IN MEXICO

MEXICO Everything

DOG-FRIENDLY VACAYS
BEST INMEXICO WINNERS
CABO, TULUM & PUERTO VALLARTA’S COOLEST
DREAMY ESCAPES
Andaz Mayakoba

The newest of Mayakoba’s four resorts and the brand’s debut in Mexico, Andaz Mayakoba was built from the ground up and has a fun, upbeat vibe. We recommend booking a stay in a beachfront suite or guestroom which are primely located near the pool, the beach and two of the resort’s restaurants, OllaTaco and OllaCeviche, both serving beach eats like ceviche and tacos. This colorfully decorated hotel is perfect for the younger crowd or anyone looking for a more casual yet still upscale experience.
FAIRMONT MAYAKOBA

The first and largest of Mayakoba's four resorts, Fairmont Mayakoba is located in the center of the development with the largest beach area, which was recently renovated in 2017. Home to a special children's program, a kid's pool and a variety of activities, the resort boasts the most family-friendly vibe in Mayakoba. Guests can choose from a slew of accommodations, from jungle rooms to sprawling beachfront casitas with warm wood accents and bright colors. Hungry diners can indulge in renowned Latin cuisine from new Executive Chef Diego Sobrino, pull up a seat at the Chef's Table or kick back at the stunning lobby bar with picturesque views. Additional amenities include five pools, the Willow Stream Spa, culinary activities and access to the El Camaleon golf course. In 2018, Fairmont Mayakoba was awarded its 13th consecutive AAA Five Diamond Award; a prestigious honor they've earned every year since their opening in 2006.

FAIRMONT.COM/MAYAKOBA

THOMPSON PLAYA DEL CARMEN

While the hotel's Main House is located in the heart of trendy downtown Playa del Carmen on 5th Avenue, the nights can be lively and loud; you're offered earplugs to sleep with if needed. If that's not quite your vibe, opt to stay at the hotel's more intimate oceanfront Beach House, located a few blocks from the Main House. Guests will enjoy a quieter stay and still have access to the downtown building, highlighted by its 30,000-sq.-ft. “rooftop playground,” which houses an infinity-edge pool and two restaurants.

THOMPSONHOTELS.COM

Fun Fact: The resort has been visited by A-listers including Shay Mitchell, Steve Aoki, Bella Thorne, Nelly, Fetty Wap, Jaison Derrico and Calais Campbell.

COMING SOON

MORE, MORE, MORE!

PLAYA DEL CARMEN

BREATHELESS PLAYA DEL CARMEN RESORT & SPA

CANCUN

WALDORF ASTORIA CANCUN

TULUM

BREATHELESS TULUM RESORT & SPA

2021

2021

2019

2019

2019

2021

2021

2021
RESTAURANTS

PLAYA DEL CARMEN

IXCHEL AT BANYAN TREE MAYAKOBA

Ixchel—translated as "moon goddess"—lets guests journey down Mayakoba’s canal and mangroves in a private catamaran boat that serves as the dinner table for a magical evening. Feast your eyes on the lush surroundings while dining on made-to-order Mexican or Thai cuisine, prepared by the culinary team at Banyan Tree Mayakoba. Ixchel is available for breakfast and dinner upon request.

buchanatree.com/mayakoba

RESTAURANTS

PLAYA DEL CARMEN

AXIOTE

Located in the heart of downtown Playa del Carmen just a few steps off Quinta Avenida, Axiote is a casual restaurant housed under a thatched-roof palapa. Named after the achiote seed, a popular ingredient used in Mexican cuisine, the menu here is filled with authentic Mayan eats. Dig into shrimp ceviche, melted Oaxaca cheese with handmade tortillas and the standout, lobster aguachile with fried potato cakes.

***
axiote.rest

LA LAGUNA AT FAIRMONT MAYAKOBA

Gaze out at the waterways while dining on modern Mexican dishes using ingredients from around the world. The all-day restaurant features a ceviche bar and a menu full of savory eats. Dig into signature dishes like habanero-stuffed chicken breast or zucchini flower and poblano chile quesadillas.

catchplayadelcarmen.com

For an upscale steak dinner, visit Sonora Grill Prime where they’re serving up juicy cuts of USDA Prime-grade meat. Other menu options include eschews and carpaccios, soups, grilled seafood selections, pasta, tacos and more. The wine menu includes a great selection of Mexican wines, including Punta Medio, created specifically for the Sonora Grill Group by Mexican winemaker Hugo S’Acosta.

***
sonoragrlprime.com

AMBROSIA AT CASA MALCA

Decorated with a happy-face Keith Haring flag and patterned themed chairs, this lively restaurant was built from recycled wood left over from the construction of Casa Malca. The menu, features dishes created by Chef Jonathan.

***
casamarinca.com

RESTAURANTS

PLAYA DEL CARMEN

CATCH AT THOMPSON PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Carbajal, using fresh ingredients with an Asian flair.

***
carba.com

SOTAVENTO AT ANDAZ MAYAKOBA

Meaning “where the wind takes you,” Sotavento is the resort’s newest dining destination and is inspired by a shipwreck washed up on the Mayakoba shores. Open for lunch and dinner, the beachfront outlet is casual during the day and lively at night, complete with string lights, a charcoal grill, cozy fire pit and live entertainment by resident DJ Jared Dietz. Dine with toes in the sand while enjoying Mediterranean eats including seafood, chef specials, salads, appetizers and more.

***
mayakoba.andaz.hyatt.com
Day Clubs

Playa del Carmen

Thompson Playa del Carmen

Skip the beach and post up on the 30,000-sq.-ft. rooftop at Thompson Playa del Carmen which includes a rooftop pool; two dining outlets, CATCH and Cinco; and five standard and two premium cabanas, both which include a food and beverage credit.

Kool Beach Club

Guarantee your spot in the sun when booking with Kool Beach Club. The daytime destination features online reservations so you know a spot will be waiting for you when you arrive. Guests can take a dip in the pool, sip mojitos or fill up on tasty beach eats like ceviche, sushi and seafood, all while enjoying live music.

Mamita’s Beach Club

Mamita’s has grown from a small beach club of 20 deck chairs when it opened in 2000 to one of the town’s most popular outlets for a sunny day. The club offers a basic beach area, family area and a lounge area with VIP service complete with an array of upgrade options. Mamita’s also hosts world-class events throughout the year like BPM Festival, Riviera Maya Jazz Festival, Corona Sunset Music Festival and more.

Coralina Daylight Club

For more of a nightclub vibe during the day, don your best suit and head to Coralina’s. Show off your beach body on the red-hot beach beds or cabanas and jam out to the best beats while savoring champagne showers. If you’re looking to relax, head somewhere else, this club is for those who want to be seen.
cancun & playa del carmen

**BEST RESORT, BEST DAY CLUB**
Thompson Playa del Carmen

**BEST ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORT, BEST ROMANTIC RESORT, BEST PLACE TO GET MARRIED**
Secrets Maroma Beach Riviera Cancun

**BEST FAMILY FRIENDLY RESORT, BEST PRIVATE DINING**
Dreams Sands Cancun

**BEST SPA**
Secrets Spa by Pevonia at Secrets Resorts

**BEST SALON**
Tie: Secrets Spa by Pevonia,
Dreams Spa by Pevonia

*TOP: SECRETS MAROMA BEACH; BOTTOM, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CATCH, DREAMS SANDS CANCEUN, SECRETS THE ONE CANCEUN*
Send your 2020 nominations to best@Inmexico.com by July 1. Be sure to include business name and description, contact info and categories for which the nominee should be considered.