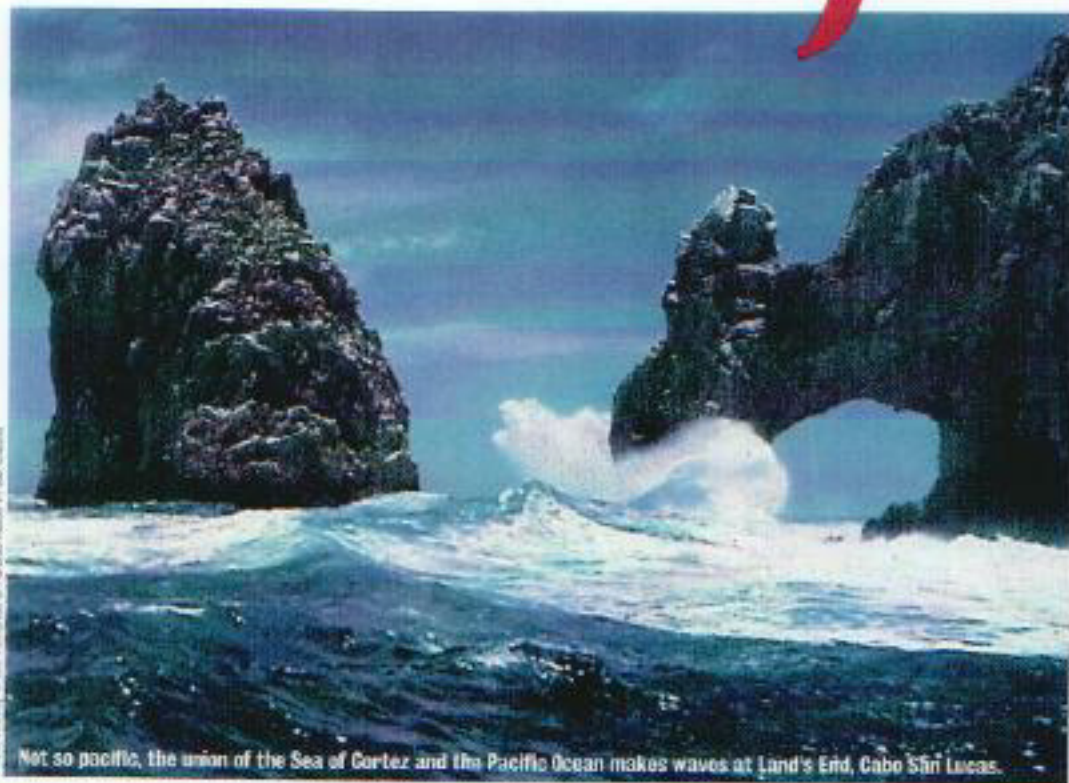


The Insider's Guide to *Baja*

■ One if by land, two if by sea...three if by air? Baja any way you like it.

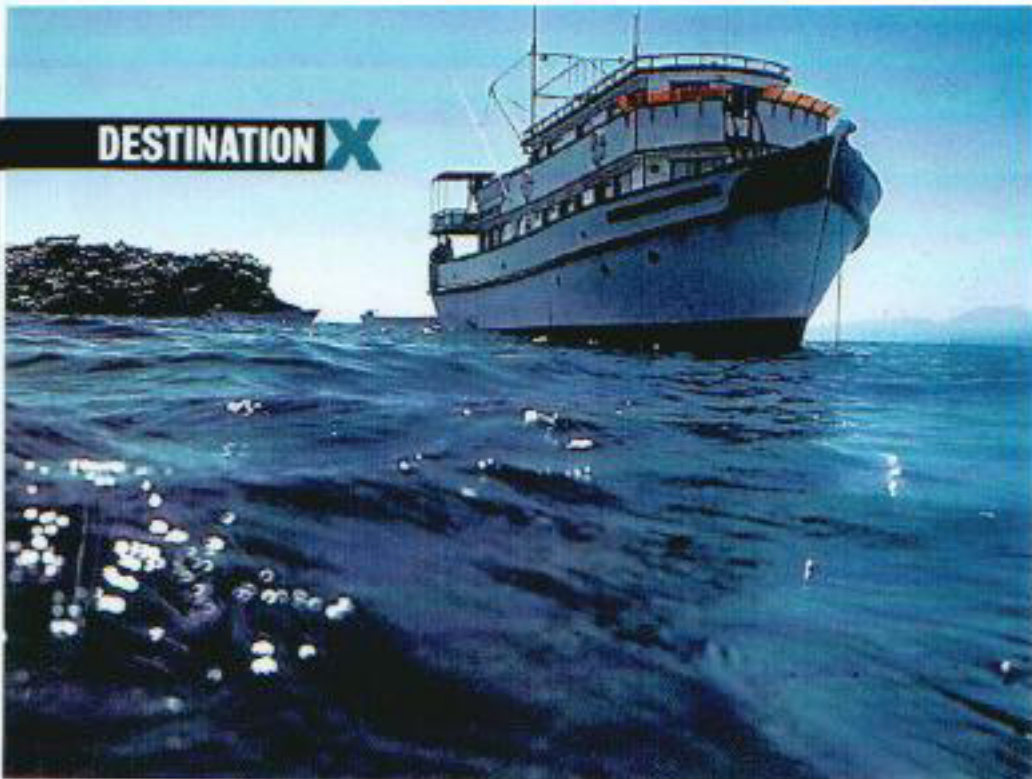


Not so pacific, the union of the Sea of Cortez and the Pacific Ocean makes waves at Land's End, Cabo San Lucas.



X-folk: Heather Cantwell, Aryn Kelly & Gil Zeimer

DESTINATION X



The handiwork of master shipbuilder Don Jose Abaron plys the waters of the Sea of Cortez.

DIVE BRIEFING

At or near the surface of the water, the temperature is in the low 80s in summer and fall—at depth, the low 70s. Visibility ranges from 40 feet during plankton bloom to 100 feet-plus. The best conditions occur between June and November.

Due to Baja's desert surroundings, air temperatures can exceed 100° in the summer—a good reason to stay in the water. For summer diving, a dive skin is plenty. During the late fall, wear a light wetsuit. Winter can require a quarter-inch wetsuit, hood and heavy gloves. Conditions are calmest in the summer, though brisk winds can make it rough at the surface. But, Baja offers plenty of options year-round. Chances are, if conditions are bad in one place, they're good somewhere else.