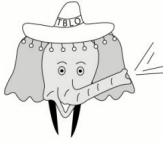


GRANDMAYAN.NET TRAVELERS NEWSLETTER - November 2006



Greetings Grand Mayan Travelers,

Having just returned from a wonderful week at the **Grand Mayan** Resort in **Riviera Maya** outside of Cancun, I thought I would take this opportunity to reconnect with you.

You have expressed an interest in Grand Mayan and it is our hope that you will allow us to occasionally update you on **Grand Mayan News** and places we think you may enjoy on your travels.

Although we were disappointed in the breakfast buffet at the Grand Mayan resort, we did have a couple of great dinners right there on property. The Italian night buffet was good with a large variety of pasta dishes, along with a grill where you could get beef, veal or salmon cooked to order.

We also had a combination seafood dish, ordered off the menu at the restaurant by the pool. It included lobster, shrimp, scallops, calamari and grouper, all grilled and beautifully presented.

We spent a lot of time in **Playa del Carmen** this trip. Playa is a bustling little town with lots to do, good people watching, and many inexpensive dining options. Playa del Carmen is no more than 15 minutes south of the Grand

Mayan. You can shuttle there from the hotel if you choose to not rent a car.

Our first meal in Playa was at El Oasis in celebration of my husband, Randy's birthday. We shared some very tasty guacamole, the freshest dozen oysters I have eaten and some very good shrimp and seafood dishes. Many locals and the crew from the film festival were at El Oasis enjoying the food. I would have easily gone back the next day if Randy hadn't insisted on trying other restaurants in Playa.

One day for a quick bite while in town to check out the shops, we stopped at PizzaPazza, which is right on the main street in Playa. Great thin crust pizza and although I am not a pizza lover, we ate it again during our stay. The camerones (shrimp) pizza was \$2.50 USD per square and one was plenty for me. The many other varieties were only \$2.25 per slice.

At the Hot Bakery, just off the main street, we found good cookies, apple cinnamon muffins, and carrot and banana bread. A nice place to sit and just be.

If you are willing to venture a bit off the beaten path, our best find in Playa del Carmen was a true Mexican Restaurant named Nativo. Nativo is off of Constitution, the main road into Playa from the highway. When you get to the Mega Pelican grocery store you turn left and Nativo is on your left about a block up. The front looks a bit like a market, with fresh fruits and vegetables flowing onto the street.

We parked in the Mega Pelican lot and walked across the street to Nativo.

Randy found the best beef enchiladas he has ever eaten there (and he has tried many). With drinks and chips, it set us back a mere \$11.20 USD. Amazing.

Also, be sure to check out Veronica's Massage on the main street in Playa. Their booth is right next to the 100% Natural Restaurant. Veronica was sick the day we were there, but Randy and I both had good massages, for only \$33.00 USD each. Well worth it.

We also visited **Puerto Morelos**, a sleepy little town we love, about 15 minutes north of the Grand Mayan. It's a great place to adventure to, or stop by on your way to or from the airport.

A favorite restaurant there is Barkal. I could sit on their deck for hours, eating and enjoying drinks, if that is your preference. Barkal is just south of the Pelican restaurant, whose sign you can easily see as you head toward the ocean. Friendly people, who speak good English, wonderful food and you sit within a few feet of the ocean. Life is good. Very good guacamole with shrimp mixed in, and we each had a whole grilled fish. Beautiful!

We stopped in **Puerto Morelos** again for lunch on our way to the airport. Just next to the coffee shop on the corner of the square is a little French looking bistro called L'Oasis. We both had a hamburger with fries (again very good), with coffee and a nice homemade apple pastry with ice cream for dessert.

Must be all the walking we did that kept me from gaining more than a few pounds on this trip.

No word yet on when The Grand Mayan will open in **Cabo**. We will let you know when they begin accepting reservations. We can hardly wait.

Thanks for letting us into your world. Would love to hear of your own travel adventures and as always, please know how much we appreciate you and your business. Let us know how we can help make your vacation dreams come true.

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