

chef behind the *Marquis'* smaller, more intimate restaurant.

Esperanza Km 7 Mex 1 ☎624/145-6400. The expansive restaurant practically spills down towards the shore in a series of terraces. The seafood-centric menu uses local fish like Robalo, Lengado and Cabrilla in non-local ways: honey baked, dusted with sage or on top of mushroom lasagna. Dinner for two M\$1200.

El Parthenon Km 4.5 Mex 1 ☎624/144-4475. This dance club's facade looks like a Looney Tunes version of a Greek temple, with pastel colours and faux broken Doric columns. The inside is all twentieth-century techno, with flashing lights and

booming sound systems, as well as a predominantly local crowd.

Pitahaya's Km 10 Mex 1, *Sheraton Hacienda del Mar* ☎624/145-6126, @pitahayas.com. The global menu takes in crab cakes and potstickers (dumplings), blackened catch of the day and salsa of mango and papaya. Dinner for two M\$1500.

Tequila and Ceviche Bar Km 19.5 Mex 1, at *Las Ventanas al Paraíso* ☎624/144-2800. With over one hundred tequilas on the menu, there's little doubt how to proceed. The *ceviche* bar changes menu daily, depending on the catch and the season.

San José del Cabo

SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO, 33km east of Cabo San Lucas, is the older and altogether more sedate of the two towns. Founded as a mission in 1730 by Jesuits, it was abandoned after the Pericú revolt in 1734. A mix of ex-pirates, lapsed missionaries and drop-out miners began to repopulate the town in the early nineteenth century and turned the area into an agricultural centre and small port. Although frequently referred to as colonial, modern San José, like Cabo, is a product of late-nineteenth-century construction and planning. No traces remain of its first settlement, and none of the more historic buildings dates further back than the late 1880s.

Arrival and information

Mex 1 from La Paz enters San José from the north and becomes Boulevard Mauricio Castro before heading out of the city southwest along the Corridor towards Cabo San Lucas. **Bus** traffic from the north arrives at the station, Valerio Gonzáles s/n at Mex 1 (☎624/142-1100), a fifteen-minute walk from the centre.

The Los Cabos **tourism office** is on Avenida Mauricio Castro at Plaza San José (Mon-Fri 8am-3pm; ☎624/142-3310, @visitcabo.com). Although it's quite far out on the highway, they do offer helpful **information** on the area.

Accommodation

The **San José** beach hotels – the *zona hotelera* – are slightly cheaper than those found along the Corridor but they're stuffed into less space and front an enormous, dangerous beach. **La Playita**, a neighbourhood east of downtown, is the only area that has low prices and safe beaches for swimming. Like Cabo, downtown San José has a handful of decent budget **hotels**, the cheapest of which are located around the plaza alongside more expensive boutique hotels.

The waterfront

El Delfin Blanco Calle Delfines s/n, Pueblo la Playa ☎624/142-1212, @eldelfinblanco.net. Rustic but well-maintained cabañas (with shared bath) and casitas (private baths) just

off the beach. All rooms have ceiling fans and refrigerators and there's use of bicycles and a lending library. Shared bath ③; private bath ④



Marisol Plaza Garuffi, Zona Hotelera San José ☎624/142-2040, @marisol.com.mx. Each of the eight rooms in this inn atop a shopping plaza has a balcony and views, as well as satellite TV, a/c and a cooler you can take to the beach. ⑤

La Playita Pueblo la Playa ☎624/142-4166, @laplayitahotel.com. A pleasant waterside alternative that's removed from the crowds, a three-storey hotel and restaurant with comfortable, spare rooms overlooking a small pool and an outdoor dining

area. The hotel can arrange fishing trips for you and the restaurant will cook your catch. ⑦
Royal Solaris Zona Hotelera San José ☎624/145-6800, @clubsolaris.com. Numerous pools, activities and some in-house childcare facilities make this a good spot for families – as does the all-inclusive deal. All rooms have balconies and at least partial views of the Sea of Cortez, which makes up for the dated decor. ①