

Robb Report

Luxury Travel Spotlight: What's New on Mexico's Riviera Maya

The Yucatán paradise is buzzing with new resorts, restaurants, and even a new beach.

If there's any place on earth where Mother Nature waved her wand with extra gusto, it's Mexico's Riviera Maya. Even the Mayans recognized this region's pristine coasts and verdant jungles as something special when they constructed their magnificent temples there during the 2nd century as symbols of their gratitude to the gods. Today, travelers are just as grateful for the Yucatán paradise, where five-stars hotels in Mayakoba and eco-luxe resorts in Tulum offer tropical beauty with an authentic charm. Recently, the Riviera Maya has gotten even more magical thanks to the arrival of new hotels and restaurants and the expansion of its most famous white-sand beach. Read on for five new Riviera experiences that would have wowed even the ancient Mayans.

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Hotel Esencia



Hotel Esencia interior
Photo: Tanveer Badal, Courtesy of Hotel Esencia

Hotel Esencia interior with canopy bed

A beloved hideaway on Xpu Ha Beach, between Tulum and Mayakoba, [Hotel Esencia](#) is lauded for its refined charm and tucked-away location. Due to its past as the private home of an Italian duchess, the hotel has long remained quaint, with just a few well-appointed suites and only one casual dining option. This month, however, the royal property is expanding, adding 11 new suites and a palapa-roofed restaurant. The former will include six beachfront accommodations with ocean views and direct beach access; all will be decorated with whitewashed walls, mid-century Mexican furnishings, and authentic 1950s art. The latter will serve Japanese-Peruvian fusion cuisine helmed by internationally acclaimed chef, Dimitris Katrivesis, formerly of El Bulli.