

[ERM09AccommodationsMainE.doc, Jeff Borg, 9,400 words]

Accommodations

Sleep Well

*Choose from every style of accommodation
from giant resort to chic boutique.*

By/Por Jeff Borg

Each visitor finds just the right accommodation here because Riviera Maya offers more than 30,000 rooms in every style of hotel, resort, condo and villa. All exude the famous Mexican Caribbean warmth, charm and hospitality.

Some vacationers choose large all-inclusive resorts with hundreds of rooms, unlimited food and drink in multiple restaurants, and more activities than they could ever schedule, all set on a great stretch of beach. Others prefer friendly boutique hotels and resorts in town — also called “European plan” or “modified American plan” — tucked between the glorious restaurants and cafés, chic lounges and discos, recreational shopping, and fun things to see and do, either on the beach or just a few steps away. Groups and families sometimes stay in condos or villas — just like home, except located on the breathtaking Mexican Caribbean or maybe a great golf course.

Here are short reviews of the best places in each of five areas: Puerto Morelos, Playa del Carmen, Puerto Aventuras, Akumal and Tulum. All are proud members of the Riviera Maya Hotel Association. Pick one and visit soon.

AKUMAL BEACH RESORT. 241 rooms. This all-inclusive retreat for the whole family includes a kids’ club with adult supervision, plus dance lessons for the adults. Many rooms view the sea; others face pleasant gardens. (Carr. Fed.

Chetumal–Cancún km 104, Akumal, 984.875.7500,
www.akumalbeachresort.com)

ALHAMBRA HOTEL. 23 rooms. Relax, enjoy the sun and take walks along the festive central beach. Take meals by the Caribbean. Admire the view to Cozumel from the rooftop terrace. This intimate, peaceful hotel in the center of everything faces the Caribbean with a restaurant and bar right on the beach, plus yoga sessions, AC, safe at reception, laundry and massage. Thirteen rooms and one super suite provide a balcony. Alhambra is recommended by Lonely Planet and other respected travel guides. (Calle 8 y la Playa, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.0735, www.alhambra-hotel.net)

ALL RIVIERA RESORT. 33 rooms. Stay in the heart of entertaining Playa del Carmen, just one block from trendy Quinta Avenida, in this modern hotel right on the beach. Rooms offer AC, ceiling fan, private bathroom, hairdryer, cable, refrigerator, balcony and safe. (Calle 2 entre Quinta Avenida y la Playa, Playa del Carmen, 952.935.4082, www.allriviera.net)

ANA Y JOSÉ HOTEL & SPA. 22 rooms. Come here for warm, personal service from the proprietors, plus the extensive sandy beach and colorful guest rooms decorated with Mexican flair, some with AC. In mystic Tulum, enjoy spa services, tours, swimming pool, scuba diving, daily maid, safe, electricity and hot water. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 7, Tulum, 998.880.5629/6022, www.anayjose.com)

AVENTURA MEXICANA. 30 rooms. Dine poolside under a palapa or order room service. This quiet colonial hacienda for adults, close to the center of Playa, is an easy walk to the beach and Quinta Avenida. Rooms are decorated in an eclectic boutique style, with AC, fan, TV, refrigerator and views of a courtyard and pool. Guests have laundry, phone, fax and a safe at reception. (Avenida 10 y Calle 24, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.1876, www.aventuramexicana.com)

AVENTURA SPA PALACE RIVIERA MAYA. 1266 rooms. For adults, this retreat is all about purifying, restoring and revitalizing the body, mind and spirit through luxurious spa service, including the yoga hut, meditation garden, indoor pool and Zen path. The setting is 85 acres of jungle typical of the Yucatán, with native trees and flowers in brilliant colors. Guests enjoy luxurious rooms, fine dining, quick snacks, top-shelf brands, room service, tennis, paddleboats, kayaks, snorkeling, entertainment and Internet. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 72, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1100, www.palaceresorts.com)

AZUL BEACH HOTEL. 98 rooms. Rooms have a stylish, contemporary decor and come superior, deluxe or as a suite, with features for discerning travelers. Just a few steps from the secluded beach of Bahía Petempich, rooms have AC, king or double beds, flat screens with satellite, safe, minibar, DVD player, telephone, and balcony or veranda with views of lush gardens or the sea. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 27.5, Puerto Morelos, 998.872.8080, www.karismahotels.com)

BANYAN TREE MAYAKOBA. 132 villas. A form of sensual sanctuary, here the philosophy is to create a place to rejuvenate the body, mind and soul. This five-star resort offers private pool villas in which guests can experience luxurious, intimate, romantic Asian-Mexican hospitality. Also great for incentive travel, the property has function and meeting space for up to 200, so people can take care of business as well as pleasure. (Carr. Federal Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 298, Playa del Carmen, www.banyantree.com)

BARCELÓ MAYA BEACH. 619 rooms. Rooms have terraces with views of the garden, pool or Caribbean, plus satellite, minibar, safe and the other modern amenities. The all-inclusive plan includes multiple buffets, restaurants and bars, plus tennis, pools, Jacuzzi, playground and disco. À la carte restaurants feature steak and Mexican and Spanish cuisines. Activities include water aerobics, snorkeling, windsurfing, archery, pool and miniature golf. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 266.3, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1500, www.barcelo.com)

BARCELÓ MAYA CARIBE BEACH. 408 rooms. In addition to modern amenities, suites offer views of the pool and sea. All-inclusive services include multiple buffets, restaurants and bars, plus tennis, swimming pools, sauna, Turkish bath, international disco and conference halls with capacity for 350. Restaurants cater to every taste. A sports bar, teens' club and kids' club are also available. Fun and games include water aerobics, water polo, diving lessons and sailing. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 266.3, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1500, www.barcelo.com)

BARCELÓ MAYA COLONIAL BEACH. 480 rooms. Deluxe rooms have a terrace with view of the garden, plus satellite, minibar, safe and other amenities. Junior and master suites offer views of the pool and sea. The all-inclusive plan includes buffets, restaurants and bars, plus tennis, gym, pools, sauna and Jacuzzi. À la carte restaurants feature seafood, Asian, Mexican, Italian and steak-house fare. Fun and games include diving, snorkeling, sailing, volleyball and archery. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 266.3, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1500, www.barcelo.com)

BARCELÓ MAYA PALACE. 756 suites. Spacious suites have terraces with views of the garden, pool or sea, plus satellite, minibar, safe and all the other modern amenities. All-inclusive programs include multiple buffets, restaurants and bars, plus lots of activities, water sports and more. À la carte restaurants feature French brasserie, Brazilian rodizio, Caribbean, Asian and Mexican cuisines. Fun and games include water aerobics and polo, diving lessons, snorkeling, sailing and miniature golf. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 266.3, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1500, www.barcelo.com)

BARCELÓ MAYA TROPICAL BEACH. 478 rooms. Spacious rooms have terraces with views of the garden. Suites offer views of the pool and sea. All-inclusive-resort extras include buffets, restaurants and bars, plus skiing, swimming, gym and conference halls for up to 850. À la carte restaurants feature seafood and steak, plus Asian, Mexican and Italian cuisines. Kids' facilities are available. Fun

and games include diving lessons, snorkeling, volleyball, archery, pool and miniature golf. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 266.3, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1500, www.barcelo.com)

BARRIO LATINO HOTEL. 16 rooms. Viewing wide green areas, just steps from la Quinta and the beach club, the charming accommodations here feature breakfast, terrace with hammock, AC, room safe, refrigerator, wireless internet, unlimited free international calls, friendly atmosphere, parking, Mexican art and Italian management. (Calle 4 entre Avenidas 10 y 15, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.2384, www.hotelbarriolatino.com)

BÁSICO. 15 rooms. High style and modern design characterize this chic spot, acclaimed by Travel+Leisure, at the epicenter of Playa del Carmen and its dining and party life. Enjoy fresh Mexican seafood. Lounge with a drink and a Cuban cigar as you soak in the pool on the roof, gazing over buzzing Quinta Avenida, the blue Caribbean Sea and distant Cozumel island — way cool. (Quinta Avenida y Calle 10 Norte, Playa del Carmen, 984.879.4448, www.hotelbasico.com)

BLUE PARROT QUINTA AVENIDA. 19 rooms. Newest boutique in the Blue Parrot family, at the epicenter of Quinta Avenida, this perch puts guests amid the best shopping, dining and clubbing. Steps from the Blue Parrot Beach Club, where hotel guests enjoy VIP access, cozy studios here display contemporary style. In the quiet courtyard, find Playasia, one of the town's finest restaurants, with Asian, Mexican and global influences. Amenities include AC, cable, safe, bathrobes, coffee, herbal teas and bottled water. (Calle 12 N 217 y Quinta Avenida, Playa del Carmen, 984.206.3350, www.blueparrot.com)

BLUE PEARL SUITES. 8 suites. Stay in the heart of Playa, a few steps from the beach, and enjoy an authentic experience, exploring endless beaches, turquoise seas and things to see and do. Lounge in a private Jacuzzi with a Caribbean view. Each suite is different and delights its guest with its personality. (Av. 1 Norte 331 entre Calles 10 y 12, Playa del Carmen, 984.803.2379, www.thebluepearl.com.mx)

BLUE TULUM RESORT & SPA. 94 suites. In a modern Mediterranean-Mexican interpretation of luxury, wide balconies take in panoramic views of the blue sea and green gardens. Spacious suites allow guests to decompress in a king or queen bed amid soothing earth tones, natural textures, carved wooden doors and cool marble bathrooms. Employ the concierge desk and dedicated butler. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 3.8, L48, Tulum, 984.871.1000, www.bluetulumresorts.com)

BLUEBAY GRAND ESMERALDA. 983 rooms. This five-star all-inclusive resort on 500 m of prime beach features luxurious rooms and suites with modern amenities and hints of Maya decor, plus facilities for children, spacious spa and gym, business centre, and meeting rooms for up to 600. Six specialty restaurants are renowned for excellent cuisine, from French, Italian, Asian, and Mexican fare to seafood and steak, plus buffets, grills and lounges. Enjoy water sports from windsurfing to snorkeling. (Carr. Chetumal–Cancún km 300, Xcalacoco, 984.877.4500)

CABAÑAS AZULIK. 15 cabanas. This remote, clothing-optional resort on the beach in Tulum, perfect for honeymooners and others seeking romance, covers guests with luxurious hardwood villas and spectacular sea views — unlike anywhere you ever experienced. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 5, Rumbo a Punta Allen, Tulum, 984.807.9520, www.azulik.com)

CABAÑAS COPAL. 47 rooms. This eco-rustic, candlelit, clothing-optional community of cabanas by the sea makes the ideal location for the traveler who enjoys a truly natural environment — an alternative experience well off the beaten path. Take advantage of the on-site Maya Spa, Mayan Weddings Celebrations and beach bar Tun-Tun. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 5, Rumbo a Punta Allen, Tulum, 984.807.9520, www.cabanascopal.com)

CABAÑAS LOS LIRIOS. 34 rooms. In the uncrowded Zona Punta Piedra, south of Tulum, kick back in a hammock on the terrace and stare out at an everchanging sea over the placid beach. Take advantage of the restaurant, bar, room service, massages, laundry, safe, and double or king beds. Catch tours to go diving and

snorkeling. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 7.5, Tulum, 998.887.9602, www.loslirioshotel.com)

CARMEN INN. 85 rooms. Visitors stay just two blocks from entertaining Quinta Avenida, in bedrooms and suites with king or double beds, AC, ceiling fan, phone, cable and safe. Use the swimming pool, restaurant, terrace bar, parking lot and beach club. (Av. Constituyentes 180, entre Avenidas 15 y 20, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.1590, www.carmeninn.com)

CASA DE LAS FLORES. 29 rooms. Colonial-style architecture reminds guests of the Yucatán's historic haciendas. This charming family-run hotel has a calm and relaxing atmosphere, while it puts visitors near the center of bustling Playa. (Calle 20 entre Calles 4 y 6, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.2898, www.hotelcasadelasflores.com)

CASA TICUL. 20 rooms. Inspired by memories of the traditional Yucatán village of Ticul, here Mexican hospitality complements the modern architecture with natural materials. Located right on Quinta Avenida in one of the best neighborhoods of Playa del Carmen, walk just a few steps to the most wonderful beaches. Take a short taxi ride or leisurely walk to Playa's casual lounges, eclectic restaurants, shopping treasures and unmatched street life. (Quinta Avenida, entre Calles 38 y 40, Col. Zazil-Ha, Playa del Carmen, 984.267.3501, www.casaticul.com)

LAS CASITAS AKUMAL. 18 condos. Just like home — except located on the Mexican Caribbean overlooking the blue-green sea — each casita has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, living/dining room, kitchen, AC, fans, seafront patio and maid service. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Chetumal km 104, Akumal, 984.875.9071, www.lascasitasakumal.com)

CATALONIA PLAYA MAROMA. 400 rooms. Only 20 km from Playa del Carmen, this all-inclusive beach resort popular with Italian guests offers three restaurants serving continental, Mexican and Mediterranean menus, plus three bars. Sports,

spa, diving and excursions are available. (Carr. Fed. km 306, Punta Maroma, 984.877.3300, www.ventaglio.com)

CATALONIA RIVIERA MAYA. 422 rooms. Dine in six restaurants and the snack bar. Sample the all-inclusive resort's seven bars and disco. Take advantage of activities, entertainment, water sports and kids' programs. Sign up for diving, sailing, fishing and golf, then relax with a good massage. (Avenida Xcacel, L1 Plano 2 Mz.18, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1020-2, www.cataloniarivieramaya.com)

CATALONIA ROYAL TULUM. 288 rooms. Wedged between the Yucatán jungle and the Caribbean Sea, this all-inclusive complex was built to protect the local ecology while delivering unforgettable vacations for adults. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 264.5, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1800, www.cataloniarivieramaya.com)

CATALONIA YUCATÁN BEACH. 205 rooms. This all-inclusive resort includes seven bars, six restaurants and a snack bar, plus daily activities, nightly shows, a disco, water sports and a kids' club. Massage, diving, yachting, deep-sea fishing and golf are also available. (Avenida Xcacel, L1 Plano 2 Mz.18, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1020-2, www.cataloniarivieramaya.com)

CEIBA DEL MAR SPA RESORT. 88 rooms. Newly renovated, this glamorous resort features charming rooms and perfectly appointed suites incorporating a living room and bedrooms. Penthouse suites with plunge-pool terraces open up to stunning Caribbean views. (Costera Norte L1, Mz. 26, SM 10, Puerto Morelos, 998.872.8060, www.ceibadelmar.com)

CIELO. 18 rooms. This boutique oasis of friendliness, charm and comfort puts you right in the midst of Playa del Carmen, steps from the best restaurants, clubs and shopping. Rooms are influenced by traditional Mexican decor and the amenities — continental breakfast, AC, security, safe and room service — create a

comfortable setting. (Calle 4 entre Avenidas 5 y 10, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.1227, www.hotelcielo.com)

CLUB AKUMAL CARIBE / HOTEL VILLAS MAYA. 61 rooms. In the land of the turtles, these sea-view rooms come with a small refrigerator, AC, fan, safe and maid service. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Chetumal km 104, Akumal, 984.875.9010/13/14, www.hotelakumalcaribe.com)

CLUB MAEVA TULUM RESORTS. 300 rooms. On the lovely beach at Xpu-Ha, this all-inclusive resort has a swimming pool, children’s club and pools, eight tennis courts, two with illumination, plus shuffleboard, multipurpose court, golf practice range, sauna, fitness, soccer, volleyball, theater, two restaurants and three bars. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 90, Xpu-Ha, 984.871.3000, www.clubmaevatum.com)

COCO RÍO. 14 rooms. In a charming colonial-style resort, just two blocks from a great beach, guests enjoy a large room, king bed, private bath, AC, cable, safe, refrigerator and other modern conveniences. Some rooms have a kitchenette. (Calle 26 entre Avenidas 5 y 10, Playa del Carmen, 984.879.3361, www.hotelcocorio.com)

EL DESEO. 15 rooms. One of the coolest spots on la Quinta, at the center of Playa dining and street life, this is a place to see and be seen. Some of the stylish rooms and suites have a balcony; some open right onto the popular lounge. All have AC, minibar, music, safe, internet port, and access to the swimming pool, deck, lounge, Jacuzzi and hammocks. (Quinta Avenida y Calle 12, Playa del Carmen, 984.879.3620, www.hoteldeseo.com)

DESIRE RESORT & SPA. 94 rooms. Not just another all-inclusive compound, this exclusive clothing-optional resort on an exquisite stretch of beach provides an exciting, deliciously erotic lifestyle adventure for couples. Guests enjoy a sense of freedom like nowhere else along the riviera. Renew your passion, soak up the sun

and have some fun. (SM 12, Mz. 41, Lote 1, Playa, Puerto Morelos, 998.872.8280/90, www.desireresorts.com)

EL DORADO ROYALE SPA RESORT. 509 suites. This resort caters to couples, offering an ideal setting for romance, weddings, honeymoons and anniversaries. Suites include a Jacuzzi and private outdoor shower. The concierge and butlers at the pool and beach work to fulfill your desires. The beaches here are wonderful. (Carr. Cancún–Tulum km 25, Punta Brava, 998.872.8030, www.eldoradosparesorts.com)

EL DORADO SEASIDE SUITES. 277 suites. Forbes.com named this one of the world's most romantic spots. The adults-only resort offers a boutique experience on the secluded beach of Kantinah, near Akumal. Couples can share a picnic overlooking the azure Caribbean, sip champagne together under the stars and indulge in Dorado's signature massage. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 95, Kantinah, 984.875.1910, www.karismahotels.com)

DREAMS PUERTO AVENTURAS RESORT & SPA. 305 rooms. The former Sunscape, midway between Playa del Carmen and Tulum, has been upgraded from lobby to sushi bar. Families, couples and friends receive unlimited fine food and premium drink from six theme restaurants and five friendly lounges with stunning sea views. Rooms and suites full of amenities come with terrace or balcony to view the Caribbean, marina, gardens and pools. Take advantage of water sports and the local golf course, marina and town square. Trust the kids to the Explorer's Club. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 269.5, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.3000, www.dreamsresorts.com/drepa)

ESENCIA. 29 rooms. Not exactly a resort, although it offers the pampering you would expect; not exactly a condo, though it offers the privacy of home — this place is more like a 50-acre Mexican estate with awesome beach, pools, spa, restaurant and atmosphere fit for an Italian duchess. Elegant cottages, suites and rooms feature native hardwood furnishings, crisp white walls, 12-foot ceilings and

windows framing garden and sea views. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum, Xpu-Ha, 984.873.4835, www.hotelesencia.com)

EXCELLENCE RIVIERA CANCÚN. 440 suites. In this all-inclusive adults-only resort, deluxe and junior suites offer furnished patio or balcony, marble bath and whirlpool tub, satellite TV, iPod connectivity and CD/DVD player, minibar, and all the modern conveniences. Huge honeymoon suites come with outdoor Jacuzzi for two and full-frontal sea views. (Carr. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 324–342 Mz. 7, L1, SM 11, Puerto Morelos, 998.872.8500, www.excellence-resorts.com)

FAIRMONT MAYAKOBA. 401 rooms. On a soft white beach near America's largest reef, this elegant international resort attracts golfers, divers, friends, couples, bohemians and families, and honors traditional Mexican art and heritage while offering designer shopping, broad beaches, water sports and impeccable service. Dine on Maya, Mexican and international fare in four extraordinary restaurants. Get around by foot, bicycle, golf cart or small boat. From casitas with terraces, view jungle, lagoon or sea, and enjoy nature walks, swimming pools and a kids' club. Take treatments at Willow Stream Spa and play the championship course El Camaleón Golf de Mayakoba. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 298, Playa del Carmen, 984.206.3000, www.fairmont.com/mayakoba)

LAS GOLONDRINAS. 51 rooms. Standard rooms and suites, decorated in Mexican style with traditional artwork of the region, overlook two refreshing pools surrounded by tropical gardens, fountains and Maya statues. Modern room amenities include wireless internet, cable, AC, ceiling fan, safe, parking, restaurant and beach club. (Av. Constituyentes 178 entre Avenidas 15 y 20, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.2805, www.hotellsgolondrinas.com)

GRAN BAHÍA PRÍNCIPE AKUMAL. 630 rooms. This resort offers a lagoon-shaped pool for relaxation and another pool for games and activities. Both have kids' sections and Jacuzzis. Lounge in the solarium with beach chairs and sun shades, or on the private beach with towel services. Find tennis courts, water sports, gym, gift shops, meeting rooms and fine furnishings, all within natural surroundings.

(Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 250, Akumal, 984.875.5000, www.bahia-principe.com)

GRAN BAHÍA PRÍNCIPE COBÁ. 1080 rooms. Remote and peaceful, yet just an hour from Cancún's airport, 30 minutes from charming Playa del Carmen and 20 minutes from ancient Tulum, this all-inclusive enclave offers plenty of food and beverage, plus a kids' club, hammocks and minibar. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 249, Akumal, 984.875.5000, www.bahia-principe.com)

GRAN BAHÍA PRÍNCIPE TULUM. 858 rooms. Designed by a leading Mexican architect and inspired by the Maya Pucc architectural period, this all-inclusive spread offers guests the warmth that characterizes Mexico. Natural materials include stone, talavera pottery, marble, palapas and exquisite colors to give the setting a feel of the area. Energy-efficient equipment distinguishes the property as an eco-friendly leader. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal - Puerto Juárez km 250, Akumal, 984.875.5000, www.bahia-principe.com)

GRAN PORTO REAL. 272 rooms. From a central-Playa point jutting into the sea, nearly every room enjoys a spectacular Caribbean view. Stylish and comfortable, this premium all-inclusive resort treats guests to outstanding service and genuine Mexican hospitality in a relaxing hacienda atmosphere, with a fine selection of restaurants and bars serving creative cuisine. Packages include all meals, most drinks, nightly entertainment, activities and water sports. (Av. Constituyentes 1, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.4000, www.realresorts.com.mx)

GRAND COCO BAY. 202 rooms. Quietly north of the action in Playa del Carmen, along its broadest beaches and most beautiful waters, this vanatage allows guests easy access to la Quinta, Xcaret, Xel-Ha and Tulum. Enjoy all-inclusive meals and entertainment. Restaurants and lounges include Mexican, Italian, pool bar, sports bar and disco. Services include gym, kids' club, tobacco shop, car rental, spa, marina and golf. (Calle Costera Norte L1 Mz.7 Reg.6, Playa del Carmen, 984.877.2880, www.grandcocobay.com)

THE GRAND MAYAN. 390 rooms. Through its art and architecture, this upscale resort mixes ancient Maya history with natural tropical beauty. Splash in clear Caribbean waters. Mount water skis. Run some waves. Peer below the surface with a mask and snorkel. Take advantage of the world-class spa and fine-dining restaurants. For nightlife, go south to Playa or north to Cancún. Bring a friend or the whole family. (Carretera Federal km 48, Playa Paraíso, 984.206.4000, mayanresorts.com/the-grand-mayan)

GRAND PALLADIUM COLONIAL RESORT. 414 rooms. Spread across a million square meters on a superb beach south of Playa del Carmen, this all-inclusive resort shares the facilities of all Grand Palladium properties. Buildings blend with their beautiful surroundings. Junior suites have queen or king beds for four adults, with balcony or terrace, desk, safe, minibar, satellite and Jacuzzi. Mayan suites add a private entrance and delightful alfresco shower. Full suites add a large living room. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Chetumal km 256, Kantenah, 984.877.2100, www.fiesta-hotels.com)

GRAND PALLADIUM KANTENAH RESORT. 422 rooms. Occupying a huge tropical estate with a fine white beach and brilliant turquoise waters, this all-inclusive resort draws from Maya architecture. A team of biologists maintains the local ecosystem for the plants and animals that share the complex. Rooms have queen or king beds, ceiling fan and AC, bathtub and shower, satellite, movies, and all modern amenities. Junior suites add a sofa bed. Mayan suites add an outdoor shower. Full suites feature a spacious living room. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Chetumal km 256, Kantenah, 984.877.2100, www.fiestahotelgroup.com)

GRAND PALLADIUM RIVIERA RESORT. 454 rooms. Get 24-hour beverages, snacks at the beach bar and in-room minibar. Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner in the all-inclusive restaurants. This property holds a Distintivo H award, given by the Mexican secretaries of tourism and health, recognizing hotels and restaurants with excellent sanitary conditions. The resort and spa also holds the Green Planet

award for ecologically advanced hotel management systems. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Chetumal km 256, Kantenah, 984.877.2100, www.fiesta-hotels.com)

GRAND PALLADIUM WHITE SAND RESORT. 264 rooms. In addition to standard rooms and suites, the Royal Suites Yucatán, an exclusive resort-within-a-resort, is for adults who want cabanas with extra privacy and luxury. The spa at White Sand is one of the largest in Latin America, featuring the gym, pool, sauna, vapor bath, Balinese shower, hydro-massage and temazcal, the traditional Mayan sweat bath that purifies. With some areas for adults only, the spa offers personalized attention. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Chetumal km 256, Kantenah, 984.877.2100, www.fiestahotelgroup.com)

GRAND SIRENIS MAYA BEACH. 456 rooms. On a unique stretch of beach, this resort includes all meals — breakfast, lunch and dinner — plus bar, tennis, billiards and children’s club. Junior suites come with king or two double beds, private terrace or balcony, living area, tea and coffee facilities, minibar, safe, and internet. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 256.3, Akumal, 984.875.1700, www.sirenishotels.com)

GRAND SIRENIS RIVIERA MAYA. 504 rooms. With an air-conditioned hall plus 24-hour reception, conference rooms, internet, currency exchange, shops, supermarket and children’s park, this makes a good spot to hold events. Enjoy the theatre, bicycles, bar, cafeteria and restaurant with non-smoking area. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 256.3, Akumal, 984.875.1700, www.sirenishotels.com)

GRAND VELAS ALL SUITES & SPA RESORT. 491 suites. Elegant interiors and a commanding views of the famous beach characterize one of the newest all-inclusive resorts on the riviera, appointed with upscale furnishings and native art. Gourmet dining, deluxe spa, butler services and a convention center make this an ideal spot for both leisure and business travelers, five minutes from central Playa and 35 minutes from the airport. (Carr. Cancún–Tulum km 62, Playa del Carmen, 984.206.3180, www.grandvelas.com)

HACIENDA DE LA TORTUGA. 16 condos. This is the kind of homey place where friends and families can spread out in spacious one- or two-bedroom suites with full kitchens and everything else you need to make yourself at home on vacation. Each beach-front suite has modern Mexican decor with original paintings. (Akumal Norte Camino a Yal Ku, Akumal, 984.875.9068, www.haciendatortuga.com)

HACIENDA DEL CARIBE. 34 rooms. This small Mexican hotel in the center of Playa is designed for comfort. Suites have king beds, AC, ceiling fan, private bathroom, cable, and balcony with view of Cozumel island. (Calle 2 Norte 130 entre Avenidas 5 y 10, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.3130/32, www.haciendadelcaribe.com)

HACIENDA PARADISE. 31 rooms. This Mexican hacienda-style hotel has a pool, bar, restaurant and free internet center, two blocks from the beach. Luxurious rooms offer AC, flat screen, safe, minibar, wireless internet and organic bath accessories. (Avenida 10 entre Calles 20 y 22, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.1397, www.haciendaparadise.com)

HACIENDA REAL DEL CARIBE. 0 rooms. Steps from Quinta Avenida, this comfortable new hotel in the center of Playa's dining and dancing scene is inspired by Mexican haciendas. Guests find relaxation in rooms finished with fine wood and marble. Attentive hospitality makes a vacation or business trip successful. (Avenida 10 esq. Calle 10, Playa del Carmen, 984.803.0487, www.hotelhaciendarealdelcaribe.com)

HACIENDA TRES RÍOS. 273 rooms. Set in a working nature park, this luxurious property opened in 2008, incorporating native materials and views of the turquoise Caribbean. The resort leads in sustainable tourism, creating authentic guest experiences — nature tours through mangrove forests, snorkeling in cenotes, lounging on white beaches — while protecting the region's natural beauty and culture. The all-inclusive plan includes park access and meals and

drinks in a variety of restaurants and bars. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 54, Xcalacoco, 984.877.2400, www.haciendatresrios.com)

HIDDEN BEACH RESORT. 42 rooms. For uninhibited adults — couples or singles — this all-inclusive resort offers a small number of well appointed beachfront suites. On lovely Kantenah Bay, it makes an intimate, upscale, secluded hideaway for naturists, with a variety of fun beach activities. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 95, Kantenah, 984.875.7000, www.karisma.com)

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS PLAYACAR. 145 rooms. This worldwide brand, in comfortable Playacar, offers natural colors and a peaceful rest. Guests enjoy of a variety of amenities including an American-style breakfast buffet in the restaurant. The fitness center has the latest cardio equipment, including spinning. The location is next to Playa del Carmen, just 40 km from Cancún International Airport and a short ferry ride to Cozumel. (L5 Mz.29, Playacar, 984.206.3434, www.hiexpress.com)

HUL-KÚ HOTEL. 32 rooms. Stay in downtown Playa just 400 m from the Caribbean Sea and three blocks from trendy Quinta Avenida. Rooms have double beds, AC or fan, TV, bath, and balcony or terrace. (Avenida 20 entre Calles 4 y 6, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.0021, www.hotelhulku.com)

IBEROSTAR GRAND PARAÍSO. 312 suites. Iberostar's first adults-only, all-suites resort in Mexico hugs Playa Paraíso. Memorable dinners are served in four à la carte restaurants plus the buffet, including Angus steaks broiled just right, gourmet international fare and Japanese teppanyaki. Grand service includes premium wines and spirits in bars from lobby to poolside to swim-up, plus bars for cigars. Employ the butler and concierge. Take spa treatments for couples and classes on cooking, wine, yoga, tai chi, spinning, fitness, tennis, sailing, windsurfing, diving and dancing. (Carr. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 309, Playa Paraíso, 984.877.2800, www.iberostar.com)

IBEROSTAR PARAÍSO BEACH. 424 rooms. A no-fuss all-inclusive resort with more food, more drink, more things to see and do, this elegant spot features exquisite Paraíso Beach. Graze the buffet or sit down in six specialty restaurants. Play a round on Iberostar's own 18-hole golf course. The property sits just 40 minutes from Cancún International Airport. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal–Cancún km 309, Playa Paraíso, 984.877.2800, www.iberostar.com)

IBEROSTAR PARAÍSO DEL MAR. 388 rooms. This all-inclusive resort lives in harmony with Paraíso Beach. Enjoy the elegant hall and lobby bar, restaurant buffet featuring show cooking, and six specialty restaurants targeting every taste. Pool bars, sports bar, theater, disco, hammocks, solarium, spa and gym round out the facilities. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal–Cancún km 309, Playa Paraíso, 984.877.2800, www.iberostar.com)

IBEROSTAR PARAÍSO LINDO. 446 rooms. Stroll the pleasant courtyards and cobblestone pathways. From the moment you enter the lobby, the all-inclusive resort feels like an old Mexican monastery, with gold trim, minute details and colonial decor. Browse endless breakfast and lunch buffets. Dine comfortably in specialty restaurants featuring Italian, Asian and other cuisines. Try the wave pool — big fun for families. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal–Cancún km 309, Playa Paraíso, 984.877.2800, www.iberostar.com)

IBEROSTAR PARAÍSO MAYA. 434 rooms. This haven awaits less than 40 minutes from Cancún International Airport, offering concierge service, entertainment, beverages and lots of good food. Also just 15 minutes from trendy Playa del Carmen, guests enjoy the pleasures of famous Quinta Avenida as well as all-inclusive service at home. Play a round on Iberostar's own 18-hole golf course. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal–Cancún km 309, Playa Paraíso, 984.877.2800, www.iberostar.com)

IBEROSTAR QUETZAL. 350 rooms. In the tony golf-and-beach community of Playacar, rooms and suites here offer plush pillows, comfortable sheets, a cozy atmosphere, even a balcony or terrace. Whatever cuisine you crave, find it here —

Mexican, Italian, Japanese, steak-house or tropical — five à la carte restaurants plus two international buffets and a snack bar. Pools and shows entertain the teens while the parents get reacquainted in the grownup bars and nightclub. (Avenida Xaman-Ha, LH2, Playacar, 984.877.2000, www.ibarostarcaribe.com)

IBEROSTAR TUCÁN. 350 rooms. Tucked away in Playacar, just five minutes by taxi to hopping Quinta Avenida, the room and suite amenities here include balcony or terrace, swing, minibar, safe and satellite. Sample numerous cuisines, from tortilla soup to rosemary pork chops, chicken nuggets, sushi and arrachera — seven restaurants, buffets and grills, plus room service. At Lucy's Club, kids can color and watch movies. (Avenida Xaman-Ha, Lote Hotelero 2, Playacar, 984.877.2000, www.iberostarcaribe.com)

ILLUSION BOUTIQUE HOTEL. 40 condos. This central-Playa boutique hotel has bedrooms with elegant marble floors and unique paintings, and bathrooms with regional tikul stone and high-quality toiletries. Also get AC, ceiling fan, TV, safe, minibar and internet. Relax at the sunny rooftop swimming pool, terrace with panoramic sea views and pool bar. (Calle 8 entre Quinta Avenida y la Playa, Playa del Carmen, 984.803.3980, www.illusionhotel.com)

LOS ITZAES HOTEL. 16 rooms. This modern perch in the heart of Playa del Carmen, a block from the lively eating and drinking spots of la Quinta and two blocks from the beach, charms both vacationers and business travelers. The double rooms and junior suites have private bathroom, AC, fan, safe, minibar, internet and balcony. Enjoy the restaurant and bar, rooftop pool with views of Cozumel, Jacuzzi, solarium, massage, beach club and parking. (Avenida 10 L3 entre Calles 6 bis. y 8, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.2397/98, www.itzaes.com)

JUNGLA CARIBE. 27 rooms. A cozy Mexican perch in the center of Playa, steps from the beach, this is a place for independent travelers. Eclectic decor reflects the innkeeper's touch in rooms that view the avenue, garden or Caribbean. A restaurant on la Quinta Avenida lets you watch the parade of people or dine in

private. (Quinta Avenida y Calle 8, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.0974, www.jungla-caribe.com)

KINBE. 29 rooms. In the heart of Playa del Carmen, rooms around the tropical garden give a connection with nature. Enjoy the swimming pool and waterfall. Get AC, safe, TV, telephone and minibar. View the Caribbean from the rooftop terrace. (Calle 10 entre Avenidas 1 y 5, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.0441, www.kinbe.com)

LAB NAH. 32 rooms. Steps from the beach, this cozy, friendly, affordable, modern hotel right on la Quinta in the middle of everything includes continental breakfast, swimming pool and AC in most rooms. Sea views and kitchenettes are available. (Calle 6 entre Quinta Avenida y la Playa, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.2099, www.labnah.com)

MANDARIN ORIENTAL RIVIERA MAYA. 128 rooms. It doesn't get any better than this: attentive service, fine dining, plush rooms, indulgent spa and wondrous excursions — a rare sanctuary 30 minutes from the airport. Bring your honey for a bit of romance or the board for some serious business. Either would be impressed. Six sumptuous restaurants and bars include international, Asian and seafood, located beachside, poolside and rooftop. (Carretera Cancún–Chetumal km 299, Playa del Carmen, 984.877.3269, www.mandarinoriental.com/rivieramaya)

MAROMA RESORT & SPA. 66 rooms. Enjoy an authentic Mexican Caribbean escape at this leading resort — on everybody's top-10 list — at a nexus of physical beauty, natural harmony and Maya spirituality. Rooms and suites glow with mahogany and bamboo. They feature hand-painted tiles, soft wool rugs, original art and custom furnishings. King beds and luxurious baths await guests. The award-winning beach at Maroma — broad powdery sand and sparkling turquoise sea — may be the riviera's best. (Carretera Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 51, Playa del Carmen, 998.872.8200, www.maromahotel.com)

MAYA BRIC. 27 rooms. Right on la Quinta, steps from the beach and turquoise sea, this small, friendly hotel with swimming pool and wireless internet is perfect for guests who want to stay in the center of the action without spending a fortune. Rooms have a safe and most have AC. (Quinta Avenida entre Calles 8 y 10, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.0011, www.mayabrichotel.com)

MAYA INN. 14 rooms. Rooms in this small hotel, with AC, hot water, minibar, cable and safe, put guests in the center of Playa del Carmen affordably. Use the snack bar, swimming pool, laundry service and beach club. (Avenida 10 y Calle 10, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.2796, www.hotelmayainn.com)

MAYAN PALACE. 602 rooms. Play a round of golf on a Nicklaus-designed course. Practice your tennis skills on lighted clay courts. Trust the little ones to the Mayan Kids Club. Visit the local crocodile farm or take an excursion to wondrous Chichén Itzá. Facilities include Brio Health Spa, multiple restaurants and lots of toys. Party in nearby Cancún and Playa del Carmen. (Carretera Federal km 48, Playa Paraíso, 984.206.4000, mayanresorts.com/mayan-palace)

MEZZANINE. 9 rooms. Like staying at a friend's Mexican beach house — if your friend were a Thai-fusion chef with a popular bar — these nine stylish rooms and suites on Tulum's magical beach attract globe trotters, power brokers and other city slickers to escape and unplug for awhile. Enjoy the private deck and the solar energy. Hike to the ancient Maya site of Tulum. Explore the local UNESCO World Heritage biosphere reserve. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 1.5, Tulum, 984.131.1596, www.mezzanine.com.mx)

MOLCAS. 25 rooms. On the beach near the ferry terminal and Paseo del Carmen, get AC, mini-fridge, TV, telephone, swimming pool and palapa bar. (Primera Avenida Sur por Quinta Avenida, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.0070, www.molcas.com.mx)

MOONGATE. 11 rooms. Rooms have AC and ceiling fan and are designed in a fresh Caribbean style for travelers looking for an authentic Mexican experience

on Quinta Avenida. (Quinta Av. #49 entre Calles 14 y 16, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.1949, www.eltukancondotel.com)

NH RIVIERA CANCÚN. 550 suites. With contemporary style in Mexican Caribbean colors of turquoise and salmon, this upscale all-inclusive resort for couples and families spans 500 m of crystalline sand. Amenities include swimming pools, water sports, kids club, spa, gym, theater, business center and entertainment. Every style of gastronomy comes from 12 restaurants and bars. (Unidad 26 Mz.20 L1-1 SM3, Puerto Morelos, 998.872.8888, www.nh-hotels.com)

NINA. 18 rooms. Located on Playa del Carmen's town square, two blocks from party-central beaches, one block from the street life of la Quinta, this pleasant hotel is surrounded by restaurants, boutiques and entertainment. Rooms have AC, ceiling fan, wireless internet and safe. (Calle 6 entre Avenidas 10 y 15, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.2214, www.tukanhotels.com)

NUEVA VIDA DE RAMIRO. 19 rooms. Located on a secluded stretch of Caribbean beach, 8 km from the site of Tulum and 2.5 km from the entrance to Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, this private kid-free eco-resort offers cute bungalows with thatched roofs and wide verandas next to the lapping sea. Power comes from solar panels and wind generators. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 8.5, Tulum, 984.877.8512, www.tulumnv.com)

OCCIDENTAL ALLEGRO PLAYACAR. 286 rooms. Set on the beach of the tony golf community of Playacar, this affordable all-inclusive resort sits just a few minutes from all the fun of Playa del Carmen, in newly renovated Polynesian-style bungalows with yellow walls and modern amenities. Guests enjoy unlimited meals, snacks, beverages, sports, classes, kayaking, sailing and windsurfing. A kids' club has video games and its own pool. (Lote Hotelero 7, Playacar, 984.877.2700, www.occidentalthotels.com)

OCCIDENTAL GRAND XCARET. 769 rooms. This is the beach place to choose for easy access to the natural wonders of the eco-park Xcaret, where you can visit a

Maya village, snorkel timeless caves, swim with dolphins, and observe jaguars, butterflies, birds and other indigenous species in their natural habitats. Eleven restaurants and 10 bars fit every mood. Part of the all-inclusive plan are the swimming pools, mini-golf, archery, tennis, gym, snorkeling, kids' club, sauna, whirlpool and entertainment. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 282, Xcaret, 984.871.5400, www.occidentalhotels.com)

OCCIDENTAL ROYAL HIDEAWAY. 200 rooms. This rare five-diamond all-inclusive resort in the golf community of Playacar is the kind of place where discrete staff members practically read your mind to make desires appear before you ask. Indulgent service is matched by the beautiful beach, lovely grounds and well-appointed rooms in villas with their own concierges. The full-service spa revives and rejuvenates, and the restaurants, buffets and bars rival any in Riviera Maya for creative local cuisine. There are no compromises here. (Lote Hotelero 6, Playacar, 984.873.4500, www.royalhideaway.com)

OCEAN MAYA. 320 rooms. On the beach north of Playa del Carmen, tucked into villas decorated in Caribbean style, the superior rooms of this all-inclusive resort provide one king or two double beds, AC, satellite, minibar, balcony or terrace, and other modern amenities for holiday or business. Access wireless internet free. Enjoy tennis, volleyball, dive center and other sports. Graze the buffet or dine in Mexican, Italian and Japanese restaurants. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Chetumal km 299, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.4700, www.h10hotels.com)

OMNI PUERTO AVENTURAS. 30 rooms. A luxurious boutique hotel in the yachting community of Puerto Aventuras, this Omni hotel offers rooms with Jacuzzi, balcony or terrace, minibar, TV, and room service. Use wireless internet in public areas, restaurants, swimming pools, gym and spa, golf course, and marina. Wade from the beach to snorkel coral reefs. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 269.5, Puerto Aventuras, 984.875.1950, www.omnihotels.com)

LAS PALAPAS. 75 rooms. This charming, well-managed resort in the quiet northern end of Playa del Carmen, spreads out along a wide, white, wonderful

stretch of beach, offering two good restaurants, lavish buffet, theme nights, bars, swimming pool, dive shop, gym and wireless internet. (Calle 34 y Quinta Avenida, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.4260, www.laspalapas.com)

PARADISUS RIVIERA CANCÚN. 496 suites. Certified by The Leading Spas of the World, this European all-inclusive resort set in Maya architecture lets you lounge on Bali beds, under seaside palapas and in swimming pools. Suites are huge with living room, AC, ceiling fan and minibar. Choose from six dining rooms and seven bars. Work with personal trainers. Go sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and snorkeling. Take classes in cooking, sushi, wine, tango, massage, photography and Zen philosophy. (SM11 Mz.9 L10, km 324, Puerto Morelos, 998.872.8383, www.solmelia.com)

PARAÍSO DE LA BONITA. 90 suites. On the beach, this exceptional boutique resort features luxurious suites on 14 acres of lush gardens and mangroves. The clean lines and modern architecture capture the essence of traditional Maya culture through courtyards, fountains and pools. The vacation experience focuses on wellness, serenity and romance, as well as environmental responsibility. (Carr. Chetumal–Cancún km 328, SM 31 Mz.1 L8, Puerto Morelos, 998.872.8300, www.paraisodelabonita.com)

PASEO DEL SOL. 65 condos. Overlooking the golf course in Playacar, luxurious new low-rise condos with two or three bedrooms, some with rooftop terraces overlooking the sea, have all the upscale amenities one would expect for memorable vacations and meetings — pools, bars, grills, clubhouse, gym and business facilities. (Paseo Xaman-Ha Mz.12 Lotes 4 y 5, Playacar, 984.873.3558, www.encantoresorts.com)

PETIT LAFITTE HOTEL. 45 rooms. For 30 years, friends have come back to Lafitte at Punta Bete, now relocated to Xcalacoco, both quiet beaches just a short cab ride from la Quinta. Standard rooms are more comfortable, with balconies and all modern amenities, and rustic bungalows have a loft with an extra bed. View gardens or sea. Enjoy the restaurant, bar, poolside grill, dive shop, zoo, relaxing

massages, fun excursions and easy transfers. (Carr. Fed. Cancún – Chetumal km 296 + 2.1, Xcalacoco, 984.877.4000, www.petitlafitte.com)

PLAYA INN CONDOS. 10 condos. Find the perfect condo for the family vacation in Playacar. Sea-view and golf-view units come with one, two or three bedrooms, fully furnished including appliances and maid service. (Plaza Antigua, Suite 24, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.0558, www.playainn.com)

PLAYA MAYA. 20 rooms. Wedged between the central beach and the fun of Quinta Avenida, recommended by Caribbean Travel & Life and Frommer's, this boutique hotel has a restaurant serving good fish tacos, grilled red snapper and pico de gallo with fresh ingredients. Use the pool, Jacuzzi, internet and massage service. Rooms and suites have AC, cable, refrigerator, safe and hammock. (La Playa entre Calles 6 y 8, Playa del Carmen, 984.803.2022, www.playa-maya.com)

PLAYA PALMS. 39 rooms. On a prime spot of beach in the center of Playa del Carmen, the contemporary style here charms a diverse guest list. Studios surround a unique courtyard and pool, with private terraces, hammocks, even a glimpse of the sea. Deluxe studios face directly to the beach. Amenities include AC, cable, safe, microwave, blender and minibar. (Primera Avenida entre Calles 12 y 14, Playa del Carmen, 984.803.3908, www.playapalms.com)

PLAYACAR PALACE RIVIERA MAYA. 208 rooms. Stay on a peaceful beach in the golf community of Playacar, a short ride to la Quinta and a short stroll to the 18-hole Playacar Spa & Golf Club, where you tee off from an ancient Maya site. Practice your tennis on lighted courts. Take advantage of the great spa, with soothing massages and facials. Beautiful rooms come with Jacuzzi, balcony and 24-hour room service. Dine in all-inclusive restaurants, including fine international, Mexican, Italian and Asian cuisines. Enjoy the swimming pool and bar, comfortable lounges, and stunning views of the Caribbean Sea and Cozumel island. (Bahía del Espíritu Santo esq. Abraira de Arriva, Playacar, 984.873.4960, www.palaceresorts.com)

PLAYACAR VACATION RENTALS. 41 villas. No need to give up the comforts of home. Choose from dozens of fully furnished rental houses and condos, with one to four bedrooms and maid service, in the quiet Playacar development, next to Playa del Carmen. Walk to the beach from your home away from home. (Avenida 10 Sur y Privada 3 Sur, Playacar, 984.873.0418, www.playacarvacationrentals.com)

POSADA MARIPOSA. 23 rooms. This charming perch on the quiet northern end of la Quinta is as peaceful as a Caribbean breeze. Comfortable, informal, affordable rooms have private bathroom, safe, ceiling fan, AC, cable, refrigerator and balcony overlooking the courtyard. Mini suites include kitchenette. (Quinta Avenida entre Calles 24 y 26, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.3886, www.posada-mariposa.com)

POSADA SIAN KA'AN. 16 rooms. Steps from the beach, surrounded by a tropical garden with its own cenote, this intimate central hotel recommended by international travel guides is the kind of place you can hang a hammock on your terrace and rock yourself to sleep. (Quinta Av. entre Calles 2 y 4, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.0202)

QUINTA PALMERA BOUTIQUE HOTEL. 6 suites. Each room and suite has a unique size and configuration, with the stylish amenities of an upscale boutique property. Some rooms have a balcony and Jacuzzi. All come with AC, iPod docking station, plasma TV, cable, laptop with wireless internet, safe and telephone. Stroll two blocks to Mamitas, among the finest beaches in Playa. (Quinta Avenida y Calle 30, Playa del Carmen, 984.803.5007, www.hotelquintapalmera.com)

QUINTO SOL. 20 rooms. This charming boutique hotel, on la Quinta in the Italian district, is designed with Mexican personality, classic style, warm wood and beautiful tile. An abundance of plants and flowers includes a great old tree from the original jungle preserved within the building. Guest rooms are bright. The roof terrace makes a very pleasant spot to hang out. (Quinta Avenida y Calle 28, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.3292, www.hotelquintosol.com)

THE REEF PLAYACAR. 202 rooms. This beachfront all-inclusive resort, in the golfing enclave of Playacar, offers gym, kids' club, tennis, diving, parties, shows, bikes and conference facilities. Meals and beverages are included in the buffet and the à-la-carte restaurants Botticelli for Italian cuisine and Terraza Grill for Mexican dishes. Bars include Azul 48 (swim up), Cascada (lobby) and Papo's (entertainment). A deli serves pizza, burgers, fries and wings. (Retorno Sayil, Paseo Xaman-Ha, Playacar, 984.873.4120/24, www.thereefplayacar.com)

REINA ROJA. 63 rooms. This hyper-modern city hotel will stand at the vanguard, with rooms decorated in a different style, located in the best area of famous Quinta Avenida in Playa del Carmen. Enjoy warm and attentive service. Playa del Carmen, 994.879.3123, www.reinarojahotel.com)

RIVIERA CARIBE MAYA. 22 rooms. Walk to good restaurants and beach bars from this stylish hotel in the heart of Playa — central for day trips to Maya sites, ecotourism adventures, diving and golf. Use the restaurant, bar and beach club. Modestly priced rooms have balconies, AC, fan, safe, cable and minibar. Suites have private Jacuzzi. (Avenida 10 entre Calles 28 y 30, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.1193/4, www.hotelrivieramaya.com)

RIVIERA DEL SOL. 23 rooms. Located in Playa del Carmen's north end, a quiet neighborhood of modern condos between lively Quinta Avenida and exquisite Mamitas Beach, this charming Mexican hotel makes a perfect place to relax with a wonderful Caribbean view. Stay in a comfortable room with private balcony and modern amenities. (Primera Avenida y Calle 30, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.3100-2, www.rivieradelsol.com)

ROSEWOOD MAYAKOBA. 128 suites. With accommodations weaved into a network of lagoons and inlets, this upscale resort, just tapped as best in Mexico by Travel+Leisure, is crafted with indigenous materials to blend into the jungle. Limestone, wood and water connect the buildings to their natural surroundings, and guests move around on boats and golf carts. Large suites feature terrace, roof deck, alfresco shower and views of lagoons, mangroves or the Caribbean. (Carr.

Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 298, Playa del Carmen, 984.875.8000,
www.rosewoodmayakoba.com)

THE ROYAL HACIENDAS. 252 suites. Comfortable, cavernous two-bedroom, two-bath units present spectacular Caribbean views and sleep up to six people, five minutes from Playa del Carmen and 30 minutes from Cancún International Airport. With arches, terraces and fountains, low-rise architecture suggests the grand haciendas of 19th-century Yucatán. (Carr. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 289+10, Mz.70 L2, Playa del Carmen, 984.206.3110, www.royalresorts.com)

ROYAL PLAYA DEL CARMEN. 432 rooms. In this all-inclusive beach resort for adults, one block from la Quinta, suites have artisanal furnishings, terraces and hammocks, marble bathrooms and Jacuzzis, flat screens, and internet access. Restaurants include Maria Marie for French fare with Mexican spice, Pelicanos on the beach, Asiana for sushi and Thai food, Royal Chef's Plate with haute cuisine, and Tapas & Pinxos. At Tequileria and Cigar Bar, enjoy a hand-rolled smoke and one of 30 tequilas. Meeting facilities accommodate 600. A spa and fitness center offers several treatments. (Av. Constituyentes 2, Playa del Carmen, 984.877.2900, www.realresorts.com)

SANDOS CARACOL BEACH RESORT. 999 rooms. Wedged between jungle and sea, this resort with spacious facilities works well with its natural surroundings and the stunning beaches that stretch for miles. A 1,600-square-meter spa includes sauna, full gym, yoga, spinning, Tai Chi and Pilates. With all-inclusive restaurants to suit a range of tastes, this resort gives good value for the money. (Carr. Fed. Puerto Morelos – Chetumal km 295, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.4444, www.sandshotels.com)

SANDOS PLAYACAR. 856 rooms. This resort has the feel of an old Mexican hacienda surrounded by a modern golf community. Guests enjoy a tranquil beach, just a brisk walk or short taxi ride to Playa del Carmen. Rooms have safe, minibar and satellite. Breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets are included, as well as specialty restaurants, bars and disco. Go windsurfing, sailing and canoeing. Play tennis or

use the gym. Take diving lessons in the swimming pool. Children enjoy their own activities. (Paseo Xaman-Ha L1 Mz.1, Playacar, 984.877.4040, www.sandoshotels.com)

SANDOS RIVIERA. 400 rooms. With excellent service and everything included, rooms and suites have one king or two double beds, balcony or terrace, and views of the gardens, pool or sea. Amenities include AC, satellite, minibar and safe. Take advantage of the children's services, spa, gym, tennis court, water sports, theater and disco. (Paseo Xaman-Ha L1 Mz.1, Playacar, 984.877.4040, www.sandoshotels.com)

SECRETS CAPRI RIVIERA CANCÚN. 291 rooms. Done in the style of a Mexican hacienda, popular with honeymooners, this adults-only all-inclusive north of Playa offers excellent service, elegant dining in five restaurants, an extravagant breakfast buffet, and lots of fun activities and games. Rooms and suites, most with panoramic sea views, come with whirlpool tub, satellite, DVD player and internet port. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal–Cancún km 299, Xcalacoco, 984.873.4880, www.secretsresorts.com)

SECRETS MAROMA BEACH RIVIERA CANCUN. 412 suites. Adults enjoy romance and intimacy in this luxurious haven set on 500 acres of lush grounds along one of Mexico's best beaches. Nicely appointed rooms and suites get 24-hour concierge and room service. Seven fine restaurants cover every cuisine, and eight bars, from elegant to swim-up, serve premium beverages. Keep cool in a shimmering infinity pool and 12 smaller swimming pools. Take advantage of Secrets Spa by Pevonia, offering outdoor and indoor treatments, Jacuzzi, and state-of-the-art fitness center. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 306.5, Punta Maroma, 984.877.3600, www.secretsresorts.com/maroma)

SHANGRI-LA CARIBA. 121 rooms. With rustic Mexican elegance, this comfortable nest brings the powdery beach right into the resort. Breakfast and dinner are included, as are internet, games, sports, massage, yoga, temazcal and concierge service. Take advantage of the dive center. The beachfront village has swimming

pools, dining rooms, bars and Jacuzzi. Each large room includes AC, fan and king or queen beds. Bathrooms feature delightful artisanal tile. (Calle 38 entre Quinta Avenida y la Playa, Playa del Carmen, 984.803.4371, www.shangrilacaribe.net)

SUNSET FISHERMEN. 52 rooms. A golf course infuses this peaceful resort in the community of Playacar. Set on the brilliant blue-green Caribbean, the spa resort offers a variety of treatments, plus 51 luxurious rooms with AC and satellite, restaurant, two bars, buffet and room service. Amenities include concierge, swimming pool, weight room, steam, kayaks, bicycles, kids' playground, baby sitting and shuttle to nearby Playa del Carmen. (Bahía Espírtu Santo 9, Playacar, 984.873.4950, www.sunsethotels.net)

THE TIDES RIVIERA MAYA. 30 villas. Formerly called Ikal del Mar, this resort and spa experience is praised by Condé Nast Traveler readers and located on the premium beach north of Playa. An award-winning restaurant features what it calls Maya-terranean cuisine. Luxurious villas have 1,000 square feet and marble and mahogany accents, plus private pool surrounded by jungle, terrace, handmade hammock, dining table and alfresco shower. Sleep on 500-thread-count Egyptian cotton. Amenities include Bose DVD player, movies, music, books, satellite, safe and snorkels. (Playa Xcalacoco Frac. 7, Playa del Carmen, 984.877.3000, www.tidesrivieramaya.com)

TITA TULUM HOTEL ECOLÓGICO. 8 rooms. Built amid a tropical garden, these comfortable palapas come with their own bathroom, private terrace, hammock and sea view. Feel the magic of enchanted Tulum at this ecological resort with solar-generated 24-hour electricity. An open-air restaurant overlooking the Caribbean treats guests to Tita's recipes. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 8, Tulum, 984.877.8513, www.titatum.com)

LA TORTUGA. 45 rooms. This charming boutique hotel has tastefully decorated rooms with balcony, AC, TV, safe and other amenities. Romantic junior suites come with rooftop Jacuzzi and flat-screen TV. (Avenida 10 entre Calles 12 y 14, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.1484, www.hotellatortuga.com)

LA TORTUGUITA. 12 rooms. At the center of Playa nightlife, this little perch helps you take advantage of all the restaurants and cafés, discos and lounges, shops, beaches, and attractions. Rooms and suites come with balcony, AC, telephone and other modern conveniences. (Avenida 10 entre Calles 12 y 14, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.1484, www.hotellatortuga.com)

EL TUKAN. 129 rooms. Updated in 2007, guest rooms have woodsy views of the hotel's lush gardens, right on la Quinta in the heart of Playa del Carmen. With balcony or terrace, king bed or two doubles, safe, cable, AC, ceiling fan, and wireless internet, spacious standard rooms accommodate up to four, and larger units have two bedrooms. Use the beach club, swimming pool and Jacuzzi. (Quinta Avenida entre Calles 14 y 16, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.1255/7, www.tukanhotels.com)

VALENTIN IMPERIAL MAYA. 408 rooms. All-inclusive for adults, at secluded Playa del Secreto, this resort has a long white beach. Cavernous junior suites, many with sea view, feature terrace, king or double beds, marble bathroom, Jacuzzi, satellite with premium channels, iPod dock, internet, and oversize safe. Some suites are swim-up, and some rooms have handicapped facilities. Take advantage of diving, water sports, tennis, soccer and spa treatments. Enjoy nine restaurants — Italian, French, Japanese and Mexican cuisines, plus steak, lobster and seafood. Twelve lounges ensure no one goes thirsty. (Carr. Fed. 307 km 311, Playa del Secreto, 984.206.3660, www.valentinmaya.com)

LAS VILLAS AKUMAL. 33 condos. This is headquarters for eco-travelers who come each year to protect loggerhead and green turtles through the Akumal Turtle Watch program. When not shepherding hatchlings, you can lounge on the terrace of your own luxurious condominium and stare out at the beautiful sea, gardens or swimming pool. Get Jacuzzi, AC, TV, safe, fully equipped kitchen and daily maid service. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 104, Akumal, 984.875.7050, www.lasvillasakumal.com)

VISTA CARIBE. 35 rooms. In the center of all the action, this is a place for freedom, rest and comfort, just steps from the beach. Enjoy private balcony, AC, cable, safe, refrigerator, king bed and swimming pool. (Calle 6 entre Quinta Avenida y la Playa, Playa del Carmen, 984.873.0349/50, www.hotelvistacaribe.com)

VISTA DEL MAR. 30 condos. These two- or three-bedroom beachfront condominiums on Half Moon Bay include full kitchen, large living and dining area, maid service, cable, and seaview patio or balcony. Get AC, king bed and Jacuzzi, or choose an economical hotel room with queen bed. (Carr. Fed. Cancún–Tulum km 104, Akumal, 984.875.9060, www.akumalinfo.com)

VIVA WYNDHAM AZTECA. 299 rooms. All-inclusive, with breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, drinks and wine, this Playacar resort also provides unlimited non-motorized sports, taxes and tips, daily activities, live entertainment and theme parties, disco and classes, sauna, children's program, and in-room safe and minibar. (Paseo Xaman-Ha LH8, Playacar, 984.877.4100, www.vivaresorts.com)

VIVA WYNDHAM MAYA. 533 rooms. This large all-inclusive resort, in the golf community of Playacar, features meeting facilities, business center, currency exchange, car rental, and shops. Rooms come with breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, drinks and wine, plus unlimited non-motorized sports, daily activities, live entertainment and theme parties, disco and classes, gym, sauna, children's program, in-room safe and minibar, taxes, and tips. (Paseo Xaman-Ha LH5, Playacar, 984.873.4600, www.vivaresorts.com)

XPU-HA PALACE. 144 rooms. On this rustic Mexican beach — powdery white sand, brilliant blue water, lush green flora — you want to stretch out a hammock and hang. Drawing from indigenous architecture, the all-inclusive resort was redesigned with fewer rooms and more facilities. Gastronomy comes from two fine restaurants and grill; libation, from numerous bars. Rooms in bungalows feature Jacuzzi, terrace, hammock, AC and satellite. Nature lovers ply the local estuary for snorkeling and kayaking, or relax in the sun by a meandering pool.

Bring the kids; they have their own club. Bring the pets; they do, too. (Carr. Fed. Chetumal – Puerto Juárez km 265, Xpu-Ha, 984.875.1010, www.palaceresorts.com)

ZAHRA. 22 cabanas. These Maya-style thatched-roof cabanas, some on stilts over the beach, are ideal for vacationers who want the jungle beauty of rustic Tulum while retaining some of the comforts of the modern world. Facing the sea or garden, rooms have ceiling fan and electric lights 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Guests enjoy a variety of meals in the restaurant, plus wireless internet in the café. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 5, Rumbo a Punta Allen, Tulum, 984.807.9520/25, www.zahra.com.mx)

ZULUM. 18 cabanas. These rustic beach cabanas, in many sizes and room configurations, have king or double beds suspended from the ceiling, mosquitéros over the beds and a private bathroom. Sea-view rooms have a terrace with chairs and a beach club with chaise lounges, shady umbrellas and a wide beach. (Carr. Tulum – Boca Paila km 6.5, Tulum, 984.116.4864, www.zulumhotels.com)

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