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# Budget Travel

Vacations for Real People

June 2009

## Hit the Road!

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America's greatest thrill rides—  
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Food experts  
reveal

# 57

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DESTINATION: MEXICO

# Summer Siestas and Savings

Summer days were made for siestas in the sun, especially in Mexico, where colorful shacks serve up fresh fish tacos, small villages celebrate lively fiestas, and ancient ruins overlook the sparkling sea. Easy flights and great deals make Mexico's fascinating culture and thrilling adventures absolutely irresistible.

## Affordable Getaways

At the moment, the buzz word in travel is "value." Value, however, is about more than just saving dollars, it's about having an amazing experience and finding great service. With plenty of nonstop flights and convenient connections from all around the U.S., **Los Cabos** is a simple solution to the affordable vacation versus indulgent getaway equation on everyone's mind these days. In Los Cabos, you'll save a bundle and still have a vacation worth remembering.

Alive with rich culture and history, Los Cabos is one of Mexico's most fascinating destinations, whether you're seeking romance, the outdoors, sun and sand, or a golf getaway. There's an abundance of activities, from sunbathing and swimming to marlin fishing—and hotels are equally diverse, ranging from budget to luxury, all delivering great value.

Sitting on the tip of the Baja Peninsula, Los Cabos comprises about 20 miles from San José del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas, linked by what is called the Corridor. From one end

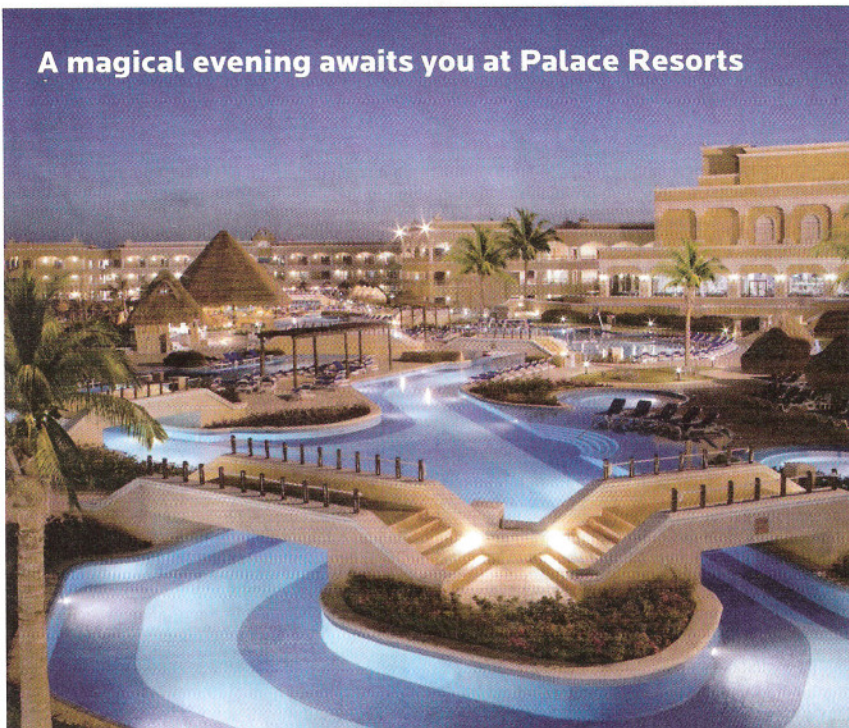
to the other, the Corridor is lined with world-class resorts, championship golf, wonderful shops, and impeccable restaurants. When you book your plane tickets, opt for a window seat so that you can take in the amazing bird's-eye view of Los Cabos and the diverse landscape. In Cabo San Lucas, the natural stone arch, El Arco, stands as a dramatic marker to where the Sea of Cortes meets the Pacific Ocean and is a breathtaking contrast to Los Cabos or "the Capes."

Looking out over a golden beach framed





## A magical evening awaits you at Palace Resorts



by red-rock formations, you'll have the craggy Sierra de la Laguna Mountains as your backdrop and azure water stretching out far and wide in front of you. Just moments from this sparkling blue water, saguaro cactus and palms dot a pale-gold desert. Situated on the world's longest and most majestic peninsula, the beauty of Los Cabos is that it feels far away, but it's actually not.

In these value-conscious times, Los Cabos gives you options for putting together a vacation that fits your lifestyle, whether you're looking for a reasonably priced deluxe hotel or prefer a flat-rate all-inclusive resort. Given its wealth of options, Los Cabos gives you the tools to match your budget to your dream trip. To get a travel planner, visit [www.visitloscabos.travel](http://www.visitloscabos.travel) or call (866) LOS-CABOS.

### Grand Value

Gazing out over Mexico's sparkling blue water and sun-warmed sand, it is easy to see why this gorgeous place has been cherished for more than 5,000 years. Amid the ancient stomping grounds of the Mayans, **Palace Resorts** continues Mexico's legacy of grandeur by setting the standard for what a five-star, all-inclusive resort should be.

From the tranquil shores of Isla Mujeres to the teeming coral reefs of Cozumel and

the beachfront excitement of Cancun, Palace Resorts' realm extends all around Mexico, including the Riviera Maya on the east coast and the Riviera Nayarit on the west.

Further expanding the brand, Palace Resorts opened its first property in the Dominican Republic earlier this year, unveiling the lavish Moon Palace Casino, Golf & Spa Resort in Punta Cana.

Overlooking the ocean or lush tropical gardens, all of Palace Resorts' rooms include private double Jacuzzis, Farouk bath products, signature Palace Beds® with deluxe linens, satellite TVs, minibars, 24-hour room service, wireless Internet, and unlimited calls to the continental U.S. and Canada. Not surprisingly, Palace Resorts has been called one of the best hotel chains in Mexico by industry experts and discerning travelers.

Located on some of the world's most beautiful beaches, the luxurious ambiance of each Palace Resort is complemented by an array of indoor and outdoor activities, including lavish spas, championship golf courses at some locations (including a Jack Nicklaus Signature course in Cancun), infinity pools with swim-up bars, scuba demonstrations, and fully equipped fitness centers. For families, kids' clubs and teen lounges make it fun for everyone.

The good news is that along with a

value-packed, all-inclusive price, Palace Resorts sweetens the deal with year-round promotions, such as unlimited, select tours to cultural sites included on stays of three nights or more. (For families, that can add up to savings of more than \$1,000.) As a bonus, guests also enjoy access to other nearby Palace Resorts. On the Caribbean coast, for example, this means being able to visit more than 40 restaurants and bars, featuring delicious international cuisine, premium beer, cocktails, and impressive wines with Wine Spectator ratings of 85 or higher.

Experience the best of Mexico from the seaside ruins of Tulum in the Riviera Maya to the picturesque Pacific Coast in the Riviera Nayarit. To book an ideal getaway for the budget-minded at Palace Resorts, visit [www.palaceresorts.com](http://www.palaceresorts.com) or call (800) 635-1836.

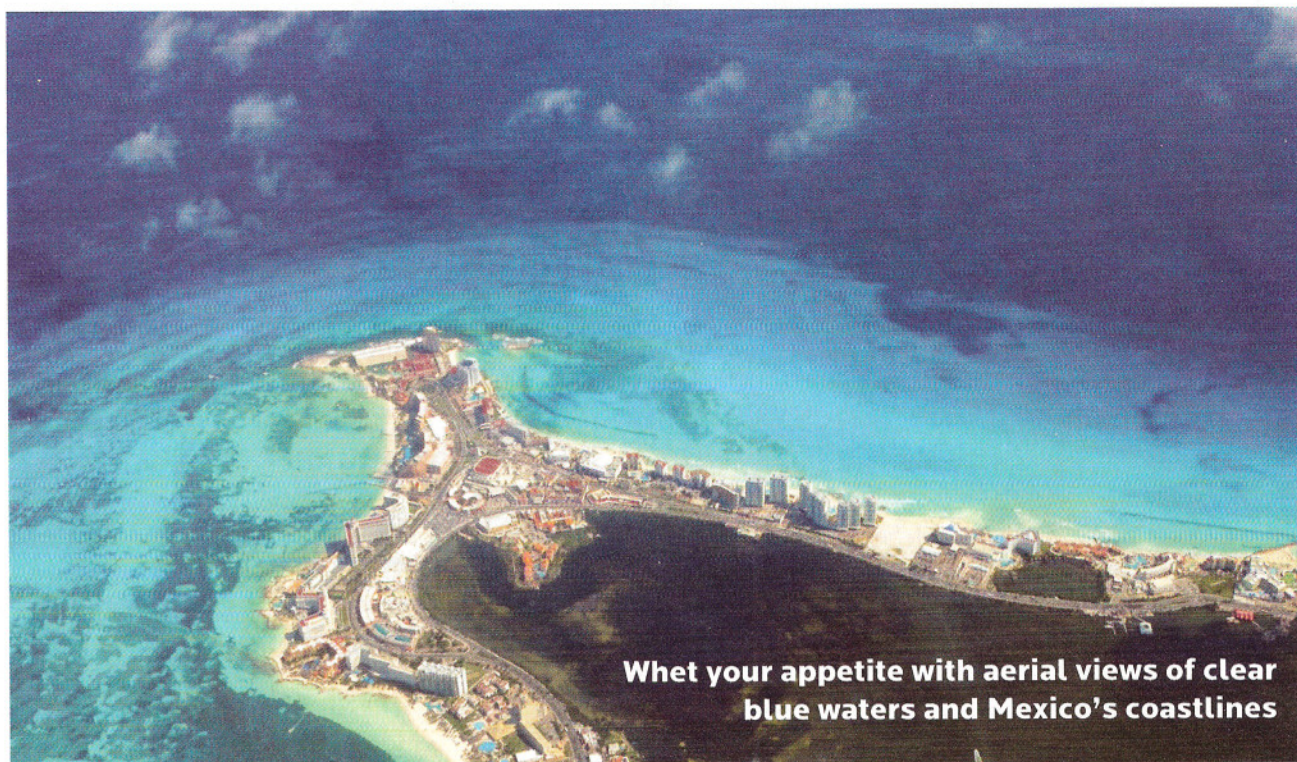
### Pure Elegance

On the Yucatán Peninsula, sun-drenched Cancun has long drawn travelers as one of Mexico's premier beach destinations. At the stylish **Le Blanc Spa Resort**, one of the country's most celebrated designers has balanced the simple beauty of the beach with sleek and contemporary décor. So much so, the airy interiors feel inspired by the warm sea breeze, pure sunshine, and soft sand.

Blending luxury and value, the adults-only, all-inclusive resort has unrivaled amenities and five-star service. From the moment you arrive, your relaxation is at the top of our agenda, beginning with a tropical welcome drink and a freshly scented cooling towel. After check-in, you'll be escorted to your elegant water-view room, where a Le Blanc Butler will show you all of your room's luxurious touches, from the signature Le Blanc® bed and double Jacuzzi tub to the complimentary minibar with upgraded liquor dispensers and espresso/coffeemaker with gourmet Café Britt products.

Walking along the resort's spacious grounds, you'll discover a private white-sand beach and sparkling pools, which seem to have been designed especially for late afternoon cocktails with swim-up bars and submerged lounges. If you find the sea air invigorating, head to the fitness center or check out a scuba demonstration. On the other hand, if lying in





**Whet your appetite with aerial views of clear blue waters and Mexico's coastlines**

the sun makes you long for a lazy spa day, head to the unsurpassed Le Blanc Spa for purifying hydrotherapies or an indulgent couple's massage in the spacious 800-square-foot Blanc D'Or VIP Suite.

After sunset, take your pick of nine onsite restaurants, bars, and lounges, such as the new French-inspired Lumiere. The resort's standout menus feature global fare and premium drinks, including an extensive international wine list chosen by expert sommeliers. Following dinner and drinks, the excitement continues with nightly shows and musical performances. When you finally settle in for the night, you'll be pleasantly surprised that Le Blanc's unrivaled turndown service has prepared your room and your Jacuzzi with a comfort menu of specialty bath salts, pillows, and aromatherapy scents, including the new exclusive Bulgari White Tea Aroma.

As a value-added bonus now through December 23, 2009, stay three nights or more and receive one free 25-minute massage, complimentary access to the Le Blanc Spa hydrotherapy facilities, and a 25 percent discount on a round of golf at nearby Playacar Spa & Golf Club and Moon Spa & Golf Club. For more information about this great deal, visit [www.leblancsparesort.com](http://www.leblancsparesort.com) or call (877) 753-2526.

### New Colors

Last year, **Mexicana Airlines** gave its iconic logo a sleek new makeover that better captures the airline's dynamic and innovative approach to travel. Taking on a flash of bold blue and slate as its new colors, Mexicana fittingly kept the eagle as a symbol of its longstanding reputation for consistency and reliability. Likewise, this mix of experience and forward-thinking is exactly what makes Mexicana one of the world's best airlines.

With more than 85 years of flying, Mexicana is one of the world's most successful airlines and has continued to excel because of its focus on improving its award-winning service. When you log on to [mexicana.com](http://mexicana.com), you immediately get a sense of just how well they have kept up with the changing times. The interactive website is completely user-friendly—making it easy to search for flights by price and schedule and even zoom in on an extensive route map.

Among the brand-new perks and programs, one of the most exciting upgrades is the introduction of its Elite Class, designed for executive travelers and discerning customers. The new service is tailored for comfort and convenience to provide a more fulfilling travel experience. On new transatlantic flights to London, Madrid, and São Paulo, Elite Class

travelers get the benefit of exclusive amenities, including 160-degree reclining seats, gourmet meals, and a delicious selection of house wines.

Even if you're flying tourist class, you'll enjoy VIP-like upgrades, such as more space between seats, a generous open bar, and delicious in-flight meals. Along with its great service, Mexicana has partnered with prestigious hotels, reliable car rental agencies, banks, airlines, telephone companies, stores, and more to assure you have a well-rounded experience beyond your flight.

Right now, Mexicana's great service also extends to an exciting new loyalty program called MexicanaGo. The new program gives consumers flexible rewards and improved benefits, such as being able to manage your account online and access to exclusive promotions. MexicanaGo members can redeem points through programs like Welcome, Explore, Discover, Conquer, and Award Calendar—and the more you travel, you can move up to exclusive Gold or Platinum Elite cards.

Summer savings are just a few clicks away. In fact, when you sign up online, new members to MexicanaGo will get a 1,000 point bonus. To register or book your flight online go to [www.mexicana.com](http://www.mexicana.com) or call Mexicana at (800) 531-7921.