



SIX PERFECT DAYS IN

Playa del Carmen

Day 1 - Soak it all in!

- Cancun to Playa del Carmen
 - If you landed in Cancun, you will either need to pick up your rental car, arrange transport through your accommodation, or catch a taxi into town. I strongly recommend renting a car although it is not the most friendly experience. For details on how to smoothly rent a car please read the Perfect Day in Playa post to save yourself a major headache!
- Relax in the Hotel
 - Once you've arrived at your accommodation, take advantage of what it has to offer without rushing off into doing things right away. You will have plenty of time for that. If you're staying at a resort, there won't be a shortage of bars, restaurants, pools, and the beach.
 - If you're staying in town, you can walk to the beach or also enjoy whatever your hotel offers. Venture out in the street for some afternoon Elotes and a cold cerveza at the bar.
- Dinner in town:
 - Playa has a touristy yet cute area of town. Some good options for dinner: **Zitla**, **La Perla**, or **Axiote**.
 - **Avenida Quinta** or **Playa's 5th Ave** is where life is. Enjoy some city night atmosphere there.

Day 2 - Beach time and Night Life

- Breakfast
 - Decent options: **La Cueva del Chango**, **Que Huevos**, or **Indigo Beach Club**.
- Relax on a white sand, baby blue water beach
 - There is truly nothing like Mexican beaches. The white sand and turquoise waters are simply breathtaking. In town, there is a great public beach that you can lounge at. If you're staying in the Phase I area, it will be even nicer and less crowded. If you want to escape the crowds, drive to **Punta Esmeralda** or **Xpu Ha**.
- Night Activity Options:
 - Head to town for a fun night out! Depending on your style, here are some options: **Coco Bongo** is touristy and cheesy yet super fun show/club/bar type of place, Havana's sister **La Bodeguita del Medio** has great dancing nights in town, **Le Lotus Rouge** has a good atmosphere for some drinks and lastly, **Xoximilco** is a "traditional" boat ride with dinner, drink and music.

Day 3 - Day Trip and Tacos

- Chichen Itza or Coba Ruins
 - **Chichen Itza** is one of the 7 wonders of the world located 3 hours away from Playa with many organized tours leaving each morning. You can also visit yourself if you have a car. After visiting the site, you can either stop at **Cenote Ik Kil**, **Yokdzonot**, or **Chihuahán**. If you'd prefer to see a colorful town, **Valladolid** makes a good lunch stop.
 - **Coba Ruins** are located half the distance of Chichen Itza and are much less crowded. You can climb to the top of them too. On your way back stop at the two nearest and less known cenotes **Tamcach-Ha** and **Choo-Ha** or more popular ones closer to Tulum, **Gran Cenote** or **Cenote Dos Ojos**.
- Taco Time for Dinner
 - The most popular places in town which are totally worth the hype are **El Fogon** and **Don Sirloin**. However, you're in Mexico, so there isn't a shortage of taco places here. If you're feeling adventurous, head into town to find your favorite hole in the wall or a food cart.



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Day 4 - Day Trip to Tulum

- Tulum Ruins
 - Start your journey early in the morning heading over to the ruins. Get a guide and appreciate some more Mayan history. The views from there are incredible!
- Tulum Town
 - Tulum town has shops and restaurants and is a tad less obnoxious than Tulum Beach. **Burrito Amor** is a great spot for some amazing burritos and beers.
- Tulum Beach
 - Although in my Playa post, I talk about why it's not my personal favorite spot in that area, many people love it so I'll let you decide for yourself. The drive to the beach area is about 15 minutes without any traffic from town. You'll reach a dirt road off of which many hotels, restaurants, and shops are located. The whole strip is about 5 miles long.

Day 5 - Adventure Park

- I normally do not recommend anything that is built solely for tourists, especially an adventure park BUT the parks in Playa are amazing, and there are so many options that you're bound to find something you'll love. They're pricey but super worth it
 - **Río Secreto:** These stunning caves with hanging deposits will leave you in complete shock. Tickets run around \$80 USD a person and I highly recommend this place.
 - **Xplor:** Zip-lining, cave swimming, buggy rides, and much more! I loved this park! I would say this one has a little more adrenaline kick compared to others too. It's around \$120 USD per person not including transportation.
 - **Xcaret:** Another nature park with very similar options as Xplor but your day will be a little longer here as they have some shows at night and also a little more cultural displays.
 - **Xel-ha:** Offers a lot more water activities compared to the two parks above. The entrance is ~\$90 USD.
 - **Xenses:** This is a smaller more relaxed version of all the parks above with an admission fee of ~\$65 USD.
- Dinner in town:
 - The culinary scene is awesome in town so you shouldn't be disappointed. Some options include **La Familia** for Italian, **Como Como** for Mediterranean, or **SushiClub** for Japanese!

Day 6 - Adventure of your choice

- Choose one amazing thing to do near Playa:
 - Visit a neighboring island like Cozumel or Isla Mujeres for snorkeling, diving, or an ATV tour in the jungle.
 - Go swimming with huge turtles in Akumal.
 - Swim in a cenote. The closest and most popular ones are: **Cenote Dos Ojos**, **Gran Cenote**, **Sac Akun**, **Nicte-ha**, **Azul** or **Jardin de Eden**. More info on each can be found in my Playa post.
 - Or if you'd like to relax in the city instead, consider a beach club like **Mamita's**, **Coralina's**, **Lido**, **Kool** or **Corasol**.
- Boujee Dinner:
 - For your last dinner, it's worth splurging on a nice dinner. A really cool spot is **Alux** restaurant which is in a cave! Another place worth considering is **Catch** which offers stunning views of the city.