



*Welcome to Rott's Manor*

Pete & Mary Clukey

## Mexico 2001 Trip Report

**Funjet Vacations/Pace Airlines**– Lacked organization at check in counter both in Atlanta and in Mexico. In Atlanta when we arrived Funjet signs were not even up at the check-in counter. Transportation to and from the resort was adequately comfortable and timely... However, it would be nice to arrive at the Cancun airport a bit earlier so that you would have time to get lunch, a rest stop opportunity, and a brief moment to relax before boarding your flight. Our transportation picked us up at the resort at 10:00am for a 2:10pm flight, we had no opportunity to pick up any lunch. The service and seats on board Pace Airlines were better than expected. And it's a good thing to, since there was absolutely no room to move around in your seat (no leg room at all). The snacks were of name brands (Goldfish Crackers, Oreos, etc.). Since we had no opportunity to have lunch, a sandwich, chips, and a dessert would have been more appreciated.

**Lomas Travel** – The staff was always friendly and easy to find. They had a desk at our resort that was open almost all day. The staff was there to assist you in the morning when you depart. Which was greatly appreciated when our bus failed to show up on time, they were able to radio in to find out where it was.

**The tours (Riviera Maya Information Chichen Itza Xel-Ha)** – Only one of our tours ran on time. We purchased all-inclusive tours to Tulum & Coba (Dec 24), Chichen Itza (Dec 26), Xel-Ha for the day (Dec 27), and Cozumel (Dec 28). We found the guides on all tours to be well educated, eager to share their knowledge, and some times even a litter humorous.

The tour to **Tulum & Coba** was nice except for the transportation... be sure to insist on a bus not a van, the road to Coba is bumpy and the vans do not have adequate shocks or air-conditioning in the back seat. The lunch was better than expected. Just be prepared to pay for the drinks (soda was \$2 USD). This tour is worth taking.

The tour to **Chichen Itza** was not exactly what we expected. By the time we arrived at Chichen Itza it was 2:30pm... On the way to Chichen Itza we stopped for 1 hour to shop (this stop is completely unnecessary and adds nothing to the tour), we stopped briefly at a church in Valladolid to visit a church (this is a nice stop), we stopped for 30 minutes at Ik Kil a cenote (also a nice stop), we stopped for 1 hour to have lunch and some more shopping (a necessary stop), then we finally arrived at Chichen Itza. This tour could be greatly improved if it departed earlier, got rid of the first shopping stop, arrived at Chichen Itza earlier, and allowed more time to explore on your own at Chichen Itza (we only had 45 minutes). Lunch was good. Again, drinks were not included. Sweet rolls were provided on the way out in the morning, drinks (including bottle water) were provided all day, the only thing missing was a snack for the ride back (it was 8:00pm before we arrived back at our resort – and ours was the first stop back). This tour is worth taking once – next time we will rent a car, get there earlier and have the time we want to explore.

**Xel-Ha** – Was excellent... we left the group before the guided tour had finished and started to explore on our own. The food was good, and with the all-inclusive package you can eat (including ice cream) and drink (soft drinks, bottle water, and beer) all day long. It was a nice place to relax, walk, and spend the day snorkeling. We'd go again.

**Cozumel** – A very nice and worthwhile tour, if you like to snorkel (which we do). The water and fish were great. The boat crew were wonderful always making sure that the passengers had what ever they wanted to drink (bottle water, soft drinks and beer were available). Lunch was very good – a buffet hut on the beach. This tour could be improved if there were a land portion to the tour – I'm sure that there must be some ruins or something interesting (other than the shopping of course) to see on the island of Cozumel.

The **Copacabana Resort, Riviera Maya** – Receives a very good to excellent rating from us.

The few improvements that could be made are in:

The nightly entertainment area (this needs a lot of help). The pool could be open later (it closes at 6:00pm). They need more Sunfish sailboats (the two that they have are always busy). The beds are hard (from talking to other tourist from other hotels this is common). And for us, if this resort were for

adults only, it would be just about perfect. We never could get into any of the Jacuzzis, as they were always filled with unsupervised screaming children.

The food at this resort is very good. You can get fresh blended fruit juice in the morning and afternoon. At breakfast, there are fruits, cereals, yogurt, deli meats and cheese, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, French toast and omelets made to order. At lunch, there are burgers & hot dogs, a pizza bar, a sandwich bar, chips & salsa, an ever changing variety of hot dishes, and pasta made to order. Also available is an ice cream machine with a toppings bar. At dinner, there are hot dishes & desserts centered on the evening theme. On Mexican night the lobby is filled with vendors of Mexican crafts. The staff is friendly... it goes beyond that, the staff member who checked us into the resort, greeted us two days later with "Good morning Mr. & Mrs. Clukey. How are you today?" It's a good thing he had a name badge because I didn't remember his name. At dinner, dirty plates were picked up immediately after you had finished with it. And while the drinks were self-service, it was common for the dining room attendants to bring you a fresh glass of what ever you were drinking. And our room attendant was always creatively folding the toilet paper end in almost an origami fashion, making sailboats and other things. The bed, too, was made up creatively... some times the bedspread would be "molded" into almost a bow.

We would definitely recommend the Copacabana Resort to anyone.