MARRIOTT EXPANDS ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORT STYLES



ROCHELLE LASH Hotel Intel

Marriott is among the leaders in the hospitality surge toward all-inclusive resorts, and both its family-focused properties and its upcoming Luxury Collection getaways show the sweeping scope of the trend.

Marriott launched its first all-inclusives in Costa Rica in 2016 and Barbados in 2019 and now operates more than 30 such vacation spots, plus many traditional European-plan resorts (rooms and à la carte dining).

'Our aim is to broaden and elevate the all-inclusive experience," said Xavier Pineda-Madrid, director of sales and marketing for Marriott International (Caribbean & Latin America). "We offer dramatically varied experiences — many family delights as well as

the growing Luxury Collection." Here is a sampling of two distinctive kid-friendly resorts in Mexico, which both have package prices, including direct flights from either Montreal or Toronto. Also, we have a sneak peek at Marriott's planned Luxury Collection expansion that is nothing short of staggering.

Family splash: The Royalton Splash Riviera Cancun, an Autograph Collection All-Inclusive Resort, is a lively, family-focused playground that opened in Mexico in 2022.

Splash is the keyword. The Royalton is directly on a blissful Caribbean beach, with no extra charge for non-motorized water sports (kayak, snorkel, scuba, sailing). The resort also is home to one of the largest water parks in the Caribbean, a hit with both adults and kids for its two lazy rivers, a splash pool, an amazing 14 water slides and two swimming pools.

Landlubbers groove on an



The new Royalton Splash Riviera Cancun, an Autograph Collection All-Inclusive Resort in Mexico, has one of the largest water parks in the Caribbean. MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL

indoor gaming area with laser tag, bowling, a trampoline park, beach volleyball, soccer and tennis.

Strictly for grown-ups, the spa offers treatments and a hydrotherapy circuit, and strictly for youngsters, the Royalton Kids Club is a supervised play space for ages four to 12.

Possibly the biggest decision of the day would be where to dine and drink. The resort has 12 restaurants and 10 bars, plus nightly entertainment, dance classes and cooking workshops. **Family jungle:** Delta Hotels by Marriott Riviera Nayarit is tucked into a lush, semitropical jungle on a mountainside high above Mexico's Pacific Coast. The Delta also embodies two vacation vibes peaceful serenity in the untamed forests of the hill country, and the buzzy ocean beach club, which is a 15-minute shuttle drive away.

The first all-inclusive Delta, Riviera Navarit, is an inland resort 25 kilometres northwest of the legendary social hot spot of Puerto Vallarta and also near two other popular towns, Sam Pancho, a tranquil eco-conscious community, and Sayulita, an active surfers' hangout.

If you're a follower of the Canadian brand of Delta, you know you can expect an easygoing family experience with a kid-centric ambience.

The biggest news is that the resort is updating rooms and also adding a lazy river that will wind through ferns, trees and flora. A major attraction is artisanal Huichol cuisine, whose highlights are seafood-fried rice, salsa spiked with serrano peppers and roasted fish.

All-inclusive luxury: Marriott's burgeoning all-inclusive Luxury Collection adds an explosive new dimension to the world's largest hotel company, which operates nearly 8,000 establishments spanning 30 brands in more than 130 countries.

The Luxury Collection plans several openings in classic sun destinations, all with authentic architecture and interior design. fine cuisine and engaging local-inspired activities. Here is a peek.

IF YOU GO

Marriott International All-Inclusive Resorts: 800-535-4028, all-inclusive.marriott.com or vacationsbymarriott.com. Marriott Bonvoy loyalty program applies for certain rooms if booked at marriott.com. Marriott's all-inclusive resorts cover meals, drinks and many on-site activities.

Extra: Spa treatments, outside excursions. Children 12 and under and teens often have different prices. Most hotels are accessible. Prices higher at holidays, spring break, peak winter season.

Almare on Isla Mujeres, Mexico, will have an intimate 105 beachfront rooms in the heart of a coral reef area known for snorkelling and scuba diving (2024).

The W All-Inclusive Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, will be one of the first all-inclusive Whotels, a fun adults-only playground. It will have nearly 350 rooms and suites, some with plunge pools, plus a spa, swimming pools, and 11 food and beverage venues (2025).

Also in Mexico, two upscale

Approximate sample prices, for seven nights, all-inclusive, with flight, Nov. 1-8, for two adults and one child, age 10

Royalton Splash Riviera Cancun, Playa del Carmen, Cancun, **Mexico:** starts at \$1,629, p.p., from Montreal, incl., flight to/ from Cancun; or \$1,483 from Toronto.

Delta Hotels by Marriott Riviera Nayari:, starts at \$1,424 p.p., from Montreal, including flight to/from Puerta Vallarta International Airport, Mexico; and from Toronto, starting at \$1,206 p.p.

resorts will be connected by an entertainment area called The Village, which will pop with food, drinks, events and shops.

At the posh JW Marriott Costa Mujeres, the basic vibe will be peacefulness for mind and body, with the dynamism of six restaurants and several swimming pools.

The adjacent W All-Inclusive Costa Mujeres will maintain W's sociability with indoor and outdoor spaces for mingling, as well as swimming pools, restaurants, bars and lounges (2026).



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