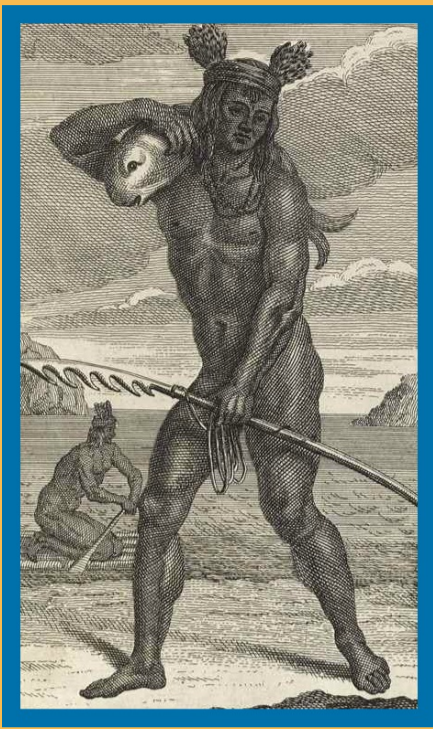


## Population Figures

Although it would obviously be impossible to tell a nuanced story of Los Cabos based solely on population numbers, these figures do quite elegantly suggest the grand sweep – the soaring highs and devastating lows – of local history.



1697

When the first permanent European settlement on the Baja California peninsula was established by Jesuit missionaries at Loreto in **1697**, there were a mere 10 Europeans and an estimated **50,000** indigenous inhabitants.

The latter comprised 3 main tribal groups, one of which was the **Pericúes**, nomadic people whose territorial range included virtually all of the present day municipality of Los Cabos.

1799

Cabo San Lucas, although a port of consequence from the 16th century, **was not settled and ranched until the 1820s**. In 1835, when an English surgeon and naturalist named Frederick Debell Bennett visited Cabo San Lucas, the small pueblo had only about **30 residents**.

1730

The first Jesuit mission was built in San José del Cabo in 1730, and by 1799 the community had grown to some **389 inhabitants**.

1851

By 1851, the peninsular population had dwindled to about 7,000. The natives had largely perished due to European introduced diseases, and many of the Spanish colonizers had left following the Mexican-American War, or because of the subsequent discovery of gold in the former Mexican territory of Alta California.

1900

By 1900, however, the peninsular population had rebounded to almost 50,000, or approximately the number of people who had lived there prior to the European influx. After a five year fin de siglo drought, **San José del Cabo thrived as a farming and ranching community** during the early 20th century, and by the beginning of the Mexican Revolution in 1910 boasted **4,300 residents**.

Neighboring Cabo San Lucas, even with the introduction of a productive cannery, maintained a steady population of about 300 souls as late as 1955.

1958

The age of tourism in Los Cabos effectively began with the opening of Rod Rodriguez's Hotel Las Cruces Palmilla (on the site of the present day One&Only Palmilla) in 1958. From that point, the demographic arrow shot straight up. Cabo San Lucas grew from 300 to 16,059 by 1990; to 28,483 by 1995; and by **2010 had reached 68,464 residents**.

1990

Growth in San José del Cabo was not quite as spectacular, but as of 2010 it retained its traditional advantage over its cape sister, with **69,788 inhabitants**.

Those figures are expected to rise to keep pace with the current building boom, in which hotel capacity is increasing by about **35% over a three year period**. But how high they will ultimately go is a story that is still in progress.

2017

The Los Cabos municipality as a whole – which consists of the cape cities and their connecting corridor, plus the East Cape and small towns like Santiago and Miraflores – went from 10,000 residents in 1970 to an all-time **high of 287,671 in 2015**.

