

Alternative Mexico: 6 Great Ways To Explore Northern Baja

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Published Jan 28, 2026, 08:32pm EST



With its posh resorts, spring break nightlife, and myriad outdoor adventures, Cabo has been the superstar of Baja California for decades.

But once upon a time, [Northern Baja](#) was the hot spot.

Just a two-hour drive south of Los Angeles, it was the place where Hollywood celebrities went to watch (and bet on) jai alai and horseracing, get married (or divorced) or imbibe (legally) during Prohibition.

By the 1970s, the glamour days were long gone. But in recent years, Northern Baja has rebounded into a bona fide travel destination again.

From Michelin restaurants and vintage cocktails to quirky underground activities and the great outdoors, the region offers various ways to while away a weekend or even a whole week.

Here are six reasons you should visit Northern Baja now:



Interior of a villa at Rancho La Puerta destination spa in Tecate. (Photo by Nik Wheeler)
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The Soothing Hands of Tecate

Long before destination spas became a global fad, **Rancho la Puerta** was advocating fresh (chemical-free) foods, daily exercise and respect for nature.

The historic wellness resort was founded in 1940 by an adventurous couple hoping to spread their *Siempre Mejor!* (“Always Better!”) philosophy to the rest of the world.

Still owned and operated by the family, the ranch offers guided hiking and running programs, 50 daily fitness classes in everything from yoga and salsa dancing to kickboxing, meditation and sound healing, tennis and pickleball.

And there’s a luxury spa, of course, an oasis of massage, wraps, facials, manicures and pedicures, and more than a dozen ways to get waxed.