

OCTOBER 5, 2015

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CARIBBEAN FAMILY TRAVEL FOCUS

MEXICAN CARIBBEAN For Kids

Here is a sampling of new and time-tested amenities of some of the most family-friendly resorts along Mexico's Caribbean coast.

STAY AND PLAY IN STYLE: In Cancun, the all-inclusive [Moon Palace Golf & Spa's](#) new children's club, The Playroom, has various supervised game rooms, including iPlayrooms for toddlers and the Fashion Room for girls to embrace their inner princess (including a mini runway to practice their catwalk, a doll house, a kitchen, an Xbox room and a separate area filled with toys). The Playroom also has a movie theater, complete with comfy seating and concessions. For the more active youngsters, there are two playgrounds, both indoors and outdoors. Children four to 12 years old are welcome from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

CORAL KIDZ CLUB ADDS COOKING CLASSES: [Grand Fiesta Americana Coral Beach Cancun](#) has launched a new cooking class at its Coral KidZ Club, the resort's new 40,000-square-foot playground. Executive Chef Francisco Flores will conduct classes on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 3 p.m. The children (ages three to 12) will make dishes such as pizza and cookies. Parents may accompany their child to the class. Two complimentary classes are included in the KidZ Club "passport"; additional classes cost \$18 per child.

KARISMA NOW OFFERS FREE WI-FI, PHONING: Families with kids who insist on bringing the iPhones, iPads and such gadgets along on vacation will be especially interested to know that Karisma Hotels & Resorts has announced that it will now offer complimentary Wi-Fi at all 10 of its Gourmet Inclusive properties, including [El Dorado Spa Resorts & Hotels](#), [Azul Hotels](#), [Generations Resorts](#) and [Hidden Beach Resorts](#) in Mexico and the Caribbean (as well as South America and Europe). Another new amenity is free international calling from Mexico to anywhere in the world. Karisma also recently launched "The Greatest Escape Game by Athens Clue" at [Generations Riviera Maya](#) and [Azul Sensatori Mexico](#) by Karisma, and the Nickelodeon Experience, including character breakfasts, meet-and-greets and even inviting SpongeBob SquarePants, Dora the Explorer or the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to your birthday or special event.

ALLEGRO COURTS YOUNG BUCCANEERS: A pirate-themed waterpark is a fun highlight at Occidental Hotels and Resorts' all-inclusive [Allegro Cozumel Resort](#). There's also a Kids' Club, and families visiting during August and



The Fairmont Mayakoba's Discovery Club & Adventure Camp offers cultural and educational activities to spark the creativity of children.

September can see how baby sea turtles emerge from the nests and go out to the ocean. Increasing the odds that even the pickiest of eaters will find something to their liking, the resort has added an Italian restaurant, El Italiano, to its Mexican, Asian and buffet dining options.

SANDOS CARACOL ADDS RIVER EXPERIENCE: The all-inclusive [Sandos Caracol Eco Resort](#) in Playa del Carmen allows guests to explore the Mayan world through approachable, authentic onsite programming, tied together as the Xcalacoco Experience. The most recent addition is the thrice-weekly Jade River Experience, in which guests can soak in all the knowledge of the traditional eco-tour while swimming with a tour guide down the property's river. The resort has an extensive list of attractions to explore in this ecological paradise including: more than 60 species of wild animals onsite, a bird sanctuary, deer encounter and reproduction program, turtle lagoon, Plant-a-Tree program and eco-tours by foot or bicycle. Note: Most of the resort's 78 villas comprise the Family Section.

MAYAN FUN AT FAIRMONT MAYAKOBA: Also in Playa del Carmen, Zamna, an Alux (a mythical Mayan sprite) welcomes little ones staying at the [Fairmont Mayakoba](#) to come play at his house, found in the enchanted Mayan forest inside the Discovery Club. Here they can learn some Mayan words, make recycled paper and enjoy other supervised activities. The hotel also offers a Teens Room by PlayStation, with plenty of arcade action for 10- to 17-year-olds, and the Fairmont Fit for children activity program. Fairmont Mayakoba is set amid historical sites and ecological parks such as Xel-Ha, Xcaret, Tulum, Coba, Sian Ka'an and Chichen Itz'a. ■

