If you’re looking for an oceanic time-share escape unlike any other coastal vacation destination on earth, look no further. Los Cabos is a majestic Mexican playground on the edge of the earth, where the tip of the Baja California peninsula sinks gradually into the sea. Here the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Cortez connect, kiss the aquatic mountains, carve an arch in the rocks, and part toward the heavens. Land’s end beaches in this region are among the most scenic on the planet, especially between the twin cities of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo. Hidden within this mostly secluded twenty mile treasure of coastline you will find space where time stands still, where breathless moments of natural beauty last an eternity.

This jagged shoreline forms enclaves and warm tide pools that will draw you into the horizon like the setting sun. The snorkeling, swimming, and fishing on these beaches is the best in Baja, and the color of the water is like no other shade in existence. Turquoise hues paint the waves a bluish green, merging perfectly with the golden sand and pink corral rocks which encompass the backdrop. You will be immersed in the natural splendor of the canvas of land’s end, and then you will begin to discover that paradise does exist in certain finite forms.

But should you ever get bored with the tranquil beaches of the “tourist corridor,” which is the local name attributed to this spectacular stretch of land, there is always action in Cabo San Lucas at Medano beach, just adjacent to the marina. Here the water sports are unlimited, the sky is filled with flying Parasailors, and the water is filled with kayakers, wave runners, boats, cruise ships, and anything else that floats. Vendors comb the beaches with products of all persuasions, and the bars and restaurants are among the most exciting in Mexico.

Medano beach is the place to go for people watching, bikini contests, and a great place for children because the water is tranquil and the waves meek. This is also a great place to find a boat to take you over to Lover’s beach, where the Pacific meets the Sea of Cortez and the waves break upon the golden sand from opposite directions and collide on the land from both sides. If you ever get tired of sitting on the beach and desire to go farther out to sea, then you can rent a water craft or a fishing boat at the marina and take an excursion for the purpose of escaping the heat and reeling in some marlins.

The sport fishing scene in Cabo San Lucas is world renowned. Each October prestigious tournaments occur and offer unprecedented millions in prize money for the lucky fishermen who can reel aboard the biggest catch and bring it back to the shore in time. You will find a plethora of deep-sea fishing excursions and different types of boats and interesting, quirky local characters to take you out on the water. They will have everything you need for the day; drinks, food, music, and anything else you request will be quickly and efficiently provisioned.

Traveling by catamaran or chartered boat between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo is the best way to see all the scenic beaches at the southernmost tip of the peninsula. There are dozens of wonderful boats that embark upon these pleasure cruises each day. Here you can meet other tourists, or take a smaller craft and travel with your loved ones and friends, instead of embracing the aquatic party that usually develops on these wild offshore excursions. Either way, you will be able to see how the desert land curls like a golden snake and exposes the secret uninhabited beaches that shimmer in the distance, inviting exploration and enjoyment.

About halfway between San Jose and San Lucas are two of the most amazing beaches in Mexico, Chileno and Santa Maria. Here you will enjoy the best snorkeling, kayaking, and swimming in the Cabo

Timeshare Opportunities in Cabo San Lucas
area. These may be popular spots and are sometimes quite busy, so it’s best to go early in the morning during the week, because all the locals frequent the beaches on the weekends. The best weekend beach for privacy is in San Jose, between Costa Azul, where you first pass the giant overhead road sign welcoming you to San Jose del Cabo, and Brisas beachside bar and RV park, at kilometer 29 on the four lane trans-peninsular highway connecting San Jose with San Lucas.

The Cabo San Lucas marina is among the finest in the world, surrounded by dozens of the best restaurants, stores, and bars in all of Mexico. The Puerto Paraiso shopping center is a newly constructed upscale mall with a plethora of opportunities and even a multiplex movie theatre on the top level. Puerto Paraiso is also adjacent to the marina and within walking distance from Playa Medano, and if you ever get a rainy day, which you won’t, there is no better place to walk around than inside this spectacular shopping mall denoted in Spanish as “Paradise Port.”

Having lived here in Cabo for years, I have explored all the timeshare resorts and have discovered the best of the best. I have listed the four greatest Cabo timeshare resorts and opportunities below, in no particular order.

**Misiones del Cabo** is located near the southernmost tip of the Baja California peninsula, with the best view to the famous arch of Cabo. At this resort, you will enjoy tennis courts, an outdoor swimming pool, and a fabulous restaurant and bar. Elegance, comfort, and romantic luxury await you in your private suite. The Misiones Hotel and Beach Resort features distinctively appointed one- and two-bedroom, two-bath condominium style accommodations that offer a spectacular ocean view, fully equipped kitchens, separate dining areas, ceiling Fans, over-sized private balconies or patios, individually remote-controlled air conditioning, direct dial telephone service, color cable television with HBO and Cinemax. The rent is $450 per week, and the units are not for sale.

Another amazing place to stay is at the **Marina Fiesta Hotel and Resort**, located adjacent to the marina with breathtaking views of luxury yachts and marina activities. These timeshares are centrally located in downtown Cabo San Lucas. They are over 1,200 square feet in size, and the lock-off suite offers a separate bedroom, two bathrooms, living room, dining room and full kitchen, as well as a balcony overlooking either the beautiful Marina or pool. The Master Suites offer two queen size beds and a king bed with a sleeper sofa bed.

The Marina Fiesta Hotel and Resort provides you quiet elegance and comfort as the centerpiece of the beautiful Cabo San Lucas Marina, just a short walk to the vivacious downtown area of Cabo San Lucas. Its beautiful Spanish style architecture compliments the spacious accommodations. The plethora of activities that Cabo San Lucas is famous for surround the hotel, with exciting sports fishing in the blue Pacific and the Sea of Cortez departures from the Marina, snorkeling and scuba diving in all local waters available from the Marina, swimming, kayaking, and many other beach activities one block away at the Marina Fiesta Beach Club. Fine and casual dining, shopping, and nightlife is also nearby and within walking distance. The fabulous golf courses of Cabo feature two world famous courses, one designed by Jack Nicklaus, the other by Robert Trent Jones, and both ocean view courses are just a short drive away.

The Marina Fiesta Hotel and Resort consist of fully furnished and air conditioned studios, along with one and two bedroom suites designed for unprecedented comfort, with kitchenettes, worldwide direct-dial telephones, satellite television, and fully service health and beauty spa. All the amenities are provided, including room services and pool side cocktail and food services. Also, there is now the new La Concepcion Bar alongside the boardwalk.

Additional services provided by Marina Fiesta include a welcome margarita, mini bar in all suites, gym and sun-deck with Jacuzzi, solarium, affordable drugstore, baby sitting services, safety deposit boxes, same-day laundry service, elevators, iron gate at the Marina steps to provide full privacy, and private parking lot. The rent is $1,400 per week, and Marina Fiesta units are not for sale.

Among the best views in all of Cabo, **Villa del Palmar** has spectacular views of land’s end. From the hot tub on the deck of this five star Medano Beach oceanfront
penthouses, you have the best views in all of Cabo San Lucas. There is nothing but sand between you and the water from this two bedroom, two bath beachfront unit which sleeps eight very comfortably. It also has a large private living area. Lover’s Beach, the world famous arch, and the Sea of Cortez are all a part of your horizon. You can even catch a water taxi right from the resort to ride the waves downtown to Cabo. The amenities include air conditioning, boat access nearby, dishwasher, exercise equipment, game room, grocery store nearby, housekeeping, laundry service, telephone, spa, washer and drier in all units, beach and shopping nearby, child care services, racquetball, tennis courts, kitchen in all units, snack bar, swimming pool. The rent is $4,000 per week, and the cost to buy is $32,000.

A little separated from most of the other resorts and proud of it, Pueblo Bonito Sunset Resort has unprecedented Baja California Pacific Ocean front property with spectacular unobstructed panoramic views. Junior suite sleeps four with full kitchen and balcony, and this is a fully self contained resort a few minutes from downtown Cabo. It has beautiful courtyards, boutiques, restaurants, pools, and tennis courts, spa, within minutes from fabulous golf courses. There is also a shuttle from the airport and to other resorts.

Pueblos Bonito Sunset has air-conditioning, handicapped service, boating, fishing, water activities nearby, elevator, laundry service, telephone, and spa and beauty services. The rent is $950 per week, and the cost to buy is $6,500, plus closing costs.

These are the four best timeshares in Cabo and whatever choice you select you will definitely not go wrong. Cabo is becoming a booming tourist town that has turned many a vacationer into local.

Los Cabos is the end of the real world and the beginning of the fantasy realm. The oceanic natural beauty will inspire you to find something deep within your soul. A piece of ecstatic sublime that you will want to hold on to forever. The majestic mountains descend into caves filled with breaking waves and the arch at land’s end will make you want to pass through paradise and enter heaven. But be careful what you wish for, because you may never want to leave.

FOCUS ON: Presidential Resort, Spotsylvania, VA

By Jane Pallokat, Harwinton, CT

Our home resort is Long Wharf resort in Newport Rhode Island.

In August 2006 we exchanged into Unit 70 of the Presidential Resort, on a Friday. Check in is at 4 pm, but it took us 3 hours for the 58 mile stretch of 1-95 from Washington, D.C. to Fredericksburg VA. We called the resort for a suggested inland detour and got no answer! Since they had failed to answer our previous calls about type of unit, we approached the resort with a very creepy feeling. There were no apologies from a very brusque staff at check in. They were robotic, and got upset when we asked for the unexpected: since there were 6 of us, we felt we needed more than 2 keys. They acted as if we had asked for the moon!

This resort is billed as “adjacent” to a campground, but it is really within a campground of 2000+ sites. There was no website for us to preview. Lots of rules and inflexibility made us feel like we were at a kid’s camp. Long distances to all features, (except for one outdoor pool and a nice playground), and sizeable hills made even biking for the kids and grandparents difficult. More than one half the sites were vacant.

The timeshare units are log cabin lodges on paved cul-de-sacs. Our 6-year old learned to use her bike brakes, and to “scooter” safely, because our immediate area was so remote. Each lodge has a covered front porch with picnic table, grill, and 2 rocking chairs. Some of the small back decks had plastic chairs. There was a nearby guest parking area where we parked our trailer containing kayaks and bikes.

Indoors was a gas fireplace (not operational on cool summer evenings), TV, one chair, sleep sofa of very poor quality, and leave the financing to us!

Tammac Financial Corp’s resale financing program will let you enjoy the good life even more, whether buying or refinancing a timeshare week.

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Enjoy The Good Life...
small side tables and three lamps. This is the living room for a “sleeps 6” unit! The dining area had a large enough table with 6 chairs. Kitchens are small, more like efficiency size, with the dishwasher directly under the sink in a unique configuration, a full size refrigerator, ice maker, electric stove, microwave, basic cookpots, toaster, coffeepot and blender. We had to run the dishwasher for each meal because there were only 6 plates, cups, etc., and a stingy amount of flatware. Only one person could do kitchen chores at a time.

Thank goodness for the outdoor grill!

The downstairs bedroom had twin beds, 2 lamps and 2 tiny chests of drawers. Our teen granddaughter slept on the living room sleeper and had nowhere but the floor of our bedroom to keep her clothes. That blocked our private entrance to the bath, so for the entire week she complained that we woke her when we went out into the dining area to get to that bathroom. There was no mirror in either bathroom. The open closet is of normal size, and there is a door to the back deck.

The downstairs full bath is average size and has a good vanity, but needs more towel rods. The poor quality glass shower door is a nuisance. The upstairs has a huge bath with whirlpool tub and separate shower. Too bad the architect couldn’t have given some of the bath space to the bedroom.

The upstairs bedroom has a most uncomfortable queen bed which was broken, 2 nightstands, TV, narrow chest of drawers, open closet, no chair. There was room for the littlest child’s cot (brought from home) in this room with her parents, or we could have fit her between the twin beds downstairs.

Sound travels from room to room and floor to floor much too easily.

The whole lodge is air conditioned, which seemed more important to the younger generation than to grandparents in their 60’s. The resort management keeps the air conditioning on in vacant lodges, which is probably why there is no mold problem in this very humid setting. There is a trash barrel on each front porch which is emptied daily by resort staff. There is one free midweek towel exchange. We were disappointed that this resort has failed to initiate recycling.

One can walk to the man-made lake, which is not suitable for swimming by our New England standards, but was great for the kayaks. One has to drive to laundry facilities, whether you use the resort machines, or opt for a regular laundry on US Route 1. We had to go to the Fredericksburg Public Library to check our email, even though we had a laptop with us. The camp store is poorly stocked and expensive. Recreation is of much better quality: nice size gym, tennis, horses, miniature golf, indoor pool, 2 outdoor pools, and boat rentals. The pool nearest the timeshare units is shallow and nicely laid out for kids. There is a volleyball net on it. Lots of lounge chairs were available.

The area between the resort and Fredericksburg, a stretch of 9 miles, has a combination of rural battlefield monuments and rapidly growing retail centers. Every big box store and chain restaurant you can think of appears to be along this highway. Historic Fredericksburg center has numerous antique shops, but the elders in our family elected to save those for a cooler weather return trip. The National Park personnel were great! We recommend the movie at the Visitor’s Center, and taking the time to listen to the Rangers talk about the civil war battles which took place in this area.

Less than an hour’s drive south on I-95 is Paramount’s Kings Dominion amusement park. On Sunday, we decided to do a “survey” visit to Washington D.C.. We did not rise with the birds, so had a difficult time finding parking for a Chevy Suburban. We should have found the Grey Line or another tour trolley and let them show us the sites. Since 9/11, the city has become a lot more difficult to navigate.

Would this family return to Presidential Resort at Chancellorville? Probably not for another exchange, but maybe to rent a unit for a couple of nights while taking in those antique shops in town.