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Robinson style with high-end finishes and touches of Mayan culture and Mexican, colorful accents. Whether oceanfront or nestled in the Riviera Maya jungle, casitas offer stunning views, personal plunge pools, hammocks, private open-air terraces and more. The Ocean Front bungalow accommodations are located directly on the beach, just 10 steps from the sparkling turquoise water. Additional new amenities include two pristine swimming pools, a seaside Jacuzzi and three new bars (Boli's, Itzi and Las Olas), as well as two completely renovated restaurants -- Las Olas and Cocina -- which serve everything from traditional Mexican and Latin American fare to higher-end "Land and Sea" dishes.

Mahekal is exceptionally authentic and intimate; for this unplugged vacation experience guests won't find

MAHEKAL BEACH RESORT
 A LUXURIOUS OASIS OF SOPHISTICATION AND COMFORT
 By Madison Freeman



Mexico's newest resort—Mahekal Beach Resort—recently opened its doors to guests in Playa del Carmen after a \$10 million re-imagining. Perfect for a tropical getaway, honeymoon, baby-moon, anniversary or destination wedding, as well as travelers seeking un-plugged privacy and intimacy in an authentic, carefree atmosphere (it screams laid-back luxury), this escape is truly the ultimate coastal Caribbean experience complete with oceanfront views of sparkling turquoise water.

TVs in rooms, but soon there will be state-of-the-art WiFi and phones for dialing property services, so the only distractions are the outdoors and each other. Wake up early to watch the sunrise over the Gulf, and head to Cocina for a traditional breakfast of Mexican and Latin American fare. Don't feel like rolling out of bed? Order room service with a twist, and a member of the hotel staff will deliver breakfast on a vintage hike with a woven rattan basket.

Situated on Playa del Carmen's longest stretch of beach, spanning 800 pristine feet, it's the ONLY resort of its kind in all of Playa del Carmen consisting of individual thatched-roof bungalow accommodations -- all less than a two-minute walk from the sweeping, sandy beach. Hand-laid, hidden stone pathways leading to all 122 boho-chic rooms, which resemble a Swiss Family

Another must mention is Mahekal's interior design -- done by Hilda Espino in partnership with Todd Fiscus -- and is bohemian gypsy infused with Mexican, colorful accents (it was inspired by the book, "GypSet Style" by Julia Chaplin). Standout designs range from Missoni-esque fabrics in the eclectic lobby and fireplace seating area, to bright orange ping-pong tables and cobalt blue billiard tables in Boli's

-(main lobby bar and activity center). It screams boho-chic.

Not only is Mahekal the ideal destination for a relaxing, Caribbean getaway, but the resort also introduces an entirely new experience with the same authentic concept, giving couples the perfect palette and canvas needed to create magical and romantic moments beyond fairy tales. Couples say "I do" in various storybook settings, whether barefoot on the beach beneath dimmed lanterns strung along coconut palm trees, or on a platform stage positioned atop the oceanfront infinity pool blending into the sparkling Caribbean Sea. Separated from the rest of the resort by just a few steps, the Aventura section of Mahekal is available for exclusive buy-outs. Perfect for private wedding groups, Aventura offers bungalows clustered together, Las Olas restaurant and the famed infinity pool – a setting sure to create memories that last forever. In fact, country superstar Jason Aldean recently tied the knot in a seaside ceremony, performed by Duck Dynasty's Willie Robertson, at Mahekal and had the reception in the Aventura section.

For a taste of true culture, guests can take a ceramic painting class on-property with Julienne, a master of her craft, or walk to the famed 5th Avenue (Quinta Avenida) – a bustling pedestrian walkway located one block inland from the beach – lined with hundreds of famed shops, bars/lounges and multinational cuisine. Nearby excursions are plentiful with choices ranging from exploring ancient Mayan ruins in Tulum to spending the day at Xcaret! – where visitors can swim through underwater caves, take a boat down Paradise River, get up close and personal with jaguars and manatees, swim with sharks or dolphins, tour Mayan wineries, watch traditional Mayan dances, or if the daring type, even get a local massage on the sand with a catch: a Cobra on your back.

Mahekal really is so free-flowing and authentic, and so different than everything else you find in the area... It truly is a luxurious oasis of sophistication and comfort within a tropical paradise ☺

For more information, please visit www.mahekalbeachresort.com.

1. New oceanfront infinity pool that blends into the Caribbean Sea.
2. Missoni-esque fabrics add a unique style in the eclectic lobby and fireplace seating area.
3. Mahekal is a truly luxurious oasis of sophistication and comfort within a tropical paradise.
4. All accommodations offer private terraces with hammocks for siestas and star gazing, as well as locally crafted Mexican wood furniture in the outdoor seating area to enjoy the magical sanctuary.
5. Cuisine cravings are satisfied at Las Olas, serving higher-end "Land and Sea" dishes at Las Olas.
6. Mahekal offers the ultimate coastal Caribbean experience complete with oceanfront views of sparkling turquoise water.
7. The Deluxe Ocean Front King is the most comfortable and luxurious accommodation at Mahekal with private plunge pool overlooking the ocean and a spacious outdoor sitting area.

