BY TY GOVAARS



FOUNDELSEWHERE.CO

Welcome to Baja.

Baja del Sur is a place that has always been on our radar. A sleepy surf town that used to consist of just a passing mention in guidebooks. We love natural spaces where two opposing natural landscapes collide — desert/jungle/mountains and water. If there is a laid back Mexico surf town in your dreams, Baja is where it originated.

We don't like to linger long in tourist hot spots, so while our trip started in San Jose del Cabo, it was only for convenience of the airport and rental car. Once we had our wheels we hightailed it down the coast to Todos Santos, a once-sleepy fishing town now buzzing with life. Artists, surfers and adventurous tourists collide here. It has the perfect mix of being accessible (~1.25 hours drive from SJD) but still far enough that some won't venture there.

We stayed at an enchanting minimalistic house just north of town. There are also charming boutique hotels and airbnbs in the area to choose from. Todos Santos is the perfect excuse to slow down, soak in the atmosphere and live like a local.

Dinners alternated between casual meals at restaurants in town and meals cooked at home. A typical meal consisted of delicate pieces of grilled fish picked up from the local purveyor down the street, finished with a squeeze of fresh lime. Served with homemade guacamole and fresh local tortillas.

We spent the days beach hunting, wandering and catching sunset with hibiscus margaritas.... when in Mexico... right?

Our travels have taken us back to Mexico time and time again, but there was something about Baja that stuck with us. Perhaps it was the idea that we could see ourselves living there someday that is still lingering in the back of our minds....

If you are in search of a place that is just outside of the reach of over-tourism (for now), then make your way down to Baja soon, and explore a little. We bet you won't want to leave.

Day One

Arrive at Los Cabos International Airport (SJD)

PICK UP RENTAL CAR

LUNCH AT ACRE OR FLORA FARMS

Stop off for an expertly prepared lunch at Acre, Baja. An oasis in the middle of a sandy swath of land, the hotel has lush shaded palm gardens, a turquoise pool and a lovely outdoor dining area. We had the poke bowl with salmon, fresh avocado and pickled radish. Overall it's a design experience akin to something you would find in Tulum. Lovely, but we were ready to continue north to the land of surf breaks and fish tacos after a short stay. Flora Farms also came highly recommended but was closed when we were there.

acrebaja.com

DRIVE TO TODOS SANTOS | 45 MILES ~ 1.25HRS

If you choose to stay in an airbnb, pick up groceries on the way. Market goods are cheaper in San Jose Del Cabo than in Todos, and the selection is broader. Pro tip: pick up a cooler and some ice for your cold goods and you can use it later in the week on the beach.

CHECK IN AT YOUR AIRBNB/HOTEL

Spend the afternoon getting acquainted, stocking your kitchen and orientating yourself to the beach.



Day One





Day One

GRAB DINNER TO GO FROM PACIFICA

After a long day of travel, pick up fish tacos — or whatever the daily chef special is *para llevar* and serve with chilled *cervezas* back at your Airbnb. Everything here is delish, and it can become quite the expat scene if you hit it on the right night.

We dined in here, bought fresh fish here and carried out because it was so good and easy! // @pacifica fish market







Day Two

YOGA AT QUATRO VIENTOS

Wake up & catch an early yoga class at Quatro Vientos. This chill yoga studio features a beautiful high ceiling shala, everyone welcome. // <u>cuatrovientosbaja.com</u>

GRAB A COFFEE AND BREAKFAST

Stop in across the street at La Esquina on your way back from yoga. Grab your morning beverage of choice and a hot breakfast. Check out the local expat scene, chances are more than a few of the tables will be taken by digital nomads. // laesquinats.com

EXPLORE TODOS SANTOS

After breakfast, head into town to explore. The city is laid out on a grid, so a fun way to tackle it is to criss cross the streets up and down, looking for cute spots to stop in and browse. Here are a few of our favorites:

Sonrisa Muerte: quirky block prints and original art by local artists.

Nievería Rocco: small ice cream and *paleta* shop, perfect for an afternoon pick me up. We tried several flavors over the course of our stay, but the mango with spicy chili was the best.

La Katrina Surf Shop: a hole in the wall surf shop next door to Nievería Rocco. Limited but cool selection of surf gear, shirts and accessories.

Nomad Chic: The owner of this boho chic boutique also has a sister store in Sonoma, CA. Pricey, but beautiful collection.

Day Two

MARGARITAS AT TEQUILA SUNRISE

Take a load off with some appetizers and a stiff margarita. Located right across the street from the infamous (albeit not the actual locale from the song) Hotel California.





Day Three

COFFEE & SUNRISE AT YOUR AIRBNB

Wake up and enjoy morning at your hotel or Airbnb.

DRIVE TO PLAYA LOS CERRITOS | 10 MILES

One of the only swimmable beaches in the area, Playa Cerritos is where the surfers hang. If you are looking to take a lesson, check out Mario Surf School on the far right side of the beach. We brought beach towels and a book and posted up for the afternoon.

LUNCH AT BARRACUDA CANTINA

Great tacos and a mean hibiscus margarita. Situated one street back from the beach, this local hangout consists of a bar and a taco truck and some festive decor. Cool laid back vibe, perfect for migrating in off the beach to for lunch. We suggest splitting a few things from the menu to get a taste of as many things as possible. // barracudacantina.negocio.site

Head back to Todos Santos and get ready for dinner.

DINNER AT GREEN ROOM

A casual beachfront bar and restaurant a little bit north of town. This chill dinner spot has tables out on the sand and nothing but unobstructed ocean views out front. Go early to get a drink at the bar swings to watch the sun set, toes in the sand. Really great ceviche. Reservations recommended. // thegreenroombcs.com





Day Four

EASY MORNING

Take an easy morning, walk to the beach or grab breakfast in town.

DRIVE TO PLAYA LAS PALMAS | 5 MILES

This spot is a short hike in through a thick bed of palms. We spent a couple hours just lounging on the beach as we were some of the only people there. Watch out for the treacherous surf, we don't recommend swimming here.



Day Four

AFTERNOON AT HOTEL SAN CRISTÓBAL

Spend the day lounging outside at this charming hotel spot, right on Punta Lobos. Order tacos and margaritas at the bar and secure a comfy lounge spot nestled into the serape covered pillows for the afternoon. // <u>bunkhousehotels.com</u>

SUNSET AT EL MIRADOR

This spot is one of the best around for sunset. We weren't particularly impressed by the service or drinks, but the view makes it worth checking out. // guaycura.com

Day Five

FARMERS MARKET

Check out the local friendly farmers market down the road and hit up Baja Beans for food and coffee. The cute hippie boutique Love Leigh Designs is worth popping into (still regret not buying one of her flowy caftans). // bajabeanscoffee.com

DRIVE BACK TO CABO SAN LUCAS

Catch a flight out this afternoon back home. And spend the rest of the afternoon daydreaming of how and when you can return.

Where to Stay

IN AND AROUND TOWN

AIRBNB

There are quite few beautiful options for homes to stay in Todos Santos, Mexico. We stayed northwest of town in the Las Tunas neighborhood // <u>airbnb.com</u>

LA BOHEMIA TODOS SANTOS

A cute laidback boutique hotel located right in the heart of town with a pool and bar. // <u>labohemiabaja.com</u>

FURTHER AFIELD

PARADERO TODOS SANTOS

A beautiful new design hotel just outside of Todos Santos. Minimal elegance meets desert vibes // <u>paraderohotels.com</u>

RANCHO PESCADERO

Newly built Hyatt property with all the amenities, beachfront lounge chairs, restaurants and comfortable chic rooms // ranchopescadero.com

OPENING SOON

OUR HABITAS TODOS SANTOS

Habitas is known for the perfect mix of nature and zen. Set on the shores of the Pacific Ocean this is one to add to your someday list, opening soon just north of town // ourhabitas.com/todos-santos

Trip Extension

LA PAZ | 50 MILES

We had a magical time swimming with whale sharks on an excursion to La Paz. If you rent a car, it's an easy morning drive. We recommend booking the first tour of the day.

PLAYA EL TECOLOTE | 50 MILES

A beautiful cove with gentle waves and crystal clear turquoise water. Great for swimming and one of the last places to grab a bite to eat if you are heading to Balandra Beach.

PLAYA DE BALANDRA | 70 MILES

This beach is spectacular with turquoise water as far as your eye can see. During low tide the water is shallow enough to wade across to private little beach alcoves and stand way out waist deep in the water. It can get crowded, so best to head here before the mid-afternoon influx of tourists.



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Elsewhere

GUIDES AND RESOURCES TO PLAN YOUR TRIP

Nomad Chic's list of favorites

Vogue's Guide to Todos Santos

Beyond Ordinary Guides (a personal favorite)

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