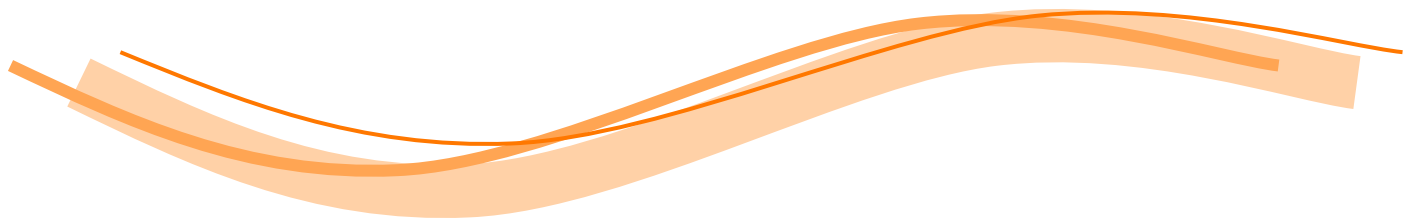




CANCUN, MEXICO & TRANSAT





CANCUN

Note: these Travel Notes are arranged in two sections –

1. Cancun, the destination
2. Transat to Cancun

Cancun is Mexico's most visited tourist destination.

There's something for everyone - family vacations, couples' escapes or singles' adventures. Visitors are drawn by Cancun's endless white sand beaches and the first-class hotels and amenities. Plus, it is the closest resort if you want to explore the fascinating Mayan archeological ruins at Chichen Itza.

Cancun has every kind of beach and water sports activity you can imagine and on a Transat Vacation in Cancun you have a wide range of activities to choose from at this lively destination.

Taking to the water, one of the most popular excursions is to swim with the dolphins. Or pilot your own two-passenger speedboat through the mangroves and then snorkel over one of the world's largest coral reefs. Sail to the beautiful Isla Mujeres with white-sand beaches, lagoons, coral reefs teeming with marine life, and swaying coconut trees. Or go deep sea fishing for the big ones: kingfish, barracuda, snapper, grouper, sailfish, mackerel, mahi-mahi and more.

Other nature-based adventures include the Rio Secreto - a real underground river and XPLOR a unique underground world, with activities including zip lines, amphibious vehicles, underground rafts and a stalactite river swim. Or you could choose to enjoy the beauty of the Sian Ka'an biosphere or ride through the rain forest in an all-terrain vehicle.

The fascinating Mayan culture is not to be missed. Transat excursions take you to the awe inspiring Mayan archeological sites of Coba, Tulum, Xel-Ha or Chichen Itza - capital of the Mayan Empire. But the Mayan civilization survives to this day, and you can also visit an authentic Mayan village.

Evening excursions include the Captain Hook pirate show with a lobster or steak dinner and the opportunity for a Party Hopper Tour of the most popular nightclubs in Cancun.

In Cancun you have a varied choice of cuisine, with everything from

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| | downtown traditional Mexican restaurants to ultra-chic bistros. Cancun's Hotel Zone is renowned for its nightlife, boasting some of the best nightclubs in the world, playing everything from salsa to disco to R & B and live music venues. And there is a wide choice of shopping venues from the Mercado 28 - a handicrafts market - to the super modern shopping mall, Plaza Las Americas. |
| Location | Cancún is a coastal city in Mexico's easternmost state, Quintana Roo, on the Yucatán Peninsula. Cancún is located on the Yucatan Channel in the Caribbean that separates Mexico from the island of Cuba in the Greater Antilles. |
| Geography | The city centre is located on the mainland which connects the Nichupté and Bojórquez lagoons to a narrow 7-shaped island where the modern beachfront hotels are located. The island of Isla Mujeres is located off the coast and is accessible by boat from Puerto Juárez. |
| Name | “Kankun” (a single word written with the two “k’s”), which means “pot of snakes” or “nest of snakes” in Maya. Don’t worry – the snakes moved out when the tourists moved in! |
| Population | Over half a million people call Cancun home. |
| Language | The official language spoken in Cancun is Spanish. Most of the Mexicans working in the tourism industry speak English and you will find that French, Italian and German are also spoken by some. Many of the local indigenous people still speak Mayan as their first language and Spanish as their second, you will often hear them speaking Mayan amongst themselves. |
| Currency | The official currency in Cancun is the Mexican peso but American dollars are also widely accepted. Banks are open Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm but there are exchange houses found all over Cancun that are open much later. Currently \$1 CDN = 15 Mexican pesos (as at February 2018) |
| Tipping | The average tip for service is 10-15% and one or two dollars per suitcase carried. Always check your bill first, as tips may already be included. |
| Government | Democracy |
| Documentation | Passports are required but no Visa is necessary for Canadians. |
| Time zone | This has recently changed to align with EST, so Cancun is now on the same time zone at Toronto and Montreal. |
| Health | There are no special health problems here and the hospital facilities are excellent. |
| Safety tips | Don’t believe all those lurid stories about how unsafe Mexico is! It is akin to saying that the USA is unsafe, based on the murder rate in certain parts of Chicago. Cancun is a long way away from those parts of Mexico that are suffering drug cartel violence. Just be normally vigilant about guarding your personal items, as you when travelling anywhere. |

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| CLIMATE | |
| General climate | Cancun weather boasts year-round sunshine making it ideal for a vacation at any time of year. Cancun weather is tropical and humid with year-round sunshine. The temperature ranges from 20° to 30° C from October through to March and from 22° to 33° C from April to September |
| Today's weather | 28 Centigrade and mostly sunny (24 February 2018) |
| Best time to visit | Canada's cold winter months offer an obvious inducement to travel then, but Cancun is very much a year-round destination and there are direct flights throughout the year. |

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| GETTING THERE | |
| Flying time | <p>Cancun is less than four flying time from Montreal and Toronto on the many direct flights with most major Canadian tour operators. Cancun Airport handles the second largest volume of traffic in Mexico therefore the security levels are very high. Cancun airport boasts great modern facilities and equipment. There are some fabulous duty-free shops and gift shops selling silver jewellery and souvenirs so you can always buy that last minute present for your loved ones.</p> <p>Cancun International Airport is located 12km from downtown Cancun and 20 km southwest from the heart of the hotel zone. From the airport, frequent "shared vans" transfers to your hotel are available from \$8 - \$10 dollars per person. Private taxis also operate from the airport, but the rates go from \$50 - \$60 dollars per vehicle.</p> |
| Cities | <p>Cancun is a city destination in itself! There are really two Cancúns: Ciudad Cancún (Cancún City) and Isla Cancún (Cancún Island).</p> <p>The former, on the mainland, has restaurants, shops, and less expensive hotels, as well as pharmacies, dentists, automotive shops, banks, travel and airline agencies, and car-rental firms - all within an area about 9 square blocks. The city's main thoroughfare is Avenida Tulum. Heading south, Avenida Tulum becomes the highway to the airport and to Tulum and Chetumal; heading north, it intersects the highway to Mérida and the road to Puerto Juárez and the Isla Mujeres ferries.</p> <p>The latter is a sandy strip 22km long, shaped like a "7." It's home to the famed Zona Hotelera, or Hotel Zone (also called the Zona Turística, or Tourist Zone), which stretches out along Isla Cancún, connected to the mainland by the Playa Linda Bridge at the north end and the Punta Nizuc Bridge at the southern end.</p> |

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| | Between the two areas lies Laguna Nichupté. Avenida Cobá from Cancún City becomes Bulevar Kukulcán, the island's main traffic artery. Cancún's international airport is just inland from the south end of the island. |
| Distances | <p>Cancún – Tulúm130 km Cancún – Cobá167 km Cancún – Chichén Itza193 km Cancún – Puerto Morelos ...32 km Cancún – Xcaret72 km Cancún – Xel-Há124 km</p> |
| Ferries | <p>Isla Mujeres is located 6 km off the coast to the northwest of Cancun. It is very easy to go and visit on your own or to plan a full day tour to enjoy the island.</p> <p>You can purchase water transportation departing from Ultramar (at Puerto Juarez) or from el Embarcadero or Playa Tortugas.</p> <p>Also several marinas offer full service tours to Isla Mujeres</p> |
| Car Rental | Car rental is available easily in Cancun and the airport with all the international car rental companies and a number of local operators as well. |
| Buses | <p>Cancun is very easy for tourist to navigate. The bus system is reliable and inexpensive; one ride costs about 6.5 pesos. There are many buses serving the Cancun area, they stop only at bus stops every 5 minutes. Buses only accept pesos, they don't accept dollars so be prepared with some Mexican pesos. Buses generally operate between 6:00 am and midnight.</p> <p>From the Cancun bus terminal in downtown Cancun you will find regular services to all parts of Mexico</p> |

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| ACCOMMODATION TYPES | <p>Particularly recommended are the resorts featured by Transat – see the following section for more details.</p> <p>Cancun hotels deliver the best of two worlds – the Caribbean and Mexico. The hotels in Cancun are mainly located in the Hotel Zone, a 27 kilometre stretch of beach with the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea on one side and the ink blue waters of the Nichupte Lagoon on the other.</p> <p>Wherever you stay in the Cancun Hotel Zone you will always have an ocean or lagoon view. There are over 32,000 Cancun hotel rooms catering for everyone from the couple looking for a romantic luxury hotel to the downtown hotels for the budget traveler. Cancun hotels offer a choice of all-inclusive and European plans so you can choose what is best for you.</p> |
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| | <p>The first Cancun hotel was the Playa Blanca which opened in 1974. During the 1980s Cancun was still a relatively small and undiscovered destination with only a dozen or so hotels. A building boom in the 80's and 90's catapulted Cancun hotels into the global tourism arena. Today Cancun is THE resort of the new millennium.</p> <p>Luxury hotels in Cancun Three quarters of Cancun hotels are rated five star which is the highest rating achievable in Latin America. The AAA Five Diamond Distinction – the most coveted symbol for excellence in the world - has been awarded to five Cancun hotels reflecting ultimate luxury and sophistication. These include the Ritz Carlton Cancun and the JW Marriott Cancun Spa and Resort among others.</p> <p>Cancun All-inclusive resorts The all-inclusive hotel concept is on the increase in Cancun. No longer a 'one size fits all' product, Cancun all-inclusive resorts are tailored to particular traveler's needs. Whether you are looking for luxury, family-friendly, adult-only or simply the 'best deal' you will be sure to find your best option in one of the 60 Cancun all-inclusive resorts.</p> <p>Cheap Accommodation in Cancun Of course not all of us can afford to stay in the lap of luxury but there are many more affordable Cancun hotels in the Hotel Zone and also in the downtown area you will find more cheap accommodation in Cancun, all of which offer great value for money.</p> |
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| TARGET GROUPS | |
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| Kids | <p>Swim with Dolphins in Cancun Swimming with Dolphins in Cancun is an opportunity not to be missed. Children as young as 3 can enjoy meeting the dolphins and interacting with them. There are many places in and around Cancun that specialise in swimming with dolphins.</p> <p>The natural park Garrafón, is located in Isla Mujeres and you'll be surprised with its natural beauties and fascinating adventures, in and out of water. Garrafón is a tropical paradise only 25min away from Cancun, by boat.</p> |
| Teens | <p>Xplor Xplor is a unique underground world, with four activities that invite you to Xplor and rediscover your emotions and senses immersed in nature. This unique place is found in the heart of the Riviera Maya on the highway to one side of Xcaret. Xplor offers you the chance to dive deep into the entrails of the Earth in way that would previously have</p> |

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| | <p>been unimaginable, submerging yourself in a sea of stalactites and stalagmites, navigating on an underground raft, after a fantastic flight through the jungle, or like a modern Xplorer, driving an amphibious vehicle that can travel equally on water and underground and also through the intricate paths filled with thick foliage.</p> <p>Selvatica: the adventure kingdom is strategically located in between Cancun and Playa del Carmen (only 30 minutes away from either town). With over 330 acres of jungle, their 3 high-rope circuits including the “Aventura” zipline circuit (11 cables), plus its brand new “Extremo” course (12 ziplines), and America’s first A.C.C.T. fully certified Aerial Trek (high ropes course with over 20 elements), Selvatica offers adventures for everyone, from 6 to 96-year olds.</p> |
| Romance | Cancun has always been a magnet for romantic couples looking for a tropical beach destination with great nightlife and first-class resorts. |
| Honeymoons & Weddings | <p>Getting married in Cancun will surely be a one of a kind celebration in one of the most romantic locations in the world. Turquoise waters and powdery white sand teamed with year-round beautiful weather make it an unbeatable venue for your special day. Cancun is also a fantastic place to enjoy your honeymoon or anniversary or even just for a romantic getaway. There are certain legal requirements if you are citizens from outside countries wishing to get married in Cancun –these can be found on the Cancun website at:</p> <p>http://cancun.travel/en/things-to-do/weddings/legal-requirements</p> <p>There are also a number of wedding consultants in Cancun and many of the resorts have their own wedding staff on hand to assist your planning.</p> |
| Zoomers | Cancun is an accessible and Zoomer friendly destination. There are quieter parts of the destination which may be more suitable for those wanting relaxation rather than sizzling nightlife! |

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| UNIQUES | |
| Surprising | <p>There are some (relatively) small Mayan vestiges of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization right in Cancún.</p> <p>El Rey (Las Ruinas del Rey) is located in the Hotel Zone.</p> <p>El Meco, a more substantial site, is found on the mainland just outside the city limits on the road to Punta Sam.</p> |
| History | <p>Four decades ago, Cancún was a deserted island and few even knew of its existence. Located in a nearly forgotten region of the Caribbean, it consisted of a series of sand dunes in the shape of a number “7” -some parts of which were only 20 meters wide- separated from the mainland by two narrow canals that opened out on to a huge lagoon system.</p> <p>The coast was comprised of marshes, mangroves, virgin jungle and</p> |

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unexplored beaches. Even its name was not clear: some maps called it “Kankun” (a single word written with the two “k’s”), which means “pot of snakes” or “nest of snakes” in Maya.

However, in the first Infratur documents (a Mexican government agency existing prior to the creation of Fonatur), it is written as two words, “Kan Kun,” and occasionally, “Can Cún” (in its Spanish form). The current name of “Cancún” is a natural phonetic development that facilitates pronunciation... or maybe it developed by mere chance.

The Cancún Project was officially approved in 1969, but didn’t begin until January 1970, when the first Infratur technicians arrived. The initial objectives of the project were to open up a road from Puerto Juarez to the island, design a Master Development Plan and build a provisional air strip (located in the area designated for city development, at the site of present-day Kabah Avenue, in front of the Ecological Park).

The basic Master Plan called for three items:

- 1) build a tourism zone without permanent residential areas, like a tourism corridor (given the characteristics of the land itself), with hotel installations, shopping centers, golf courses and marinas;
- 2) build a residential zone for permanent residents. In other words, an integral city, in the northern part of the territorial reserve, with residential and commercial areas, roads, public buildings, schools, hospitals and markets; and
- 3) build an international airport to one side of the Cancún-Tulum highway (under construction at the time), on the mainland south of the island.

The equivalent of 240 hectares of topsoil was brought in by trucks: 100 for the golf course, 60 for lot 18 A and 60 for the area surrounding the El Rey ruins and fill for over 80 hectares (65 ha to widen the island and 15 ha for the airport road). Some 372,000 m³ of mangrove systems were dredged to form Siegfried and Nichupté Channels to improve water exchange between the sea and the lagoons.

The first hotels opened in 1974 (Playa Blanca, Bojorquez and Cancún Caribe); the international airport was inaugurated with 2,600 meters of runway and operating capacity for wide-cabin airplanes; and Infratur and Foqatur government agencies were merged to form the National Foundation for the Promotion of Tourism (Fonatur).

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| | <p>The same year, Quintana Roo was granted statehood and the Cancún project (under the Isla Mujeres district government) became part of Benito Juarez district.</p> <p>From 1989 to date, Cancún has been Mexico's most dynamic city. It contributes a large percentage of Mexico's tourism-related revenue and accounts for much of Quintana Roo's gross domestic product. There are currently more than 750,000 inhabitants in the urban area. Cancún has become the country's largest tourism resort and is the most prosperous city in the Yucatán Peninsula. It is also the Caribbean's premier destination, surpassing even the Bahamas and Puerto Rico.</p> |
| <p>Books</p> | <p>Lonely Planet's Mexico Guide is my go-to guidebook for this part of the world. Coverage Includes: Planning chapters, Mexico City, Around Mexico City, Veracruz, Yucatán Peninsula, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Central Pacific Coast, Western Central Highlands, Northern Central Highlands, Baja California, Copper Canyon, Northern Mexico, Understand & Survival Guide chapters.</p> |
| <p>1000 Places to see before you die</p> | <p>Chichen Itza – the most famous and perhaps most spectacular of Mexico's Mayan ruins is about 2.5 hours drive from Cancun and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p>This sacred site was one of the greatest Mayan centres of the Yucatán peninsula. Throughout its nearly 1,000-year history, different peoples have left their mark on the city. The Maya and Toltec vision of the world and the universe is revealed in their stone monuments and artistic works. The fusion of Mayan construction techniques with new elements from central Mexico makes Chichen-Itza one of the most important examples of the Mayan-Toltec civilization in Yucatán. Several buildings have survived, such as the Warriors' Temple, El Castillo and the circular observatory known as El Caracol.</p> <p>Chichen Itza was a centre of pilgrimage for the ancient Maya for over 1,000 years. The Sacred Cenote (a large natural well or limestone sink hole) was holy to the ancient Rain God "Chac".</p> <p>About 987 the ruler of the Toltec people of central Mexico came here, and with his Maya allies made Chichen Itza the most powerful city in the Yucatan. The ruler called himself "Kukulcan", the name of the Mesoamerican Feathered Serpent deity (also known as "Quetzalcoatl") and Chichen Itza became a center for worship of that god as well. More buildings were built here in a mixture of Maya and Toltec styles.</p> <p>About 1221 the Maya revolted against the rulers of Chichen Itza. The city was not abandoned, but as political power shifted elsewhere it declined and no major new buildings were constructed. Chichen Itza remained a place of pilgrimage for the Maya until it was conquered by the Spanish Conquistadors in the 16th century.</p> <p>The structures of Chichen Itza were overgrown with jungle and slowly</p> |

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| | <p>decayed until major archaeological projects began in the 1920s. Since then, more of the ancient structures have been cleared and restored. Bring comfortable shoes as this is a big site to explore and also a wide brimmed hat for shade in the midday sun. Also consider hiring a local guide at the site – they are not expensive and are very knowledgeable and friendly.</p> |
| <p>Must Sees</p> | <p>The powdery white sand beach in Cancun is the reason this destination exists and it remains the most blissful part of any Cancun vacation.</p> <p>Also – do make the time to visit Sian Ka'an. In the language of the Mayan peoples who once inhabited this region, Sian Ka'an means 'Origin of the Sky'. Located on the east coast of the Yucatán peninsula, this biosphere reserve contains tropical forests, mangroves and marshes, as well as a large marine section intersected by a barrier reef. It provides a habitat for a remarkably rich flora and a fauna comprising more than 300 species of birds.</p> <p>You can see some images of my last trip there here: https://www.pinterest.ca/TravelShow/riviera-maya-yucatan/</p> |

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| <p>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</p> | |
| <p>Golf</p> | <p>Cancun golf courses are every golfers dream! Aside from the fact that they are in the most beautiful settings imaginable, the golf courses in Cancun and Riviera Maya meet the highest standards set by professional golf tournaments and expert golfers. Magical scenery and great weather have attracted world renowned golf course designers to create some of their masterpiece golf courses in Cancun and the Riviera Maya offering some of the most competitive golf courses in the world.</p> <p>Cancun golf course designs have come from some of the game's greatest names, including: Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones, Jr., Robert Von Hagge, Isao Aoki, Greg Norman and P.B. Dye. New courses now under construction feature designs by Tom Weiskopf, Tom Fazio and Nick Price.</p> <p>The golf courses in Cancun and the Riviera Maya feature challenging fairways that present players with distinctive curves and gentle hills, all framed by colorful tropical vegetation. Some are even built around ancient Mayan temples. From tee to green, views of the Caribbean's turquoise waters and pure white beaches stretch out in the distance with an abundance of wildlife in view.</p> <p>Cancun Golf Club at Pok Ta Pok - Robert Trent Jones Jr Cancun Golf Club at Pok Ta Pok, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. in 1976, is considered a leader in golf in this region. Those who visit Cancun know that playing a round of golf on this course is a must.</p> |

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**Hilton Cancun Golf Club**

The 18-Hole, Par 72 Championship golf course at Hilton Cancun Golf Club is set within 150 acres of tropical paradise. With lush fairways tended with the utmost care meandering through ancient Mayan Ruins, this challenging, yet fair golf course is enjoyable for golfers of all handicaps

Moon Spa & Golf Club – Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course
Moon Spa & Golf Club is one of the Nicklaus Signature Golf Courses in Cancun and the Riviera Maya and was designed with a unique concept of environmental conservation. It is surrounded by a beautiful landscape, natural mangroves and exotic animals. This 27-hole course will be an unforgettable experience.

Riviera Cancun – Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course
Two brand new golf courses can be found at the Riviera Cancun with the famous Jack Nicklaus Signature design. With Par 72 and undulating fairways at the edge of the turquoise Caribbean Sea it will be an exhilarating experience for any golfer.

Mayan Palace Riviera Maya – Jack Nicklaus
This is another Nicklaus Design golf course found at the Mayan Palace Riviera Maya between Cancun and Playa Del Carmen. It features traps of radiant, white sand, lakes surrounded by natural rocks and the intense color of the greens. The extraordinary natural landscape featuring lakes and native Mayan vegetation all make for a challenging yet beautiful golf course.

Cozumel Country Club – Jack Nicklaus
The Cozumel Country Club has been carefully crafted from the surrounding mangrove marshlands and tropical rainforest to preserve its environmental integrity, as well as providing attractive challenges for players of every skill level.

El Camaleon Mayakoba – Greg Norman
El Camaleon Mayakoba designed by Greg Norman stretches from the jungle to the mangroves and on to the most beautiful ocean views. El Camaleon Mayakoba is the first golf course in Mexico to be chosen by the PGA. They have now held the PGA Tour events for several years.

Playacar Spa & Golf Club – Robert Van Hagge
Playacar Spa & Golf Club was designed and constructed under the supervision of the famous architect Robert Von Hagge. This magnificent

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| | <p>golf course surrounded by a diversity of lakes and exuberant vegetation, is considered to be one of the most challenging golf courses in Cancun or the Riviera Maya.</p> <p>Iberostar Playa Paraiso Golf Club – P.B. Dye Iberostar Playa Paraiso Golf Club, located about 30 minutes south of Cancun, is the latest creation of world-renowned golf course architect P.B. Dye. The vertical movement and distinctive rock work are signatures of a typical P.B. Dye design. This world-class layout features conditions seen only at the best golf destinations around the world.</p> <p>Cancun Country Club Cancun Country Club consists of two 18-hole courses – one designed by Tom Fazio, considered to be one of the world’s great golf design architects and one by Nick Price.</p> |
| <p>Fishing</p> | <p>There are fantastic opportunities for fishing in Cancun. The amazing fish found here are due to the nutrient-rich waters found in the reefs in and around Cancun. You can commission private and group charters and they will provide you with all you need such as rods, tackle, bait, licenses and lunch. A special license is required for fishing in Mexico so make sure when you book your tour that this is included in the price.</p> <p>Cancun Sportfishing Cancun is one of the best sport fishing hotspots in the world... Sport fishing in Cancun is on a ‘catch and release’ basis and goes in seasons. From February to April the top catches are kingfish, barracuda, small shark, grouper and blue marlin. From April to August you will find blue marlin, sailfish, tuna and mahi-mahi. Then from September to February catches include barracuda, snapper and mackerel. Book a sport fishing excursion and you are guaranteed an exhilarating day out!</p> <p>Fly fishing in Cancun The lagoon system around Cancun offers the angler all year-round opportunities to catch and release a great variety of species such as tarpon, bonefish, barracuda, sea trout, and red snapper. Fly fishing can be done in the sea, lakes, lagoons or rivers and is done in shallow, clear waters using artificial bait called a fly. You can book fly fishing lessons with one of the many tour operators.</p> |
| <p>Horse riding</p> | <p>Cancún Mermaid about 30 minutes south of town at the Rancho Loma Bonita is a popular option for horseback riding. Five-hour packages include 2 hours of riding through the mangrove swamp to the beach, where you have time to swim and relax. The tour costs \$66 for adults and \$60 for children under 13. The ranch also offers a four-wheel ATV ride on the same route as the horseback tour. Prices for both tours</p> |

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| | include transportation to the ranch, riding, soft drinks, and lunch, plus a guide and insurance. Only cash or traveler's checks are accepted. |
| Hiking | Within Cancun there are trails around the lagoon and of course the beach itself is a lovely walk in the early morning light. Further afield, there are a number of jungle trails that are accessible for those wanting to experience the countryside. |
| Cycling | You can hire bicycles at many of the resorts and it's a pleasant way of getting around Cancun. |
| Sailing | <p>Your Cancun vacation would not be complete without experiencing the splendour of the Mexican Caribbean on board your own private sailboat or catamaran.</p> <p>You can charter a boat for as little as one day if you want to. Sail off in the sunrise to begin your private sailing adventure and choose where you want to go. You can discover some of the most beautiful islands in the Mexican Caribbean, snorkel in the reefs, fish for big game in the crystalline turquoise water, or just choose to spend a romantic sunset sail with a loved one or friends.</p> <p>There are many private charter companies in and around Cancun that will provide you with a choice of day trips, or you can tailor make your trip to take you where you would like to go. You can charter anything from 95ft luxury yachts that hold up to 100 people, for weddings or special events, to fishing yachts for a day of sport fishing with friends, or a private yacht or catamaran for the number of days you choose.</p> <p>When you charter a private sailboat or catamaran most tour operators will provide you with a captain and crew, refreshments and beers, meals onboard and snorkeling and fishing equipment. All you need to do is turn up with a hat and sunscreen and be prepared for a fantastic time!</p> |
| Diving | <p>Cancun offers an unimaginable world of underwater beauty and is one of the best places in the world for scuba diving. Cancun scuba diving is famous because of its shallow reefs alive with the dazzling colours of fish and coral.</p> <p>Scuba diving in Cancun is so popular because of the Great Mesoamerican Reef (the Gran Arrecife Maya). This is the largest reef in the Western Hemisphere and the second largest coral reef in the world. The Great Mesoamerican Reef stretches from Punta Nizuc, which it at the tip of the Cancun Hotel Zone, all the way to the Bay of Islands in Honduras. Cancun's coastline is home to nearly 100 coral species, 350 molluscs and 164 species of reef dwelling fish. Cancun is also the home to the hawksbill sea turtle, crocodiles, lemon sharks and manatees.</p> <p>There are many fascinating scuba diving venues in Cancun for both the novice as well as the more experienced diver. You have a choice of open water diving along the reef and there are also several sunken boats to add to the adventure. If you go inland along the Cancun –</p> |

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Tulum corridor you will find many caverns and **cenotes**, also known as “sink holes”.

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| CULTURE | <p>Mayan Culture The Mayan civilization was among the original cultures of the New World and spanned more than 3,000 years. The Mayans lived mainly on the Yucatan Peninsula in the eastern one third of Mesoamerica and at its peak had one of the most densely populated and culturally dynamic societies in the world. Mayan culture is known for its spectacular art, impressive architecture, and sophisticated mathematical and astronomical systems which were all way ahead of their time.</p> <p>Mayan Architecture Mayan architecture spans many thousands of years. The most dramatic and easily recognizable are the fantastic stepped pyramids in places such as Chichen Itza and Coba to name but a few. Chichen Itza has been named as one of the seven wonders of the world, and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site for 20 years.</p> <p>The Mayan Calendar The Mayan Calendar was not the original Mesoamerican calendar, but with the refinements the Mayans made, it became the most sophisticated. The Mayan calendar along with the Aztec calendar are the best documented and most completely understood of all the Mesoamerican calendars</p> <p>Mayan Scripture and Mayan Art Mayan scripture is the only known fully developed written language of the pre-Columbian Americas. Mayan art is considered by many to be the most sophisticated and beautiful of the ancient New World.</p> <p>Mayan Tree of Life The Mayan civilization recognised the four primary compass directions and each was associated with a colour – East with red, North with white, West with black and South with yellow. They also had a fifth ‘direction’ which was the center and this was a blue-green colour. The center was represented by a great ceiba tree known as the Mayan tree of life. This tree connected the center of the Earth with both the underworld and the heavens.</p> <p>Mayan Gods There were thirteen Mayan gods belonging to the thirteen of heavens of the Mayan religion and nine gods from the nine underworlds. Natural elements such as the stars and the planets, crops, numbers, days and</p> |
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| | <p>periods of time each had their own gods. The mood of the Mayan gods changed according to the days in the Mayan calendar or the position of the sun, moon and stars. Some of most notable gods are Chaac – God of Rain and Thunder, Ixchel – jaguar goddess of midwifery, Ah Puch – God of Death.</p> <p>Today, the Mayan civilization and their descendants form sizable populations throughout the Maya area known as the Mundo Maya and maintain a distinctive set of traditions and beliefs. Over 500 different Mayan languages continue to be spoken today.</p> <p>To visit some of these sites and experience the beauty of the Mayan civilization really is an opportunity not to be missed during your Cancun vacation. There are many tours available from your hotel or tour operator.</p> |
| <p>Arts</p> | <p>Museo Maya de Cancun It's the largest structure built by the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH). After 6 years in the making they opened the doors in November 2012. The building itself is a modern piece of architecture and really quite nice to walk around in. There is a nice view of the surrounding areas from the top level.</p> |
| <p>Music</p> | <p>Mariachi The only thing more Mexican than tequila is mariachi music and it seems a shame to have one without the other. Mariachi goes beyond music; it is the sum of a cultural revolution expressed through a group of musicians, dressed in popular clothing (most recently charro suits) which encompasses the essence of Mexico and its people. It is something cultural, spiritual and traditional that is unique to this country, an experience not to be missed.</p> <p>The word mariachi refers to the musicians now commonly seen in restaurants or strolling the streets, dressed in silver studded charro outfits with wide brimmed hats playing a variety of instruments which include violins, guitars, basses, vihuelas (a 5-string guitar) and trumpets.</p> <p>Their songs speak about machismo, love, betrayal, death, politics, revolutionary heroes and even animals (one particularly famous song is "La Cucaracha").</p> <p>Although the indigenous tribes of Mexico made music with flutes, drums and whistles, there is no clear link between the indigenous music and the mariachi. The instruments originally used by the mariachi were those introduced by the Spaniards - violins, guitars, vihuelas, harps, etc. These instruments were intended to be used during masses but the criollos (Mexicans of Spanish descent) began using them to make popular music as well, much to the chagrin of the priests, since they</p> |

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| | <p>were used to accompany some of the more scandalous, satirical or anticlerical couplets of the times.</p> <p>Mariachi can be heard extensively in Cancun and it's one of the pleasures of any visit.</p> |
| Museums | <p>Zona Arqueológica El Rey Boulevard Kukulcán Km 19</p> <p>Zona Arqueológica El Rey is worth a visit and is closely situated in the resort area of Cancún. Here you can appreciate the vestiges of one of the most interesting and complete civilizations of America: The Mayans. These ruins are a window into the history of Mexico and are Cancún's largest archaeological site. This was an ancient city that had its splendor between the years 1250 and 1521 AD. Tours can be arranged through Cancún hotels and travel agencies. You'll hear an explanation of the structures and their historical significance in English.</p> <p>Underwater Museum</p> <p>The National Park West Coast of Isla Mujeres, Punta Cancun and Punta Nizuc, features more than 400 concrete sculpture figurines comprising the world's largest underwater museum, right in the waters in front of Cancun and the island of Isla Mujeres.</p> <p>At a cost of more than US \$350,000, the project was created to give the natural reefs the opportunity to flourish. Approximately 400 sculptures are sunk within this National Park on sandy bottoms at different depths. Each piece of art is man-sized, with theme-based galleries, such as an army of Mayan indigenous warriors and other sculptures such as the "Dream Catcher" who collects messages in bottles adrift.</p> |
| Festivals | <p>Day of the Dead - El Dia de Los Muertos Month: November</p> <p>Early each November Mexican's the width and breadth of the country pack a hamper and head to the cemetery to celebrate el dia de los muertos, the day of the dead. And yes, I said celebrate. Far from being a sombre affair, day of the dead festivities are round-the-clock celebrations of the lives of those family members that have passed before them. Families gather, food is shared, tequila is downed, cigars are smoked - as far as Mexican celebrations go, it doesn't get much bigger.</p> <p>Cancun International Film Festival Month: November http://www.cancunfilmfest.com.mx</p> |

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| ATTRACTIONS | |
| Beaches | <p>The secret of Cancún's allure hasn't changed much over the decades - it's still all about the Caribbean beach. The city limits of Cancún stretch from the old city east to a 24km sliver of land that runs southwest,</p> |

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| | <p>rimmed by white-sand beaches, connected to the mainland by two bridges. The land creates a ring around the expansive Nichupté lagoon, a lush reminder of Cancún's jungle past between the old and the new.</p> <p>Cancun has two different areas with different ocean conditions. The first are is the top part of the seven, starting from down town Cancun and ending at Punta Cancun where the Dreams resort is located. All the hotels in this area have a calmer and tranquil ocean conditions with no surf. The hotels on the long strip of the hotel zone, from the Hyatt Regency to the Westin have the liveliest surf.</p> |
| Wildlife | <p>Swimming with Whale Sharks</p> <p>Whale sharks are the gentle giants of the ocean. They are the largest fish in the world measuring up to 40 feet (12 meters) and weighing up to 15 tons. Fortunately for those of us that want to swim with the whale shark they are totally harmless and peaceful. During your vacation in Cancun you have the once in a lifetime opportunity to get up close to one of these amazing creatures.</p> <p>Whale Shark Facts</p> <p>The whale shark is a fascinating creature to behold, with its wide mouth extending to 5 feet when open. The whale shark swims with its mouth open, close to the surface of the water, and just sucks in the plankton. It then closes its mouth and forces all the unwanted water out of its gills and only the plankton remains. The whale shark has a unique checkerboard pattern on its back made up of creamy white spots and pale horizontal and vertical stripes with a white underbelly so is easily distinguishable. This pattern is why it is also often known as the Domino.</p> <p>Whale Shark Season in Mexico</p> <p>If adventurers want to take advantage of this phenomenon, you must bear in mind that the whale sharks are usually found around the islands of Holbox and Contoy from May until September, although mostly during the months of July and August. They gather here due to the nutrient -rich water around these shores. In fact, 30th August has now been formally established as the Mexican Day of the Whale Shark.</p> <p>Tours to Swim with Whale Sharks</p> <p>You can book tours to swim with the whale sharks leaving Cancun from Punta Sam, which last about 5 hours, or you can take a trip to Isla Holbox and book it while you are there. If you choose to experience swimming with the whale shark you will be accompanied by experts who will provide you with all the necessary information to better understand the behaviour of these wonderful creatures. Take a look at</p> |

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| | <p>some of our recommended tour operators. If you would like to swim with a whale shark just remember there is nothing to fear... they feed exclusively on plankton and are therefore completely harmless to humans. The experience is truly amazing and one you will never forget.</p> |
| <p>Parks</p> | <p>There is a plethora of beautiful nature reserves and protected areas you can visit near Cancun. You will get the opportunity to observe monkeys, flamingos, whale sharks, marine turtles, crocodiles and many more creatures in their natural habitat. The flora and fauna is also incredible! You can arrange guided tours lasting from one day to several days where you can pursue activities such as kayaking, hiking, snorkeling and diving.</p> <p>Cozumel Reef National Park In 1996, an 11,988-hectare area of sea and coral reefs was declared the Cozumel Reef National Park. Cozumel is the Caribbean's premier dive spot with 85% of the region's dive sites. Isla Mujeres West Coast, Punta Cancun and Punta Nizuc National Park. It covers 8,673 hectares of reefs that are part of the Mesoamerican Reef System. The estimated age of the base coral is 125,000 years and the reef consists of a chain of coral formations of varying sizes. The park protects a triangle of reefs off the west coast of Isla Mujeres, Punta Cancún and Punta Nizuc.</p> <p>Isla Contoy National Park The island, covering 5,126 sq. hectares, was declared a National Park in 1998. The coral reefs within the park's perimeter -called an "islet"- are located south of the island and mark the beginning of a 389-kilometre barrier reef running along the coast of Quintana Roo. This is the birthplace of the Mesoamerican Reef System. For more information visit: www.contoy.org www.islacontoy.org</p> <p>Puerto Morelos Reef National Park The 9,066 square-hectare park was set up in 1998. The barrier reef borders the Isla Mujeres West Coast, Punta Cancún and Punta Nizuc National Park.</p> <p>Chinchorro Bank Biosphere Reserve The Chinchorro Bank Biosphere Reserve was created in 1996. The country's best-preserved reef system covers 144,360 square hectares. A platform reef, it has the largest commercial population of pink conch and Caribbean lobster and is important for the fishing industry. It is also a sea turtle nesting ground and at least 93 bird species live in the area's mangroves. The reef is a fantastic spot for divers. It is also a magnet for</p> |

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| | <p>scientists who study its biodiversity and underwater archaeological heritage (there are more than 20 shipwrecks here).</p> <p>Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve Declared a United Nations World Heritage Site, the Biosphere Reserve was created in 1986 and the Uaymil Flora and Fauna Protected Area and the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reefs Reserve were created in 1994 and 1998, respectively. The three reserves cover an area of 650,000 square hectares. They incorporate areas of the principal ecosystems found in the Yucatán Peninsula and the Caribbean, where both Mesoamerican and Antillean species flourish. The barrier reef extends for some 120 kilometers and covers approximately 15,000 hectares. It is an idyllic place and highly recommended for a day trip, although it is three hours by road from Cancun</p> <p>Yum Balam Flora and Fauna Protected area The Yum Balam Flora and Fauna Protected Area was created in 1994. It is located on the northern coast, in Lazaro Cardenas district and covers 154,052 square hectares. More than 12 kinds of vegetation are found here.</p> <p>Manatee Sanctuary Created in 1996, the Manatee Sanctuary protects 281,320 square hectares of both land and water ecosystems. The largest population of Caribbean manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus</i>), estimated between 150 and 200 individuals, has found a refuge here.</p> |
| Gardens | <p>Many of the resort hotels have beautiful tropical gardens that are cool places to seek in the heat of the day.</p> <p>Parque de las Palapas This square in downtown is considered a classic place to meet for most of the residents, thus it is the real heart of the city of Cancun. There is a main stage perfectly visible where the shows are easily enjoyed. The shadows cast by the new palm trees are sweet relief from the striking sun and in the evenings the well illuminated square has a wonderfully romantic air. An open-air food court with 14 stands is located at the northern extreme of the park, and a few wooden carts with palapas covering them are distributed throughout, used by the artisans to sell their products.</p> |

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| OTHER ACTIVITIES | |
| Shopping | As one of the world's premier tourist destinations the shopping in Cancun is as impressive as one would imagine. You will find everything |

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| | <p>from ultra-chic designer stores and famous brand names, to flea markets and souvenir shops selling Mexican local handcrafts. Cancun shopping is duty-free, so you can find some real bargains on cosmetics and fine jewellery.</p> <p>There are many shopping malls in Cancun all offering the avid shopper a real treat. Here is a list of just some of the great places to go if you fancy shopping in Cancun whether it be for a new designer outfit for yourself or a gift to take home to your loved ones</p> <p>La Isla Shopping Village, Cancun La Isla Shopping Village is a glittering, ultra-trendy shoppers' paradise on the banks of the Nichupte Lagoon in the Hotel Zone Cancun. You will find over 150 shops here all under a giant canopy with a series of canals and small bridges designed to create a Venetian look. There is an amazing aquarium here as well as fabulous restaurants and cinemas showing movies in English and Spanish.</p> <p>Kukulcan Plaza & Luxury Avenue Kukulcan Plaza & Luxury Avenue are adjacent to each other in the Hotel Zone. Between them they boast more than 250 shops and boutiques in exclusive and luxurious surroundings including world famous brands such as Louis Vuitton and Cartier. There are many specialty restaurants, bars and cafes and even a bowling alley if you are looking for something fun to do.</p> <p>Plaza Caracol Plaza Caracol is situated just north of the Cancun Convention Center. There are over 200 shops and boutiques where you will find everything from Ralph Lauren and Sunglass Island to chic perfumeries such as Ultrafemme to souvenir and silver jewellery stores. There is also a great choice of restaurants and cafes if you need to take a rest from shopping in Cancun.</p> <p>Plaza Las Americas Plaza Las Americas is found in downtown Cancun. There are three large department stores as well as more than 50 stores – fashion shops – bookstores – sportswear – just about everything you might need. There are also two fantastic cinemas here showing movies in English and Spanish as well as a choice of restaurants.</p> |
| <p>Markets</p> | <p>Market 28 Also known as the Mercado 28 this is a huge flea market situated in the heart of downtown Cancun. It is a fun place to buy your souvenirs, Mexican handcrafts and silver jewelry at half the price of the Hotel Zone. Next door you will find Plaza Bonita, built to resemble a small Mexican</p> |

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| | <p>village with colourful architecture and shops selling good quality Mexican handcrafts and pieces of art.</p> |
| <p>Nightlife</p> | <p>Whether you want to dance the night away in one of Cancun's nightclubs or spend a relaxing evening with friends in one of the many bars, the nightlife in Cancun will never disappoint you. An eclectic selection of music fills the evening air and the Cancun nightlife takes to the streets until the sun comes up.</p> <p>Cancun nightclubs Get your dancing shoes on and get ready to party! The nightclubs in Cancun are renowned for being some of the best in the world. In Cancun nightclubs such as The City, Coco Bongo, Dady 'O and the Bulldog Café there are laser and light shows, acrobats, special live acts and you will get to hear some of the best DJs from around the world.</p> <p>Cancun Bars You don't have to go to a nightclub for a great night out in Cancun. There are many lively Cancun bars open until the early hours with a true party atmosphere. Some of the most famous are Senior Frogs and Carlos n' Charlies but there are many other great bars in Cancun.</p> <p>Cancun Lounge Bars For all you hip and trendy people, Cancun lounge bars such as Thai Lounge offer you contemporary décor, comfortable seating and VIP areas with live DJs playing more chilled out music for those that want to spend an evening soaking up the atmosphere over a cocktail or two. For further information take a look at our list of lounge bars in Cancun</p> <p>Cancun Live Music Venues The live music venues in Cancun offer anything you like from jazz to rock to salsa. You can try out The Bulldog Café or Dady Rock for live rock music or Azucar for some of the best salsa and merengue bands around. Go to Roots in downtown Cancun for a relaxing evening listening to the most talented Jazz musicians Cancun has to offer.</p> <p>Cirque du Soleil JOYÀ the first Cirque du Soleil resident show in Mexico, combines culinary and performing arts in an intimate theater setting to engage the audience's five senses. Drawing on Mexico's history and heritage, JOYÀ tells the story of an alchemist and his granddaughter embarking on a quest to uncover the secrets of life. Don't miss the opportunity to taste extraordinary dishes and live a magical night exclusively at the Cirque du Soleil Theater at Vidanta Riviera Maya. JOYÀ, a thrilling, whimsical show in which joy, courage and friendship conquer all!</p> |

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| | <p>Address: Km. 48 Carretera Federal, Cancún - Playa del Carmen, Riviera Maya, Q.Roo 77710 Tel: 1-844-247-7837 / 01-800-247-7837 www.cirquedusoleil.com/joya</p> |
| <p>Spas</p> | <p>Cancun is one of the premier spa destinations in the world with a choice of more than thirty Cancun spa resorts awaiting you to transport your mind, body and spirit to a nirvana of pure bliss. The majority of the hotels in Cancun offer a variety of Spa treatments combining native herbs and plants with ancient Mayan healing rituals and the latest stress-reducing technologies and treatments.</p> <p>Try a traditional Temazcal steam bath or a full-body massage on the beach overlooking the turquoise blue waters. Indulge in a thalassotherapy treatment and relax as expert therapists provide natural body wraps made with local plants and flowers. The ultimate relaxation experience has to include a traditional Mayan massage incorporating all the traditions of an ancient world.</p> <p>Temazcal - Ancient Aztec Náhuatl word meaning “House of steam” A Mayan Temazcal is a pre-Hispanic style steam bath that uses traditional healing methods to encourage deep relaxation encouraging introspection and reflection. Under the expert guide of a Xaman you will hear native songs, breathe in the “copal” and aromatic herbs infused with the steam, all combining to create a magical and therapeutic ambiance. You can experience an authentic Mayan Temazcal at many of the Cancun spa resorts.</p> |

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| <p>CUISINE</p> | |
| <p>Food</p> | <p>You will find many excellent fish and seafood restaurants in Cancun. Many Cancun restaurants offer fresh lobster as their specialty. If you like seafood, you must try ceviche, a tropical Mexican specialty featuring fish or seafood such as shrimp, octopus or shellfish, with finely chopped onion, cilantro and tomato. All the ingredients are bathed in fresh lemon juice, resulting in an incomparable explosion of flavors.</p> |
| <p>Beer</p> | <p>Many think that as long as it is cold and being imbibed anywhere in Mexico... whatever it is, it IS the best beer. Bohemia, Negro Modelo, Modelo Especial, Dos Equis, Dos Equis Amber, Pacifico, Montejo, Victoria, Tecate Light, Sol, Leon and the ubiquitous Corona are all well liked and satisfying. Carta Blanca is also an old, satisfying beer. Barriardo Lessardo is pretty good as well.....</p> <p>When touring off of the resort find a small convenience shop. They will give you a few options other than the norm. Try the Corona Familiar (a huge quart) which cannot be bought in Canada. It tastes a bit stronger but is more pleasant tasting than the regular corona. Also, try the Corona Cerveza de Barril. (They look like little "Mickey" Bottles.) It is also much better than Corona regular. If you have the opportunity to be</p> |

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| | <p>in Mexico over the Christmas season, try the Noche Buena by Dos Equis. It is a darker full-flavoured brew that is not exported either and can only be found in Mexico.</p> |
| <p>Restaurants</p> | <p>Whether you are dining in one of the hotels, or in one of the wealth of restaurants located in the Hotel Zone or in Downtown Cancun, you will find a different fabulous Cancun restaurant for every night of your vacation. After all, there are over 350 restaurants in Cancun...</p> <p>Mexican Restaurants in Cancun Mexican cuisine is recognized as one of the three most popular food styles in the world. Where better to enjoy it than Mexican restaurants in Cancun? The Yucatan peninsula has a style of food all of its own which you can find in many restaurants in Cancun. The culinary delights of a typical Yucatecan kitchen come from a mouth-watering mixture of European and Mexican flavors. A lot of the dishes from this region are not spicy yet are absolutely delicious. You also have the typical Mexican food with delicious char-grilled meats with a variety of different sauces to try. Brave the habanero chili. This mild-looking pepper is fire-hot but serves as an excellent condiment to some of Mexico's finest culinary delicacies.</p> |

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| <p>MORE INFO</p> | |
| <p>Websites</p> | <p>www.Cancun.Travel : This is the official travel information website for Cancun. On this site there is a comprehensive list of all the best Cancun hotels; information about Cancun restaurants and nightlife; where to go for water sports, eco-parks and Mayan archaeological sites. Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CancunTravel Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.es/VisitCancun/ Twitter: https://twitter.com/cancuncvb Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/visitcancun/</p> |

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| <p>TRANSAT AND CANCUN</p> | <p>Transat offer frequent flights and packages to Cancun that include no less than 34 different hotels and resorts in all the main areas of Cancun. Cancun has all-inclusive resorts for every budget and taste.</p> <p>A magnificent destination on the Caribbean Sea, Cancun is simply seductive with its vast white sand beaches, its palm trees, its pleasant breezes and its enchanting atmosphere. Families, couples and groups find what they're looking for here with activities of all sorts, unforgettable excursions and all-inclusive packages with hotels that satisfy the needs of every kind of traveller.</p> <p>Cancun's turquoise Caribbean Sea is what dreams are made of. Palm</p> |
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trees, fine white sand, predictable weather, large beaches generally equipped with volleyball courts and bars. It has everything you need for a great vacation as a couple, with your family, or with a group of friends, far from Canada's glacial cold.

Here is the full list of resorts in Cancun featured by Transat:

Beach Palace
Beloved Playa Mujeres by Excellence Group
Crown Paradise Club Cancun
Dreams Playa Mujeres Golf & Spa Resort
Dreams Sands Cancun Resort & Spa
Excellence Playa Mujeres
Fiesta Americana Condesa Cancun
Finest Playa Mujeres by Excellence Group
Flamingo Cancun Resort
Golden Parnassus Resort and Spa
Grand Oasis Cancun
Grand Oasis Palm
Grand Oasis Sens
Grand Park Royal Cancun Caribe
Hard Rock Hotel Cancun
Hyatt Zilara Cancun
Hyatt Ziva Cancun
Iberostar Cancun
Krystal Cancun
Krystal Grand Punta Cancun
Le Blanc Spa Resort
Live Aqua Cancun
Oasis Cancun Lite
Oasis Palm
Occidental Costa Cancun
Occidental Tucancun
Oh! The Urban Oasis
Oleo Cancun Playa
Panama Jack Resorts Cancun
Paradisus Cancun
Sandos Cancun Lifestyle Resort.
Seadust Cancun Family resort
Secrets Playa Mujeres Golf & Spa Resort
Secrets The Vine Cancun
Smart Cancun by Oasis
Sun Palace
Temptation Cancun Resort

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| | <p>The Pyramid at Grand Oasis Turquoise At Hyatt Ziva Cancun Villa del Palmar Luxury Beach Resort & Spa</p> <p>Ask your travel agent for the Transat Holidays Sun Collection 2017/2018 brochure and go to www.transatholidays.com to see images of all these hotels.</p> |
| <p>Transat Background</p> | <p>For nearly 30 years, Transat has been offering a large selection of vacation options in Europe, Florida and the South, as well as cruises sailing the seven seas. In addition to hundreds of south hotels available in the form of all-inclusive packages, Transat also offers a wide range of flights, packages, tours and à la carte holidays. Their packages are flexible and tailored to stays of varying lengths.</p> <p>Transat Tours Canada is the leader in Canada’s holiday travel industry. The group includes Transat Holidays, Nolitours, Tours Mont Royal, Transat Discoveries, Air Transat and many travel agencies across the country, including Marlin Travel. This integration enables Transat to offer vacationers the best possible service, from the airport all the way to their travel destination, where a team of more than 250 destination representatives offer onsite assistance on a 24/7 basis.</p> <p>Air Transat, the group’s airline, offers a vast selection of flights to nearly 60 destinations in 25 countries aboard its fleet of Airbus wide-body jets. Families benefit from numerous privileges, such as a dedicated check-in counter and Kids Club advantages. Upgrade to Club Class for a touch of luxury or choose Option Plus and obtain an additional baggage allowance of 10 kg, among other perks.</p> |
| <p>What Transat is All About</p> | <p>Transat offers quality vacation packages to a wide variety of destinations. Each season, the company presents a wide selection of quality products, in order to meet the diversified needs of Canadian travellers. In keeping with their mission, their employees aim to exceed vacationers’ expectations in order to maintain their position as a market leader. They see their role, ultimately, to turn holiday dreams into reality: making the vacation experience one of the most memorable ever.</p> |
| <p>Vacation Types</p> | <p>Transat has it all: packages, cruises, hotels, flights, tours, car rentals & train travel. With a choice of over 300 hotels located in more than 50 destinations and a complete line of itineraries offered in partnership with the most prestigious cruise lines, all products offered by Transat are subject to a rigorous standard review.</p> |
| <p>Transat Collections</p> | <p>Choosing the right resort for your vacation needs is all important and to help you select the right hotel Transat have created 6 different</p> |

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Collections: **Luxury, Distinction, Family, Solo and Sun Savvy.**

What defines a Collection?

- The vacation packages in a Collection match the type of experience you are looking for. Everything from the details of the Air Transat flights to the resort and its facilities suit the needs of a specific type of traveller.

Luxury Collection

- Designed to cater to your every whim, our prestigious Luxury Collection is the gold standard in upscale travel... with VIP inclusions for a dream vacation:

- o Free access to VIP Lounge at airports
- o Free upgrade to OPTION PLUS on board Air Transat
- o Private roundtrip transfers
- o Unlimited À La Carte gourmet dining
- o Free WIFI in room and public area

An example of a Luxury Collection Resort in Vallarta-Nayarit is Marival Residences Luxury Resort, Nuevo Vallarta.

Solo Collection

- With this new collection Transat put together a group of resorts that people who like to travel alone will enjoy thanks to advantages such as a communal table for sharing meals and no single supplement.

And the big news is – no Single Supplement!

- Solo Collection Advantages include:

- o No Single Supplement
- o Communal table for sharing meals
- o Weekly Happy Hour welcoming all Transat clients
- o Free room service and free WI-FI

An example here of the Solo Collection in Vallarta-Nayarit is Las Palmas by the Sea.

Sun Savvy Collection

- Transat thinks everyone should be able to enjoy the sun, and they pride themselves on providing you with the quality you want at the prices you love. Hence their new Sun Savvy Collection.

An example in this destination is the Royal Decameron Complex

Family Collection

- Their Family Collection delivers a safe, exciting time for kids - and a relaxing holiday for parents. There are a variety of activities, facilities and promotions that suit the needs of different types of family. These range from resorts perfect for families with very young children to resorts perfect for teens and big families. And then there are also

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| | <p>Transat's new Multigenerational and Single Parent categories. Vallarta-Nayarit is a great destination for those family and multi-generational trips. These resorts work well here for these groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grand Palladium Vallarta Resort and Spa - Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta <p>And lastly – there is the Distinction Collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distinction Collection offers exclusive perks that range from direct transfers, additional à la carte dinner reservations and complimentary WiFi access - Distinction inclusions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Direct roundtrip transfers between the airport and the resort o Additional guaranteed à la carte restaurant reservations o Free WIFI in the lobby o Mini-bar restocked daily o Unlimited select international drinks o Free in-room safe <p>You will also enjoy, for example, bottle of wine or local specialty in the room upon arrival, turn-down service plus lots more.</p> |
| <p>Awards</p> | <p>Transat almost routinely picks up numbers of rewards each year. Here are some of the awards they received in 2017:</p> <p>Voted Best North American Leisure Airline six years running - 2017 Skytrax Annual Airline Awards</p> <p>First place in three categories of the Agent's Choice Awards: best Tour Operator best Leisure/Charter airline for Air Transat best Overall Supplier for Service and Value</p> |
| <p>Current Brochures</p> | <p>Transat Sun 2017/18 brochure is available at your local travel agent and covers vacations through to October 2018.</p> |
| <p>Newsletter</p> | <p>Stay up to date on the latest news, travel offers, discount prices, contests and more by signing up to Transat's e-newsletter here: http://www.airtransat.com/en-CA/Newsletter</p> |
| <p>Air Transat Kids Club</p> | <p>To ensure that your family vacations are fun and unforgettable from beginning to end, Air Transat has created Kids Club so that young passengers can really enjoy themselves whilst onboard an Air Transat flight. It is designed to make air travel a fun experience for young travellers (and for their parents!). Even before the doors of the plane are closed following boarding, every child receives a small bag containing all sorts of surprises and games. The more fun they have, the easier the flight. Furthermore, children who are members of Air Transat Kids Club enjoy certain exclusive privileges.</p> <p>Members of the Air Transat Kids Club will enjoy several benefits that the</p> |

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| | <p>whole family can share. You can check in at a special "Air Transat Kids Club Members" counter. Thanks to these special counters located in major Canadian airports where Air Transat flies, checking-in is quicker than before. At check-in, special tags will be placed on your baggage; as a result, your baggage gets priority treatment.</p> |
| <p>Transat Club Class</p> | <p>Enjoy exclusive privileges such as complimentary seat selection, wider, more comfortable leather seats, a choice of gourmet meals and fine wines, priority check-in, baggage service and boarding.</p> <p>Club Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated Club attendants • Attentive, personalized service • Exclusive, spacious Club cabin <p>Drinks & Snacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome cocktails • Complimentary non-alcoholic drinks, snacks and bar service <p>Club Privileges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased baggage allowance • 40 kg checked/15 kg carry-on • Exclusive, rapid check-in counter in most airports • Priority boarding • Practical travel items (on Europe flights) • Free headsets • Canadian newspapers <p>Comfort & Refinement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider, more comfortable leather seats • More leg room • Complimentary Seat Selection: call 1-877-872-6728 • Choice of gourmet meals • Choice of wine and more |
| <p>Option Plus</p> | <p>This Economy class option includes many priority privileges and services including priority check-in, priority baggage handling, an extra 10kg baggage allowance and even champagne. Here's what you get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance seat selection on roundtrip flights • Priority check-in at a dedicated counter • Priority baggage handling • Priority boarding • Complete Air Transat travel kit on flights to European destinations • Snacks from the On Board Bistro selection • Alcoholic beverages during drinks service 200ml bottle of champagne (Sun and Europe) • Supplementary baggage allowance up to 10 kg per flight segment • Wine or beer with the meal • Headsets <p>The cost is \$89-\$149 for southbound destinations and \$99-\$209 for</p> |

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| | European destinations as at February 2018 |
| Option Flex | <p>Life doesn't always go exactly according to plan. When you book your dream vacation, you want to make sure you enjoy the ultimate level of flexibility should something unexpected happen. Option Flex with Transat gives you just that. Option Flex lets you:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - change your departure date, destination or hotel, up to 3 hours before departure - transfer your vacation package to a friend or family member, up to 7 days before departure - cancel your trip and get a full refund - and you won't be charged any additional fuel or currency surcharges once you've booked. <p>Benefit from these advantages for only \$49 + taxes at time of booking.</p> |
| Transat and Sustainable Tourism | <p>Transat recognizes the prime importance of the environment, host communities, cultural diversity, and their relationships with their employees, customers and partners. Tourism has become one of the world's leading industries. Society and communities reap the benefits, and, each year, hundreds of millions of travellers discover new countries and cultures. Transat is firmly committed to the responsible development of the tourism industry, and has adopted the following definition of sustainable tourism:</p> <p><i>"Sustainable tourism entails respect for nature, as well as for host communities and their values; it combines positive socio-economic benefits for local populations with an enriching experience for travellers."</i></p> <p>The issue of the environment, as far as Transat's own facilities are concerned, is a clear and basic target. Their environment committees have implemented concrete initiatives with regard to recycling, conservation of resources, the disposal of obsolete electronic equipment, and raising employee awareness.</p> <p>Air Transat has begun developing an environmental management system that could lead to an ISO 14001 certification in the future. To find out more, consult the Transat and the Environment sections at their website:</p> <p>http://www.airtransat.ca/en/Info/the-environment-its-everyones-business.aspx?ExitID=69&ContentType=voyageur</p> <p>Eco-responsible certified hotels</p> <p>Transat urges its hotelier partners to excel in social and environmental responsibility, and formally recognizes the efforts of accommodations that commit to certification in this area. Certified establishments must maintain performance levels to continue using such labels. The indicators used vary depending on the certification scheme, but many</p> |

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| | <p>certification organizations have begun aligning their benchmarks with the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria.</p> <p>To help you make an informed choice when you take your next vacation, Transat list six certifications for hotels and beaches. You can also find certified hotels by searching by destination.</p> <p>Certifications for hotels Biosphere Responsible Tourism Green Globe Green Key ISO 14001 Travelife</p> <p>Certification for beaches Blue Flag</p> |
| Gift Certificates | <p>Here's your chance to make a loved one's dream come true. With Transat gift certificates you can offer the beauty, excitement, and wonders of the world: the South with its heavenly beaches and endless sunshine, or just a rental car. Transat gift certificates are valid on all Transat products in their brochures. They can be redeemed at a travel agent's office at the time of reservation. To order your gift certificates call 1-800-322-6649.</p> |
| Groups | <p>Group rates are available – as few as 10 adults make up a group. Talk to your travel agent to check the current details of Transat's group deals.</p> |
| Hurricane Policy | <p>Transat provide you with true peace of mind. Vacationers can travel secure in the knowledge that you will be protected should a hurricane affect your destination city in Florida, Mexico, the Caribbean or Central America. This Transat policy covers reservations for departures between June 1 and November 30 each year and is likely to be renewed in 2018 – check the website. If the conditions stipulated in the policy are met, you may choose one of these four options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Travel at a later date 2. Travel to another destination city 3. Travel to the booked destination city 4. Cancel with a full refund |
| Transat Excursions in Cancun | <p>Whilst staying in Cancun you can purchase a number of excursions to see more of the country in Transat style:</p> <p>CHICHEN ITZA Tour the capital of the Mayan Empire, one of the richest ancient cultures in the world. Built in 600 A.D., it was one of the most important ceremonial and religious centres in America. Test the acoustics in the ball court and see the well-preserved artifacts.</p> <p>CATAMARAN ISLA MUJERES TOUR</p> |

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| | <p>Step aboard and sail the crystal clear waters of Isla Mujeres on a brand new 75 ft maxi catamaran. The friendly crew will guide you on an unforgettable sailing and snorkelling experience. Open bar and buffet included.</p> <p>RIO SECRETO Discover the secrets of a real underground river, the longest and most spectacular in the region, and travel on a fantastic journey into a world of extraordinary beauty. A wonderful addition to your Tulum visit.</p> <p>COBA MAYAN ENCOUNTER A day filled with excitement and adventure! Discover the Yucatan's tallest pyramid. Explore a Mayan village, walk through the jungle and go rappelling, zip lining, swimming in cenotes and canoeing in fresh water lagoons, followed by a delicious traditional meal.</p> <p>JUNGLE MAYA Discover the world's longest underground river, before snorkelling in the Nohoch Nah Chiich cavern. Then ride through the rain forest in an all-terrain Mercedes Benz Unimogs to Yaxmuul, a unique natural pool. At Kantenah Natural Reserve go rappelling down a beautiful cenote and zip line over jungle foliage. Then, participate in a traditional Mayan purification ceremony.</p> <p>There are many more too: -</p> <p>EK Balam Cenotes Maya Jolly Roger Deluxe Luxury Sailing Mayan adventure Swim & Ride Tulum & Mystic River Tulum & Xel-Ha Tulum Akumal Tulum Half Day Tulum Jungle Maya Whale Shark Experience XCaret Plus Tour Xel-Ha All inclusive tour</p> |
| <p>Transat Deals</p> | <p>Look out for special offers from Transat for Cancun. You can see all their deals using this link: https://www.transat.com/en-CA/deals/south</p> |

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