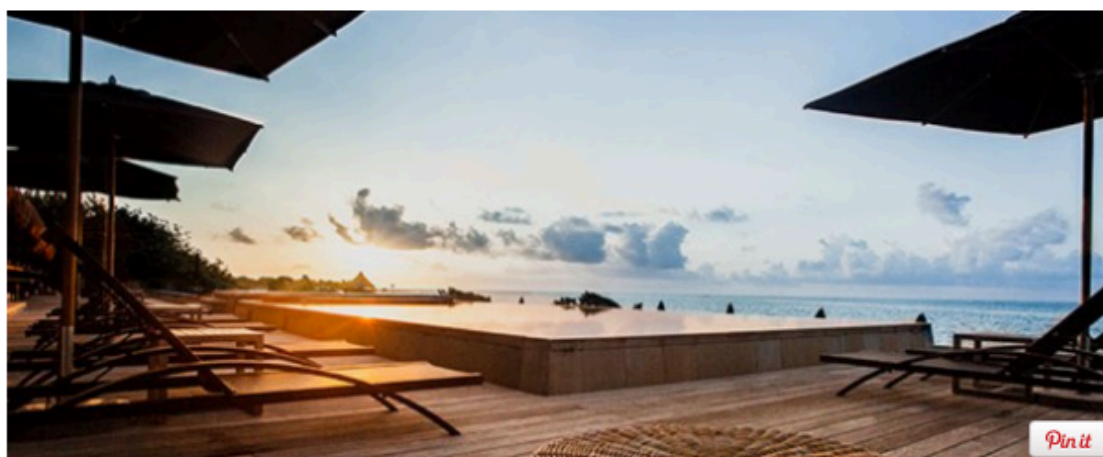


HOW TO AFFORD A LUXURIOUS VACATION

Make that daydream destination a reality ...

BY DANIELLE POINTDUJOUR



How many times have you found yourself day dreaming about lounging by the pool all day, bathed by the sun and enveloped in luxury?

If you're anything like me, you do it often, and it feels like it will never end. That is until you check your bank account and remember that you were only dreaming.

Cue tears

Travel dreams like the one I described don't have to stay figments of your imagination, however. Recently I was able to live out one of my travel bucket list dreams and stay at the uber luxurious NIZUC Resort and Spa in Mexico, and let me just say this...reality is so much better!

Nestled in exotic seclusion on the Punta Nizuc, the 29-acres of NIZUC Resort & Spa seem miles away from the party scene one would envision when they think of Cancun. NIZUC (nih-ZOOK) means 'dog nose' in Mayan and describes the shape of the peninsula between Laguna Nichupté and the Caribbean Sea at the gateway of the Riviera Maya, but in reality it should mean Heaven.

With prices starting around \$475 a night for their garden view rooms, don't let the sticker price shock you. NIZUC is worth every single penny, and more. From the moment you arrive, the amazing and thoughtful staff greet you (and each other) with a right hand over their heart and a slight nod, a gracious preview of the peaceful journey you're about to embark on during your stay. Clear waters, tasteful art and natural light surround you from every corner of the property and fill you with the feeling of Zen.

I'm immediately in love.

Out of the 274 rooms on the resort, the ocean view suite I chose for my stay had to be the most stunning one. The warm palette of earth and gray colors harmonized perfectly and didn't compete with the room's main attraction, the view. Huge doors framed the crystal clear blue turquoise waters of the private beach below and could easily be viewed from my comfy king size bed. After unpacking I set out to enjoy all the property had to offer which includes 2 private white sand beaches, six world-class restaurants, three bars, beautiful black mosaic pools, 2 tennis courts, and the 30,000 SqFt spa by the prestigious brand ESPA. And if all that wasn't enough, my personal concierge Stephanie (yup, a personal concierge!) arranged for a private cooking class in the kitchen of the contemporary Mexican cuisine restaurant, Ramona. Score!

After exploring the grounds and cooking a delicious meal, the itis set in and I wanted to catch a tan and relax, so off to the pool I went. I set up shop in a cabana and was immediately greeted by the world famous Hector The Protector (seriously, he's all over [Trip Advisor](#)), who took care of my every need and made sure my glass was always full as I splashed around the pool for three glorious hours. As I walked back to my room to prepare for dinner, I stopped to indulge in the pinkish sunset bathing the property. It was in that moment that I realized something, I was living my dream. I was calm, relaxed and surrounded by natural luxury. NIZUC was even better than my daydreams and I can't wait to return for another stay.