

LOS CABOS

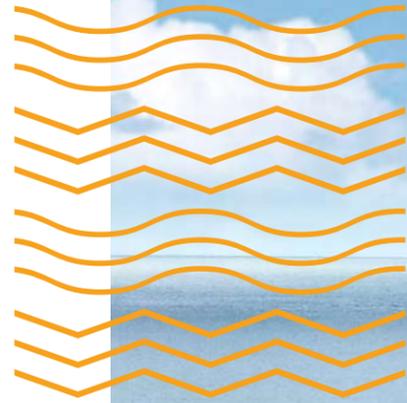
BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR BIRDWATCHING GUIDE



LOS CABOS



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In collaboration with:



LUGARES PAJAROSOS



UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE
BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR





FROM THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR WE WELCOME YOU

The Autonomous University of Baja California Sur (UABCS) adopts university social responsibility (USR) as its working paradigm, grounded on two fundamental pillars: the construction of fairer societies and the care of the environment. The essential actions of teaching, research, cultural dissemination, extension, and community engagement are articulated from this worldview. Every institutional effort seeks to contribute to this dual aspiration: material and spiritual.

The *Birdwatching Guide of Baja California Sur* is an example of how scientific knowledge becomes social heritage and serves as a sensitive reminder that nature only asks for respect in order to continue gifting us its wonderful creations.

The Guide brings together the talent of those committed to tourism that respects ecosystems and those dedicated to creating opportunities so more people may have dignified work.

Baja California Sur is an extraordinary place; the fusion of sea and desert and its effective condition as an island have generated circumstances for multiple species to find their habitat—permanent or temporary—within this geography. Especially, Los Cabos is a place where numerous bird species have chosen to exercise their splendid freedom, reminding us that the landscape is our shared heritage, and that balance and harmony have been, since time immemorial, essential conditions for life.

UABCS joins the collective effort to preserve, with utmost detail, the beating of wings that celebrates the possibility of existence.

Dante Salgado
Rector of UABCS



ESTIMATED VISITORS: WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE FIRST BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR BIRDWATCHING GUIDE

This publication marks an important milestone for our city, which has proudly become the second in the country to earn the international **Bird City** designation. This recognition reflects our strong commitment to bird conservation, nature tourism, and sustainable development.

Birdwatching tourism has experienced remarkable global growth due to its enormous potential to generate economic, social, and environmental benefits. In this context, this Guide is the result of a year and a half of collaborative work between the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur, several state communities, and the Los Cabos Tourism Trust, which I am honored to lead. Together, we have joined efforts to provide an invaluable tool for both visitors and locals.

In Baja California Sur, birdwatching is more than just a tourist activity — it is an experience that enriches and diversifies our destination's offerings. Our diverse ecosystems — from estuaries and mangroves to deserts and mountain ranges — host a wide variety of resident and migratory species, positioning this place as a prime reference point for birdwatchers around the world.

With this Guide, we invite both visitors and the local community to discover, appreciate, and protect our valuable natural heritage. Each encounter with these incredible species invites us to reflect on the importance of conservation and responsible tourism — fundamental pillars for the sustainable development of Los Cabos.

We encourage you to enjoy birdwatching and discover this unique facet of our destination that makes it truly special.

Rodrigo Esponda Cascajares
Managing Director of Los Cabos Tourism Trust



AUTHORS

Dr. José Emer García de la Puente Orozco

Doctorate in Aquatic Resource Science from the Autonomous University of Sinaloa. Research Professor at the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur and Head of the Habitat and Key Species Conservation Laboratory.

He is the founder of the Birdwatching Club (UABCS). His research focuses on bird conservation through community empowerment, working primarily in northwestern Mexico and in Chilean Patagonia. He is currently recognized throughout Latin America as one of the leading specialists in birdwatching, with numerous publications (reports, manuals, books, quick guides, and workshops).

He has collaborated with various institutions such as Defenders of Wildlife, the Sonoran Joint Venture, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and CONAF.

LICAM. Natalia Montes Barrios

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences. She is a member of the Habitat and Key Species Conservation Laboratory at the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur (UABCS), Los Cabos Academic Extension, where she participates in local bird monitoring projects and environmental education programs.

She is the coordinator of the AMAZILIAS Los Cabos Birdwatching Club. She has led and organized events for the Los Cabos Urban Birds Program. In 2024, she wrote a children's birdwatching guide for the La Playa Community Center, where she currently leads the "Guardians of the Estero" children's workshop.

Biol. Javier Alcalá Santoyo

He is a Marine Biologist and a passionate birdwatcher. Holding a graduate degree in Marine and Coastal Sciences from the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur (UABCS), he has participated in key research projects focused on the population dynamics of the Mexican Shearwater and the Yellow-footed Gull, collaborating with institutions such as UABCS, CICESE, and CONANP.

As the founder and leader of **Birding Expeditions**, he combines his scientific background with nature exploration, leading tours that allow visitors and locals alike to discover the rich birdlife of Baja California Sur. In addition, as the general coordinator of the **La Paz Urban Birds Program**, he promotes environmental education through public activities that foster citizen science and an appreciation of biodiversity in urban environments.

His work highlights the importance of bringing scientific knowledge closer to society, creating meaningful experiences that inspire bird conservation within the community.

BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR BIRD PARADISE

AVITOURISM IS A FORM OF NATURE-BASED TOURISM FOCUSED ON OBSERVING, PHOTOGRAPHING, AND ENJOYING BIRDS IN THEIR NATURAL HABITATS. THIS ACTIVITY COMBINES ECOTOURISM, CONSERVATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, OFFERING UNIQUE EXPERIENCES BOTH TO SEASONED BIRDWATCHERS AND TO THOSE WHO ARE JUST BEGINNING TO EXPLORE THE FASCINATING WORLD OF BIRDS.

Baja California Sur stands out as one of Mexico's most privileged destinations for birdwatching. Its geographic location—between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California—gives rise to a **remarkable diversity of ecosystems**, ranging from **wetlands and estuaries to deserts and mountain ranges**. This variety of habitats makes the region a strategic refuge for both resident and migratory birds.

Each year, thousands of birds travel along the **Pacific Migratory Corridor**, stopping in the state's coastal wetlands and protected natural areas—a breathtaking natural spectacle that offers observers the chance to admire unique species, many of them coming from the United States and Canada. In addition, **numerous endemic and iconic species from coastal, desert, and marine ecosystems inhabit the region.**

Thanks to its biological richness—with **around 340 recorded bird species**—avitourism has become an activity that not only supports conservation but also generates economic benefits for local communities, provided it is practiced responsibly. By hiring local guides, visiting protected areas, and following birdwatching ethics, visitors directly contribute to sustainable development.

A recognition that underscores the importance of this region for avitourism is that **Los Cabos** has been designated a **Bird City**, a distinction that certifies its commitment to protecting birds and their habitats while promoting responsible observation practices. This title places **Los Cabos on the international avitourism map**, attracting birdwatchers from around the world and reinforcing its role as a leading nature tourism destination.

This guide has been designed to accompany you on that journey, providing information on the **best birdwatching sites in Baja California Sur**, along with **practical tips for enjoying avitourism ethically and safely.**





CIUDAD DE LAS AVES MÉXICO

Los Cabos



LOS CABOS, BIRD CITY: A COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Thanks to the joint efforts of conservation specialists, academics, and local authorities, it was announced in 2025 that **Los Cabos** would be recognized as a **Bird City** by Environment for the Americas, thus becoming the **second destination in Mexico to receive this distinction**.

This certification honors cities that have implemented effective policies and actions for the protection of birds and their ecosystems.

Among the key initiatives that made this important recognition possible are the update of the Management Plan for the State Ecological Reserve Estero San José del Cabo, as well as the monitoring and dissemination of information

on priority species for conservation, such as **Belding's Yellowthroat, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Elf Owl**. Also the Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day and implementing long-term monitoring plans such as a Scientific Ring Station.

In addition, initiatives such as Santiago Sostenible and Parque Hundido Pedro Sánchez are actions that were highlighted since they recognize the natural and biocultural value of the municipality.

This certification translates into a commitment that must be renewed year by year and that generates cross-sectoral alliances, thus positioning **Los Cabos not only as a destination for aviturism but also as a tourist site committed to conservation**.



ESTERO SAN JOSE DEL CABO



The Estero de San Jose del Cabo, a Stuarine-style, surrounded by tular, carnival and palmar.



Photo: Port of Los Cabos

Its biogeographic location and the presence of fresh water in this coastal oasis causes a very high concentration of biodiversity in relation to its size, forming an environment of **great biological diversity** in the middle of the desert.

It becomes the last rest station for waterfowl and beach, migrating to areas of southern Mexico, Central or South America, coming from Canada and the United States of America.

In addition, this site has the **largest registry of birds in Los Cabos (294 species)**.

Due to its importance for conservation, it has been recognized and designated as a **State Ecological Reserve**, as a **RAMSAR, AICA and IBA site**, because it houses the largest population of **Belding's Yellowthroat**, an emblematic and endemic species of the oasis of the Peninsula.

The area has interpretive, guided paths that allow you to enjoy nature.



Photo: Cristian Sánchez



OBSERVATION POINTS

To improve the visitor experience, the Estuary features designated trails and interpretive signs that highlight and help identify its most emblematic bird species.

SENDERO DEL BOSQUE DEL MEZQUITE

This access is located in the northern part of the Estero, where a dense forest of mesquites extends. It is ideal for quiet walks and sunrise or sunset photo shoots.

On this trail you can see regional species such as the **Gray Trasher**, **Northern Cardinal**, **Northern Mockingbird**, and migratory species such as **Mangrove Yellow Warbler**, **Northern Yellow Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**.



Photo: Natalia Montes

HOTEL AREA TRAIL TO BEACH

This tour begins at the end of the hotel area and extends along the estuary margin, connecting to the coastal strip and the beach. This trail is perfect for those who want to combine bird watching with a walk to the sea.

Near the cavities and tular, you can see species such as the **Belding's Yellowthroat**, and it is also the nesting site of the **Least Tern** and a variety of beach birds and herons can be observed.

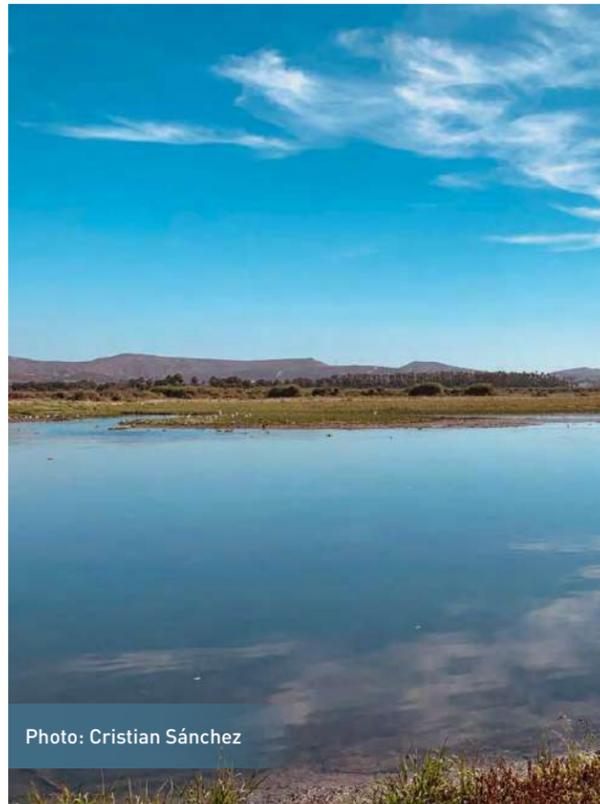


Photo: Cristian Sánchez



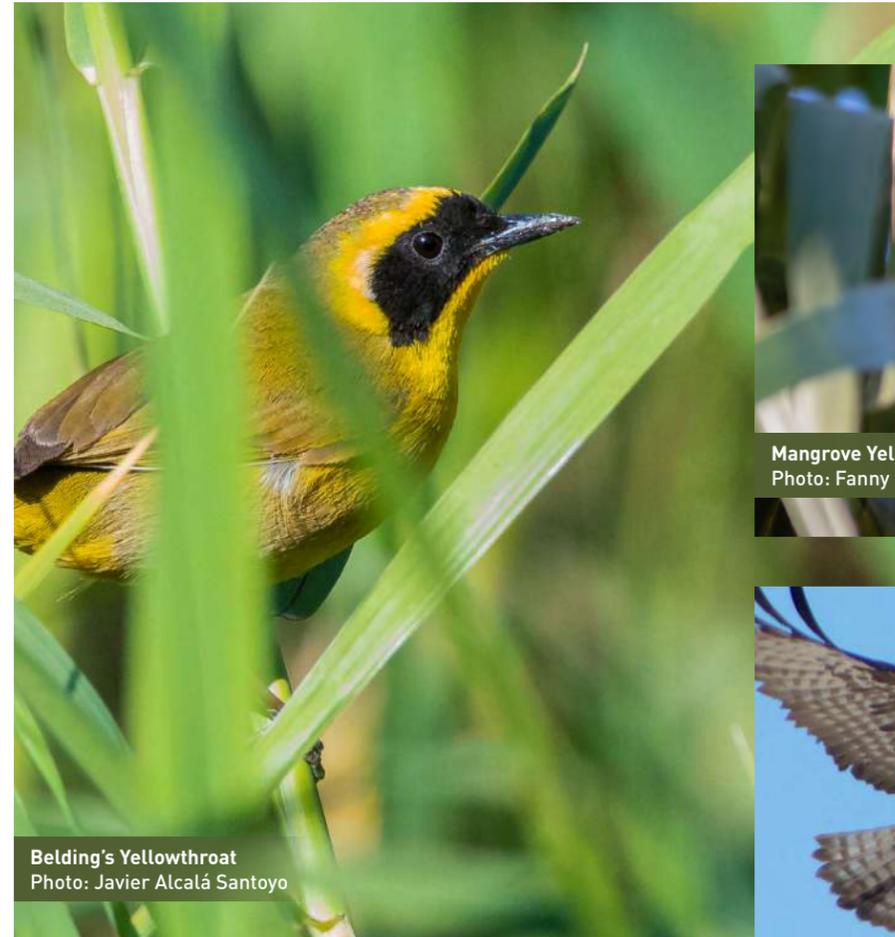
TARGET SPECIES

The Estuary is home to a remarkable diversity of birds (**296 species**), including four of the five endemic species of Baja Southern California: the **Belding's Yellowthroat**, the **Gray Trasher**, the **Xantus Hummingbird** and the **Yellow-footed Gull**.

These species can be observed throughout the year. In addition, between early May and late August, this area serves as a breeding site for the **Least Tern**, a species of special interest for bird watchers.



Least Tern
Photo: Fanny Noriega Rivera



Belding's Yellowthroat
Photo: Javier Alcalá Santoyo



Mangrove Yellow Warbler
Photo: Fanny Noriega Rivera



Osprey
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Northern Harrier
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Blue-winged Teal
Photo: Fanny Noriega Rivera



Harris's Hawk
Photo: Fanny Noriega Rivera



Photo: Fanny Noriega Rivera



Violet-green Swallow
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Yellow-footed Gull
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Great Blue Heron
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Reddish Egret
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Snowy Egret
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Tricolored Heron
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

BIRDWATCHING AND HIKING

The Estero is a protected wetland and one of the most important ecosystems in Baja California Sur.

Visitors can walk along its trails to observe birds, palm trees, and native vegetation in a peaceful natural setting. In addition to its biological richness, the Estero San José del Cabo also preserves part of the region's ecological and cultural history.



SEA TURTLE RELEASE

Between the months of June and November, the release of sea turtles is carried out, the main species is the **Golfine Turtle**. During this season, thousands of offspring are born in the sand and are released with the support of the **Municipal Directorate of Ecology, volunteers and the local community.**



WHERE TO EAT

BURRITOS EL SACRIFICIO

📍 [La Choya, 23403 San José del Cabo, B.C.S.](#)
📍 [Burritos El Sacrificio](#)
☎ +52 624 122 8433



MARISCOS LA MADRINA

📍 [Camino Cabo Este, La Choya, 23403 San José del Cabo, B.C.S.](#)
📍 [Mariscos "La Madrina"](#)
☎ +52 624 155 5101



WHERE TO SLEEP

El Estero is located right at the end of the Tourist Corridor connecting Cabo San Lucas to San Jose del Cabo, making it a strategic area with a wide range of accommodations.

Here are some options for staying:

SIX TWO FOURURBAN BEACH HOTEL

🌐 [sixtwofourhotel.com](#)
☎ +52 624 123 2892



HOTEL PUNTO SOL SAN JOSE

📍 [Calle Rtno. Puntagorda 9, Campo de Golf Fonatur, 23405 San José del Cabo, B.C.S.](#)
📍 [Punto Sol](#)
☎ +52 624 237 6105





GETTING THERE

El Estero is located southeast of the city of San Jose del Cabo, just minutes from historic downtown. From the center, take Transpeninsular Road (Federal Highway 1) south towards the hotel-area hotel.

Upon arrival at the gazebo where Mijares Boulevard and Centenario Avenue are located, turn towards Centenario Avenue, following signs to the beach and the estero.

Continue straight until you reach Paseo San José Street, where you will see signs to the public access of the estero, near the Holiday Inn Hotel and the boardwalk area.

Parking is available near the main entrance.

If you are coming from Los Cabos International Airport, take the Transpeninsular Road towards San Jose del Cabo and follow the same directions when arriving in the city; the route takes approximately 20 minutes.



Photo: Port of Los Cabos

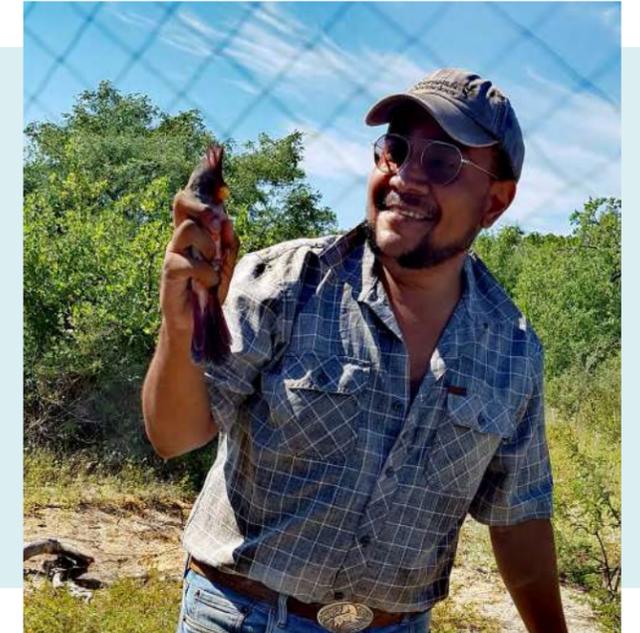


KEY BIRDING CONTACTS

Dr. JOSÉ EMER GARCÍA DE LA PUENTE OROZCO
HOLDER OF THE HABITAT PRESERVATION LABORATORY
AND UABCS KEY SPECIES

+52 612 159 1760

- With more than 15 years dedicated to the conservation of the Estero.
- He focuses on monitoring the Belding's Yellowthroat and oversees a bird banding station within the area.
- He is also a member of the Scientific and Academic Subcommittee of the Estero San José del Cabo State Ecological Reserve (REEESJC).



Dra. GRACIELA TIBURCIO PINTOS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORGANIZATION FOR
SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

+52 624 157 5949

- Specialist dedicated to sea turtle conservation.
- She currently coordinates the monitoring of the Least Tern at the Estero, thereby strengthening the protection and management efforts for this species and its habitat.



MIRAFLORES



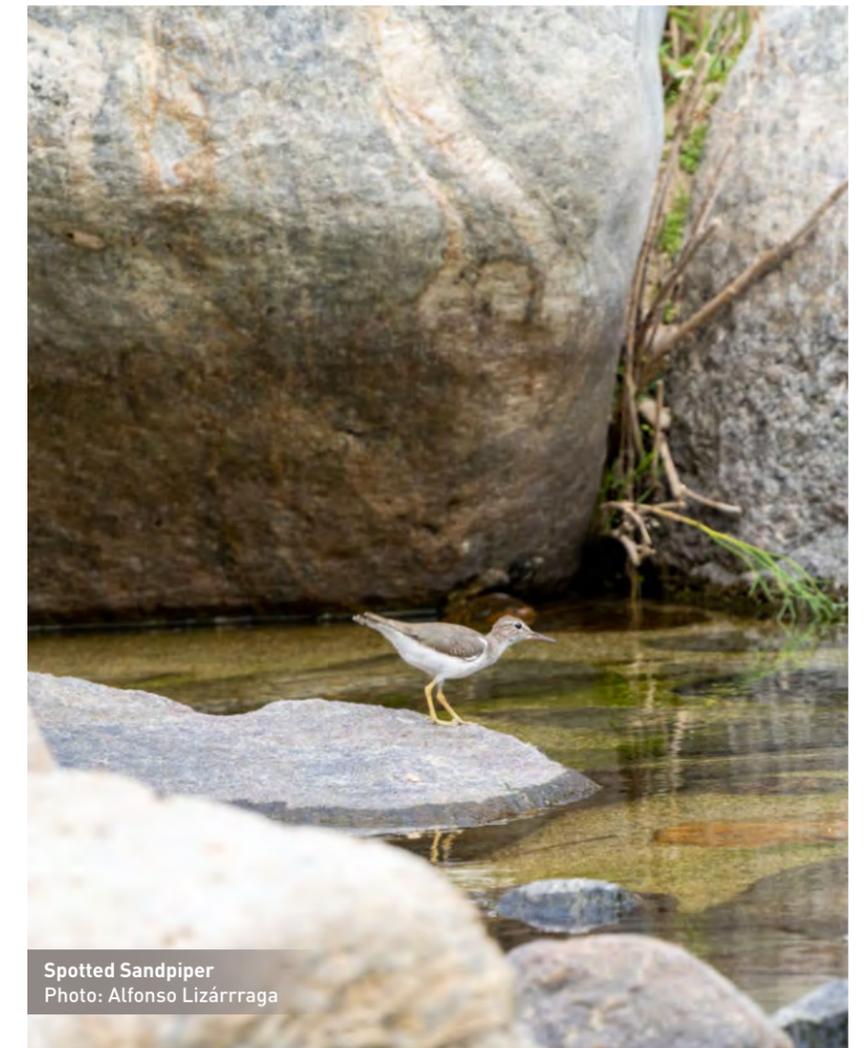
Miraflores is a picturesque rural village that retains the traditional essence of Baja California Sur. Surrounded by the Sierra La Laguna and with a climate cooler thanks to its altitude, this place is ideal for those looking for an experience between nature, culture and tranquility.



Photo: Osiel Flores

The village is renowned for its handcrafted leather goods, traditional barbershops, wooden furniture, and regional sweets made from local recipes. Its quiet streets and warm community atmosphere offer visitors a glimpse into the everyday life of families in southern Baja California.

Nearby, visitors can enjoy hiking, horseback riding, and guided tours through oases and canyons that form part of the **Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve**. The village also serves as a gateway to nearby ecotourism sites such as the **Sol de Mayo Ecological Ranch** and the **Fox Canyon**, home to breathtaking waterfalls and crystal-clear pools.



Spotted Sandpiper
Photo: Alfonso Lizárraga



OBSERVATION POINTS

MIRAFLORES TOWN

Miraflores is a tranquil mountain village that preserves the rural essence of Baja California Sur. Surrounded by palm groves, fruit orchards, and streams descending from the Sierra La Laguna, it offers a fresh and welcoming atmosphere—ideal for visitors seeking to combine local culture with nature-based experiences.

In terms of avitourism, Miraflores serves as an excellent starting point for nearby natural areas such as Boca de la Sierra and Cañón de la Zorra, where bird diversity is particularly appealing to observers. However, within the village itself and its surroundings, visitors can also find a fascinating variety of species associated with riparian habitats, scrublands, and agricultural areas.

To date, **153 bird species** have been recorded here. Among the most notable are nocturnal species such as the **Great Horned Owl** and **Cape Elf Owl**, flycatchers like the **Tropical Kingbird** and **Thick-billed Kingbird**, as well as various migratory warblers and vireos during the season.



Yellow-rumped Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



Orange-crowned Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores

BOCA DE LA SIERRA

Located just 15 minutes from the village of Miraflores, this site combines the natural beauty of canyons, streams, and striking rock formations with a rural setting that reflects the traditional lifestyle of Baja California Sur.

The area is ideal for birdwatching in both riparian and mountain habitats. Among these scenic landscapes, visitors may spot endemic species such as the **Xantus's Hummingbird**, along with the **Black Phoebe**, **Great Egret**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, and **Cassin's Kingbird**, as well as **Blue-winged Teal** and riparian birds like the **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**.



Spotted Sandpiper
Photo: Alfonso Lizárraga



Black Phoebe
Photo: Osiel Flores



Pyrrhuloxia
Photo: Osiel Flores



Lazuli Bunting
Photo: Osiel Flores

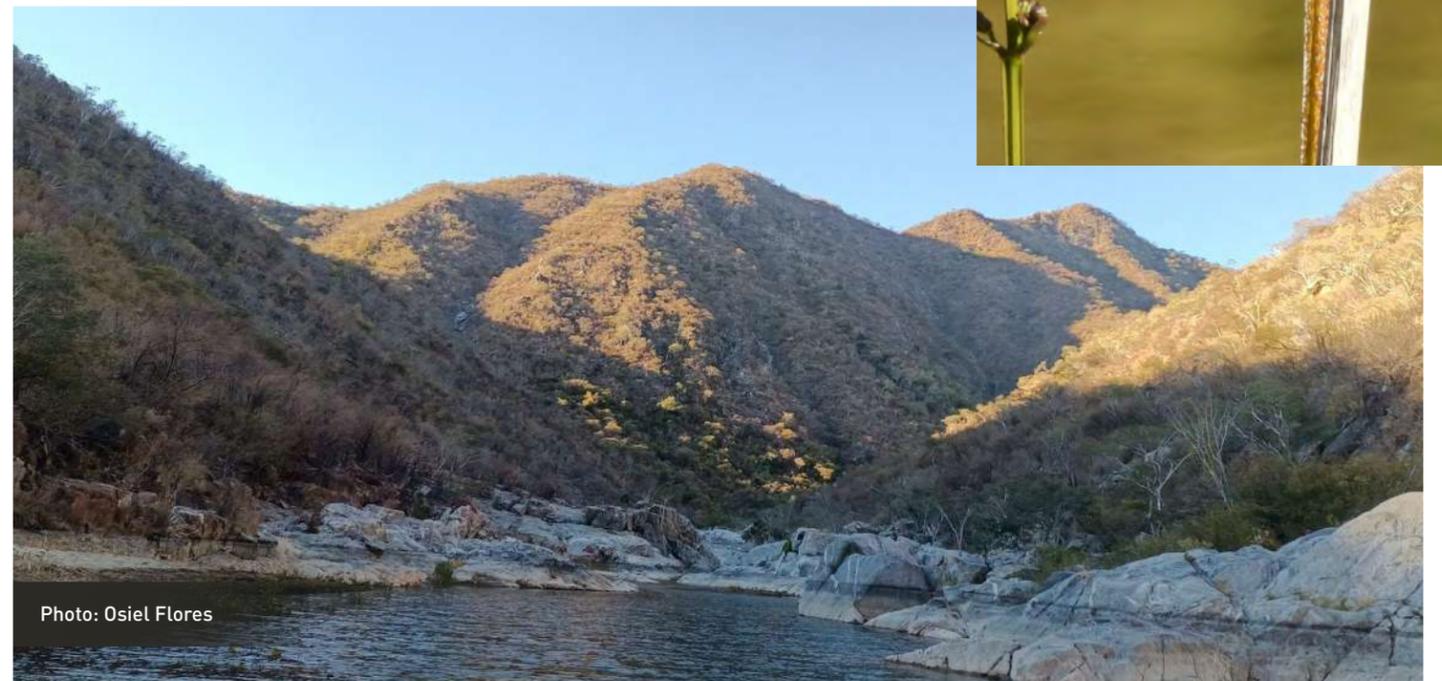
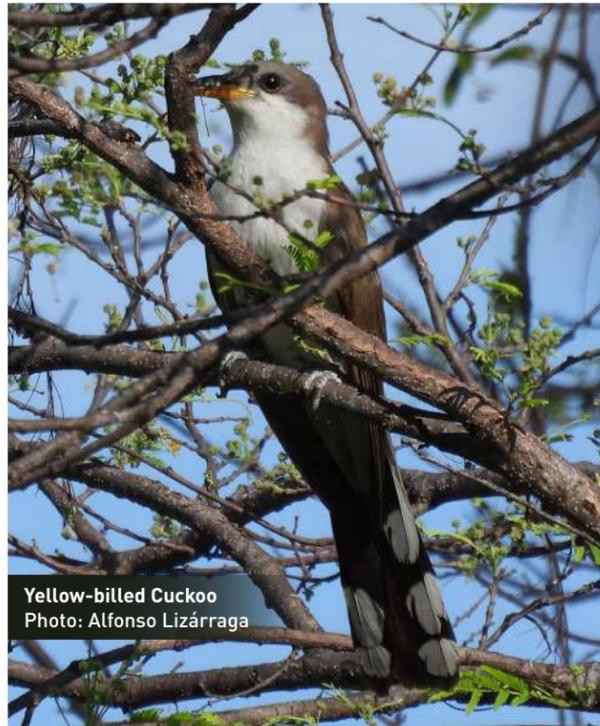


Photo: Osiel Flores



Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Photo: Alfonso Lizárraga



California Scrub-Jay
Photo: Alfonso Lizárraga



Cassin's Kingbird
Photo: Osiel Flores



Ash-throated Flycatcher
Photo: Alfonso Lizárraga



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Photo: Javier Alcalá Santoyo



Gray Trasher
Photo: Javier Alcalá Santoyo



COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

HIKING

Rural roads and trails around the village can be explored on self-guided walks, though local guides are also available. They are highly familiar with the best observation points and can share valuable insights about the area's flora, fauna, and cultural heritage.

The walking routes range from easy to moderate difficulty, making them ideal for visitors seeking an accessible and authentic avitourism experience.



CABO ADVENTURES

The ecotourism center operated by Cabo Adventures offers an experience that combines interpretive hiking and contact with nature.

Activities offered:

- Zipline
- UTV / Off-Road Tours
- Hiking / Natural Hiking



WHERE TO EAT

LOS AGAVES RESTAURANT

📍 [C. Carrera sn, 23520 Miraflores, B.C.S.](#)
 ⓘ [Restaurant Los Agaves](#)
 ☎ +52 624 161 2234



EL NIDITO RESTAURANT

📍 [23520 Miraflores, B.C.S.](#)



WHERE TO SLEEP

CABAÑAS FLOR DE PITAHAYA

📍 [23520 Miraflores, B.C.S.](#)
 ⓘ [Cabañas Flor de Pitahaya](#)
 ☎ +52 624 151 2507





GETTING THERE

Miraflores is located about 45 kilometers (28 miles) north of San José del Cabo and 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of La Paz, along the Transpeninsular Highway (Mexico 1).

From San José del Cabo: Take the Transpeninsular Highway north toward La Paz. The drive takes approximately 40 minutes.

From Cabo San Lucas: The trip covers about 70 kilometers (43 miles) and takes roughly one hour along the same route.

From La Paz: Drive south on the Transpeninsular Highway; the journey takes nearly two hours.

Access to the village is well signposted, and the route offers scenic views of the semi-desert landscape and the Sierra La Laguna mountain range. For travelers without a private vehicle, regional transportation services—such as colectivos (shared vans) and intercity buses—connect Los Cabos and La Paz, with scheduled stops in Miraflores.



KEY BIRDING CONTACTS

OSIEL ALEJANDRO FLORES ROSAS
PARK RANGER SIERRA LA LAGUNA BIOSPHERE RESERVE
☎ +52 612 107 2926

Originally from the community of San Dionisio, he currently serves as a Park Ranger at the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve, where he has worked for over 20 years in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. He also promotes community well-being through the implementation of restoration and conservation projects with productive purposes carried out within the reserve. Throughout his career, he has developed a strong passion for nature photography, particularly focused on birds.



SANTIAGO



The village of Santiago is a destination that combines nature, history, and tradition. Founded in the 18th century as a Jesuit mission, it still preserves its rural and peaceful atmosphere, surrounded by mango, date, and citrus orchards that are an essential part of its identity.



Photo: Edgardo Cortes

One of Santiago's main attractions is its proximity to the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve, a protected natural area that offers spectacular mountain scenery, hiking trails, and the opportunity to experience a wide variety of endemic flora and fauna up close.

The village is also known for its natural **hot springs and rustic spas, perfect for relaxing in a serene environment surrounded by nature.** From Santiago, visitors can also explore beautiful nearby sites such as **Cañón de la Zorra**, home to a stunning waterfall with crystal-clear waters and natural pools.



Great Egret
Photo: Michzur



OBSERVATION POINTS

SANTIAGO OASIS

The Oasis of Santiago is one of the most iconic places in the Sierra La Laguna and a **privileged destination for birdwatching in Baja California Sur**. Surrounded by palm groves, traditional orchards, and permanent bodies of water, this oasis serves as a vital refuge amid the peninsula's arid landscape, **attracting both resident and migratory bird species**.

In addition to its biological richness, **the Santiago Oasis is deeply connected to local history and culture**, having served as a source of water and life for nearby communities and ranches since Jesuit mission times. Its proximity to Fox Canyon (Cañón de la Zorra) and the region's natural hot springs further enriches the visitor experience, offering opportunities for hiking, photography, and other ecotourism activities.



HUERTA LA PALMA

At the heart of Santiago's oasis lies La Huerta La Palma, a traditional agricultural area that preserves the charm of Baja California Sur's historic orchards while providing a privileged habitat for birds.

The mosaic of fruit trees, shrubs, and water sources attracts an impressive diversity of species. Here, visitors can observe birds such as the **Gila Woodpecker, Xantus's Hummingbird, Northern Cardinal, Gray Thrasher, and Greater Roadrunner**.

During the winter season, the orchards come alive with **warblers, flycatchers, and vireos**, making it a rewarding site for birdwatching year-round.



SANTIAGO ECO-PARK

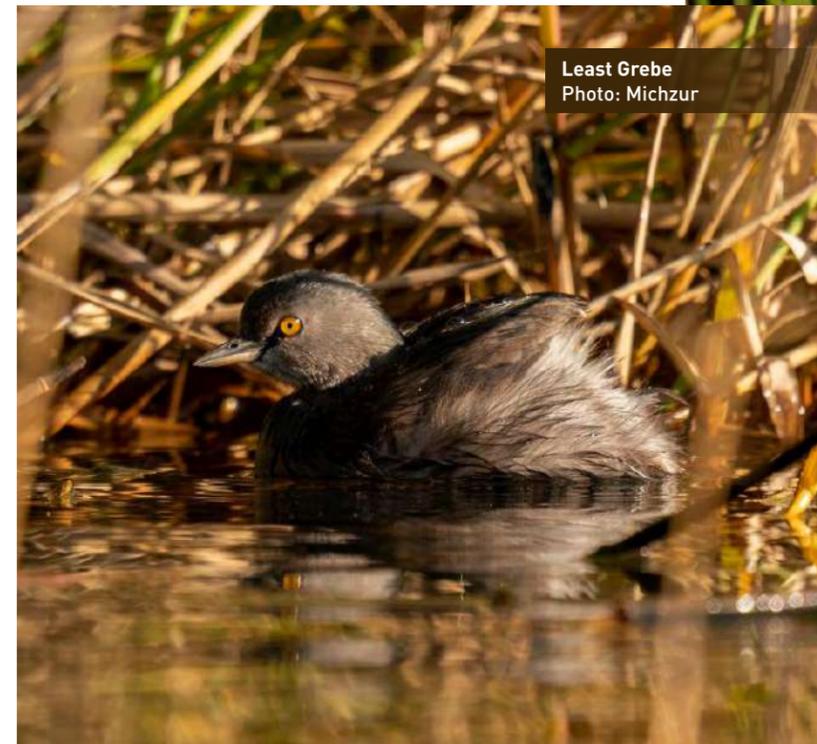
This space, **managed by the local community**, has indoor trails and areas of native vegetation, allowing an immersive experience for those looking to observe birds in their natural habitat.

The permanent presence of water, shade, and diverse vegetation makes the park a gathering point for a wide variety of regional bird species such as **Xantus's Hummingbird, Hooded Oriole, California Scrub-Jay, Gila Woodpecker, Cactus Wren, Verdin, and Pyrrhuloxia**.



TARGET SPECIES

It has **128 species** of birds. Among the most prominent species to be observed:



Least Grebe
Photo: Michzur



White Ibis
Photo: Michzur

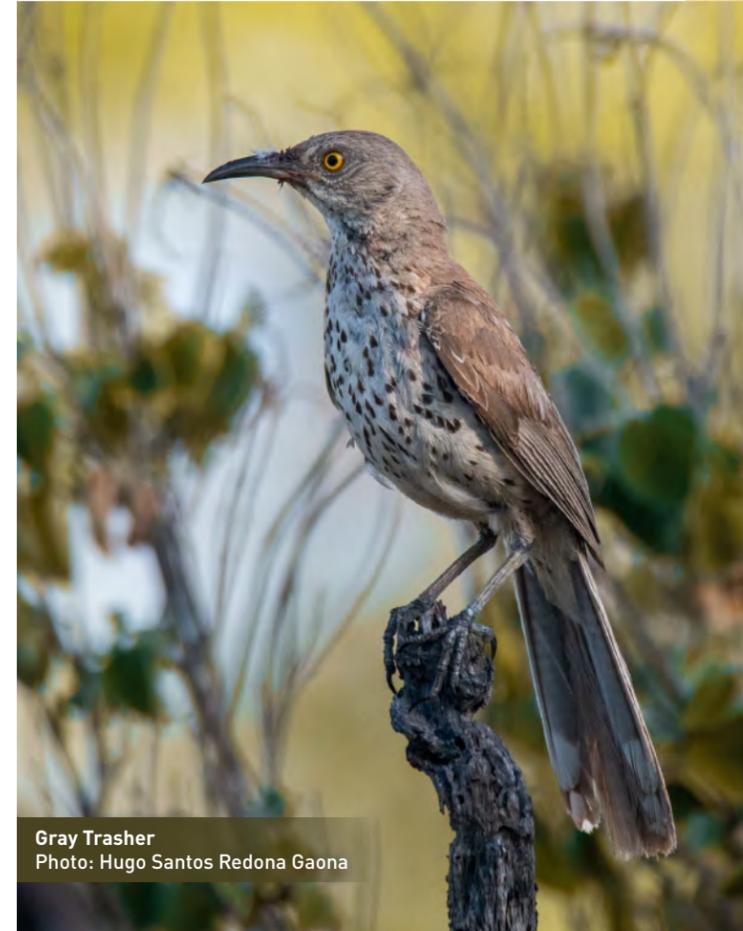
Great Blue Heron
Photo: Michzur



Hooded Oriole
Photo: Adrian de Antoni



Cactus Wren
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



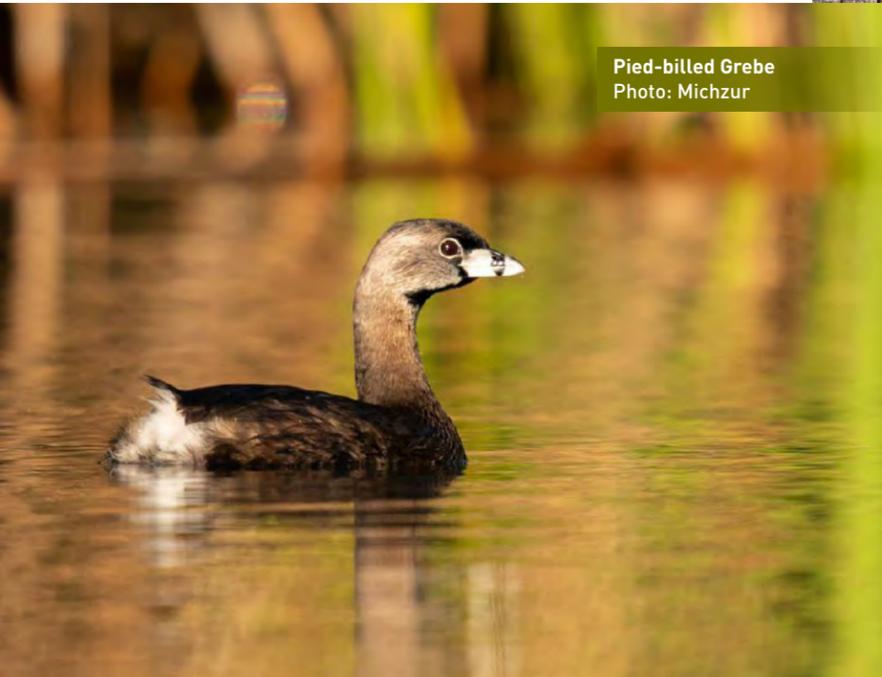
Gray Trasher
Photo: Hugo Santos Redona Gaona



Northern Cardinal
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Gila Woodpecker
Photo: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Pied-billed Grebe
Photo: Michzur



Green Heron
Photo: Michzur



Greater Roadrunner
Photo: Hugo Santos Redona Gaona



COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

KAYAK

Surrounded by native vegetation, the kayak ride through this oasis offers a total immersion experience in nature.

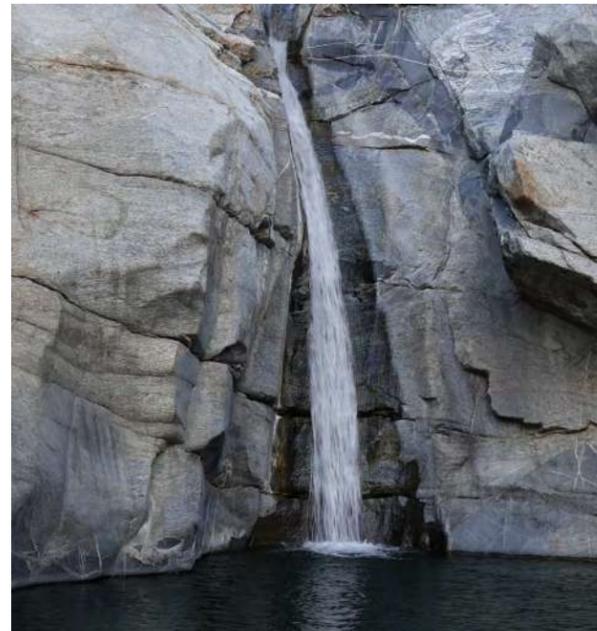
The tranquil waters of the pond allow safe and accessible navigation for people of all ages, ideal for beginners and those looking for a more contemplative and photographic experience. The activity can be complemented by interpretative hiking, bird watching, and visits to traditional local community orchards.



RANCHO ECOLÓGICO FLOR DE MAYO

The Rancho Ecológico Sol de Mayo is one of the most iconic destinations for aviturism and ecotourism in the Sierra de la Laguna.

Nestled in the vicinity of the Canyon of the Fox, this community ranch offers access to the famous Sol de Mayo waterfall, a natural landscape surrounded by rock formations, crystal clear water pools and riparian vegetation that creates an ideal habitat for a wide variety of birds.



WHERE TO EAT

PERICU RESTAURANT

📍 [Independencia, entre padre Carranco y Mutualismo, La loma, 23500 Santiago, B.C.S.](#)
(A un lado de la plaza pública del pueblo)
📍 Rest Pericú
☎ +52 624 243 7524



PALOMAR RESTAURANT BAR

📍 [MISIONEROS DE 1930, Calz. Maestros Misioneros de 1930 111, 23500 Santiago, B.C.S.](#)
📍 Palomar Restaurant-Bar Santiago bcs
☎ +52 624 176 8220



WHERE TO SLEEP

HOTEL DON JULIO

📍 [Aguiles Serdan, 23500 Santiago, B.C.S.](#)
☎ +52 624 159 1909



MISION 21 HOTEL BOUTIQUE

📍 [23500 Santiago, B.C.S.](#)
📍 Misión 21 Hotel Boutique





GETTING THERE

From San José del Cabo: Drive north on Federal Highway 1 for approximately 45 minutes (about 45 km / 28 mi).

From Cabo San Lucas: The journey takes around 1 hour and 30 minutes. Drive first to San José del Cabo, then continue north on Highway 1.

From La Paz: Take the same highway south; the trip takes about 2 hours and 30 minutes (approximately 130 km / 81 mi).

Public transportation: Buses and colectivos (shared vans) run between San José del Cabo and La Paz, stopping in Santiago, though schedules are limited.

From the airport: Los Cabos International Airport is located about 55 km (34 mi) away, roughly a 50-minute drive.



KEY BIRDING CONTACTS

EDGARDO CORTÉS

HUERTA LA PALMA
BAJA SIERRA ADVENTURES

+52 624 129 1495

edgardo@bajasierradventures.com

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MEXICAN ISLAND TERRITORY CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION (ISLA, A.C.)

Promoters of the protection of coastal and island ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, and sound environmental management of natural areas.



LA RIBERA



La Ribera is a peaceful coastal community located in the eastern part of the municipality of Los Cabos, in Baja California Sur, on the shores of the Sea of Cortes.

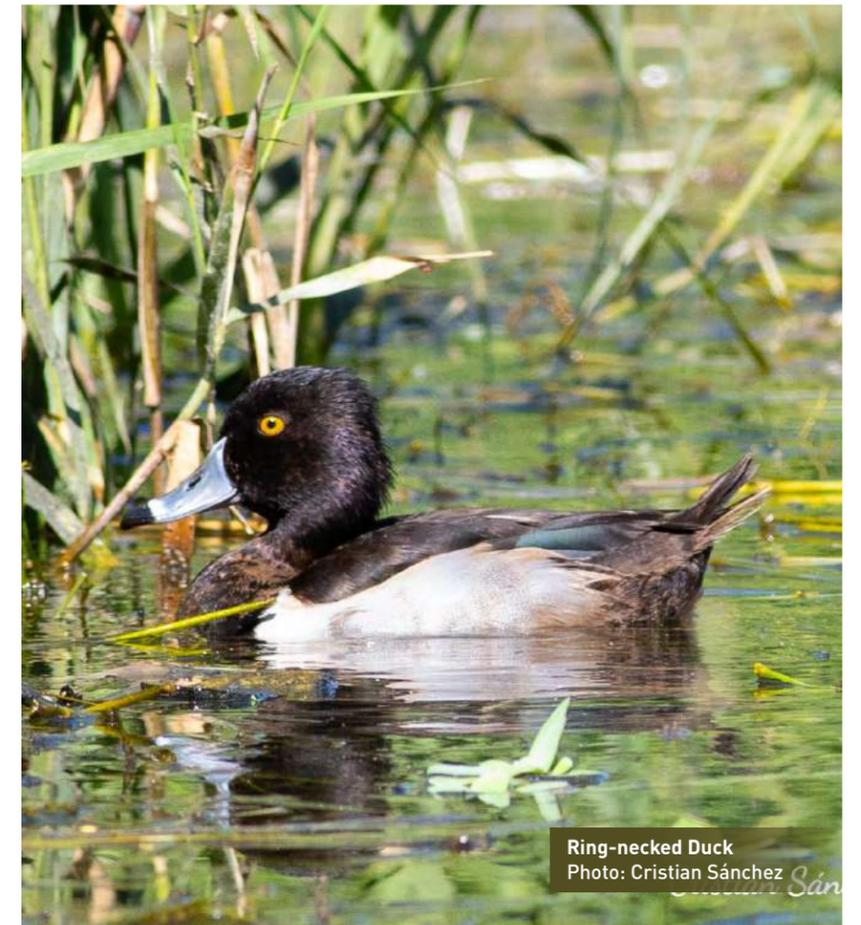
Photo: Natalia Montes

Located approximately 60 kilometers (37 miles) from San José del Cabo, La Ribera is part of the East Cape region, renowned for its pristine landscapes, crystal-clear waters, and relaxed atmosphere.

The town preserves the essence of a Baja California Sur coastal village, offering visitors the chance to experience local traditions, regional cuisine, and genuine hospitality. Its light-sand beaches and calm sea make it an ideal spot for nature-based tourism and outdoor recreation.

This destination is perfect for those seeking to escape the bustle of tourist cities and enjoy nature at its finest.

La Ribera also serves as one of the main gateways to **Cabo Pulmo National Park**, home to the only living coral reef in the Gulf of California and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Ring-necked Duck
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



OBSERVATION POINTS

EL SURGIDERO ESTUARY

This site is characterized by the presence of riverside vegetation, jungles, tulares (marshes), and open areas with shallow water, making it an ideal habitat for waterfowl such as herons, ducks, grebes, stilts, and skimmers.

In addition, the surrounding estuaries and dry coastal scrubland provide suitable conditions for terrestrial birds.

The Surgidero is a prime birdwatching location year-round, especially between **October and March**, when the presence of migratory birds is most prominent.

Ideal for both beginners and experienced birdwatchers, it offers exceptional photographic opportunities thanks to its serene landscape and morning light.



Cinnamon Teal
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Costa's Hummingbird
Photo: Paul Manuel Osvaldo Morin Torres



American Wigeon
Photo: Cristian Sánchez

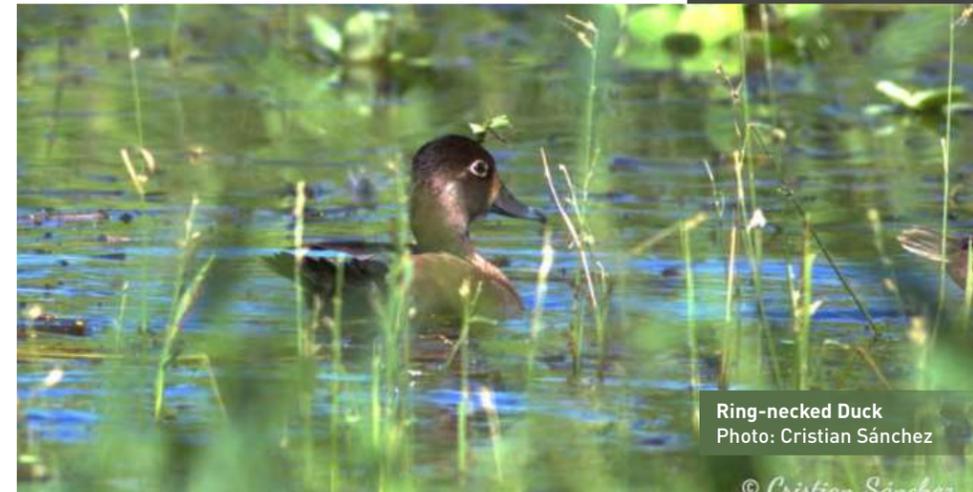


TARGET SPECIES

Currently, **177 bird species** have been recorded at the site, including several migratory ducks that make it a key location for resting, feeding, and breeding.

Three endemic species: **Belding's Yellowthroat**, **Xantus's Hummingbird**, and the **Baird's Junco**. Also present are herons such as the **Little Blue Heron**, **Tricolored Heron**, and **Reddish Egret**, along with a community of **Least Terns**.

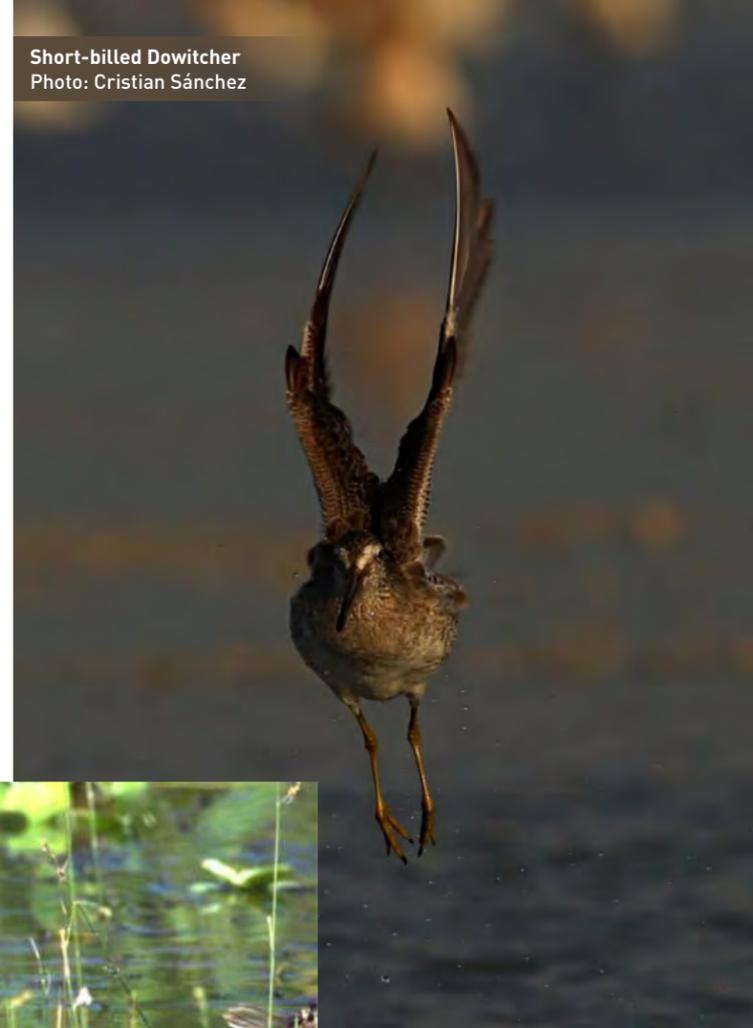
The target species for bird watchers at this site are:



Ring-necked Duck
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Ruddy Duck
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



Short-billed Dowitcher
Photo: Cristian Sánchez



COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

SPORT FISHING

La Ribera is renowned as one of the best sport fishing destinations in Baja California Sur. Its waters are home to iconic species such as marlin, mahi-mahi, tuna, and roosterfish, making it a paradise for sport fishing enthusiasts. Renowned tournaments are held here, and boats fully equipped for an unforgettable fishing experience are available for hire.

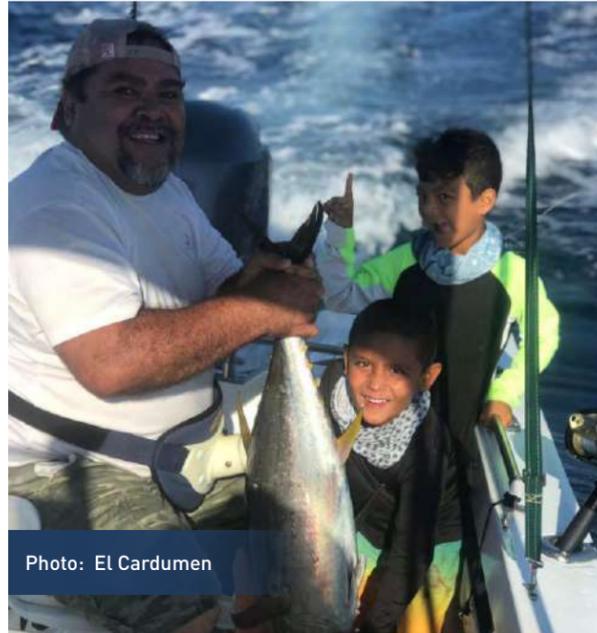


Photo: El Cardumen

DIVING IN THE CABO PULMO NATIONAL PARK

Diving at La Ribera and Cabo Pulmo is one of the most spectacular experiences offered by the Sea of Cortes, known as "The Aquarium of the World."

This coral reef is home to impressive biodiversity with more than 800 marine species, including shrimp schools, giant groupers, turtles, dolphins, bull sharks and stingrays.



Photo: El Cardumen



WHERE TO EAT

PROVIDENCIA RESTAURANTE BAR & GRILL

📍 [Calle Josefina Castillo, Entre 05 de Febrero, 23570 La Ribera, B.C.S.](#)

📍 [Providencia Restaurante Bar](#)

☎ +52 624 130 0161



SANTA MARIA SOCIAL BAR

📍 [Santa Maria, 23570 La Ribera, B.C.S.](#)

📍 [Santa Maria Social Bar](#)

☎ +52 624 265 8885



WHERE TO SLEEP

CABAÑAS VISTA LA RIBERA HOTEL & RESTAURANT

📍 [Parque Nacional Cabo Pulmo, Camino Cabo Este Km. 13.5, 23570 La Ribera, B.C.S.](#)

📍 [Hotel Boutique Vista La Ribera](#)

☎ + 52 624 157 6146



SAN JORGE HOTEL

📍 [Ave. Sta Maria de la Ribera, C. Mar de Cortés Esq., 23570 La Ribera, B.C.S.](#)

📍 [Hotel San Jorge](#)

☎ +52 624 130 0022





GETTING THERE

From San José del Cabo: Take the Transpeninsular Federal Highway (Highway 1) heading north. After approximately 50 km, in the community of Las Cuevas, take the turnoff east onto the state road leading to La Ribera (paved road). Continue for about 20 km until you reach the town.

Once in La Ribera, follow the main streets toward the coast.

The estuary is located at the southeastern end of the town, near the mouth of the stream. You can drive to a nearby area, then walk a few minutes along a sandy trail to access the wetland.



Magnificent Frigatebird
Photo: Alfonso Lizarraga



KEY BIRDING CONTACTS



REINA MACKLIS

MAR "WOMEN OF ACTION AND RESILIENCE"

+52 624 132 2032

- A woman of the sea and coastal roots. A native of the community of La Ribera, she is part of the collective MAR, Women of Action and Resilience.
- MAR seeks to contribute to the conservation of the biocultural richness of this piece of land; its mission is to weave hope among neighbors and plant a future for those to come.



KITZIA DANIEL

DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER OF BUENAFORTUNA GARDENS

+52 624 147 1086

- Buena Fortuna Gardens, Botanical Reserve and Bird Sanctuary since 1999.
- With over 25 years in biodiversity preservation, she integrates ancestral knowledge and organic technologies into conservation and ecotourism projects.



ALVARO SAN JOSÉ

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST, GRADUATE OF UABC
ENSENADA

+52 55 2690 0193

- He later worked as a technician monitoring seabirds and shorebirds in various conservation projects throughout Northwestern Mexico.
- He is currently dedicated to birdwatching tourism, both on land and at sea, along the Peninsula.
- He is also an avid user of eBird and iNaturalist, ranking among the top 100 contributors for species in Mexico.

THE SIERRA DE LA LAGUNA BIOSPHERE RESERVE



The Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve is a Protected Natural Area and one of the most important ecological treasures of the state.

Photo: Adrián de Antoni

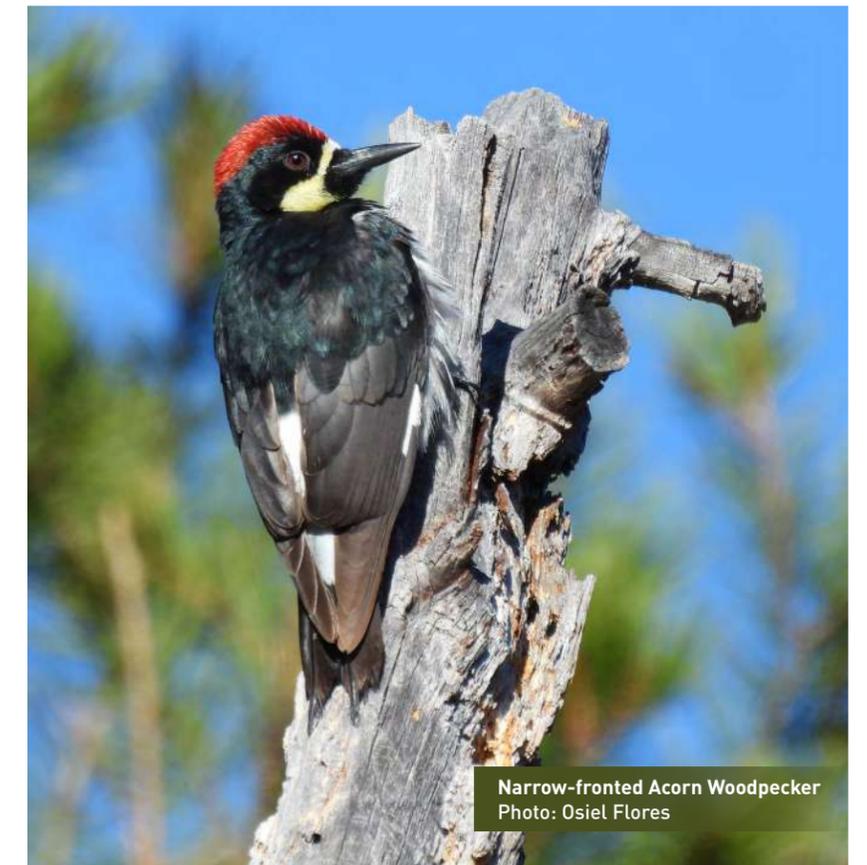
This majestic biological island in the middle of the desert is characterized by its diverse vegetation types, ranging from xerophilous scrub and tropical deciduous forests to pine-oak forests in the higher elevations.

This altitudinal and habitat variation creates ideal conditions for a wide range of bird species.

More than **184 bird species** have been recorded, many of which use the Sierra as a permanent refuge or a stopover site during migration.

The area is also home to **3 endemic species** and **14 near-endemic species**.

Various trails and routes allow visitors to explore the forest and canyons—perfect for birdwatching in their natural habitat, especially during the early morning or at sunset.



Narrow-fronted Acorn Woodpecker
Photo: Osiel Flores



OBSERVATION POINTS

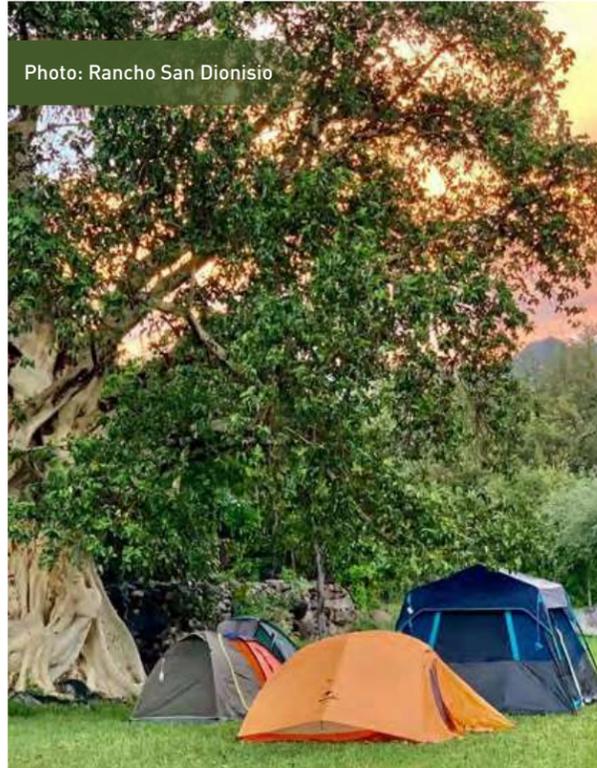


Photo: Rancho San Dionisio

SAN DIONISIO RANCH

Located north of the town of Santiago, this traditional ranch is the gateway to the **San Dionisio Canyon**, a site known for its **spectacular rock formations, deep canyons, and crystal-clear streams**.

It represents one of the best examples of rural life in Southern Baja California, where local families keep their traditions alive through livestock ranching, cheese making, and sustainable resource management. Visitors can enjoy ranch hospitality, learn about daily life in the mountains, and immerse themselves in a peaceful, natural environment.

This site is notable for the presence of species such as **Xantus's Hummingbird**, the **Spotted Towhee**, and the **California Towhee**.

EL REFUGIO ECOLOGICAL RANCH

El Refugio is a space dedicated to **nature conservation and low-impact tourism**. Surrounded by mountainous landscapes, streams, and typical desert and tropical dry forest vegetation, this site offers visitors the chance to experience Southern Baja California's rural life in harmony with the environment.

Here, visitors can enjoy interpretive trails, learn about medicinal plants, taste local products, and take part in activities related to ranch culture.

This site is especially notable for the presence of species such as the **Baja Pygmy Owl**.



Cape Pygmy Owl
Photo: Osiel Flores



Xantus's Hummingbird
Photo: Fanny Noriega Rivera



Elf Owl
Photo: Adrian de Antoni



San Lucas Robin
Photo: Osiel Flores



Elf Owl
Photo: Osiel Flores



Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Photo: Osiel Flores



Oak Titmouse
Photo: Osiel Flores



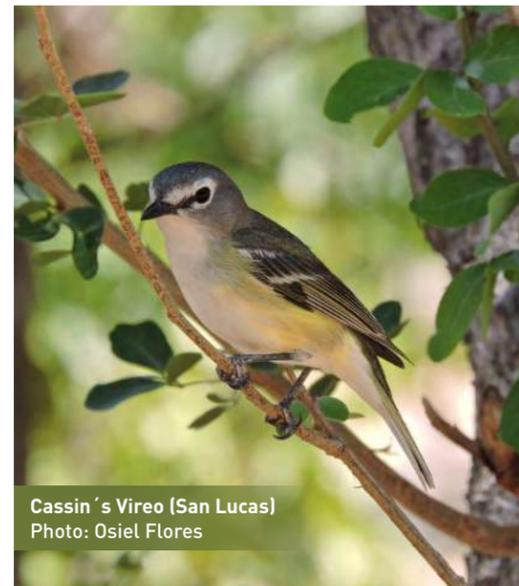
Xantus's Hummingbird
Photo: Osiel Flores



White-breasted Nuthatch
Photo: Osiel Flores



Banded-tailed Pigeon
Photo: Osiel Flores



Cassin's Vireo (San Lucas)
Photo: Osiel Flores



Hutton's Vireo
Photo: Osiel Flores



Western Wood-Pewee
Photo: Osiel Flores



Gray Trasher
Photo: Osiel Flores



Baird's Junco
Photo: Osiel Flores



Spotted Towhee
Photo: Osiel Flores



Hutton's Vireo
Photo: Osiel Flores



Lesser Nighthawk
Photo: Osiel Flores



Rufus-crowned Sparrow
Photo: Osiel Flores



COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

HIKING

There are several main access points to begin hiking routes: La Burrera, San Dionisio, Cañón de la Zorra, Santiago, El Portón, among others.

Routes vary in technical difficulty, distance, and elevation gain. There are moderate one- or two-day hikes leading to Segundo Valle, scenic viewpoints, or high points such as El Picacho, as well as longer routes for those seeking more of a challenge.



CAMPING

Camping in the Sierra de la Laguna is one of the best ways to connect with nature, experience the mountains under the stars, and wake up in serenity amidst one of the peninsula's most diverse ecosystems.

In this protected area, there are designated camping sites along trails such as San Dionisio-Cumbre, Cañón de la Zorra, and other internal routes that allow overnight stays under the clear sky. It is essential to camp only in authorized areas.



WHERE TO EAT AND SLEEP

Because the Sierra la Laguna Biosphere Reserve is a remote site, the food and lodging recommendation is included on the same site.

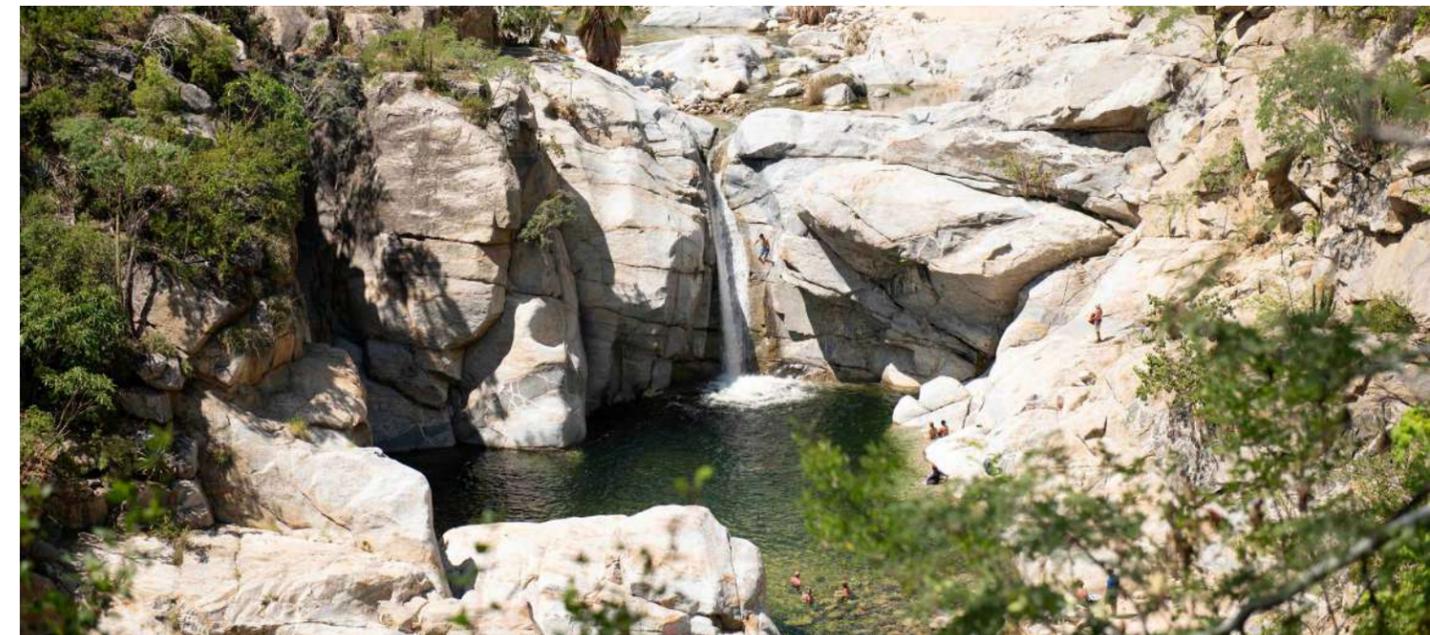
EL REFUGIO ECOLOGICAL RANCH

📍 [Rancho, 23500 El Refugio, B.C.S.](#)
📍 [Rancho Ecológico el Refugio](#)
☎ +52 624155 5975



SAN DIONISIO RANCHO

📍 [Rancho San Dionisio, 23500 Santiago, B.C.S.](#)
📍 [Rancho San Dionisio BCS](#)
☎ +17 206 608 522





GETTING THERE

The reserve can be accessed from several points:

Santiago: From here, you can reach sites such as Rancho Ecológico Sol de Mayo and the San Dionisio Canyon, with trailheads leading into the Sierra.

Todos Santos: Offers hiking trails that connect to the lower parts of the reserve.

La Burrera: Access road to the pine-oak forest, ideal for birdwatchers looking for highland species.

From La Paz (Recommended Entry Points):

San Antonio and El Triunfo: Historic mining communities that serve as gateways to mountain trails.

Todos Santos: On the quieter side of the peninsula, with access to coastal and transition trails leading into the Sierra.

Within the reserve are Rancho Sierra La Laguna, Cañón de San Dionisio, San Antonio de la Sierra, and El Picacho. These are important birdwatching sites and are described in detail below.



SITES WITHIN THE RESERVE

RANCHO SIERRA LA LAGUNA

Located in the upper part of the Sierra de la Laguna, in the area known as the “**Segundo Valle**”, at approximately 1,800 meters above sea level.

Surrounded by pine-oak forests, crystal-clear streams, and rich biodiversity, the ranch offers experiences such as hiking, camping, and the observation of endemic flora and fauna, along with the opportunity to engage with the region’s rural culture.

At over 1,800 meters above sea level, it is accessible only by mountain roads, making it a remote destination—perfect for contemplation and ecotourism. **It is best visited between October and May. Visitors are advised to bring supplies, wear appropriate clothing for changing weather conditions, and follow low-impact environmental practices.**

SAN DIONISIO CANYON

San Dionisio Canyon is located in the upper part of the Santiago watershed, at the foothills of the Sierra de la Laguna.

It is a place of great scenic beauty and ecological value, characterized by its deep ravine, rock formations, crystal-clear pools, and lush vegetation that ranges from xerophilous scrub to tropical dry forest, with transitions into gallery forest and riparian vegetation.

This canyon is an important site for birdwatching due to its location between the oasis of Santiago and the temperate forests of the Sierra. Its diversity of habitats makes it **a key biological corridor for both resident and migratory birds.**

The constant presence of water in streams and pools supports the activity of numerous bird species, many of which are difficult to spot in other, more arid regions of the peninsula.

TRAIL TO EL PICACHO

El Picacho rises majestically to about 1,980 meters above sea level within the Sierra de la Laguna. It is the highest accessible point in the range and offers spectacular views—on clear days, you can see both the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortes.

The ascent route crosses a variety of ecosystems: it begins in semi-arid shrublands, climbs through oak and pine forests, and ends in rocky slopes and highland meadows. This variety allows visitors to observe a wide range of endemic flora and fauna.

For those who enjoy hiking, birdwatching, or simply seek a nature escape, El Picacho offers a moderate challenge. **The climb requires good physical condition and preparation, along with appropriate gear: sturdy footwear, sun protection, plenty of water, and warm clothing for the colder high-altitude temperatures.**



Photo: Rancho Sierra La Laguna



KEY BIRDING CONTACTS

OSIEL ALEJANDRO FLORES ROSAS
 PARK RANGER SIERRA DE LA LAGUNA BIOSPHERE
 RESERVE
 ☎ +52 612 107 2926

Originally from the community of San Dionisio, he is currently a Park Ranger at the Sierra de la Laguna Protected Natural Area (ANP), where he has worked for 20 years in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. He also promotes community well-being.



LIC. ROGELIO ROSAS LÓPEZ (CHUCKY)
 MANAGER OF EL REFUGIO ECOLOGICAL RANCH
 ☎ +52 624 155 5975

- Pioneer in promoting community-based birdwatching tourism in Baja California Sur.
- Dedicated to ecotourism and environmental activities.



Dr. JOSÉ EMER GARCÍA DE LA PUNETE OROZCO
 HEAD OF THE HABITAT AND KEY SPECIES CONSERVATION
 LABORATORY - UABCS
 ☎ +52 612 159 1760

Author of the Bird Guide of the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve (REBIOSLA). He holds academic training in natural resources, biodiversity, conservation, and eco-/birdwatching tourism. He has authored theses, publications, and book chapters on community-based tourism and best practices for birdwatching, notably including the study, design, and characterization of a birdwatching trail in San Antonio de la Sierra.

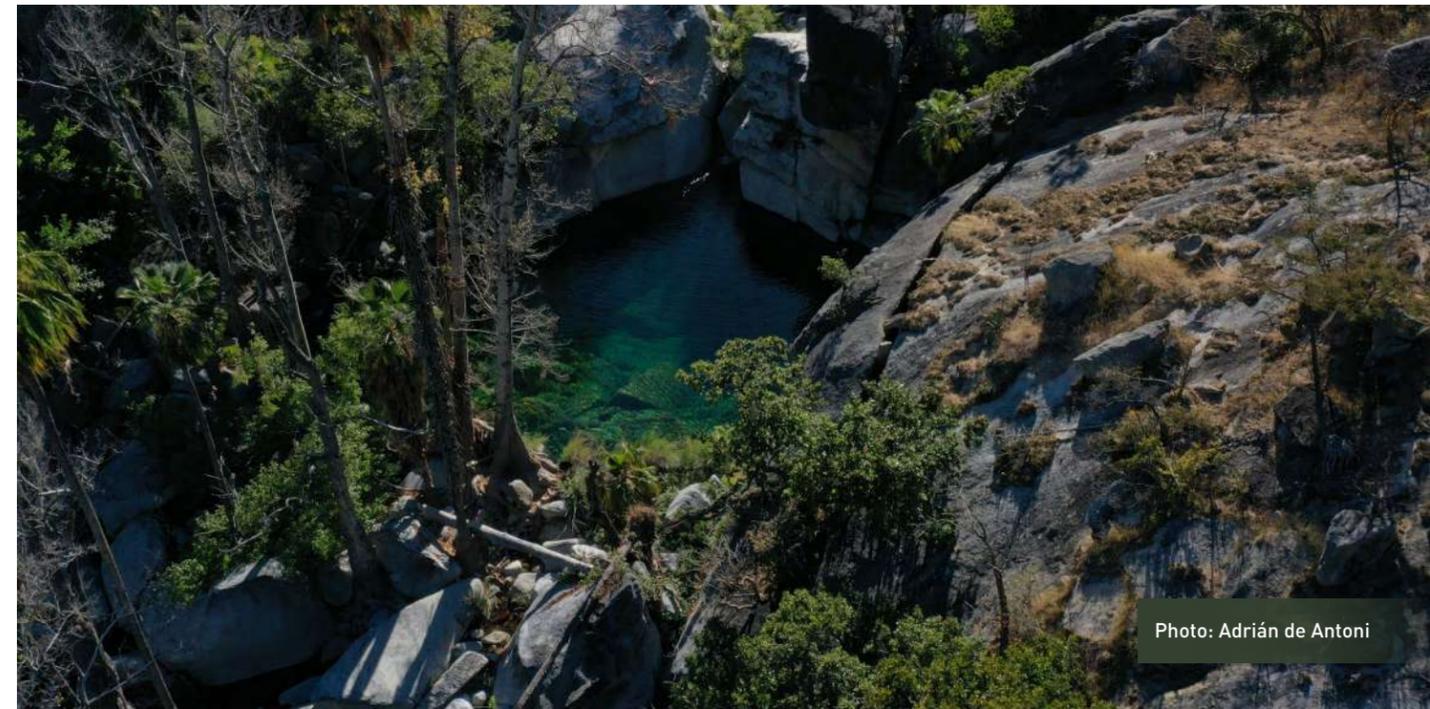


Photo: Adrián de Antoni

SAN ANTONIO DE LA SIERRA



Located in the heart of the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve in Baja California Sur, the community of San Antonio de la Sierra is a prime example of how birdwatching tourism can be integrated as a tool for conservation and community development.

Habitat Conservation Laboratory and
Key Species UABCS Los Cabos

With over 180 recorded species, including 3 endemic species and 14 endemic subspecies, San Antonio de la Sierra has positioned itself as an emerging destination for nature-based tourism. Despite its geographic isolation and traditional reliance on activities such as livestock ranching, local residents have shown a growing interest in diversifying their economy through sustainable practices.

Along its trails, visitors can observe resident, migratory, rare, and vagrant birds, thanks to the combination of altitude, microclimates, and vegetation. The route also integrates local knowledge about the birds.



San Lucas Robin
Photo: Alfonso Lizárraga



OBSERVATION POINTS

ARROYO DE LA CHOYA

Arroyo de La Choya is one of the most spectacular and least explored corners of the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve, in southern Baja California Sur.

Originating in the highlands of San Antonio de la Sierra, this crystal-clear stream winds through canyons, pine-oak forests, and tropical deciduous forests, creating a privileged ecosystem for birdwatching.

This permanent watercourse provides shade, moisture, and food throughout the year, making it a natural refuge for dozens of resident and migratory bird species.

LA VICTORIA

Located at the top of the San Antonio de la Sierra watershed, La Victoria is one of the most representative birdwatching sites within the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve.

This remote location, though difficult to access, holds great ecological value. It is distinguished by its peacefulness, mountain landscapes, and the presence of temperate pine and oak forests that shelter a rich diversity of endemic and migratory species.



Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve



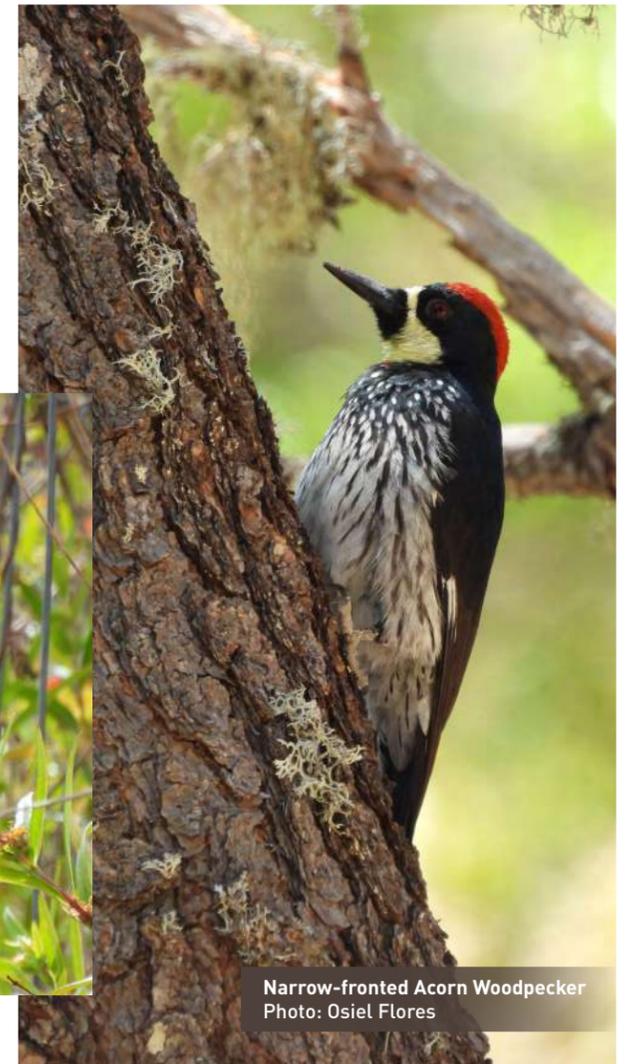
TARGET SPECIES



Xantus Hummingbird
Photo: Osiel Flores



Elf Owl
Photo: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Narrow-fronted Acorn Woodpecker
Photo: Osiel Flores

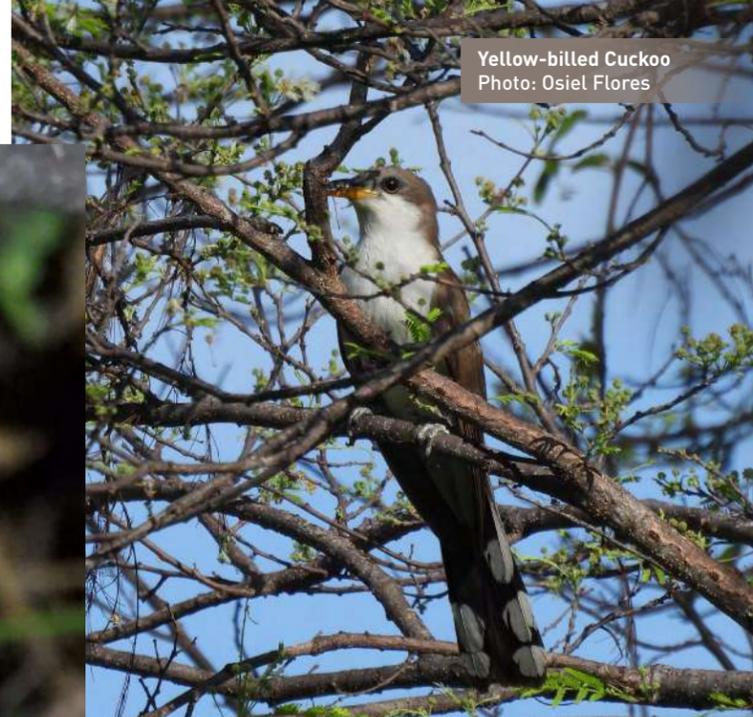


Rufus-crowned Sparrow
Photo: Osiel Flores

Great Horned Owl
Photo: Osiel Flores



Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Photo: Osiel Flores



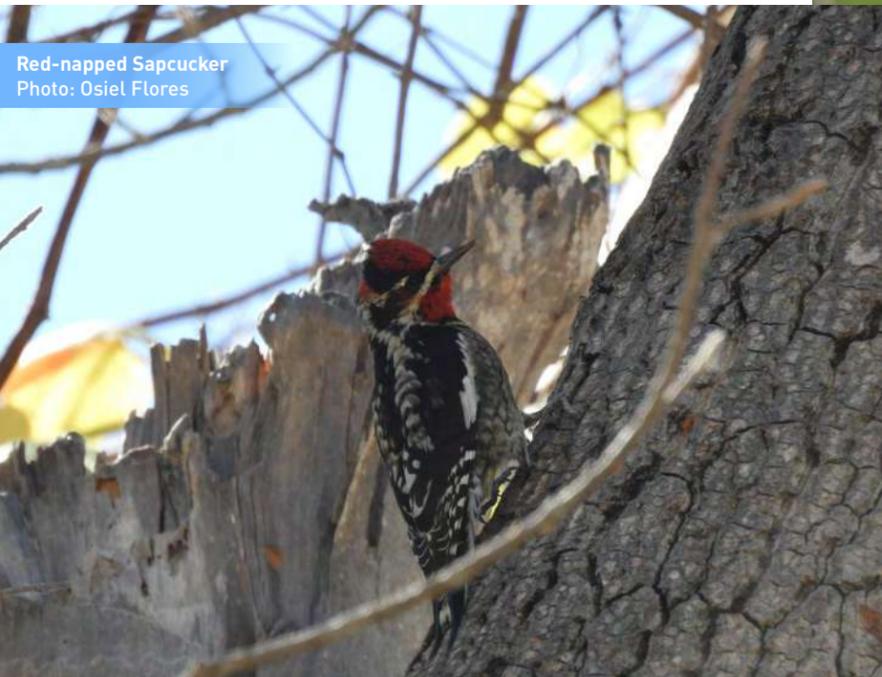
Spotted Towhee
Photo: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyor

Elf Owl
Photo: Osiel Flores



Lesser Nighthawk
Photo: Osiel Flores

Red-napped Sapsucker
Photo: Osiel Flores



Yellow-breasted Chat
Photo: Osiel Flores



Townsend's Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



Golden Eagle
Photo: Osiel Flores



Wilson's Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



Black and White Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



Orange-crowned Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



MacGillivray's Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



Tropical Parula
Photo: Osiel Flores



Black-throated Gray Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



Northern Waterthrush
Photo: Osiel Flores



Yellow-rumped Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



Hooded Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



Chestnut-sided Warbler
Photo: Osiel Flores



Lincoln's Sparrow
Photo: Osiel Flores



Chipping Sparrow
Photo: Osiel Flores



Black-chinned Sparrow
Photo: Osiel Flores



Green-tailed Towhee
Photo: Osiel Flores



White-crowned Sparrow
Photo: Osiel Flores



Brewer's Sparrow
Photo: Osiel Flores



Cooper's Hawk
Photo: Osiel Flores



Red-tailed Hawk
Photo: Osiel Flores



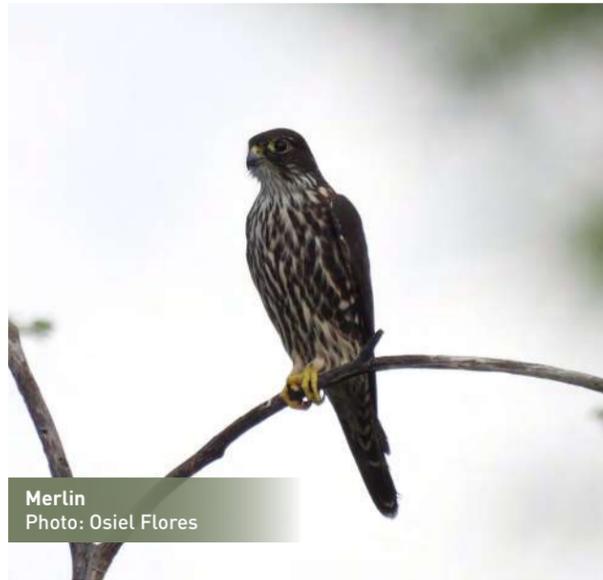
American Kestrel
Photo: Osiel Flores



Sharp-shinned Hawk
Photo: Osiel Flores



Lazuli Bunting
Photo: Osiel Flores



Merlin
Photo: Osiel Flores



Varied Bunting
Photo: Osiel Flores



Cedar Waxwing
Photo: Osiel Flores



Zone-tailed Hawk
Photo: Osiel Flores



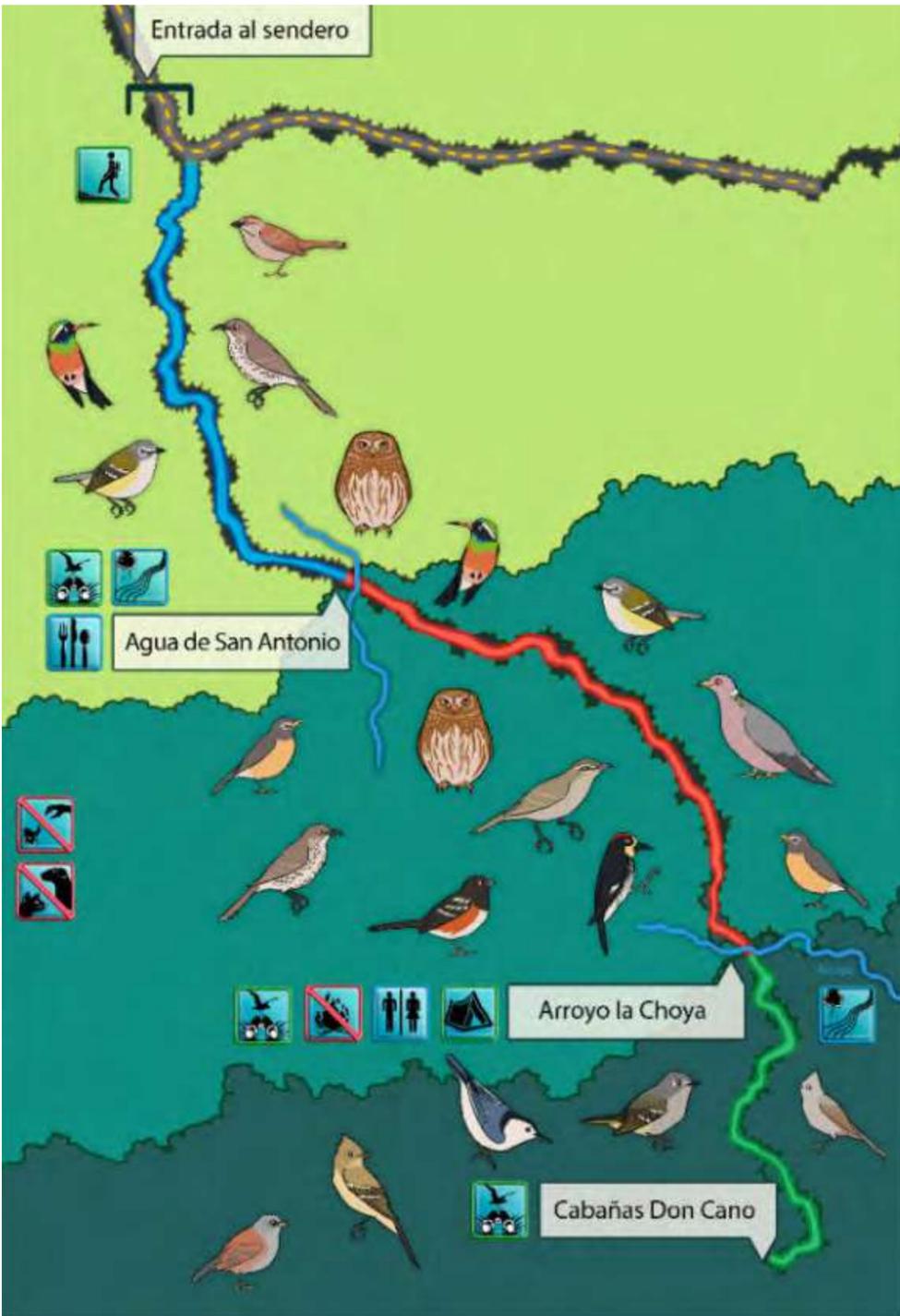
Summer Tanager
Photo: Osiel Flores



Blue Grosbeak
Photo: Osiel Flores



Lesser Goldfinch
Photo: Osiel Flores



RUTA DE OBSERVACIÓN DE AVES DE SAN ANTONIO DE LA SIERRA

Bienvenidos a la ruta de observación de aves de San Antonio de la Sierra, una de las más reconocidas en Baja California Sur. Esta región, originalmente dedicada a la minería, forma parte del polígono de la Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra de la Laguna. En esta ruta puedes observar alrededor de 100 especies distintas de aves distintas de las cuales son endémicas 3 especies y 11 subespecies.

Te encuentras en un Área Natural Protegida por lo que te recomendamos respetar las normas y señalamientos. Recuerda pagar tu tenencia y acceder a la ruta con la cual obtendrás un bracciate. No portar bracciate implica una infracción a la ley; exigible a tu proveedor de servicio o guía.

Welcome to the bird watching route of San Antonio de la Sierra, one of the most recognized in Baja California Sur. This region, originally dedicated to mining, is part of the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve polygon. On this route you can observe around 100 different species of birds where 3 species and 11 subspecies are endemic. You are in a Natural Protected Area so we remind you to respect the rules and signs. Remember to pay your tenure and access to the route with which you will get a bracciate. Not wearing a bracciate implies a violation of the law; demand it from your service provider or guide.



COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

CAMPING

The clean waters of Arroyo La Choya, flanked by dense oak and pine forests, offer a **perfect setting for those seeking an authentic camping experience immersed in nature.**

Far from conventional tourist routes, this hidden corner is ideal for those looking to disconnect from urban noise and reconnect with the peace, biodiversity, and star-filled skies of the Sierra.

HIKING

San Antonio de la Sierra offers natural trails ideal for walks through pools, canyons, and lush vegetation.

Along the way, it's common to observe endemic birds, butterflies, native flora, and traces of wildlife.

Hikes can be done independently or with local guides and are best enjoyed during the dry season (November to May). It is recommended to wear appropriate footwear, bring plenty of water, wear comfortable clothing, and maintain a respectful attitude toward the environment.



WHERE TO EAT AND SLEEP

Because the Sierra la Laguna Biosphere Reserve is a remote site, the food and lodging recommendation is included on the same site.

RANCH SAN JOSE DEL RANCHO

📍 Los Algodones, Mexico B.C.S MX, Camino Rancho Supermanzana Predio, San Jose, 23400 San José del Cabo.
 📞 Cristina Cota Trasviño
 +52 612 160 0758





HOW TO GET THERE

San Antonio de la Sierra is a small mountain community located in the heart of the Sierra de la Laguna, in southern Baja California Sur.

Access is not via a paved road, as it is a remote and mountainous area—ideal for those seeking adventure, nature, and tranquility.

From La Paz, take the Transpeninsular Highway (Mexico 1) heading toward San José del Cabo.

After approximately 50 km, you will reach the town of San Antonio. From there, look for the turnoff onto the dirt road leading to the community of San Juan de los Planes and, further on, to San Antonio de la Sierra.

This dirt road crosses the Sierra de la Laguna.

A four-wheel-drive (4x4) vehicle and experience driving on rural roads are essential.



Habitat Conservation Laboratory and Key Species UABCS Los Cabos



KEY BIRDING CONTACTS



Photo: Maquecho

CRISTINA COTA TRASVIÑO

COMMUNITY LEADER, ENTREPRENEUR, AND ADVOCATE OF RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

+52 612 160 0758

A community leader committed to the conservation of birdlife in the Sierra de la Laguna.

She has led various local initiatives focused on protecting the natural environment and promoting birdwatching tourism as a sustainable alternative for rural communities.



Photo: Maquecho

LUIS ALBERTO COSIO NUÑEZ

RANCHO LA ESCUELA

+52 612 219 7174

A rancher dedicated to traditional livestock farming with extensive knowledge of the trails shares with visitors and observers his experience in locating endemic birds and his connection with the rural landscape of Baja California Sur.



Photo: Maquecho

Dr. JOSÉ EMER GARCÍA DE LA PUNETE OROZCO

HEAD OF THE HABITAT AND KEY SPECIES CONSERVATION LABORATORY - UABCS

+52 624 147 1086

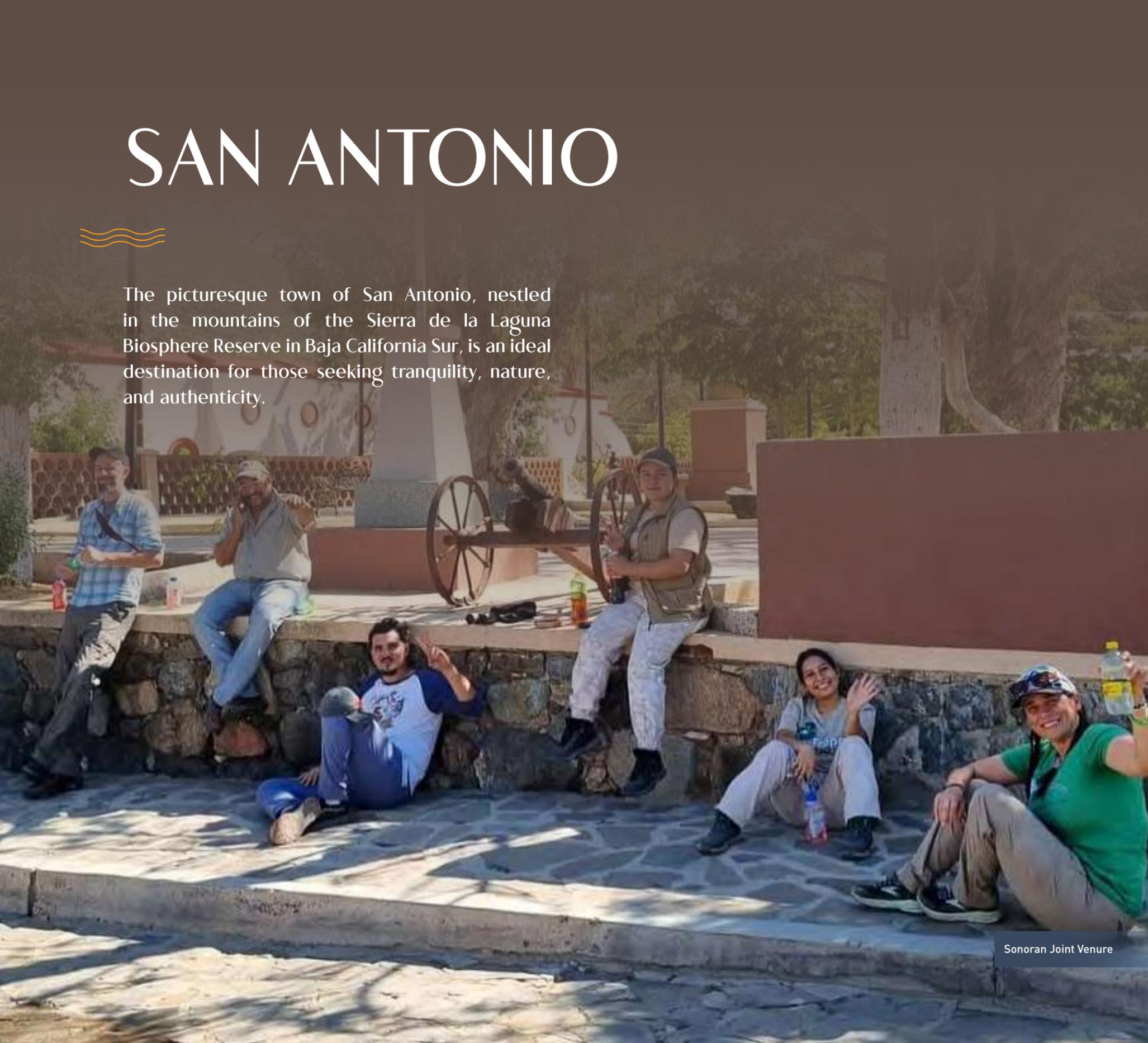
With extensive experience in ornithology, sustainable tourism, and community-based conservation, he has served as a community advisor and facilitator in the San Antonio de la Sierra region since 2015, working closely with CONANP and various environmental organizations.

His work in San Antonio has fostered local capacity building, the development of birdwatching trails, and the integration of birdwatching tourism as a strategy for both development and conservation. He is the author of the Quick Bird Guide of the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve.

SAN ANTONIO



The picturesque town of San Antonio, nestled in the mountains of the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve in Baja California Sur, is an ideal destination for those seeking tranquility, nature, and authenticity.



Sonoran Joint Venure

Surrounded by oak and pine forests, this small rural settlement maintains a slow-paced lifestyle and a deep connection with its natural surroundings. Its inhabitants—guardians of traditional knowledge and local biodiversity—actively participate in conservation and community-based ecotourism initiatives.

From San Antonio, visitors can explore the Sierra's trails, streams, and scenic viewpoints, as well as enjoy activities such as birdwatching, camping, interpretive walks, and artisan workshops. The mild climate, fresh air, and warm hospitality make this town an ideal refuge to disconnect from the modern world and reconnect with the land in one of the most biodiverse and protected ecosystems of the peninsula.



Xantus's Hummingbird
Photo: Osiel Flores



OBSERVATION POINTS

TEXCALAMA

Texcalama is an old ranching settlement located north of the town of San Antonio de la Sierra, nestled in the heart of the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve.

Surrounded by deep canyons, pine-oak forests, and permanent springs, this site is one of the region's richest in biodiversity and a hidden gem for birdwatching, with over 60 bird species recorded.

The ranching community has begun to engage in nature tourism, offering guided tours, traditional meals, and rustic lodging—contributing to local development and the conservation of their environment. The route to Texcalama involves moderate-difficulty hikes, making it recommended for dedicated birdwatchers in good physical condition and with a spirit of exploration.



Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Photo: Osiel Flores



Cape Pigmy Owl
Photo: Osiel Flores



TARGET SPECIES

Target species for birdwatchers at this site include:



Narrow-fronted Acorn Woodpecker
Photo: Osiel Flores



Northern Cardinal
Photo: Osiel Flores



White-breasted Nuthatch
Photo: Osiel Flores



COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

MAQUECHO

El Festival de la Machaca, Queso y Chorizo en San Antonio, es una celebración gastronómica que honra la rica tradición culinaria de las comunidades serranas de Baja California Sur.

Este evento anual reúne a familias locales y visitantes para compartir y disfrutar de tres productos emblemáticos de la vida rural: la machaca de res secada al sol, el queso fresco artesanal y el chorizo casero preparado con recetas heredadas por generaciones.

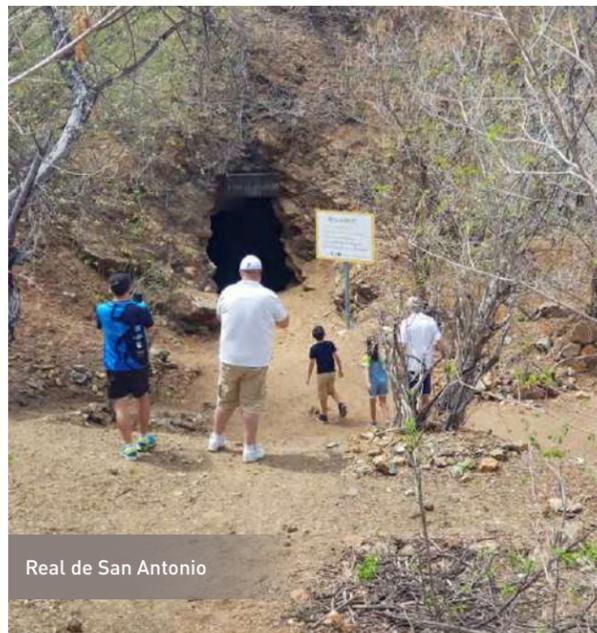
Durante el festival, los asistentes pueden degustar platillos típicos como burritos, gorditas, quesadillas y salsas serranas, mientras disfrutan de música regional en vivo, bailes folklóricos, concursos, juegos tradicionales y exposiciones de artesanías.



MINES

Visiting the ancient mines of San Antonio in Baja California Sur is a fascinating experience that blends history, nature, and culture in a unique setting. Along with El Triunfo, the town of San Antonio was one of the most important mining centers in the state during the 19th century, experiencing a boom in gold and silver extraction.

Today, remnants of that era can still be found among the hills: ruins of mining estates, abandoned tunnels, brick kilns, and old smelting furnaces, all surrounded by desert and dry forest vegetation.



Real de San Antonio



WHERE TO EAT

“AVES DEL REAL” DINER

📍 [Carretera transpeninsular, San Antonio, Baja California Sur, 23200](#)

📍 [Loncheria “Aves del Real”](#)



“LOS AMADOR” GRILL

📍 [Carr. Transpeninsular, San Antonio, 23200 La Paz, B.C.S.](#)

📍 [Parrillada “Los Amador”](#)

☎ + 52 612 202 3113



WHERE TO SLEEP

REAL DE SAN ANTONIO

📍 [Guadalupe Victoria E/ Reforma y, Revolución, 23200 La Paz, B.C.S.](#)

📍 [Real de San Antonio](#)

☎ + 52 612 348 2696



EL TRIUNFO CABAÑAS BOUTIQUE HOTEL

📍 [Calle general Márquez, 23210 El Triunfo, B.C.S.](#)

📍 [Cabañas El Triunfo](#)

☎ +52 624 230 8806





GETTING THERE

There are two main access routes, both via dirt roads that require four-wheel-drive vehicles or high-clearance trucks, especially during the rainy season.

From the town of Santiago: Located on the eastern coast of the state, a rural road gradually ascends through the mountains, crossing ranches and streams before reaching San Antonio in approximately 2.5 to 3 hours.

From the Pacific Coast: Access is possible via a lesser-traveled road that begins in Todos Santos or El Triunfo, climbing through forest paths with panoramic views of the Sierra. Traveling with a local guide or contacting community residents in advance is recommended, as cell signal is limited and road conditions may vary by season.



KEY BIRDING CONTACTS

VALENTIN MANRIQUEZ

LOCAL GUIDE

+52 612 161 6085

A local guide passionate about birds and the culinary traditions of the region. Together with his family, he runs the restaurant Aves del Real, where birdwatchers are also offered the opportunity to enjoy traditional regional dishes.



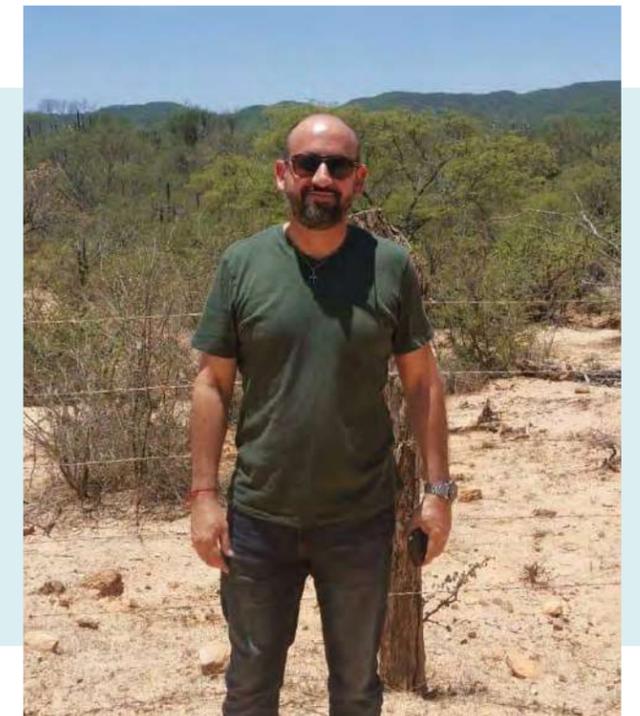
Dr. MIGUEL ÁNGEL OJEDA RUIZ DE LA PEÑA

FULL-TIME PROFESSOR AND RESEARCHER -
AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR
(UABCS)

maojeda@uabcs.mx

+52 612 1597 427

- Ph.D. in Marine Sciences with a specialization in Fisheries from IPN.
- Full-time Professor and Researcher at UABCS.
- In 2016, he led an economic revitalization program in San Antonio, which included the creation of a birdwatching trail with community involvement and support from CONANP.



TODOS SANTOS



Todos Santos is a charming Pueblo Mágico located on the Pacific coast of the Baja California Sur peninsula, about 80 kilometers north of Cabo San Lucas.

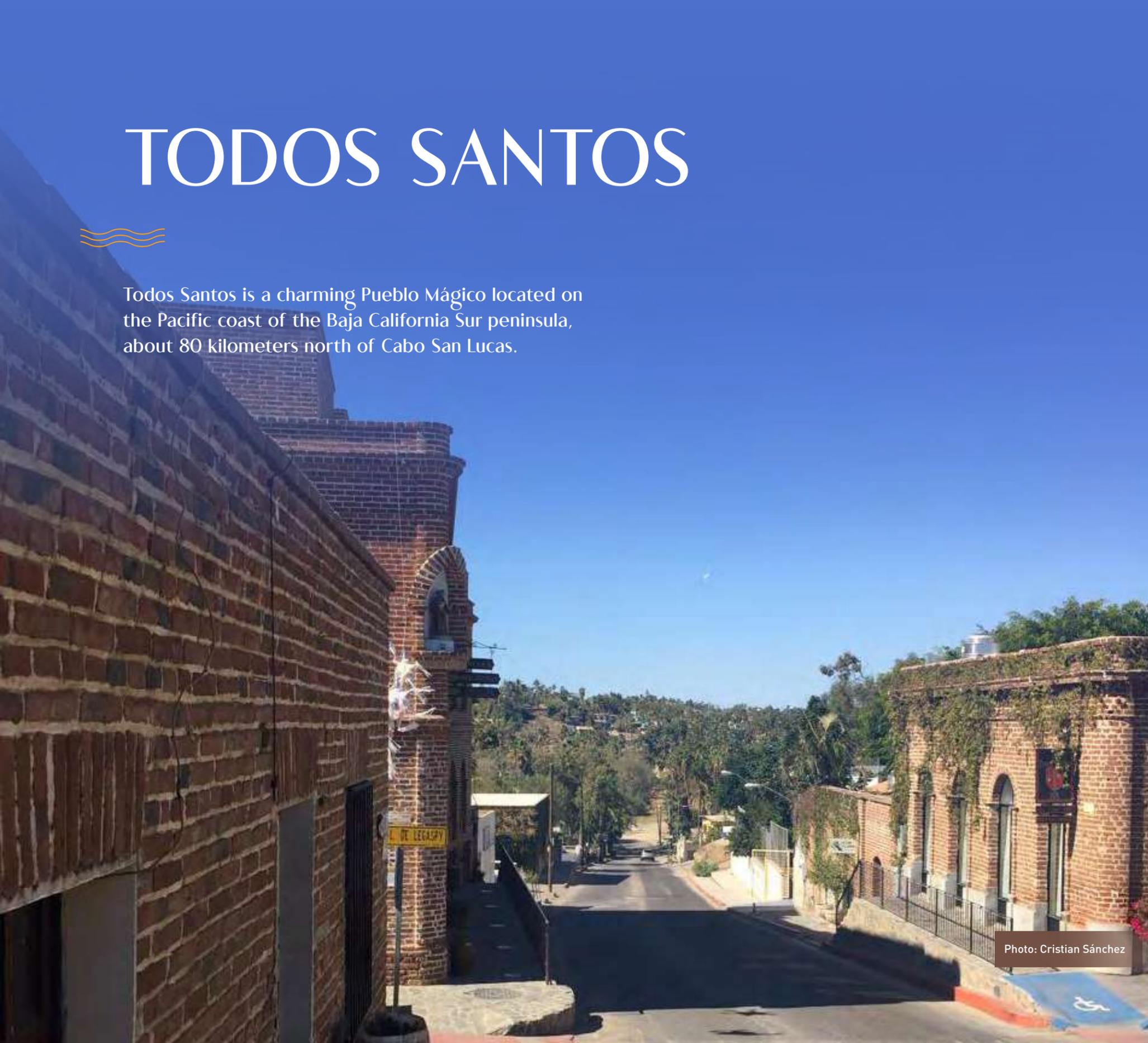
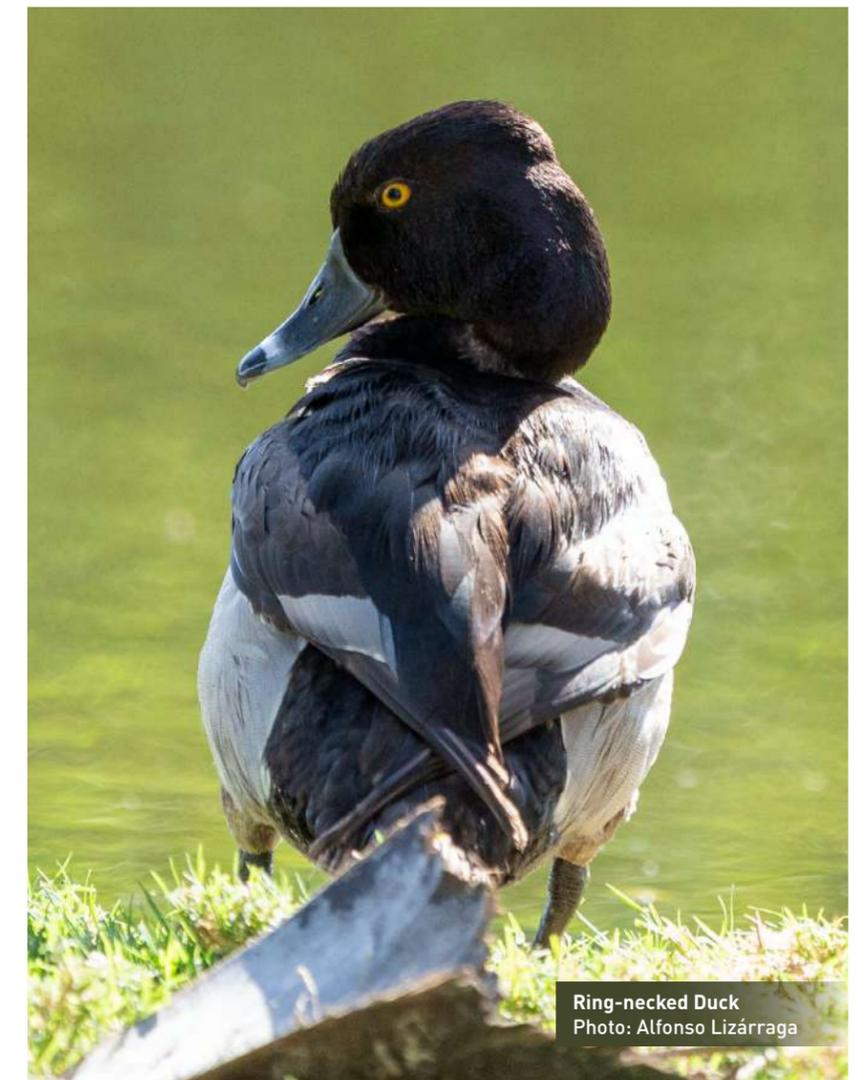


Photo: Cristian Sánchez

This destination blends history, art, and nature in a bohemian atmosphere that attracts both travelers seeking peace and those looking for unique cultural and culinary experiences.

Surrounded by oases and agricultural fields, Todos Santos offers a striking contrast between the desert, the Sierra de la Laguna mountains, and the ocean.

Its cobblestone streets, art galleries, artisan workshops, and colonial architecture give the town a distinctive character of its own.



Ring-necked Duck
Photo: Alfonso Lizárraga



OBSERVATION POINTS

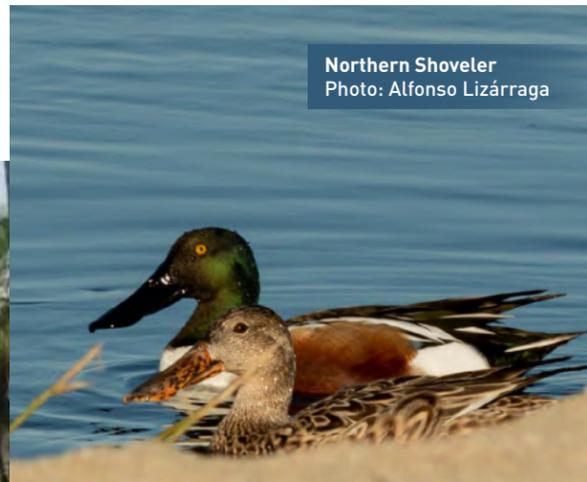
LA POZA OF TODOS SANTOS

Located in the Pueblo Mágico of Todos Santos, within the municipality of La Paz, La Poza is a unique coastal oasis where the desert meets the ocean.

It is a freshwater lagoon formed by underground runoff from the Sierra de la Laguna, creating a vital habitat for a wide variety of resident and migratory birds.

This site stands out as a key resting and feeding area for shorebirds, waterfowl, and aquatic birds such as herons, pelicans, ducks, and cormorants. During the winter season, La Poza becomes an important refuge for migratory species from North America, making it especially appealing to birdwatchers.

The contrast between the surrounding palm groves and tules, and the sand dunes that separate the lagoon from the Pacific, offers a scenic landscape ideal for nature photography. In addition, its proximity to downtown Todos Santos allows visitors to combine birdwatching with cultural and culinary experiences.



Northern Shoveler
Photo: Alfonso Lizárraga

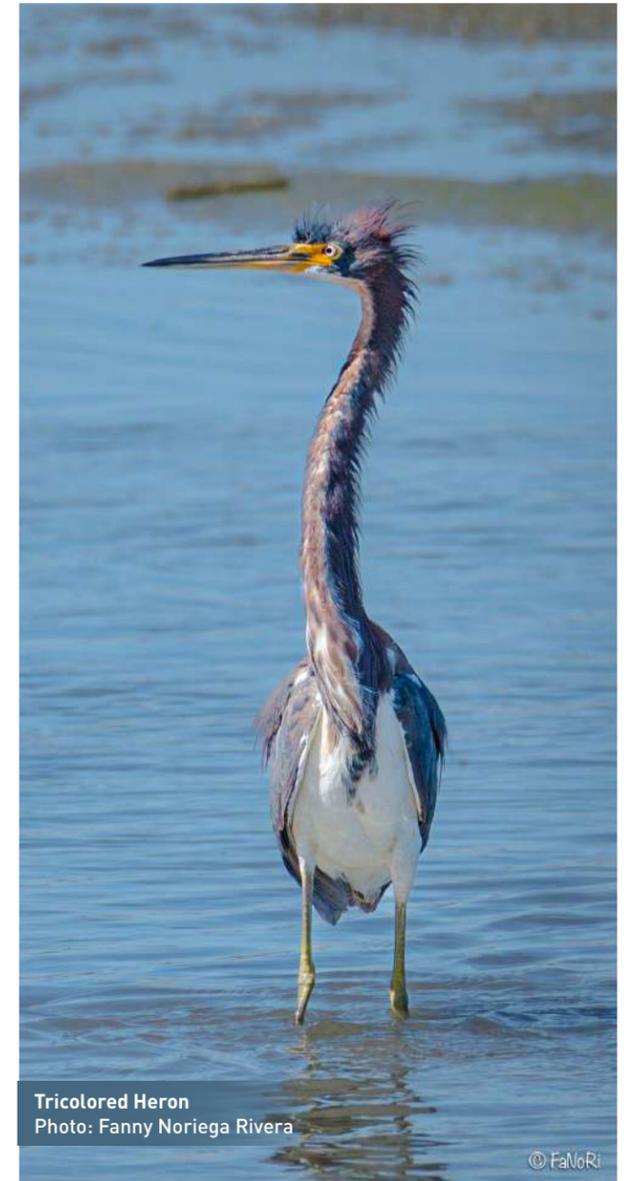


TARGET SPECIES

La Poza is a key site for waterbird observation, especially during the winter season, when it receives large concentrations of **geese, ducks, and other aquatic birds.**

This site is also an important refuge for the emblematic bird of the South Baja California oases: **The Belding's Yellowthroat (Mascarita Peninsular).**

This site has records of **201 bird species**, including highlights such as:



Tricolored Heron
Photo: Fanny Noriega Rivera

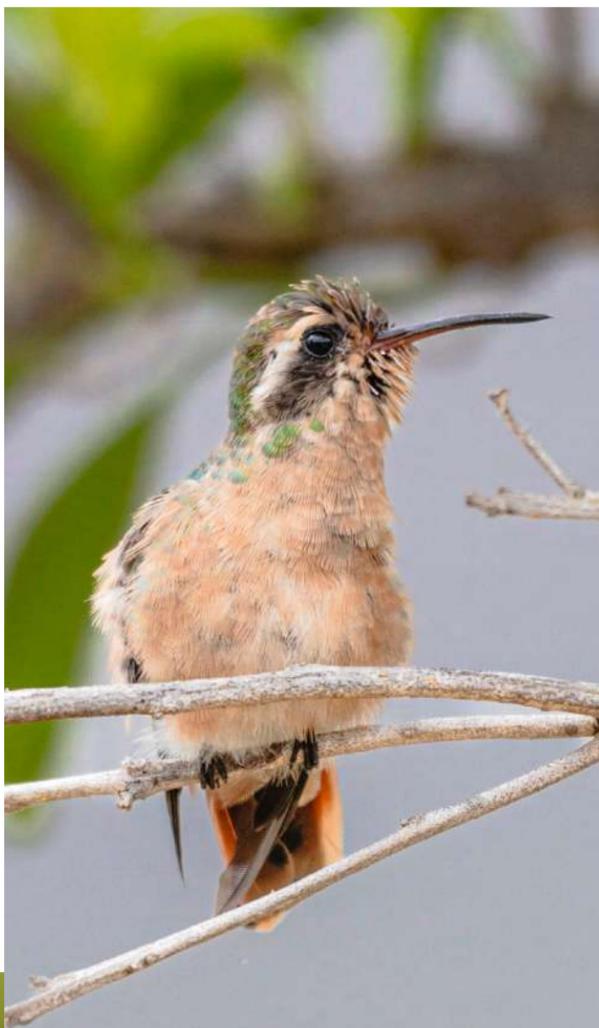
© FaNoRi



Blue-winged Teal
Photo: Alfonso Lizárraga



Carpintero de Pechera del Noroeste
Foto: Fanny Noriega Rivera



Colibrí de Xantus
Foto: Fanny Noriega Rivera

© Fanny N.R.



Cenzontle Norteño
Foto: Fanny Noriega Rivera

Garza Nocturna Corona Negra
Foto: Fanny Noriega Rivera



Mascarita Peninsular
Foto: Alfonso Lizárraga



Golondrina Azulnegra
Foto: Alfonso Lizárraga



© Fanny Noriega Rivera



ACTIVIDADES COMPLEMENTARIAS

VISITA A PUNTA LOBOS

Es un destino costero emblemático ubicado a pocos minutos al sur del Pueblo Mágico de Todos Santos.

Los acantilados y rocas a lo largo de la costa ofrecen miradores naturales para admirar el océano y disfrutar de atardeceres espectaculares.

Los visitantes pueden recorrer los senderos cercanos para explorar distintos puntos panorámicos y conectar con la naturaleza de manera segura y tranquila.



VISITA AL CENTRO HISTÓRICO

El centro histórico de Todos Santos es el corazón cultural del Pueblo Mágico, donde se respira historia, arte y tradición. Sus calles empedradas y fachadas coloridas conservan el encanto colonial y ofrecen un recorrido lleno de historia y cultura local.

Entre los atractivos más destacados se encuentran la **Misión de Nuestra Señora del Pilar**, construida en el siglo XVIII, y los antiguos edificios que hoy albergan galerías de arte, tiendas de artesanías y cafés con encanto.



DÓNDE COMER

RESTAURANTE LA GENERALA

📍 [C. Cuauhtémoc S/N, Centro, 23300 Todos Santos, B.C.S.](#)

📌 [La Generala Restaurant](#)

☎ +52 624 134 4918



DOCECUARENTA TODOS SANTOS

📍 [La Cañada del Diablo, Carretera 19 La Paz-Los Cabos, km 51, 23300 Todos Santos, B.C.S.](#)

📌 [Doce Cuarenta Café](#)

☎ +52 612 138 1713



DÓNDE DORMIR

CASITAS LA BAJA CASA TODOS

📍 [Camino a La Poza, 23300 Todos Santos, B.C.S.](#)

☎ +52 811 690 4826



TODOS SANTOS HOSTEL

📍 [Calle, Francisco Bojorquer Vidal 112, San Vicente, 23300 Todos Santos, B.C.S.](#)

📌 [Todos Santos Hostel](#)

☎ +52 646 124 2320





CÓMO LLEGAR

Todos Santos se encuentra en la costa del Pacífico, a unos 80 km al norte de Cabo San Lucas y a 83 km al sur de La Paz, en el municipio de La Paz, Baja California Sur. Llegar es sencillo gracias a la Carretera Transpeninsular (México 19), que conecta las principales ciudades del estado.

Desde Cabo San Lucas: Conduce hacia el norte por la Carretera Federal 19; el trayecto dura aproximadamente 1 hora en auto.

Desde La Paz: Toma la misma carretera, pero hacia el sur; el tiempo estimado de viaje es de 1 hora y 15 minutos.

Transporte público: Existen servicios de autobuses y colectivos que conectan Todos Santos con Cabo San Lucas y La Paz varias veces al día, una opción económica para los viajeros.

Desde el aeropuerto: El Aeropuerto Internacional de Los Cabos está a unos 115 km de distancia. Puedes rentar un auto, contratar un servicio de transporte privado o tomar un autobús para llegar.



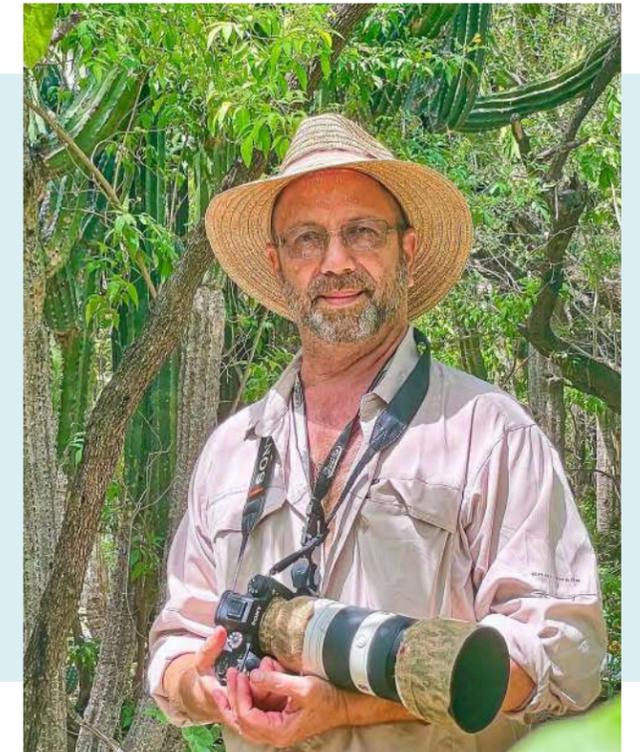
KEY BIRDING CONTACTS

BILL LEVINE

AUTOR DEL LIBRO "ALEGRÍA DE FOTOGAFIAR LA VIDA SILVESTRE"

+52 624 191 2959

- Naturalista interesado en expediciones de fotografía, conservación y ciencia para preservar esta área única con su gran cantidad de flora y fauna de especies endémicas.
- Vive en Todos Santos y está dispuesto a ayudar a los biólogos que quieran explorar el Baja.



LA PAZ



El municipio de La Paz, ubicado en el corazón de Baja California Sur, es un territorio que combina contrastes sorprendentes entre el mar y el desierto.



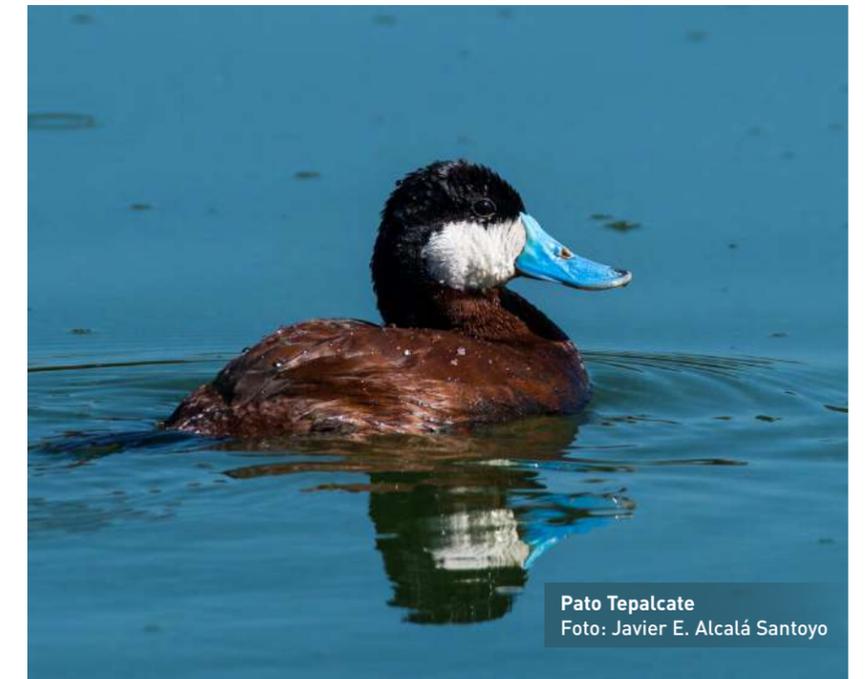
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo

Sus extensas costas bañadas por el Golfo de California y el Océano Pacífico, junto con sierras, oasis y planicies áridas, crean un mosaico de paisajes que sostienen una gran riqueza natural y cultural. Además, La Paz es reconocido como un destino tranquilo y hospitalario, con una marcada identidad ligada tanto al mar como a las tradiciones de las comunidades que lo habitan.

La diversidad de ecosistemas que se encuentran en el municipio, como manglares, esteros, playas, islas, dunas, serranías y arroyos, convierten a esta región en un santuario de vida silvestre.

Estos ambientes sostienen poblaciones de **mamíferos marinos, reptiles, peces** y, de manera especial, **una notable variedad de aves residentes y migratorias** que utilizan el municipio como sitio de descanso, alimentación y reproducción.

Gracias a esta riqueza, La Paz se ha consolidado como un referente para la observación de aves y el turismo de naturaleza en Baja California Sur. Desde sus áreas urbanas con parques y humedales accesibles, hasta reservas naturales y sitios de importancia internacional, el municipio ofrece oportunidades únicas para los visitantes que buscan conectarse con la biodiversidad y comprender la relevancia ecológica de esta región en el contexto del Noroeste mexicano.



Pato Tepalcate
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



PUNTOS DE OBSERVACIÓN



Zambullidor Menor
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo

ECOPARQUE DE LA JUVENTUD

El Ecoparque de la Juventud es un área natural urbana ubicada en la ciudad de La Paz que alberga un sistema de lagunas artificiales rodeadas de vegetación ribereña y zonas abiertas, por lo que funge como un oasis dentro de la ciudad. En esta zona se han registrado hasta **223 especies**, lo que lo convierte en el **segundo sitio más importante para la observación de aves en Baja California Sur**.

Este oasis artificial forma parte del **Área de Importancia para la Protección de las Aves (AICA 93)**, reconocimiento otorgado por la CONABIO. En años recientes ha sido objeto de proyectos de restauración que han favorecido el desarrollo de vegetación emergente alrededor de las lagunas, mejorando notablemente el hábitat tanto para la avifauna como para los visitantes.

A pesar de estar en una zona urbana, es hogar de especies residentes como el **Zambullidor Menor**, la **Monjita Americana**, la **Gallarita Americana** y el **Ibis Ojos rojos**, algunas especies migratorias como el **Pato Tepalcate**, el **Pato Cucharón Norteño** o el **Pato Golondrino**. Además, es un sitio confiable para observar aves endémicas como el **Güirigo** o la **Mascarita Peninsular**. Su accesibilidad, lo convierte en un lugar ideal tanto para observadores de aves principiantes como para los más experimentados, con oportunidad de avistamiento durante todo el año.



ENSENADA DE LA PAZ

Delimitada por la barrera arenosa de El Mogote, esta ensenada abarca una superficie de 45km². Sus costas combinan arenosa con extensas planicies lodosas, especialmente en el sur y sureste.

Los manglares y marismas de la zona forman planicies de inundación y cuerpos de agua internos que dan origen a pequeñas lagunas, hábitats vitales para muchas aves que aquí encuentran sitios de anidación, alimentación, refugio y descanso.

Por su gran valor ecológico, la ensenada está reconocida como **sitio Ramsar** y como **Área de Importancia para la Conservación de las Aves (AICA)**, al albergar especies amenazadas globalmente y poblaciones significativas de aves de distribución restringida.

Destacan el **Gallito Marino** (*Sternula antillarum browni*), que se reproduce en verano, el **Chorlos Pico Grueso** (*Anarhynchus wilsonia beldingi*), la **Garza Rojiza** (*Egretta rufescens dickeyi*) y el **Chipe Amarillo de Manglar** (*Setophaga petechia castaneiceps*), estos últimos residentes permanentes.

Además, la **Red Hemisférica para la Reserva de Aves Playeras (RHRAP)** la reconoce como **Sitio Regional**, ya que sus planicies de inundación sirven áreas de invernada para miles de aves playeras, entre ellas los abundantes **Playeros Occidentales**.

La Ensenada de La Paz se puede explorar desde diferentes accesos: al suroeste la playa El Centenario, al sur las marismas de Chametla y el antiguo hotel Grand Plaza, mientras que al sureste se ubica el manglar El Conchalito.



Playero Occidental
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Fragata Tiojeretal
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



**ESPECIES
OBJETIVO**



Playero Diminuto
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



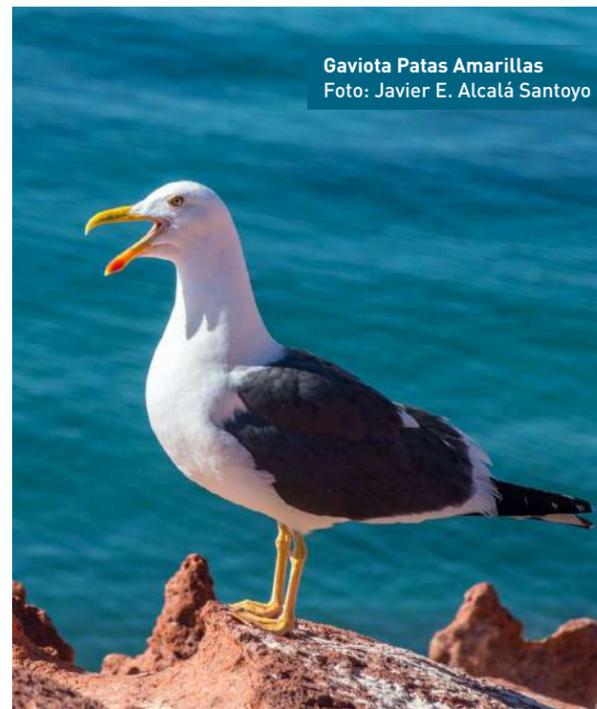
Ibis Blanco
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo

ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO

Ubicada frente a la ciudad de La Paz, la Isla Espíritu Santo es uno de los lugares más emblemáticos del Golfo de California tanto por su belleza escénica como por su riqueza natural.

En la Bahía San Gabriel se encuentra una de las colonias de anidación más importantes de **Fragata Tijereta** en el noroeste de México.

La isla también es hogar de numerosas especies marinas y costeras. Aquí es posible observar al **Bobo de Patas Azules**, al **Bobo de Cocos**, varias especies de **Charranes**, diferentes tipos de **Garzas** y por supuesto, la **Gaviota Patas Amarillas**, un ave endémica del Golfo de California que convierte cada visita en una oportunidad especial para los observadores de aves.



Gaviota Patas Amarillas
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Playero Occidental
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



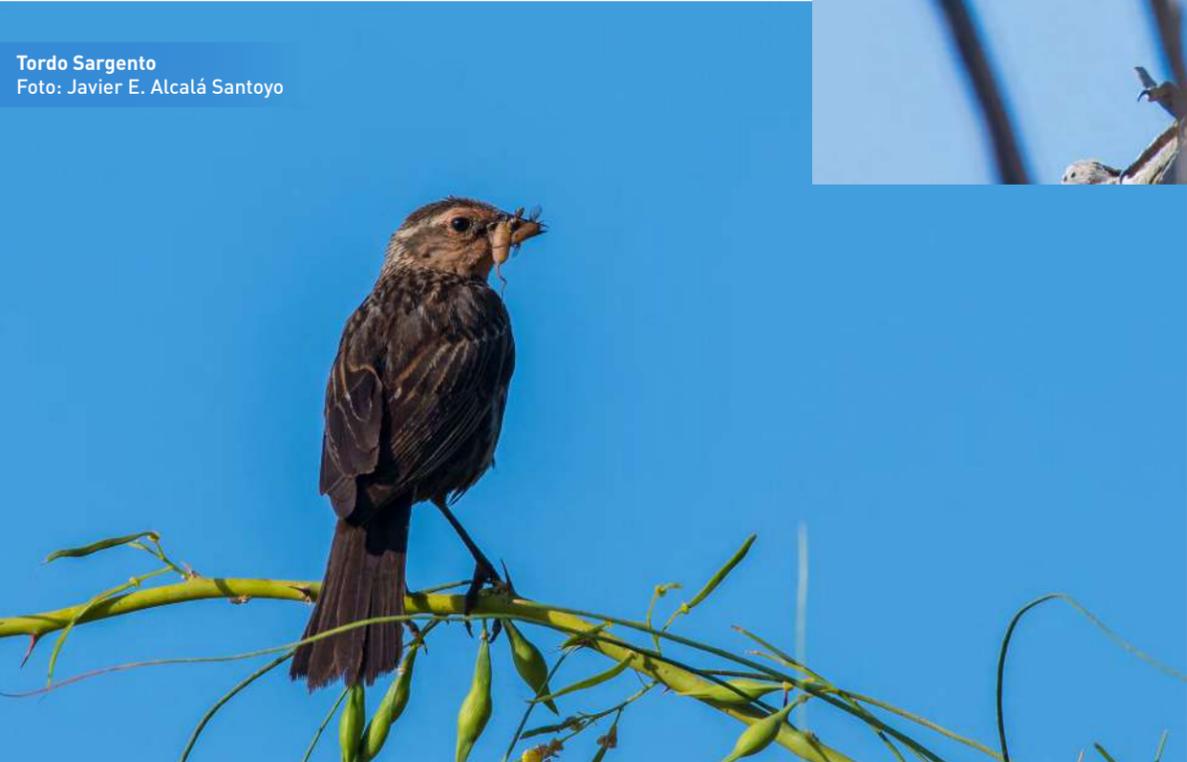
Papamoscas Negro
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Garza Nocturna Corona Clara
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Saltapared Común Norteño
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Tordo Sargento
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Garrapatero Pijuy
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



ACTIVIDADES COMPLEMENTARIAS

NADO CON LOBOS MARINOS

Vivir la experiencia de nadar con los lobos marinos de California en Los Islotes o San Rafaelito es una de las actividades más emocionantes en La Paz.

Con esnórquel podrás observar su comportamiento juguetón y explorar los arrecifes que resguardan gran diversidad de peces.

Varias compañías locales ofrecen recorridos seguros y respetuosos con la fauna, lo que hace de esta actividad una oportunidad única para conectar con la vida marina del Mar de Cortés.



Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo

VISITA A PLAYA BALANDRA

Reconocida como una de las playas más hermosas de México, Balandra cautiva con sus aguas turquesa, arenas blancas y manglares protegidos.

Aquí se puede descansar, nadar en aguas tranquilas o practicar kayak para explorar sus rincones naturales.

Diferentes operadores turísticos ofrecen visitas guiadas que permiten disfrutar de este paraíso de manera cómoda y responsable.



Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



DÓNDE COMER

EL MAVIRI MARISCOS

📍 Colima 3788, Barrio Manglito, 23060 La Paz, B.C.S.
📍 El Maviri Mariscos
☎ +52 612 136 2255



TACO FISH

📍 Calle Esq. Paseo Álvaro Obregón #710 y Torres Iglesias.
📍 Taco Fish La Paz
☎ +52 612 198 1194



DÓNDE DORMIR

HOTEL CATEDRAL LA PAZ

📍 Independencia 411, Zona Central, 23000 La Paz, B.C.S.
☎ +52 612 690 1000



CASA AL MAR

📍 Paseo Álvaro Obregón 220, Malecon, 23000 La Paz, B.C.S.
📍 Casa al Mar
☎ +52 612 157 8255





CÓMO LLEGAR

El Ecoparque se encuentra al suroeste de la ciudad de La Paz, aledaño a la Planta de tratamiento de Aguas Residuales. El lugar es público, tiene estacionamiento en los alrededores y la entrada es gratuita.

Desde el malecón de La Paz: toma la calle Mariano Abasolo en dirección a la carretera Transpeninsular/Cd Constitución, pasando Plaza Galerías verás el monumento Cola de Ballena y a la izquierda observarás la entrada principal.

Desde Cabo San Lucas: Conduce hacia el norte por la Carretera Federal 19, al llegar a La Paz gira a la izquierda por Avenida Universidad en la colonia El Mezquitito, sigue hasta llegar a la calle UABCS y gira a la izquierda, a 200 metros gira a la derecha hacia Blvd. Pino Payas y continua por 2.7km. Usa el carril izquierdo para dar vuelta en "U" e incorporararte a la Carretera Transpeninsular/Cd Constitución y avanza 1.1 km. Al pasar el monumento cola de Ballena observarás la entrada principal, dar vuelta en "U" para llegar a tu destino.



KEY BIRDING CONTACTS



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DIRECTOR DE LUGARES PAJAROSOS BIRDING EXPEDITIONS

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- Coordinador del Programa de Aves Urbanas La Paz.
- Guía de naturaleza especializado en aves.



Dr. VÍCTOR OMAR AYALA PEREZ
ORNITÓLOGO, INVESTIGADOR Y DOCENTE DE LA UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR.

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- Integrante del Laboratorio de Aves de la UABCS.



M.C. VIANNEY BARAJAS CALDERÓN
LÍDER DE AMAZILIAS LA PAZ

+52

- Coordinadora del Programa de Aves Urbanas La Paz.
- Guía de naturaleza especializada en aves.



M.C. NAYELY ARCE
ORNITÓLOGA, INVESTIGADORA Y DOCENTE DE LA UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR.

+52

- Integrante del Laboratorio de Aves de la UABCS.

BAHÍA MAGDALENA

El Complejo Lagunar Bahía Magdalena se localiza al sur de la costa occidental de la Península de Baja California y está conformado por tres grandes lagunas costeras: el Canal de Santo Domingo, Bahía Magdalena y Bahía Almejas.



Foto: Mariana Velez

Estas lagunas están protegidas del oleaje del Océano Pacífico por barras arenosas e islas como **Las Ánimas, Isla Creciente, Isla Magdalena e Isla Margarita**. Gracias a la influencia de la Corriente de California y a la alta concentración de nutrientes provenientes de surgencias costeras y aportes terrestres, Bahía Magdalena es considerada una de las zonas más productivas del Pacífico mexicano.

En este sitio se encuentra la mayor extensión de bosques de manglar de Baja California Sur, acompañados de marismas, planos lodosos, dunas activas e inactivas, pastos marinos y playas arenosas.

Esta **gran diversidad de hábitats** ofrece refugio, áreas de reproducción y alimentación a **mamíferos marinos, tortugas, peces, invertebrados y, por supuesto, a una enorme variedad de aves.**

Por ello, Bahía Magdalena ha sido designada como **Sitio de Importancia Regional por la Red Hemisférica de Reservas para Aves Playeras**, así como **Área de Importancia Continental para Patos, Gansos y Cisnes por Ducks Unlimited de México A.C.**



Garza Rojiza
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



PUNTOS DE OBSERVACIÓN

ISLA DE PATOS

Esta pequeña isla arenosa, ubicada en el corazón de Bahía Magdalena, es uno de los sitios más espectaculares para observar aves marinas en grandes números. Durante todo el año, pero especialmente en invierno, la isla se convierte en un hervidero de actividad donde **pelícanos pardos, cormoranes, gaviotas y charranes** se congregan en bandadas que fácilmente superan el millar de individuos.

Desde una embarcación, es posible apreciar cómo las aves utilizan la isla como sitio de descanso, alimentación y, en algunos casos, de anidación. La dinámica constante de vuelos, zambullidas y despliegues aéreos convierte este lugar en un **escenario privilegiado para la fotografía de naturaleza**.

Además, Isla de Patos es un punto clave para entender la importancia de Bahía Magdalena como refugio de aves migratorias y residentes. La abundancia de peces y otros recursos marinos atrae diariamente a bandadas mixtas que conviven en un espacio reducido, generando un **espectáculo natural difícil de encontrar en otros puntos del Pacífico mexicano**. Es un sitio imperdible para quienes buscan experimentar de cerca la energía vital de una colonia de aves marinas.

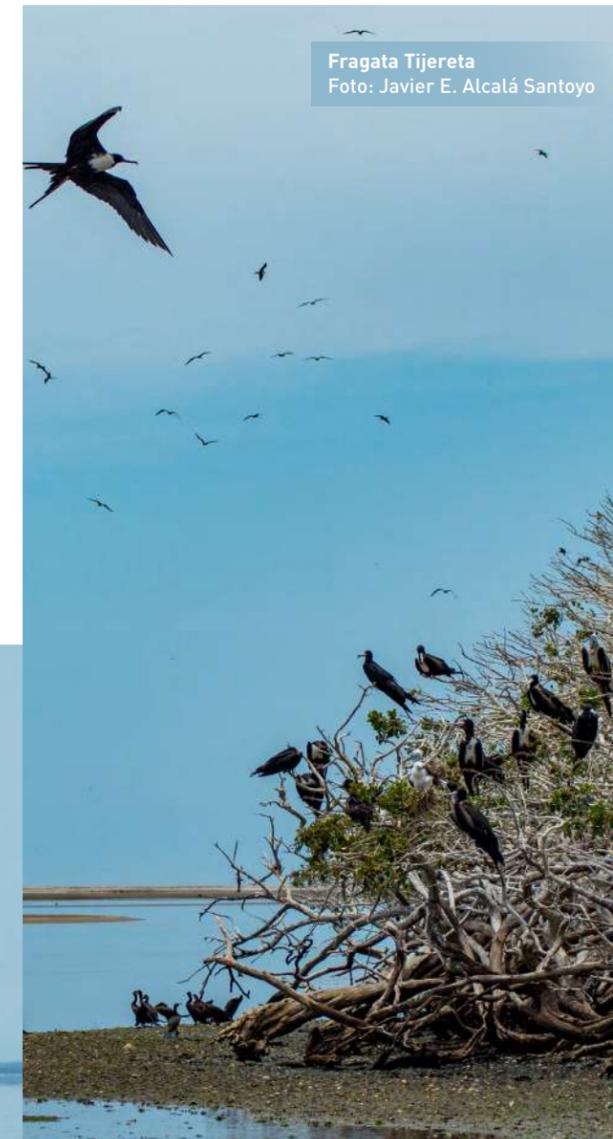


LAS TIJERAS

En el extremo sur de Isla Margarita, frente a Bahía Almejas, se encuentra el manglar de Las Tijeras, un humedal de gran relevancia ecológica y uno de los puntos más emblemáticos de observación de aves en el complejo lagunar. Este sitio fue, en el pasado, la **colonia reproductiva de Fragata Tijereta más grande del mundo**, con registros de hasta **40,000 individuos** anidando en simultáneo.

Aunque hoy la colonia se ha reducido en más del 90%, todavía se pueden observar importantes grupos reproductivos que sobrevuelan constantemente los canales, ofreciendo un espectáculo aéreo inigualable.

Además de las fragatas, en Las Tijeras se reproducen otras especies como el **Cormorán Orejón, la Garza Morena, Garza Tricolor, Garza Dedos Dorados, el Rascón Costero del Pacífico y el Chipe Amarillo de Manglar**.





ESPECIES OBJETIVO

Bahía Magdalena concentra poblaciones clave de especies con relevancia mundial:

- Alberga el 10% de la población global del **Ostrero Americano del Pacífico** (*Haematopus bachmani*), subespecie en peligro de extinción.
- Es hábitat para el 5% del **Picopando Canelo** (*Limnodromus griseus*), especie amenazada.
- El **Ganso de Collar del Pacífico** (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) es un invernante regular con un 2.6% de su población mundial registrada aquí.

También destacan especies protegidas en México como:

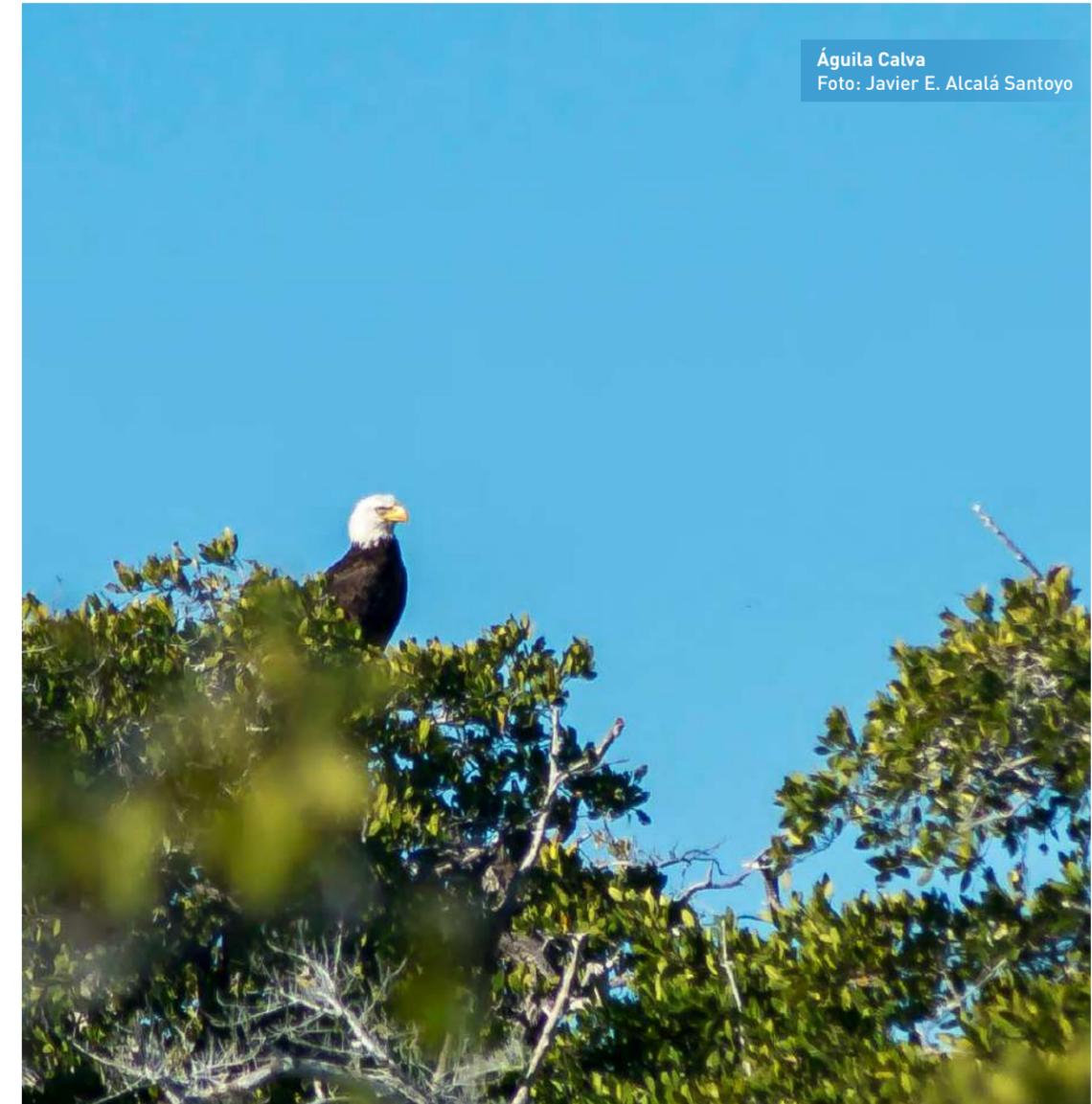
- Pelícano Pardo
- Gaviota Ploma
- Garza Rojiza

Entre las especies reproductivas sobresalen la población relicta de:

- Águila Calva
- La única colonia de **Cormorán Neotropical** en toda la península de Baja California.



Cormoran Neotropical
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Águila Calva
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Ostrero Americano
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



Garza Rojiza
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



ACTIVIDADES COMPLEMENTARIAS

AVISTAMIENTO DE BALLENA GRIS

Cada invierno, la ballena gris recorre miles de kilómetros desde el Ártico hasta llegar a las aguas cálidas y seguras de Bahía Magdalena, donde cumple su ciclo de reproducción y crianza.

Entre enero y marzo, los visitantes pueden embarcarse en recorridos guiados para observar de cerca a estos gigantes marinos, que a menudo se muestran curiosos y se acercan a las embarcaciones.



Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo

NADO CON MARLÍN RAYADO

Entre el otoño y el invierno, frente a la costa de Bahía Magdalena se vive un espectáculo único: la migración de sardinas que, al agruparse en impresionantes "bolas de carnada" (bait balls), atrae a delfines, lobos marinos, aves marinas y al imponente marlín rayado.

Varias compañías locales ofrecen recorridos de snorkel para observar —y en algunos casos nadar junto a— estos depredadores en plena acción de caza, una experiencia emocionante y segura que permite presenciar de cerca la interacción más dinámica entre presas y cazadores en el océano.



Foto: Dive Ninja Expeditions



DÓNDE COMER

MARISCOS EL TIBURÓN DE SAN CARLOS

📍 Puerto Adolfo Lopez Mateos 75, Polígono Núm. 1, 23740 Puerto San Carlos, B.C.S.
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BAJA MAR

📍 Abelardo L. Rodriguez, Infonavit, 23710 Puerto Adolfo López Mateos, B.C.S.
☎ +52 613 131 5196



DÓNDE DORMIR

POSADA SAN CARLOS (HOSPEDAJE ECONÓMICO)

📍 Puerto Vallarta 173, Polígono Núm. 1, 23740 Puerto San Carlos, B.C.S.
☎ +52 613 141 2371



HOTEL WHALE NEST CABAÑAS

📍 Calle José María Alfaro, Centro, 23710 Puerto Adolfo López Mateos, B.C.S.
☎ +52 612 141 6948





CÓMO LLEGAR

Bahía Magdalena puede explorarse desde tres puertos principales: **Puerto Adolfo López Mateos al norte, Puerto San Carlos al centro y Puerto Chale al sur.**

Desde Los Cabos a Puerto López Mateos: Toma la carretera México 19 hacia La Paz, luego conecta con la Transpeninsular (México 1) hacia Ciudad Insurgentes y sigue hasta la desviación hacia Adolfo López Mateos. Tiempo estimado: 5 h 30 min. Desde La Paz, el trayecto dura alrededor de 4 h.

Desde Los Cabos a Puerto San Carlos: sigue la México 19 hacia La Paz, conecta con la Transpeninsular hacia Ciudad Constitución y toma la desviación hacia San Carlos. Tiempo estimado: 5 h desde Los Cabos, 3 h desde La Paz.

Desde Los Cabos a Puerto Chale: sigue la México 19 hacia La Paz, conecta con la Transpeninsular hacia Ciudad Constitución y desvía en El Médano hacia Puerto Chale. Tiempo estimado: 4 h desde Los Cabos, 2 h desde La Paz.



Fragata Tijereta
Foto: Javier E. Alcalá Santoyo



KEY BIRDING CONTACT

CAPITÁN MIGUEL

LÍDER DE BLUE BAY TOURS Y OBSERVADOR DE AVES

+52 613 105 5444





FESTIVAL DE LAS AVES PLAYERAS

ES UN EVENTO ANUAL QUE BUSCA SENSIBILIZAR SOBRE LA IMPORTANCIA DE LOS HUMEDALES Y LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL AGUA.

Se enmarca en el contexto de protección de zonas vitales como la Ensenada de La Paz, que cuenta con manglares y humedales protegidos. Se realizan ferias ambientales y salidas de observación de aves en sitios como el Ecoparque de la Juventud.

📍 LA PAZ

📅 MARZO

📱 LAB. AVES UABCS



Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra La Laguna



Rancho Ecológico El Refugio



Rancho Ecológico El Refugio



Rancho Ecológico El Refugio

FESTIVAL DEL BÚHO

ESTE FESTIVAL ORGANIZADO POR EL RANCHO ECOLÓGICO EL REFUGIO ES UN EVENTO ANUAL CON EL OBJETIVO DE EDUCAR, CONCIENTIZAR Y PROMOVER LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS BÚHOS Y SU ECOSISTEMA LOCAL.

Durante el evento se realiza un recorrido interpretativo y observación de aves. También se realizan conferencias, pláticas y exposiciones fotográficas, así como actividades recreativas y para niños.

📍 CAÑÓN DE SAN DIONISIO

📅 ABRIL

📍 RESERVA DE LA BIOSFERA SIERRA LA LAGUNA



Observadores de Aves UABCS



Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra La Laguna



Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra La Laguna



Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra La Laguna

FESTIVAL DE AVES CADUAÑO, PÁJARO CHUBASQUERO

ESTE FESTIVAL CELEBRA A UNA DE LAS AVES MÁS EMBLEMÁTICAS DE LA REGIÓN: EL CUCLILLO DE PICO AMARILLO, CONOCIDO LOCALMENTE COMO PÁJARO CHUBASQUERO.

Festival impulsado por la comunidad de Caduaño, en colaboración con la UABCS y el Gobierno de Los Cabos.

EJIDO CADUAÑO

SEPTIEMBRE

OBSERVADORES DE AVES UABCS



Lab. Aves UABCS



Lab. Aves UABCS



Lab. Aves UABCS

FESTIVAL DE AVES DEL SANTUARIO DE LOS CÁCTUS

DURANTE ESTE FESTIVAL SE REALIZAN RECORRIDOS GUIADOS PARA OBSERVAR E IDENTIFICAR AVES EN EL SANTUARIO, CON GUÍAS DE LAS AVES A DISPOSICIÓN DE LOS VISITANTES.

Además personas del Ejido El Rosario ponen a la venta artesanías y alimentos típicos de la zona.

 SANTUARIO DE LOS CACTUS

 OCTUBRE

 LAB. AVES UABCS



Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra La Laguna

FESTIVAL DEL COLIBRÍ

ES UN FESTIVAL DEDICADO AL COLIBRÍ DE XANTUS.

Este evento reúne a expertos, artistas, estudiantes y productores regionales y a la comunidad local con un solo propósito: valorar y conservar al colibrí y a la Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra La Laguna.

 RANCHO SAN DIONISIO

 NOVIEMBRE

 RESERVA DE LA BIOSFERA SIERRA LA LAGUNA



Observadores de Aves UABCS



Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra La Laguna



Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra La Laguna



FESTIVAL DE LA MASCARITA PENINSULAR

EVENTO COMUNITARIO DEDICADO A CELEBRAR Y PROMOVER LA CONSERVACIÓN DE UNA DE LAS AVES MÁS EMBLEMÁTICAS Y EN PELIGRO DE LA REGIÓN: LA MASCARITA PENINSULAR. ASI COMO PARA CONOCER LA IMPORTANCIA ECOLÓGICA DEL ESTERO DE LA RIBERA, UNO DE SUS PRINCIPALES HÁBITATS.

A lo largo de la jornada se realizan pajareadas, talleres ambientales, muestras de arte y fotografía, charlas de especialistas, y actividades culturales que combinan ciencia, educación y tradición local.

-  ESTERO EL SURGIDERO
-  OCTUBRE
-  MAR "MUJERES DE ACCIÓN Y RESILIENCIA"

CONTEO NAVIDEÑO SAN ANTONIO DE LA SIERRA

SE REALIZA ANUALMENTE CON VOLUNTARIOS LOCALES Y VISITANTES COLABORANDO PARA CENSAR AVES INVERNANTES Y RESIDENTES.

Es una iniciativa de la Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, Extensión Académica Los Cabos, la Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas de la Reserva y la comunidad de San Antonio, la cual forma parte del histórico Christmas Bird Count (CBC), organizado por la National Audubon Society.

📍 SAN ANTONIO DE LA SIERRA 📅 DICIEMBRE 📌 OBSERVADORES DE AVES UABCS



Reserva de la Biosfera Sierra La Laguna

CONTEO NAVIDEÑO LA PAZ

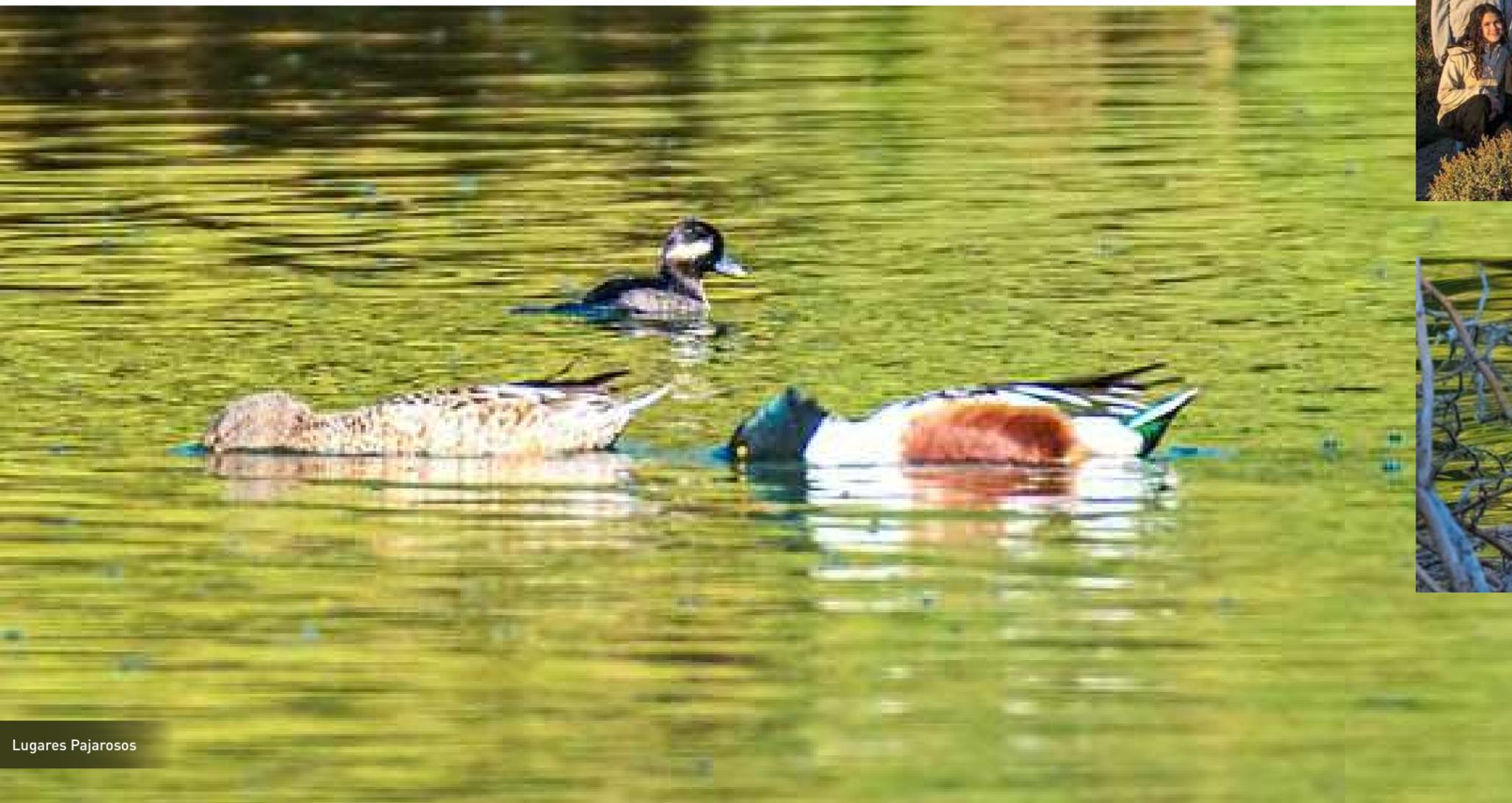
EVENTO ORGANIZADO POR LA UABCS, LUGARES PAJAROSOS, JUNTO CON PAU LA PAZ Y AMAZILLIAS. UNA JORNADA DE CIENCIA CIUDADANA QUE SE REALIZA EN DIFERENTES PUNTOS DE LA PAZ, ENTRE ELLOS EL ECOPARQUE DE LA JUVENTUD.

Más allá de los datos científicos que aporta al programa internacional Audubon Christmas Bird Count, esta actividad se ha convertido en una tradición decembrina que combina aprendizaje, convivencia y admiración por la naturaleza.

📍 LA PAZ

📅 DICIEMBRE

📌 LUGARES PAJAROSOS BIRDING EXPEDITIONS



CONTEO NAVIDEÑO TODOS SANTOS

DURANTE LA JORNADA, LOS PARTICIPANTES RECORREN DIVERSOS HÁBITATS DE GRAN VALOR ECOLÓGICO.

Como dunas costeras, huertos, manglares y el hermoso Oasis de Todos Santos, un punto clave por su abundante vegetación y disponibilidad de agua, que atrae a numerosas especies residentes y migratorias.

Es una iniciativa de la Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, Extensión Académica Los Cabos.

📍 TODOS SANTOS

📅 DICIEMBRE

👤 OBSERVADORES DE AVES UABCS



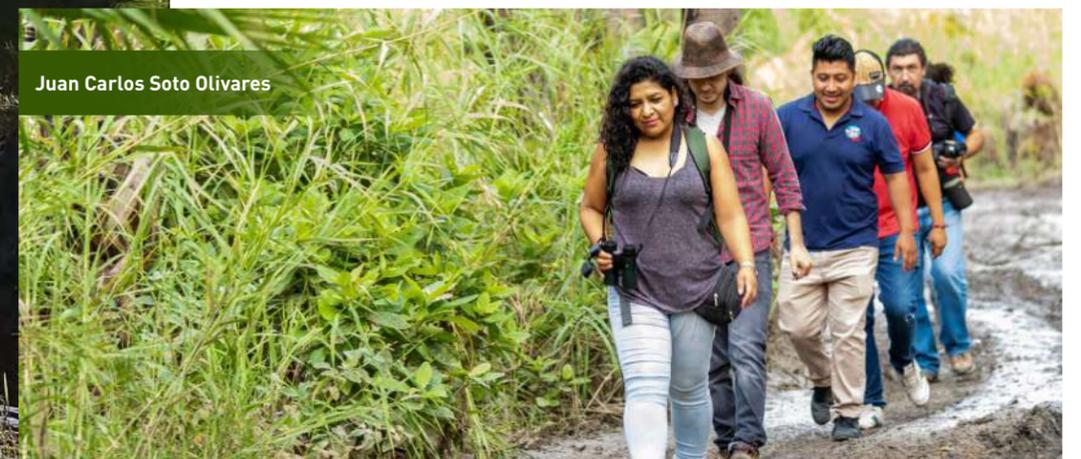
Observadores de Aves UABCS



Juan Carlos Soto Olivares



Juan Carlos Soto Olivares



Juan Carlos Soto Olivares

CONTEO NAVIDEÑO ESTERO SAN JOSÉ

DURANTE EL CONTEO, LOS EQUIPOS RECORREN LOS CARRIZOS Y TULARES DEL ESTERO DONDE CUENTAN DESDE AVES ACUÁTICAS Y PLAYERAS ASÍ COMO PASSERIFORMES Y RAPACES.

La actividad forma parte del programa internacional Audubon Christmas Bird Count, y en Los Cabos es organizada por la Organización para la Sustentabilidad y Conservación del Medio Ambiente.

📍 ESTERO SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO 📅 DICIEMBRE 📌 ORGANIZACIÓN PARA LA SUSTENTABILIDAD Y CONSERVACIÓN DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE



Organización para la Sustentabilidad y Conservación del Medio Ambiente



Organización para la Sustentabilidad y Conservación del Medio Ambiente



Organización para la Sustentabilidad y Conservación del Medio Ambiente



Organización para la Sustentabilidad y Conservación del Medio Ambiente

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