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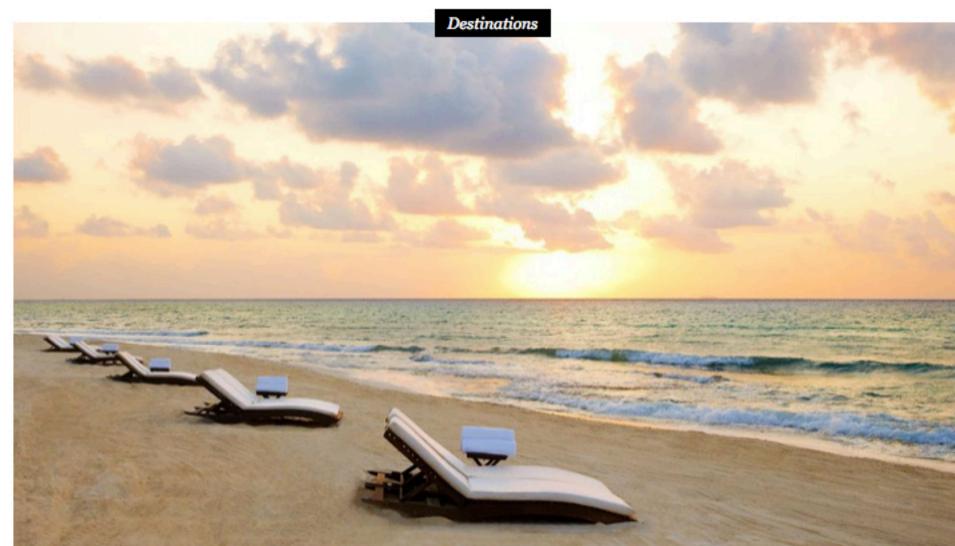
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## **MAYA**

ASHLEY LOEWEN, MARCH 2011



Pull up a lounger and relax, after all they don't call it spring break for nothing

With temperatures reaching the high 20s, and offering nearly 100 miles of beautiful white-sand beaches, no wonder the Riviera Maya is so popular for spring break.

This world-renowned paradise offers everything from mangroves and lagoons to ancient Mayan cities, ecological reserves and the world's second largest coral reef. The saying goes, what happens on spring break stays on spring break, right? But after staying at these resorts you will want to share your experiences with everyone you know.

### The Tides Riviera Maya

On the hunt for some seclusion? Indulge in pure luxury at The Tides. This resort refuge has a full service luxury spa, an award-winning restaurant and lounge featuring "Mayaterranean Cuisine", along with seven-miles of white-sand beach. Each villa at The Tides features over 1,000 square feet of secluded living space and an outdoor terrace complete with chaise lounge, dining table, handmade crochet hammock and outdoor shower. This resort has once been described as "a sexy, eco-conscious hideaway in the jungle". Now that sounds like the perfect break to me - spring or not.



### Esencia

Looking for some fun in the sun? Make your way to the 50-acre private estate called Esencia. Located along a mile long stretch of Mexico's best beach, Esencia is a quiet, seaside refuge in the Mayan Riviera - just 20 minutes south of Mayakoba and Playa del Carmen. Guest quarters are simple but elegant, featuring native hardwood furnishings, crisp white walls and floors, twelve-foot high ceilings, mahogany louvered doors and large windows that frame the tropical garden and extensive sea views. Now this doesn't sound like the usual Mexican all-inclusive resort to me - awesome.



### Wanting to be one with nature? Check out Banyan Tree Mayakoba. A harmonious blend of nature and luxury, this resort takes the

Banyan Tree Mayakoba

Caribbean lifestyle to new heights on Mexico's famous Riviera Maya coast. Tour the mangroves by boat with a two-hour session that includes bird watching and animal-spotting, shared intimate knowledge of the friendly creatures that include tortoises, iguanas and even a crocodile or two. After all that exploring make your way to your villa where you can enjoy luxuries such as 42" flat screen LCD TVs, hammocks for lounging and your own private pool. This is the sanctuary you have been dreaming of.



#### Set among verdant jungle beside a white, sandy beach, Maroma Resort and Spa is pure escapism with a touch of Mayan magic.

Spend lazy days frolicking in ocean or stroll through flower-filled gardens where parrots and butterflies cohabitate. Explore some of Mexico's great heritage sites, dive into mysterious underwater caves or shop 'til you drop in Cancun. Looking to splurge on your accommodations? Stay in the 'House of Heaven' Suite with ocean views, fitness area, private plunge pool, outdoor shower and spa palapa.



# waterways, the 45-acre Fairmont Mayakoba sits alongside the

Caribbean Sea in the heart of the Riviera Maya and approximately 42 miles south of Cancun. The resort has 401 elegant rooms scattered among the main building and casitas spread through 47 acres of indigenous jungle - each one offering guests an extraordinary and memorable view. Want to experience the area in a different way? Check out Xel-Ha, an ecological park and archaeological area with turtle and dolphin sanctuaries (among other things) and it's only 50 minutes drive away from the resort.



Sign Up



Mexico, Playa del Carmen Nightly Rate: USD 390 (CAD 380)

by Orient-Express

Maroma Resort and Spa



Mexico, Xpu-Ha Nightly Rate: USD 424 (CAD 413)



Banyan Tree Mayakoba Mexico, Playa del Carmen Nightly Rate:

USD 484 (CAD 472)

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