

Winter Dancers Getaway 2023!

Group: Dance and Entertainment Studios
Contact Person: Tricia Schwietz
Cell: (651) 605-5784
Email: tricia@danceandentertainment.com

Delta flight out is: DL1881, Minneapolis/St. Paul to Cancun

Monday, February 20, 2023

Depart 9am, arrive 2:16pm

1. Meet our group inside the Delta departures door of the airport by 6:30am!
Have your passport ready to scan, and luggage ready to check.

Delta flight home is: DL1878, Cancun to Minneapolis/St. Paul

Monday, February 27, 2023

Depart 3:10pm, arrive 6:25pm

Luggage: This year, rather than charging everyone's individual credit cards into the Delta Vacations system, I made all the contract payments on my studio/business Delta American Express card. Because of this, you "should" all receive free checked luggage, however, the Delta Rep said it only works for 9 people with me. She is trying to look into this more. So- I can't promise free baggage check at this time, but we are asking!

Hotel: Riu Yucatan: https://www.riu.com/en/hotel/mexico/playa-del-carmen/hotel-riu-yucatan/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=my_business&utm_content=YUC

What to expect:

1. Land in Cancun
2. Go through customs (show your passport again). They will ask what you're there for. You answer, "1 week vacation at Riu resort."
Riu is pronounced "Ree-You"
3. Gather your luggage
4. Walk outside the terminal, and look for our private transportation sign: "Dance and Entertainment / Tricia Schwietz" and load our private bus
5. Drive about an hour south, to our hotel: Riu Yucatan, in Playa del Carmen
6. Check in at the hotel lobby. You will need to show them your passport and you will need to pay an Environmental fee. This is something they never charge until you physically get there. (If anyone at the airport asks you to pay it, say you're paying it at the hotel).

You've checked in at the hotel:

1. Get a drink at the lobby bar
2. Smile, take your first selfie
3. Go drop off your luggage in your room
4. Walk around, enjoy the sunshine and no snow!
5. We will meet for dinner, and play a welcome game!

In the envelope with your hotel room key-card, will also be a card to redeem a beach towel at the pool. You will get your card back when you return your beach towel to the same spot.

Very convenient:

Download the **RiuHotels&Resorts** app onto your phone. When you check into the hotel, they will give you a log in & password, then you will choose the Riu "Yucatan" resort in the app.

You will be able to see all the restaurants, what their hours are, what their menu is, and what their dress code is.

The Restaurants at our resort:

- La Margarita - Steakhouse
- La Margarita - Mexican
- Sicilia - Italian
- La Hacienda - International buffet
- Shanghai - Asian
- Pepe's Food - poolside grill

Remember: all the food, drinks, and gratuities are included in your package! Additional tipping is completely optional.

On the App, you will also be able to see the schedule of activities at every Riu Resort near us. Your wristband gives you access to all of their properties within walking distance. They do not provide a shuttle between resorts.

The Disco/nightclub is at the Riu Tequila resort down the street, open 11pm-3am!

If you need to exchange money, the Riu Playacar resort down the street offers that in their hotel lobby. Our hotel does not.

The gift shop at our hotel is extremely small. Don't plan to get your souvenir shopping done there!

This whole neighborhood is a secured, gated area. When we drive into the resort area, we go through a secured gate, where our driver shows ID to the security guard and to the video camera. Once we are in that resort neighborhood, you will see several Riu Resorts, and well as the Hard Rock Cafe Golf Club, a Starbucks, and a bunch of local shopping. This entire area is for resort guests. The people working the shops know you're staying at a resort, otherwise you wouldn't have access to that area.

You can sign up for excursions at our hotel, or in that shopping area down the street. They have kiosks and vendors. Excursions are extra, and will take you off the resort property. You will need to pay for what you sign up for, plus tips. We often find several of us wanting to do the same things, and sign up as a small group. If you leave the resort neighborhood, I recommend trying to cover your resort wristband if possible.

Notes from our visit:

- * We had 1 king bed with 3 pillows (you can also get 2 beds)
- * There are outlets, but they aren't placed very conveniently:
 - One by the bed, two by the patio door
 - (Maybe bring an extension cord or power strip?)
- * Dresser has 2 drawers on the left, 2 drawers on the right
- * Closet has: rod with hangers, iron, ironing board, umbrella, and a safe
- * Nightstand on both sides of the bed
- * Large private patio, overlooking pool, with towel drying rod outside
 - (Maybe bring clothes pins for air-drying)
- * No carpet in the hotel rooms, so you might want to bring slippers
- * Shower (does not have tub) - they provide basic shampoo/conditioner, shower gel, lotion, tissue (but no shower cap)
- * Soap at the sink is a bar of soap (not liquid)
- * Hair dryer
- * TV
- * Shower, toilet, sink are all separate (but not much of a shower divider)
- * Table with 2 chairs - in room
- * Plastic table with 2 chairs - on patio
- * Mini bar - stocked & included (they restock every 2 days, or more if you ask)
- * Bottled water and bottled soda is provided in your room
- * There is a mini fridge and coffee machine, but no microwave

Theater shows: very good entertainment! The Michael Jackson show was amazing!

Suggestions of Things to Pack:

- * Dance and Entertainment logowear - let's wear it on the airplane!

- * Passport
- * Cell phone and charger
- * Headphones
- * Book/magazine
- * Gum/candy (you can't pack carry-on liquid until after you go through security)
- * Pesos (but they don't seem to mind U.S. dollars)
- * Medications
- * Band-aids
- * Hat
- * Sunglasses
- * Sunscreen (Bug spray? We didn't need any during our visit)
- * Swimsuit and cover-up
- * Shoes: sandals, flip-flops, walking shoes, tennis shoes, slippers for hotel room
- * Shoes: dance sneakers - for dance classes on the theater stage or Riu Fit floor
- * Shoes: suede-sole ballroom shoes would work in the hotel lobby
- * Clothing: hot during the day, cool at night
- * Dress cool, comfortable, and casual for dance classes
- * Slightly nicer "resort" clothing for evening dinner (men can't wear tank-tops to dinner, but ladies can)
- * Tropical/Hawaiian print shirt or outfit, for a themed group photo one night!
- * We will not be having any specific "formal" nights, however a Black & White themed night was on their schedule when we visited. We won't know until it's closer to the time we're traveling.
- * Small purse, fanny pack, money belt - if you go shopping or leave the resort
- * Bag for your pool day accessories
- * Beach towel clips to hold towel on pool chair
- * Inflatable drink holders for pool (you can set your drinks along the pool too)
- * Inflatable pillow for lounge chairs
- * Water bottle, coffee tumbler, something with a lid to keep your drink cold
- * Liquid hand soap (if you don't like bar soap)
- * Extension cord or power strip, if you have lots of devices

Last suggestions for now...

- * Call your credit card company and tell them you'll be making purchases in Mexico!
- * Check with your cell phone company to make sure Mexico is included in your data plan! Once you're at the resort, they have free wifi.