What's New in Mexico?

New hotels and amenities add to the appeal of already-popular destinations south of the border.

Break out the sunscreen. Mexico continues to be a favored destination for the meetings and conventions market in 2017.

An increasingly strong dollar gives planners even greater value in Mexico this year, delivering cost savings of 10 to 50 percent over Florida, Hawaii and the Caribbean, according to tourism officials. Direct and nonstop air service from all major U.S. cities puts most Mexican resort destinations within a three- to five-hour flight, and the country’s established visitor infrastructure gives planners 42 major convention centers and more than 500,000 hotel rooms to select from nationwide.

Look for these new and enhanced properties in 2017.

ANDAZ MAYAKOBA RESORT
RIVIERA MAYA
Playa del Carmen
Hyatt’s luxe eco-resort, opened in December 2016, is directly north of Playa del Carmen. It’s located on 590 acres of pristine beachfront and has 214 rooms (41 suites), Naum Spa, four dining venues and 14,000 square feet of versatile meeting space including a 6,000-sq.-ft. ballroom. Lawn and terrace function space are set among lush mangroves, tropical lagoons and resort gardens.

CHILENO BAY RESORT & RESIDENCES
Los Cabos
Boutique luxury property operator Auberge Resorts Collection opened Chileno Bay at the end of 2016, bringing 60 guest rooms, 32 two-, three- and four-bedroom villas and a Tom Fazio-designed 18-hole golf course to the 1,200-acre resort. Rich with amenities such as private rooftop terraces, ocean views and alfresco dining, the intimate resort has more than 12,000 square feet of meeting and event space.

DREAMS PLAYA Mujeres
GOLF & SPA RESORT
Playa Mujeres
Late last year, ARResorts opened its eighth property in Mexico. This 502-suite resort is an all-inclusive, family-friendly property with 10 dining venues, 13 bars and lounges, tropical gardens, two infinity pools, a water park and access to an 18-hole, Greg Norman-designed golf course. Nine meeting rooms total 25,000 square feet of event space, and the central garden accommodates up to 400 for receptions and dining.

MAHEKAL BEACH RESORT
Playa del Carmen
Located on the region's longest stretch of beach, Mahekal recently added 4,500 square feet of flexible event space to its existing 12,800 square feet. The renovated resort’s $16 million reimagination also added bohemian-chic decor, 196 palapa-style bungalow accommodations, an on-property dive center and five restaurants.

THE GRAND AT MOON PALACE
Cancun
This new ultraluxe concept, which debuts in February, is part of a $450 million enhancement to the Palace Resort’s signature Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort here. The Grand experience includes exclusive dining, more spacious accommodations, and a tailored boutique experience within the larger resort. Planners have access to 140,000 square feet of flexible event space including a 55,000-sq.-ft. ballroom.