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7-Day *Cancun* All-Inclusive Itinerary

Riviera Maya, Mexico · Full day-by-day guide with morning, afternoon & evening breakdowns plus resort relaxation days

7 DAYS 5 EXCURSIONS 2 RESORT DAYS FREE DOWNLOAD

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OVERVIEW

Your Cancun Vacation at a Glance

Cancun and the Riviera Maya offer some of the best all-inclusive resorts in the world — and the experiences beyond the resort gates are just as extraordinary. This itinerary balances full resort relaxation days with the most popular excursions travelers come back raving about. Our top resort recommendations are **Moon Palace Cancun** (best overall all-inclusive, includes all excursions via Palace Perks), **Secrets Playa Mujeres** (best adults-only luxury), and **Excellence Playa Mujeres** (best couples experience). All three include unlimited food, drinks, and non-motorized water sports.

TOP RESORTS

Moon Palace • Secrets •
Excellence Playa Mujeres

NEAREST AIRPORT

Cancun International (CUN)
— 20 min transfer

BEST TRAVEL MONTHS

November – April (dry
season)

DAY 1 Arrival & Resort Check-In

MORNING

Book a morning flight to arrive at **Cancun International Airport (CUN)** by midday. Your resort transfer will be waiting in the arrivals hall. The drive to the Hotel Zone or Playa Mujeres takes 20 to 40 minutes. If you arrive before check-in time (typically 3:00pm), the resort will store your luggage and you can begin enjoying amenities immediately.

AFTERNOON

Head straight to the beach or pool. Order your first all-inclusive cocktail and settle into vacation mode. Most resorts offer a welcome orientation — take it. You will learn where every restaurant, bar, and activity is located, saving you hours of wandering. Explore the resort grounds and identify which pool bar and beach section will become your favorite spot.

EVENING

Welcome dinner at the resort's main a la carte restaurant. Make reservations for specialty dining throughout the week tonight — they fill up fast. Most resorts have Italian, French, Japanese, and Mexican fine dining options all included. Start with the **seafood restaurant** if your resort has one — the fresh ceviche and grilled shrimp in Mexico are outstanding.

Advisor Tip: Make all specialty restaurant reservations on Day 1. Book your excursions at the concierge desk tonight or tomorrow morning. Popular ones like Chichen Itza and Xcaret sell out days in advance.

DAY 2 Full Resort Day — Pure Relaxation

MORNING

Wake up and walk to the beach before 8:00am to reserve your beachfront lounge chairs — they go quickly. Enjoy a full resort breakfast at the main buffet which typically offers eggs made to order, fresh tropical fruits, pastries, and Mexican breakfast staples like chilaquiles. After breakfast, find a quiet hammock or cabana and simply read, nap, or watch the waves.

AFTERNOON

This is your day to fully experience the resort. Try the **swim-up bar** and meet fellow travelers from around the world. Join a beach volleyball game or take a paddleboard out on the calm Caribbean water. Book a **couples massage at the spa** — resort spa treatments in Mexico are exceptional and typically 40 percent less expensive than equivalent US spa prices.

EVENING

Watch the sunset from the beach — Cancun's Caribbean sunsets are genuinely spectacular. Enjoy the resort's evening entertainment: most resorts run live music, cultural shows featuring traditional Mexican folkloric dance, fire dancers, or themed parties. Dinner at a different a la carte restaurant than last night.

Resort Day — No schedule, no rushing. This is exactly what an all-inclusive vacation is for. Enjoy every included amenity, eat at every restaurant, and remind yourself this is all already paid for.

DAY 3 Chichen Itza & Cenote Swimming

MORNING

Early departure — 7:00am bus pickup from the resort. **Chichen Itza** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Arriving early (before 9:30am) means you explore the **El Castillo pyramid** before the tour groups from Cancun hotels flood in. The acoustics, the scale, and the sheer history of this 1,000-year-old Mayan city are genuinely breathtaking. A licensed guide is included with most resort-booked excursions — do not skip the guide.

AFTERNOON

After Chichen Itza, the bus takes you to a **natural cenote** — a sacred underground limestone sinkhole filled with impossibly clear turquoise water. Swimming in a cenote is one of the most unique experiences in all of Mexico. The water is cool, crystal clear, and surrounded by stalactites and jungle. Most tours stop at **Cenote Ik Kil** or **Cenote Hubiku** — both are extraordinary. Lunch is typically included at a nearby hacienda with traditional Mexican food.

EVENING

Return to resort approximately 5:30pm. You will be tired — this is a long but deeply rewarding day. Light dinner at the resort buffet, evening cocktails at your favorite pool bar. Early night so you are fresh for tomorrow.

Advisor Tip: Bring water shoes for the cenote, reef-safe sunscreen, and \$20 USD cash for tips and small vendor purchases at Chichen Itza. Book this excursion through the resort to ensure transportation is included.

DAY 4 Isla Mujeres Day Trip

MORNING

Take a ferry from **Puerto Juarez dock** to **Isla Mujeres** — a tiny island 5 miles off the Cancun coast. The ferry takes 20 minutes and costs approximately \$10 USD each way. Isla Mujeres is everything Cancun is not: narrow colorful streets, golf carts instead of cars, local fishing boats, and a completely unhurried Caribbean pace. Rent a golf cart (\$30 for the day) and explore the entire island at your own leisure.

AFTERNOON

Head to **Playa Norte** — one of the calmest, most beautiful beaches in Mexico. The water is shallow, warm, and turquoise blue. Beach clubs here offer lounge chairs, drinks, and fresh seafood for very reasonable prices. Snorkeling around the island is outstanding — book a snorkel tour from the dock for the **MUSA underwater sculpture museum**, one of the most unique experiences in the Caribbean. Life-size sculptures on the seafloor covered in coral — absolutely unforgettable.

EVENING

Have dinner on Isla Mujeres before taking the last ferry back — try **Mango Cafe** or any of the waterfront restaurants along Hidalgo Street for fresh grilled lobster and Caribbean cocktails. Return to Cancun by ferry, back to resort by 8:00pm. Tonight is a great night for the resort's specialty French or Italian restaurant.

DAY 5 Xcaret Eco-Archaeological Park

MORNING

Xcaret is the most popular theme park in all of Mexico — and for good reason. Book the **Xcaret Plus package** which includes underground river swimming, beach access, the aquarium, butterfly pavilion, aviary, sea turtle sanctuary, and the extraordinary evening cultural show. Arrive when doors open at 8:30am to swim the underground rivers before the crowds build. These natural underground rivers that flow through caves and jungle are unlike anything else in the world.

AFTERNOON

After the underground rivers, explore the **sea turtle program** where you can see baby turtles being raised for release. The **aviary and butterfly pavilion** with hundreds of species flying freely around you is a wonderful afternoon experience. Lunch at any of the park's restaurants — traditional Mexican cuisine with fresh tortillas made on site. Explore the **Mayan ruins** within the park and the coastal beach area.

EVENING

Stay for the **Xcaret Mexico Espectacular** evening show — a 2-hour outdoor spectacular featuring 300 performers, traditional dances from every region of Mexico, a full mariachi orchestra, and a breathtaking finale involving Mayan fire ceremonies. This is the best cultural show in the Riviera Maya and is worth the entire day ticket price alone. Return to resort by 11:00pm.

Advisor Tip: Xcaret is a full-day commitment — plan to spend 10 to 12 hours there. Book tickets in advance online for 15 to 20 percent savings. The park provides snorkel gear and life jackets for underground rivers — no need to bring your own.

DAY 6 Tulum Ruins & Final Resort Day

MORNING

Early morning drive (1.5 hours south) to the **Tulum Archaeological Zone**. These Mayan ruins are uniquely dramatic — perched on a cliff directly above a turquoise Caribbean beach. Arrive by 8:00am before the heat and crowds intensify. The ruins are smaller than Chichen Itza but the setting is arguably the most beautiful archaeological site in the Americas. Walk down the cliff steps to the small beach below the ruins for a swim in the shadow of a 700-year-old Mayan city.

AFTERNOON

Return to the resort by noon. This is your final full afternoon — make the most of it. Claim your beachfront chairs, order a round of cocktails, and simply be present. If you have resort credits remaining, use them today at the spa or on a final activity. Some guests choose to visit the **Hotel Zone's La Isla Shopping Village** for last-minute shopping and souvenirs. The market has excellent selections of Taxco silver jewelry, Talavera pottery, and local handicrafts.

EVENING

Final farewell dinner — book the resort's best restaurant for tonight. Dress up. Order the full menu. Have the tableside guacamole, the grilled lobster, and the tres leches cake. This is your last night and it deserves to be celebrated properly. After dinner, evening cocktails on the beach under the stars. Pack your suitcases tonight.

Final resort afternoon — put the phone down, order something frozen, and let the Caribbean breeze remind you why you travel. Every excursion, every adventure, every morning sunrise was worth it.

DAY 7 Departure Day

MORNING

Enjoy a final resort breakfast — take your time. Checkout is typically 11:00am but most resorts allow late checkout until 2:00pm for an additional fee, or free with loyalty status. Store your luggage with the bell desk after checkout and use the pool or beach until your transfer arrives. Do not rush this morning.

AFTERNOON

Resort transfer to Cancun International Airport. Allow 90 minutes before your flight for international check-in and US customs pre-clearance. Browse the duty-free shops — Cancun's airport has excellent tequila and mezcal selections at very competitive prices. Buy a bottle of **Don Julio 1942** or **Clase Azul** to bring home as a memento.

Advisor Tip: Declare all alcohol purchases at US customs. Each adult is allowed one liter duty-free. CUN airport duty-free prices are typically 30 to 40 percent below US retail on premium spirits.

- Reef-safe sunscreen (required in Mexico)
- Water shoes for cenotes and ruins
- Light layers for air-conditioned restaurants
- Waterproof phone case
- \$200 USD cash for tips and vendors
- Formal outfit for specialty dining
- Insect repellent for jungle excursions

- Always pay in Mexican Pesos — better rates
- Tip resort staff \$1 to \$5 USD per service
- Book excursions through resort for transport
- Request ocean-view room at check-in
- All-inclusive includes all meals and spirits
- Room service is included — use it
- Travel insurance is essential for Mexico

Ready to Book This Cancun Vacation?

We have direct relationships with Moon Palace, Secrets, and Excellence Playa Mujeres — and we get our clients the best room categories, resort credits, and package deals available. Free consultation, zero obligation.

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