

TRAVEL DIARIES

Discover travel and honeymoon tips from one recently married couple.



Following their stunning ocean-view destination wedding in Los Cabos, Mexico, Brooke (née Christy) and David Corcos stayed in Mexico to experience a romantic and adventurous 10-day honeymoon in Tulum, Playa Del Carmen, and Isla Holbox.



Destination: Tulum, Mexico

When selecting a honeymoon destination, Brooke and David knew they wanted to celebrate their new marriage in paradise. Just before booking an over-water bungalow at a resort in Bora Bora, the couple discovered it was not possible to travel there directly after their wedding due to Covid restrictions. Thus, they decided to stay within Mexico to ensure there wouldn't be any issues – giving them the opportunity to visit areas of the country they had never been before, with Tulum first on their list. “We love that the east coast of Mexico features warm ocean water and a more tropical environment than what we're used to when visiting Cabo,” affirms Brooke. “We loved the experience!”

Having learned of Encantada Tulum from Jacey Duprie of Damsel in Dior, a blogger who travels often and shares unbiased reviews, they booked four nights at the boutique hotel right on the sand. “With only eight rooms, we felt like VIPs the whole time,” confirms David. “We never had to ask for anything, and if we did need something, the concierge was only a step or WhatsApp message away.” They also appreciated the air conditioning – as many Tulum hotels have poor AC or none at all. Each day, the newlyweds enjoyed the hotel's tasty breakfast and spent as much time as possible on the private beach – “order the *pepino y chile serrano* margarita and the trio of quesadillas!” suggests Brooke.

With Tulum being the longest leg of their honeymoon, the newlyweds made sure to explore the town and visit popular attractions. “To the surprise of the hotel staff, we planned



to use the complimentary bikes for our excursion to Gran Cenote and the Tulum Archaeological Zone,” explains Brooke; however, after trekking five miles through rain-filled potholes, they decided to rent a Vespa to continue their adventure, which they recommend to other travelers. After paying a minimal entrance fee, they explored Gran Cenote, a natural limestone sinkhole popular for snorkeling. “We loved seeing the crystal-clear water, watching the turtles swim, and floating with each other like no one else was there,” smiles Brooke. They also highly recommend visiting the Mayan ruins.

Besides the beaches and must-see sites, Brooke and David were most excited to tour Tulum through the cuisine. First on their list was a reservation at ARCA, which boasts an ever-changing menu of unique open-fire cooked dishes and incredible cocktails – “try the Har Mar Superstar with mezcal, ginger, honey, lemon, and thyme, and if you're feeling a bit daring, David loved the El Solar, a spicy mezcal cocktail served with a dried grasshopper you're supposed to eat after taking a sip!” says Brooke. Another favorite was Nómade's La Popular, which “had the best vegan al pastor tacos and top-notch shrimp tacos,” says Brooke. “We were seated on a swing bench with an ocean view. So romantic and fun! It really felt like Tulum vibes here.” For those also visiting the cenote and ruins, they recommend stopping for lunch between the two at Taqueria Honorio. “They're known for the *cochinilla pibil* (slow-roasted pork) tacos, and they did not disappoint,” adds David. “There was a 20-minute line when we arrived, but it's well worth the wait!”

HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoying a seaside massage. “We had the best deep-tissue massage of our lives right on the beach, so we could hear the waves crashing along with the relaxing music. It was absolute heaven!”

Trying new restaurants. “We heard great things about ARCA, and it did not disappoint! This was our favorite dinner of the honeymoon; everything was so wonderful, unique, and delicious.”

Dining by the ocean. “We had a romantic, private oceanfront dinner our last night there. We were served chilled Champagne, mezcal, and a five-course meal. It was amazing!”



PHOTOS: AFFYRM STUDIO (TOP); SOFIA HERNANDEZ (BOTTOM). OPPOSITE PAGE: SOFIA HERNANDEZ (TOP & BOTTOM); AFFYRM STUDIO (MIDDLE)