

# Sun always shining on Mexico hotspot

## Cancun blessed with flawless beaches and attractions

It’s a city synonymous with vacationing. It might as well come with the label “resort town.”

This is Cancun – a Mexican town best described as a beach with an island in the center. Once a place where Mayan emperors visited for rest and relaxation, it now is a destination where millions of travelers visit annually in search of the same results.

The cosmopolitan-resort town is perched on the limestone shelf of Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula and is one the most popular vacation spots in the world. Cancun breathes life into those eager to escape their daily grinds. Blue skies mesh with puffy clouds and a radiant sun to create the perfect get-away cocktail.

Luxury hotels populate the Hotel Zone, a seahorse-shaped oasis connected by a pair of causeways and flanked by the tranquil Nichupte Lagoon and the restless Caribbean Sea. People-watchers stroll the palm-fringed promenade that hugs the pure shoreline.

Cancun boasts 12 miles of beach that snuggle with turquoise waters and white sand. All are open to the public and make for a perfect walk. Guests can hike along the northern shore by the calming waters of Bahia de Mujeres or follow the Caribbean Sea on the eastern shore. Sand shares the appearance of talcum powder and doesn’t



**YES YOU CAN** – Luxurious resorts line the coast, waiting to entertain guests in Cancun. *Image: jdross75. Adobe Stock.*

burn feet thanks to its limestone composition that doesn’t absorb heat.

Cancun established its reputation as a resort town on the shoulders of Playa Ballenas, a magnificent white-sand beach. Boogie-boarders flock to Las Perlas, and Playa Tortugas is a popular public beach and a departure point to sleepy Isla Mujeres of Island

of Women.

One of the most idyllic spots in the Caribbean, Cancun is home to a turtle sanctuary, the remains of a notorious pirate’s lair and the Cave of the Sleeping Sharks. Vicious Tiger sharks lay motionless 65-feet below the surface, a phenomenon caused by the cave’s oxygen-rich water, which serves

as a narcotic on the soporific sharks.

Schools of dazzling blue neons hover around Cancun’s clear waters among the rocks and piers. The other-worldly Underwater Museum features more than 500 life-sized figures in two locations.

Bargain for authentic Mexican handicrafts, silver and Maya-inspired art and designer clothing. Most open-air markets are located in El Centro, the downtown area. Mercados on Tulum Avenue is an ideal place to hone your bargaining skills.

Cancun’s nightlife ranks among the best in the Caribbean. Visit a multitude of nightclubs, pubs and other establishments. See a show; perhaps Cirque du Soleil-style acrobats, celebrity impersonators or costumed dancers. The options seem endless.

Step away from the hustle and bustle and visit nearby Mayan archaeological sites, including El Ray that is located not far from the resort area. Chichen-Itza is about 120 miles southwest of the city and covers six-square miles. It’s dominated by the Kulkulkan step pyramid, which functions as a giant solar calendar. During equinox, sunlight sends an image of a serpent undulating down the temple walls.

Beaches, resorts and good times are associated with Cancun. It’s a trifecta that never disappoints.

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