

Robb Report

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Sea, Sky, and Spa Treatments

by
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ALONG BAJA CALIFORNIA'S sparkling blue Sea of Cortés in Los Cabos, Mexico, lies an oasis known as Las Ventanas al Paraíso. Just a two-hour hop by plane from Hollywood and five hours from Manhattan, this five-star resort is a favorite among people who enjoy the decadent combination of cutting-edge spa treatments, gourmet cuisine, and the natural splendor of the azure sea and dazzling night sky.

The hotel is built on the same desert territory where the Guaycuras Indians once fought enemies with weapons of pure gold. Now, however, the land supports a stunning display of Mediterranean architecture that houses spacious rooms with wood-burning fireplaces, oversized patios, and telescopes. Many rooms also feature ocean views, indoor and outdoor whirlpool tubs, and rooftop terraces, from which you can admire the illusionary proximity of the moon and stars.

Upon arrival, you can head straight to the resort's world-class spa and enjoy a full range of treatments, including the Javanese Lulur Royal Ritual, a detoxifying body wrap that uses the indigenous Nogale cactus, and the La Stona massage, in which careful application of smooth hot and cold river stones along the spine and to key pressure points of the body melts away tension.

Days are best spent lounging by the pool or in hammocks on the beach, where pool buders offer moist towels and delicious frozen treats, such as cold cucumber slices, strawberries, melons, and miniature ice-cream bonbons. On-site amenities include tennis courts and an adjacent 18-hole Robert Trent Jones II championship golf course that twists through the stunning desert landscape studded with saguaro cactus and flowering acacia. Also, the staff can help you plan a half- or full-day excursion aboard *Gin*, the resort's 55-foot Sunseeker yacht. In addition, Las Ventanas offers guests a package that includes a combined stay at the resort and three nights on its 80-foot yacht, *Paradise Found*.

Activities in Los Cabos range from whale watching to visiting small Mexican villages. Fishermen will enjoy the excellent sportfishing and the concentration of swordfish, sailfish, and marlin, while sailors will appreciate exploring the endless undeveloped coastline, small islands, and open waters.

But the most intriguing activities of Los Cabos are snorkeling and scuba diving. The Sea of Cortés is a colorful underwater world filled with living coral reefs, ocean canyons, and shipwrecks.

Cuisine is an event in itself at Las Ventanas. Executive chef Marc Lippman—formerly of Manhattan's

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