

Villa Wiley Details and Suggestions



Below you will find details on our home, the Isla 33 facilities, the island, directions for getting to Villa Wiley and notes on some of our favorite places to go. We hope you find this guide helpful. Please let us know if there are any remaining questions or you have any suggestions for improvement.

Whether you're seeing this document (or the [maps](#)) via our rental [VRBO site](#), our [web site](#) (which has additional pictures) or [Facebook page](#), I hope you find this helpful. If you have additional questions, suggestions or find a mistake, feel free to email me at stay@villawiley.com

Villa Wiley Features

Overall Unit

- 1600 sq. foot (150 sq. meters) condo on the 2nd floor of the main Isla 22 building on the Caribbean side of Isla Mujeres
- Brand new, completed in early 2016 with limited rentals during the year (due to construction next door). Everything is complete now 😊
- Wood looking tile to give it a warmer feel
- WiFi throughout

Living Room

- Huge comfy couch, tables and lamps
- 52 inch TV with Netflix, internet access and DishTV including HBO, Cinemax, CNN, FOX, ESPN, etc.
- Large balcony including table, chairs, bench and rocking chair. Directly faces Caribbean with a wonderful breeze the entire year. Listen to the crashing waves while reading, watching the dolphins, yachts and cruise ships pass by or simply taking in the sun
- Pocket sliding glass doors that completely fold back into the wall yielding and unobstructed view

Kitchen

- Full size, fully functional kitchen with granite counter tops
- View out the large window to the Cancun skyline and a local park
- All kitchen ware, dining utensils, cookware, etc. provided. Everything to create a full meal at home, breakfast before you head out or drinks with your friends
- Beautiful large copper sink

- Microwave
- Dishwasher
- Full size refrigerator and freezer
- Oven
- Gas stove
- Coffee maker
- Full garrafon of water provided to you
- Breakfast bar and bar stools for convenient snacking or casual drinks

Dining room

- Beautiful wooden table with seating for six
- Carved wood sculptures from Antonio Fabre who's workshop is walking distance just north

Master Bedroom

- King size memory foam mattress, tastefully done
- 52 inch large screen TV with Netflix and internet access
- Balcony with sliding glass doors that fully fold into the walls giving unobstructed view of the ocean. Go to sleep listening to the waves crash into the rocks below
- All linens provided
- Blackout curtains for days you want to sleep in late

Master bathroom

- Open, airy room with plenty of closet space
- See the ocean from the extra-large Jacuzzi bath tub
- Privacy screen to separate the tub when desired
- Two gorgeous copper sinks
- Stone counter tops
- Large walk in shower with rain style shower head

2nd Bedroom

- Two twin beds capable of sleeping 4
- Lots of closet space
- Large balcony with sliding glass doors that fully fold into the walls providing a view of a local park, a small Salinas (interior lagoon) and a view of the Cancun skyline

2nd Bathroom

- Large bathroom with gorgeous copper sink
- Large walk in shower with rain style shower head

Isla 33 Features

The Buildings – 3 buildings make up Isla 33 totaling 33 condos as well as a restaurant, bar, fitness center, reception desk, three pools and a parking garage. We are on one of the highest points on the island and the central location gives great access to all the sights, activities and dining options

Pools – There are 3 pools on the property. Two at ground level at the north and south ends and a 3rd on the roof that has amazing views of the entire island.

Rooftop – The rooftop of the central building has a gorgeous pool that allows you to look down on the sea. Loungers are provided and it is fitted with a bar and serving area that makes it perfect for a private party or reception. The viewing platform at the very top gives you an unobstructed 360 degree view of the entire island as well as Cancun. It is truly breathtaking from up there

Dining – The restaurant is on the first floor with interior and patio seating with a view of the ocean (being renovated with a new owner in February)

Bar – The bar sits just outside of the restaurant where you can relax and have a drink, feel the ocean breeze and enjoy your evening

Fitness Center – Also on the first floor and contains treadmills and equipment similar to US hotels (being renovated with a new owner in February)

Reception – Lobby of the first floor as soon as you walk in and staffed with a receptionist during normal business hours. The CasitaCare office is downstairs near the garage entrance if there are any issues with the building.

Security – 24 hour security provided

Laundry – Personal laundry service is provided by the maid staff for an extra fee based on weight. Generally receive the laundry back the next day. Schedule through reception

Parking – We have one underground parking spot labelled 2204 and it is just across from the elevator. Feel free to use it to keep your golf cart or scooter dry if it rains. Late at night you may have to ask security to open the garage doors for you. Otherwise, most people park in the circle in front of the building or in the small lot across the street

Elevators – Each wing of each building has its own elevator. Ours is directly across from the reception desk and note that it is the only one with access to the roof top pool

Maid Service – Service is provided once per week normally but for an extra fee you can schedule additional through reception

Getting There

Airport - The vast majority of people fly into Cancun International airport which is large and modern (though a little pricey for eating). Proceed through passport control, collect your luggage and go outside to get your transfer. Do not talk to all the folks who will try to sell you timeshares often with teasers at some water park. They are not good deals. Your goal is to get the island and relax. 😊 Although not necessary, you might want to get some cash out of the ATM's that are just outside the doors after you get your luggage

Transfers – You can simply get a taxi from the curb, but it is cheaper and easier to book ahead of time. You can use [IslaMujeresVacations](#) to book or use [CARM](#) which is typically \$70 - \$85 USD (depending on the season) round trip for two people to the ferry at Puerto Juarez (about a 20 minute ride). We have found them timely and reliable. CARM will also sell you the round trip ferry tickets if that is easier for you than buying them at the dock. If you're dying for your first drink in Mexico then note the bar off to the side from the taxi stand. You can get one to go and drink it in the shuttle. There are also reasonably nice bathrooms behind it

Ferry – The ferry leaves every 30 minutes from Puerto Juarez to Isla Mujeres from 6:00 AM till 2:00 AM. There are other, less frequent ferries that go to Cozumel so pay attention to which line you get in. It's about a 20 minute trip and you can take on your beer or margarita

Isla dock to Villa Wiley – There are several golf cart vendors (see below) across from the ferry port if you choose but they are usually difficult with a lot of luggage so it is easiest to just get a taxi (to the left of the dock when you arrive). The taxi fare is usually 50 pesos with luggage (about \$3 - \$4 USD depending on exchange rate). Just tell them to take you to Isla 33 and it is a 5 minute ride at the most.

Booking a golf cart – During the busy seasons they will run out of golf carts if you do not book ahead. You can use [IslaMujeresVacations](#) to book or have the Isla 33 reception pre-book and have one waiting for you at the condo, though you will have to pay them in USD cash when you arrive. In most cases they are approximately \$50 USD per day

Driving from town or the ferry to Villa Wiley – It's a small island and hard to get lost (see the map), but the simplest directions I would say is that when exiting the ferry terminal turn right (South, i.e. away from town) and then take the first left turn past the naval base. Follow that street as it curves a little and take the first left turn after the end of a long green & white wall on your right (which is a local school) and then follow that street along the coast until you get to Isla 33. To get back, turn left out of Isla 33 and then turn right at each dead end.

About Isla Mujeres

History – Isla Mujeres, Spanish for "Island of the Women", is an island in the Caribbean Sea, about 13 km (8.1 mi) off the Yucatán Peninsula coast across from Cancun. It is the most eastern point of Mexico, where the sunlight first touches each morning. The island is some 7 km (4.3 mi) long and 650 meters (0.4 mi) wide. To the east is the Caribbean Sea with a strong surf and rocky coast, and to the west the skyline of Cancún can be seen across the clear waters. In the 2010 census, the namesake town on the island had a population of 12,642 inhabitants. In Pre-Columbian times the island was sacred to the Maya goddess of childbirth and medicine, Ixchel. The first information available about Isla Mujeres is from the period between 564 - 1516 AC, when it was part of the Maya province called Ekab. Isla remained a sanctuary until it was discovered by Francisco Fernández de Córdoba in 1517. Legend has it that the only inhabitants of the island were the priestess of Ixchel and her court of women. Scattered around were numerous gold, silver and clay statues of Ixchel, and so the island got its name: Isla Mujeres, the Island of Women. Read more details on its history, including the story of Mundaca the pirate [here](#) and [here](#). Today it is often known as the anti-Cancun as it has no big restaurant or hotel chains and cultivates a much more relaxed attitude than the "spring break" like experience in Cancun

Money – I generally get pesos at CI Banco (see the map) which gives the best exchange rates. You can also get pesos from the ATMs kind of diagonal across the street from the ferry. Most places will accept US dollars but do not give you a good exchange rate. A number of places will not accept credit cards. (Remember, you're on a little island, not some big city)

Water – The water is safe to drink and I have a number of times. It is piped over (along with the electricity) from Cancun. However, I'm told that it has a higher mineral content than most people are used to which might upset stomachs, so please feel free to use the water we provide in the condo

Getting Around – You can get by with just calling a taxi, but it is often easiest to rent a golf cart which is typically \$50 per day. You can reserve one when you book, arrange one yourself when you get here or ask reception to get one for you. It's a lot of fun to drive around in your cart, the parking is easy and we highly recommend this

Groceries – There is a small grocery next to Cafe Mango (see map) which is fine for picking up some sodas and snacks, but if you want a full store then you need to go to Chedraui which is on the opposite side of the island. See the map for driving directions. It has everything you'd expect in a grocery store including a bakery, snacks, a large beer, wine and liquor selection, etc. We usually load up the first day since you can keep everything easily in the condo

Safety – Isla is known as one of the safest places in Mexico. The people are extremely friendly. There is a small naval base on the island and you will see the police driving around with the lights on (Note that this is typical to raise awareness, it does not mean anything is wrong). Recently they have begun cracking down on drunk driving after a couple accidents, so even in a golf cart, if you can't drive then get a taxi.

Things to do

Yazmin Aquirre (Yazmin@mundaca.com.mx or manager@villawiley.com or +52 1 998 188 5623) is our rental manager and concierge. She would be happy to help you pre-book any excursion, outing or service that you need while on the island. She is amazingly helpful and I highly encourage you calling or visiting her to line up your options

She can also help you with the [IslaMujeresVacations/things-to-do](#) site which will allow you to pre-book Chitzen Itza, dolphins, local fishing, deep sea fishing, scuba, snorkeling, whale sharks, trips to Cuba and more!

Breakfast & Lunch – Mango Café is one of our favorites for breakfast or brunch and is a nice walk down the malechon (ocean-side walkway) or a short golf cart ride (see the map)

Dining – See a nice list on the map which includes Rolandi's for Italian, Oscar's Grill for pizza, Bobo's for wings, Jax for American (and football), Olivia's fine Mediterranean, Qubano's Cuban, Paradise for wonderful homemade gelato or try [Dinnertainment](#) for a private dinner and show

Drinking – Try the Soggy Peso for some awesome margaritas (Strong! I seriously recommend limiting to 2 and then moving on to something milder like their Pain Killer pina colada) and a wonderful view during the day (they close early). El Patio has a great rooftop with live music and for late night try the Poc-Na Hostel which has basic drinks, but is right on the beach with stupendous star gazing and open till early morning. For bar hopping during the day there are lots of places along Avenue Rueda Medina (when you exit the ferry, turn left) and in the evening along Hidalgo in the center of town from the central Plaza down to the North end.

Delivery – Oscar's delivers and [Isla Delivery](#) will deliver from several restaurants as well as groceries or toiletries.

Beaches – Beautiful white sand public beaches are just down from the ferry. Private beaches start more or less across from Jax (see map) and wrap around the north end. They usually require \$20 minimum spend but you get an umbrellas, chair and a waiter. Try Zama for more privacy with onsite massages and a nice restaurant

Scuba & Snorkeling – A beautiful reef runs from Isla down past Cozumel and there are a large number of excursions for snorkeling, scuba and the [underwater museum](#)

Mayan Ruins – There are some small ruins near Punta Sur but you are near some of the most amazing in the world with Chitzen Itza and Tulum via tours

Cancun – Isla Mujeres is often known as the anti-Cancun with its limits on building heights and prohibition on chain hotels and restaurants, but if you want the spring break party experience you can pop over on the ferry at any time. Just remember to make the last ferry back 😊

Fishing – Deep sea fishing can be booked ahead of time and boats leave from Isla

Golf – There are no golf courses on the island, however you can arrange for a round over in Cancun.

Massage – You can book at one of the many private beaches, one of the spas or arrange for a masseuse to visit you (talk to Yazmin)

Shopping – During the day there are large of stores open along Medina starting around the ferry terminal. Hidalgo (and adjacent) street has a number of finer stores that are also open till later in the evening and several times a year the main plaza at the end of Hidalgo has little fairs that can be quite fun

Water Parks – [Parque de los Suenos](#) and [Garrafon Natural Reef Park](#) have water slides, zip lines, snorkeling and dining and don't miss [Dolphin Discovery](#)

Turtles – One of my wife's favorite things is to visit the turtle farm. Typically during June the sea turtles will lay nest and lay eggs up and down the Caribbean side of the island. We have seen several next directly in front of our condo. The navy protects the nests until the turtle farm staff comes to collect them. They'll hatch the eggs and raise the babies until it is time to release them back into the sea

Whale Sharks – Whale shark season generally runs June through July and you can arrange an excursion that will take you out to where they are feeding so you can swim with them in their natural habitat. Their size is amazing and this is something that should be on everyone's list of things to do