



# OSINT - Checking out of winter

⌚ Category	write ups
🕒 Status	Live
☰ Quick Summary	a Write up for an OSINT challenge for Irisctf2025
☰ Subject Tags	
☰ AI summary	<p>This note serves as a placeholder for content to be added later.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Last Edited: August 15, 2024, 3:13 PM</li><li>- Created: August 12, 2024, 2:26 PM</li><li>- Status: New / Inbox</li><li>- Type: Note</li><li>- Author/Source: Not specified</li></ul>
⌚ Type	Note
📁 Related Notebook	<a href="#">CTF Notebook</a>

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'.

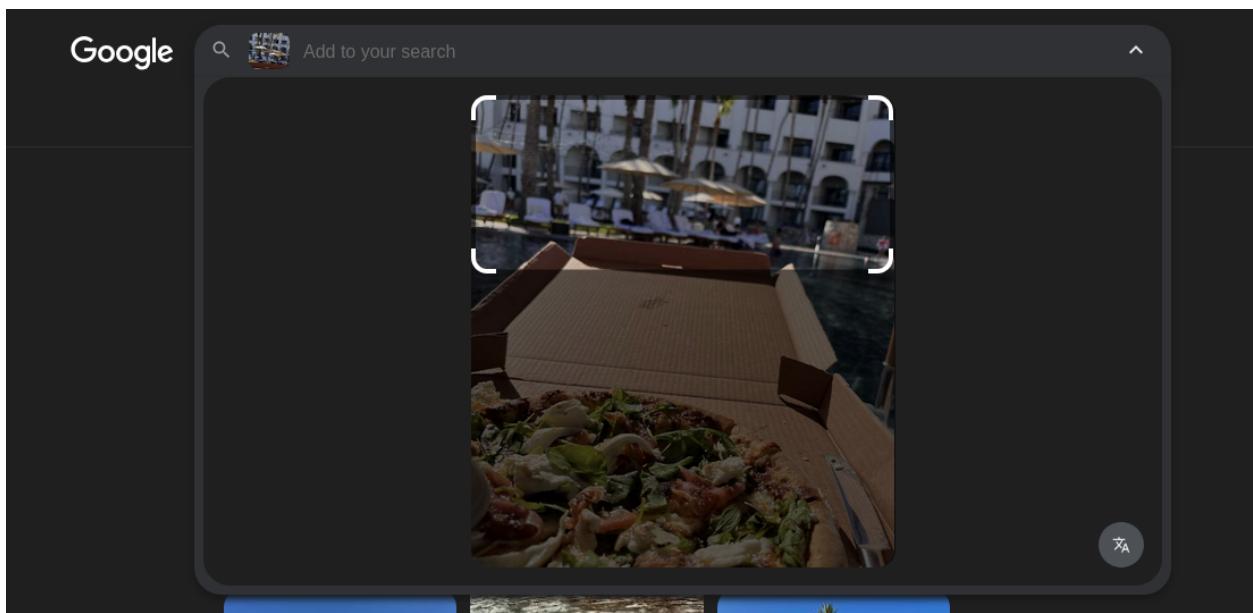
We took our annual road trip to Baja California Sur to visit the beach and play some golf. I like how this location is farther from the city compared to other resorts. I really enjoyed the sweet and savory sauce on the pizza with shredded chicken. After eating, I fell asleep, and half of my legs ended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

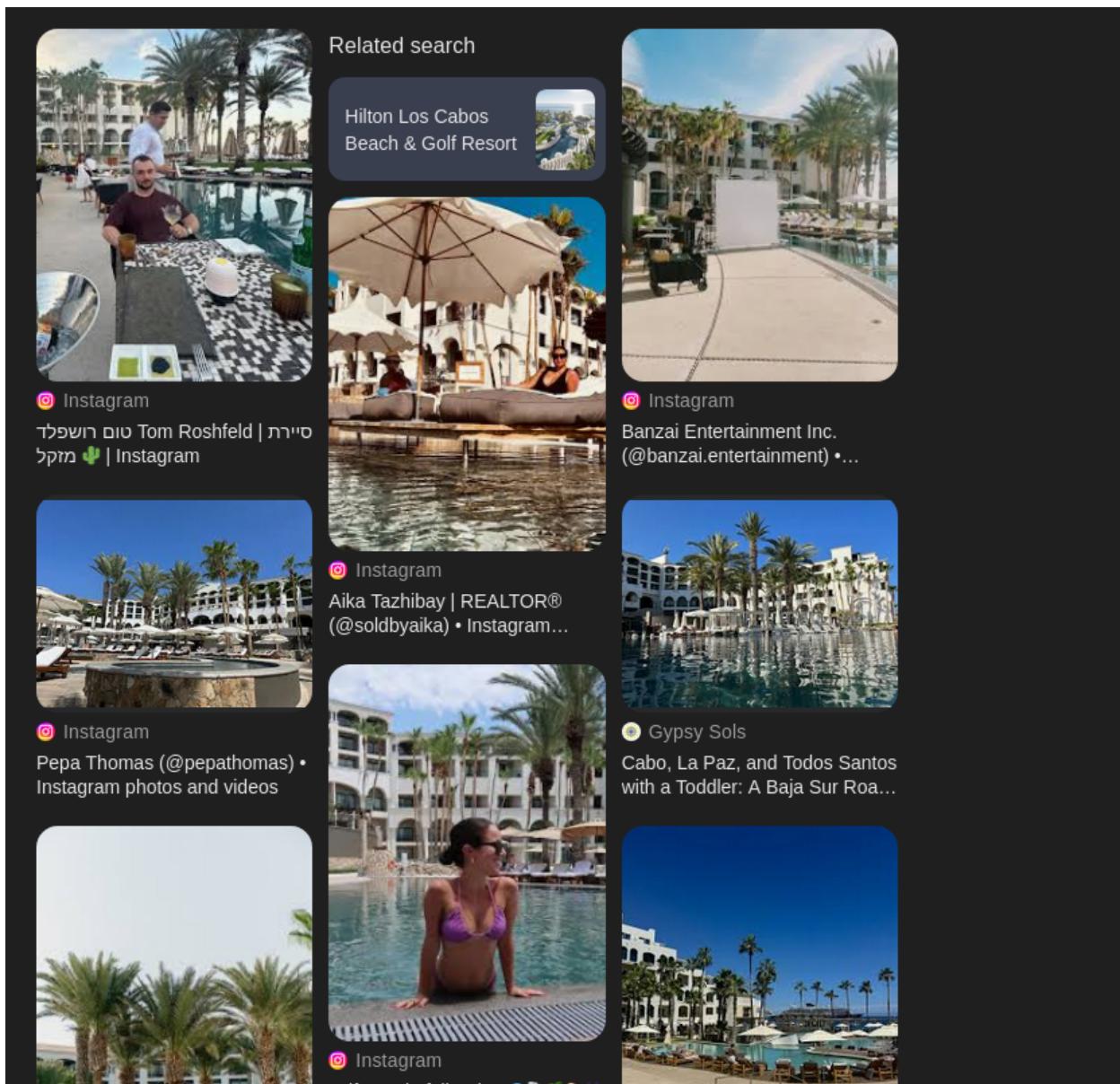
Question: Which hotel did Adam stay at?

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.



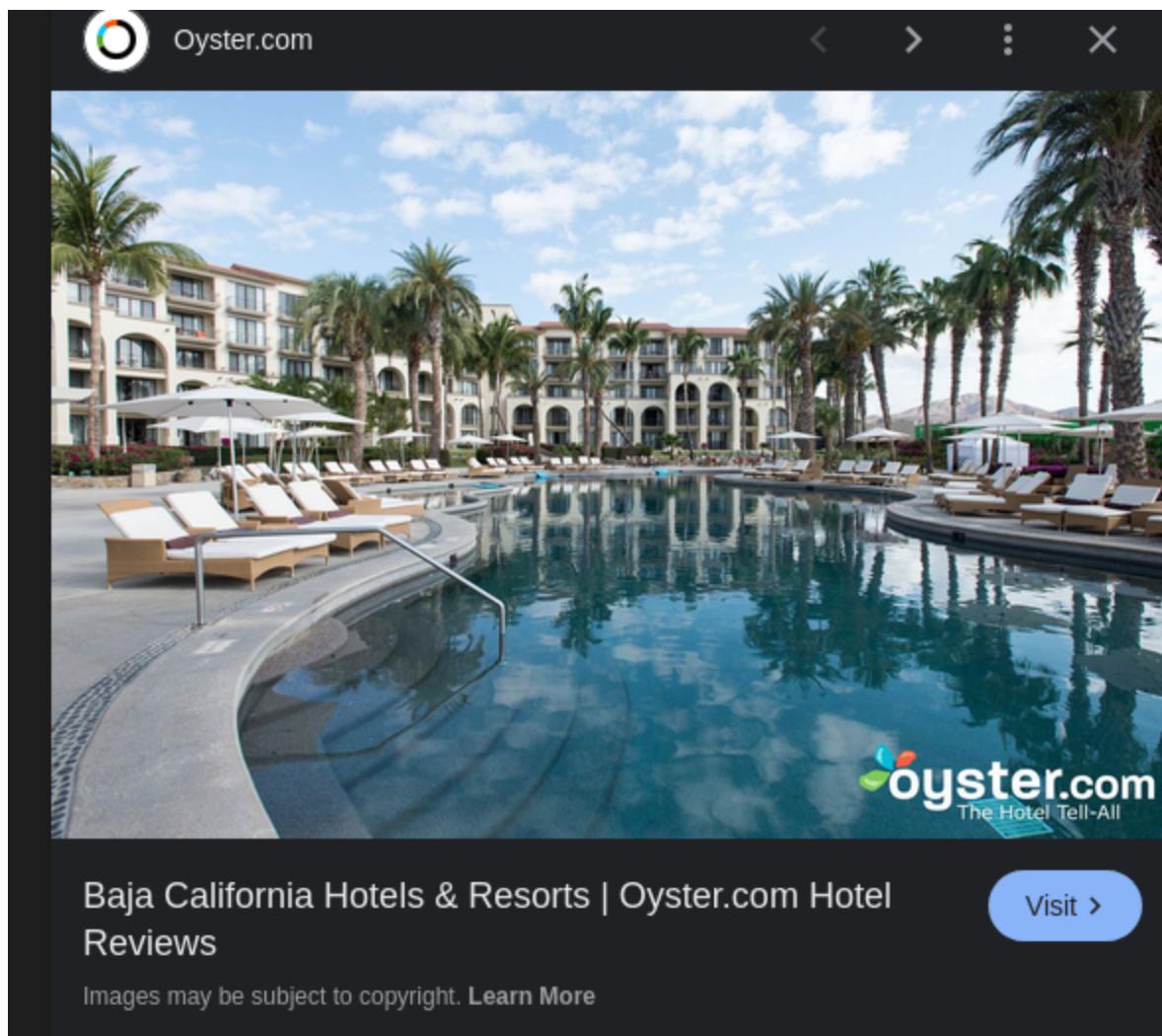


This looked super close and I believed I had the hotel confirmed by an instagram post.

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

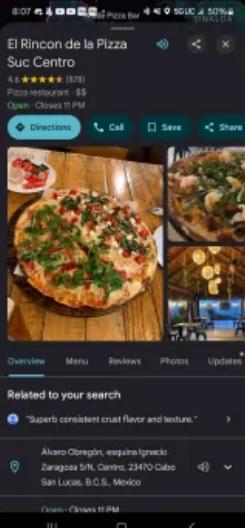


 **medjay** 1/3/2025 4:53 PM  
It does look amazing  
Stepping away

 **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\_andGolf 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}`.