A League of Her Own
A REVEALING LOOK AT CHRISSEY TEIGEN'S SIZZLING LOVE LIFE AND BODY OF WORK

Port of Fall
20+ PAGES OF THE SEASON'S TOP TRENDS

Buzzing Party Photos

Seeing Green
THE 411 ON GOING VEGAN

Play in the A!
Tailgate Go-Tos,
Topgolf Midtown & Date-Night Destinations

(continued)
I Want Your Mex!

The newly re-minted Mahekal Beach Resort in Playa del Carmen oozes with authentic charm. We dive in.

The 2-foot iguana that sidled alongside my oceanfront veranda was part of the welcoming committee at Mahekal Beach Resort, a luxury property that boasts an exacting mix of exotic and lavish. Nestled on Playa del Carmen’s long swath of white sand, the resort recently underwent a $15 million remodel, complete with thatched-roof bungalows decked out in Mayan modern decor, bars and restos galore, and four inviting pools. During my bungalow stay, a huge dreamy four-poster bed topped with a gauzy canopy beckoned, while pocket doors spilled onto the sand with a hammock waiting in my line of sight. My home for the week even came with a custom ceramic plate, Casa de Flynn, that hung outside my door. It was another thoughtful welcome.

The lobby design matches the rest of the resort, in typical chic.
Everything about this place is easy-breezy. Days seem to slip by with pool lounging, beach strolls and, yum—those tamarind margaritas. Mahekal is certainly one of those resorts that commands you to kellygag. After all, there are three restaurants here—ranging from casual to high-end—along with the chic Bolí Bar, a late-night concept boasting pool tables, Ping Pong andflowing cocktails; and Itzi, the trendy pool bar named for a Mayan princess.

However, it’s just a hop/skip to the bustling downtown Playa del Carmen, Quinta Avenida, which is much less obnoxious than say, downtown Cancun. Sure there are cntz-cntz nightclubs, but there’s also old-school Mexican eateries like La Cueva del Chango along with new options like Asio. And don’t miss artisan shops like Silvia Suárez with hand-spun textiles in contemporary styles that embody that boho-glam sensibility. My bright-pink tunic was perfect for poolside and nighttime, when lantern lights and down-tempo beats transform Mahekal into a romantic enclave.

The 50-year-old resort was originally built by a Mexican family who opened six palapas geared toward backpackers. It’s come a long way, baby. Today, the bougainvillaea trees and jungle surround 194 palapas, both apartment-style and individual casitas. Rooms feature private terraces decked out with hammocks and outdoor showers (a must). Boasting colorful Mexican accents and modern sensibilities, the decor is inspired by the ballyhoofed GypSet Style book. And ceramics are a big part of the property, with pottery dotting the tropical grounds; there’s also an ambitious ceramics program on offer with classes taught by local artisans who have been painting in the traditional style for generations. The turtle I attempted to paint didn’t exactly turn out like the one by my teacher, Julienne. Nevertheless, when it came time to check out of my Mahekal home—and say goodbye to Iggy—I took down my Casa de Flynn plate and wrapped it carefully for the flight home. It was the ultimate souvenir.

Overnight winter rates from $293, mahekalbeachresort.com, @mahekalplaya

Day Trip!
The Yucatán’s hottest hot spot is Tulum, the sandy little town with an ancient Mayan ruin and serious flair. It’s worth an hour drive with several transportation options via the hotel.

Eat
Become a scholar of chichén and local produce at Hartwood (hartwoodtulum.com, @hartwoodtulum), where chef Eric Werner has fostered relationships with farmers and fish mongers to create a fresh daily rotating menu. The people-watching is so good that it’s best to stay for the house-made ice cream.

Pray
Built late in the 12th century, Tulum is the only known Mayan city built on the coast, having operated as a seaport trading turquoise and jade. Today, it stands as a labyrinthine monument of castles and temples where sheer limestone cliffs give way to the Caribbean, teeming with sea-life. Go for a snorkel in the shadow of the ruins.

Shop
Join the ranks of models and art-world heavyweights who wear the custom potions and scents from Coqui Coqui Perfumería (coquicoqui.com), which was dreamt up by Argentine model and hotelier Nicolas Mallevalle. Heaven in a bottle? It’s the orange blossom.