



OSINT - Checking out of winter

Category	write ups
Status	Live
Quick Summary	a Write up for an OSINT challenge for Irisctf2025
Subject Tags	OSINT
AI summary	<p>This document outlines the thought process and steps taken during an OSINT challenge for IrisCTF2025, focusing on identifying a hotel based on images and clues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Challenge involves finding the hotel Adam stayed at.• Initial guesses included Hilton Los Cabos but were incorrect.• Utilized Google image search and EXIF data analysis without success.• Collaborated with partner @medjay for insights.• Final correct flag identified as <p style="color: red;">irisctf{Hilton_Los_Cabos_Beach_and_Golf_Resort} .</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author reflects on the investigative process and challenges faced.
ⓘ Type	Note
ⓘ Related Notebook	 CTF Notebook

Hello, here is my thought process during the OSINT challenges for the IrisCTF2025

Challenge:

CHALLENGE'S DISCLAIMER: Please do not include any accent markings or special characters into the flag. Apply proper capitalization to the flag. Here's an example of the flag irisctf{Iris_Hotel} if there is a special symbol like '&' please type out the word 'and'.

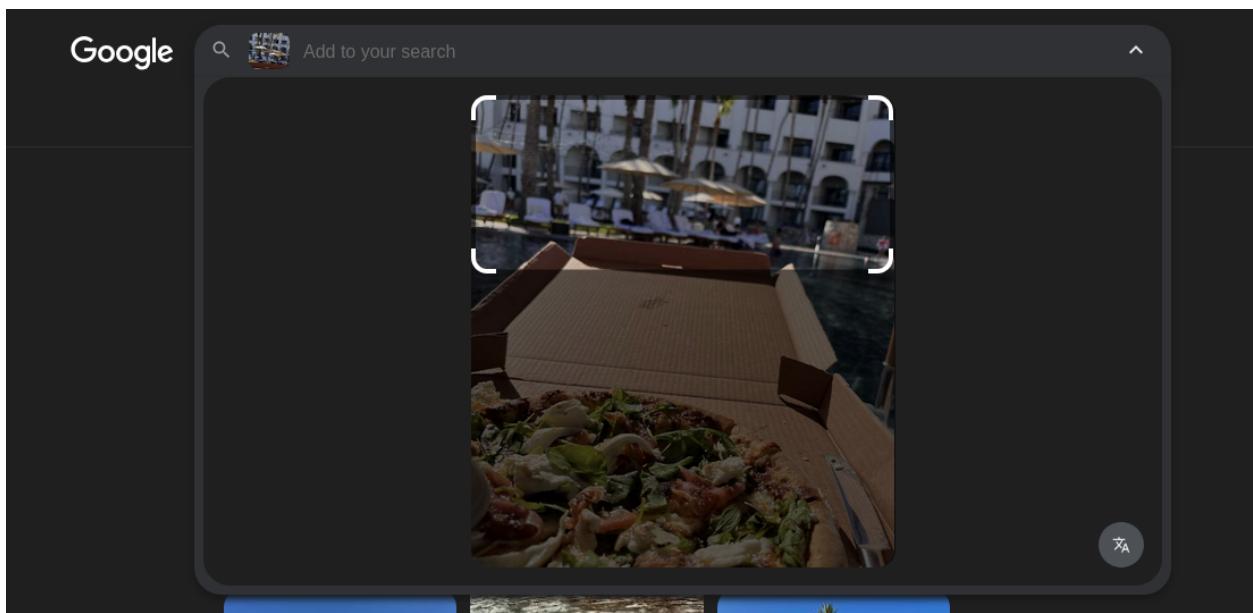
We took our annual road trip to Baja California Sur to visit the beach and play some golf. I like how this location is farther from the city compared to other resorts. I really enjoyed the sweet and savory sauce on the pizza with shredded chicken. After eating, I fell asleep, and half of my legs ended up getting tanned.

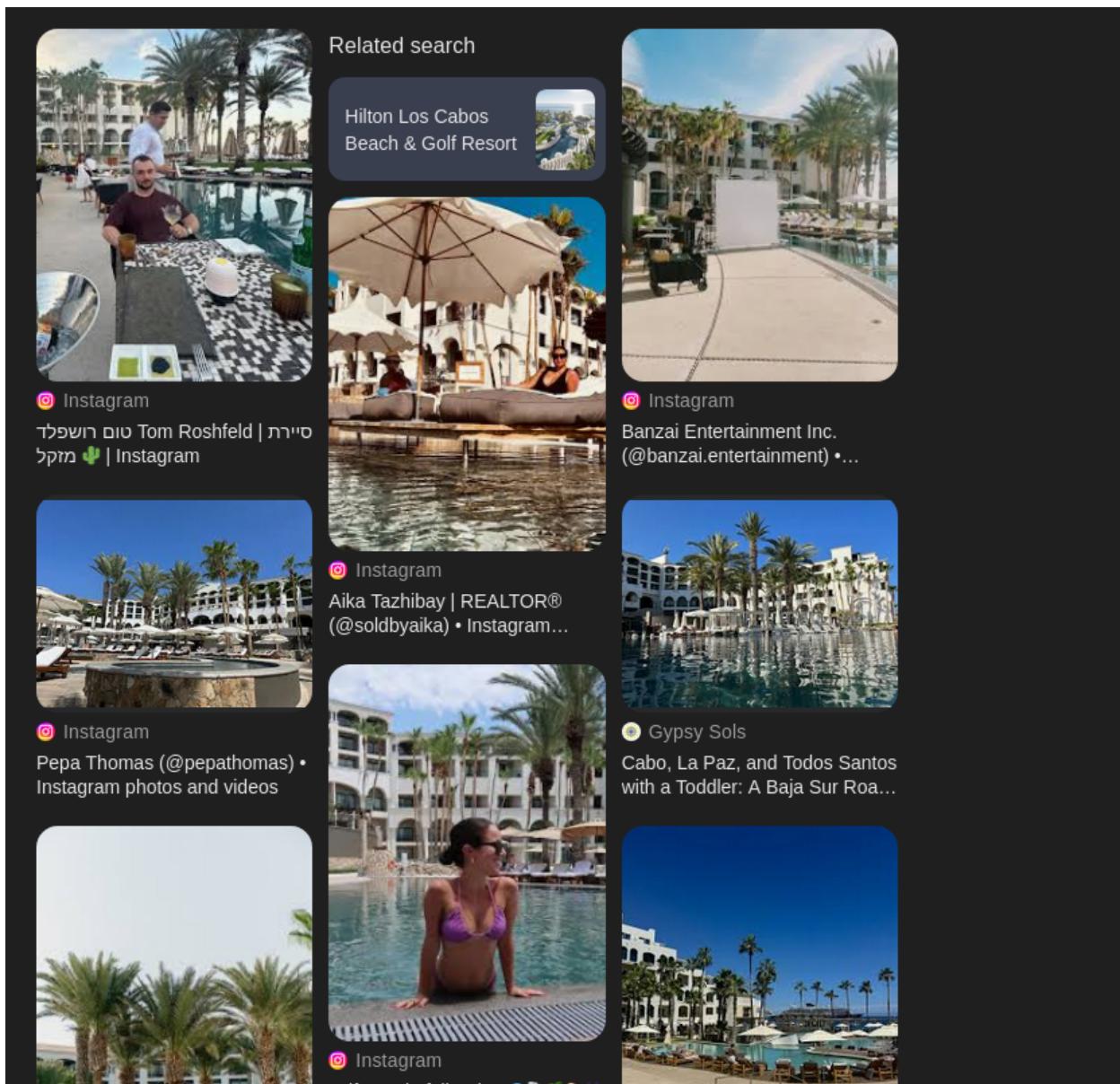
Question: Which hotel did Adam stay at?

Picture:



My first thought was to throw this into Google image search and only look for the architecture in the photo. It looks distinct enough that I should get close enough to the hotel.



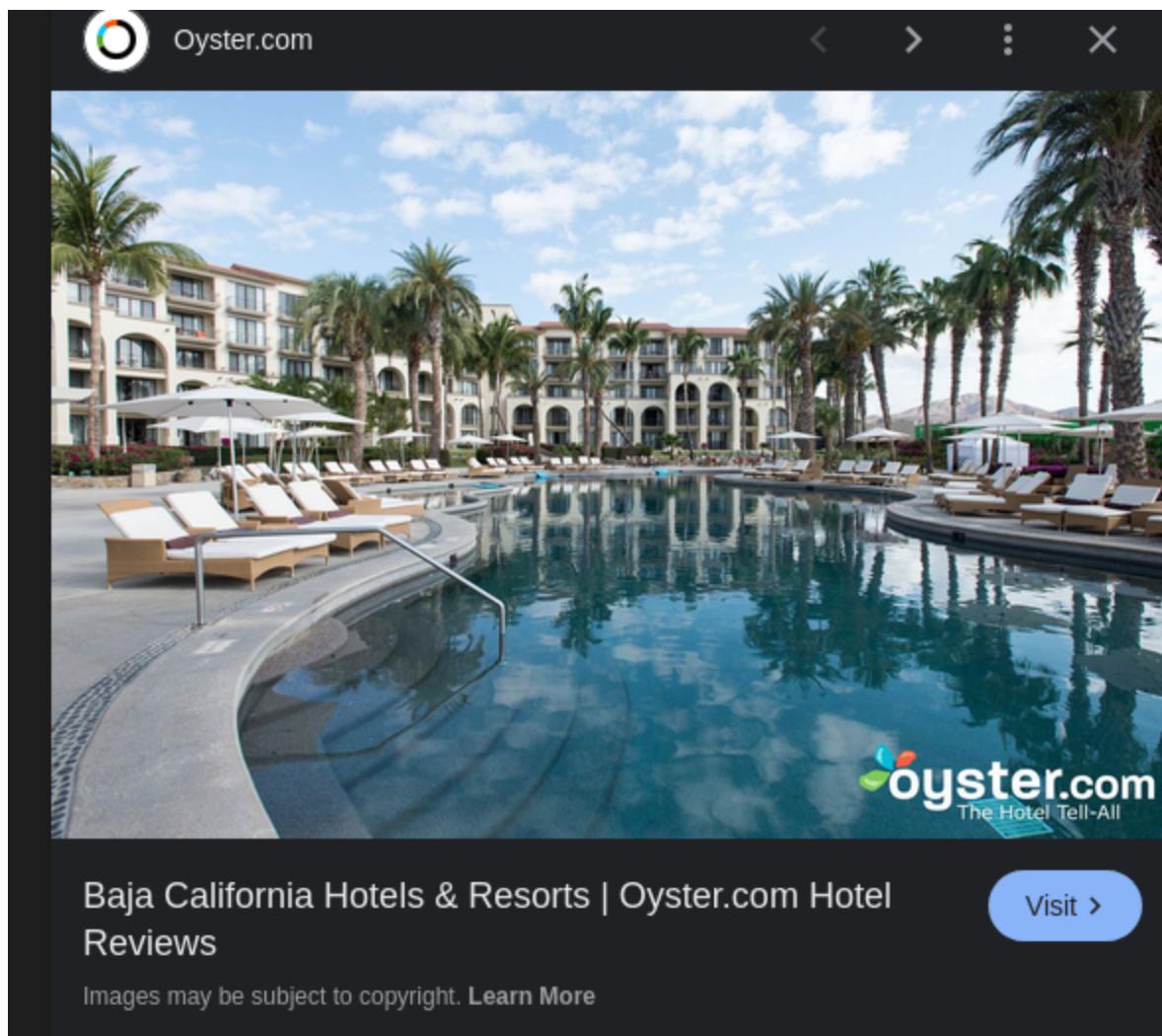


This looked super close and I believed I had the hotel confirmed by an instagram post.

I believed the hotel was the Hilton Los Cabos
so I tried irisctf{Hilton_los_Cabos}
that didnt work

My partner (shout out to @medjay) tried Hilton_Los_Cabos_Resort_&_Golf
this wasnt working either

I started to go down rabbit holes looking for different hotels in California not Cabo



Hotels in Baja California

0 Hotels in Baja California

← Previous

Nothing was working

I started to big brain it, look at the Exif data of the photo

```
ExifTool Version Number      : 12.57
File Name                  : Pizza_by_Pool.png
Directory                  : .
File Size                   : 3.3 MB
File Modification Date/Time : 2025
                           03 16:17:13-08:00
File Access Date/Time       : 2025
                           03 16:17:13-08:00
File Inode Change Date/Time : 2025
                           03 16:17:13-08:00
File Permissions            : -rw-r--r--
File Type                   : PNG
File Type Extension         : png
MIME Type                   : image/png
Image Width                 : 1274
Image Height                : 1418
Bit Depth                   : 8
Color Type                  : RGB with Alpha
Compression                 : Deflate/Inflate
Filter                      : Adaptive
Interlace                    : Noninterlaced
```

SRGB Rendering	: Perceptual
Exif Byte Order	: Big-endian (Motorola, MM)
Image Size	: 1274×1418
Megapixels	: 1.8

Nothing

Medjay and I went down a hungry rabbit hole trying to find this pizza

 **Misplays** 1/3/2025 4:52 PM
This challenge is making me hungry

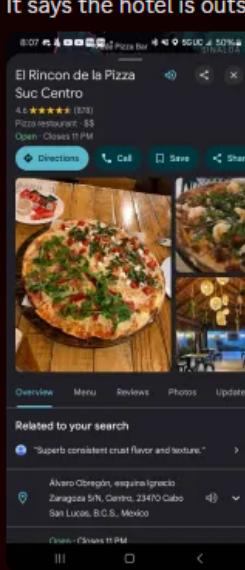


 **medjay** 1/3/2025 4:53 PM
It does look amazing
Stepping away

 **Misplays** 1/3/2025 4:54 PM
pizzas dont match



 **medjay** 1/3/2025 5:05 PM
Hmmm
It says the hotel is outside the city



Does that look like our pizza?

 **Misplays** 1/3/2025 5:14 PM
maybe

at this point, I made a ticket, I figured it was a me problem with the flag... I made a ticket with the organizer and they let me know I was close...

irisctf{Hilton_Puerto_Los_Cabos_Resort_and_Golf} didnt work

irisctf{Hilton_Los_Cabos_Resort_Beach_and_Golf} didnt work either

then Medjay figured it out

irisctf{Hilton_Los_Cabos_Beach_and_Golf_Resort}

Brief steps:

- **Examine the Image:** Look for distinctive architectural features.
- **Google Image Search:** Find similar architecture, leading to Hilton Los Cabos.
- **Initial Flag Attempts:** Try variations like `irisctf{Hilton_los_Cabos}`, but they don't work.
- **Explore Other Hotels:** Search for other hotels in the region, but still no success.
- **Check EXIF Data:** No useful clues from the image metadata.
- **Search for Pizza:** Investigate the pizza image as a side task, but it doesn't help.
- **Ticket Raised:** Organizer confirms you're close, refocusing the search.
- **Correct Flag:** Your partner identifies the correct flag:
`irisctf{Hilton_Los_Cabos_Beach_and_Golf_Resort}`.