Road Trip: 5 Days in Baja Sur, Mexico

Day 1: Many nonstop flights from the East Coast and Midwest arrive in Cabo before lunch, which means your first stop should be for tacos. Pick up your rental car at the airport and drive 15 minutes south to the center of Cabo for tacos al pastor at the taqueria Las Guncamayes (it’s where the locals go), then check into The Cape, a sexy leave-the-kids-at-home hotel. Make the most of your one night here. Hit the pool, grab some Pacificos at the rooftop bar—it’s the only one in town, and it has the best views of Cabo’s iconic Arch—and do dinner at Manta, where chef Enrique Olvera, of Cosme and Pujol fame, turns out veg-forward dishes like zucchini tostadas.

There’s so much more to Baja Sur than lounging poolside in Cabo. This 300-mile loop shows you the best of the scenic peninsula.

Unless you’re a die-hard surfer or marlin fisherman, there’s never been much reason to leave your resort in Cabo San Lucas. Since the 1950s, it’s been an easy getaway, especially for West Coasters craving pool time, margaritas, and little else. Then, after Hurricane Odile hit in 2014, Cabo had a reawakening. Classic properties like Rosewood’s Las Ventanas al Paraiso were renovated, and there was a surge in boutique hotel openings, like The Cape and the futuristic Mar Adentro, and in younger, hipper travelers who wanted to do more than lie in the sun. That led to more openings, this time just outside of Cabo San Lucas proper, as stylish farm hotels with excellent organic restaurants popped up in the agricultural area around San José del Cabo, miles from any beach. And earlier this year, 50 miles up the Pacific coast in Todos Santos, hotelier Liz Lambert opened the groovy Hotel San Cristóbal, which has a cool Venice Beach–meets–Austin vibe.