



## EXPLORING CANCÚN, THE RIVIERA MAYA AND BEYOND

Royal Resorts® offers guests a range of options

One of the things that sets Royal Resorts® apart from other vacation properties is the extraordinary level of personal attention provided to all guests. At the Royal Resorts in Cancún and The Royal Haciendas® Resort in the Riviera Maya, each member or guest is assigned a Personal Concierge whose task is to look after them during their stay.

These dedicated staff members hand out invitations to complimentary events such as a Welcome Orientation and are on call to answer queries about the clubs and their facilities. They also assist guests with information on getting around Cancún and the Riviera Maya, tips on shopping, dining and nightlife options, daytime activities and interesting places to visit in the area. It is often said that the difference between a good vacation and a great one is knowledge and that's exactly what the Personal Concierges offer Royal Resorts guests: personalized, practical information for a perfect vacation.

The in-house travel agency, Thomas More Travel offers a variety of exciting trip options and its professional and well-informed staff are on hand to help guests make the most of their stay. History buffs can book excursions to the impressive Mayan archaeological sites of Chichén Itzá, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, Tulum (with a stop for snorkeling in the inlets and lagoons at Xel-Há National Park), Ek Balam and Cobá. Also popular is the two-day getaway to the delightful colonial city of Mérida, capital of the Yucatán, which features a side trip to the ancient city of Uxmal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a jewel of Mayan architecture, and the colonial town of Izamal. Other historical and cultural options include one-day trips to Mérida and the Sotuta de Peón hacienda, the colonial town of Valladolid, Mexican cooking classes and visits to Mayan communities. For a Mexican evening out, Xoximilco Park is a celebration of Mexican cuisine and music and is inspired by the famous floating gardens and canals of Xochimilco on the outskirts of Mexico City, with colorful barges known as *trajineras*.





For nature lovers, Contoy Island bird sanctuary, Sian Ka'an and Río Lagartos Biosphere Reserves are worth a visit any time of the year and summer visitors have the opportunity to sign up for a once-in-a-lifetime eco trip to swim with the whale sharks. These gentle giants, the world's largest living fish, gather in the northern waters of the Mexican Caribbean from mid-May to mid-September to feed on plankton.

Families will enjoy a fun-filled day at Xcaret, Xel-Há, Xenotes Oasis Maya, Crococun and Aktun Chen. For the adventurous, Río Secreto, Xplor, Hidden Worlds and Selvatica parks beckon and there are jungle jaunts featuring zip lining, rappel and snorkeling in cenotes or limestone sinkholes. The agency also offers trip to Isla Mujeres, Holbox and Cozumel, dolphin swims, scuba diving, snorkeling and fishing excursions.

Renting a car gives members and guests who return to the Mexican Caribbean year after year the freedom to explore on their own and go off the beaten track. The car rental desks at the resorts offer family-size vehicles, jeeps and vans in standard or automatic models, with or without air-conditioning. Maps are available and guests are ready to discover the area.

Traveling south along Highway 307, guests can explore the Riviera Maya at their own pace, calling in at every spot along this stretch of coastline dotted with fishing villages, resort communities, secluded beaches and inlets, *cenotes* or sinkholes, caves, nature parks and archaeological sites. Further afield lies the Zona Maya or Mayan heartland, an area of dense forests, farming villages and historical sites clustered around the town of Felipe Carrillo Puerto in central Quintana Roo. State capital, Chetumal, on the border with Belize, is the gateway to the south, an area that boasts fascinating archaeological sites, jungle reserves, Bacalar, the Lagoon of Seven Colors, and the beaches and reefs of the Costa Maya.

Traveling west from Cancun along the Mérida toll road or Highway 180, guests can explore timeless Mayan communities, the colonial towns of Valladolid and Izamal, cenotes, caves and archaeological sites such as Chichén Itzá and Ek Balam.

Mérida is also the ideal base from which to explore Uxmal and a series of lesser Mayan





sites collectively known as the Puuc Route, colonial communities along the Convent Route, the port city of Campeche (also a UNESCO World Heritage Site) in the neighboring state of Campeche and countless 19<sup>th</sup>-century haciendas or estates where henequen or sisal was once cultivated and processed to produce rope, twine and sacking.

### *About Royal Resorts*

Founded in 1975, Royal Resorts is a pioneer in the Mexican tourism industry and now has four beachfront resorts in Cancún: The Royal Cancun<sup>®</sup>, The Royal Caribbean<sup>®</sup>, The Royal Islander<sup>®</sup> and The Royal Sands<sup>®</sup> and one in Playa del Carmen, The Royal Haciendas<sup>®</sup>, located at the heart of the Riviera Maya. The latest member of the Royal Resorts collection is Grand Residences by Royal Resorts<sup>®</sup>, a luxury beachfront resort to the south of Puerto Morelos. The first phase opened on December 7, 2013 and the property is affiliated with The Leading Hotels of the World<sup>®</sup>. Since opening it has climbed the Trip Advisor listing of Riviera Maya hotels and is now No. 1 out of 350.

All the Royal Resorts offer spacious fully equipped suites and an array of five-star amenities and activities.

One of the world's leading vacation ownership companies, Royal Resorts has over 85,000 member families from 51 countries and independent surveys report a 97 percent member satisfaction rate, one of the highest in the industry.

Royal Resorts has received numerous accolades over the years. All are RCI Gold Crown resorts, a rating only awarded to properties that offer an exceptional vacation experience and state of the art services. They are also Trip Advisor favorites, with three featuring in the Trip Advisor's Traveler's Choice Best Family Resorts in Mexico in 2014. All five Royal Resorts won Trip Advisor Traveler's Choice Family Awards in 2012 and featured in the Trip Advisor list of the Top 25 Hotels for Families in Mexico.

Royal Resorts has been certified as a company with eco-friendly policies by MARTI, (Mesoamerican Reef Tourism Initiative) and it is committed to its role of environmental stewardship. It has participated in the annual Mexican Caribbean sea turtle protection





campaign since 1985 and has been a longtime supporter of conservation projects in the Mexican Caribbean.

Always active in the local community, Royal Resorts has been helping those in need for over 30 years. Through the Royal Resorts Foundation (Fundación Royal Resorts A.C.), it seeks ways to give back to society by promoting health and education, contributing to sustainable development in the state of Quintana Roo, and by protecting wildlife.

For further information contact:

[media@royalresorts.com](mailto:media@royalresorts.com)

