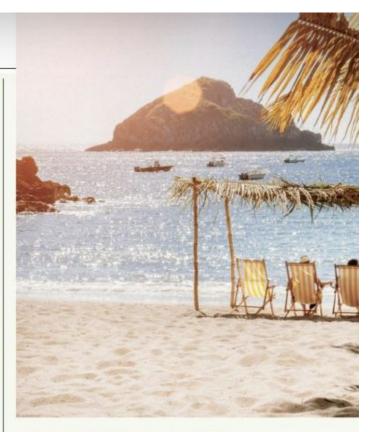


DIARY



f one holiday destination feels like the truest pandemic antidote, it's Careyes in Jalisco, Mexico. A three-hour flight from Los Angeles to Manzanillo plus an hour's drive up the coast brings you to the Edenic private resort, a wonderfully accessible getaway for Californians (the Jenner sisters vacationed there in January). The pristine stretch of Pacific Ocean encompasses 8 miles of beaches offering meditative solitude, as well as lush jungles dotted with whimsical, polychromatic villas, casitas and tropical castles — plus visiting sea turtles.

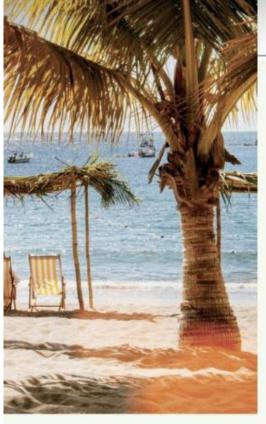
Italian visionary and banker Gian Franco Brignone purchased this land in Costalegre (Spanish for "coast of joy") in the late '60s and conjured up Latin America's answer to Portofino, Capri, Positano and San Gimignano all in one. The original boldly hued architecture, idyllic atmosphere and uninhibited spirit proved an instant siren call to an international flock of aristocratic playboys and bohemians, plus models and creatives — think Cindy Crawford and Herb Ritts. Today, visitors run the gamut, from Talita von Furstenberg and director Lee Daniels to Naomi Campbell and the descendants of Colombian painter Fernando Botero.



The fantasy is fueled by an extra level of privacy: forget bustling hotels; accommodations take the form of shapely palapa-topped villas with extravagant infinity pools. Imaginative attractions such as the Copa del Sol (or "cup of the sun"), a hemisphere more than 88 feet wide perched atop a jutting cliff, offer memorable locations for watching a sunset or joining a meditation and sound-healing session. Indeed, dinner parties where twentysomethings happily mingle with chic octogenarians are as prolific as temescal sweat-lodge ceremonies. At the condo-style accommodations of the El Careves Club & Residences (with five infinity pools), daily yoga is taught by visiting practitioners including Californians Andrew Sealy and Shayna Hiller, while the secluded five-bedroom Casa Torre villa has a 24-foot captained Boston Whaler available for excursions.

The Brignone family still shapes the scene, with 94-year-old Gian Franco even now occasionally indulging in leisurely lunches at the fuchsia open-air Playa Rosa Beach Club. This de facto social hub is





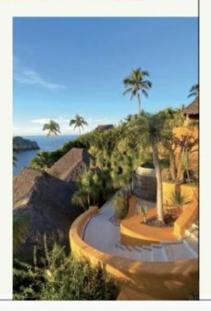
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where, in the '70s, fresh seafood was purchased from local fishermen using pages torn from *Playboy* as currency. Gian Franco's sons have also made their marks. Filippo founded the Careyes Foundation, which supports local communities as well as protects the four types of sea turtles that lay their eggs on Careyes' Playa Teopa (guests can help collect the nests and release the hatchlings during golden hour). Giorgio's passion for polo is evidenced in the two regulation Bermuda grass fields, the slew of ponies and horses (guests can book beach rides) and the spate of matches throughout the year.

At Careyes, virtually every moment is spent in fresh air: paddleboarding, snorkeling with sea creatures and exploring secret beaches or dining, drinking and dancing with new friends. As devotees know, it's not called the coast of joy for nothing. careyes.com.





WHERE TO EAT

See and be seen — beside an idyllic sandy cove — over mounds of guacamole and ceviche at Playa Rosa Beach Club. For Argentine beef and impossibly thin pizzas there's Punto Como in the village square. And Pueblo25 offers intimate tasting meals devised by visiting chefs who draw inspiration from local produce and seafood.

WHERE TO DRINK

The spicy-smoky mezcal jalapeño cocktail at Casa de Nada — the name means "house of nothing," apropos of Careyes' pervasive sense of whimsy — stands on its own, but it's even more intoxicating when sipped barefoot on the beach with a canopy of stars above. The passion fruit margarita at Playa Rosa also can't be missed.

WHERE TO SHOP

The chicly bohemian

Temple Mexico boutique,
at El Careyes, is the
place to stock up on
floaty caftans and coverups from the eponymous
label, as well as gauzy
beach dresses from Kasia
Kulenty, fringed Daniela
Bustos Maya frocks and
traditional Huichol beaded
accessories that complete
every Careyes ensemble.