



## FWSA COZUMEL SCUBA DIVE TRIP

### October 3 – 10, 2020

#### Basic Cost excluding air travel:

5 Day (2 tank boat dives) Dive Package	\$ 1,378
Non-Dive Package	\$ 899
Single Supplement	\$ 297

#### Price Includes: Iberostar Resort

7 nights at Iberostar Cozumel Resort – based on 2 per room  
 All meals daily  
 All drinks daily including alcohol  
 All non-motorized water sports and activities  
 Roundtrip airport / resort transfers  
 Resort fees, taxes & non-dive gratuities.

#### In Addition, the Dive Package includes:

5 days of 2 tank boat dives, including 2 Cenotes dives with Dressel Divers  
 Complimentary Nitrox

#### Add-On Costs:

Superior Room	\$ 114 per person
Ocean View Room	\$ 282 per person
Ocean Front Room	\$ 340 per person

#### Payment Schedule:

Initial deposit	Immediately	\$ 500 per person
2 <sup>nd</sup> payment	June 1, 2020	\$ 200 - \$500 per person
Final payment	August 1, 2020	\$ balance

#### Cancellation Penalties:

Prior to June 18, 2020	\$ 0 per person
June 19, 2020 – July 3, 2020	\$ 100 per person
July 4, 2020 – August 2, 2020	\$ 450 - \$689 per person
August 3, 2020 – departure date	no refunds

Travel on this FWSA trip to Cozumel, Mexico requires a valid Passport. It is your responsibility to ensure your required travel documents are in order and with you.

#### **DIVE and TRAVEL INSURANCE**

FWSA highly recommends that you purchase travel insurance. Roatan Charters offers trip insurance on their website at <https://www.travelsafe.com/index.php?ref=ROAFL02>

Additional travel insurance vendors can be found on FWSA website at

<http://www.fwsa.org/Travel/insurance.html> . In addition, all scuba divers will be required to have diving accident insurance through Divers Alert Network (DAN), the premier dive insurance. You can get their insurance info at <http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/>

## **ABOUT COZUMEL:**

### **Location/Geography**

Mexico's largest island is 32.5 miles long by 8.7 miles wide, just 12 miles off the Yucatan Coast.

### **Climate**

Daily temperatures average 80°F year-round. Highs July —August reach into the low 90's. December — March sees daily temperatures in the very comfortable mid 70's.

### **Water Temperature**

Averaging between 77-82°F degrees.

### **Currency**

The Mexican peso, exchanged at the daily rate for U.S. Dollars. Credit cards widely accepted.

### **Electricity**

110-volt U.S. style plugs / 60 cycle

### **Documents**

All visitors to Mexico must present valid passports. Your passport must be valid until April 10, 2021.

### **Time Zone**

USA Central Standard Time. Daylight savings time is observed.

### **Language**

Officially Spanish, but English is spoken commonly.

### **U.S. Consulate**

Plaza Progreso, Local 33 Carretera Federal Puerto Juarez-Chetumal, Mz. 293 Lt. 1, Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo C.P. 77710

## **IBEROSTAR COZUMEL**

Iberostar Cozumel will provide you with all the necessary elements for an unforgettable 5-star vacation in Mexico's Caribbean. Perfectly combining rustic elements with modern touches this resort features bungalow suites that provide a unique getaway. With a beautiful beach-front location, thriving greenery, and a focus on providing a positive experience for guests and locals, it is no wonder that Iberostar Cozumel is a proud holder of the Green Globe Certification. Forget your day-to-day routine and discover the freedom of an All-inclusive resort for families, friends and couples.

- **Bungalow suites:** The bungalow styled rooms will feel like a secret hideaway in the middle of paradise. Each room will assure All-inclusive access, comfort, plus a private patio and hammocks to enjoy the Caribbean outdoors!
- **Experience snorkeling and scuba diving in Cozumel:** Explore one of the best snorkeling and diving locations in the world that is just off the Caribbean coastline. With a specialized center located within this All-Inclusive resort in Cozumel, guests can easily explore the tropical reefs and see the abundant marine life up close. Experienced and certified instructors will guide you through your diving or snorkeling excursion and help point out the colorful fishes, crabs, eels and coral.
- **Fine dining in Mexico:** Indulge in the best local Mexican cuisine, fresh seafood, international favorites, and fusion dining at Iberostar Cozumel. Choose from various à la carte and buffet options along with a snack bar perfect for a light meal or quick bite. Guests will never leave hungry but always come back for more. 3 specialty restaurants including El Cedral Rotisserie, Las dos Marias Mexican, and La Pagoda Japanese.

- **Massages and facials:** Restore the mind and body with a trip to the top spa in Cozumel which is right in the middle of the Iberostar Cozumel property. Get away from the everyday and settle into the best version of yourself with services that cater to your every need. Benefit from treatments focused on hydrating, restoring, nourishing, and uplifting.
- **Concierge service:** With top facilities that are focused on providing relaxing and unforgettable experiences, guests of Iberostar Cozumel can expect their dream vacation to become a reality. For any other details or help arranging your adventures in Cozumel or the Riviera Maya, the concierge is ready to assist.
- **Experiencing the live entertainment:** With a theater located on this All-Inclusive resort in Cozumel, the fun never ends. Catch family-friendly shows that range from comedy to musical productions. Create memories and share plenty of laughs with your loved ones with Iberostar's nightly entertainment program.
- **Trying a new sport in the Caribbean:** Take advantage of the great weather. Cozumel offers the year-round sunshine of Mexico with plenty of outdoor activities and sports. With so many options available at Iberostar Cozumel you are sure to find a game that you have never tried before but always wanted to. Try tennis, ping pong, archery, darts, basketball, or riflery.

### ***Room Types Available:***

The **Standard** room has a private balcony with views of the jungle surrounding the hotel. You can relax on your sun lounger while you think about the next water sport you want to try out.

The **Superior Standard** room is located close to the hotel's pool and beach, so you can be the first to dive into the waters of the Caribbean. You can relax on a sun lounger on your private balcony

From the **Ocean View Standard**, you can gaze at the Caribbean and the white sandy beach from your balcony.

In the **Ocean Front Standard room**, you can take a dip in the waters of the Caribbean just a few yards from your room by just opening the door that separates your private terrace from the beach.



**Las dos Marías Mexican restaurant**



**La Pagoda Japanese restaurant**



**La Perla Pool Bar**



**Bar on the beach**





### Dive center

The hotel is located next to the second-largest coral reef in the world, so it's the ideal destination for scuba divers...



### Aliveness

### SPA Sensations



### The Meso-American Barrier Reef

Mexico has one of the world's most spectacular under-water reefs: The Meso-American Barrier Reef. It lies just in front of our Dive Paradise Island Cozumel. This is the world's second largest living coral reef and a truly spectacular place for scuba diving and snorkeling, surrounded by pure white beaches and turquoise blue ocean water.



### **Reef National Park**

The Reef National Park in Cozumel, is part of the Great Western Atlantic Reef who through Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras over 1000 km. Here Scuba Divers can explore the famous Palancar Caves and Palancar Garden.

### **Cenotes**

Coral reefs are one of the most important natural resources of the island, Cenotes are another major attraction of the destination, as its formation from limestone and underwater tunnels that provide these majestic water springs make them a wonder that is necessary visit.

### **Punta Sur Ecological Reserve**

The Park Punta Sur Ecological Reserve treasures the passage of the Mayan culture of the island with an ecotourism project called “Cozumel Parks and Museums”. The Laguna Chankanaab Natural Park is a magnificent haven for wildlife.

### **Things to do on Cozumel Island:**

Other things to do or visit in the Cozumel Island are Mexico Discovery Park, Water Park, Grand Beach Park, beaches Hotel Zone North and South, wildlife watching, Horseback riding, Segway ride, catamaran ride, Tour through the jungle, Golf Club, snorkeling and diving in coral reefs, swim with dolphins, stingrays and sea turtles, manatees encounter.

## **HISTORY**



The first Maya settled in Cozumel 2,000 years ago. However, during the classic period 300-900 A.C.- a time when priests were at the top of the social hierarchy in the Maya world and life revolved around religious ceremonies – Cozumel became one of the most important sanctuaries in the Yucatan region. Cozumel derives its name from the Mayan words Cuzam (swallow) and Lumil (land of), which form the word Cuzamil (land of swallows). The Mayan word changed with time to the Spanish name of Cozumel. The Mayans believed the island to be a sacred shrine.

Religious pilgrimages were common to the island especially from women who were either pregnant or wanted to get pregnant. They pay homage to the goddess Ix Chel, the deity of the moon, pregnancy and childbirth. It was a tradition among the Maya People in general to make the trip at least once in their lifetime to the shrine of this goddess by 1200 D.C, in Middle America there existed an important long-distance trade in which Cozumel was a key link.

It was on this island where all kinds of merchandise arrived from far-away places. Goods were temporarily stored before being sent in canoes to other distribution points.

It was by 1518 that the Spanish explorer Juan de Grijalva arrived to the coast of the island on Holy Cross Day (May 3rd), named this land as “Isla de la Santa Cruz” and proclaimed the land as property of the Doña Johanna and Don Carlos Kings of Spain, The Spanish arrive, to

Cozumel on May 06 making a peaceful stop on the island, received by the locals, exchanging gold and a variety of goods.

Juan de Grijalva ordered the chaplain Juan Díaz to offer a mass on the same place that the islanders had a temple therefore on May 6th the first catholic ceremony was held in México, at a location named by the Spanish like Saint John (currently named Las Casitas (little houses), where every year mass is still celebrated by the locals.

The visit was followed a year later by Hernán Cortés. Cozumel was the first site touched by the army of Hernán Cortés in what is now Mexican territory, becoming the starting point for the conquest of Mexico. It was on this island that the long, drawn out domination of the Yucatán started and was carried out. Between the arrival of Cortés in 1519 and the year 1524 when the conquest culminated, there were no large-scale confrontations between the Indians and the Spaniards on the island.

The Mayan ruler of Cozumel accepted their domination peacefully. The conqueror proceeded to destroy many of the Mayan temples. By the time, Cortés left Cozumel, the ancient civilization lies in ruins. At the same time, an outbreak of smallpox killed thousands.

By 1525 Francisco de Montejo made a request to the king of Spain to authorize the conquest and development of the Isla of Cozumel (Montejo was one of the captains that arrived with Cortez 9 years prior). Don Francisco de Montejo arrives to Cozumel On September 29 of 1527 and gave the Christian name of San Miguel de Cozumel.

As the Spaniards became more familiar with the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, they realized they did not have to stop-over in Cozumel, excluding it as a port of call for Spanish ships. At the same time, as an immediate effect of the conquest, Mayan trade was nullified and the cult of the goddess Ix Chel suppressed.

The islanders, deprived of their principal economic activity, were forced to depend only on agriculture for their survival.

By the decree of the King of Spain of July 15 of 1583, Cozumel became directly dependent upon the Yucatan church. Between 1519 and 1570, the island's population dropped from 40,000 to 30. By 1700 it was finally uninhabited.

Although several pirates used Cozumel as a base of operations in the 17th century, including the notorious Henry Morgan and Jean Lafitte, the island was not resettled until 1848. England and Holland pirates came inside the land to capture Indians and Spaniards as slaves.

During the caste war, refugees fled to the island. The mestizos founded San Miguel on the west coast and the Mayans settled at El Cedral. From mid-19th century to the beginning of the 20th, Cozumel's economy boomed, and it became an important port.

The depression (1930's) seriously affected the island economically, it bounced back during World War II putting Cozumel on the map. The U.S. built an air base for planes hunting U-boats in the mid-Atlantic and an airport was built.

Drawn by the clear waters, frogmen came to train and returned home with stories of magnificent underwater vistas. Jacques Cousteau's declarations in 1960 about the richness of the coral reef surrounding the island made underwater enthusiasts aware of Cozumel's existence.

By 1970, Cozumel's population quickly growth to 10,000 and today the island boasts a population of more than 75,000.

## GEOGRAPHY



On top of the age-old structures of the Mesoamerican Reef (also known by its Spanish acronym, SAM, Sistema Arrecifal Mesoamericano, is the largest reef system of the Americas, extending nearly 1000 kilometers), stands the Island of Cozumel. Located at the Easter tip, of the Yucatán Peninsula, Cozumel was formed by coralline limestone rock and sandy soils, is the largest inhabited island in Mexico and Caribbean's premier dive spot. (declared a national park in 1996).

The Island of Cozumel measures 32 miles from north to south but only 9 miles from east to west. On either side of the island, beaches form a long, white sandy

coast. Gentle waves and transparent waters wash the western side of the island, while huge waves crash against the eastern side.

## CLIMATE

The average daily air temperature on Cozumel is 80 degrees (27°C). In July/August, the highs range from the upper 80s to the low 90s. (32°C) In December and January, the daytime temperatures average in the mid-70s (24° C.) Winter Months: Cold fronts may create windy, cloudy and cooler weather. Afternoon thunderstorms are common, usually lasting for an hour.

Water temperatures range from 77°-82°F (25°-28°C) throughout the year.

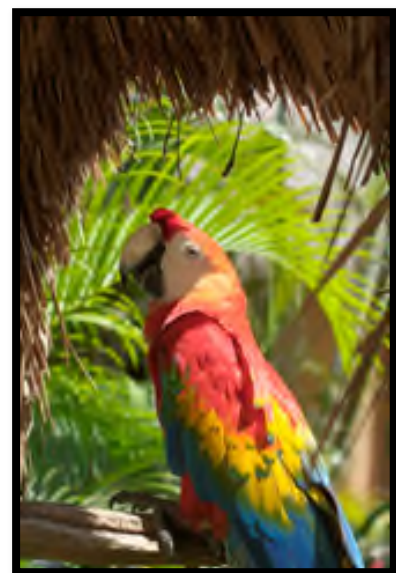
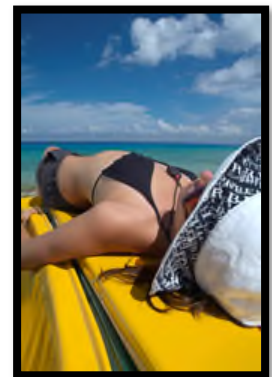
## BIODIVERSITY

With their crystal-clear water and incredible variety of marine life, Cozumel's reefs offer an underwater experience you won't soon forget.

The waters surrounding the island are so clear that visibility can be up to 250 feet, opening a world of beauty unlike any other.

As many as 250 different species of fish can be seen in Cozumel's waters; one of the most spectacular is the Queen Angelfish, possessing bright blue-and-yellow markings and the distinctive blue "crown" on the top of the head. You can even catch a glimpse of the Toad fish, found nowhere else in the world. Making its home in the holes along the reef, this fish grows from 12 to 16 inches in length. It has the distinction of being one of the world's fastest eaters: it can capture and eat a whole fish in milliseconds- faster than the blink of an eye!

In addition to the colorful fish, Cozumel boasts some of the biggest and most spectacular sponge formations in the world. Fed by a continuous current bringing a steady supply of food to the reefs, some sponges, such as the Elephant Ear sponge, can grow as large as 12 feet across. Other sponges, like the Barrel sponge, gain considerable size as well.





On the surface Cozumel has a number of unusual features and include certain endemic species, such as the dwarf raccoon(*procyon pygmaeus*) and the Cozumel wren(*nasua nelsoni*) Migratory birds also rely heavily on the richly productive feeding grounds of the reef, which supports populations of magnificent frigate birds, brown pelican, olivaceous cormorant, and many others. The prehistoric iguana and the crocodile are the state's largest lizards and there are a host of amphibians, tree frogs are particularly colorful, their bright hues a warning to predators.

## CLOTHING

Clothing at the Caribbean coast is very casual no ties are required anywhere. Some upscale restaurants do have a medium dress code. During the winter months, we suggest you bring light sweater with you. Comfortable, flat-heeled walking shoes, such as sneakers, are recommended all year round so that you can safely explore the archeological zones and islands



## CULTURE

The development of Cozumel differs from that Cancun, which was planned. Cozumel growth has been gradual and spontaneous, far the longest time, based on small to medium-size hotels. With more than 2 million visitors per year, Cozumel is one of the most important tourist destinations in Mexico.

As well as its natural beauty, clean and peaceful beaches, clear waters, multicolored reefs, exotic flora and fauna; the island offers numerous archeological vestiges of the Mayan culture.

Its inhabitants, preserve their rich traditions, like Carnival, the religious rites of Easter week and the festivals of Santa Cruz in May, and San Miguel in September. All these popular events combine Pre-Hispanic and Catholic rituals with participation of locals and visitors alike.

It is during these celebrations that local character and color can be most appreciated, when the identity and strength that the years and decades have given Cozumel make this beautiful island what is today, a place with deep historical roots and a broad vision for the future.

## HERITAGE



Proud traditions link present to past

The island of Cozumel derives its name from the Mayan words Cuzam (swallow) and Lumil (land of), which join to form the word Cuzamil (land of swallows). Over time, the word Cuzamil evolved to the Spanish name of Cozumel. The Mayans believed the island to be a sacred shrine.

Inherent to Cozumel's modern present is a past rich in Maya history - one that's preserved and shared through annual festivals, cultural sites and ancient ruins. All serve as reminders of this

enduring heritage that continues to play a role in the everyday life of Cozumelenos and island

guests. Visitors can explore, experience and gain a sense of the strength of Maya culture at several sites.

The largest archaeological site on the island, San Gervasio was a sacred Mayan center, as well as a strategic political and commercial hub. San Gervasio takes its name from an agricultural and cattle ranch which was founded by Mr. Gervasio Novelo in 1858. While the original name is unknown, it is believed that it could have been "Tan Tun" (Over Rock). Continuously occupied from 200 A.D. until the Spanish conquest, San Gervasio served as a sanctuary to Goddess Ixchel, the goddess of fertility. Pilgrims from the entire Mayan world were drawn to the site to worship her. During the post-classic period between 1200-1530, San Gervasio became the biggest and most significant site on the island. At its central square, visitors can walk among the ruins of what were the most important temples - nine buildings that formed an enclosed patio and from where three roads communicated with other squares. Bilingual plaques describe each structure.

The area is divided primarily in four historical districts:  
Manitas structure and annexed temple "Chichan Nah" - the first visible area of the archaeological site  
Central Plaza structures - civic buildings and temples  
Murcielagos structure - an observatory building  
El Ramonal (no public access) - the oldest district

San Gervasio is a short drive on the cross-island road from downtown San Miguel. The entrance is marked by a gravel road leading north of the ruins. Bilingual tour guides are available, as are souvenir stores, a bookstore, snack bar, restrooms and parking. Admission is \$5.00 per person, with children under 11 admitted free of charge. Hours of operation are 7:00am - 4:00pm daily. Visit [www.cozumelparks.com](http://www.cozumelparks.com)



Located inland just off the island's main road some 10 miles south of San Miguel, El Cedral is today the site of the Festival of El Cedral celebration held each May. Commemorating the Day of the Holy Cross, the 150+ year tradition honors the safe passage of 11 founding families who fled the mainland for Cozumel in 1848 during la guerra de castas (the Caste War).

Sparse archaeological evidence remains of El Cedral's past glory because much of the temple was destroyed by conquistadors. By the turn of the last century, the site was uninhabited. But at one time, this quaint village and ruins comprised the largest settlement in Cozumel.

It was here that people worshipped and placed offerings for the gods before the settlers eventually built a church at the site. Compared to San Gervasio, El Cedral's ruin is much smaller. However, it is the oldest Maya structure on the island.

After exploring the ruins, visitors should view the rustic, modern-era stucco church painted vivid green. Inside, several crosses are shrouded in embroidered lace.

El Cedral is accessible by taking the main highway south from San Miguel to a large arched entry. In addition to guided tours, visitors will find several craft shops with a variety of Mexican souvenirs. Admission is free.

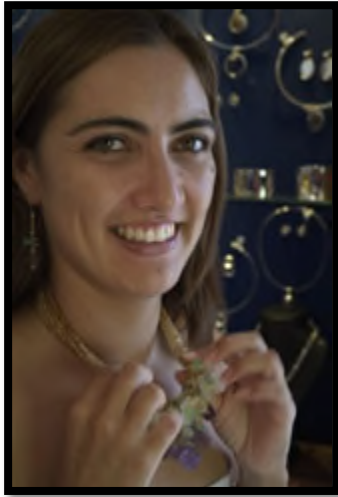
A Maya site on the eastern coast near the northern tip of the island, Castillo Real (Royal Castle) consists of a lookout tower, pyramid base and temple with two chambers capped by a false arch. A fine snorkeling site, the offshore waters harbor several shipwrecks and ample marine life.



A well-preserved ancient structure built between 1200 - 1400 A.D., El Caracol was used by the Mayans to signal the approach of hurricanes. The ancient "engineering feat" is basically a whistle propelled by winds funneled through a seashell to warn navigators to take refuge from impending bad weather.

The ruins are now part of the Parque Punta Sur ecological reserve. The \$10 entrance fee includes a guided tour to the ruin. Entrance is free for children under 8. Remarkable coastal scenery leads to an 800-year-old Maya ruin at La Palma, and to Castillo Real, a 1200-year-old ruin that's perched overlooking the Caribbean.

## SHOPPING



When you are ready for a break from the sun and surf, stroll through the shops in town. Great buys can be found on Mexican items. Walking the streets and shopping centers are a delightful experience. From a custom-made t-shirt to one-of-a-kind silver jewelry collection...shops and boutiques have the best selection and value on the Island. You will also find several shops specializing in resort wear. And you'll see a wide array of imported items, including duty-free perfumes and cosmetics, china and crystal, watches and cameras.

If you shop carefully, you will find that prices on jewelry fashioned with Mexican silver and turquoise are exceptionally good. When buying sterling silver, always make sure you see "925" stamped on the item. Gold items should be stamped with a set of two numbers and two letters (in any combination). Textiles are another important product and show Mexico's geographic and cultural

diversity. Traditional Mayan dresses (huipiles) and shawls (rebozos), as well as men's embroidered cotton shirts (guayaberas) and tightly woven Panama hats, are representative of the States in the Yucatan peninsula, including the State of Quintana Roo. Hammocks are also an essential part of life in the region and are available in a wide array of color combinations and fabrics.

Leather goods, including shoes, boots, belts, purses and luggage reflect Mexico's proud tradition of a fine craftsmanship and its high quality. Mexican handicrafts are among the most sought-after items here, and you'll be able to choose from a large assortment of works by artisans from nearly everywhere in the Country.

Reproductions of ancient native handicrafts, including jewelry, stone carvings; wooden masks and semiprecious-stone sculptures make wonderful souvenirs. You'll also find colonial-style items such as filigree jewelry, lacework and wood furniture. Interesting objects crafted from onyx, one of Mexico's major exports, are widely available as well. Be sure to check out the vast selection of pottery in Cozumel's stores. Pottery art includes everything from unglazed clay pieces to beautiful stoneware crockery.

The major stores are usually open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. However, Cozumel observes the traditional Mexican custom of the afternoon siesta: many shops close for a few hours in the afternoon. When a cruise ship is in port, more stores tend to remain open during the siesta period. Most stores accept credit cards, U.S. dollars and traveler's checks.

On the waterfront is avenue Rafael E. Melgar, just in front of Punta Langosta pier. This shopping mall has a wide variety of fast food restaurants like Burger King and Subway also well-known restaurants as T.G.I Friday's, Sr. Frog's and Carlos'n Charlie's.

## **FORUM PLAZA**

Forum Shops offers a new experience known as the Caribbean Shopping Style, where the customer will be able to save 50% from what is customary in the United States and Canada for exclusive items as those found in the fine jewelry shops, clothes and designer accessories, perfumes and many more. Forum's Plaza biggest attraction is the interactive jewelry workshop where the tourist can watch while jewelry is being crafted into an exquisite piece.

For people who love to enjoy Cozumel's most beautiful scenery, visit Havana Club simply indulging a great cocktail or authentic havanos from the House of the Havano.

There is also an Auditorium at the mall, where tourists enjoy the Mexican ballet. The two-story shopping center is conveniently air-conditioned and has an electrical staircase.

## **PUNTA LANGOSTA**

Located in the heart of the island, on the main street Rafael E. Melgar, offers a unique shopping area, walking and entertainment, offers a wide range of articles in prestigious stores like Diamonds International, Tanya Moss, Pama, Pineda Covalin, Los Cinco Soles, Duty Free, Watch my Watch, Sunglasses, Squalo, Fast Food, Mexican and International restaurants as Carlos'n Charlies, Burger King and Panchos Backyard, the atmosphere in Sr. Frogs and Hard Rock Cafe, and the best place to enjoy a Starbucks coffee in the evening.

Delight your entertainment at noon Monday through Saturday, where you'll find dance from all regions of the country, human statues, Mayan dances and our incomparable Mariachi music. It has all the services like bathrooms, escalators, elevators, parking and security.