



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AT ROYAL RESORTS

A longtime supporter of conservation campaigns and sea turtle protection in the Mexican Caribbean, Cancún pioneer company Royal Resorts® is always looking for ways to make more efficient use of natural resources, save water and electricity and to reduce its carbon footprint. A variety of green initiatives ranging from recycling and the use of energy-efficient lighting to planting native species of trees and shrubs and herb gardens have been implemented at its resorts in Cancún and the Riviera Maya.

MARTI Certification as Green Resorts

Royal Resorts is participating in the Mesoamerican Reef Tourism Initiative or MARTI. Founded by Amigos de Sian Ka'an, Conservation International and the Coral Reef Alliance, MARTI seeks to protect the world's second longest coral reef through the implementation of better environmental practices to reduce pollution and minimize the impact of tourism on area ecosystems. Over 100 resorts and other companies in Cancún, Riviera Maya and Cozumel have signed up to this initiative and are working for change and to achieve green certification. MARTI has certified all the Royal Resorts properties as being resorts with eco-friendly policies.

Distintivo S Award

In 2013, The Royal Haciendas, The Royal Sands and The Royal Cancun received the Distintivo S from the Mexican Tourism Board, a distinction awarded to resorts for their work towards sustainability.

Royal Recycling

Royal Resorts has a well-established recycling program and for several years has been working to heighten environmental awareness among guests and employees. There are recycling trashcans in public areas of the resorts and guests are encouraged to separate plastic, glass, aluminum and cardboard waste in their villas. Behind the scenes, paper,





cardboard and office supplies and even the cooking oil used in the resort kitchens are also recycled. All waste suitable for recycling is collected and sold as “trash for cash” to raise money for the Royal Resorts Foundation’s charitable causes: conservation, education, the fight against cancer and employee emergency relief.

A special collection bag is provided in the villas for the disposal of toxic waste such as used batteries.

Organic waste from the restaurants such as fruit and vegetable peel, coffee grounds and tea leaves, and garden refuse are being converted into compost for use in the resort gardens.

Biodegradable bags are used in the resort stores and eco friendly cloth bags are available for purchase.

The use of non-biodegradable polystyrene cups and take-out containers has been reduced in the resort pool and beach bars and food and drinks are now being served on reusable melamine plates and acrylic glasses. Furthermore, straws are no longer given with lemonade, soft drinks and cocktails unless customers specifically request them.

Switching to Energy-efficient Technology

Royal Resorts has been using Fluorescent/PL Energy saver bulbs in the 1,379 two-bedroom villas, walkways, corridors and offices at its six properties since 1994. LED bulbs were installed in the swimming pools and decks at The Royal Cancun in 2008 and dichroic light bulbs in the resort lobbies were replaced with energy saving LED lights in 2011.

Similarly, standard TV sets have been replaced with LCD flat screen energy saving models at all the resorts. Flat screen TV technology uses 40 percent less electricity, thus reducing energy costs and helping conserve natural resources.

In late 2010, 175 rooftop solar panels were installed at The Royal Sands to supply 50% of the hot water needed by the resort’s 340 villas in a pilot project. Additional panels may be purchased in the future.





Conserving Water & Reducing the Use of Chemicals

Resort guests are invited to do their bit to protect the planet and conserve water by not requesting a change of bed linens, towels and beach towels on a daily basis. By switching to colored towels in 2010, Royal Resorts was able to reduce the use of bleach in the resort laundries.

Low water flow showerheads in rooms and suites at the resorts are being replaced with single handle faucets and older 18-liter toilet tanks with six-liter flush capacity models. FillPro water saving devices have been installed in the remaining 18-liter tanks to control water levels.

Where possible, cleaning products, polishes and varnishes used at the resorts are being substituted for environmentally friendly options.

Ozone purification technology keeps the water clean in the swimming pools at all resorts and has enabled Royal Resorts to reduce its chlorine consumption by 40 percent.

Throughout the resorts departments collaborate to save water and electricity and hold regular meetings to discuss ideas and implement additional eco-friendly policies. Employees are also spreading the word about the need to protect the environment in the wider community.

Purchasing Regional Products

Whenever possible, Royal Resorts purchases locally to support small businesses and producers, boost the regional economy, reduce transport costs and conserve fuel. An example of this is the furniture in the villas at the resorts, all made by carpenters in the neighboring state of Yucatan. Organic coffee, chocolate, honey from the Yucatan, locally made handicrafts, herbal cosmetics and sauces are available at Royal Resorts stores and gift shops.

Herb Gardens

In another green initiative at Royal Resorts, Chef's Gardens have been planted outside the restaurant at The Royal Caribbean®, The Royal Sands and at The Royal Haciendas.





Chilies, tomatoes, radishes, chaya and herbs such as coriander, basil, oregano, marjoram and rosemary are grown organically in the small plots and there are citrus trees in the garden at The Royal Haciendas. Apart from providing fresh produce for the restaurants, the flowering herbs will also attract bees and butterflies.

Beach Cleaning

Royal Resorts employees take their turns in keeping the beautiful white sands of Cancun pristine as part of an ongoing Beach Cleaning campaign. They pick up cigarette butts, fragments of plastic and polystyrene, the occasional bottle or can left on the beach, seaweed and other waste that washes up on the shoreline.

Annual Sea Turtle Protection Campaign

Since 1985, Royal Resorts has been protecting the sea turtles that emerge from the sea during the summer to lay their eggs on the beaches of Cancun. It was among the first resort groups to sign up when municipal authorities subsequently launched a conservation campaign and now participates in the annual statewide turtle program coordinated by SEMARNAT, the Mexican Department of the Environment.

Record keeping began in 1998 and, since then, Royal Resorts has protected 6,264 nests and released 522,394 turtles.

Support for Conservation

Royal Resorts is a longtime supporter of Amigos de Sian Ka'an, the Cancun-based conservation group that has done so much to protect the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve and the wildlife of the Yucatan Peninsula. Through the Royal Resorts Foundation (Fundacion Royal Resorts A.C.), it has joined a regional program implemented by Amigos and the Mexican National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) to safeguard four million hectares of tropical forest, and the creatures that inhabit it, in the state of Quintana Roo. Using a variety of fundraising initiatives it aims to raise \$30,000 US to





enable Amigos de Sian Ka'an to purchase 5,000 acres of forest, thus helping increase carbon capture and offsetting the devastating effects of climate change.

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[®], The Royal Caribbean[®], The Royal Islander[®] and The Royal Sands[®] and one in Playa del Carmen, The Royal Haciendas[®], located at the heart of the Riviera Maya. The latest member of the Royal Resorts collection is Grand Residences by Royal Resorts[®], a luxury beachfront resort to the south of Puerto Morelos. It opened on December 7, 2013 and is affiliated with The Leading Hotels of the World[®]. 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.

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



