



## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AT ROYAL RESORTS

A longtime supporter of conservation campaigns and sea turtle protection in the Mexican Caribbean, Cancun pioneer resort 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 Cancun 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 Cancun, Riviera Maya and Cozumel have signed up to this initiative and are working for change and to achieve green certification. MARTI has certified all Royal Resorts properties in Cancun and the Riviera Maya as being resorts with eco-friendly policies.

### *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 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.

In the resort pool and beach bars food and drinks are served on reusable melamine plates and acrylic glasses, replacing non-biodegradable polystyrene cups and take-out containers. Additionally, drinking straws are no longer given with drinks and cocktails in the resort restaurants and bars.

Royal Resorts has a commitment to going paperless and many of its services are now available online to reduce paper consumption and printing.

#### *Switching to Energy-efficient Technology*

Royal Resorts has been using Fluorescent/PL Energy saver bulbs in the two-bedroom villas, walkways, corridors and offices at its 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.

Energy saving LCD flat screen TVs are in use 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, Royal Resorts has been able to reduce the use of bleach in the resort laundries.

Low water flow showerheads in rooms and suites at the resorts have been 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 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 Yucatán, locally made handicrafts, herbal cosmetics and sauces are available at Royal Resorts stores.

### *Herb Gardens*

In another green initiative at Royal Resorts, there are herb gardens outside the restaurants at The Royal Sands® and on site at The Royal Haciendas. Chilies, tomatoes, 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 gardens at The Royal Haciendas. There is also a small Botanical Garden at The Royal Cancun. Apart from providing fresh produce for the restaurants, the flowering herbs growing in the gardens 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 9,951 turtle nests and released 925,371 baby 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 participates in 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. With its donations, it enables Amigos de Sian Ka'an to protect areas of forest, thus conserving wildlife, helping increase carbon capture and offsetting the devastating effects of climate change.





### *About Royal Resorts*

Founded in 1975, Royal Resorts® is a pioneer company in the Mexican Caribbean tourism industry. It has three family-friendly beachfront resorts in Cancun: The Royal Cancun®, The Royal Islander® and The Royal Sands® and is set to unveil its latest property Royal Uno® All Inclusive Resort & Spa, in December 2021. At the heart of the Riviera Maya, in Playa del Carmen, The Royal Haciendas® pays tribute to the heritage of the Yucatan with its architectural design and tropical gardens. With magnificent hacienda-inspired architecture in a secluded beach location to the south of Puerto Morelos, Grand Residences Riviera Cancun offers luxury in a tranquil natural setting, only 20 minutes from Cancun and Playa del Carmen for shopping and nightlife.

All the Royal Resorts have spacious rooms and suites equipped with everything guests need for their stay and a wealth of resort amenities for an unforgettable vacation, including daily activities for all ages, kids clubs, non-motorized water sports, pools, gyms and spas and a varied dining scene. [www.royalresorts.com](http://www.royalresorts.com)

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.

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