



Dreams Tulum Resort & Spa night entertainment by the pool

Choose Your Own Adventures In

MEXICO

Favorably positioned next door, shake the sand out of your flip-flops after a sun-fun day and bring on a magical night in Mexico.

You can fly down, drive down — heck, you can even cruise down. And whether you decide to work on a honey-toned tan, partake in aquatic pleasures or grab a siesta-style snooze on any one of Mexico's long stretches of soft-as-snow beaches — soaking up sunny ambience and local traditions South of the Border is a piece of cake.

Together with a remarkable range of any-age activities, scoping out Mexico's ancient history is a must. Renowned for its rich heritage and more vestiges of pre-Hispanic civilizations than any other Latin American country, you can amble through ancient ceremonial grounds, climb pyramids or trek through old caves.

Duffers will be happy to know that Mexico caught *Golf Digest's* number two slot last year for the "Greatest International Golf Destinations for US

Travelers" as well as IAGTO's (the global trade organization for golf tourism) prestigious award for "Golf Destination of the Year" for Latin America and the Caribbean. As if 2007 could get any better for Mexico's golf industry, the PGA Tour went outside the US and Canada for the first time in 2007, taking it to Mexico for the PGA Riviera Maya at the El Camaleon Golf Course. In fact, a number of Mexican courses have hosted Pro-Am tournaments over the years. Boasting 196 courses and counting (over 150 of them designed by famous golf architects), they provide an amazing diversity of manicured greens, drop-dead locations and scenery that can "drive" one to distraction.

There are no shortage of hotels either: some insanely romantic, some beyond posh and gloriously appointed and plenty of them the family-friendly

kind. All-inclusive resorts have always been favored and bar none, Mexico has some of the best.

Cruise ships (think all-inclusive hotels, except they float) have been calling on a cool collection of Mexican ports for years. But why not consider combining a trip south with a crossing of the Panama Canal? Oceania Cruises' "Passage to Panama" is a 16-day itinerary onboard the *Regatta*, stopping in Puerto Chiapas, Huatulco, Acapulco and Cabo San Lucas in Mexico, in addition to stopovers in Cartagena, Columbia and Puntarenas, Costa Rica. Sailing with less than 700 guests, this company is currently the only one offering private cabanas with beck-and-call service overlooking the sea at the ship's highest level — and just the ticket for taking in grand and always unobstructed vistas.

COOLING DOWN IN CANCUN

AMResorts' adult-only Secrets Resorts & Spas and all-ages Dreams Resorts & Spas gets it right every time at their *Unlimited-Luxury®* resorts in Mexico: Secrets Capri Riviera, Secrets Maroma Beach, Secrets Silversands, Dreams Cancun, Dreams Los Cabos and Dreams Tulum. Better yet, by year's end, two more Dreams will be on the Mexican scene — one in Huatulco near Oaxaca and the other in Nuevo Vallarta near Puerto Vallarta.



Marina in Cabo San Lucas

"Our primary goal is to elevate travelers' vacation experiences by offering a new and better way to have it all," said Alex Zozava, CEO and president of AMResorts. "That is what the *Unlimited-Luxury*® vacation is all about... and we are proud to say that our rapid expansion is the direct result of high demand, our repeat guest ratio and continuous industry recognition."

For those traveling with the kids in tow, *Unlimited-Luxury*® at all Dreams properties includes the complimentary Explorer's Club. A well-supervised day camp for ages 3 to 12, all-day activities come in all shapes and sizes, ranging from treasure hunts and sandcastle competitions to movies and pony rides on the beach. For more information on these properties, visit www.secretsresorts.com or www.dreamresorts.com.

The brand new Secrets Silversands' suites include built-for-two Jacuzzis, eight enormous pool areas, including an infinity pool with a swim-up bar, a spa and eight fantastic dining options. The AAA Four Diamond Secrets Capri Riviera Cancun radiates luxury throughout its 71 lush tropical acres. On the 2008 *Condé Nast Traveler* Gold List (and their number two Reader's Choice winner for Mexico), all accommodations have garden or ocean views and every floor has a dedicated concierge staff. Enjoy dining at any of five restaurants, indulge at the spa and imbibe icy potables at the swim-up pool bar.

A Preferred Hotels & Resorts member and the only Cancun resort framed by the Caribbean on three sides, Dreams Cancun Resort & Spa was named one of *Condé Nast Traveler*'s 2006 "Top Ten Best Resorts in Mexico". Choose from four divine restaurants, spoil yourself rotten at the spa... or better yet, take a swim with the dolphins in the property's natural saltwater lagoon.

The three Cancun-area properties offer guests unlimited complimentary green fees at Playa Mujeres Golf Club. Designed by Greg Norman, the Cancun course is considered one of the best in Mexico.

With 350 hotels around the world, six of Sol Melia Hotels & Resorts' Mexican resorts are all-inclusive: Melia Cozumel All Inclusive Golf & Beach

Choose from four divine restaurants, spoil yourself rotten at the spa... or better yet, take a swim with the dolphins in the property's natural saltwater lagoon.

Resort, Melia Cabo Real All Inclusive Beach & Golf Resort, Melia Azul Ixtapa All Inclusive, Melia Puerto Vallarta All Inclusive Beach Resort and über-luxe Paradisus Riviera Cancun.

In addition to the worth-the-splurge ambiance of Paradisus, there are two special booking options: Royal Service and Family Concierge. Royal Service guests

enjoy private check-ins to special suites, butler service and private beach and pool areas. Preferential reservations for the property's specialty restaurants, the spa, activities and excursions are also included as are à la carte breakfasts and lunches served in an exclusive restaurant. Family Concierge guests enjoy private family check-ins to special suites loaded up with kid-size amenities such as cute-as-a-button robes and slippers in small-fry sizes and mini bars packed with juices and chocolate milk. Even PlayStations are available on request. Welcome beach kits are filled with hats, tee shirts, beach toys and backpacks. Everybody gets walkie-talkies for all-day communications with the whole gang and a family concierge, who will personally plan your day. Along with daily à la carte breakfasts, there's an exclusive lounge with computers and wide-screen TV — and count on preferential reservations at the specialty restaurants. For ages 5 to 12, the complimentary Kids Club offers a variety of supervised daytime activities, even mini Olympics and cooking classes. Club 4 is geared to children from 6 months to 5 years of age, and is also complimentary. At Gran Melia resorts, only Royal Service is available. For more information on these properties, visit www.solmelia.com.

The AAA Four Diamond Paradisus Riviera Cancun ranks high with discerning travelers. Delivering understated elegance and impeccable service from the moment of arrival, this member of The Leading Hotels of the World is nestled between a lush tropical mangrove preserve and a 5,000-foot long beach protected by the second largest barrier reef in the



The swimming pool at sunset at Paradisus Riviera Cancun

**LOS CABOS TOURISM
5.0 COLS 154.0AL**



Beach and pools at Gran Melia Cancun

world, Gran Arrecife Maya. Located 25 minutes south of Cancun in Puerto Morelos, where nothing's really taller than a palm tree, the resort is made up of three-story bungalows and suites and is but a stone's throw from all the major beaches and archaeological sites.

Recognizing that the dollar's low value against the euro may discourage some travelers from going abroad, club med offers a variety of package for families, couples and upscale travelers at a series of price points.

The AAA Four Diamond Gran Melia Cancun is all spruced up after a spectacular \$41 million post-hurricane Wilma renovation. The hotel's Royal Service is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, providing a private lobby, a lounge with check-in/check-out services, multiple food and beverage services including daily continental breakfast, and so much more. All Royal Service Deluxe Suites include private terraces with Caribbean Sea or Nichupte Lagoon vistas and butler service. Among the specialized à la carte restaurants, there's the new Nami Sushi Lounge. Other pleasurable amenities for both children and adults include spectacular swimming pools, tennis courts and a nine-hole, par 3 golf course.

Also a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts, the new Bel Air Collection Hotel & Spa offers highly designed and view-filled accommodations. Its Golf Collection package includes arranged tee times, a 20 percent discount on green fees and complimentary transportation to Cancun's best courses. Visit www.thebelair.com.mex for more information.

For those planning to get into the "swing" of things in Cancun, consider the Cancun Golf Club at Pok-Ta-Pok, the town's oldest and most prestigious golf club. Designed by Robert Trent Jones II, lucky golfers get birds-eye vistas of miles upon miles of coastline and ancient Mayan ruins.

OH ME OH MAYA

Riviera Maya is a hot-right-now playground not just for golf, but also for aquatic pleasures in and around Gran Arrecife Maya and some of Mexico's best archaeological wonders.



Exterior of Gran Melia Cancun

Enjoy *Unlimited-Luxury®* from a well-choreographed staff at the brand new all-suites Secrets Maroma Beach, where each and every suite boasts fabulous ocean views. Take a dip in the dazzling infinity pool, or for that matter, any one

of the other 12 smaller pools, then experience grand repasts from six à la carte theme restaurants, before or after some indoor or outdoor pampering at the spa. For golfers, there's unlimited complimentary green fees at Playa Mujeres Golf Club.

Jack Nicklaus designed the courses at the Fours Seasons Golf Club Punta Mita. For those seeking a AAA Five Diamond sleepover here, why not book the resort's best room in the house? The oceanfront Coral Suite is a private building with over 13,000 square feet of luxury and features two plunge pools, a terrace barbecue, a fully-equipped kitchen, fitness and spa rooms, a screening room and a poolside cabana.

Another top course in Riviera Maya is El Camaleon. This Greg Norman designed course borders the Fairmont Mayakoba as well the Rosewood Mayakoba and will be home to the PGA tour in Mexico from 2009 to 2012.

Additional hotel choices near these golf courses include Orient-Express Hotels' Maroma Resort and Spa, where its buildings are joined together by winding stone pathways lined with lush plantings, which are lit by over 100 candles or torches every evening.



Plantation House restaurant in Cancun

**A M RESORTS
5.0 COLS 154.0AL**

History buffs should visit Tulum to see the Temple of the Frescos and the Temple of the Descending God — then to Coba to scale the highest pyramid ever built by the Maya, Nohoch Mul. For eye-popping views of the surrounding jungle and beyond, climb this pyramid's 120 steps. Possibly the most famous and most important of Mayan ruins is Chichen-Itza. A 30-minute drive from Tulum, it is over 1,500 years old. Legend has it that people were occasionally thrown into the nearby cenotes (sink holes) as sacrifices, and those who survived were believed to be prophets.

You don't have to travel far from the Riviera Maya area to visit Sian Ka'an. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is the largest protected area in the Mexican Caribbean and serves as a model for sustainable development in sensitive tropical ecosystems. There are 23 known archeological sites with relics as old as 2,300 years, 103 known mammal species, 336 known bird species, and a nesting site for two endangered sea turtle species. A variety of tours are available, as well as one- and multi-day fishing and kayaking excursions. Overnight accommodations are available at the site, too.

You'll see fascinating indigenous wildlife, enjoy remarkable snorkeling experiences in underground rivers, hike through a tropical forest, swim with dolphins, climb ruins and enjoy every-night musical extravaganzas.

This destination is also home to Xcaret (pronounced "ish-cah-ret") — the republic's grandest theme park, just think of it as an unforgettable "one-stop shopping" experience for all Yucatan activities. You'll see fascinating indigenous wildlife, enjoy remarkable snorkeling experiences in underground rivers, hike through a tropical forest, swim with dolphins, climb ruins and enjoy every-night musical extravaganzas.



Cruising through the desert in Los Cabos on ATVs

LUXE CABOS

Some say the best courses are in Los Cabos because they're not only challenging, but also offer sigh-inducing vistas across the Sea of Cortez, the mountains and deserts. But first, a bit of

more cultural ambience. Among its claims to fame are the golf courses and its beautiful estuary, home to 150 species of birds.

Up-close-and-personal sightings of California gray whales during the winter months in Los Cabos is another stand-out activity, but signing up for a day trip to Magdalena Bay with one of the local tour companies gets you a more eye-to-eye encounter, particularly in San Carlos and Puerto Lopez Mateos.

"As one of the world's most popular, upscale vacation destinations, Los Cabos invites travelers to "Leave it all Behind" and pamper themselves among the destination's many luxurious amenities" said Gonzalo Franyutti, president of the Los Cabos Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Whether diving along a stunning coral reef, traversing the desert in an ATV (all-terrain vehicle), or sailing at sunset on the Sea of Cortez, visitors can enter a new phase of existence, where the demands of everyday life fade and give way to ample pleasures."

geography: On the southern tip of Baja California Peninsula, Los Cabos (a.k. a. The Marlin Capital of the world), the popular areas for tourists are Cabo San Lucas, San Jose del Cabo and the 20-mile "Tourist Corridor" between them. Cabo San Lucas, famous for having no shortage of things to do, is also notable for El Arco, an amazing rock formation where the Pacific Ocean meets the Sea of Cortez. San Jose del Cabo leans toward a quainter,



MEXICO DINING GUIDE

ACAPULCO

Baikal

Carretera Escenica 16 y 22, Fracc.
Playa Guitarron, 744-446 6867
Where the city's beau mode go.

Becco al Mar

Carretera Escenica Km 14, 744-446-7402
So today, it's tomorrow... and you won't forget
the homemade pasta dishes anytime soon.

Zibu

Carretera Escenica s/n Fracc.
Glomar, 744-433-3058
Mexican meets Thai (Mextai)
overlooking Acapulco Bay.

CANCUN

Labna

Margaritas, 29, 998-892-3056
Haute Mexican a tad on the pricey side,
but worth it.

Lorenzillo's

Bvd. Kukulkan Km 10.5, 998-883-1254
A local legend in Cancun since 1683,
go for the lobsters and fresh fresh.

Restaurant MB

Aqua Cancun, Blvd. Kukulkan Km 12.5
998-881-7600
Fabulous outpost from South Beach
celebrity chef Michelle Bernstein.

LOS CABOS

Nik-San

Blcs. MarinaDCabo, San Lucas, 624-143-4484
High-falutin' Japanese that's fresh as a daisy.

Sunset da Mona Lisa

Transpeninsular 6KM, Missiones Del Cabo
Cabo San Lucas, 624-145-8160
The seared yellowfin with tomato,
mint and garlic salsa is the dish to order
at this Italian-infused eatery.

The Office

Medano Beach, Cabo San Lucas, 624-143-3464
On-the-beach casual at its best.

**CPTM MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TOURISM
5.0 COLS 154.0AL**

The Jack Nicklaus Signature-designed Cabo del Sol Ocean ranked 28 among *Golf Digest's* 2007 "100 Best Courses Outside the US" and El Dorado ranked 97. Every hole on the Robert Trent Jones II-designed Cabo Real course overlooks the sea — and the Roy Dye-designed Club de Golf Raven is consistently rated one of Mexico's best courses. The Tom Fazio-designed La Querencia boasts an amazing state-of-the-art practice facility and the M. Shedjnan-designed San Jose del Cabo Golf Course is considered terrific for beginners.

A plethora of hotel choices abound in the Los Cabos area. The seafront Dreams Los Cabos Suites Golf Resort & Spa is a great choice, given that it's all-inclusive and provides easy access to the area's top courses. A Preferred Hotels & Resorts member, it is between San Jose del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas. All the suites have ocean views and there are three swimming pools, four gourmet restaurants and a super spa.

Rosewood's AAA Five Diamond Las Ventanas al Paraíso in San Jose del Cabo features suites with rooftop terraces, Jacuzzis, fireplaces and telescopes for whale watching and stargazing. For even greater luxury at this Preferred Hotels & Resorts property, reserve a suite with a private pool.

Also in San Jose and a Leading Hotels of the World property, the AAA Four Diamond One&Only Palmilla is currently undergoing a renovation, which will be completed by November. All rooms provide



The bay and beach at Cabo San Lucas

ocean views and round-the-clock butler service. Consider booking one of their golf packages.

A Small Luxury Hotels of the World member, the AAA Four Diamond Casa del Mar Beach Golf & Spa Resort between San Jose del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas is among the best to book for overnights. After its recent multi-million dollar renovations, it's more luxurious and charming than ever — and their

Golfer's Oasis Package includes playing at Cabo Real with complimentary transportation.

In December, Capella Hotels will open Capella Pedregal in Cabo San Lucas. Come 2010, Trump Ocean Resort Baja in Punta Bandera in northern Baja will open.

Golfers heading to Acapulco can choose from the nearly side-by-side courses at the Acapulco

**SOL MELIA HOTELS & RESORTS
5.0 COLS 77.0AL**



Night view of the Cathedral of San Miguel de Allende

Princess and the AAA Four Diamond Pierre Marques resorts, which was also recognized last year as one of Condé Nast Traveler's "Top 100 Golf Resorts in the World". Ted Robinson designed the Acapulco Princess's course. Robert Trent Jones II oversaw the Pierre Marques course's recent \$3 million dollar renovation. Also in the Acapulco area is the recently discovered Aztec city of Teotihuacan. What remains

is a holy temple, ball court and residential areas — and all available for a look-see by year's end.

A PLACE IN THE SUN

Golfers heading to Acapulco can choose from the nearly side-by-side courses at the Acapulco Princess and the AAA Four Diamond Pierre Marques resorts, which was also recognized last year as one of Condé

Nast Traveler's "Top 100 Golf Resorts in the World". Visit www.fairmont.com for more information.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Designated as a national monument in 1926 by the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History and later as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the thriving artist community of San Miguel de Allende is about three hours north of Mexico City. A village of steep narrow cobblestone streets lined with centuries-old mansions with intricately carved doorways, it is also now home to private residences, galleries, and restaurants. The nearby Sanctuary of Jesus de Nazareno de Atotonilco is also designated a UNESCO site.

Orient-Express Hotels' Casa Sierra Nevada is ideal for soaking up this village's history. What makes this AAA Four Diamond property unique is that all the accommodations are spread out among a collection of Spanish Colonial buildings that date back to the 16th and 18th century, including the Casa del Parque, which was originally built as a fort and Casa Principal which served as the former residence of San Miguel de Allende's Archbishop in 1580.

For information on Mexico tourism including destinations, golf and archaeological visits, call (800) 44 MEXICO (1-800-446-3942), or visit www.visitmexico.com. For more information on Los Cabos, call 866 LOS CABOS, or visit www.vistloscabos.org

PARADISUS RESORTS
5.0 COLS 77.0AL