

Hi Everyone!

We found this awesome awesome trip report on <http://www.unofficial-barcelo-maya.com> posted by “ntrtainr” (THANK YOU!!!), it’s full of great tips to make your trip go as smoothly as possible. Please make sure you read it, you won’t regret it!!

Love Melissa & John

CANCUN AIRPORT TIP:

Do NOT accept ANY offers from anyone to "Carry your bags for you" or to "Help you find a Cheapcaribbean.com rep". Just keep walking until you get OUTSIDE and see the official Cheapcaribbean.com sign (or the sign from whatever tour company you booked with).....PERIOD!!

We were approached by a man (still inside) who said. "Cheapcaribbean.com?" so we assumed he was our contact. <<WRONG>>. We were taken to a booth and after 10 minutes of sales pitching timeshares and excursions, we finally figured out that he was NOT from Cheapcaribbean.com but merely a person trying to sell us things. We then went OUTSIDE and saw a "Cheapcaribbean.com" sign. THAT is where you need to go! We almost missed our shuttle.

SHUTTLE VAN:

No problem! We got into a nice air-conditioned shuttle van and headed to the BM resort. We had 1 stop along the way at another resort and dropped off others who had booked through Cheapcaribbean and we were at BM within 55 minutes.

CHECK-IN TIP:

If you live in a colder climate like we do (we're from Connecticut), bring shorts or even bathing suits IN YOUR CARRY-ON BAG in case your room isn't ready yet.

We were stuck in our jeans for 2+ hours and were VERY uncomfortable. (But the Pina Colada's made it MUCH more bearable!) At 3pm we were promptly checked into our room (room 5107) and were VERY impressed to say the LEAST. It was on the END of the building closest to the pools/ocean/Capitan Morgan's.

BOOKING TIP:

I have read that this may not always work, but it certainly did work for me. I called directly to the resort the NIGHT BEFORE my arrival date. I asked if my room had been assigned already and was told that I was booked into room 4117 (building 4-courtyard view). I then asked for a room in ANY building that ended in a number from 1-12 and was given room 5107. As I mentioned before, it was on the end of the building in the BEST possible location for accessing everything. It may or may not work, but why not try it anyway?

FOOD:

We ate at Capitan Morgan's (yes, that's how Capitan's is spelled) and the food was very good. In fact, every time we ate anywhere at the resort (buffets, A-La-Cartes, Capitan Morgan's) the food was perfect and plentiful. Service was great and there was NEVER a line.

Each night there's a different theme (Mexican, Italian, Mediterranean, Japanese, seafood etc) yet there's always something for everyone even if you don't like the particular theme that night. Plus, there's always the other places like Capitan Morgan's as well, not counting room service (room service has an extra fee).

One night, we ate in the Spanish A-La-Carte (Don Quixote's) where the food and service was 5-star! Make sure you order the Spanish Flaming coffee.

THEATER TIP:

Get to the theater each night around 8:15 to 8:30 to get a decent table. It's not imperative, but we liked being up one level in the center. Also, we found the shows on the Colonial/Tropical side to be of better quality than those on the Beach/Caribe side. I didn't go to both sides every night, so I don't know how the shows were on the opposite side for each night. It may just be a coincidence that the ones we saw on the newer side were better (maybe the shows on the older sides those same nights were as good when we didn't go, but I don't know).

BEACH TIP:

There will always be some females who choose to go topless on the beach. Mostly they will be from Europe. It's really no big deal and, in fact, after my initial "gaze" in that direction, it was a non-issue after about 10 minutes anyway after I got used to it. Being from Connecticut, we don't see that around here much so it was a novelty for me. But, I was amazed that after 10 minutes I didn't even look in that direction again. **So, if you have kids, you may want to forewarn them.**

TULUM TIP:

Take the Collectivo outside of the resort (\$5 USD total for both of us including tip each way). It drops you off at the entrance where you'll walk maybe ¼ to ½ mile to the ruins. It costs \$6.50 USD each so the entire trip to Tulum only cost us \$23.00 total, which was MUCH cheaper than booking an excursion through the BM.

After the Tulum trip we stayed on the Collectivo past the BM and got off at Playa Del Carmen (still only \$5.00 USD total all the way from Tulum). We shopped and got some good deals on 5th Avenue.

PLAYA DEL CARMEN TIP:

Go to Senior Frog's. It's located right near the ferry to Cozumel. We went at 2:30pm and the place was SO much fun we didn't leave until 4:30. We had originally planned to take the ferry to Cozumel but never made it because of Senior Frog's. It is a MUST while in Playa Del Carmen. We took the Collectivo back to BM for \$5.00 and arrived at about 6 or so.

TOWEL TIP:

We managed to have a towel disappear while we were either in the water or over at the pottery stand so make sure you keep an eye on yours. It cost us \$20 USD when we checked out.

ADDITIONAL BM TIPS:

1. Take life easy and **ENJOY every minute of BM because your heart will break the MOMENT you leave** and won't be mended until you return again.
2. **Ask for a mattress topper (pad) because the beds ARE hard.**
3. Laptops WILL fit in the safe. I have a much larger screen and had to angle it in but it DID fit. **Make sure you DO put anything of value in the safe whenever you leave.**
4. **Tip the maids/fridge stockers at least \$1.00 to 3.00 per day and you'll certainly be rewarded.** We received towel animals, rose petals in the shape of a heart on our bed and a bottle of champagne with a fruit basket (and we had not even booked a honeymoon package). We were VERY impressed.

These employees only make about \$5.00/day from what I've been told so a tip goes a LONG way to make them happy and to help them know they're appreciated. They are all VERY hard workers, very nice and helpful and DESERVING of anything you decide to give them.

5. **Always haggle for a better price while in Playa Del Carmen, Tulum or even at some of the kiosks at the Colonial Mall within the resort.** The marked price (or the price they originally quote you) is normally a starting point. If you don't haggle, they get whatever it's marked and you lose. If you do haggle, they know how low they can go so don't be afraid to. I personally feel funny doing that but after I get back to the room and figure out how much money I saved all day, it made me feel that much closer to my next trip to BM due to the extra money I had saved!
6. There is only 1 electrical outlet on the table that the TV is on so make sure you bring at least 1 or 2 power strips with you. We had a digital camera, a camcorder, a laptop, an electric razor, 2 cell phones (all needing to be charged everyday) and the resort's lamp which was originally plugged into that outlet. Also, on the older (Beach/Caribe) side, the outlet is recessed and doesn't have a 3-prong plug so you'll need to break off the ground (3rd) prong to get it to plug in at all.

I read that on the newer (Colonial/Tropical) side, they have 3 prong plugs that are not recessed so there shouldn't be a problem there but if you want to plug in numerous items (even over there) you'll want a power strip. It sounds like a small thing, but dead batteries need charging and if you have to charge 1 device at a time, it could take all day!

7. Bring Aloe, high value sunscreen (bio-degradable), any daily meds, Pepto Bismal and Immodium (you ARE in Mexico), pain relief pills etc. The prices at the resort are a little pricey and you'll want it ASAP if you take ill.

8. Bring a LARGE, insulated mug (especially if you are drinking frozen drinks in the sun on the beach). The bartenders will make you a HUGE drink in your mug with no complaints. (I always tipped \$1.00 or \$2.00 per drink anyway so they stayed happy).

CLOSING REMARKS:

Have GREAT trip at BM whenever you do go. I know my heart won't be mended until next January when we return to Paradise once again!