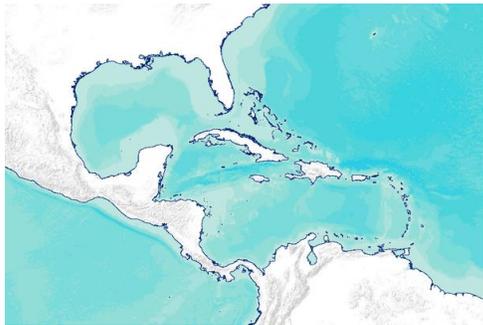


10 Facts and Surprises about All-Inclusive Resorts, including Dining, Experience, Safety, and Budget

Are you are interested in staying at an all-inclusive resort? Perhaps you have heard positive things about them from friends and family and you want to check it out and have an "all-inclusive" experience yourself. Maybe you have stayed at one and didn't have a great experience, but want to learn more as to why, or you want to visit another country. Well here are 10 Facts and Surprises You Should Know about All-Inclusive Resorts, including Dining, Experience, Safety, and Budget.

1. Where are all-inclusive resorts located?

All-Inclusive Resorts are mainly located in Mexico (West & East Coast), Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. These destinations have HUNDREDS of all-inclusive resorts. All three countries rely on tourism to bring in revenue for their countries. That is why there are so many resorts with gorgeous views of the Caribbean Sea as well as some with Atlantic and Pacific Ocean views.



Costa Rica has a growing number of all-inclusive resorts and the Bahamas have more, but nothing like Mexico, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. When you speak about the Caribbean there are all-inclusive resorts located on several Caribbean islands, but not many.

Where do you want to go in the Caribbean? Is it one of these destinations listed above, if not contact me and let's discuss your possibilities on other islands of interest to you.

2. What does all-inclusive mean?

All-inclusive means you have unlimited food and alcoholic beverages and accommodations included **100% in the TOTAL PRICE** for every all-inclusive resort. That does not sound like much right? Aren't you thinking well I thought there were more things included in the price like activities and

room service? NOPE, NOT ALWAYS. This is the bare minimum you can accept.

What is included in the all-inclusive resort can range from resort to resort. A 3 Star Resort may not include in the TOTAL PRICE all the amenities and activities that a 5 Star Resort may have. This is why only your accommodations, food and drink are always included.

3. Are there different all-inclusive resorts for different ages and interests?

Absolutely! There are adults only and family friendly resorts. Adults only means 18 years or older. Are you interested in let's party and celebrate, or are you looking for something more quiet and romantic? There are even resorts that cater to health and wellness as well as culinary cuisine.

Note: Family friendly means it allows children into the resort, but does it truly cater to all ages of your children? Babies to teenagers? Your children may find it boring because it doesn't have activities that they would enjoy.



4. Hey It's All-Inclusive, does that mean there is no tipping?

It varies from resort to resort if tipping is allowed. Some resorts say gratuities included, but tipping is allowed at the resorts. Examples would be for room service, the bellman, transportation, and the swim up bar. However if you do use butler service, tipping the butler is not included. Recommendation is \$10 per day.

5. Identification at the resort, What is a wristband?

Many, but not all all-inclusive resorts use wristbands if you are staying at their resort. You DO NOT want to lose this wristband. You can have receive possibly \$75-\$100 fee if you do lose it. Resorts will ask for your wristband back when you check out of the resort.



Other resorts will just use your key to your room as identification. It varies from resort to resort, but with these keys that are a size of a credit card, you do not want a credit card getting near it because you won't be able to get into your room and will have to go down to the front desk and get a new one. My experience, what a pain.

6. What if someone has food allergies, do they cater to that?

Do not expect it. Ask the resort. Lower star resorts will most likely not. Why would they? They are a lower priced budget friendly resort. Higher star resorts may, but not at all restaurants, buffets, bars, may cater to food allergies. You need to contact the resort ahead of time.



7. Do all-inclusive resorts cater to those who may be handicapped?

Do not expect it. Many do have some rooms, but no more than 6 usually that are handicapped accessible. Call the resort and ask. If the landscape of the resort is hilly and not flat, this too is something you need to find out from the resort. These resorts can be handicap accessible as well, but may not be best option resort. Keep this in mind if you are going to a family related gathering such as a destination wedding or family reunion.

8. Do all-inclusive resorts allow for an authentic cultural experiences?



Some all-inclusive resorts provide authentic cultural experiences from local entertainment groups while others have an on-site entertainment team that performs variety shows that will meet everyone's interests. They are usually referred to as "Theme Nights." I stayed at a resort where it was a Michael Jackson Theme

Night as an example. You could also include a culinary experience observing jerk chicken being made in front of you with cooking classes. If you want to experience more culture of the destination you will have to do a tour or excursion outside of the resort, which I highly recommend.

9. Are all-inclusive resorts safe?

I would say some all inclusive resorts are safer than others. They are all located in tourist areas. First some are in a gated community. Some have lifeguards, but most do not. Some resorts have public beaches especially in Mexico, but that has not stopped me from visiting the Riviera Maya two times.

10. Wow look at the price for an all-inclusive Resort!

ROOM CATEGORY	GROSS PER PERSON, PER NIGHT(Double Occupancy)
Junior Suite Tropical View	\$150
Junior Suite Pool View	\$165
Junior Suite Partial Ocean View	\$180
Junior Swim out Suite	\$210
Premium Suite Tropical View	\$175
Premium Suite Pool View	\$190
Premium Swim out Suite	\$260
Premium Oceanfront	\$295
Master Suite Oceanfront	\$310

So usually when booking a hotel room you look at the price of a room per night. Oh yeah my husband and I can stay in this partial ocean view room for \$180 a night. **WAIT RIGHT THERE.** When you see that price, that is **per person, per night.** You quickly look and you see. Nope. \$180 per person, per night That is \$360 for 2 adults. Read the details. Ask questions.

Is an All-Inclusive Resort for you?

After reading these 10 Facts About All-Inclusive Resorts I hope you found it helpful. Is it for you? There are so many options and types of resorts, the size, location, activities, onsite activities as well as off site activities, what is important to you? Do you need help searching for the resort perfect for you that matches your interests, desires, and wants?

Look for a few follow up emails about all-inclusive resorts that I didn't touch upon. Even if an All-Inclusive Resort is not for you, but you would like to visit Mexico, the Caribbean, or Costa Rica Contact Black Cats Travel for active travel destinations, I will definitely be able to help you out!

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED!

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By Laura Gibson
Owner of Black Cats Travel