

Why can't Emilio use the beach in Cancun?

Emilio lives in a small shanty area of Cancun known as Los Corales. It is located well away from the tourist hotels.	Cancun is located in the east of Mexico in the Yucatan region. It looks onto the second largest barrier reef in the world.
Muggings of tourists in Cancun have increased over the last ten years, as many Mexicans resort to desperate measures.	Emilio only earns \$6 per day for working a 12 hour shift as a barman in a large transnational hotel.
Emilio works six 12 hour shifts per week. He has a Monday off work each week to recover.	Emilio was born in Mexico City. He moved to Cancun looking for work, and returns every season seeking employment.
Up to 250,000 visitors can visit Mexico in a month. This does vary depending upon weather, the hurricane season, and world security.	Emilio travels to and from Cancun by bus each day. It is a 45 minute journey and he has no car.
The large transnational hotels try to make sure that tourists are not hassled on the beach, ensuring that they are the only users.	Most of the food and drink that Emilio serves is imported from abroad. There are few Mexican specialities on the menu.
Emilio is hard working and very friendly with tourists. He relies upon tips to top up his wages each month.	The hurricane season in Mexico lasts from June until November. Hurricane Wilma brought winds over 200km/h to Cancun in 2005
Emilio lives on his own. He has a wife, two sons and three daughters, but they live in Mexico City. He sees them whenever he can.	Emilio has noticed a change in the water at the beaches in Cancun. It now looks polluted and is far less inviting!
The Mexican government have accepted that part of the barrier reef will be damaged by divers in Cancun.	The average wage in Mexico is just \$10,221 per person compared to \$35,720 per person in the UK.
Emilio rents his accommodation. It costs \$50 per month which is nearly half of his monthly wage.	Hurricanes bring strong winds and heavy rain. This causes huge damage to coastal areas, with them weakening as they move inland.
Many tourists that visit Cancun stay in their hotel complex for the entire holiday, with many holiday companies advising against exploring.	Emilio is concerned that his job is insecure. He has only been given a three month contract this year and has been told it is dependent on visitor numbers
Emilio's friend Jorge runs a grocery store in Cancun. They sell little local produce, with tourists demanding to consume their usual products.	Security at the beaches has been brought in by hotels, due to locals trying to sell souvenirs and refreshments.
Cancun is split into two zones. One part is for locals and one part is for tourists, with little crossover between the two.	Emilio can't afford to buy food or goods in Cancun, where the prices are inflated for tourists rather locals.
The beaches are controlled by the hotels, despite the fact that they do not own them.	Emilio often wonders if any Mexicans are actually benefitting from tourism in Cancun.