

KNOW  
BEFORE  
YOU GO

# SEA OF CORTEZ SOUTHERN SAFARI

ROCIO DEL MAR - QUINO EL GUARDIAN

Updated May 2024



# WELCOME ABOARD

Welcome to the Sea of Cortez and the Midriff Islands!

We are thrilled to have you join us on this journey. Our destinations are enchanting, and our reputation is renowned worldwide. As a result, many of our guests return year after year. Our dedicated crew is committed to ensuring you have an unforgettable experience. This package contains details to assist you in preparing for your upcoming expedition. If you have any inquiries or specific needs, please feel free to reach out to us. We are excited to welcome you aboard!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### MEXICO LIVEBOARDS

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Boise, ID 83706-3796  
M (602)558-9580  
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[Info@MexicoLiveboards.com](mailto:Info@MexicoLiveboards.com)

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### CARMINA NEPHEW

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M (602)478-4582

### VALERIE VISKAS

Guest Services & Passenger Documents  
[Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com](mailto:Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com)  
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24-Hour Emergency Phone Number  
(602)558-9580

**We do our best to keep this document as current as possible.  
However, everything in this document is subject to change without notice.**

# ABOUT A SOUTHERN SAFARI IN THE THE SEA OF CORTEZ

The Sea of Cortez, also known as the Gulf of California, is a strip of water separated from the Pacific Ocean by the Baja Peninsula. This isolation, on land and underwater, provides a unique series of contrasting ecosystems, from the vast solitude of the desert to the rich underwater realms and black coral gardens.

Enjoy six days of diving where we can see countless tropical fish, schools of mobula rays, eels, octopuses, turtles, rays, giant pods of dolphins, and whales. We will explore Isla el Bajo and Isla Los Islotes, where you will encounter a massive colony of friendly sea lions. We will dive Isla Espiritu Santo and wrecks Fang Ming and Salvaterra, Isla Las Animas, Isla Los Islotes, and Isla Cerralvo, known as Jacques Cousteau Island. We'll also do a night dive with mobula rays.

This itinerary is excellent for snorkelers.



# OUR VESSELS

Rocio del Mar and Quino el Guardian use US Coast Guard-approved equipment and are approved by the Mexican Coast Guard. They are equipped with state-of-the-art electronics and all required safety equipment.

## ROCIO DEL MAR

Rocio del Mar is 110' long with a 25' beam.

Rocio Del Mar accommodates 20 guests in ten air-conditioned cabins, each sleeping two guests. There are six cabins with two oversized twin bunks (cabins 1-6), two cabins with a full bed and a twin bunk (cabins 9 & 10 on the upper deck), and two cabins with a queen bed each (cabins 7 & 8).

Each cabin has four drawers for storage and clothing/towel hooks. It also has a bathroom with a lavatory, shower, and toilet. We provide shampoo, soap, and bath wash. There are no hair dryers.

Our guests enjoy comfortable mattresses and quality bed linens. Our steward cleans all rooms, bunks, and bathrooms during the first dives of the day. We provide bath towels and dive deck towels, which are changed mid-trip.

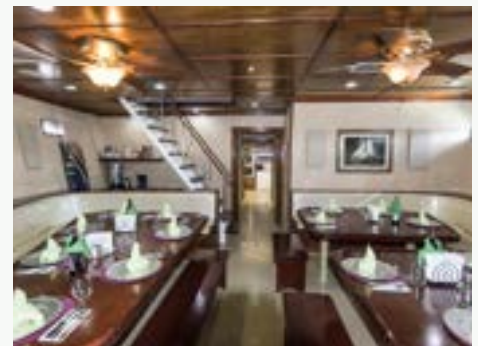
The galley is in the boat's bow and comfortably accommodates all 20 passengers. The galley also has a television and DVD player should the group want to do presentations.

We have a large salon on the upper deck with full-sized sofas, a TV, and a computer station.

There is an outside covered deck with comfortable patio furniture and a shaded sundeck with lawn chairs perfect for relaxing between dives.

There are two outdoor showers and a restroom next to the dive deck.

All voltage is 110, just like in the USA. Each bunk has a double outlet.



# QUINO EL GUARDIAN

Quino el Guardian is 90' long with a 23' beam.

Quino el Guardian accommodates up to 18 guests. Most trips have 16 guests.

We have four individually controlled airconditioned cabins that sleep four guests each. There are two bunks on eachside, two upper and two lower bunks. Each bunk has a privacy curtain. Each cabin has four large drawers, one for each guest. Limited storage space is also under the bottom bunks, and clothing/towel hooks are in the main cabin area. Cabins are typically assigned by gender. One cabin has two bunks, one upper and one lower. This cabin is generally reserved for a couple.

Our guests enjoy comfortable mattresses and quality bed linens. Our steward cleans all rooms, bunks, and bathrooms during the first dives of the day. We provide bath towels and dive deck towels, which are changed mid-trip.

Quino has four air-conditioned bathrooms with a full-size shower in each bathroom on the dive deck. Each cabin is assigned a bathroom so guests can leave their items and towels inside. Shampoo and soap dispensers are in each shower. All passengers share two lavatories on the dive deck.

The galley comfortably accommodates up to 18 passengers. The galley also has a projector and a large drop-down screen should your group want to do presentations.

A comfortable salon has sofas, a TV, and a computer table.

There is an outdoor shower on the dive deck.

On the second deck is a large, shaded sundeck with lawn chairs for relaxing between dives.

All voltage is 110, just like in the USA. Each bunk has two double outlets.



QUINO EL GUARDIAN BOAT / CABIN LAYOUT  
Cabins 1-4 have two upper and two lower bunks - Cabin 5 has one upper and one lower bunk.



## DIVING

We require that all divers be open-water certified.

Our dive decks are well-organized, and each diver is assigned a dive station.

We have a spacious camera table with many power outlets and compressed air.

We provide 80 cubic ft. aluminum tanks that are both DIN & yoke compatible, as well as weights and belts.

We dive from two 18' Achilles inflatable pangas, each with a driver vigilantly looking for bubbles. Getting from the boat to the dive site typically takes just a few minutes. The pangas have sturdy, easy-to-use ladders.

We divide passengers into three groups, each with a divemaster to lead the dives. Each group will dress, receive a dive briefing, put on their gear, and board the panga. Divers enter the water with a backroll. Our crew is happy to help divers with knee or back issues. We dive as a group. At the end of the dive, the panga will come to you. Divers will remove their weight belt and BCD, and the driver will lift it into the boat. Once at the ladder, divers remove their fins and climb into the boat. When the panga returns to the boat, the crew will put your gear away for you. Our crew is happy to hand you your camera.

As diving can be physically demanding, it's crucial that divers are in good health, dive regularly, and have been diving recently. Our divemasters and instructors are guides only, and are not responsible for teaching dive skills or looking after guests who do not have basic buoyancy skills. Each diver must understand their diving capabilities and limitations.

We suggest booking a private divemaster if you need additional attention during your diving experience. This is \$600. To secure a private divemaster, please coordinate this at least 30 days before your trip. You can do this by contacting us at [info@MexicoLiveboards.com](mailto:info@MexicoLiveboards.com).



Proof of diving certification and dive insurance is required.

Without proof, you will not be able to dive.  
**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

## COMMUNICATIONS

Our vessels maintain daily radio communication with our US office, and we are ready for constant communication in the event of an emergency. Your family and friends can contact our office at (602)558-9580 in an emergency. Our office staff will immediately assist your family and friends in getting messages to you. We also have a satellite phone onboard for your use and emergency needs at \$2 per minute.

**We do not have Wi-Fi on the boat,** but you may have cell service up to one hour from the marina.

Rocio del Mar satellite phone: 011 881 652 431 156

Quino el Guardian satellite phone: 011 881 632 654 109

## ITINERARY

Below is our scheduled diving itinerary. Weather and sea conditions may alter this itinerary, and if unique animal sightings arise, we may suggest options to divers.

Day 1 - Embark in San José del Cabo / Dinner and departure at approximately 7 pm

Day 2 - Isla Espiritu Santo and mobula ray night dive / 3-4 dives

Day 3 - Isla Las Ánimas / 3-4 dives

Day 4 - Isla Danzante and Isla San Francisquito

Day 5 - Isla El Bajo Seco and Isla San Francisquito / 3-4 dives

Day 6 - Isla Los Islotes and wrecks Salvaterra and Fang / 3-4 dives

Day 7 - Isla Cerralvo, also known as Jacques Cousteau Island / 3-4 dives

Day 8 - Arrival in San Jose del Cabo and disembark at 8:30 am

## PARK FEES

Park fees are 115 pesos per day in the park, whether diving or not.

CONANP is the park authority. Mexico Liveboards has no control over the park and must pay all park fees to CONANP when the boat departs.

**PARK FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

This is one of the things that our liveaboards are best known for ... the food!

Each day starts early with a continental breakfast with fresh fruit, cereals, bagels, yogurt, breads, and freshly brewed coffee. After the first dive, guests enjoy a plated, made-to-order breakfast. After the second dive, guests will be served a hot homemade soup followed by a hot plated lunch. We serve a large snack in the afternoon, often sandwiches, ceviche, fruit, cheeses, and more. For dinner, guests enjoy a three-course, plated meal with a salad, entrée, and homemade dessert. Hot and cold beverages are always available, including canned soft drinks.

Divers also enjoy complimentary beer and wine after their last dive of the day.

Our chefs can accommodate most special dietary needs, including gluten-free and vegan, with a wonderful variety of delicious options.

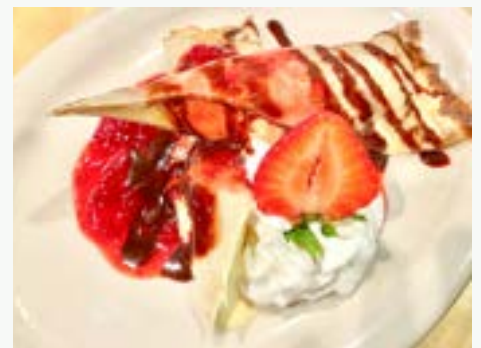
## SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Please let us know if you are celebrating a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary. We would love to celebrate it with you.

## OUR CREW

The only thing better than the food aboard Rocio del Mar and Quino el Guardian is THE CREW! Our captain, steward, panga drivers, divemasters, and engineer work together as a team to ensure your comfort and safety and that you come away feeling like you have a new family in Mexico.

Please let your crew know if there is anything you want or need anytime during your trip. No request is too big, and no job is too small.





# PASSENGER DOCUMENTS

Passenger information and liability releases are completed online. The more information we have about you (including dietary restrictions or preferences), the better we can serve you.

Please complete the **Online Passenger Registration** no later than 30 days before your departure date. This form can be found on the home page of our website, [www.MexicoLiveboards.com](http://www.MexicoLiveboards.com). Scroll to the bottom of the home page, and it is under Pre-Trip Information.

Please read all of the instructions before you start and gather all relevant documents, such as dive certifications, medical and dive insurance information, etc.

Once you start, you will have a 4-hour window to complete the form; otherwise, you will need to restart the process. If you do not have the travel information now, you can leave it blank (and update it later).

To update your travel information, you can do this under **Online Passenger Travel Update**. This form can be found on the home page of our website, [www.MexicoLiveboards.com](http://www.MexicoLiveboards.com). Scroll to the bottom of the home page and it is under under Pre-Trip Information.



**The date format is month/date/year. The form will not accept any other format. Therefore, if you are receiving an error, this is likely the cause.**  
**EXAMPLE: January 17, 2024 is 01/17/2024.**

We have a **Customer Portal** for returning guests. Please email Guest Services at [Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com](mailto:Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com) and we will send you a link and password to the Returning Customer Portal.

Once you completed your passenger information, you can download and print a copy for your records.

**The Harbor Master requires a copy of all passports prior to the trip. Please send this to Documents@MexicoLiveboards two weeks prior to your trip.**

If you have any questions or need assistance, please get in touch with Valerie in Guest Services at [Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com](mailto:Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com).

Please include if you are taking the shuttle as we coordinate the passenger list with Head Out To Rocky Point.

**IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR PASSENGER DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE SIGNED LIABILITY RELEASE, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, YOU MAY BE REFUSED BOARDING.**

## GETTING TO THE BOAT

Our vessels are located at Marina Puerto Los Cabos in San Jose del Cabo. Guests fly into San Jose del Cabo (airport code SJD). Guests are responsible for their transportation to and from the boat. The marina is about 25 minutes from the airport.

Taxis are easy to use. After you collect your bags and leave customs, you will enter a lobby. Before you exit the lobby to go outside, you will see a counter to the left that says TAXI. You can book a taxi and pay for it there via cash or credit card. The cost is approximately \$60 for two people..

Boarding begins at 5pm. Please do not board early, as the crew is busy getting the boat ready for you. If you arrive early and want to walk around San Jose del Cabo, you can take a taxi to the El Encanto Inn. The El Encanto Inn is in the heart of the Art District of the historic center of San Jose del Cabo. They are happy to store your luggage for you for \$7. The hotel is centrally located, has a restaurant and bar, and is surrounded by plenty of shops and restaurants.

When you are ready to go to the boat, the staff at El Encanto Inn can call a taxi.

If you prefer to go directly to the marina, the La Marina Inn is across the street. They are a quaint hotel with a bar/restaurant, and are happy for you to stop by while you wait to board.

### **DIRECTIONS FROM THE AIRPORT AND DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE DEL CABO**

Marina Puerto Los Cabos is about a 25-minute taxi ride from the airport and 15 minutes from downtown San Jose del Cabo. Please drive toward the small fishing town of "La Playita" and El Ganzo Hotel. Once in the marina area, you will drive on a long, winding road with roundabouts. To your right, you will see a tall, beige building called MARINE GROUP and, on the other corner, an OXXO store. Turn right at the Marine Group building and OXXO store. Keep driving toward El Ganzo Hotel. Rocio del Mar is often docked about 100 yards before the El Ganzo Hotel. If it is not there, it is at another berth within the marina. The taxi driver can take you to the other berth, or you can wait outside of El Ganzo, and we will come and pick you up at 5pm.

## RETURN

The boat will return to the marina during the night, and passengers must be ready to depart by 8:30 am on the last day of your trip. Our steward will serve a continental breakfast. Our crew will call taxis to get everyone to the airport or their hotel. We suggest flights departing 11am or later.

Before you leave, please double-check your cabin, salon, dive deck, and wetsuit rack for any personal items you may have left behind. Unfortunately, shipping forgotten items from Mexico is cost-prohibitive, and we cannot guarantee delivery.

## WATER TEMPERATURES

One of the most popular questions we receive is about water temperature. The Sea of Cortez is a seasonal sea that changes temperature based on the seasons.

For trips in September, temperatures range from 76-78 degrees Fahrenheit in the north and warms as we go south. In October, the south remains in the low 80's, and the northern temperatures can go as low as 72-74.

The Sea of Cortez has vertical thermoclines! You can see the water shimmer before you feel it. There are cool as well as warm currents. During a single dive, experiencing a temperature difference of 10 degrees is quite normal. But don't worry, the cool thermoclines don't usually last long.

## NITROX CERTIFICATION

We offer nitrox classes and certification through PADI on most of our trips. The price is \$200 per person. You will be able to dive nitrox throughout your trip. The price for nitrox is \$140 per person.

If you would like to take a Nitrox certification class, please contact Guest Services at [documents@mexicoliveaboards.com](mailto:documents@mexicoliveaboards.com) to confirm the availability of an instructor on your trip and make the appropriate arrangements.

## SUGGESTED GEAR & CLOTHING

We absolutely recommend exposure protection on our trips. Many guests have found that a 3mm wetsuit works best for September, then a 3mm wetsuit with a hooded vest in mid-October. Guests may wear less during mid-day dives. Gloves are permitted and recommended. A light hood is good for night dives as there is significant krill in the water. A rash guard for sun protection is suggested when snorkeling with whale sharks.

We recommend a dive light, as looking under the rocks and crevices is fun. Plus, it makes the colors come alive!

The dress is casual. Do not forget your hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

Stream2Sea makes reef-safe sunscreen, and [we have a link on our website](#) and our guests receive a 10% discount.



Every diver is required to have a dive computer, a safety sausage (SMB) and a whistle.

## RENTAL DIVE EQUIPMENT

We have a limited number of regulators, BCDs, and HP steel 100cu ft/12L steel tanks available for rental at \$50 each per trip. We also have Shearwater Peregrine computers for rent at \$75 each per trip. Please let us know as early as possible before your trip if you want to rent equipment so we have it onboard for you. We do not rent exposure suits, hoods, fins, masks, safety sausages (SMBs), whistles, or lights. As we have a limited number of these items available to rent, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Valerie in Guest Services to reserve your equipment at [Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com](mailto:Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com).

If you need wetsuits, fins, masks, booties, SMBs, etc., we recommend:

Dive Ninja Expeditions

[www.DiveNinjaExpeditions.com](http://www.DiveNinjaExpeditions.com)

[info@diveninjaexpeditions.com](mailto:info@diveninjaexpeditions.com)

Manta Scuba

[www.caboscuba.com](http://www.caboscuba.com)

[mantascuba@gmail.com](mailto:mantascuba@gmail.com)

## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TRIP

All taxes & port fees

All meals, snacks, and beverages, including canned soft drinks

Complimentary local beer and wine

Tanks (aluminum 80cu ft), weights, and weight belts

## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TRIP

National Park Fee – 115 pesos per day of diving\*

Nitrox Fee - \$140

Transfers to and from the boat

Crew Gratuity (10%-15% of the trip price is customary)

Rental Gear (if applicable)

Fuel Surcharge\*\* if applicable

Park fees, nitrox, and gratuities can be paid at the end of the trip or before departure. To pay in advance, please contact Carmina at [Carmina@MexicoLiveboards.com](mailto:Carmina@MexicoLiveboards.com). We use the conversion rate for the park fee based on the day of sailing. If there is a difference, you can pay for it at the end of the trip.

Mexico Liveboards accepts US dollars, euros, pesos, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover Credit Cards. We do not charge a fee for credit card use.

\*Park fee is only charged on diving days (not travel days) for all passengers, whether diving or not. It is subject to change without notice.

\*\*Fuel Surcharge: Rocio del Mar has the right to implement a fuel surcharge on all trips if the cost of fuel exceeds 20 Pesos per liter. Should this occur, all guests will be notified before boarding.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Although we do our best to accommodate cabin-type requests, we reserve the right to assign all cabins.

All guests are required to have dive/evacuation insurance. [Dive insurance can be purchased through our website from Divers Alert Network.](#) If you have private health insurance coverage for dive accidents/evacuation, provide only the page that states coverage for a scuba diving accident (including evacuation) and the declaration page showing you are the owner of the policy and policy number.

You will be at sea, and though it can often be calm, please be prepared for rough seas. Several over-the-counter remedies can help you. If you have a propensity to motion sickness or are concerned that you might develop symptoms, please prepare yourself with preventive measures before departure. Please consult your physician about what will work best for you.

Marijuana and all drugs are illegal in Mexico. Do not bring these on board.

## **UNFORESEEN EVENTS / TRIP INSURANCE / TRIP INTERRUPTION**

Rocio del Mar and Quino el Guardian are of the utmost seaworthiness and approved by the US and Mexican Coast Guards. They are equipped with state-of-the-art electronics and all required safety equipment.

Passenger safety is paramount; therefore, the captain has the sole discretion to change, delay, return early, or cancel the cruise if necessary. Reasons include, but are not limited to, bad weather, perils of the sea, acts of God, political incidents, or force majeure.

We highly suggest trip insurance as it can reimburse you for unused, non-refundable, prepaid trip costs if you are prevented from taking your trip due to a covered reason. All trip insurance is not the same, so it is essential to make sure that you purchase travel insurance that includes travel interruption.

[Trip insurance can be purchased through our website from Divers Alert Network.](#)

We highly recommend all passengers purchase travel insurance.

# DEPOSITS & CANCELLATION TERMS

## INDIVIDUAL BOOKINGS

### DEPOSITS

- A 25% deposit is due to hold the reservation
- 25% is due six months before the scheduled trip date
- The remaining balance is due three months before the scheduled trip date

Ensuring all scheduled payments are made on time is crucial. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of your trip, with all monies paid to date being forfeited.

### CANCELLATIONS

- There is no penalty for cancellations made 9 months or more before the scheduled trip date
- 25% of the total rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 91 days to 9 months before the scheduled trip date
- 50% of the total rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 61 to 90 days before the scheduled trip date
- No refunds for cancellations made 60 days prior or less to the scheduled trip date

## GROUP BOOKINGS

### DEPOSITS

- A \$5,000 non-refundable deposit is due to hold the reservation
- 25% of the trip price is due one year before the scheduled trip date (the \$5000 deposit can be used to make up the 25% deposit)
- 25% is due six months before the scheduled trip date
- The balance less your commission is due three months before the scheduled trip date

Ensuring all scheduled payments are made on time is crucial. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of your trip, with all monies paid to date being forfeited.

### CANCELLATIONS

- There is no penalty for cancellations made 12 months or more before the scheduled trip date; however, the \$5000 deposit is non-refundable
- 25% of the total rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 12 months to six months before the scheduled trip date
- 50% of the total rate will be forfeited for cancellations made six months to 91 days before the scheduled trip date
- No refunds for cancellations made 90 days or less before the scheduled trip date

# HOTEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Casa Natalia Boutique Hotel  
Blvd. Mijares Centro Historico  
23400 San Jose del Cabo, Mexico  
1-888-277-3814  
+52 624 18 23709  
www.casanatalia.com  
reservacion@casanatalia.com

El Encanto Inn & Suites  
You can store your luggage for \$7  
while you walk around downtown if  
you arrive early  
Calle Morelos #133  
San Jose del Cabo  
Baja California Sur, Mexico  
011-52 (624) 142-0388  
From USA (210) 858-6649  
www.elencantoinn.com  
reservations@elencantoinn.com  
Facebook:  
facebook.com/elencantoinn

La Marina Inn  
Located across the street from the  
boat  
Calle S/N, Mantarraya  
La Playa, San Jose del Cabo  
BCS 23403  
USA +1 616-548-2681  
Mexico +52-624-142-4166  
www.lamarinainn.com

Hotel El Ganzo  
Located next to the boat  
Blvd. Tiburon S/N Fracc. La Playita  
San Jose del Cabo, B.C.S CP 23403  
+52 624 104 9000  
1-855-835-4269  
www.elganzo.com

Marisol Boutique Hotel  
Plaza Garuffi Paseo San Jose s/n esq  
Bahia de las Palmas sn  
Zona Hotelera  
23400 San Jose del Cabo, B.C.S., Mexico  
+52 624 142 4040  
www.marisolboutiquehotel.com

Bel Air Collection Resort & Spa Los Cabos  
Carretera Transpeninsular Km. 29,  
23400 San José del Cabo, B.C.S., Mexico  
+52 800 400 2040  
www.belaircabos.com

Barcelo Grand Faro Los Cabos  
Blvd. San Jose s/n, Seccion Hotelera 1 Zona  
Fonatur,  
San Jose del Cabo 23400, B.C.S. Mexico  
011 52 624 142 9292  
www.barcelo.com

Cabo Azul Resort  
Paseo Malecon SN Lote 11 Fonatur  
23400 San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico  
+52 800 438 2929  
www.caboazulresort.com

Hotel Posada Terranova  
Degollado s.n entre Manuel Doblado e i.  
Zaragoza  
23400 San Jose del Cabo  
+52 624 142 0534

www.hotelposadaterranova.mxhotel.site  
This is a less expensive option (often \$50-\$70) and just a  
5-minute walk from central San Jose del Cabo

Posada Real Los Cabos  
Malecon San Jose S/N  
Zona Hotelera,  
San Jose del Cabo 23400  
Mexico: +52 624 142 0155  
www.posadareal-hotels.com/loscabos/  
loscabos@posadareal.com.mx