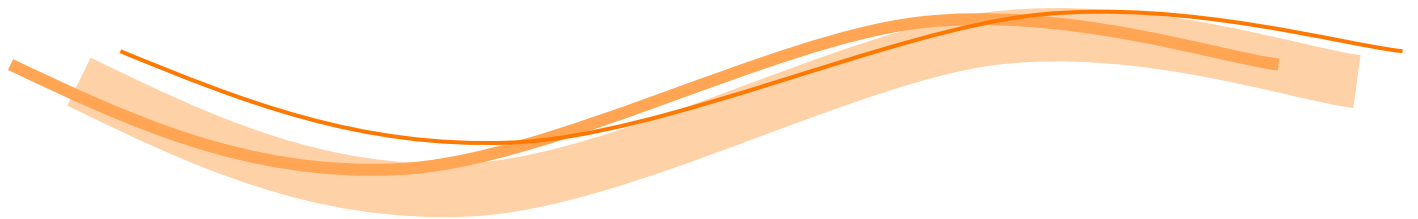




**CANCUN,
NOLITOURS &
ORIGINAL RESORTS**





CANCUN, MEXICO

Cancun, Mexico is an exotic, exciting, destination that is less than four hours' flight time away. Spend more time on vacation and less time travelling - plus there are lots of convenient direct flights.

Cancun is situated on the south-east coast of Mexico in the state of Quintana Roo in the Yucatan Peninsula. Warm white powdery sand beaches and turquoise crystal clear waters - together with the famous Mexican hospitality - make this a place like no other!

Cancun has something for everyone - family vacations, couples' escapes or singles' adventures. The amenities and first class service are world renown. Just relax - or enjoy the spas, championship golf courses, nightlife and extensive water sports. Cancun has ecotourism and adventure - plus some of the best fishing, snorkeling, and scuba diving in the world.

You can even snorkel with dolphins and whale sharks! 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 locations in and around Cancun that specialise in swimming with dolphins. 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 who want to swim with the whale shark - they are totally harmless and peaceful.

This fascinating part of Mexico is rich in cultural and historical tours. Majestic, mysterious Mayan ruins such as Chichen Itza, Tulum and Coba are all within easy reach. The Mayan Culture is still alive, and you can have a close encounter on a sustainable tour, hosted by Mayan communities.

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

Nolitours have frequent direct flights, vacation packages and excursions to allow you to explore this exciting destination. And together with **Original Resorts** offer you two very distinct experiences in Cancun. Read the sections following this for all their details.

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Location	Cancún is a coastal city in Mexico's easternmost state, Quintana Roo, on the Yucatán Peninsula. Cancún is located on the Yucatan Channel 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.
Population	Approximately 527,000 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 = 12.1 Mexican pesos (as at 13 May 2011)
Tippling	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	One hour behind EST.
Health	There are no special health problems here and the hospital facilities are excellent.
Safety tips	Car break-ins are just about the only frequent crime here. The bad press that drug-related violence has often attracted in the media is thousands of kilometers away on the US/Mexico border.

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	30 Centigrade and sunny (14 th May 2011)
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 hours' flying time from Montreal and Toronto on the many direct flights with Transat Holidays and Nolitours. Cancun Airport handles the second largest volume of traffic in Mexico therefore the security levels are very high.</p> <p>Cancun International Airport is located 12km from downtown Cancun and 20 km southwest from the heart of the hotel zone.</p> <p>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. If you have bought a package with Nolitours or Transat Holidays, transportation from the airport to your resort is included.</p>
Cancun City	<p>There are really two Cancúns: Ciudad Cancún (Cancún City) and Isla Cancún (Cancún Island). 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. 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.</p>
Mayan Coast Towns	<p>Puerto del Carmen - Playa, as it is called, is the most happening place on the coast - a delightful beach (especially when the wind and currents are flowing in the right direction), hotels for every budget, a good choice of restaurants, and an active nightlife, most of which is on or around Quinta Avenida (Fifth Ave.), Playa's well-known promenade. In the last few years the town has grown quickly, and local residents and the tourism board are working to keep it from becoming a smaller version of Cancún.</p> <p>Puerto Morelos - This town between Playa and Cancún remains a little village affectionately known by the locals as "Muerto Morelos" (muerto means "dead") for its phenomenally quiet low season. It has a few small hotels and rental houses, and nearby are a few secluded spa resorts. The coast is sandy and well protected by an offshore reef, which means good snorkeling and diving nearby, but the lack of surf means sea grass</p>

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	<p>and shallow water. If you're looking for good swimming, head farther down the coast. If you're looking for a relaxing seaside retreat with a clean beach in an easygoing community, this will work for you.</p> <p>Puerto Aventuras - The first major town south of Playa is a modern condo-marina development with a 9-hole golf course, several restaurants, and a few hotels. You might come here to go deep-sea fishing or swim with dolphins.</p> <p>Akumal - A bit farther south is Akumal and Half Moon Bay. The community is relatively old for this shore, which means that it's already built up and doesn't have the boomtown feel of Playa and Tulum. Akumal has a strong ecological orientation and is a prominent scuba and snorkeling center. The locals are a mix of Americans and Mexicans, who enjoy the unhurried lifestyle of the Tropics, making this a good place to relax and work on your hammock technique. There are a few hotels; most of the lodging is rental houses and condos. Consequently, the town is a favorite with families who enjoy the calmness of the place and can save money by buying groceries and cooking for themselves.</p> <p>Tulum - The town of Tulum (near the ruins of the same name) has a hotel district of about 30 palapa (palm-leaf roofed) hotels, which stretch down the coast of the Punta Allen peninsula. A few years ago it was mainly a destination for backpacker types, but with some of the most beautiful beaches on this coast and many improvements in hotel amenities, it now attracts people with big budgets. Construction is booming, both in the town and along the coast. Here you can enjoy the beach in relative solitude and quiet.</p>
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. You can purchase water transportation departing from Ultramar (at Puerto Juarez) or from el Embarcadero or Playa Tortugas. Also several marinas offer full service tours to Isla Mujeres</p>
Car Rental	<p>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.</p>
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</p>

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	<p>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 if you wish to tour further.</p>
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<p>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</p>	<p>There are about 150 hotels in Cancún with more than 24,000 rooms. Although most Canadians stay at the glitzy resorts lining Cancun's beautiful beach, there are in fact lots of different accommodation options in the area for those looking for something different. The hotels section of the Cancun website is a good place to start:</p> <p>http://cancun.travel/accommodations/?location=hotel-zone</p> <p>Particularly recommended are our two featured resorts with original Resorts for which full information can be found following this section.</p>
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<p>TARGET GROUPS</p> <p>Kids</p>	<p>Swim with Dolphins in Cancun</p> <p>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, on boat.</p> <p>Xcaret is a developed Nature Park, eighty kilometers south of Cancún and 10km south of Playa del Carmen. Xcaret (pronounced "ish-cah-ret") is an ecological and archaeological theme park that is one of the area's most popular tourist attractions. It's the closest thing to Disneyland that you'll find in Mexico, with myriad attractions in one location, most of them participatory. Signs throughout Cancún advertise Xcaret, which has its own bus terminal to take tourists there at regular intervals. Plan to spend a full day.</p> <p>Tres Rios ecoadventure park 25 minutes south of Cancún is actually a nature reserve on more than 60 hectares of land. Tres Ríos (tel. 998/887-8077 in Cancún; www.tres-rios.com) offers families a beautiful natural area for kayaking, canoeing, snorkeling, horseback riding, or biking along jungle trails. It's definitely less commercial than the other eco-theme parks and is essentially just a great natural area for participating in these activities. The entrance fee - \$22 for adults, \$19 for</p>
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	<p>children - includes canoe trips; the use of bikes, kayaks, and snorkeling equipment; and the use of hammocks and beach chairs once you tire yourself out. Extra charges apply for scuba diving, horseback riding, and other extended, guided tours through the preserve and its estuary. You can also opt for an all-inclusive package that covers admission, diving, horseback riding, and all food and beverages. It costs \$75 per adult, \$62 for children under 12.</p> <p>The ecopark at Xel-Ha (tel. 998/884-9422; www.xelha.com), 13km south of Akumal, attracts throngs of snorkelers and divers with its warm waters and brilliant fish. The beautiful, calm cove is a perfect place to bring kids for their first snorkeling experience. Xel-ha (shell-hah) also offers dolphin swims and has food and beverage service, changing rooms, showers, and other facilities.</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 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	<p>Cancun has always been a magnet for romantic couples looking for a tropical beach destination with great nightlife and first class resorts.</p>
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: http://cancun.travel/en/things-to-do/weddings/legal-requirements There are also a number of wedding consultants in Cancun and many</p>

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	resorts have their own wedding staff on hand to assist your planning. Nolitours and Transat are also very experienced in helping couples.
Seniors	Cancun is an accessible and senior citizen friendly destination. There are quieter parts of the destination which may be more suitable for those wanting relaxation before sizzling nightlife!

UNIQUES	Cenotes , or sink holes, can be found all over the Yucatan Peninsula. These sink holes can be several meters deep and lead the explorer to pure, cool, crystal clear water. Their natural beauty and refreshing waters are the reasons why cenote exploring is a favourite local pastime Try www.alltournative.com for a guided trip into a cenote.
Surprising	There are some (relatively) small Mayan vestiges of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization in Cancún. El Rey (Las Ruinas del Rey) is located in the Hotel Zone. El Meco, a more substantial site, is found on the mainland just outside the city limits on the road to Punta Sam.
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. The coast was comprised of marshes, mangroves, virgin jungle and 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.</p> <p>The Master Plan 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).</p> <p>The basic Master Plan called for three items:</p> <p>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;</p>

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	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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). 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 the nation'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 500,000 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>
Books	Frommer's Cancun, Cozumel & the Yucatan 2011
1000 Places to see before you die	Chichen Itza – the most famous and perhaps most spectacular of Mexico's Mayan ruins is about 2.5 hours drive from Cancun.
Must Sees	<p>Xcaret: Hanging out on the beach, scuba and snorkeling, cavern diving, visiting ruins, taking a siesta in a hammock under a grove of palm trees, hiking through tropical forest, meeting native Maya peoples - Xcaret has all that plus handicraft exhibitions, a bat cave, a butterfly pavilion, mushroom and orchid nurseries, and lots of wildlife on display (the park has several conservation programs for endangered species), native jaguars, manatees, sea turtles, monkeys, macaws, flamingos, and a petting aquarium. Children love it. What probably receives most of the comments is the underground river (a natural feature of the park and common in much of the Yucatán) that's been opened in places to allow snorkelers to paddle along with the current. There are also a number of tours and shows, including charros (Mexican cowboys) from the state of Jalisco, and the Totonac Indian voladores ("flyers" who do a daring pole dance high above the ground) from the state of Veracruz.</p> <p>Xcaret is 10km south of Playa del Carmen. It's open daily from 8:30am to 9pm. Admission prices are \$54 for adults, \$28 for children 5 to 12.</p> <p>www.xcaret.com</p>

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SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
Golf	<p>Cancun golf courses are every golfer's 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. 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> <p>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</p> <p>Moon Spa & Golf Club – Jack Niklaus 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.</p> <p>Riviera Cancun – Jack Niklaus Signature Golf Course Two brand new golf courses can be found at the Riviera Cancun with the famous Jack Niklaus 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.</p>

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	<p>Mayan Palace Riviera Maya – Jack Niklaus This is another Niklaus 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.</p> <p>Cozumel Country Club – Jack Niklaus 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.</p> <p>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 now hold the PGA Tour, and have committed to carry out the PGA event during the third week of February for the next several years.</p> <p>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 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</p>

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	<p>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 sportfishing hotspots in the world... Sportfishing 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 sportfishing 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>
Horse riding	<p>Cancún Mermaid (www.cancunmermaid.com), 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. It costs \$66 if you want to ride on your own, and \$49 per person if you double up. Prices for both tours include transportation to the ranch, riding, soft drinks, and lunch, plus a guide and insurance. Only cash or traveler's checks are accepted.</p>
Hiking	<p>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.</p>
Cycling	<p>You can hire bicycles at many of the resorts and it's a pleasant way of getting around Cancun.</p>
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</p>

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	<p>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. 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>
<p>Diving</p>	<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. 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 – Tulum corridor you will find many caverns and cenotes, also known as “sink holes”.</p>

<p>CULTURE</p>	<p>Mayan Culture</p> <p>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</p> <p>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. A year ago Chichen Itza was named as one of the seven wonders of the world, and has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site for 20 years.</p>
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	<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 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 del INAH Next to the Cancun Convention Centre phone: +52 998 883 3671 It's not just fun at the beaches and Cancun's shops but in fact, the city is full of areas of cultural interest for those who like exhibitions or are</p>

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	<p>interested in photography, sculpture and plastic arts. At the Museo del INAH (National Institute of Anthropology and History), you will find great exhibitions year-round, displaying works by Mexican and foreign artists. Don't miss the best national exhibitions on your next visit to Cancún, a heavenly place full of fun and culture.</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. 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. Their songs speak about machismo, love, betrayal, death, politics, revolutionary heroes and even animals (one particularly famous song is "La Cucaracha"). 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 were used to accompany some of the more scandalous, satirical or anticlerical couplets of the times. Mariachi can be heard extensively in Cancun and it's one of the pleasures of any visit.</p>
<p>Museums</p>	<p>Zona Arqueológica El Rey Boulevard Kukulcán Km 19 phone: +52 998 881 2745 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>

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	<p>Underwater Museum: The National Park West Coast of Isla Mujeres, Punta Cancun and Punta Nizuc, will feature 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. 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 will be sunk within this National Park on sandy bottoms at different depths. Each piece of art will be man-sized, with a base of four square meters. There will be 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>
<p>Festivals</p>	<p>Santa Semana: Holy Week is a huge celebration in Mexico with colourful street processions...but be sure to book early as everywhere is sure to be very busy.</p> <p>Spring Equinox is celebrated with parades to welcome the spring and at Chichen Itza's main pyramid, the shadows align and the plumed serpent moves slowly from the top of the building to its base...</p> <p>Riviera Maya Jazz Festival November The annual Riviera Maya Jazz Festival attracts an enthusiastic crowd to Mamitas Beach in Playa del Carmen to enjoy free performances by national and international acts. http://www.rivieramayajazzfestival.com</p>

<p>ATTRACTIONS</p>	
<p>Beaches</p>	<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 (which means "golden snake" in Mayan), stretch from the old city east to a 24km sliver of land that runs southwest, 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>
<p>Wildlife</p>	<p>Swimming with Whale Sharks 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</p>

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	<p>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 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 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>
Parks	<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>

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Cozumel Reef National Park

In 1996, an 11,988-hectare (29 acres) 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 (21 acres) 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.

Isla Contoy National Park

The island, covering 5,126 sq. hectares (12.667 sq. acres), was declared a National Park on February 2, 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-kilometer 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

www.kolumbustours.com

www.birdingcontoy.com

Puerto Morelos Reef National Park

The 9,066 square-hectare (22.402 sq. acres) park was set up in 1998. The barrier reef borders the Isla Mujeres West Coast, Punta Cancún and Punta Nizuc National Park.

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 scientists who study its biodiversity and underwater archaeological heritage (there are more than 20 shipwrecks here).

Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve

Declared a United Nations World Heritage Site, the Biosphere Reserve was created on January 20, 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

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	<p>ecosystems found in the Yucatán Peninsula and the Caribbean, where both Mesoamerican and Antillean species flourish. The barrier reef extends for some 120 kilometers (74.5 miles) and covers approximately 15,000 hectares (37.065 acres).</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	Many of the resort hotels have beautiful tropical gardens that are cool places to seek in the heat of the day.

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

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	<p>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>
Markets	<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 village with colourful architecture and shops selling good quality Mexican handcrafts and pieces of art.</p>
Nightlife	<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 Senor Frogs and Carlos n’ Charlies.</p>
Spas	<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</p>

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	<p>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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CUISINE	
Food	<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. The annual Mexico-Caribbean Food Festival, featuring special menus of culinary creations throughout Cancun, is held each year over the first two weeks of November.</p>
Drink	<p>Beer: 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 in Mexico over the Christmas season, try the Noche Buena by Dos Equis. It is a darker full flavored brew that is not exported either and can only be found in Mexico.</p>

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	<p>Tequila is a blue agave-based spirit made primarily in the area surrounding the city of Tequila, 65 kilometres northwest of Guadalajara, and in the highlands (Los Altos) of the western Mexican state of Jalisco. Try the main different varieties available.</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>The resort located restaurants are often first class in this area. U.S. based franchise chains, which really need no introduction, dominate the Cancun restaurant scene. These include Hard Rock Cafe, Rainforest Cafe, Tony Roma's, TGI Friday's, Ruth's Chris Steak House, and the gamut of fast-food burger places.</p> <p>Mexican Restaurants in Cancun</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>You also have the typical Mexican food with delicious char-grilled meats with a variety of different sauces to try. Brave the habanero chile. This mild-looking pepper is fire-hot, but serves as an excellent condiment to some of Mexico's finest culinary delicacies.</p>

<p>MORE INFO</p>	
<p>Website</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. You will find everything you need right here to plan your trip.</p>

<p>PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</p>	<p>I have been to Cancun on several occasions. It is great as a lively destination in its own right or as a base for exploring Mexico's wondrous region of Yucatan...or a combination of both styles of vacation.</p>
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<p>ORIGINAL RESORTS</p>	<p>Original Resorts is a great collection of lodging options in Mexico that offers paradise seekers, singles, couples and families alike another dimension of the beach experience in Cancun, Los Cabos, Riviera Maya and Playa del Carmen. Stylish and comfortable, each of our resorts provides services tailored for the discerning guest. Sensual amenities</p>
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	tempt couples at their adults only resorts, fun activities reign at their family resorts, and understated exclusivity pampers everyone in their luxury suite hotels. While each hotel is characterized by its own individuality, Original Resorts sets a common standard for all, offering extraordinary settings with primary focuses on value and conviviality while staging truly original experiences.
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HOTEL PRIZE PARTNER	Temptation Resort Spa For people looking for a free-spirited vacation, the Temptation Resort Spa is a topless optional hotel with a sexy “adults only” atmosphere. Experience a different take on the all inclusive holiday at the revolutionary Temptation, - a lifestyle resort where singles and couples are welcome to meet, mix and mingle. Come with your partner, your friends – or to meet new people. Play and tan on a sandy beach or enjoy three spectacular swimming pools, lively bars, fine dining and the nightly entertainment. There is a minimum age of 21 here.
Location	Approximately 24 km from the Cancun airport, between the hotel zone’s “Party Central” and downtown Cancun.
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven outdoor Jacuzzis • Three swimming pools (topless optional): One is the heartbeat of the resort, filled with all the action and a sexy ambiance. The second is the sports pool, where all the sports activities take place - from water polo to pool volleyball. The third is the relaxing pool, where quiet is on the menu. • Lounge • Bars (including swim-up bars) • Disco • Cigar lounge • Spa • Beauty salon • Boutique • WiFi (in lobby)
Accommodation	This trendy hotel offers 384 rooms featuring exquisite modern décor. Each has air-conditioning, 1 king-size or 2 double beds, bathroom with shower, hairdryer, VIP bath amenities, flat screen TV, coffee-maker, in-room safe, iron, balcony or terrace with a maximum occupancy 3 adults.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windsurfing • Catamaran • Kayaking

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water polo and Volleyball • Introduction to scuba diving in pool • Pool tables • Aerobics • Gym • Dance lessons • Ping-pong • Daily activities program including Sensual Fitness with an intense, fun and sexy workout – learn exotic moves, lap dance, floor work, belly dance, pole dance and choreographed routines • Nightly entertainment with adult themes
Restaurants	<p>There's a good choice of restaurants, including 3 à la carte (Asian, Italian and Gourmet), a snack bar & grill, plus a sports bar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Embarcadero - With tableside beverage service, this buffet-style restaurant is an excellent option to enjoy those special breakfast, lunch and dinner moments to the fullest. Offering dinner themes that change nightly, El Embarcadero alternates from Mexican, Italian, Mediterranean, BBQ, Caribbean and Asian cuisines so that you will always find those mouthwatering flavors to please your palate with. • Il Piacere - Featuring indoor and outdoor seating, this gourmet Italian restaurant offers candlelight and sounds of a cascading wall water sculpture that help set the mood for romance. • The Village Wok - Enjoy the sweeping, ocean views that this Asian inspired restaurant will provide you with, as you delight your palate with the most exquisite, à la carte Asian specialties and surrender to its seductive, intimate atmosphere for an evening to cherish. • Bellavista - Framed by the views of the beach and the quiet pool, this restaurant will serve you gourmet dinners, with a selection of fresh seafood and exotic Caribbean specialties, turning every evening into a romantic event that will delight all your senses. • Margarita's Snack Bar & Grill - It's the place to come when it's time for a light and tasteful meal in a "welcome as you are" atmosphere. Enjoy classic snacks, traditional Mexican "antojitos" while the bartenders take care of your thirst for Margaritas, Piñas Coladas, Cocos Locos and other tropical cocktails. At night, this restaurant is transformed into a semi-open air outlet where the cool breeze of the evening mixes with the flavors of traditional Tex-Mex and Mexican specialties.

HOTEL PARTNER	<p>Sea Adventure Resort and Waterpark</p> <p>Here is the vacation you and your family has been waiting for - fun in the sun, with a built-in water park. You'll never want to leave this friendly hotel and all its fabulous amenities! Splash into Adventure at the Sea Adventure Resort and Waterpark and discover all the water slides and</p>
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	attractions of Cancun's newest Waterpark! Enjoy powdery, white-sand beaches, large pools, children's swimming areas, shaded palapas and lounges. Plus this Resort has a great Kid's Club and activities for all.
Location	Approximately 15 km from the Cancun airport and set directly on the beach.
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pools • Waterfalls and waterslides • Whirlpool • Bars (including swim-up bar) • Gym • WiFi (in lobby)
Accommodation	<p>This superior hotel offers 160 rooms with air-conditioning, 1 king-size or 2 double beds, full bathroom, hairdryer, TV, mini-fridge, coffee-maker, in-room safe, balcony or terrace, and a maximum occupancy of 3 adults or 2 adults and 2 children.</p> <p>Ocean View Junior Suite also available.</p>
Activities	<p>There's a daily activity program for the whole family. Enjoy adventurous water sports, diving, sailing, kayaking, beach volleyball, dance lessons, cookery and cocktail lessons and fun Spanish classes. There is also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windsurfing • Catamaran and Kayaking • Volleyball • Tennis • Basketball • Pool tables, Aerobics and much more
Restaurants	There is a choice of restaurants including 2 à la carte: International and Seafood. There's also a snack bar.
Families	<p>Two children under six years of age stay and eat free at this resort with Nolitours. There's also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids' Club (ages 4 to 12) Children are taken care by professional staff, and will be able to enjoy of different activities as drawing, handwork with recycled material, beach games, sand castles, shell recollection, etc. Kid's Club is open daily from 09:00 to 05:00 p.m. • Children's pool • Water park, waterslides • Babysitting (subject to availability)

TRANSAT HOLIDAYS	<p>Transat Holidays and Nolitours have multiple flights each week to Cancun from Canada all year round and many excursions to discover the area and culture. If you have ever dreamed of swimming with dolphins, encountering the ancient Mayan culture by exploring mysterious pyramids or sailing in a catamaran across blue, blue waters - Transat Holidays and Nolitours can enrich your vacation with these and</p>
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	other experiences. Nolitours also features Original Resorts which offer you two very distinct experiences in Cancun.
Transat Background	<p>Transat is now the largest tour operator in Canada, and is at the core of the vertical integration process developing and marketing vacation products as well as flights to destinations in the South and Europe. The company acts as a master craftsman in assembling different components of leisure travel: air transportation, passenger transfers from airport to hotel, accommodation, recreational and cultural activities, meals, cruises, and much more.</p> <p>As an industry leader, Transat Holidays offers departures from many Canadian cities including: St-John's, Halifax, Moncton, Fredericton, Montréal, Québec, Ottawa, Hamilton, Toronto, Thunder Bay, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Vancouver, Victoria, Comox, Abbotsford, Prince George and Kelowna. (as at 2011)</p>
Mission	Transat Holidays 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.
Products	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 Holidays are subject to a rigorous standard review.
Wider Seats	Air Transat has added more legroom on all their aircraft, making the journey to and from your destination even more comfortable.
Air Transat Upgrades	Air Transat have introduced its new Economy Class meal service on sun destination flights. As part of its ongoing efforts to provide clients with the best possible service, Air Transat has upgraded its onboard service. Passengers flying south will now be welcomed onboard with a glass of champagne, while early morning passengers will be greeted with a mimosa. The meal service has also been improved. The airline will now offer passengers a more complete meal tray, including a choice of two hot meals, a complimentary glass of wine and dessert.
Awards	Agent's Choice Awards: Transat Holidays have been ranked number one for a three years in a row in by Canada's travel agents according to the results of the Agents' Choice Awards, a survey carried out by Canadian Travel Press and Travel Courier.
Current Brochure	Transat Holidays Sun 2010-2011 and Nolitours Sun 2010-2011 brochures are available at your local travel agent. Both of these feature vacation packages through to October 2011.

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Air Transat Kids Club	<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 while 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 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>
Transat Club Class	<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
Option Plus	<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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 \$79 for southbound destinations and \$99 for European destinations.</p>
<p>Transat and Sustainable Tourism</p>	<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>"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."</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. Air Transat, which proved its forward-looking approach by adopting a strict fuel-management system in 2003, has since 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>Gift Certificates</p>	<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.</p> <p>Travel gift certificates are always appreciated, and they are appropriate for all occasions, whether for a wedding, anniversary, graduation, or simply to show you care.</p> <p>Transat gift certificates are valid on all Air Transat, Nolitours, or Transat Holidays products in our brochures. They can be redeemed at a travel agent's office at the time of reservation.</p> <p>To order your gift certificates call 1-800-322-6649.</p>

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<p>Gift Certificates</p>	<p>Transat gift certificates are valid on all Air Transat, Nolitours, or Transat Holidays products. They can be redeemed at a travel agent's office at the time of reservation. To order gift certificates call 1-800-322-6649.</p>
<p>Transat Excursions from Cancun and Riviera Maya</p>	<p>Transat have a wide range of tours available in this destination as at May 2011:</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>COBA MAYAN VILLAGE The real Mexican tour! Discover the highest pyramid on the Yucatan Peninsula. Visit a small Mayan village and meet the inhabitants who will show you how they make chewing gum from tree resin.</p> <p>SNORKELLING TOUR This full-day tour will allow you to admire the underwater life of the second largest coral reef in the world. Enjoy lunch at a private beach club, then join in some activities or simply relax on a hammock.</p> <p>ATV Discover the Mayan jungle on your own ATV and experience the thrill of snorkelling in the crystal clear waters of a cenote. A day to remember!</p> <p>CAPTAIN HOOK All aboard – the adventure is about to begin! Enjoy a pirate show as you savour a lobster or steak dinner.</p> <p>SIAN KAAAN BIOSPHERE Depart for the Sian Kaan biosphere. Your guide will take you along a dirt road so you can observe the biosphere's natural beauty. Then, return to Punta Allen, a small fishing village. Enjoy a leisurely boat ride. You'll have the opportunity to see dolphins, manta rays, lobsters, sea turtles and many different kinds of birds.</p> <p>XPLOR An all-inclusive adventure! XPLOR is a unique underground world, with activities that let you Xplore and rediscover nature. Come and enjoy zip lines, amphibious vehicles, underground rafts, and a stalactite river swim.</p>

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XEL-HA AND TULUM

Go swimming at Xel-Ha, one of the most beautiful natural aquariums in the entire Mayan Riviera, followed by a tour of Tulum, the only walled Mayan city. Enter the fortress on the west side of the ceremonial city, which still features ancient paintings.

ISLA MUJERES TOUR

Step aboard and sail the crystal clear waters of Isla Mujeres on a brand new 75 ft maxi catamaran! Our friendly crew will guide you on an unforgettable sailing and snorkelling experience. Open bar and buffet included.

JUNGLE TOUR

Enjoy one of our most popular and exciting tours. Pilot your own two-person speedboat through the mangroves before snorkelling at Punta Nizuc, part of the world's second-largest coral reef.

NIGHTCLUB TOUR

The fabulous and unique Party Hopper Tour offers 7 hours of open bar with national drinks. Cover and Express Pass (no waiting in line) at the most popular night clubs in Cancun.

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.

COBA MAYAN ADVENTURE

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.

DEEP SEA FISHING

Go on an incredible journey as you live the world-famous deep sea fishing experience. Have a great catch and get the big ones: kingfish, barracuda, snapper, grouper, sailfish, mackerel, mahi-mahi and more. Catch & Release Policy is enforced by the Mexican Marine Fauna.

SWIM WITH DOLPHINS

Make your dreams come true! Get to know these wonderful mammals as you swim and play with them in the water.

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	<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 Kantelah Natural Reserve go rappelling down a beautiful cenote and zip line over jungle foliage. Then, participate in a traditional Mayan purification ceremony</p>
<p>Special Deals with Original Resorts</p>	<p>Nolitours is currently (May 14th 2011) offering some great deals on the two featured resorts in Cancun from both Toronto and Montreal:</p> <p>Temptation Resort Spa 7 nts all inclusive departing Toronto June 12th 2011 is currently just \$537 + \$343 taxes</p> <p>Temptation Resort Spa 7 nts all inclusive departing Montreal June 19th 2011 is currently just \$1009 taxes included</p> <p>Sea Adventure and Waterpark Resort 7 nts all inclusive departing Toronto June 12th 2011 is currently just \$999 + \$343 taxes</p> <p>Sea Adventure and Waterpark Resort 7 nts all inclusive departing Montreal June 22nd 2011 is currently just \$1319 taxes included</p>

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