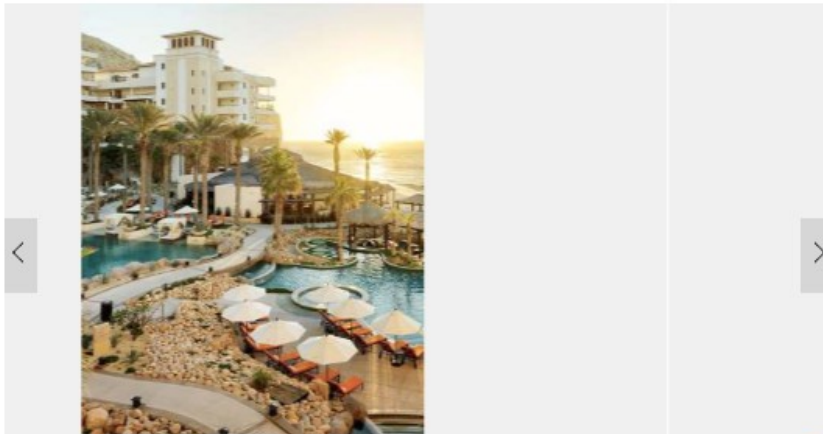




The Best Places to Go in December That Are Festive *and* Wallet-Friendly

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2/6 SLIDES © Grand Solmar Resort

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Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Who doesn't love a holiday beach vacation? Ditch the impending cold and ice for a week on the Mexican Riviera. December's an especially good time to head down to the Baja for lazy beach days and whale watching. The humpbacks and gray whales head south in late fall to the warm waters of the Sea of Cortez and the Pacific Ocean to mate and give birth, making it one of your best opportunities to see these majestic sea creatures. Like many other destinations around this time, Cabo can get more expensive the closer you get to the holidays, but earlier in the month, [Skyscanner](#) shows roundtrips for less than \$300. Plus, with an average high of 79 degrees Fahrenheit and zero days of rain, you can work on your tan while your friends are bundled in coats and scarfs.

Where to stay: [Grand Solmar](#) occupies some pretty prime real estate at Land's End. Tucked between the stone cliffs and the sea—and with three amazing infinity pools—it has picturesque ocean views that are perfect to peep whales from one of the swim-up bars. The resort's smallest rooms are suites that clock in at 737 square feet, so you'll have plenty of space if you decide to make your vacation a family affair. Ready to let go of everything this year has brought? (Yeah, us too.) Head next door to the spa at sister resort Playa Grande for a traditional [temazcal](#). A ritual and spiritual treatment, the Mexican steam bath encourages reflection and introspection—you'll sweat out some toxins and quickly leave 2018 in the past.



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