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TODAY

Travel

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Beyond danger zones, the country abounds with wonders

Scared of narco-terrorists? So are we. But that doesn't mean we've written off all of Mexico, where the ramped-up war against and between violent drug cartels has spooked many would-be visitors.

Border areas notwithstanding, "most of the country has a pretty low crime rate," and tourists usually aren't targets, notes international security expert Bruce McIndoe of iJET Travel Intelligence. "Yes, there's room for collateral damage, but you can get struck by lightning, too."

Even the U.S. State Department, whose recently expanded warning cautions against non-essential travel to parts or all of 14 (out of 31) Mexican states, exempts most of the country's marquee tourist spots — including these nine.



Monarch butterflies: See them by the millions in central Mexico in winter.

By Marco Ugarte, AP

Map key

Sun & sand



Cultural heartland

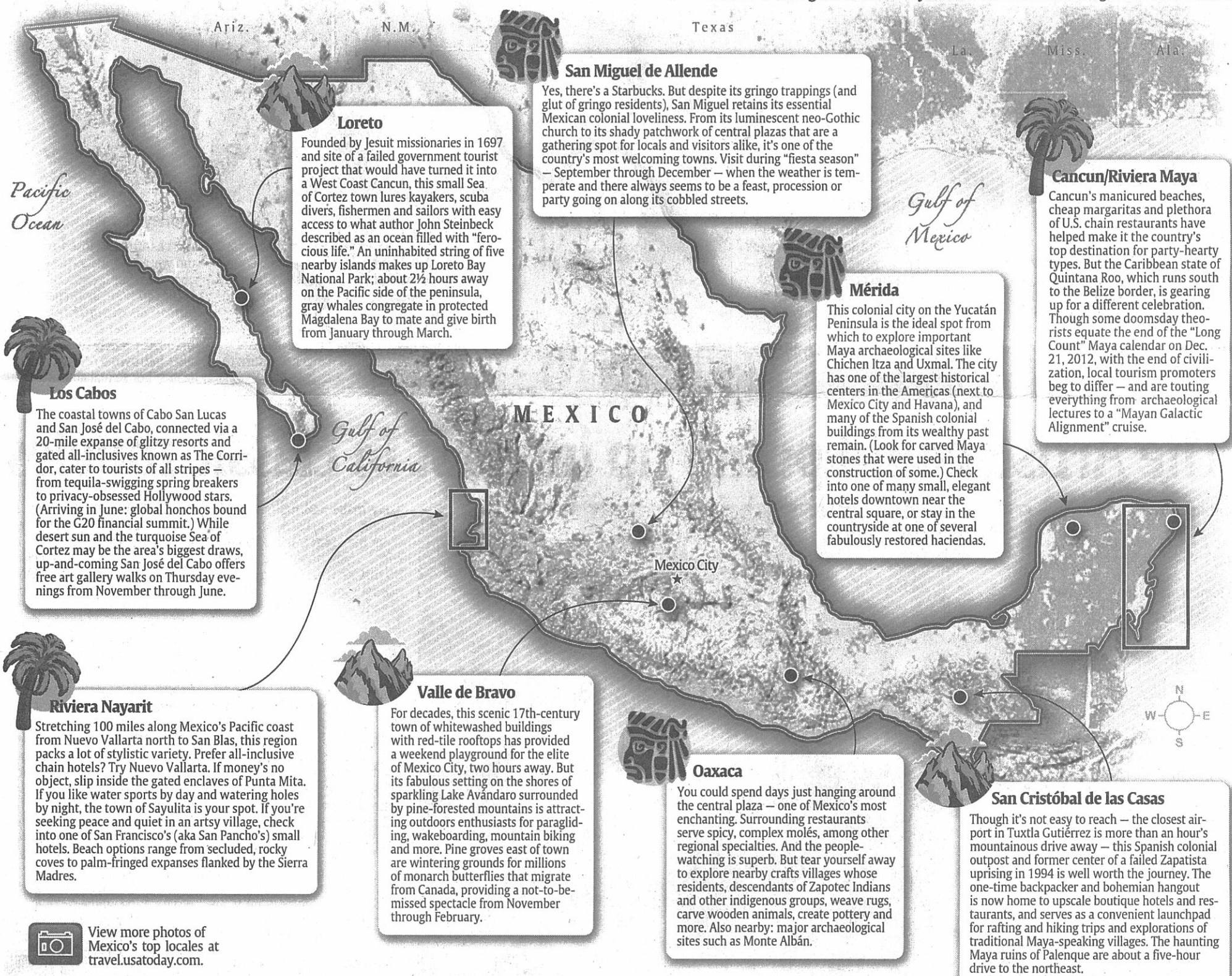


Nature & adventure

MEXICO
FOR WIMPSBy Laura Bly
and Jayne Clark,
USA TODAY

Riviera Maya Destination Marketing Office

Ancient coastal grandeur: The Maya ruin of Tulum sits on the edge of the Caribbean Sea.

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