RUN FOR THE BORDER
From west-coast wildlife to Caribbean keepsakes, there's a vacation for everyone in Mexico, the world's 14th largest country.

1. DISAPPEAR
On Isla Holbox, there are no crowds, no cars and no worries. Here it's just you and the beach. Linger in plentiful plunge pools at Las Nubes de Holbox (above), a resort so remote you'll likely be the only guest. (Yes, really.) Even better, the island is home to the protected Isla Pajaros, a bird sanctuary where few even get to set foot. Don't miss Isla Holbox's second claim to fame: lobster pizza at Restaurant Edelyn.
— Cami Miller

2. GO WILD
Cabo Adventures gets thrill-seekers up close and personal with whale sharks, the largest fish in the world. Speaking of big, from December to April, you'll spot humpback whales breaching, often just a few feet from the boat. Then head inland to Wild Canyon for night ziplining, bungee jumping over cactus-spiked ravines, and wild ATV rides over the longest wooden suspension bridge on earth.
— Vicky Hodges

3. DRINK UP
Cancun's hotel zone is lined with all-incs, but Hyatt Ziva Cancun is the first to boast its own microbrewery. Order a flight to sample the house-made brews such as wheat, stout and amber, along with a side of chicken wings in flavors like sweet bourbon or tamarind sour-and-sharp chipotle. If agave is more your speed, the property's Juana Margarita bar serves up reposado, mezcal and tequila-based martinis.
— Rebecca Kinneer

4. GET PAMPERED
Two Punta Mita resorts sport spas that use the healing properties of local spirits. At Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita, inhale the distinctive aromas of tequila and sage oils during the Punta Mita Massage. At The St. Regis Punta Mita Resort, the Brew & Renew Massage exfoliates skin with agave essential oil and the hotel's own craft lager, while natural B vitamins help hydrate and rejuvenate. — Holly V. Kapherr

5. MAX YOUR CREDIT CARD
Playa del Carmen's Quinta Avenida has plenty to please both bargain hunters and big spenders. Peruse this pedestrian-only stretch of stores selling local souvenirs, artwork and crafts, like one-of-a-kind hand-beaded pieces of art at Tierra Huichol. Stay nearby at Mahékal Beach Resort; at the Artisan Palapa, sip watermelon margaritas while painting your own pottery to bring home. — Kim Kuhn