

## Off the Beaten Trail – Mahekal Beach Resort

Nestled between the dense Riviera Maya jungle and Playa del Carmen's longest stretch of beach lies Mexico's Mahekal Beach Resort, the only resort of its kind. You can walk to 5th avenue, Mexico's answer to Rodeo Drive. You can take part of an ancient Mayan culture to cleanse yourself before indulging in a traditional Mayan meal. All this of course, after you have spent the day swimming with sea turtles and napping in your hammock.



Guests of Mahekal, which means magical in ancient Mayan culture, will find themselves immediately immersed in its bohemian ambiance, offering a magical, transformative vacation where spirits rise freely. Greeted with crisp Caribbean scents, tropical weather, lush vegetation and colorful bougainvillea, it is no wonder that I found myself not ready to leave. Mahekal offers a memorable, magical escape.



Deeply rooted in tradition, The Resort is exceptionally authentic and intimate. There is so much richness of culture and history all around the resort, Mahekal feels as an extension to the culture it is built around. The Mayan ruins are a short drive from the resort, as well as Tulum.

Tulum is a resort town on Mexico's Caribbean coast. It is quickly becoming the hipster hot spot and it is easy to see why. Every turn is a picture opportunity with its cute restaurants and boutiques and white sandy beaches. We saw the Mayan ruins in the morning and grabbed lunch in Tulum where we bathed in the ocean. It is a fun day trip from Mahekal.



As for this unplugged vacation experience, guests won't find TVs in rooms, but if you book yourself an oceanfront villa, your personal cold plunge and steamy rain shower will take your mind off the latest show you have at home on your DVR anyway. One of my favorite moments was star gazing on my swinging hammock with a fresh cocktail and the sound of the waves crashing.

Cuisine cravings are satisfied at resort restaurants as guests experience the wonder of fresh, authentic Mexican cuisine. From delectable light bites and freshly-made cocktails poolside, to traditional Mexican and Latin American fare and higher-end "Land and Sea" dishes, Mahekal Beach Resort's on-property restaurants and bars take guests on a cultural journey through intensely creative cuisine.



The Revive spa on property is inspired by the rich Mayan culture. It is set amongst lush tropical gardens and has a boutique spa vibe. Revive offers a menu of services inspired by the native culture and features Kinich products, a complete line of 100% organically intelligent, local home-grown products. I love this line and felt like my skin was glowing and dewy after my treatment. Revive offers to balance not only one's skin, but one's mind, body and spirits well.

Vida Aquatica is one of my favorite things about my visit. I am not the most adventurous of girls, but I had heard that the barrier reef right outside our hotel was the second largest in the world and a sight to be seen. I was quickly put at ease when I met the team that took me snorkeling. We called the guide "Senior Doolittle"

because the animals seemed to love him and there was a mutual friendship and respect. Even the huge sea turtle came over to say hello and greeted Senior Doolittle as a long lost friend.



I will hear the word Mahekal and always remember that it means magical in ancient Mayan culture. I believe the Mayans would endorse the name of this enchanting resort. There is something so sweet and magical about Mahekal. It bites deep into your soul and you leave feeling refreshed and filled. Isn't that the purpose of traveling? Well done Magaical Mahekal, well done.

For more info: [www.mahekalbeachresort.com](http://www.mahekalbeachresort.com)

