

LUXURY

AS VEGAS



READY, SET, 'GO'


SHANIA TWAIN
LAUNCHES NEW
LAS VEGAS
RESIDENCY

+

*HOLIDAY
GIFT GUIDE*



Guests can float along in an lachel, a traditional trajinera boat, while sampling a meal made by Banyan Tree chefs.
Photo by Banyan Tree Mayakoba



TRAVEL | MEXICO

SOUTHERN COMFORTS

MEXICO OFFERS RESPLENDENT RETREATS FOR EVERY KIND OF WINTER GETAWAY

BY JEANNE COOPER

Mexico's elegant resorts provide the gift of getaways that can warm the heart of all types of travelers. These five recently updated oases include options ideal for an invigorating wellness retreat, an all-ages vacation, cultural or culinary itineraries and a romantic idyll.

ROMANCE

BANYAN TREE MAYAKOBA

Amid a profusion of tropical greenery in Playa del Carmen, Banyan Tree Mayakoba's 118 stylish villas — with private pools, rainfall showers and outdoor soaking tubs — make the perfect couples' hideaway. Complimentary bikes in villas allow exploration of the vast, beachfront grounds. The hydrothermal experience at the Banyan Tree Spa, including an herbal steam bath, Swiss shower and warm dip pool, is another reason to venture outside villas, although in-room spa treatments are available, too.

Coming in late 2020: six overwater villas with private pools and 34 beachfront pool suites, part of a \$50 million expansion for the resort's 10th anniversary. Villas from \$619; banyantree.com/mayakoba

FAMILY

FOUR SEASONS RESORT PUNTA MITA

About an hour's drive north of Puerto Vallarta, Riviera Nayarit's landmark resort recently refreshed its 177 casita-style rooms. But it's the cornucopia of children's amenities — from a lazy-river pool to a teen hangout in shipping containers, and a churro cart — that multigenerational travelers will relish most. Adults can sample mezcal in the new Dos Catrinas restaurant, while all ages may enjoy liberating newly hatched sea turtles at sunset. From \$508; fourseasons.com/puntamita

Large families may book the neighboring, nine-bedroom Palmasola compound and enjoy a private beachfront pool, custom catering and access to all Four Seasons facilities. From \$12,250, plus meals; palmasola.net.



At Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita, families can drift together on the lazy-river pool. Photo by John Russo / Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita

WELLNESS

RANCHO LA PUERTA

This 4,000-acre compound in the Valle de Guadalupe wine region, about an hour south of San Diego, debuted in 1940 as a rugged wellness camp. Now revered for its three- to seven-night fitness programs with spa treatments and vegetarian cooking classes, Rancho La Puerta recently upped its luxury quotient by adding

three handsome villas with private pools to the 83 gracious casitas. It also opened an organic juice bar (drawing from the onsite six-acre farm); designed 14-day detox retreats with juice cleanses and spa therapies; introduced mini-trampoline and aerial yoga fitness classes; and created an organic skin-care line. Seven nights from \$4,500 (\$4,000 double occupancy), including meals and spa treatment. rancholapuerta.com



Visitors to Rancho La Puerta's wellness retreat will find yoga, spa therapies, vegetarian cooking classes and more. Photo by Rancho La Puerta