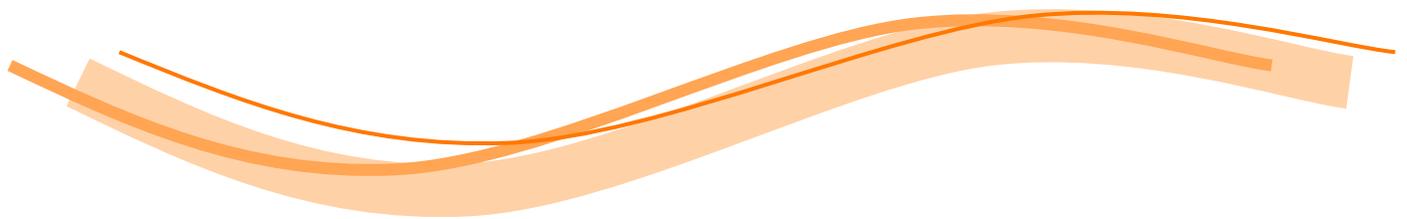




CANCUN, MEXICO OASIS RESORTS & NOLITOURS





CANCUN

Note: these Travel Notes are arranged in three sections –

1. Cancun, the destination
2. Oasis Resorts
3. Nolitours in Cancun

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Cancun you have a varied choice of cuisine, with everything from downtown traditional Mexican restaurants to ultra-chic bistros. Cancun's Hotel Zone is renowned for its nightlife, boasting some of the best

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	nightclubs in the world, playing everything from salsa to disco to R & B and live music venues. And there is a wide choice of shopping venues from the Mercado 28 - a handicrafts market - to the super modern shopping mall, Plaza Las Americas.
Location	Cancún is a coastal city in Mexico's easternmost state, Quintana Roo, on the Yucatán Peninsula. Cancún is located on the Yucatan Channel 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	Over half a million people call Cancun home.
Language	The official language spoken in Cancun is Spanish. Most of the Mexicans working in the tourism industry speak English and you will find that French, Italian and German are also spoken by some. Many of the local indigenous people still speak Mayan as their first language and Spanish as their second, you will often hear them speaking Mayan amongst themselves.
Currency	The official currency in Cancun is the Mexican peso but American dollars are also widely accepted. Banks are open Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm but there are exchange houses found all over Cancun that are open much later. Currently \$1 CDN = 13.3 Mexican pesos (as at 27 April 2012)
Tipping	The average tip for service is 10-15% and one or two dollars per suitcase carried. Always check your bill first as tips may already be included.
Government	Democracy
Documentation	Passports are required but no Visa is necessary for Canadians.
Time zone	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.

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	29 Centigrade and mostly sunny (28 April 2012)
Best time to visit	Canada's cold winter months offer an obvious inducement to travel

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	then, but Cancun is very much a year-round destination and there are direct flights throughout the year.
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GETTING THERE	
Flying time	<p>Cancun is less than four flying time from Montreal and Toronto on the many direct flights with most major Canadian tour operators. Cancun Airport handles the second largest volume of traffic in Mexico therefore the security levels are very high. Since they have built the new terminal, Cancun airport can boast great modern facilities and equipment. There are some fabulous duty free shops and gift shops selling silver jewellery and souvenirs so you can always buy that last minute present for your loved ones.</p> <p>Cancun International Airport is located 12km from downtown Cancun and 20 km southwest from the heart of the hotel zone.</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.</p>
Cities	<p>Cancun is a city destination in itself!</p> <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>
Distances	<p>Cancún – Tulúm130 km Cancún – Cobá167 km Cancún – Chichén Itza193 km Cancún – Puerto Morelos ...32 km Cancún – Xcaret72 km Cancún – Xel-Há124 km</p>
Ferries	<p>Isla Mujeres is located 6 km off the coast to the northwest of Cancun. It is very easy to go and visit on your own or to plan a full day tour to enjoy the island.</p>

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	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
Car Rental	Car rental is available easily in Cancun and the airport with all the international car rental companies and a number of local operators as well.
Buses	Cancun is very easy for tourist to navigate. The bus system is reliable and inexpensive; one ride costs about 6.5 pesos. There are many buses serving the Cancun area, they stop only at bus stops every 5 minutes. Buses only accept pesos, they don't accept dollars so be prepared with some Mexican pesos. Buses generally operate between 6:00 am and midnight. From the Cancun bus terminal in downtown Cancun you will find regular services to all parts of Mexico

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	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: http://cancun.travel/accommodations/?location=hotel-zone Particularly recommended are the Oasis resorts – see the following section for more details.
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TARGET GROUPS	
Kids	<p>Swim with Dolphins in Cancun Swimming with Dolphins in Cancun is an opportunity not to be missed. Children as young as 3 can enjoy meeting the dolphins and interacting with them. There are many places in and around Cancun that specialise in swimming with dolphins.</p> <p>The natural park Garrafón, is located in Isla Mujeres and you'll be surprised with its natural beauties and fascinating adventures, in and out of water. Garrafón is a tropical paradise only 25min away from Cancun, on boat.</p>
Teens	<p>Xplor Xplor is a unique underground world, with four activities that invite you to Xplor and rediscover your emotions and senses immersed in nature. This unique place is found in the heart of the Riviera Maya on the highway to one side of Xcaret. Xplor offers you the chance to dive deep into the entrails of the Earth in way that would previously have 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</p>

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	<p>vehicle that can travel equally on water and underground and also through the intricate paths filled with thick foliage.</p> <p>Selvatica: the adventure kingdom is strategically located in between Cancun and Playa del Carmen (only 30 minutes away from either town). With over 330 acres of jungle, their 3 high-rope circuits including the “Aventura” zipline circuit (11 cables), plus its brand new “Extremo” course (12 ziplines), and America’s first A.C.C.T. fully certified Aerial Trek (high ropes course with over 20 elements), Selvatica offers adventures for everyone, from 6 to 96 year olds.</p>
Romance	Cancun has always been a magnet for romantic couples looking for a tropical beach destination with great nightlife and first class resorts.
Honeymoons & Weddings	<p>Getting married in Cancun will surely be a one of a kind celebration in one of the most romantic locations in the world. Turquoise waters and powdery white sand teamed with year-round beautiful weather make it an unbeatable venue for your special day. Cancun is also a fantastic place to enjoy your honeymoon or anniversary or even just for a romantic getaway. There are certain legal requirements if you are citizens from outside countries wishing to get married in Cancun –these can be found on the Cancun website at:</p> <p>http://cancun.travel/en/things-to-do/weddings/legal-requirements</p> <p>There are also a number of wedding consultants in Cancun and many of the resorts have their own wedding staff on hand to assist your planning.</p>
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	
Surprising	<p>There are some (relatively) small Mayan vestiges of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization right in Cancún.</p> <p>El Rey (Las Ruinas del Rey) is located in the Hotel Zone.</p> <p>El Meco, a more substantial site, is found on the mainland just outside the city limits on the road to Punta Sam.</p>
History	<p>Four decades ago, Cancún was a deserted island and few even knew of its existence. Located in a nearly forgotten region of the Caribbean, it consisted of a series of sand dunes in the shape of a number “7” -some parts of which were only 20 meters wide- separated from the mainland by two narrow canals that opened out on to a huge lagoon system.</p> <p>The coast was comprised of marshes, mangroves, virgin jungle and 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.</p>

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

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

The basic Master Plan called for three items:

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

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

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

The same year, Quintana Roo was granted statehood and the Cancún project (under the Isla Mujeres district government) became part of Benito Juarez district.

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	<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>
<p>Books</p>	<p>Frommer's Cancun, Cozumel & the Yucatan 2012 Also Maya 2012 is a useful handbook from Moon Publications.</p>
<p>1000 Places to see before you die</p>	<p>Chichen Itza – the most famous and perhaps most spectacular of Mexico's Mayan ruins is about 2.5 hours drive from Cancun and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p>This sacred site was one of the greatest Mayan centres of the Yucatán peninsula. Throughout its nearly 1,000-year history, different peoples have left their mark on the city. The Maya and Toltec vision of the world and the universe is revealed in their stone monuments and artistic works. The fusion of Mayan construction techniques with new elements from central Mexico makes Chichen-Itza one of the most important examples of the Mayan-Toltec civilization in Yucatán. Several buildings have survived, such as the Warriors' Temple, El Castillo and the circular observatory known as El Caracol.</p> <p>Chichen Itza was a centre of pilgrimage for the ancient Maya for over 1,000 years. The Sacred Cenote (a large natural well or limestone sink hole) was holy to the ancient Rain God "Chac".</p> <p>About 987 the ruler of the Toltec people of central Mexico came here, and with his Maya allies made Chichen Itza the most powerful city in the Yucatan. The ruler called himself "Kukulcan", the name of the Mesoamerican Feathered Serpent deity (also known as "Quetzalcoatl") and Chichen Itza became a center for worship of that god as well. More buildings were built here in a mixture of Maya and Toltec styles.</p> <p>About 1221 the Maya revolted against the rulers of Chichen Itza. The city was not abandoned, but as political power shifted elsewhere it declined and no major new buildings were constructed. Chichen Itza remained a place of pilgrimage for the Maya until it was conquered by the Spanish Conquistadors in the 16th century.</p> <p>The structures of Chichen Itza were overgrown with jungle and slowly decayed until major archaeological projects began in the 1920s. Since then, more of the ancient structures have been cleared and restored. Bring comfortable shoes as this is a big site to explore and also a wide brimmed hat for shade in the midday sun. Also consider hiring a local guide at the site – they are not expensive and are very knowledgeable and friendly.</p>

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Must Sees	The powdery white sand beach in Cancun is the reason this destination exists and it remains the most blissful part of any Cancun vacation.
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SPORTS ACTIVITIES	
Golf	<p>Cancun golf courses are every golfers dream! Aside from the fact that they are in the most beautiful settings imaginable, the golf courses in Cancun and Riviera Maya meet the highest standards set by professional golf tournaments and expert golfers. Magical scenery and great weather have attracted world renowned golf course designers to create some of their masterpiece golf courses in Cancun and the Riviera Maya offering some of the most competitive golf courses in the world.</p> <p>Cancun golf course designs have come from some of the game's greatest names, including: Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones, Jr., Robert Von Hagge, Isao Aoki, Greg Norman and P.B. Dye. New courses now under construction feature designs by Tom Weiskopf, Tom Fazio and Nick Price.</p> <p>The golf courses in Cancun and the Riviera Maya feature challenging fairways that present players with distinctive curves and gentle hills, all framed by colorful tropical vegetation. Some are even built around ancient Mayan temples. From tee to green, views of the Caribbean's turquoise waters and pure white beaches stretch out in the distance with an abundance of wildlife in view.</p> <p>Cancun Golf Club at Pok Ta Pok - Robert Trent Jones Jr Cancun Golf Club at Pok Ta Pok, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. in 1976, is considered a leader in golf in this region. Those who visit Cancun know that playing a round of golf on this course is a must.</p> <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 Nicklaus Signature Golf Course Moon Spa & Golf Club is one of the Nicklaus Signature Golf Courses in Cancun and the Riviera Maya and was designed with a unique concept of environmental conservation. It is surrounded by a beautiful landscape, natural mangroves and exotic animals. This 27-hole course will be an unforgettable experience.</p> <p>Riviera Cancun – Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course</p>

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

Mayan Palace Riviera Maya – Jack Nicklaus

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

Cozumel Country Club – Jack Nicklaus

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

El Camaleon Mayakoba – Greg Norman

El Camaleon Mayakoba designed by Greg Norman stretches from the jungle to the mangroves and on to the most beautiful ocean views. El Camaleon Mayakoba is the first golf course in Mexico to be chosen by the PGA. They have now held the PGA Tour both in 2007 and 2008, and have committed to carry out the PGA event during the third week of February for the next six years!

Playacar Spa & Golf Club – Robert Van Hagge

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

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.

Cancun Country Club

Cancun Country Club will consist of two 18-hole courses – one designed by Tom Fazio, considered to be one of the world's great golf

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	design architects and one by Nick Price. The Grand Opening will be during Winter 2008/2009.
Fishing	<p>There are fantastic opportunities for fishing in Cancun. The amazing fish found here are due to the nutrient-rich waters found in the reefs in and around Cancun. You can commission private and group charters and they will provide you with all you need such as rods, tackle, bait, licenses and lunch. A special license is required for fishing in Mexico so make sure when you book your tour that this is included in the price.</p> <p>Cancun Sportfishing Cancun is one of the best sport fishing hotspots in the world... Sport fishing in Cancun is on a 'catch and release' basis and goes in seasons. From February to April the top catches are kingfish, barracuda, small shark, grouper and blue marlin. From April to August you will find blue marlin, sailfish, tuna and mahi-mahi. Then from September to February catches include barracuda, snapper and mackerel. Book a sport fishing excursion and you are guaranteed an exhilarating day out!</p> <p>Fly fishing in Cancun The lagoon system around Cancun offers the angler all year round opportunities to catch and release a great variety of species such as tarpon, bonefish, barracuda, sea trout, and red snapper. Fly fishing can be done in the sea, lakes, lagoons or rivers and is done in shallow, clear waters using artificial bait called a fly. You can book fly fishing lessons with one of the many tour operators.</p>
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</p>

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	<p>the sunrise to begin your private sailing adventure and choose where you want to go. You can discover some of the most beautiful islands in the Mexican Caribbean, snorkel in the reefs, fish for big game in the crystalline turquoise water, or just choose to spend a romantic sunset sail with a loved one or friends.</p> <p>There are many private charter companies in and around Cancun that will provide you with a choice of day trips, or you can tailor make your trip to take you where you would like to go. You can charter anything from 95ft luxury yachts that hold up to 100 people, for weddings or special events, to fishing yachts for a day of sport fishing with friends, or a private yacht or catamaran for the number of days you choose.</p> <p>When you charter a private sailboat or catamaran most tour operators will provide you with a captain and crew, refreshments and beers, meals onboard and snorkeling and fishing equipment. All you need to do is turn up with a hat and sunscreen and be prepared for a fantastic time!</p>
Diving	<p>Cancun offers an unimaginable world of underwater beauty and is one of the best places in the world for scuba diving. Cancun scuba diving is famous because of its shallow reefs alive with the dazzling colours of fish and coral.</p> <p>Scuba diving in Cancun is so popular because of the Great Mesoamerican Reef (the Gran Arrecife Maya). This is the largest reef in the Western Hemisphere and the second largest coral reef in the world. The Great Mesoamerican Reef stretches from Punta Nizuc, which it at the tip of the Cancun Hotel Zone, all the way to the Bay of Islands in Honduras. Cancun’s coastline is home to nearly 100 coral species, 350 molluscs and 164 species of reef dwelling fish. Cancun is also the home to the hawksbill sea turtle, crocodiles, lemon sharks and manatees.</p> <p>There are many fascinating scuba diving venues in Cancun for both the novice as well as the more experienced diver. You have a choice of open water diving along the reef and there are also several sunken boats to add to the adventure. If you go inland along the Cancun – Tulum corridor you will find many caverns and cenotes, also known as “sink holes”.</p>

CULTURE	<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>
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Mayan Architecture

Mayan architecture spans many thousands of years. The most dramatic and easily recognizable are the fantastic stepped pyramids in places such as Chichen Itza and Coba to name but a few. 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.

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 the best documented and most completely understood of all the Mesoamerican calendars

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.

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.

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.

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.

To visit some of these sites and experience the beauty of the Mayan

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	<p>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>
Arts	<p>Museo del INAH Next to the Cancun Convention Center phone: +52 998 883 3671 It's not just fun at the beaches and Cancún's shops but in fact, the city is full of areas of cultural interest for those who like exhibitions or are 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>
Music	<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>
Museums	<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</p>

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	<p>resort area of Cancún. Here you can appreciate the vestiges of one of the most interesting and complete civilizations of America: The Mayans. These ruins are a window into the history of Mexico and are Cancún's largest archaeological site. This was an ancient city that had its splendor between the years 1250 and 1521 AD. Tours can be arranged through Cancún hotels and travel agencies. You'll hear an explanation of the structures and their historical significance in English.</p> <p>Underwater Museum: 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>Day of the Dead - El Dia de Los Muertos Month: November Early each November Mexican's the width and breadth of the country pack a hamper and head to the cemetery to celebrate el dia de los muertos, the day of the dead. And yes, I said celebrate. Far from being a sombre affair, day of the dead festivities are round-the-clock celebrations of the lives of those family members that have passed before them. Families gather, food is shared, tequila is downed, cigars are smoked - as far as Mexican celebrations go, it doesn't get much bigger.</p> <p>Cancun International Film Festival Month: November http://www.cancunfilmfest.com.mx</p>

<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</p>

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	<p>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 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 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 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 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>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>There is a plethora of beautiful nature reserves and protected areas you can visit near Cancun. You will get the opportunity to observe monkeys,</p>

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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.

Cozumel Reef National Park

In 1996, an 11,988-hectare area of sea and coral reefs was declared the Cozumel Reef National Park. Cozumel is the Caribbean's premier dive spot with 85% of the region's dive sites. Isla Mujeres West Coast, Punta Cancun and Punta Nizuc National Park. It covers 8,673 hectares of reefs that are part of the Mesoamerican Reef System. The estimated age of the base coral is 125,000 years and the reef consists of a chain of coral formations of varying sizes. The park protects a triangle of reefs off the west coast of Isla Mujeres, Punta Cancún and Punta Nizuc.

Isla Contoy National Park

The island, covering 5,126 sq. hectares, 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 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).

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	<p>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 ecosystems found in the Yucatán Peninsula and the Caribbean, where both Mesoamerican and Antillean species flourish. The barrier reef extends for some 120 kilometers and covers approximately 15,000 hectares.</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>

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	<p>Kukulcan Plaza & Luxury Avenue Kukulcan Plaza & Luxury Avenue are adjacent to each other in the Hotel Zone. Between them they boast more than 250 shops and boutiques in exclusive and luxurious surroundings including world famous brands such as Louis Vuitton and Cartier. There are many specialty restaurants, bars and cafes and even a bowling alley if you are looking for something fun to do.</p> <p>Plaza Caracol Plaza Caracol is situated just north of the Cancun Convention Center. There are over 200 shops and boutiques where you will find everything from Ralph Lauren and Sunglass Island to chic perfumeries such as Ultrafemme to souvenir and silver jewellery stores. There is also a great choice of restaurants and cafes if you need to take a rest from shopping in Cancun.</p> <p>Plaza Las Americas Plaza Las Americas is found in downtown Cancun. There are three large department stores as well as more than 50 stores – fashion shops – bookstores – sportswear – just about everything you might need. There are also two fantastic cinemas here showing movies in English and Spanish as well as a choice of restaurants.</p>
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.</p>

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	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.
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 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>

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

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

MORE INFO	
Websites	<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 fun-filled Caribbean vacation of a lifetime.</p> <p>www.nolitours.com : this will provide you with a wide range of resorts in Cancun and check out their last-minute deals too</p> <p>www.oasishotels.com for the all inclusive resorts from this well-respected hotel group.</p>

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES	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.
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OASIS RESORTS	<p>Nolitours offer frequent flights and packages that include five Oasis Resorts, in the heart of Cancun's hotel zone. From the three star Oasis Cancun to the upscale 4 ½ star Sens del Mar they all enjoy a great location, close to Cancun's restaurants, nightclubs and shopping.</p> <p>Oasis Hotels & Resorts is redefining the all-inclusive resort experience</p>
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	<p>in Cancun, providing travelers with more inclusions for one all-inclusive price, including more entertainment, food and beverage, and activities options than ever before. Oasis Resorts are "Where Fun Happens." All Oasis properties offer unlimited golf at the nine hole Oasis Cancun golf course. All offer à la carte lunch as well as dinner. All allow you to add variety by sharing the facilities of some of the other Oasis Resorts. And all have kids' free offers to make a family vacation that bit more affordable.</p> <p>Website: http://www.oasishotels.com</p>
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<p>NEWTALK 1010 HOTEL PRIZE PARTNER – SENS DEL MAR</p>	<p>Sens del Mar (also known as Oasis Sens and formerly the Grand Oasis Playa) This lively hotel offers 388 rooms. There are 3 à la carte restaurants (Brazilian Steakhouse, Mexican and Italian), a Sushi Bar and a Piano Bar. There is a daytime activities program, water sports, tennis courts and a gym. The hotel has evening entertainment (twice/week), and a disco.</p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>In the Cancun area, approximately 20 km from downtown and 14 km from the Cancun airport.</p>
<p>Facilities</p>	<p>Gym Transportation to Oasis Marina, Oasis Golf Course and other Oasis / Grand Oasis resorts (\$) Spa (\$) Internet (\$) Wedding package (\$) Free honeymoon package Room service from 6 am – 11 pm 24-hour snacks Unlimited domestic and selected international drinks (house wine inc) Mini-bar (water, soft drinks and beer) Admission to the disco (drinks included)</p>
<p>Accommodation</p>	<p>Sunset Room: air-conditioning, 1 king-size or 2 double beds, full bathroom, hairdryer, flat screen TV, in-room safe (\$), some rooms with balcony or terrace, maximum occupancy 3 persons Ocean View Room: same as above but with ocean view VIP Club Room: same as above but with muted color scheme with mood lighting, 42" HD Plasma TV, new Bath design and amenities, 1 king-size bed with pillow-top mattress, extended balcony or terrace with oversized whirlpool VIP CLUB ROOM INCLUSIONS Private VIP Lounge for check-in & check-out with exclusive concierge Use of special Smart Car (\$30 per day, insurance to be paid on site) Free internet access and in room safe Upgraded mini-bar and room service menu</p>

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	<p>20% discount on non medical spa services</p> <p>VIP SENS amenities</p> <p>Complimentary in-room welcome gift</p>
Activities	<p>Unlimited golf at the Oasis Cancun 9-hole golf course (transportation not included)</p> <p>Tennis</p> <p>Daily activities program</p> <p>Evening entertainment (twice/week)</p> <p>Selected non-motorized water sports (available at the Oasis Marina)</p> <p>Access to all services and facilities at the other Grand Oasis and Oasis resorts</p>
Restaurants	<p>Restaurants include 3 à la carte (Gourmet, Steakhouse, Mexican and Italian) a snack bar and a Sushi bar.</p>

CJAD 800 HOTEL PRIZE PARTNER – GRAND OASIS CARIBBEAN RESORT	<p>Grand Oasis Caribbean Resort (also known as Grand Oasis Palm)</p> <p>This hotel offers 345 rooms in two 9-story buildings. There are 3 à la carte restaurants (Mexican Seafood, Mexican Cantina and Mexican Fonda (handmade cuisine)), a Snack bar and a Sushi bar. Daily activities include snorkelling, volleyball, tennis, aerobics and there is a gym. You can also take dance lessons and Spanish lessons. For the kids there is a Kids' Club (ages 4 to 7) a children's pool and water slides.</p>
Location	<p>Beachfront in the Cancun area and 20 km from the Cancun airport. It's also beside the El Embarcadero (the pier for daily departures for Isla Mujeres excursions).</p>
Facilities	<p>Pools and swim-up bar</p> <p>Spa</p> <p>Gift shops (\$)</p> <p>Internet (\$)</p> <p>Access to all services and facilities at the Oasis and Grand Oasis resorts in Cancun</p> <p>Wedding package (\$) and free honeymoon package</p> <p>Free usage of a Smart vehicle: get access to this fun and environmentally friendly vehicle to drive around Cancun and enjoy a shopping and touring outing. Daily mandatory insurance coverage to be paid on site. Contact the concierge department to secure a vehicle. Promotion subject to availability. Effective to May 31, 2012.</p>
Accommodation	<p>This upscale beachfront property offers 365 rooms in two 9-storey buildings.</p> <p>Hotel Room: air-conditioning, 1 king-size or 2 double beds, full bathroom, hairdryer, flat screen TV, mini-bar, in-room safe (\$), maximum occupancy 3 adults (or 2 adults and 3 children or 3 adults and 2 children)</p> <p>Lagoon View Room and Ocean View Room also available</p>

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Activities	Unlimited golf at the Oasis Cancun 9-hole golf course (mandatory golf cart (\$), transportation not included) Daily activities program Evening entertainment (2 nights/week) Snorkelling Volleyball Tennis Gym Aerobics Dance lessons and Spanish lessons
Children	Two children under 13 stay and eat free and a third child pays child rate Kids' Club (ages 4 to 7) Children's pool and water slides Babysitting (\$)
Restaurants	Restaurants include 3 à la carte (Mexican Seafood, Mexican Cantina and Mexican Fonda (handmade cuisine) 24-hour snacks Unlimited domestic and selected international drinks (house wine incl) Snack bar and Sushi bar
Mexican Culture	Experience Mexican culture at this resort: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Permanent Mexican Art Exhibits •Savour a delicious handmade tortilla with real corn with Mexican sauces and avocado •Mexican Handicraft Exhibit •The World of Mexican Chile Peppers •Mexican Cuisine Courses •Tequila & Mezcale tastings •Weekly tasting of typical Mexican food such as: Nogada, Mole, Huauzontles, and much more •Mexican Folklore exhibits & performances to reflect the essence of the people throughout Mexico •Mexican Wine Tastings •Mexican Plays •Mexican tales for children •Mexican Fruits: Exhibit and tasting •Mexican Herbs & species exhibit
NOLITOURS VACATIONS WITH OASIS RESORTS IN CANCUN	Nolitours offer frequent flights and packages to Cancun that include five Oasis Resorts, in the heart of Cancun's hotel zone. From the three star Oasis Cancun to the upscale 4 ½ star Sens del Mar they all enjoy a great location, close to Cancun's restaurants, nightclubs and shopping See www.nolitours.com .

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<p>Transat Background</p>	<p>Nolitours is a part of Transat A.T. Inc., an integrated international tour operator with more than 60 destination countries and that distributes products in over 50 countries. A holiday travel specialist, Transat operates mainly in Canada and Europe, as well as in the Caribbean, Mexico and the Mediterranean Basin. Montreal-based Transat is also active in air transportation, destination services and distribution. (TSX: TRZ.B, TRZ.A)</p> <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>Year-round, Transat Holidays provides its customers across Canada with a full range of holiday products. It offers sun vacations, with a choice of more than 140 hotels, mainly in the Caribbean, Mexico and Florida, along with an impressive array of flights, packages and tours to some 30 European destinations. Transat Holidays also offers more than 100 cruises all around the world.</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 2012). Website: http://www.transat.com/en</p>
<p>Mission</p>	<p>Nolitours and 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.</p>
<p>Products</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>2012: Transat's 25th Anniversary</p>	<p>In 2012, Transat is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a silver lining, giving travellers a reason to celebrate! Like their Family Fiesta promotion... Book your next family vacations now for a departure between May 1 and October 31 2012 at one of Nolitours' selected hotels, and your kid will either travel for free or for</p>

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	<p>only \$99 - but you need to book before April 30th, 2012.</p> <p>Smallprint: <i>Booking dates for Ontario and West: Kids Fly & Stay Free from May 1 – June 25 and Aug 28 – Oct 31. Kids Fly & Stay For \$99 from June 26 – Aug 27. Booking dates for the province of Quebec: Kids Fly & Stay Free from May 1 – June 19 and Aug 25 – Oct 31. Kids Fly & Stay For \$99 from June 20 – Aug 24.</i></p> <p><i>Terms and conditions: Valid on sun vacation packages for a minimum of 7 night duration at select resorts. Valid on all sun destinations with the exception of Florida, Panama, Port-au-Prince and Cayo Largo. Applicable to 1 child per 2 paying adults staying in the same room; additional children pay applicable child rate. Child age eligibility varies by hotel. Promotion is capacity controlled and is subject to availability at time of booking. Subject to change withdrawal without notice. Not combinable with any other offer. Valid on new bookings made between April 12 & 30 only. Child pays taxes and fees (ATSC, airport fees, insurance, fuel surcharges, GST, PST). Not valid on groups or cruises.</i></p>
<p>Weddings and Honeymoons</p>	<p>Transat has noticed that a growing number of couples are choosing destination weddings, either on a beach, in Europe or on a cruise, over traditional weddings. They see it as a way of avoiding an endless list of decisions and escalating costs.</p> <p>The Transat Holidays Wedding Collection offers the highest standards in destination weddings at an affordable price.</p> <p>The Transat Vows</p> <p>Transat Holidays has been helping couples enjoy their dream destination weddings and honeymoons for nearly 25 years. These wedding experts have designed three outstanding wedding packages to fit every couple’s unique tastes and needs – Joy, Bliss and Euphoria – and made them available at their most stunning resorts. Each one has been created with its own exclusive components to offer the best service to future newlyweds and their guests, from flights, accommodation, food and beverages to the wedding coordination. The result is a worry-free destination wedding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transat promise to use their experience in destination weddings to help you create the special day you’ve always dreamed about. - They provide more than 16 exotic destinations, the greatest choice of options and a vast selection of turn-key wedding packages at more than 54 resorts, so that you can choose the perfect setting for your wedding. - And they simplify your plans by offering a no deposit wedding: Transat will book and hold space for your wedding party and guests for up to 90 days without a deposit. In the event a price drops below your group contract rate, they promise to honour the lower price. <p>Honeymoon Delight</p> <p>After the wedding, nothing spells romance like a honeymoon in an idyllic</p>

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	vacation spot. That's why the experts at Transat Holidays are also pleased to help newlyweds start their adventure together by offering a wide selection of honeymoon destinations. With private airport transfers and breakfast in bed, Transat Holidays' honeymoon packages are designed with lovebirds in mind.
Air Transat Upgrades	Air Transat has added more legroom on all their aircraft, making the journey to and from your destination even more comfortable. They have also introduced a new Economy Class meal service on sun destination flights. 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 ranked number one for three years in a row 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	Nolitours Sun brochures are available at your local travel agent.
Air Transat Kids Club	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. 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.
Transat Club Class	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. Club Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated Club attendants • Attentive, personalized service • Exclusive, spacious Club cabin Drinks & Snacks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome cocktails • Complimentary non-alcoholic drinks, snacks and bar service

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	<p>Club Privileges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased baggage allowance • 40 kg checked/15 kg carry-on • Exclusive, rapid check-in counter in most airports • Priority boarding • Practical travel items (on Europe flights) • Free headsets • Canadian newspapers <p>Comfort & Refinement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider, more comfortable leather seats • More leg room • Complimentary Seat Selection: call 1-877-872-6728 • Choice of gourmet meals • Choice of wine and more
<p>Option Plus</p>	<p>This Economy class option includes many priority privileges and services including priority check-in, priority baggage handling, an extra 10kg baggage allowance and even champagne. Here's what you get:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance seat selection on roundtrip flights • Priority check-in at a dedicated counter • Priority baggage handling • Priority boarding • Complete Air Transat travel kit on flights to European destinations • Snacks from the On Board Bistro selection • Alcoholic beverages during drinks service 200ml bottle of champagne (Sun and Europe) • Supplementary baggage allowance up to 10 kg per flight segment** • Wine or beer with the meal • Headsets <p>The cost is \$79-\$119 for southbound destinations and \$99-\$209 for European destinations as at April 2012</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</p>

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	<p>have implemented concrete initiatives with regard to recycling, conservation of resources, the disposal of obsolete electronic equipment, and raising employee awareness. Air Transat has begun developing an environmental management system that could lead to an ISO 14001 certification in the future. To find out more, consult the Transat and the Environment sections at their website: http://www.airtransat.ca/en/Info/the-environment-its-everyones-business.aspx?ExitID=69&ContentType=voyageur</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. 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. To order your gift certificates call 1-800-322-6649.</p>
<p>2012 Hurricane Policy</p>	<p>Nolitours and Transat Holidays provide you with true peace of mind. Vacationers can now travel secure in the knowledge that they will be protected should a hurricane affect their destination city in Florida, Mexico, the Caribbean or Central America. This Nolitours/Transat Holidays policy covers reservations for departures between June 1 and November 30, 2011 inclusive. If the conditions stipulated in the policy are met, clients may choose one of the four options listed below:</p> <p>1. Travel at a later date Travellers who choose to travel at a later date can do so at no additional cost. Travel must be completed on or before December. The dept day, destination city, hotel and room category must remain the same.</p> <p>2. Travel to another destination city Travellers who choose to travel to another destination can do so by selecting another Nolitours/Transat Holidays destination that is not at risk of a hurricane. Travel must take place within four weeks of the original departure date. If the package price is higher than the original booking, the traveller will be responsible for paying the difference.</p> <p>3. Travel to the booked destination city Travellers who want to travel to their initially booked destination may do so, provided Nolitours or Transat Holidays still serves that destination city on the scheduled departure date. No refund will be issued if this option is taken.</p> <p>4. Cancel with a full refund Travellers who choose not to travel may cancel with a full refund (excluding travel insurance premiums already paid).</p>

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Nolitours Excursions in Cancun	<p>Whilst staying in Cancun you can purchase a number of excursions to see more of the country in Nolitours style:</p> <p>CHICHEN ITZA Tour the capital of the Mayan Empire, one of the richest ancient cultures in the world. Built in 600 A.D., it was one of the most important ceremonial and religious centres in America. Test the acoustics in the ball court and see the well-preserved artifacts.</p> <p>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> <p>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.</p>
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ISLA MUJERES TOUR

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

JUNGLE TOUR

Enjoy one of Transat's 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.

JUNGLE MAYA

Discover the world's longest underground river, before snorkelling in the Nohoch Nah Chiich cavern. Then ride through the rain forest in an all-terrain Mercedes Benz Unimogs to Yaxmuul, a unique natural pool. At Kantenah Natural Reserve go rappelling down a beautiful cenote and zip line over jungle foliage. Then, participate in a traditional Mayan purification ceremony.

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Cancun Flights	Nolitours has flights to Cancun with its sister company Air Transat throughout the summer of 2012: Toronto: Saturday and Sunday Montreal: Tues, Weds, Fri, Sat, Sun
Nolitours Deals May 2012	Nolitours have some great deals to the Oasis hotels in Cancun for May 2012 – take a look at these examples: Oasis Sens , Cancun: 4.5 stars, departing May 27 2012 from Toronto 7 nights all inclusive, cost \$727 + \$345 taxes Grand Oasis Palm , Cancun: 4 stars, departing 29 May 2012 from Montreal 7 nights all inclusive, cost \$1269 including taxes

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