



April 2013

San Jose del Cabo

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## NEWSLETTER - GrandMayan.net & GrandLuxeResidence.com - Cabo

Happy New Year (Feliz Año Nuevo) and THANK YOU for your continued Grand Mayan and Grand Luxxe reservation business. We appreciate your continued travel and enjoyment of the beauty of Mexico.

We spent the week of April 6-13, 2013 in San Jose del Cabo. The weather was beautiful with temperatures in the 80's. As usual we adventured to several places and more importantly we found some great restaurants!! We ate our way through San Jose.

**Tips and Lists** – Email us at [diane@grandmayan.net](mailto:diane@grandmayan.net) to request any of our lists: 1) Things to take with you when traveling to Mexico; 2) Tips for enjoying Mexico; 3) Services if you are sick or injured in Mexico; 4) Grocery list; 5) More restaurant reviews.



*Chileno Beach, just a short drive up the coast toward Cabo San Lucas. A must visit.*

Chileno Beach - On weekends, it's popular with the locals, however it's not too congested on weekdays. With an amazing reef, Chileno is perfect for snorkeling, scuba diving and kids, with tide pools at the east end of the beach. A grove of palm trees offers much needed shade and for your convenience, you'll find a dive shop with kayak and equipment rentals, public restrooms and shower facilities. Look for the highway sign marking the parking lot at Kilometer 14. Shhh - there are 3 different beaches here to explore and find.

### Your Safety and Travel in Mexico

Despite growing concern over recent reports of violence and crime in México's northern border towns, travel destinations such as Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo, collectively known as Los Cabos, remain sound choices when planning a family vacation or romantic getaway. Located a thousand miles away from Tijuana, where many of the reported incidents have taken place, and with an entire sea between it and mainland México, Los Cabos offers a safe retreat, where travelers can indulge in delicious and diverse cuisine, explore secret beaches, and take part in a number of exhilarating activities or just lie around and eat.

The most charming part of Mexico is its wonderful people. In Cabo a group of concerned citizens and business owners has formed an organization to make the tourist experience the best it can be. Cabo Angels will answer any questions and address any complaints. 624-188-4455 – [info@caboangels.com](mailto:info@caboangels.com).

### Eating our Way thru San Jose

Blue Fish – Is new and relatively unknown with only 4 outside tables. It is located in the southeast corner of the Appleby's strip mall, across the highway and just south of the Mega. On our first visit we tried the sea bass tacos and shrimp ceviche. Amazing! The second time we had the yellow tail sashimi (not on menu), grilled shrimp tacos and the ceviche. On our third visit we had the sashimi, shrimp tacos, and ceviche. Each time the food was fresh and consistently outstanding. The number of time we ate here during our 7 day stay, speaks for itself.

Los Claros – This place is great, located just a short walk toward downtown San Jose, on the right hand side of the main road. This restaurant specializes in Mexican comfort food and seafood. I loved the house special Papa Rellena (baked then mashed potato covered with

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Los Claros - (continued) your choice of meats or seafood. Very tasty. Sitting on top of their salsa bar is tempura chiles. Try them. The seafood cocktails are also great. We ate here twice.

Flora Farms - We visit the farm for lunch or dinner at least one each vacation. It is not inexpensive but the food is always good and the farm offers the ambience of well - and old farm. You can't pick out the chicken you want to eat but it's close. Almost all offerings and ingredients are grown and harvested at Flora Farms or nearby and the seafood is caught nearby. This trip I chose the 4 course lunch offering of eggplant soup, tossed salad, scampi with noodles, ice cream and a beverage for \$400 pesos. Excellent.

Los Tamarindos - A similar offering to the Flora Farms in that it is also a farm on the outskirts of town. Easy driving distance and a nice place to go for a lunch. I had the Japanese peppers, Cornish game hens and my wife had the yellowtail. Good food and good service. You might be the only ones there. Enjoy!

Chostomo - Located in the Mega shopping center, this place has awesome burritos of all kinds. Highly recommended for the semi-fast and good eat. This center also houses the Starbucks and the McDonalds with its latest offering the McNifico. Ole.

### ADVENTURING

Historic Todos Santos is an easy hour's drive north on the scenic Pacific coast highway from Cabo San Lucas. A palm-fringed oasis brimming with creative souls, this gentle sanctuary has captivated many with its peaceful, laid-back flavor. Set back from the Pacific and nestled in the towering Sierra de la Laguna mountains, this small, intimate town boasts cozy restaurants, starry nights and cooler summer weather than Los Cabos. Surf Daddies....don't forget to visit Cerritos Beach on the way to Todos Santos. A true gem, with a great Pacific surf and swim beach to enjoy. It's where the locals go to get away.

### GRAND MAYAN LOS CABOS

My first impression of the Grand Mayan Los Cabos was how different this property is from the other Grand Mayan locations. With just 270 units and no Mayan Palace or Sea Garden nearby, the Grand Mayan functions well as a standalone resort.

Great view – The single most awesome asset of this latest addition to the Grand Mayan family, is the ocean front views. The view is spectacular, whether you are watching the sunrise, sunset or any time of day or night. The Sea of Cortez is less than 300 feet from the edge of the infinity pool with huge waves rolling day and night. The sound is awesome.

Beach – Plenty to do on the beach. Clean sand, paragliders, volleyball, horseback riding, long walks in both directions, fishing from the beach, nesting turtles, whale watching.

Rooms – All rooms are ocean front in the U shaped building design. Each room has a wonderful view of the ocean. We spent a great deal of time reading, eating, playing cards and relaxing on the balcony, which also has its own private pool for the one and two bedroom suites.

Restaurants at the Grand Mayan – They are now offering meal plans at the resort. For ~\$218 USD, you will get 6 meal tickets, each good for lunch or dinner at the resort. They also have a breakfast meal plan for ~\$118 USD, which includes 6 breakfast buffets. These meal tickets can be used by one person or several persons.

The breakfast buffet is 230 pesos or approximately \$20 USD, but if you eat between 7 and 8:30, it is only 190 Pesos or ~\$18 USD. The Sunday champagne brunch was 320 pesos or \$30 USD.

We had three breakfast meals at the resort and that includes the complimentary one that comes with the tour. We always go on the tours to see what is new and to report back to you. They have really improved the breakfast buffets. Everything I had was good and the presentation and variety of selections is exceptional. Pancakes, French toast, eggs as you like them, bacon, sausage, lox, fruit and vegetable bar, juice bar, salsa bar. You will not leave hungry.

Spa – The Mundo Spa is small, efficient and well done. Upon entering, you will find a massive fish tank consuming the right wall. The steam, sauna, cold plunge and hot tubs are well maintained and effective. I am happy to share the spa menu with you.

Walk barefoot – One of the first things we notice was that the walkways were poured concrete. Not the usual pebble tech that requires shoes. It is wonderful to walk around barefoot.

We liked the fact there were many things to do within walking distance of the resort. The town of San Jose del Cabo is a 10 minute walk, where you will find many art and tourist shops, restaurants, small cafes, nightlife, ice cream, and some truly amazing fine dining. Our teenagers and young adults loved the ability to come and go as they please.

Adventures – Activities Desk right in the Resort offering from snorkeling to whale watching. Book through them and get picked up at the front door. No fuss, no muss.

Plaza del Pescador - There are several new restaurants including a Sushi place, a coffee shop, bicycle shop, gourmet wine, and KISS Rock-n-Brew Bar just across the street from the Resort. Really nice!

Mega Mart and mall - about a 10 – 15 minute walk from the Grand Mayan. There is a Mega (Pelican) grocery store and a number of small shops up and down the main avenue.

Other Restaurants:

>>Ensalada - There is a wonderful little restaurant and pastry shop less than a 10 minute walk from the Grand Mayan, on your way into the town of San Jose. It is a gathering spot for many of the American locals that reside in San Jose all or part of the year. We found it a great place to stop for coffee and a roll or breakfast after our morning walk. My husband loved the Numero Uno, 3 eggs, bacon, 2 pancakes and coffee for \$8.50. I was partial to the cinnamon rolls, especially the huge one that they sell in sections.

>>French Riviera – Bakery and Restaurant with fresh breads, pastries, coffee drinks, gelato and full meals. I had a wonderful smoked salmon crepe with a lemon dill sauce.

>>Esquina Café - Coffee and chocolate chip gelato

>>Habaneros – not bad

>>La Fonda – Hamburger for \$4.50

>>Baan Thai – Good Thai Food

>>La Panga – Highly acclaimed and our top choice.

>>Morgan's and Morgan's Encore – We prefer Morgan's

Please let us know your favorite places. We appreciate you!! Diane G. Miller & her husband.