

ADVERTISING COVER

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ULTIMATE HOTEL & DESTINATION 2019 GUIDE





filled natural sinkholes; *petenes*, tree islands that emerge from the swamps; wetlands; lagoons; ocean reefs and more. The biosphere is accessible via road or a 45-minute boat ride from Tulum. Sian Ka'an also features its own luxury eco-resort, the Mukan Resort, formerly KanXuc, with five beach rooms, three ocean bungalows and one premier bungalow with its own private garden, as well as spa services and customized fine dining.

LOS CABOS

Los Cabos' oceanfront setting at the tip of the Baja Peninsula is unrivaled—a juxtaposition of the deep blue sea against a dramatic desert backdrop. Add to this natural beauty its award-winning resorts, championship golf courses, rejuvenating spas and world-renowned sport fishing, and it's no wonder a new visitation record for Los Cabos is expected in 2018, increasing 7 percent to 2.7 million by year's end. Hotel development in the destination, which encompasses San Jose del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas as well as the 20 miles of coastline that connect them, continues to skyrocket, with recent investments totaling more than \$1 billion.

HOTEL HAPPENINGS

There have been several high-profile openings in 2018 and more are in the works for 2019, totaling 4,353 new rooms over two years.

› In February 2018, the first phase of the Grand Solmar at Rancho

San Lucas Resort opened in an 834-acre private resort community on the southern end of the Baja Peninsula. The 89 well-appointed oceanfront suites are spread between two properties, the Grand Solmar at Rancho San Lucas and the Grand Solmar The Residences. Amenities include an infinity pool, spa and access to an 18-hole Greg Norman golf course, to be completed winter 2019.

› Described as “next-gen Cabo,” the 124-room Montage Los Cabos opened in May 2018, pairing Montage's distinctive flair with the peaceful setting of Santa Maria Bay, one of the area's few swimmable coastlines. Guests can try stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking and snorkeling with the resort's free rental gear. There's also waterfront dining, access to a Fred Couples-designed golf course and the signature Spa Montage.

› The 194-room Viceroy Los Cabos also opened in May 2018 in the heart of San Jose del Cabo on the Sea of Cortez. The hotel is the re-creation of Mexican architect Miguel Angel Aragonés' masterpiece known as Mar Adentro and the latest addition to Viceroy's Icon Collection—an elite group of the brand's most breathtaking properties. Viceroy Los Cabos also offers experiential activities such as surf or scuba lessons or custom tequila-making classes.

› The spring 2018 opening of the 373-room Le Blanc Spa Resort brings Palace Resorts' adults-only all-inclusive experience (a Cancun favorite) to Los Cabos. The full-service spa includes a hydrotherapy area, chromotherapy and an ice room, as well as locally inspired treatments such as the signature Pericue Massage, a ritual of the ancient Pericue Tribe.

› September 2018 saw the opening of the 131-room Solaz, a Luxury Collection Resort, Los Cabos, located midway between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo on the Sea of Cortez. The 128 rooms each have their own private entrances and outdoor terraces featuring private pools, whirlpools and firepits, and are adorned with original artwork by famed Mexican artist Cesar Lopez-Negrete. The resort offers guests an array of bespoke local experiences, such as a private helicopter trip to explore the rare cave paintings of Baja. It is Starwood's first Luxury Collection property in Los Cabos.