

Desire 2025 Review

Who we are: Two Couples (late 40s/early 50s); Experienced Travelers and in the Lifestyle. We have traveled to Hedonism numerous times in the past – typically late January/early February. This year, we decided to travel to Desire Riviera Maya to try something new. We'd heard from many people that it was more upscale and a great alternative to Hedo. While the four of us travel together regularly, we were joined in our travels by a third couple.

REVIEW

Service

The service is truly outstanding from check-in to check-out. Generally speaking, the staff at DRM cannot do enough for you. They learn your name/face quickly and will greet you like you are a regular after meeting you a couple of times. I'm an early riser and would often head to the main bar and Aaron would make an espresso for me and indulge me in practicing my Spanish. At the disco, there is a smaller/older bartender who I got to know and he would bring a drink refill to the dance floor before I even asked. More on our room below but our room came with a butler and they handled all sorts of needs from procuring yoga mats for us that we could keep on our balcony to double-checking on a hair/make-up appt for my spouse before our erotic photo shoot to dinner reservations. Extraordinarily friendly. Compared to Hedo, the service seems to be much more attentive but one big difference is that tipping is common and a regular practice at DRM whereas at Hedo, that is not really part of the everyday culture. People do tip at Hedo but not like at DRM. It is definitely true at Hedo that they welcome you home and the service is uniformly reliable and friendly.

Rooms

We booked a Heavenly Garden Room at DRM. It was advertised as being renovated, being close to the Eden side of the resort, having a butler, and having a pillow menu. Two of the four items were accurate. There was no pillow menu and the room was not renovated. In fact, there are approximately 8-10 of these rooms and only one room was renovated and the renovation appears to be primarily the bathroom. Our room was not renovated and was in fact, so dated and unappealing that my wife commented, "this is supposed to be a sexy vacation and I feel so unsexy in this bathroom." There is definitely a reason that DRM does not put photos of the bathrooms on the website. There is also no counter space. The rooms are very dark as the only natural light is from the front door which as there are no windows in the room. There is a narrow breezeway in front of the room but it's also quite dark as there is lush vegetation everywhere. An important part of my mornings on vacation is sitting on a patio/balcony and having coffee and that is not really possible in the Garden Rooms. There are nicer and larger rooms on the original side and we met some folks who took us on a tour of their Passion Room which was beautiful and had a terrific view of the ocean. There was still no private balcony but the shared breezeway/balcony was much lovelier. Our room was also just not practical. This is the kind of vacation where you likely have toys/accessories you want on/in your nightstand and

there is no real nightstand. It's a tiny shelf with no drawers, etc. After the first day, we were able to work out a deal to upgrade to the Eden for our last five nights and it was FRIGGIN FANTASTIC. Worth every penny. The rooms are beautiful, big, thoughtfully laid out, great mirrors for all sorts of fun, a jacuzzi, a terrific shower, double sinks, a balcony overlooking the pool and you could also see the ocean. It had a Nespresso, fancy L'Occitane toiletries, and luxury bedding. The room was equivalent to a Four Seasons/Ritz Carlton. And a huge closet/dressing area. The room was perfection and everything worked perfectly. One night, we came back and there was a very strong smell of paint thinner. It turned out they deep clean the pool deck once a week and that was what we smelled. They might want to think about telling guests as we were unsure what the smell was or from where it was emanating. Compared to Hedo, we typically stay in the Ocean Front Nude Premium, it was in a different and higher class but was also 1.5x to 2x the price. Unlike Hedo, no mirror on the ceiling but there were side mirrors and a giant full-length mirror.

Drinks

As mentioned above, the drink service was superb and the quality of the drinks was terrific. Some of our favorites were a sangria made with prosecco, a Mexican candy shot which was watermelon type shot with a tajin-rimmed shot glass, and lots of Patron. They also have a great coffee bar in the morning that has any kind of coffee drink you could think of plus an assortment of morning treats/bites from pastries to bagels/lox. Hedo's drinks are also good with premium liquor – the big difference was the bartenders were a little more creative in terms of making you something if you told them a liquor you like or they were more familiar with drinks like gimlets, etc. – again, tipping was probably part of this. One other thing that we did a couple of times is you could buy a premium bottle of liquor and keep it at the bar with your room number and they would serve you a drink from that. So, we bought a bottle of Hendricks and would then get Gin gimlets or G&Ts and use the Hendricks.

Food

Overall, I think the food at Hedonism edges out DRM but just by a tiny bit. The biggest issue is that reservations are required and you need to do that in the morning. If you don't have a butler and you are not a premier member, not sure how that works. We did have a butler and even with a butler we were not able to get reservations several nights when we were trying to book a table for four or six people. At Hedo, no reservations are required and you just show up and wait as needed. It's all just a bit more relaxed. The quality of the food is good and the service was wonderful at all the restaurants. We had dinner 2x in the private room at Kahlo and it was phenomenal. The breakfast buffet is quite a bit smaller than Hedo and it's completely indoors. Same with the dinner buffet. The food quality was good but the dinners at the buffet were a bit of a drag as there aren't many people there and it's got no vibe. And again, it's indoors.

Grounds/Pool/Beach

If you are a beach person, you might try this resort out for 4 nights or so. My ritual is walking on the beach every morning with a “Jamaican” cigarette. That is not possible at DRM. At the Eden end of the resort, there is literally almost no beach – the water comes almost to the retaining wall of the resort. At the other end of the resort (the original part), there is a small beach, but it’s not deep and would take you 60-90 seconds to walk from one end to the other. There are chairs/bali beds and you can get them as they are never all full but the few times we walked by, there was virtually no one on the beach. The seaweed was there but not too bad compared to sometimes when you go to Mexico when the sargassum is heavy. The reason you cannot walk on the beach to the many other resorts that you can see is there is some sort of body of water that empties out between DRM and the rest of the beach – and the water is kind of brackish and you have to dip down into the water from a drop-off and wade a little bit – knee – to hip deep depending on how tall you are. It’s not appealing and certainly not appealing in the cooler early morning hours. There is a beach bar with swings instead of bar stools and it looks lovely and was always staffed but we never saw anyone there. There are two pools – the new Eden pool and the original pool (often referred to as the quiet pool). The Eden pool is brand new and gorgeous. There are several rows of loungers and behind that, there are bali beds. The seating around the pool situation is confusing. I went to the desk by 630 or 7 AM each morning and was able to reserve loungers with umbrellas in exchange for a tip. If I had waited, it seemed like it would have been confusing as all the chairs appear to be taken mid-morning – even if no one is there for hours. The bali beds look to be reserved for Premier members.

Mid-week, when we needed a chill day, we spent the day at the “old” pool and it was the perfect vibe. Beautiful setting, perfect chill-vibe music, great drink service and no problem getting a bali bed. Also, bonus is that it’s right next to the lunch buffet options.

Day Activities

At the Eden pool, starting at about 10 or 11 each day, activities start ranging from sexy games to water aerobics to water volleyball. The “playmakers” are smokin’hot and super friendly and work really hard to get the crowd good and rowdy. However, it’s loud pretty consistently all day. Hard to read or sleep if you are looking to relax. We were there for the Unicorn party and we brought unicorn headbands and were working hard to get some fun-loving action going at the pool but other than our small group, there were really no joiners. To be clear, there is very little sex (of any kind) at the pool during the day. It was permitted because it was Swinger’s Month but nothing was happening in that regard.

Hot Tub

At about 4 or 4:30 (a little weather dependent – on cooler days, folks went to hot tub sooner), most folks from pool progress to the hot tub which is very close to the Eden Pool – basically – just up a flight of stairs. The hot tub is huge and reliably warm with great bar service and fantastic views. Great vibe and scenery. The scene ranges from fun to boisterous – doing body shots off naked folks on the bar. We did not see much overt sex in or on the ledge of the hot

tub. There are, however, a dozen or so bali beds next to the hot tub and folks enjoyed themselves on the beds. However, the beds are a bit set back so if you like being a performer, you may or may not have any luck with that. Similarly, it would be a bit hard to be a voyeur for the same reasons.

Disco

The Disco is FIVE STARS. It's brand new, smells great (unlike Hedo's indoor disco) and has state of the art sound, dancefloor, great strip-club like seating off the dancefloor and mesmerizing lighting. The bartenders in the disco are fantastic and the music is perfection. We had a lot of fun in the disco and there are definitely opportunities for play (on the dance floor, in the seating areas, near the bar, etc.). Really fun. Most people go to the disco every night after the show which takes place in the main Eden lobby for about 20 mins each night – around 945 or 10ish.

Playroom

On the pros side, the playroom is beautiful, clean and has excellent bathrooms/showers. On the cons side, it's not really conducive to meeting new friends in the playroom, to being watched, to watching others, or to any kink play. There are probably 8 to 10 mattresses each in their own little area separated by beaded curtains. If you've been to Hedo, one of the hottest things can be playing in the playroom in the middle on a mattress near others because there are four super-kings altogether. Also, there is no attendant in the room so it can get loud – the Hedo attendants are very good about making sure folks are quiet when they come in. Here, folks would come in and sometimes be quite loud for a while standing near your bed which can be a bit of distraction. We definitely had fun in there but an attendant might keep it a bit quieter. It's attached to the disco so you have people coming in hot from the disco.

Guests

We met a lot of fun/sexy couples at DRM. A lot of professionals looking to let their hair down but also very down to earth. The people are a bit more fancy – I can't put my finger on it exactly but there are a lot more opportunities to buy-up at meals, with liquor, at the show, etc. etc. So you kind of notice that aspect. Plus, because there is generally a lot less nakedness, there tends to be a little more preening. That being said, we met fantastic people but we also met several extraordinarily rich folks who were not shy about that (not that they should be – it's just less typical talk/showing at Hedo).

Other

The spa is also five-star. Great service, great facilities, and the erotic massage is bananas. You will leave completely satisfied and spent with memories that you'll never forget – if you could wave a magic wand and conjure the hottest scene in a spa – this is it.

We also took advantage of the erotic photo shoot and added on hair/makeup services. It was so sexy – it's hard to put into words. Anything goes – and the photos we ended with are sizzling – money shots and all. We even had a mini-lifestyle party when we returned home with an unveiling of our book and it also comes with a video – and it was a very good kick-off to a very hot night back home. Highly recommend. Pretty sure, outside of porn, there is no where you can get these kind of pictures/action in your own photo shoot. We felt like serious and sexy porn stars.

Overall

Great spot – for us, a 4 night stay would be ideal. The facilities are stunning, the service is impeccable, the disco is fantastic but downside was no beach, less of an anything goes vibe and there was just more “planning” for things – like meals, loungers, etc. And as everyone knows, they are a bit relentless with the Premier memberships – we said “no” at least three times a day.