



Grand Velas Riviera Maya: All-Inclusive 5-Star Oceanfront Luxury for Vegan Travelers

Story and photos by Robin Tierney

Green juices, zippy-fresh salads, tropical fruits, seaweed rolls...! The Grand Velas Riviera Maya's Azul buffet features so many delights that it's easy to forget about the resort's seven other restaurants. But I wanted to try as many as possible, since this all-inclusive 5-star resort takes pride in accommodating dietary preferences.

The AAA Five Diamond property, within 45 minutes of Cancun's airport, attracts guests

with menus devised by top chefs, separate fantasy-like pool/sauna/spa complexes for women and men, lush landscaping, and fitness choices that let you keep buff amid Caribbean palm-studded seaside views.

What makes Grand Velas grand:

Fitness activities.

Swim in various infinity pools, pedal through mangrove forests during guided

bicycle tours, snorkel coral reefs right off the resort's soft-sand beach and stretch that body in seaside yoga classes.

Home suite home.

The guest suites' floor-to-ceiling windows slide open to private decks with mini-plunge pools. Surrounded by 206 acres of preserved mangrove jungle, separate buildings house adults-only oceanfront, family-friendly ocean view and tropical zen

A nature-engulfed view of the secluded *Grand Velas Riviera Maya*



Robin dancing in an *Underground River Cave*



Guided bicycle tour through the beautiful *Mangrove Forest*



Sneak peek of *The Riviera Maya Water Journey*



Sneak peek inside a luxurious & comfy room at *Grand Velas Riviera Maya*



Pizza, salads, & more at the award-winning *Cocina de Autor*



Fresh juices, salads, & a beautiful view at *Cocina de Autor & Azul buffet*



Headstands, sunshine, & peace of mind



garden lodging. Luxury perks include 24-hour personal concierge service.

Eat well without budget worries.

Restaurants include Cocina de Autor, which received its fourth consecutive AAA Five Diamond Award this year. Twelve-course dinners feature surprises such as "Dirt" (puffs of smoked potato stuffed with minced portobello mushrooms).

Relax, your way.

Stroll the beach at sunrise and sunset, listen to songbirds, watch pelicans soar in formation, and look for gentle iguanas beside manicured foliage. At night, sing hits at the karaoke bar and work out on the dance floor.

Then there are the extras that spa connoisseurs call great values:

Spa treatments at Se Spa.

Several treatments using indigenous Mayan-inspired techniques and ingredients are offered at the cavernous award-winning spa complex.

The Riviera Maya Water Journey.

The \$80 day-pass gives you access to a hydrotherapy sanctuary where you can luxuriate in dry saunas, polar pools, vitality pools, whirlpools, herbal and color-therapy steam rooms, ice rooms (with mini-mud treatments), and hot tubs. Jets, waterfalls and bubble "volcanoes" make the huge pool an adult water park.

Excursions to Mayan ruins, villages & nature sites.

My favorite: Bushman Photography safaris take you to cenotes, which are water-filled caves unique to the Yucatan peninsula.

If your excursion runs into the evening, don't worry about missing meals. If the restaurants aren't open, just call for 24-hour gourmet room service. It's part of the all-inclusive package!



About The Author

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