emotionally, but now I was ready to face my next surgery.

When I left Nobu Hotel Los Cabos, I wasn't just rested—I was restored. Los Cabos gave me the space, silence, and inspiration to reset my post-mastectomy body and mind. It wasn't a luxury wellness escape; it was a journey to identify myself as a breast cancer survivor.