

PLANNING YOUR SUMMER TRAVELS?

Follow these tips for the best-laid plans.



PLAN EARLY. We used to be a last-minute nation. That's where we get the discounts. Not this year. Airlines have reduced capacity and planes are full. Don't be a victim of the law of supply and demand; book early.

HUNT FOR DEALS. Airlines, hotels and even car-rental agencies will often unload excess inventory to a select

audience instead of broadcasting far and wide. That means signing up for email alerts (and actually opening them!), watching for "flash sales" on Twitter and Facebook, and checking out members-only sites such as ruelala.com, vacationist.com and jetsetter.com.

BE FLEXIBLE. If you are headed to a popular summer destination, look into "shoulder season" months. For example, Alaskan cruises tend to be more affordable in May and early September than in peak months of June and July. The same advice holds true for which day of the week you travel: depart and return in the middle of the week instead of on a Friday or Sunday.

RETHINK "STAYCATIONS." Explore destinations within a few hundred miles of home; think of it as a "one-tank trip." Driving, RVing or taking the train or bus on shorter-haul routes can be a more affordable and much less stressful experience. And the best news—many urban hotels clear out on Friday morning. Translation: Look for great weekend deals, especially if the hotel has a spa.



CBS News Travel Editor and best-selling author Peter Greenberg (petergreenberg.com) appears on *The Early Show*, hosts a syndicated radio show and contributes to *Men's Health* and *forbestraveler.com*.



FAIRMONT MAYAKOBA

Willow Stream spa and rooftop pool

EXQUISITE ESCAPE

While an ancient Mayan curse keeps Stefan and Damon Salvatore (*The Vampire Diaries*) and company constantly on their toes, a visit to the Yucatán Peninsula and old Mayan civilization might help them better explore these mysteries—and get some much-needed R&R in the process. Enter the Fairmont Mayakoba, on the exclusive Mayakoba reserve 45 minutes south of Cancún and minutes from Playa del Carmen and Cozumel.

Surrounded by winding canals, lush canopies, lagoons and the Caribbean Sea, this tucked-away retreat knows rejuvenation. From resting in your luxurious casita to exploring the resort's stunning beach, five freshwater pools, four restaurants, the PGA-approved El Camaleón golf course and our favorite, a sumptuous Mayan Ritual Bath treatment at the Willow Stream Spa, you'll leave Mexico a whole new person. Rooms from \$259, fairmont.com/mayakoba

— Mona Buehler



El Puerto restaurant and lobby bar



El Camaleón golf course

TIP: Improve your game and take personalized golf lessons at the Jim McLean Golf School at Mayakoba!

BLENDED BLISS: *Tamarind Margarita*

Las Brisas Restaurant & Lounge Bar

Sip this tart frozen treat at the Fairmont Mayakoba's lovely open-air bar that overlooks the Caribbean and say hello to heaven.

INGREDIENTS:
 1½ ounces Patron Silver or Reposado tequila
 ½ ounce Cointreau or triple sec
 ½ ounce simple syrup
 ½ fresh lime juice
 1 ounce tamarind syrup or concentrate



DIRECTIONS:
 Rim glass with lime and coat with salt or Tajin fruit seasoning (optional). Combine all ingredients in a blender with ice and blend until frothy. Pour this mixture into rimmed glass. Enjoy!