

HAUTE LIVING

More Than the Bare Necessities: Mahekal Beach Resort's The Jungle Book-Inspired Luxury Getaway



Look for the bare necessities, as Baloo would say, while getting lost in the Mayan jungle at [**Mahekal Beach Resort**](#), a luxury getaway on the Riviera Maya.

Handlaid, stone paths lead to palapa-style bungalows in a flourishing village surrounded by lush flora and situated just steps from the sandy beaches of Playa del Carmen and the famous Quinta Avenida, a strip of shops, bars, and restaurants.



Rooted in Mayan tradition, Mahekal Beach Resort dates back approximately 50 years ago, when a local, entrepreneurial Mexican family built six thatched-roof palapas on the beach for backpackers to rent. The business grew from those few original bungalows, to what is now 196 palapa-style bungalow accommodations, which are each uniquely furnished with colorful Mexican décor, giving each room an authentic, minimalist ambience.

Inspired by the release of The Jungle Book movie, the resort is currently offering a **Get Lost in the Jungle Getaway** package, which is bookable until Aug. 31, 2016 for dates any time from now through Oct. 30, 2016.

Accommodations



Nestled in the Riviera Maya jungle or set directly on the beachfront, casitas, suites, and penthouses each boast an open-air terrace with two hammocks, and some with small pools. Inside the rooms, the only electronics are a WiFi network and a phone to call for room service, encouraging that guests embrace a truly relaxing stay rich in Mayan culture.



The Ocean Front Beach House, considered to be the most luxurious room offered at Mahekal, offered on either the lower or upper level of two, two-story palapa-style bungalows, which total four beach houses. Both levels feature a private open-air terrace with hammocks, while the lower level has a personal plunge pool and the upper level boasts unobstructed views of the ocean and a private, outdoor moon shower beneath a traditional palapa-style roof.

Dining and Drinking



Inspired by the Mayan philosophy on farming, executive chef Crescenciano Nerey sources local ingredients from the fishermen and farmers of Playa del Carmen for colorful, flavorful dishes—all cooked in a wood-fired oven and open grill—at his three restaurants, Las Olas, Cocina, and Fuego.



For even more indulging, there two on-site bars, Boli's and Itzi, in addition to those at Las Olas and Fuego.

Beauty and Wellness

Tucked between lush gardens, the Revive Spa blends traditional Mayan beauty treatments and philosophies with a line of organic, locally-made products in each of its relaxation techniques and treatments. Inside, the dimly lit, soothing atmosphere invites guests to and browse from the menu of services.



The spa's signature treatment, "Revive 5 Senses," in which the therapist unwinds all five senses, targeted massage techniques, aromatherapy, and wholesome Mayan-inspired treatments are applied for a customized experience intended to relax the mind, body, and soul. A luxurious therapy room boasts a lavish bath area, indoor and outdoor showers, freestanding bathtub, and private access to the "Zen Garden."

Additional lavish spa amenities include a full-service salon offering a variety of beauty services, indoor and outdoor lounges, and an "off-the-beaten-path" couples cabin, among others.



Next to the spa, the fitness center offers complimentary access to its any of its aerobic and strength training equipment as well as programs and classes, such as yoga in the gardens, offered daily.

Vida Aquatica Dive Center



Operating since 1983, the Vida Aquatica Dive Center at Mahekal Beach Resort, previously the Cyan-Ha Dive Center, is known as one of the oldest operating dive centers in Playa del Carmen with diving, snorkeling, paddle boarding, and other offerings for water recreation. If already equipped with a diving certification, guests may rent gear to explore the glittering reefs of the Caribbean via ocean dives, cenote dives, Cozumel dives, and night dives. If not, certification courses are offered by trained instructors.



For more information on Mahekal Beach Resort, please visit the resort's website [here](#).

Images courtesy of [Mahekal Beach Resort](#)