

ISLA Cozumel



Official GUIDE

QUINTANA ROO TOURISM BOARD

A full-page underwater photograph. In the foreground, a large sea turtle with a patterned shell and head is swimming towards the camera. To its left, a scuba diver in a black wetsuit and yellow mask is swimming. The background is a vibrant blue ocean with a coral reef visible on the right side, covered in orange and red coral. The text 'MEXICAN' is in a white sans-serif font, and 'Caribbean' is in a white script font, both positioned in the lower-left area of the image.

MEXICAN

Caribbean



Mexican Caribbean is in fact Mexico's paradise, where there is always something new for you to discover

The Mexican Caribbean is like no other place in the world due to its destinations and attractions: turquoise sea, white sandy beaches, tropical jungle, archeological sites, cenotes, underwater rivers, islands, lagoons, Mayan culture and history. Featuring a world-class tourist infrastructure, a variety of lodging options, culinary delights and great air connectivity.





Cozumel

Formerly known as “Kuzamil” whose Mayan name translates to “Island of the Swallows”, is the largest island in the Mexican Caribbean, rich in history, Mayan vestiges and natural wonders. A paradise located in the middle of the ocean featuring white sand beaches, beautiful sunsets and amazing coral reefs. An adventure and relaxation destination where you can perform different kinds of activities in amazing natural sceneries.



Cozumel is located in the state of Quintana Roo, right in front of Playa del Carmen’s coast.





CREDITS: HEIDER SAID CASTILLO FERNÁNDEZ



HOW TO GET THERE?



Cozumel International Airport handles daily flights to and from different cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico. There are also private air charters that fly from Playa del Carmen and Cancun to Cozumel.



86 km (53.4 miles) from Cancun International Airport to Cozumel.



The passenger ferry operates continuously every hour. The ferry ride takes approximately 40 minutes. A car ferry is also available from Calica, located 10 minutes away from downtown Playa del Carmen, en route to Tulum.

ACCOMMODATIONS



Cozumel offers charming lodging options.

- A wide variety of hotel categories.
- Small hotels, bungalows and villas.
- Independent hotels and hotel chains.
- All-Inclusive and European Plan hotels.
- Hotels that feature facilities for meetings and events.
- Hotels located along the north and south coast, as well as in Downtown San Miguel de Cozumel.

Currently,
Isla Cozumel
has 66 hotels
and 4,701
rooms available



PHOTO: COZUMEL PALACE

Beaches



The beaches in Isla Cozumel are of fine white sand and also limestone islets of turquoise waters that captive each of its visitors.

The beaches that stretch from Punta Norte to Punta Sur have low tides. This side of the island is where most of the reefs are located, which are home to a wide variety of marine life, which is ideal for diving and snorkeling enthusiasts.

The open waters are located on the eastern side of the island. This is where the current and the tides tend to be intense which is perfect for surfing, kitesurfing and windsurfing.

Along Cozumel you will find several beach clubs where you can spend the day enjoying the sun and the ocean with a refreshing drink in hand and eating delicious food. Some beach clubs offer free access and you only need to pay for what you eat and drink, while some others offer package deals with activities, food and drinks included.



NORTH ZONE
Isla de la Pasión
Playa Azul

EAST ZONE
Playa Bonita
Playa San Martín
Chen Río
Punta Morena
Playa Rastas

WEST ZONE
Dzul Ha
Playa Corona
Playa Sky Reef
Playa San Francisco
Playa Nachi Cocom
Playa Palancar
El Cielo
Punta Sur
Playa Chunchakaab



PHOTO: PUNTA SUR

Archeological SITES

There are 19 archeological sites all along the Mexican Caribbean, where visitors can learn about different aspects of the ancient Mayan civilization.



PHOTO: SAN GERVASIO

IN COZUMEL YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EXPLORE THE FOLLOWING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:



San Gervasio: The largest and most important archaeological site on the island. This place is believed to have been a center of Mayan pilgrimages who worshiped Ixchel, the Mayan goddess of fertility, love and the moon. It was also a strategic site for trade and political development in the area. This archaeological site is made up of six different buildings that give you an idea of how the Mayans carried out their administrative, religious, and daily life activities.



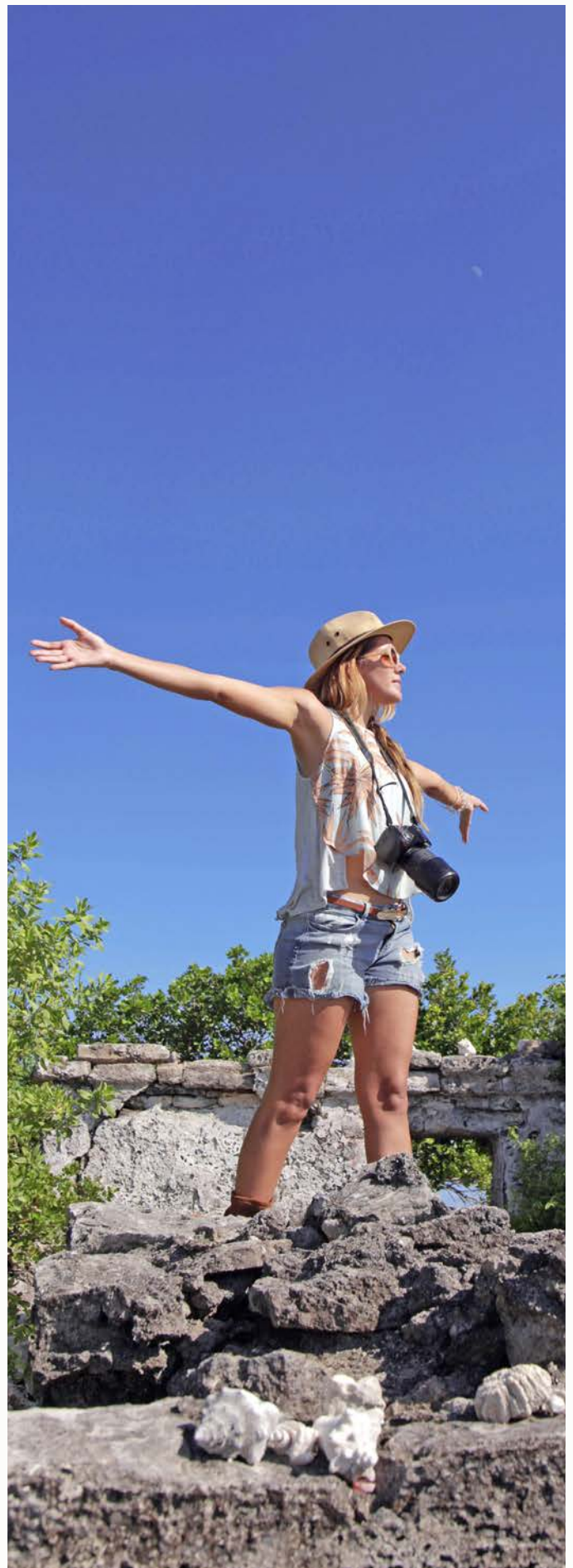
El Cedral: Located south of the island, in San Francisco beach, this is Cozumel's oldest Mayan vestige. There are few remains of what was El Cedral, as most of it was destroyed by the Spaniards although remains of the original painting can still be seen on its walls. During the end of April and beginning of May this place holds "La Feria de El Cedral", a festivity that dates back to 1848 and is held to celebrate the day of the "Santa Cruz" (Holy Cross). This is one of Cozumel's most important festivities.

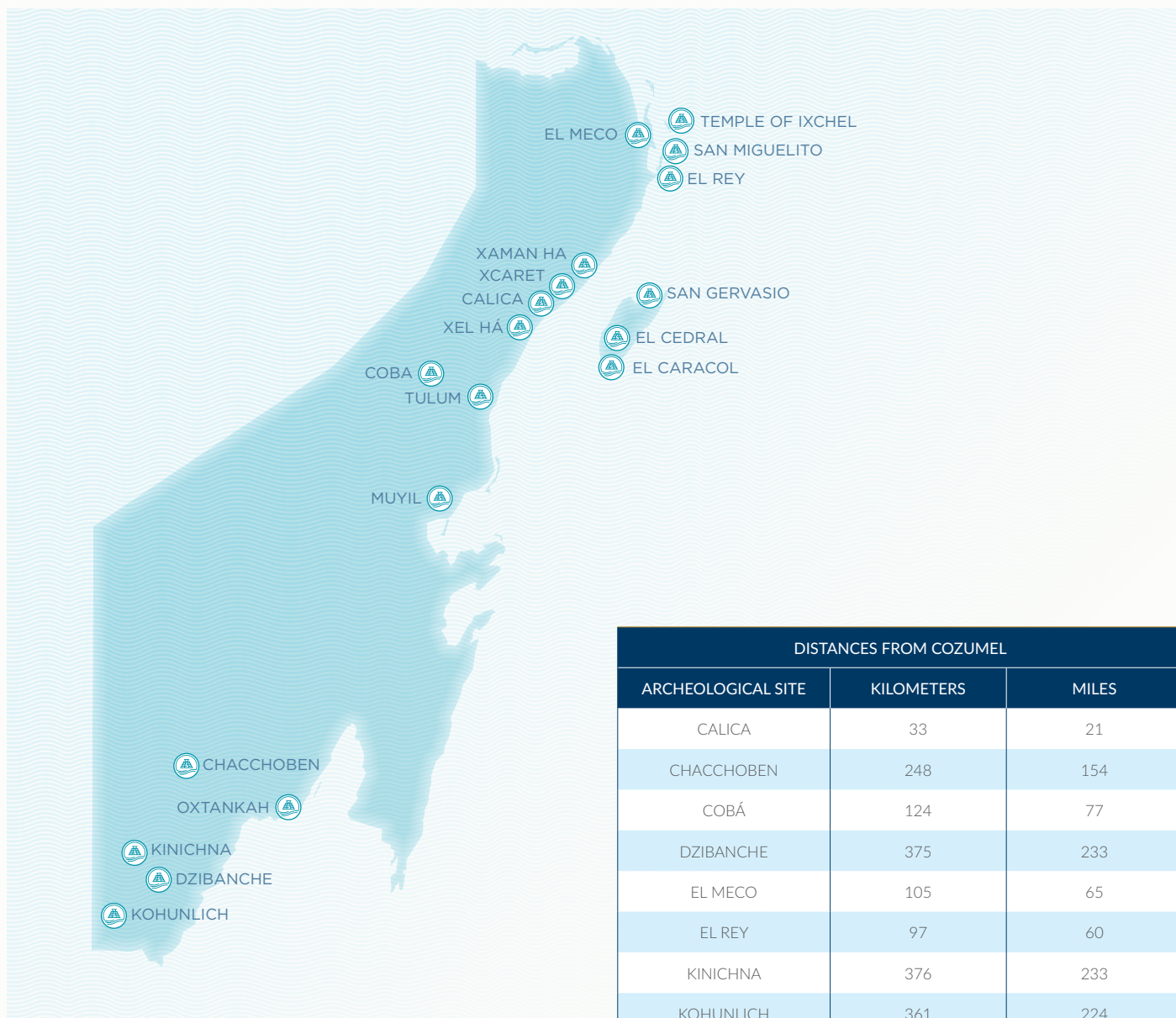


El Caracol: Built between 1200 and 1500 A.D., it served as a point of orientation for maritime traffic. It consists of three structures: 2 temples and an altar. The structure known as "El Caracol" is well preserved. This structure acted as a whistle when strong winds funneled through the seashell. That sound would warn the people to prepare for bad weather and alerts about the impending storm would also be sent to the mainland.

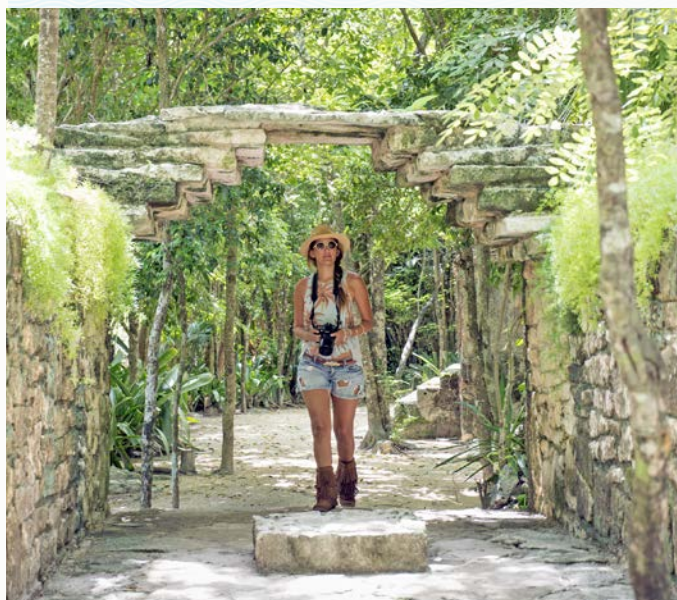


Castillo Real: A Mayan vestige that has 1,200 years. It has a watchtower and a pyramidal base with a two-chamber temple covered by an arch.





DISTANCES FROM COZUMEL		
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE	KILOMETERS	MILES
CALICA	33	21
CHACCHOBEN	248	154
COBÁ	124	77
DZIBANCHE	375	233
EL MECO	105	65
EL REY	97	60
KINICHNA	376	233
KOHUNLICH	361	224
MUYIL	102	63
OXTANKAH	339	211
SAN MIGUELITO	99	62
TEMPLE OF IXCHEL	121	75
TULUM	80	50
XAMAN HA	33	21
XCARET	23	14
XEL HA	63	39



Culinary EXPERIENCES



PHOTO: MONEY BAR



PHOTO: ROLANDIS

In the Pre-Hispanic era Cozumel was an important commercial and trading spot where spices and food were highly valued by its inhabitants, which is one of the reasons why the island's gastronomy is so great.

Cozumel has over 90 restaurants and cafés that offer a wide variety of international dishes, such as Mexican, Mediterranean, Italian, Caribbean and seafood.



Don't miss the opportunity of trying some dish made out of lionfish. This fish has no natural predators in the Caribbean and it feeds from corals, which is why the locals have decided to fight against it by cooking it. This way, they contribute to the balance of the ecosystem. Lionfish is cooked in ceviche, grilled or breaded with coconut.



Cozumel has several natural sceneries located in and out of the water, such as natural protected areas with different landscapes such as beaches, coral reefs, the lush jungle, islands and a cenote where it is possible to get in touch with the local flora and fauna.

Some of the nature and adventure activities that can be performed around the island include zipline circuits, ATVing, mountain biking, trekking and horseback riding.



“Did you Know” Facts:

- More than 50% of the island is a natural protected area. The west coast is where the Cozumel Reef National Park is located, which is part of The Mesoamerican Reef, the second largest barrier reef in the world.
- Due to its biodiversity and cultural heritage, Cozumel is part of the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program.
- 31 endemic species have been registered in the island, 19 of them being birds, 7 mammals, 4, invertebrates and a reptile.
- Its natural protected areas are: The Cozumel Reef National Park, Chankanaab lagoon, the Flora and Fauna Protection Area, the Forests and Wetlands of Cozumel the Colombia lagoon, as well as the botanical gardens of Chankanaab park, which feature 350 types of tropical plants from more than 20 different countries.

Wildlife ENCOUNTERS



Interact with some of the most fascinating species that live around Cozumel. From May to November, you can join one of the official sea turtle nesting and hatching experiences to help loggerhead and green turtles get to the ocean safe and sound, or get into the depths of the ocean go diving or snorkeling around eagle rays and giant manta rays (available from December to March). You can also ride onboard a swamp boat in search of crocodiles at Punta Sur Park, where a guide will take you around the beautiful Colombia lagoon.



Colombia Lagoon. Located within Punta Sur which is an eco park. It is home to several flora and fauna species. Take a swamp boat tour around the lagoon to observe crocodiles and different bird species such as white ibis, flamingos, and if you're lucky enough, the Cozumel Emerald. The Colombia lagoon flows into the ocean, right where El Cielo is located.



El Cielo. Which translates as "Heaven", is an idyllic place of shallow and turquoise waters, which is considered to be a sanctuary for starfish.



Isla de la Pasión. A one-kilometer long secluded island with unspoiled beaches where you can kayak or go on a boat or catamaran trip. This tiny island used to be a sacred place for the Mayans who came to Cozumel to worship the goddess Ixchel, the goddess of the moon, love and fertility.



Cenote Chempita. located very close to El Cedral (an ancient Mayan village). This cenote is perfect for swimming in its refreshing and pristine waters.





WATER
Activities



Being an island, water activities are one of the main attractions of Cozumel, highlighting scuba diving, as it features more than 40 different dive sites, from limestone caves to mysterious sunken ships, which are home to several marine life species such as parrotfish, sea urchins, sea anemones and giant sea sponges, sea turtles, nurse sharks, morays and the endemic splendid toadfish of Cozumel.

Some of the other water activities that you can perform in Cozumel include boat and catamaran trips, kayaking, snorkeling, windsurfing, paddleboarding, surfing, kitesurfing, parasailing, sport fishing.





When Jacques Cousteau first visited the island in 1959, it didn't take him long to declare it as one of the most spectacular places to scuba dive. Since then, the island has grown in popularity and has been declared as one of the top 5 dive sites in the world, attracting hundreds of divers to explore its underwater sceneries.

Home to the second largest barrier reef in the world, Cozumel features more than 40 dive sites, including sunken ships, limestone tunnels and caves, colorful coral reefs, black coral forests that are home to a wide variety of marine life species such as parrot fish, sea turtles, nurse sharks, eagle rays and the endemic splendid toadfish of Cozumel.

The clarity of its waters allows divers to have a good 60-meter visibility, its temperature varies between 25 and 28°C. In Cozumel, this activity can be done throughout the year, however it is better to do it during summer, due to the clarity of its waters and the warm temperatures. It should be noted that the hurricane season is from June to November and the rainy season is from May to October.





AMUSEMENT & NATURAL *Parks*

PHOTO: CHANKANAAB



Zipline, immerse in the depths of the ocean, drive off-road vehicles through the jungle or learn about the Mayan culture in an interactive way. All these and more, is possible in Cozumel. The largest island on the Mexican Caribbean is home to different nature, adventure and amusement parks, where fun is guaranteed, regardless of age.



Chankanaab: A natural park located within the Cozumel Reef National Park. It has several attractions, such as ziplines, pre-Hispanic replicas, a botanical garden, a tequila museum, an agavero landscape, as well as an area to relax and enjoy the beautiful inslet, where you can kayak, sea trek, snuba, snorkel, scuba dive.



Punta Sur: An ecotourism park located in one of the largest protected areas in Cozumel. It boasts the spectacular Celarain lighthouse. Get to the top to the lighthouse to take in the breathtaking views of the island: mangroves, sand dunes, reefs, lagoons systems and beautiful beaches. Inside the lighthouse you will find a museum that explains the story of the island regarding the Mayans and pirates who sailed the waters of the Mexican Caribbean. Its wide sandy beaches and biodiversity make Punta Sur is one of the best places for nature lovers, especially because here you go birdwatching and see the nesting sites of several bird species, such as herons, fishing eagles and flamingos, on a swamp boat, around the Colombia lagoon. As if that weren't enough, Punta Sur also has several beach clubs that offer the best of the island's gastronomy, such as the catch of the day and dishes made out of seafood.



Pueblo del Maíz: An interactive park where you will learn all about the Mayan culture, as it addresses issues such as customs, traditions, gastronomy and lifestyle. Here, you will learn about the process of sowing corn, making tortillas, chocolate, honey and pulque. The tour ends with visitors taking part in a fun ball game, just like the ancient Mayans did.



Kaokao Chocolate Factory: The one-hour tour around this family-owned factory allows you to get closer to the culture of cocoa and chocolate in Mexico and the rest of the world, learning its history and its secrets. There are four areas: the factory, the museum, the mills and a gift shop, so you can take a delicious souvenir back home. The tour allows you to know how chocolate is made and includes several tastings throughout the tour.



Kun Che: In this Mayan sanctuary, ball games are played as the ancient Mayans did; in addition, you will learn how corn tortillas, tamales and chocolate are made. The tour ends with a traditional Mexican party, featuring regional dances of the Yucatan Peninsula, and an authentic Mayan lunch.



PLACES TO *Visit*



The history and culture of Cozumel combine perfectly with its great weather and wide variety of attractions to create memorable experiences you won't find anywhere else.



San Miguel de Cozumel: Also known as “el centro” (downtown Cozumel). Here is where most of the shopping malls, restaurants, bars, stores and small hotels are located.

One of the best places to visit in San Miguel is Parque Benito Juárez, a main square that invites you to stop and admire the old town hall, with more than 100 years, the monumental clock and the ancient wooden houses. Continue touring around downtown and head to the coastal avenue and the “Malecón” (boardwalk) where you will see the “Monumento al Mestizaje”, “Monumento al Carnaval” and “Monumento al Buzo”, one of the most popular pieces of public art, a copper sculpture representing what Cozumel island paradise is most famous for, its SCUBA diving and coral reefs. The entire sculpture is surrounded by a fountain in the shape of a Swallow, the island’s local bird. We recommend you to visit this place during the evening so you can admire one of the most beautiful sunsets you will ever see in your life.

An amazing way to stroll around downtown Cozumel is by admiring the amazing street art that is part of the SEA Walls, Artists For Oceans project, which is an amazing program that brings the message of ocean conservation into streets around the world. These are some of the most Instagrammable spots around the island, so don't even hesitate to take as many pictures as you like in each of them!



The Cozumel Island Museum: This museum offers a collection of unusual objects of religious, cultural and historical importance. This museum is located in a historic building that dates back to the 1930s and was one of the first hotels of the island. It has four different wings where you will learn about the island’s origins, history and customs. Its main objective is to protect and preserve the cultural heritage of Cozumel.



El Cedral: This place is a small community located south of the island, where one of the oldest Mayan vestiges of Cozumel is located. Inside this ancient sculpture you will see the paint and stucco that was used on the walls. You can also explore the surroundings by booking a horseback riding or an

ATV tour. At the end of April and beginning of May, this place holds “La Feria de El Cedral”, a festivity that celebrates the day of the “Santa Cruz” (Holy Cross). This is one of Cozumel’s most important festivities.



Cozumel Pearl Farm: Currently it is the only pearl farm operating in the Caribbean. Located on a beautiful secluded beach of white sand and turquoise waters, the farm grows the Pinctada Radiata species. The tour consists in learning how to grow the pearls, snorkeling around the collectors area and the reef that is located nearby, where you can spot some starfish, manta rays, sea turtles, among other species.





WEDDINGS & *Romance*

PHOTOS: ISLA PASIÓN

Cozumel offers stunning wedding venues, certified wedding planners and great wedding vendors who offer a great quality in service.



Some of Cozumel's wedding spots include gazebos, beaches, ocean view terraces, ballrooms and gardens. Cozumel is the perfect wedding destination for those looking to celebrate a religious ceremony, a symbolic ceremony, a Mayan ceremony, an underwater wedding, a vow renewal or a honeymoon.

Isla de la Pasión is one of the top wedding locations in Cozumel, a secluded private island that has all you need in order to have the perfect wedding, vow renewal or a honeymoon away from the crowds.





PHOTOS: PRESIDENTE INTERCONTINENTAL COZUMEL

Cozumel has 15 hotels that feature modern facilities with conference and meeting rooms for events.

Cozumel has a total space of 3,587 m² (38,617 sq ft) for meetings and events. It has a total of 4,701 rooms, of which 2,606 (55.43%) are part of the hotels which feature ballrooms.

COZUMEL CONVENTION CENTER



It has the room, facilities and services needed to be the perfect venue for hosting any kind of event. Its main ballroom has an area of 1,407 m², with a capacity for up to 783 people in banquet assembly and 1,279 people in auditorium.



Top Things

TO DO IN COZUMEL





Relax at its beautiful beaches.



Scuba dive in some of its 40 dive sites.



Snorkel in “El Cielo”.



Explore the San Gervasio archaeological site and the Mayan vestiges that are dotted around the island.



Have fun in one of its natural and amusement parks.



Enjoy a clear boat tour. Dar un paseo en el mar en una lancha transparente.



Try some lionfish dishes or some other signature dishes of Cozumel.



Rent a buggy, scooter or an off-road vehicle to move around the island.



Stroll around the main square and downtown San Miguel de Cozumel.




Admire a beautiful sunset.



Visit another destination in the Mexican Caribbean: Cancun, Isla Mujeres, Holbox, Costa Mujeres, Puerto Morelos, Playa del Carmen, Tulum, Riviera Maya, Maya Ka'an, Mahahual, Bacalar or Chetumal.



Distances

Origin	Destination	Kilometers	Miles	Approximate time
 Cozumel	Cancun	99	62	2 hr 32 min
	Isla Mujeres	117	73	3 hr 24 min
	Costa Mujeres	107	66	2 hr 40 min
	Holbox	119	74	3 hr 30 min
	Puerto Morelos	66	41	2 hr
	Playa del Carmen	20	12	1 hr
	Puerto Aventuras	38	24	1 hr 23 min
	Akumal	54	34	1 hr 31 min
	Tulum	80	50	2 hr
	Punta Allen (Maya Ka'an)	132	82	3 hr 48 min
	Mahahual	305	190	4 hr 37 min
	Bacalar	294	183	4 hr 31 min
	Chetumal	332	206	5 hr



MEXICAN CARIBBEAN

Grand
COSTA MAYA

BACALAR

MAHAHUAL

CHETUMAL

RIVIERA MAYA

TULUM

PLAYA DEL
CARMEN

PUERTO MORELOS

ISLA
COZUMEL

ISLA MUJERES

HOLBOX

MAYA KA'AN

cancun

COSTA
MUJERES

QUINTANA ROO
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MEX:ICANCARIBBEAN.TRAVEL



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