

360West Weddings

TARRANT COUNTY'S LUXURY WEDDING MAGAZINE

Deep in the Heart

REAL WEDDINGS • TRUE LOVE STORIES

ALSO Honeymoon in Mexico | Cake trends

Details make the day | Destination weddings | Big bouquets

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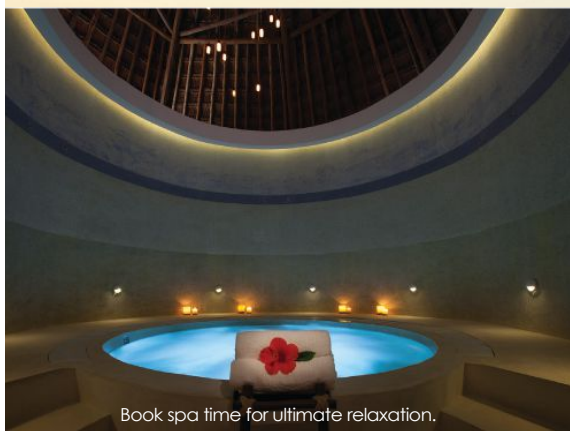
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Quiet beach dinners for two spell romance.



Your private patio is equipped with hammocks.



Book spa time for ultimate relaxation.

MEXICO

With all the wedding festivities concluded, you're ready to reward yourselves with a well-deserved escape. Special ideas for a lovely twosome's timeout come from south of the border, where life naturally flows at a slower pace. Each of these Mexican destinations offers its own version of the romantic retreat, as well as whatever measures of fiesta you'd like. Choose from three beloved seaside sites where you can unwind by the waves, or go instead for a colonial city getaway, filled with art and history. — *June Naylor*

PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Tucked into a thick spread of palm trees, the low-lying, laid-back Mahekal Beach Resort claims the longest stretch of Riviera Maya sand in the area with its 800 feet of Caribbean beachfront. Roughly an hour closer to Cancun than Tulum, Playa has become a significant playground along this reach of the Yucatan Peninsula — but the chill qualities at Mahekal provide peaceful respite from the nearby party scene. Best of all picks are the seafront bungalows, sprawling suites with ample bathrooms, private patios, secluded plunge pools and outdoor showers. Thatched-roof design throughout the resort exudes that casual Mexican beach feel, but every luxury detail is in place, from beautiful upholstery in rooms, restaurants

and common areas to posh bath products in rooms and superb wine lists at restaurants. The Mayan Culinary Casita provides an old-world dining and history experience, while a new chef-engineered program lets you pick out your own catch from a haul delivered to the beach by local fishermen. Want a private dinner by candlelight on the beach? That can be arranged. Morning yoga followed by a couple of hours in the spa is heavenly (get the massage including reiki therapy), and a guided trip to the jungle to swim in one of the famous cenotes (underground cave pools) is magical. Ask about one of the Mayan spiritual blessing ceremonies, too. Fly into the Cancun airport; from there, the drive is about an hour. Visit mahekalbeachresort.com.

A romantic scene on a tropical beach at sunset. A couple, seen from behind, walks hand-in-hand along the shoreline. The man is shirtless and wearing yellow swim trunks, while the woman is in a red bikini. They are walking on a wide, sandy beach that shows many footprints. To their right, a large, mature palm tree with a thick trunk and lush green fronds dominates the foreground. In the background, the ocean stretches to the horizon under a sky of soft pinks, oranges, and blues. A long pier is visible in the distance. To the right of the couple, there's a small thatched-roof hut and some tropical foliage.

FOR TWO

Mahekal claims the longest stretch
of beach in Playa del Carmen.
Photos courtesy of Mahekal Beach Resort