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The Good Life





Where the Desert Meets the Sea

by Kelly Godbey

Did you know that over 1.6 million Americans live in Mexico either as part- or full-time residents? And, this number has been increasing every year since the pandemic. The appeal of fabulous weather, great food, and lower cost of living draws Americans and Europeans to the clear blue waters and white sand beaches.

Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortes, you'll find Los Cabos, Mexico, at the tip of the Baja Peninsula. With both sunrise and sunset views, tourism is back and better than ever. Los Cabos is emerging as one of North America's biggest second-home markets. Known for its bustling nightlife, Los Cabos has become a playground with fine dining, golf, big game fishing, and the arts. Fine cuisine, culture, and art abound. Los Cabos is not a typical Mexican town; it has more of a California-like Mexican style. All this, and you can watch scores of migrating whales from late November until April every year.

Michael and Gloria Sabbath of the Chicago area have visited the Cabo San Lucas area for over 12 years. They



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previously had a three-bedroom, two-bath timeshare but recently decided to move permanently. Tired of cold winters and high taxes, the Sabbaths have opted for a life of luxury in Quivira, a 1,850-acre paradise in Cabo San Lucas that has three award-winning resorts, two 18-hole Jack Nicklaus golf courses, five-star spas, more than 29 restaurants, and a \$7-million new beach club.

"Every night at 5:00, you can watch the sunset over the Pacific Ocean from an infinity pool. The sun turns from orange to red in that area. The twilight sky is really quite lovely. We've been going down there once or twice a year and keep falling in love with it. We always said, 'How do we stay longer?" After their kids were out of college and on their own, they decided it was the time to move permanently. They wanted to downsize and live in a maintenance-free villa. The housing prices had been rising annually, so they decided now was time and locked into a unit on the first floor of a new tower, where they have views of the new golf course and the ocean beyond that. The Sabbaths will permanently move to Quivira in May. "We'll watch the sun melt into the ocean every day." Michael said, "I wake up smiling because every day will be a Saturday or a vacation day."

He says, "People go to Cabo San Lucas to vacation because they feel vibrant and younger there. You can make yourself as busy as you want in the Quivira area. Nearby you zipline in the hills, can ride dune buggies, or even ride camels on the beach. You can surf, hike, or ride bikes. It's truly amazing."

"At Quivira, we plan to go to the beach club, where they have an infinity pool that is maybe 60 yards from the ocean. Quivira also has what they call the Q Life, which includes cooking classes, Spanish lessons, yoga, pickleball, tennis, and great golf. They have social networking events where they have artists bring their art, and we can hang out and meet new people. You can even watch sea turtles hatch and crawl to the ocean. It's really quite cool. And, there's plenty of good hospitals." When asked if they feel safe moving to Los Cabos, he said, "I'm actually more afraid in Chicago than I am in Los Cabos." When asked if the language barrier was a problem, he said, "Gloria is from Peru, so she speaks Spanish. But if she didn't, everyone in Cabo speaks English and is eager to help."

Michael concluded that he encourages people to "go down there and kick the tires, and you might see what we're talking about. New hotels are popping up all the time. As I look back to when we first visited the first properties that they built, the prices were low compared to what they are today. But again, real estate is all timing. Even though the prices have gone up, you'll save money on the cost of living, property taxes, and probably healthcare."



"People go to Cabo San Lucas... because they feel vibrant and younger there."

Michael Sabbath, Ouivira resident

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