

MEXICO

Playa del Carmen

March 2007

**9 days (7 nights)
from Milan and Rome airport**



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Playa del Carmen

Once a fishing village, there are now 2 new resorts situated at less than an hour from the south of Cancun by car and at a distance of approximately 2 km from each other. The area includes excellent hotel facilities, and the opportunity to visit archaeological places such as Chichen Itza, Tulum and the ecological park of Xcaret.



Club Hotel Riu Tequila



Situated near a golf course, this resort is renowned for quality of service. All Inclusive treatment: two theme dinners a week; and the possibility to use all the facilities of the other hotels Riu di Playa del Carmen (except for Riu Palace Mexico). A wide range of sports and recreational activities, included in the price; very good facilities for families, thanks to the miniclub and the 18 holes golf course (fee payable). The hotel, built in Mexican/Caribbean style, is only 3 km away from the village of Playa del Carmen and is about 400m from the long beach (free shuttle). The main building includes a restaurant and a bar, and it is possible to reach the rest of the complex, through a beautiful garden, where the two-storey buildings, that accommodate the rooms, are located.

Rooms 664 rooms and suites, tastefully furnished, with private bathrooms, and balcony complete with telephone, satellite TV (Rai International), minibar, air-conditioning, ceiling fan, and safety-deposit box. Each room can accommodate 3 adults or 2 adults and 2 children.

Facilities beside the main restaurant "Jalisco", the hotel has 5 restaurants (one of which is on the beach), three bars, snack bar and a disco. In the "Calle Mexicana", a typical local street reconstruction, situated inside the hotel Riu Yucatan, you can find shops, a hairdresser, Internet point and gymnasium. The following credit cards are accepted: Visa, American Express and Mastercard.

Vacanzattiva There is a big swimming-pool with a reserved zone for children, hydromassage, gymnasium (at the Riu Yucatan), a "discovery" dive in the swimming-pool, 2 tennis-courts with artificial lighting, and snorkelling. At the neighbouring Riu Yucatan, it is also possible to sail, windsurf

and kayak; deck-chairs and towels are at your disposal, for the beach and the swimming-pool. There is organized day and evening entertainment for adults; in addition, there is a program for children (from 4 to 12 years) and also a games area is available for them. Aquatic water sports, a dive and a 18 hole golf-course (fee payable).

All Inclusive Fully inclusive with buffet meals; two theme dinners a week; subject to booking, "Grill Steakhouse" restaurant (Riu Palace Mexico); unlimited consumption of national and international drinks (including alcoholic ones) with meals and during the day until 2.00 a.m.; snacks during the day; safety deposit box and mini-bar in the entry room of the "The Piñata" disco; all expressly shown in the paragraph "Vacanzattiva".

Tutto Riu Guests of the Hotel Club Riu Tequila will be able to take advantage of all the bars and restaurants of the neighbouring Riu Yucatan and Riu Playacar, without any supplement. Only the evening meal must be consumed in their own hotel.



PROGRAMME

THE JOURNEY INCLUDES

- Flights from Milan Malpensa and Rome Fiumicino
- Exemption of 20 kg of luggage per person
- Transfers to and from the airport in Mexico
- Accommodation at the Club Hotel Riu Tequila in double rooms with private bathrooms
- All Inclusive
- Welcome cocktail upon arrival at the hotel
- Medical and luggage insurance
- Gala dinner
- Day trip to Chichen Itza (lunch included)
- Companion from Italy for the entire trip
- Tourist paper
- Mexican airport taxes

THE JOURNEY DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Tips and extra activities
- Everything not specified in "the journey includes"

First day ITALY - MEXICO

Guests meet at the airport at least 2 hours before the departure of the flight, near the New Condor reception office. Cocktails and snacks will be available on board. Upon arrival to Cancun there will be transport to the hotel. For the rest of the day there will be time to settle in.

From the second to seventh day MEXICO - Playa del Carmen

In this enchanted place, situated in the heart of the Caribbean, there is plenty to see and do. After breakfast, you will be free to explore... kilometers of white beaches, surrounded by typically tropical vegetation. Attractive crystalline waters reveal the secrets of the coralline sea-bed, with plenty of animal and plant life. For sports-lovers, there is a wide range of activities to choose, including golf, horse riding, surfing and sailing. Relaxing days on the warm sand or a swim in the pool... Ladies can go shopping in the street markets and at the small boutiques of the neighbouring Cancun. At the end of the day, dinner round the swimming pool or in characteristic restaurants, wait for you. During the stay, we will carry out the excursion to Chichen Itza, with an evening meal and greetings from the "CAEM" staff.

Eighth day MEXICO - ITALY

Breakfast in hotel. Last day, therefore transfer to the airport and departure for Italy. Dinner and overnight stay onboard.

Ninth day ARRIVAL IN ITALY

Breakfast aboard. Arrival in Italy in the late morning. End of the journey and warm good bye until the next vacation...



EXCURSIONS

CHICHEN ITZA (included in the terms/charges)

People particularly interested in Maya's archaeology and culture, cannot miss this excursion. Chichen Itza is about 3 hours from the coast, by bus. Shortly after entry into the archaeological area, you will see the Pyramid of Kukulcan also known as "El Castillo", whose 365 steps symbolize the days of the year. All around there are other impressive structures, in particular, the Warriors' Temple, with the Group of the Thousand Columns, and the Caracol, astronomic temple which is the shape of a snail. Not to miss the climb to the top of the pyramid of Kukulcan, from which it is possible to see from the high the various constructions hidden in the forest. Along the way, the central square of the colonial small town of Valladolid can be seen.



ISLAS CONTOY AND MUJERES

Declared an "ecological reserve" in 1961, this small island is not inhabited by humans, but 70 species of birds, some of which migrate here from the United States, during the winter period. It is possible that during the periods of migration, there are no visitors allowed to visit the island. The day continues with the visit to the animated Isla Mujeres, with free time to visit the graceful and colorful city centre close to the port.

Tulum and Xel-Ha

Only Mayan city is located close to the sea. Tulum is approximately an hour and a half from Playacar and also from Cancun. Tulum's attractions include the Castillo which is situated on a cape on the Caribbean Sea, whose turquoise waters serve as background to the archaeological beauties. After the visit of Tulum, a short visit to the Marine Park of Xel-Ha is foreseen, where visitors have the opportunity to go snorkelling and admire the many species of fish.

Ecological Park of Xcaret

In the neighbouring tourist district Playacar, there are numerous opportunities to have fun. Anciently, the Maya came to bathe in the sacred waters of this park because they were considered to be sacred and able to purify the body. Today, visitors can bathe in the crystalline waters which are populated by multicoloured fish, or they can rest on the beaches of the Caribbean Sea. Inside the park there is also a place where it is possible to bathe and swim with the dolphins.

Shopping in Cancun

A walk in the modern trade centres of the lively Cancun. The evening ends with a Mexican dinner, in a typical restaurant, accompanied by mariachi and folkloristic dances.



USEFUL INFORMATION

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS A valid passport is necessary and in line with the annual revenues stamps, together with a tourist paper that is delivered in airplane, that must be filled in and delivered at the entrance into Mexico. The office for the tourist promotion of Mexico is in Via Barberini No. 3, Rome, tel. 06/4872182, that one of the Guatemala is in avenue Prassilla No. 152, Rome, tel. 06/50916626. **VACCINATIONS** - Not compulsory but, for tropical countries, the anti-malarial prophylaxis is recommended. Drinking tap water is not recommended.

TIME DIFFERENCE In Mexico -7 hours.

CURRENCY The monetary unit of Mexico is the New Mexican Peso (symbolized with NP). 1 US dollar is worth approximately 9 pesos. In Guatemala, the monetary unit is the Quetzal, divisible in 100 centavos. 1 US dollar is worth approximately 8 Quetzals. Restrictions to the foreign currency import do not exist; for the change, US dollars are preferred. In the main stores and hotels, credit cards are accepted.

CLOTHES sportswear and comfortable clothes, above all for the excursions, comfortable shoes (with soles suitable for the excursions in the archaeological places). Suitable swimming clothes cap, sun glasses, sun cream, insect repellent cream, warm clothes for the evening. In the larger hotels, evening dress may be required.

KITCHEN the basic foods of the Mexican kitchen are: maize (cooked in very many ways, the most famous is the "tortilla", a kind of omelette), beans, "chilli" (a pungent sauce with the basis of hot peppers), together with rice, served with meat usually pork, beef, chicken and vegetables. Fish and crustaceans are also popular. Various and abundant tropical fruit and very good fruit juices. The more diffused alcoholic drink is the "pulque", extracted from a type of agave, just like "tequila". The local beer is good.

LANGUAGE Spanish is the official language but English is understood and spoken almost everywhere.

AIRPORT TAXES airport taxes must be paid on the spot; in Mexico, 21 US dollars for the international departures. Moreover, the payment of an entrance-fee of 28 euro per person, for passengers who go to Mexico.

WEATHER The weather is susceptible to change. It is tropical in the coastal zones, dry from October to May, more humid from May to September, with some rain. It is humid inland, until 2,000 meters, with fresh nights, while in the interior zones (in the North), to greater altitudes, lower temperatures are reached. The maximum temperatures, on the coast, goes up to 35 degrees.

TELEPHONE In order to call Italy from Mexico, it is necessary to dial the international code 0039, followed by the city code and the telephone number. Remember that telephone calls carried out from the hotels will be very expensive.

ELECTRIC CURRENT It is supplied at 110 volt, with thin plate sockets; a converter is necessary. Outside Europe few countries have adopted a normative on the systems comparable to the EEC normative, in terms of safety. As for the protection of the electrical indirect contacts, in many countries is not obligatory the installation of the "save-life" device; therefore, it is recommended to be careful in the use of the sockets, in the rooms and the bathrooms.

TIPS These are usual and appreciated. In restaurants, however, the service is included in the bill, tips are 15%.

TIMETABLES Banks are open from 9 to 13, from Monday to Friday; foreign exchange offices, in bigger cities, are opened on Saturday and Sunday too; stores are opened from 9 to 19.

SHOPPING Local handicraft offer numerous items, objects made of silver, hammocks, colourful blankets, embroidered cotton clothes, straw hat (panama hat), hard stone objects, obsidian, turquoise, malachite. Beautiful and colourful street markets, where bargaining is usual. It is forbidden to export antique objects and archaeological pieces.

PHOTOGRAPHY There is equipment available, but it is very expensive, so would be beneficial to take own films, batteries etc.