

travel special  
**WARM  
WEATHER  
ESCAPES**

The Santa Rosa Trail at Rancho Cacachilas; right, Espiritu Santo, the first destination on ROW's sea-kayaking trip



**ACCESS AND RESOURCES**

With a direct line to the trails, Rancho Cacachilas's rustic main lodging area **Chivato** has eight safari-style glamping tents and four rooms, plus outdoor showers and a small pool overlooking the sea. The minimum stay is two nights (from \$175), which includes accommodations, food, and activities. The ranch is open from October 1 to May 31. For a change of pace, guests can sign up for **ROW Adventures' eight-day Sea to Mountains Adventure**, which involves four days of sea-kayaking the wildlife-rich waters near Espiritu Santo Island, followed by four nights at the ranch (from \$2,040). Or take a six-hour camp (\$399) or two-hour private lesson (from \$190) with **Evolution Kiteboarding** in nearby La Ventana. Don't bother renting a car—shuttle buses are available from Los Cabos Airport to La Paz; from there, guests catch a private shuttle to the ranch. The **Mountain and Bike Hub**, an on-site rental and repair shop, offers high-performance dual-suspension rides (from \$46 for four hours).

**SHRED NEW TRAILS**

ACROSS BAJA'S SIERRA CACACHILAS  
BY STEPHANIE PEARSON

When it comes to Baja, most people think humpback whales, monster Pacific swells, and jalapeño-spiced margaritas sipped on empty beaches. Now mountain bikers eager to escape winter can add their own fantasy: cycling an expanding system of singletrack at Rancho Cacachilas, a solar-powered adventure resort with access to 34,600 acres in the Sierra Cacachilas between La Paz and kiteboarding hub La Ventana. Since 2014, an International Mountain Biking Association-trained, 15-person crew has been building what will eventually be

43 miles of singletrack on the ranch, with an eye toward erosion control and water management, which means the trails won't be washed away in the next flash flood. Twenty-five miles are complete, giving intermediate and advanced riders a few days' worth of exploration in a trail system that feels like an arid Fruita, Colorado, with saguaro cactus and killer ocean views. The ten-mile Sky Trail will be finished in June and peaks at a summit that overlooks the sea before spilling into a giggle-out-loud downhill. Rancho Cacachilas also offers hiking and bird-watching, as well as on-site workshops in cheesemaking and seed storage. Or just kick back by the pool with a cocktail and take in the expansive view of Cerralvo Island in the Sea of Cortez.

FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF RANCHO CACACHILAS; JUSTIN BAILIE

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JENNIFER ADLER/GETTY IMAGES; TOM STACK/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; PETER PONTONE