

Mahekal Beach Resort's 'Jungle Book'-Inspired Package



Photo courtesy of Mahekal Beach Resort

With pop culture-inspired travel at a fever pitch, Mahekal Beach Resort is grabbing its share of the spotlight with a summer package nodding to the recent release of Disney's "Jungle Book." Nestled between the dense Riviera Maya jungle and Playa del Carmen's longest stretch of beach, the recently reimagined resort has launched the "Get Lost in the Jungle" plan that's a natural for the 196-"room" retreat.

Bookable through June 30 for travel through Oct. 31, 2016, Mahekal's five-night "Get Lost" adventure goes beyond simply offering the "bare necessities." Priced from \$1,220, the five-night getaway includes accommodations in a redesigned Jungle View bungalow, breakfast and lunch or dinner daily, plus choice of either two 50-minute spa treatments at Revive Spa (one per adult) or free daily breakfast and lunch or dinner for kids 12 and younger. Based on availability, room rates are double occupancy for adults or quad occupancy for two adults and two children.

"Not only does the package offer travelers up to 35 percent savings, but Mahekal Beach Resort is frequently cited as one of the most family-friendly resorts in the region," said Julian Smaldoni, managing director at Mahekal Beach Resort.

"Package amenities range from massages at the new Mayan-inspired Revive Spa, to a flexible meal plan with daily breakfast and either lunch or dinner included – which allows guests the flexibility to explore other regional cuisine at least one meal per day," Smaldoni said.

Overlooking the dense Riviera Maya jungle, spacious Jungle View bungalows set the stage for guests to explore the resort along hidden stone pathways for discovering friendly iguanas, native birds and charming coatis. Adventure enthusiasts may encounter more than 150 natural species while “hanging out” on rope swings dangling from native trees.

“Both kids and kids at heart love our handmade wooden rope swings located at Itzi Pool,” said Smaldoni. “The family-friendly Boli’s Bar boasts ping-pong, pool tables, shuffleboards and even a library, encouraging readers to leave behind a book and take a new one to enjoy on vacation.”

Smaldoni added that adrenaline-fueled families can dive into Mahekal’s on-property Vida Aquatica dive shop for plunging into the Caribbean Sea via aquatic activities ranging from kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding to diving and snorkeling.

The resort also puts a premium on relaxation — even for the kids. “After a long day of adventure, kids cozy up by the fire pit every Friday evening or unleash creativity with a pottery painting session at the Artisan Palapa — keeping a piece of paradise by crafting a Mayan memento to take home,” Smaldoni said.

Still basking in the glow of a three-year, \$16 million re-imagining, Mahekal has merged an entirely new experience with the same authentic concept to the beachfront retreat. The final transformation phase targeted a complete restoration of Mahekal Beach Resort’s adjacent sister property, Las Palapas, to a new resort that now operates under the Mahekal name.

The recent expansion unveiled 74 additional palapa-style bungalows, a new Mayan-inspired Revive Spa and fitness center, an oceanfront wood-burning oven restaurant and cantina, and a resort-sized swimming pool and hot tub. Other dining options include Las Olas and Fuego that both feature regional specialties.

For reservations and resort details, visit mahekalbeachresort.com.

The Agent’s Edge

Smaldoni noted that the family market is a natural for agents who sell Mexico. “Travelers seeking an affordable vacation in a magical setting value the uniqueness of the various room types and price points, making the property accessible to all families. Positioned on Playa del Carmen’s longest stretch of beach — and centrally located to natural wonders, shopping, dining and historical attractions — Mahekal is the ultimate home base in Playa del Carmen.”

The resort’s managing director added that families especially appreciate the wide variety of resort amenities since they’re geared to all ages. “From the on-property dive shop facilitating snorkeling excursions to the Mesoamerican Reef or nearby cenotes to four sparkling pools, families truly appreciate the authenticity and intimacy of the resort.”

He added that unlike other high-rise hotels in the area, hand-laid, hidden stone pathways lead families to their accommodations. “And the unplugged vacation experience means guests won’t find TVs in-room. So the only distractions are the outdoors and each other.”