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### VACATIONERS ENJOY REST, RELAXATION AND A FOURTH NIGHT FREE AT CEIBA DEL MAR



Those considering a much-needed quick escape should take advantage of Ceiba del Mar's special "Rest and Relax—Fourth Night Free" package.

Ideally situated on a stretch of secluded powder-sand beach at the edge of a picturesque fishing village in Riviera Maya, Mexico, Ceiba Del Mar offers an ambiance of luxury and comfort, beautiful Mexican and Mayan architecture and warm hospitality. With the resort's Fourth Night Free special, the following features are included:

Five days/four nights in selected luxury ocean view accommodations, with the fourth night complimentary; welcome champagne cocktail; daily breakfast ala carte for two; one three-course, private romantic dinner for two accompanied by a bottle of wine, with a personalized menu and butler service for the evening; two 50-minute relaxing massages per suite per stay; a 10-percent discount on additional spa treatment(s); access to spa facilities including sauna, steam room, Swiss shower and gym for the entire stay; yoga, Pilates and AquaFit classes; free use of water and land "toys" including bicycles, kayaks and snorkel equipment; free wireless Internet access in-room; in-suite organic bath amenities; complimentary "eye-opener" delivered to your room each morning, including coffee or tea and selection of whole grain sweet rolls; and afternoon tea-time.

The package starts at \$1,344 ppdo, plus taxes (12 percent) and additional service charges (five percent). Additional nights are available, but a minimum four-night stay applies.

For added pampering, Ceiba del Mar offers the Temazcal Ceremony, an ancestral indigenous ritual performed in a terracotta hut at sunset on the beach, using volcanic stones and aromatic herbs to create a naturally rejuvenating steam bath for purifying mind, body, and spirit. Ceiba Del Mar also offers a high-platform meditation palapa.

All of the rooms at Ceiba del Mar feature up-to-the-minute amenities and there are two restaurants exclusively for guests on-site. Xtabay, has an expansive breakfast buffet and creative

Mexican-inspired cuisine for dinner; and Arrecife Grill & Lounge features grilled and wood-fired oven specialties for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.

Terrace Lounge offers a selection of sushi, carpaccio and tartars as well as a fully-stocked bar and music for after-hours entertainment.

Ceiba Del Mar Beach & Spa Resort, [www.ceibadelmar.com](http://www.ceibadelmar.com)

### SANDOS HOTELS & RESORTS PROVIDES IDEAL SPACE, LOCALE FOR MEXICO-BOUND LARGE GROUPS, CONFERENCES, EVENTS

The all-inclusive Sandos Playacar Beach Resort & Spa, located on the Riviera Maya, Mexico provides the perfect setting and location for corporate retreats, conventions and special events with meeting facilities that accommodate groups of 12 to 300 persons.

Sandos Playacar Beach Resort & Spa features one boardroom and a large convention center, (which can be broken down into two smaller rooms). The room configurations are as follows: Board Room to accommodate up to 12 people, conference-style; Humb Ku and Kukulan, each for up to 150 people theatre-style, 60 people U-shape, 150 people banquet-style, 100 people classroom-style and 100 people for cocktails; and Convention Center (Humb Ku and Kukulan adjoined), to hold up to 300 people theatre-style, 120 people U-shape, 300 people banquet-style, 200 people classroom-style or cocktails.

All audio-visual requirements can be met, as well as customized dining options during events. Themed parties and events can also be arranged, and staff can coordinate team building activities as well—treasure hunts, Olympic games, sandcastle building contests, moonlight beach volleyball and more. Additional group activities can be arranged that include golf at the nearby Playacar Golf Course, deep-sea fishing, visits to archaeological sites like Tulum, Cobá, Chichen Itza, Ecological Park Xcaret and Xel-Ha, and scuba diving and snorkeling trips. Prices vary according to activity.

The resort features 460 spacious accommodations in several three- to four-story buildings that border the main swimming pool area. Each guestroom has a complimentary stocked mini-bar with mineral water, fruit juices, soft drinks and beer.

Dining pleasures abound with five restaurants offering Italian, Mexican, International, and Mediterranean fare, along with a buffet.

A new addition to the property is the modern Spa Sandos facility, which features 22 treatment rooms, sauna, steam room, two Jacuzzis (one hot and one cold), wellness program, thermal circuit, hydrotherapy zone, beauty salon on three levels, eco-massage area in an outdoor palm shelter, and a fully-equipped gym with rooms for spinning, floor Pilates, yoga and aerobics.

Sandos Playacar Beach Resort & Spa, 866-887-5601, [www.sandoshotels.com](http://www.sandoshotels.com)

## HACIENDA TRES RÍOS RESORT, SPA AND NATURE PARK RECEIVES GREEN GLOBE CERTIFICATION

Hacienda Tres Ríos, a pioneer of luxury eco-friendly resort practices in the Riviera Maya has announced certification under the Green Globe Certifications program established by Green Globe International, Inc.

The program identifies compliance internationally accepted green, sustainability standards for tourism properties and businesses.

The newly-opened Hacienda Tres Ríos has been recognized as a model for sustainable tourism by the Mexican government. The resort's commitment to sustainable best practices began years before construction and has extended through the construction phase to setting new standards for resource conservation and optimal environmental management.

The resort utilizes on-site desalinization systems that enable them to pull saltwater from deep underground for resort water needs. This water is so cold it can be used to naturally pre-chill the air conditioning system, reducing electricity use and costs 38 percent.

Heat emanated from the air conditioning systems is captured and used to heat guest hot water, saving an additional 75 percent in natural gas usage and fees. And because of the on-site desalinization, the resort does not make use of the fresh water aquifer, protecting an increasingly scarce resource in the world.

"Hacienda Tres Ríos is razor-focused on the enduring, intelligent and responsible use of the properties' three distinct eco-systems," said Guido Bauer, CEO Green Certifications.

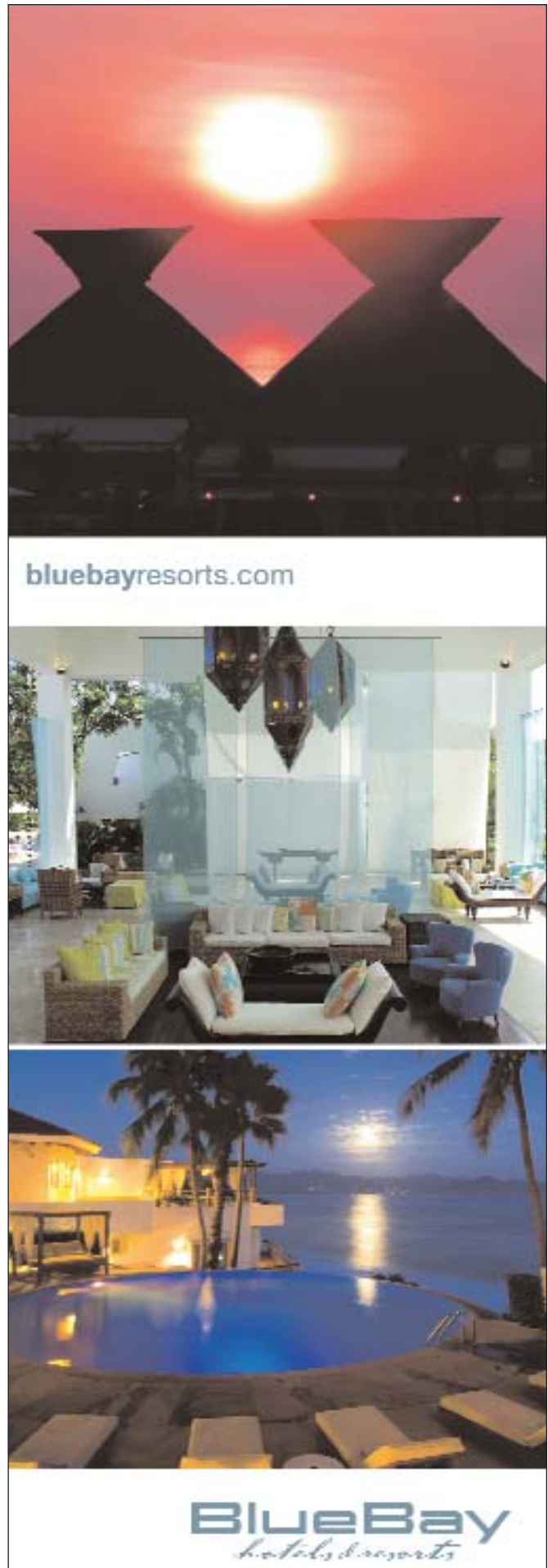
"It's truly remarkable to see a luxury beach resort with such high standards for carefully managing resources from its 120 plant species and 90 animal species to employee training and programs that benefit indigenous cultures."

In addition to becoming Green Globe certified, Hacienda Tres Ríos is working with the World Heritage Alliance and The Rainforest Alliance. Hacienda Tres Ríos CEO Orlando Arroyo was a featured panelist on the Working Together with Rainforest Alliance to Support Sustainable Tourism in Latin America panel at ITB in Berlin.

"Tres Ríos began as a nature park and we've been extremely diligent in ensuring we follow our set new standards for protecting the extraordinary beauty and diversity of the area so our guests can reconnect with nature while they enjoy luxury Mexican hospitality," said Orlando Arroyo.

"We have worked hard to be recognized for our sustainability practices and are thrilled to be certified by the Green Globe Certification program."

Hacienda Tres Ríos,  
[www.haciendatresRios.com](http://www.haciendatresRios.com)



**CATALONIA ROYAL TULUM BEACH & SPA RESORT IN SUNNY MEXICO HAS SPECIAL RATES**

Catalonia Royal Tulum Beach & Spa Resort has announced recession-proof rates for all-inclusive stays now through December 2009 starting at \$113 ppdo and \$169 pp.

The exclusive resort, located in Xpu-Ha, Riviera Maya on the Caribbean coastline, is the next generation of all-inclusive resorts. Featuring 288 guestrooms and Junior Suites, the adults-only resort has a full-service spa offering host treatments and therapies including a Mayan ritual therapy, Vichy shower room, hydrotherapy tanks and hydro-massage tubs. The resort also boasts a fitness center, six restaurants ranging in specialties from Italian to Tuscan to Mexican, four bars including pool and beach juice bar, a host of water sports and activities including complimentary scuba lesson and wireless Internet access throughout the resort.

Catalonia Royal Tulum Beach & Spa Resort,  
www.hoteles-catalonia.com

**FORT YOUNG FEATURES 7-NIGHT SPRING BREAK DIVE SPECIAL**

For those wishing to get away for some excitement during Spring Break, a Dive Special has been organized by Fort Young Hotel for the Caribbean waters off Dominica for travel from April 1 until May 15, 2009.

Featured are: dive seventh night with seventh breakfast free; a free whale watching tour; accommodations in an Oceanview, Oceanfront, Deluxe, or Suite; full breakfast served daily at the Waterfront Restaurant; five days of two tank boat dives per day; marine site user fees; and welcome rum punch. The whale watching tour does not apply to bookings in the Oceanview rooms.

Oceanview rooms (balconies; some have a partial sea view; and twin, double or king bed) are single, \$1,582, and double \$1,096.

Oceanfront rooms are priced at \$1,906 for single, \$1,258 double, and \$1,042 triple. This newest section of the hotel on the oceanfront has a balcony directly situated over the water. All rooms come with a king-size bed. Four Oceanfront rooms have the option to interconnect with an adjoining room with two double beds.

Deluxe oceanfront rooms are priced at \$1,906 single, \$1,258 double, and \$1,042 for triple. These larger rooms have lounge area, large balconies over the sea, overhead shower and bath, and offer two double beds or one king bed.

Oceanfront Suites are \$2,446 for single, \$1,528 double, and \$1,222 triple. These are substantial suites with two bathrooms, kitchenette (microwave and fridge) dining/lounge area, separate bedroom with king-size bed, whirlpool tub and a large balcony.

Fort Young Hotel, 800-581-2034,  
fortyounghotel@mindspring.com, www.fortyounghotel

**SOLÍS THE PALMYRA RESORT & SPA OPENING IN MONTEGO BAY**

The much anticipated Solís The Palmyra Resort & Spa, located in the exclusive enclave of Rose Hall in Montego Bay, Jamaica, has announced its planned September 2009 opening. Solís The Palmyra has already received a Leading Hotels of the World designation—a rare pre-opening achievement.

The Resort & Spa sits along 16 oceanfront acres on the grounds of a former Jamaican plantation with 299 rooms with ocean views located across three towers—Silver with 88 rooms, Sable with 88 rooms, and Century with 99 rooms—11 three-story villas and 8 beachfront. Room rates start from \$189 per night during low season, \$389 per night during high season and \$599 per night between December 15, 2009 and January 6, 2010.

Guests enjoy privileged access to three notable Caribbean golf courses—the White Witch Golf Course, Cinnamon Hill Golf Course and Half Moon Golf Club, all just a short drive from the resort. Offered are special green fee rates of \$125 per person during low season and \$159 per person during high season. Fees include caddie, cart rental, roundtrip transportation to and from the golf course, as well as post-golf services upon return to the resort—valet service for golf shoes and golf clubs and preparation of golf equipment for the next round is also included.

The 30,000-square-foot, two-story spa is the first in the region and will feature spectacular water gardens, charming terraces and enchanting courtyards, all overlooking Rose Hall.

Solís, The Palmyra Resort & Spa, 800-591-0473,  
www.solisthepalmyra.com

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## TRUE BLUE BAY RESORT PRESENTS HEALTHY PRODUCE OPTIONS TO GUESTS

Recognizing the economic climate, True Blue Bay Resort is looking for ways to save guests money. One of their interesting approaches has been to organize a group of farmers to come to the hotel grounds two days a week to offer their fresh produce to all guests. This creates a unique opportunity to utilize the kitchens in each room, eat locally grown fresh produce and save money.

Chef Charles and Owner Magdalena have designed a simple and easy cooking guide to assist resort guests to prepare delicious Caribbean meals right in their own rooms. The cooking guide is available to all hotel guests. Also, Chef Charles has organized a free cooking class on Thursdays and sampling of food and tropical cocktails is available to all guests.

Hotel guests will also be allowed (on request) to pick their own herbs from the resort's True Blue Garden when available. Cooks Esther and Beverly have volunteered to teach any guest who may require extra lessons to prepare and cook some of Grenada's exotic vegetables, spices and fruits.

Grenada has been recognized internationally for its clean, green organic approach to farming. This program is a good opportunity for True Blue Bay's guests to interact with the local community and benefit from each other.

True Blue Bay Resort, [www.truebluebay.com](http://www.truebluebay.com)

## BOLONGO BAY INTRODUCES 'SUMMER DIVE SPECIAL' FOR \$700 PER PERSON

Bolongo Bay Beach Resort in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, is offering a five-night Summer Dive Special featuring six dives per person with the St. Thomas Diving Club, a five-star PADI training facility located on-property at Bolongo. The Summer Dive Special is priced at \$700 ppdo, and is valid for travel May 1–October 31, 2009. The special includes accommodations for five nights in an oceanview room, six dives per person, complimentary use of non-motorized watersports (snorkel gear, paddle boats, sunfish sailboats, windsurfing equipment, and kayaks), all taxes, service charges and energy surcharges. Regulator and BCD rental charges are not included.

Reservations for the Summer Dive Special must be made through Bolongo's reservations department, and the name of the special must be mentioned at the time of booking. The promotion is not combinable with any other offers.

The St. Thomas Diving Club provides dive programs for people at all levels of the sport as well as open-water certification courses. St. Thomas' waters reveal Southern stingrays, silvery large schooling tarpons, big puffer fish, nurse sharks, eels, octopus, squid, turtles and many others.

Bolongo Bay Beach Resort, 800-524-4746, [reservations@bolongobay.com](mailto:reservations@bolongobay.com), [www.bolongobay.com](http://www.bolongobay.com)

# Rest & Relax 4th Night Free!

5 days/4Nights



## CEIBA DEL MAR

BEACH RESORT



*Ready to rest on a stretch of secluded paradise on the edge of a picturesque fishing village, Ceiba del Mar offers an abundance of luxury and comfort, beautiful beaches and Marine adventures and warm hospitality, the perfect setting for your relaxing getaway. With the resort's Best and Relax 4th Night Free special offer, you can enjoy a much-needed getaway and enjoy all the amenities this fabulous resort has to offer without breaking your budget.*

*Get your being dragged down, stress-free and dangerously close to burning out, then consider planning a much-needed quick escape to Ceiba del Mar with our special "Rest and Relax 4th Night Free" package. Ceiba del Mar receives exceptional white beaches, relaxing Caribbean waters and a stunning natural landscape with miles offering ocean views, a unique holistic spa, and unparalleled amenities and service, just 20 minutes away from Caracas Airport.*

### Rest & Relax Package

Price for two starts at **US\$1,680.00**  
(plus per person plus 12% government taxes & 9% service charge, based on double occupancy)

**Special includes:**

- ◆ Luxury Ocean View Flat (all meals, snacks and all top-brand beverages in our Restaurant and Bars)
- ◆ 4 nights in selected Ocean View Luxury Accommodations, including the 4th Night Free.
- ◆ Welcome Champagne Cocktail
- ◆ Two 30 min. relaxing massage per suite per stay (Spa services not included)
- ◆ 90's DJ additional treatments in our Wellness Aromatherapy Spa.
- ◆ One 3 course private candlelight dinner for two in Dine at view, personalized menu and personal butler service for the evening.
- ◆ Five Wellness Incentive in your room.
- ◆ Afternoon Tea Time.
- ◆ Complimentary use of The Spa Hammel Area: Sauna, indoor heated Jacuzzi, Steam, Relax & Gym.
- ◆ Yoga, Pilates & Aquatic Classes.
- ◆ Complimentary use of Water & Land Toys: Kayaks, kaysak and snorkel equipment.



USA: 1-877-645-6221 • MEX: 01-800-428-9772  
[info@cebadelmar.com](mailto:info@cebadelmar.com) • [www.cebadelmar.com](http://www.cebadelmar.com)



\*Package & Special are not available for Group Reservations (eg. Meetings, Incentive or Wedding Groups, etc.) \*\*Package price already includes 4th night free.

### PALMERA DE CABARETE RESORT AND SPA, 5-STAR LUXURY RESORT, PLANNED FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



The \$200 million, 138-suite Palmera de Cabarete Resort and Spa, opening in 2011, will be bringing five-star luxury to Cabarete, the Dominican Republic's unconventional adventure sports capital. Offering world-class kite boarding, surfing, laser sailing, mountain biking, hiking and canyoning, its 19.5 eco-friendly landscaped acres include 1,000 feet of private shoreline, part of one of the largest expanses of uninterrupted beach in the Caribbean.

The announcement was made by Darren Law, President and Chief Executive Officer of NID Holdings LLC, developers of Palmera de Cabarete. "We are convinced that Cabarete will be the next Caribbean hot destination. We are pleased that other luxury brands like Nikki Beach have announced they will also be joining us as neighbors," said Law who enjoys a pedigree of luxury hotel brands from Four Seasons and The Regent Palms to Conrad Hotels.

The quality of appointments and finishes in this condo resort will meet the standards that are expected for luxury excellence with 10-foot high ceilings, floor to ceiling window walls that seamlessly bring the outdoors in, semi-private elevators to suites, marble floors inside and out, and Wolf and Subzero appliances. Penthouses will feature infinity edge plunge pools, summer kitchens and a cabana bathroom with shower.

The architecture and design team includes award-winning Miami-based RAD Architecture and, for interior design, Celia Domenech, one of House Beautiful magazine's "Rising Stars," in a style described as "beachside luxury." Three décor options are offered—

tropical, classic and traditional. Marble, rich woods including teak from a sustainable forest, and Cuban Heritage tiles are liberally utilized and balanced with metals and natural materials such as raffia and caning. High-end furnishings are sourced from European and South American workshops, and many pieces are being custom-designed with lacquered woods and mother-of-pearl inlays. Landscaping is directed by SWA Group, known for its work on Mexico's Ventanas al Paraíso and the Beverly Hills Hotel.

A focal point for Palmera de Cabarete Resort and Spa, will be three expansive, oceanfront freshwater infinity pools and luxuriously planted eco-friendly zeroscape gardens. Amenities will also include a 22,000-square-foot branded spa and wellness facility, tennis, gourmet dining, room service, shops, conference center and 24-hour concierge program.

The authentic town of Cabarete offers a sense of place and a cool vibe, with its local restaurants and clubs providing a lively nightlife where dancing takes center stage. An international mix of visitors and expats join in to soak up the local flavor, and English is widely spoken everywhere.

Just a few hours by air from major East coast cities, Cabarete is an ideal long weekend getaway destination and emerging upscale destination for U.S. and Canadian travelers. To further enhance the experience, the government has promised \$1 billion over the next five years for infrastructure along the north coast.

Luperon International Airport in Puerto Plata is a half-hour drive from Cabarete. Non-stop flights are available from Miami (two hours), New York (three hours 40 minutes), with convenient connections from major U.S. and international gateways.

Palmera de Cabarete Resort and Spa, [www.palmera-dr.com](http://www.palmera-dr.com)

### ATTRACTIVE RATES AT CATALONIA ROYAL BÁVARO FOR ALL-INCLUSIVE STAYS

Situated on the white sandy beaches of Playa Bávaro in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Catalonia Royal Bávaro is offering value-added all-inclusive rates now through December 2009 beginning at \$100 ppdo and \$150 pp.

Catalonia Royal Bávaro is an exotic and natural haven in which adults can retreat to total tranquility and exclusivity without compromising style or value. The resort offers 144 junior suites and VIP and exclusive services and is within close proximity to the Catalonia Caribe Golf Club, an 18-hole championship golf course and clubhouse complete with golf pro, pro-shop and bar. Guests of Catalonia Royal Bávaro receive complimentary roundtrip transportation to the course and 2009 daily green fees for hotel guests begin at \$80 for 18-holes and \$50 for nine. The resort boasts expansive swimming pools, private area at beach with sun beds and sunshades, Jacuzzis, tennis and paddle courts, complimentary non-motorized water sports including one complimentary scuba diving lesson in pool, shops, five theme restaurants offering international cuisine from Mexican and American to Japanese, spa with gym, Turkish baths, sauna room and hydro massage showers.

Catalonia Royal Bávaro, [www.hoteles-catalonia.com](http://www.hoteles-catalonia.com)

**THE SANDS AT GRACE BAY HOSTS SERIES OF "RELAX, RECHARGE & REJUVENATE" WEEKENDS IN 2009**

With the increased need for balance and spiritual centering, The Sands at Grace Bay is hosting a series of "Relax, Recharge & Rejuvenate Weekends" in cooperation with *Fit Yoga Magazine*.

Guests may enjoy four days/three nights on stunning Grace Bay Beach in Providenciales, Turks & Caicos for only \$1,995 in high season and \$1,695 low season (April 19 through December 20, 2009).

The package includes: twice-daily yoga classes taught by *Fit Yoga* editor-in-chief Rita Trieiger, a goody bag of spa products, one complimentary spa treatment courtesy of Spa Tropicque at The Sands, a spa incentive good for 10 percent off an additional treatment, as well as healthy meals, island activities and plenty of time to rest and renew spirit. Dates for the "Relax, Recharge & Rejuvenate Weekends" are April 3-6, June 26-29, and October 2-5, 2009.

Individual classes will focus on a wide range of intentions from building strength and improving flexibility to developing meditation practices that will help to cultivate abundance and reset goals. The Sands at Grace Bay in Providenciales, Turks & Caicos, offers travel agents a 40-percent discount off rack rates.

The Sands at Grace Bay, 877-777-2637, [www.thesandstc.com](http://www.thesandstc.com)

**TURKS & CAICOS CLUB SELECTED AS FINALIST IN *CONDÉ NAST JOHANSENS* LUXURY TRAVEL GUIDES 2009 AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**

*Condé Nast Johansens*, the international luxury travel guide from Condé Nast Publications Ltd., has announced the 21-suite Turks & Caicos Club (Providenciales, Turks and Caicos) as a finalist in their prestigious 2009 Awards for Excellence. Winners and finalists were chosen as the premier properties throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Atlantic, Caribbean and Pacific Islands.

Turks & Caicos Club is currently welcoming back guests "Back to the Beach" with a Fourth Night Free offer in any oceanfront suite category including full breakfast daily.

According to Lesley O'Malley-Keyes, Vice President & Publishing Director, The Americas, "Condé Nast Johansens recommends only properties such as the Turks & Caicos Club that meet our exacting standards, so the Excellence Awards winners and finalists represent the very best of the best."

The 2009 Guides have a compact, portable and user-friendly format, with contemporary style to fit both the needs and the style of affluent travelers on the go.

Turks & Caicos Club, [www.turksandcaicosclub.com](http://www.turksandcaicosclub.com);  
Condé Nast Johansens, [www.johansens.com](http://www.johansens.com)

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# Carnival Cruise Lines Poised to Launch Big Dream, Multitude of Changes and Upgrades

New ships, services, features, ports of departure and itineraries give travel agents ability to meet customer desires.

TIMOTHY B. BENFORD III

Carnival Cruise Lines has a significant number of innovations in place, providing travel agents increased opportunities to sell more cruises and capitalize on the ever expanding cruise market. Carnival's 22 ship fleet will soon have a 130,000-ton addition, the Carnival Dream, and many of the line's existing ships have recently been, or are scheduled to be, enhanced with passenger-favorite amenities such as the "Seaside Theatre", expansive water parks, and enhanced indoor and outdoor facilities. "These additions and improvements, along with the industry's largest collection of drive-to home ports in North America, will furnish travel agents with unprecedented options to best present Carnival Cruise Lines to clients", says carnival spokesman Tim Gallagher.

The newest vessel in the Carnival fleet, the 113,000-ton Carnival Splendor offers one of the largest and most elaborate spa areas at sea. Adjacent to the 21,000 square foot "Cloud 9 Spa" are 68 spa staterooms and suites offering a host of exclusive amenities and privileges, a first for a Carnival ship. Another Splendor highlight reinforces Carnival's dedication to providing family fun, with the line's largest children's play zone, a 5,500 square foot bi-level area. A sliding glass sky dome above the Lido deck main pool can enclose the entire area, including the "Seaside Theatre's" jumbo-sized LED screen which displays movies, concerts and other programming throughout the voyage.

The Carnival Splendor will not hold its title of the largest Carnival ship ever constructed for long, as Carnival anticipates the arrival of the 130,000-ton Carnival Dream, set to debut September 21, 2009. The Dream will offer a host of innovations and features including: "scenic whirlpools" that extend over the ship's beam; an expansive 23,750 square foot "Cloud 9 Spa"; a half mile, open air promenade encircling the ship; a two-level miniature golf course; a variety of new stateroom categories, including those specifically catering to families, which offer two bathrooms and the ability to accommodate five guests; the most elaborate and expansive open deck area of any Carnival ship, complete with a Seaside Theatre, a "Serenity" adults-only retreat, a tropical resort style main pool and numerous other features.

The Carnival Sensation has just undergone a multi million dollar refurbishment which included an expansive "Carnival Water Works" aqua park; redesigned resort style main pool areas; a new "Serenity" adults only retreat; and the



"Seaside Theatre's" jumbo-sized LED screen which displays movies, concerts and other programming throughout the voyage.

addition of 98 balconies to existing accommodations, all of which are part of the line's "Evolutions of Fun" \$250 million enhancement project for its eight Fantasy class vessels. The Sensation was the fourth ship to be retrofitted with these features, joining Carnival Imagination, Inspiration, and Fantasy. The updated pool and deck areas are just one component of the extensive ship wide refurbishments to these vessels that includes renovations to virtually every guest area. Among the new features are: fully remodeled staterooms and suites including new bathrooms; flat screen televisions in staterooms and select public areas; atrium lobby bars; updated sound and lighting systems in various lounges and clubs; coffee bars; nine hole mini golf courses; new art and photo galleries; New York style deli in the Lido restaurant; purpose built conference facilities; and a complete overhaul of the 12,000 square foot spa facilities.

With new programs for 2009 based in Baltimore, Alabama, Texas and New York, Carnival will operate from a total of 17 North American departure points, including 11 year round home ports, the most of any cruise operator.

**Carnival Cruise Lines, 800-CARNIVAL,  
www.carnival.com**

## KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN VISIT THE GRAND PALLADIUM LADY HAMILTON RESORT & SPA IN JAMAICA



Abel Matutes Sr., President of Fiesta Hotel Group, with His and Her Majesties Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

In February, the Grand Palladium opened its doors to the King and Queen of Spain, Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia. During his visit to Florida and the Caribbean, the King of Spain met with the Jamaican authorities and other well-known personalities to celebrate the Spanish development and growth investment in the island. Spain is one of the biggest investors in Jamaica, and Fiesta Hotel Group is a business group that believes in the potential of the country and its people. The recent opening of the Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton contributes to the enrichment of the area and its people.

The Matutes family, the property owners, accompanied His and Her Majesties to the hotel complex, which opened last November. The exclusive luxury resort belongs to the Palladium brand that has become recognized worldwide, boasting fan groups such as the "Palladium Addicts" and the "Unofficial Palladium Site."

The Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa and Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton Resort & Spa, located in Lucea just outside of Montego Bay, feature first-class facilities and services geared to provide the dream vacation.

During their trip, their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain demonstrated their involvement in the development of Jamaica and support for the Spanish entrepreneurs who have interests in this natural paradise.

Fiesta Hotel Group, [www.fiestahotelgroup.com](http://www.fiestahotelgroup.com)

## MOCKING BIRD HILL: ECO-FRIENDLY ELEGANCE AT HIDEAWAY HOTEL IN JAMAICA

The appeal of Mocking Bird Hill Hotel located in the northeast corner of Jamaica is peace. This is a hideaway for simple pleasures. For lounging in hammocks. For cooling off in the garden pool surrounded by trees and flowers and birdsong. For luxuriating in a coconut oil massage in a zephyr-cooled gazebo beneath an orchid tree where hummingbirds flutter. For topping off the day with some of the most innovative and acclaimed cuisine in Jamaica.

Situated in a hillside just outside Port Antonio just 2 hours from

Kingston, Mocking Bird Hill is an owner-managed hideaway where Barbara Walker and Shireen Aga welcome guests into an informal breeze-cooled lobby filled with Barbara's paintings and sculptures. There's no imposing reception desk—guests simply sign in when and where it suits them, over their welcome drinks, say, or cooling off beside the pool.

The 10 charming guest rooms create an instant-tropics mood with cool white tiles, locally handcrafted bamboo furniture, hand-printed tropical fabrics, decorative mosquito nets to add a touch of romance (the blankets in the closet can come in handy, too, at 600 feet above sea level!). The design is understated elegance with Caribbean flair. But the amenities add extra little welcomes like coffeemakers, chocolate tea balls and Jamaican body care products. What eco-conscious guests will not find are TVs and telephones that can disturb the peace or plastic bottles and air conditioners that can ruin the atmosphere.

Mocking Bird Hill may have only 10 rooms but its owners are pioneers in environmental management and winners of no fewer than 14 international awards for their dedication to sustainable tourism. Not the spartan kind of eco-tourism that calls for cold showers and toilets down the hall but the kind of responsible programs that match sustainability with affordable comforts (rates begin at \$255 pppo in winter).

Mocking Bird Hill, [www.hotelmockingbirdhill.com](http://www.hotelmockingbirdhill.com)

**Point Village Resort**  
*The village within the village on the sands of Negril*

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 Website: [pointvillage.com](http://pointvillage.com)  
 Point Village Resort, P.O. Box 105, Negril, JAMAICA, J.M.

## DISCOVER DOMINICA WELCOMES COLIN PIPER NEW CEO/DIRECTOR OF TOURISM



COLIN PIPER

The Discover Dominica Authority appointed Colin Piper its new CEO and Director of Tourism in February.

A Dominican native, Mr. Piper has over two decades of sales, marketing and operations experience both domestically and internationally. Prior to his new position, Mr. Piper worked for Microsoft Corporation, where he developed strategies for sales to the financial services sector which generated over \$12 million in

sales of software products for computing devices worldwide. He held similar positions at Thomson Reuters and IBM.

Mr. Piper further spent two years working as a key member of the management team of the National Development Corporation for Dominica. He played a vital role in the World Creole Music Festival operations and acted as the executive director for the 2001 staging of the Festival. Mr. Piper was also a principal of FreeStyle Inc, a leading local media consultancy firm, where he helped develop destination-marketing campaigns. He also served two years as treasurer of the Dominica Hotel and Tourism Association where he implemented fiscal policy.

Mr. Piper is a graduate of the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Finance and his MBA in Marketing, Finance and Strategic Management.

Discover Dominica Tourism Authority, 866-522-4057, [www.discoverdominica.com](http://www.discoverdominica.com)

## SPICE ISLAND BEACH RESORT IN GRENADA LAUNCHES 'FREE NIGHT' PROMOTION

Offering an added incentive for indulging in luxury, Spice Island Beach Resort in Grenada has launched a promotion where guests receive a free night(s) on stays of seven nights or longer. Guests visiting for a week can stay for seven nights but pay for only six. Those interested in longer visits receive even more value when they book 14 nights and pay for 12 or book 21 nights and pay for 18.

The promotion is available in all room categories and valid for travel April 16 through December 15, 2009.

The resort features 64 rooms comprised of one Cinnamon Suite, one Saffron Suite, four Royal Collection Suites (Royal Ginger, Royal Mace, Royal Clove and Royal Sage), six Luxury Almond Pool Suites, seven Anthurium Pool Suites, 32 Seagrape Suites and 13 Oleander Suites.

Rates start at \$700 ppdo for an Oleander Garden Suite. Fully-inclusive rates include accommodations; breakfast, lunch and dinner daily; afternoon tea; beverages including house wine at dinner; use of non-motorized watersports such as snorkeling, kayaking and Hobie cat sailing; golf greens fees at the nine-hole Grenada Golf Club; and concierge and room service.

Spice Island is a member of the esteemed Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH) collection, has earned the top rating as the most popular property on Grenada in the TripAdvisor® Popularity Index and is the first and only Virtuoso preferred hotel in Grenada.

Spice Island Beach Resort, [spiceisl@spiceisle.com](mailto:spiceisl@spiceisle.com), [www.SpiceIslandBeachResort.com](http://www.SpiceIslandBeachResort.com)

## ANTIGUA'S INN AT ENGLISH HARBOUR FINALIZES EXTENSIVE RENOVATION

Historic charm precludes no modern comforts at The Inn at English Harbour, the treasure on Antigua's southern coast whose \$1.5 million renovation debuted last fall. Nearly every storied corner of the colonial-style resort has a fresh face. Near the entrance to Lord Nelson's legendary harbor, The Inn's private white-sand beach fronts beautiful hillside gardens for a setting of supreme serenity. Two minutes in a water taxi accesses the restaurants and nightlife of bustling English Harbour.

The Inn's 16 Junior Suites and 8 Deluxe Junior Suites have polished mahogany floors. Deluxe Junior Suites have mahogany four-poster beds sheathed in voile. The luxurious suites are appointed with handsome wood antiques, evoking the grandeur of colonial days, while spacious up-to-date bathrooms deliver the indispensable conveniences of modern times with separate toilet and bidet, twin washbasins, a shower of earthy green slate, and Penhaligon's fine English toiletries. Rates for The Inn at English Harbor start at \$500 per room. To celebrate the new renovations, guests booking for November 2009 will receive complimentary three-course dinners for their entire stay.

The Inn at English Harbour, [www.theinn.ag](http://www.theinn.ag)

## MAJESTIC TOURS MAKES MULTIPLE ISLAND HOPPING EASY IN BAHAMAS

Majestic Tours Ltd., launched in 1958 with one vehicle, has grown to become the largest transportation company in the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Today the group operates 64 pieces of equipment and employs 140 people. The vehicles range from luxury cars, limousines, vans and 31 passenger buses.

In a playground of 700 islands, rocks and cays, there's much to explore and experience in The Bahamas. Whatever one's desires, Majestic can personalize a satisfying trip using its broad experience and knowledge of myriad Bahamian sites when traveling to one or several of the beautiful islands on offer. The company arranges hotel reservations, airport transfers, excursions and flights, or a totally customized 'island hopping' package to Nassau, Paradise Island, Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera, Cat Island, Long Island, Exuma, and Grand Bahama.

The user-friendly website has several trip-planning tools and is a great place to start for investigating the options.

And, yes, one can visit the Islands of The Bahamas many times over and discover a new island, a new experience on each vacation. Majestic Tours Ltd., [www.majesticholidays.com](http://www.majesticholidays.com)