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 Riviera Maya  
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**NEWSLETTER - GrandMayan.net & GrandLuxeResidence.com RM**

Having just returned from a wonderful week at the **Grand Mayan Resort in Riviera Maya**, which is just 25 minutes south of Cancun, I thought we could take this opportunity to reconnect with you.

You have expressed an interest in Grand Mayan, Grand Bliss or Grand Luxxe Residence and it is our hope that you will allow us to occasionally update you on Grand Mayan News and locations we think you may enjoy on your travels.

**Tips and Lists** – Please email us at, [diane@grandmayan.net](mailto:diane@grandmayan.net) to request any of our lists: 1) Things To Take With You When Traveling to Mexico; 2) Tips For Enjoying Mexico; 3) Services if you are Sick or Injured in Mexico; 4) More Restaurant Reviews.



*The fishing boats lines up in Puerto Morelos. Just offshore is the snorkeling reef...*

We spent a lot of time in **Playa del Carmen** this trip. Playa is a bustling little town with lots to do, good people watching, and many inexpensive dining options. Playa del Carmen is no more than 15 minutes south of the Grand Mayan Resort Complex. You can shuttle there from the hotel if you choose not to rent a car.

**Your Safety and Travel in Mexico**

Despite growing concern over recent reports of violence and crime in México's northern border towns, travel destinations such as Los Cabos, Nuevo Vallarta, and Riviera Maya, remain sound choices when planning a family vacation or romantic getaway. Located thousand miles away from Northern Mexico, where many of the reported incidents have taken place, Riviera Maya offers a safe retreat, where travelers can indulge in delicious and diverse cuisine, explore a myriad of beaches, and take part in a number of exhilarating activities.

We will soon be offering a Mexico Medivac insurance package with all reservations. The basic plan will be included for every guest with every reservation. We will also be offering 2 upgrade packages for those wanted coverage with less deductible. The insurance will provide medical care and evacuation back to your hospital in your country of origin. Another level of safety to make your stay more enjoyable.

**Restaurants**



*La Cueva del Chango. Playa del Carmen, 38<sup>th</sup> St. between 5<sup>th</sup> ave & the sea...awesome!*

We discovered this secret little restaurant that is a favorite among the locals with local pricing. The all natural restaurant, La Cueva del Chango, is a little hard to find but any resident knows where it is. The owner/chef is there at all times and it really shows. The menu is varied and the place is open for both breakfast and lunch. Enjoy!

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## GRAND MAYAN - RIVIERA MAYA

If you are willing to venture a bit off the beaten path, one of our best finds in Playa del Carmen is a true Mexican Restaurant named Nativo. Nativo is off of Constitution, the main road into Playa from the highway. When you get to the Mega Pelican grocery store you turn left and Nativo is on your left about a block up. The front looks a bit like a market, with fresh fruits and vegetables flowing onto the street.

We parked in the Mega Pelican lot and walked across the street to Nativo. El Husbando found the best beef enchiladas he has ever eaten there (and he has tried many). With drinks and chips, it set us back a mere \$11.20 USD. Amazing.

Our first meal in Playa was at El Oasis in celebration of my husband, El Husbando's birthday. We shared some very tasty guacamole, the freshest dozen oysters I have eaten and some very good shrimp and seafood dishes. Many locals and the crew from the film festival were at El Oasis enjoying the food. I would have easily gone back the next day if El Husbando hadn't insisted on trying other restaurants in Playa.

At the Hot Bakery, just off the main street, we found good cookies, apple cinnamon muffins, and carrot and banana bread. A nice place to sit and just be.

We also visited Puerto Morelos, a sleepy little town we love, about 12 minutes north of the Grand Mayan. It's a great place to adventure, or stop by on your way to or from the airport.

A favorite restaurant there is Barkal. You could sit on their deck for hours, eating and enjoying drinks, if that is your preference. Barkal is just south of the Pelican restaurant (which was also very good), whose sign you can easily see as you head toward the ocean. Friendly people, who speak good English, wonderful food and there you are sitting within a few feet of the ocean. Very good guacamole with shrimp mixed in, and we each ordered a whole grilled fish. Beautiful!

Must be all the walking we did that kept me from gaining more than a few pounds on this trip.

Thanks for letting us into your world. Would love to hear of your own travel adventures and as always, I hope you know how much I appreciate your business. Do let me know if I may be of further service.

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