



MAGICAL MAHEKAL: PARADISE FOUND



Nestled between the dense Riviera Maya jungle and Playa del Carmen's longest stretch of beach, spanning 920 pristine feet, lies Mexico's Mahekal Beach Resort. Located in Quintana Roo, the eastern-most part of Mexico, Playa del Carmen boasts a coastal vibe complemented by bright beaches, diverse coral reefs and the famed Quinta Avenida – think Mexico's version of NYC's 5th Avenue. Mahekal Beach Resort, the only resort of its kind in all of Playa del Carmen and located steps from the shops, restaurants and bars on Quinta Avenida, is the region's true buried treasure. Having recently undergone a multi-million dollar re-imagining, this intimate oasis fuses quiet, raw luxury with the look and feel of Mexico's traditional past.

The very first property in Playa del Carmen, Mahekal is still known today for its unique ability to combine Mexico's sandy shores and tropical verdure. Though large, the resort's many sections – from the seaside infinity pool to the tucked-away jungle – add a small, intimate feel, creating a Swiss Family Robinson-style setting with lush vegetation, colorful bougainvillea and crisp Caribbean scents.

STEPS FROM THE BEACH

Hand laid, hidden stone pathways lead to 196 individual thatched-roof bungalows, suiting every kind of traveler with a variety of room types and price points. Whether oceanfront or nestled in the Riviera Maya jungle, palapa-style rooms – including garden, jungle or ocean views, as well as penthouses and beach houses – boast impeccable vistas, private hammocks and outdoor terraces, and many are outfitted with personal plunge pools or moon showers.



The resort is exceptionally authentic, as for this unplugged vacation experience guests won't find TVs in rooms, but can enjoy a phone system in-house, as well as state-of-the-art WiFi, so the only distractions are the outdoors and each other.

DESIGN PALATTE

Inspired by the book, "GypSet Style" by Julia Chaplin, Mahekal's interior design scheme effortlessly marries playful Mexican hues with a bohemian-gypsy chic style. Eclectic, brilliant accents like Missoni-esque fabrics adorn the hotel lobby, fire-feature seating areas, and Boli's bright orange ping-pong and cobalt blue billiard tables offer guests just a taste of the fanciful views yet to come. Meanwhile, bungalows feature artisan-stenciled floors, white walls and neutral furniture, adding a pop of color with brightly-colored throw pillows, striped fabrics, whimsical ceramics and local, Mayan art dotted throughout.

CULINARY CREATIONS

A vacation isn't complete without indulgent dining experiences, and foodies love the variety of fresh fare found at Mahekal. From the oceanfront, "Tulum style" wood burning oven restaurant, Fuego, to high-end "Land and Sea" dishes at Las Olas, epicureans sample a mouthwatering array of culinary creations throughout their

stay; and the four on-property bars means there's no shortage of liquid libations. The best part? Guests can add a MAP meal plan into the room price, including daily breakfast and a choice of lunch or dinner daily, which ensures travelers can also get a taste of neighboring cuisine off-property at least once a day.

For guests looking for a taste of true Mayan culture, Mahekal just launched a Mayan Culinary Casita, available upon request. Situated within an emerald patch of jungle, the casita gives cooking enthusiasts the opportunity to help native Mayan chefs prepare a gourmet feast - complete with Mayan rituals, hands-on interaction and rich, historical tradition.

MAYAN-INSPIRED MAGIC

Those seeking pampered pleasures find paradise at the Mayan-inspired Revive Spa set among lush tropical gardens and natural cenotes. Creating a haven within the walls of the 2,500 sq. ft. boutique spa, the palapa-style roof touts a fiber optic ceiling, reminiscent of glowing stars. Enticing guests with customized treatments to sooth and balance one's mind, body and spirit, the spa offers a menu of services inspired by the native culture and features Kinich products, a complete line of 100% organically intelligent, local home-grown products.

Spa-goers feeling especially indulgent opt for the VIP therapy room, which boasts a dedicated bath area, an indoor and outdoor shower, a freestanding bathtub and private access to the artfully manicured Zen Garden. Revive Spa also features an "off-the-beaten-path" couples cabin nestled in a rich tropical forest ambiance for intimate couples' treatments.

TAKE THE PLUNGE

A trip to Playa Del Carmen wouldn't be complete without spending time in the stunning turquoise waters. Vida Aquatica Dive Center, one of the oldest operating dive centers in Playa Del Carmen, conveniently rests along the sandy shores of Mahekal's beach. The friendly and knowledgeable guides effortlessly navigate the sapphire-toned waters as snorkelers spot friendly aquatic animals, such as green sea turtles or colorful rainbow fish. Whether scuba diving or snorkeling, adventure-seekers can explore everything from vast cenotes to the Mesoamerican reef, the second largest barrier reef in the world.

Back on dry land, four sparkling pools and a seaside hot tub promise sun-seekers peaceful relaxation with stunning views of the Caribbean sea. At Itzi Pool, guests relish in the tropical breeze as they luxuriate alongside the sparkling resort-style pool or indulge in a cold Coco Loco at the swim-up bar, while Mahekal's infamous handmade swings provide light-hearted aquatic adventures for adults and kids alike. Nearby, the secluded Jungle Pool - surrounded by beautiful fountains, fire features and enchanting greenery - provides a tranquil oasis in a carefree, bohemian atmosphere.

With such a wide variety of unique activities and breathtaking sights, Mahekal Beach Resort - which means "magical" in ancient Mayan culture - truly encompasses all that Playa del Carmen has to offer and promises guests an unparalleled, unforgettable experience. Would you expect anything less from Paradise?

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