

Trip report, Desire:

We know you have been waiting for it! While our experience was obviously very unique, just like everybody else's, we will try to be objective in our judgment of the resort. We will also compare it to Hedonism, as we are sure many of you will have questions regarding it.

Part I - Arrival, checking in etc.

We arrived in Cancun Saturday early afternoon; Mexico greeted us with a huge line at Immigration (we spent in it about 1.5 hours).

*{Traveling tip# 1 try to plan to arrive in Mexico when there are less people doing so – Friday or Sunday morning, Saturday later in the day etc – as most Americans spend long time at the Immigration window due to not having passports and having to present birth certificates, marriage certificates and a lot of other documents instead}*

Unlike Hedo, Desire does not provide a transfer from the airport (none of hotels in Cancun do, btw). There are several companies, which do this service for additional fee for Desire. We purchased such transfer when we were booking the trip through our agent (\$75 round-trip for 2 people). However, after we exited the airport we could not locate any representatives of the company and ended up taking a cab (\$45 one-way for 2 people) to the resort instead of waiting for a van to arrive, as we had no idea how long it had to take. Airport staff was extremely helpful, carried our bags, helped us get into the cab etc.

*{Traveling tip# 2 don't purchase the transfer, as finding cabs is very easy and you don't have to wait}*

Desire is located in Riviera Maya, about 20 minutes from the airport and about 30 min from the strip where all hotels and clubs are.

When we got into resort we were right away relieved from our cargo (bags, jackets etc), seated in the check-in area and presented with a glass of champagne and cold towels to refresh us. Nothing like this ever happened in Hedo.

We were surprised to receive wristbands, and at first thought it was something imposed by Lifestyle Organization (anyone who has ever been to a Convention they organized will remember these ugly things we all had to wear lol), but later on found out that all all-inclusive places in Cancun have those. The room we were assigned was not ready yet and we had to spend some time hanging out on the beach while we waited.

Finally when we got our room key and were taken there, we realized that “Garden View” in Desire might mean “next building view” lol. We were able, however, to switch rooms, when we told the front desk people we did not like it. Second room we got was much better, while pretty much the same design –wise it was located better and we did have some light there.

*{Traveling tip# 3 if you don't like the room you get right away try to change it, it may be very possible, as they try extremely hard to provide very good service for you}.*

## Part II - Facilities, Beach etc.

If you have been to Hedo you know that all rooms there are exactly the same, with only difference in location (prude vs. nude, garden view vs. ocean view) and hence the price. This is not the case in Desire. For one thing Desire is all clothing-optional, so there is no "prude" side, for another the resort is much smaller and none of the rooms are located very far from "everything". However, there are different quality rooms in the resort – Jacuzzi suites (2 of them), Passion suites, Ocean view rooms (at least the ones we have seen) are a bit better than Garden View, there are also Garden View King for the same price as Garden View standard, but with king size beds.

Those who have been to resort several times usually request specific room they know in order to make sure they get the one they like. We did not like a couple of things regarding all rooms we have seen in Desire though (especially compare to Hedo) that is tile floors (they are way too cold) and showers (they are designed in a wrong way, bathroom's floor gets wet every time you shower). Our female half also thought that there was not enough closet space (even with all outfits we bring we never had this problem in Hedo)... especially in the bathroom.

We did like the fact that Desire has small refrigerators in rooms which staff fills in with soda and bottled water every day.

All rooms have small CD players in them – that was not the case just a couple of weeks before our trip, so, looks like the management is constantly improving things there. The beach is hands-down much better in Desire; of course it can't get much worse than Hedo II's (only in Hedo III) lol. Nice bottom, great sand. Also there is no "prude" side so it's not like everyone is cramped on the small "nude" part (like in Hedo). Our friends though did not enjoy that fact, as they thought that being squeezed in the small place makes people socialize more (in Hedo that is). The only problem with the beach for us was – you can't play in that area (as you can and do in Hedo) – or to quote Desire's staff "no kuchi-kichi on the beach" lol.

Pool area is located near the beach (just like in Hedo) but is missing swim-up bar (although there is a bar not far from the pool). Jacuzzi is located on the second level in "Jacuzzi lounge". It is not near the pool, which may be a minus (remember like in Hedo you are going to check if people still hang out by the pool or did they move to Jacuzzi already?) Jacuzzi itself is much nicer than the one in Hedo -- a bit bigger, cleaner, has a swim-up bar, nearby in the lounge there are canopy beds with clean sheets etc, so it makes for a nice outdoor play area. No need to go to the room to play and fear "losing a moment", so to speak. There are other outside play areas in resort as well – near main bar for example. It is a very nice thing, especially when it is very warm outside (which unfortunately was not the case several of the days we were there). So, we only did that a couple of times.

We also liked the fact that all restaurants are located near pool/beach area – no need to go far if you want to eat lunch, let's say.

Disco – disco itself is nicer than the one in Hedonism – bigger, has a nice lounge area in the back, a bit away from the loud music where you can talk, play etc. There are 3 poles for those of us who like to pole-dance. There is also so-called “red room” – playroom in the back of the bar with nice couches, fresh towels etc. We never actually played in there though, because it seemed to be way too busy, plus it felt like a regular swing club and we get enough of that back home lol. The only complaint about disco – it closes at 2 AM (pretty early compared to Hedonism 5 AM.). Music they played varied, there was some reggae, a lot of Latino music, and quite a bit of country-style. We normally don't enjoy country music, but our friends made it fun by taking the stage with their wonderful dancing at poles quite frequently.

Gym – there is a small gym in the resort, it is in the same building with Spa. Gym is not very good and is about 1/3 size of the one in Hedonism. But then of course there are half less people in Desire also. We went (yes, we did!) to the gym several times and never had a problem with machines not being available etc. In the same building there are also sauna (was pretty useful a couple of times when it was kind of chilly outside) and two of steam-rooms. Steam-rooms for some reason are located in lockers rooms (no co-ed for clothing – optional resort?), and we could not really figure out how they work lol.

### Part III - Food, Drinks

Food in Desire is about 5-10 times better than the one in Hedonism. Even food in the main buffet-style restaurant was good. We highly recommend visiting Mexican restaurant (the only problem it is outside and you have to make sure it's not very windy), International restaurant was very good too, but we did not like its design much.

BTW, making restaurant reservations in Desire is much easier than in Hedonism – when you check in you get 3 cards for reservations, so you can only make 3 reservations during your stay. Unlike in Hedonism where some people made restaurant reservations for every day, while others could not get in at all.

There is also a big plus food-wise – its availability. Anyone who has been to Hedonism knows that if you sleep a bit late one day you can miss breakfast and will have to wait till they start serving something on the grill or if you get hungry at 4 AM and realize that late night snack is already over and you have to settle for these terrible sandwiches they have at the front desk. In Desire such problem does not exist – at any given time you can eat somewhere in resort, there is room service as well, and late night they serve pizza (not a bad quality one, btw) and hot sandwiches in main area bar. Not to mention that you can bring any food you want into your room and keep it in that little fridge there.

Drinks are OK, not as good as the ones in Hedonism though. But, hey in Hedonism you sometimes have to live on drinks because food sucks so much lol.

#### Part IV - Service and entertainment.

Service everywhere in resort from maids to waiters etc is excellent; there really is no comparison with Hedonism staff in that regard. Even to the point that if you have trouble lighting your cigarette because of the wind they will take it from you and light it for you etc. You don't have to wait for a drink at all. They definitely work really hard on their tips.

Also, unlike Hedonism's staff they all were very happy to work there, we spoke with several of the waiters and they told us that working there is much easier than in any of the other resorts in Cancun – guests complain less, are more relaxed and upbeat. Waiters and bartenders also somewhat support the spirit of a swing resort. For example... (great story - unfortunately deleted by our prudish webmaster).

Entertainment – just like Hedonism they have entertainment team who work almost around the clock trying to make sure you have fun. Daytime entertainment is pretty good, although less people partake in it – maybe because there are 2 times less people in resort to begin with (Desire only has 110 rooms as opposed to 280 of so in Hedonism). But we did like the fact that afternoon entertainment all happens in pool/beach area, not like in Hedonism where you have to go to the main dining room during lunchtime if you want to watch Wet T-shirt contest for example.

Nighttime entertainment leaves a lot to be desired. There is no stage in the main restaurant, so no show while you eat like in Hedonism. One night while we were there they did try to have some type of music performers in main restaurant, but it did not go very well. They had to remove some tables to create room for performers, it also happened to be Tuesday – the day when Mexican restaurant is closed, on top of it they served dinner restaurant-style that night (as opposed to having a buffet-style meal), which obviously slowed things down quite a bit. So, all of the above it created a long line to get in and was not really enjoyable.

We do think, however, that the management is constantly trying to improve the way things are in resort and realized what kinds of mistakes they made that night. They also have some games, karaoke etc every night outside main area bar, but several of the days we were there it was too cold to play it there, once or twice they moved karaoke to the disco, overall though less people were enthusiastic about partaking in games than there usually is in Hedonism.

Unlike in Jamaica, however, it is very safe (and definitely worth it) going outside resort at night. We went with an organized group to a club in Cancun Coco Bongo. If you ever in Cancun we highly recommend to visit it. It is not just a nightclub with a lot of dancing etc, it is nothing like we have ever seen, it has a show, light effects, acrobats etc -- you name it. It was totally awesome. The only problem – music was so loud that we

practically had trouble hearing for the next couple of days – (maybe ear-plugs will be a good idea lol?).

## Part V - Atmosphere and crowd

One of the main reasons we decided not to go to Hedo (after 5 visits there) this time around and to try Desire, was that Hedo unfortunately lost some of its atmosphere, some of its fun and all the positives that come from “camp for adults” feeling there. We were hoping that Desire recreated at least some of it and will actually replace Hedo in that sense. Overall atmosphere in Desire was much better than what we saw in Hedo last year. People were very friendly, more relaxed, and playful.

We did not encounter any “we-will-lead-you-on-but we-never-play” couples whom we met quite a bit last time in Hedo, and whose number has been increasing significantly in the lifestyle in general. Nor have we seen any “we-need-to-take-X-and-dance-till 4-before-we will-tell-you-we don’t play” people. (We were lucky not to meet personally any of those in Hedo last time, but have seen plenty of them and watched them interact with others) We did meet some non-swinging couples there, but they did not mislead anyone in that regard.

Unlike Hedo, Desire is marketed as a swinging resort, and while Lifestyle Organization does push sales of its tours etc onto a lot of non-swinging people (crowd that they bring to Hedo every year has been having more and more non-swingers lately) – after all, they are a for-profit business and need to make money – still % of people who don’t play was lower in Desire.

We did, however, go with a group from one of the websites (SDC); the whole group was 80 couples, all of which were young, attractive and, well, played lol. That may have been the reason for having fewer non-swingers. We did get the feeling that going with a group (or for a takeover of the resort) is the way to go in Desire. There were no “cliques” of course, but with everyone more relaxed people hooked up more with couples they met or corresponded with previously. On the other hand, no one “pushed out of bed” (Jacuzzi?), so to speak, anyone whom they did not know before either lol.

Crowd was similar to what we have seen in Hedo, with a bit more South Americans (and too bad they don’t speak English lol) and Europeans (they do speak English); American crowd had more Midwest/western states people than Hedo usually has. Hence more country music played in the disco lol.

Unlike Hedo, Desire is couples-only resort. Many think this is a positive thing. Many think this is negative. We are neutral on this. But we do think that having several single guys in resort (and during lifestyle’s weeks in Hedo there usually are only 5-6 of them) adds some spice to the whole experience. Not to mention that a number of couples we are friends with who go to Hedo often bring a single girl with them – that will not be possible in Desire. Oh, well.

## Part VI - Conclusions

Desire and Hedonism II are two entirely different experiences. Both have pluses and minuses. Where Hedo is (or actually was until recently) a “camp for adults”, party 24/7, Desire is relaxing, luxurious, romantic, sexy fun with your friends. Overall, Desire is MUCH better value for your money. Hedo is a good place to go on your own, although you can also come with friends. Desire is a good place to go with a group or for a takeover.

Desire will not replace Hedo the way it was back when we started going there, but is becoming a very nice another option for swinging recreation.

We would not suggest going to Desire in January though, as it is a bit colder there than it is in Hedo (Cancun is located a little more North of Jamaica, plus Desire is on the windy side). Money and time permitting we would like to take trips to both places different times of year.