

How to use this brochure

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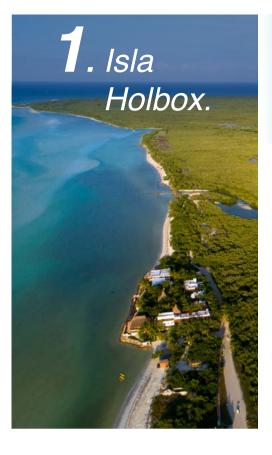






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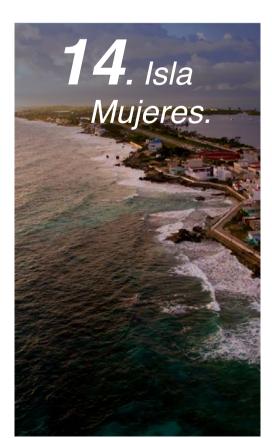




- How to get to Isla Holbox. Hotels.
- 3. Experiences you should not miss on Isla Holbox.
- 4. Isla Holbox Map.
- 5. Gastronomy.
- 6. Tourist Attractions of Isla Holbox. Isla Pasión. Isla Pájaros.
- 7. Yalahau. Cabo Catoche.
- 8. Solferino.
- 9. Reserva Nativa.
- Activities in Holbox. Kayak tours.
- Paddle boarding and kitesurfing.
- 12. Catamaran ride. Sport Fishing.



- 13. Swimming with whale sharks.
- 15. How to get to Isla Mujeres.
- 16. Experiences you should not miss on Isla Muieres.
- 17. History Isla Mujeres.
- 18. Map of Isla Mujeres.
- 19. Gastronomy.
- 20. Tourist Attractions of Isla Mujeres. Punta Sur. Playa Norte.
- 21. El Farito. La Cruz de la Bahía.





- 22. El Garrafón park.
- 23. Underwater Art Museum (MUSA).
- 24. Hacienda Mundaca.
- 26. How to get there and what to see.
- 28. Water activities in Isla Mujeres.
- 29. Snorkeling.
- 30. Diving.
- 31. Diving spots.
- 33. Fishing. Boat or catamaran tours.
- 34. Swimming with whale sharks.





















Holbox is a cozy and small island in the northern part of the Mexican Caribbean located within the Yum Balam Ecological Reserve, declared a Flora and Fauna Protected Area. It is 40 kilometers long and two kilometers wide. Holbox is separated from the coast by a shallow lagoon that is considered a sanctuary for flamingos, pelicans, and some other species. Its beaches are ideal for relaxation as they have fine white sand, its shallow waters are crystal clear with gentle waves, characteristic of the Mexican Caribbean.

In the downtown you can see typical buildings that are mostly colorful wooden houses, as well as various murals that give it a unique character. Its main square has that bohemian and carefree mood which characterizes Holbox. There are several stalls where you can taste various snacks such as crepes, churros, and the traditional "marquesitas", a rolled wafer stuffed with Edam cheese and sprinkled with a caramel sauce, and it is not uncommon for some Caribbean chords to be

The island is a very peaceful place, which has become a magnet both for those seeking to be in contact with nature and explore its beautiful natural scenery, as well as for those looking for a relaxing destination.

heard as part of this relaxed and cheerful atmosphere. There are no cars in Holbox, so the best way to get around the island is with golf carts, motorcycles and bicycles that can be rented. Throughout the year you can enjoy events such as voga retreats, fishing tournaments as well as the traditional carnival. Also, festivals are held to support the conservation of nature, such as the Bird Watching Festival and the Whale Shark Festival, the latter during August.















How to get there

In order to get to Holbox, you have to drive, take a bus or a van to Chiquilá's pier (Located 2 hours from Cancun). There, you will find boats and ferries to cross to Holbox (the ride to the island takes 20 minutes).

Chiquilá is a small town with picturesque lodging establishments, a couple of restaurants, gas station and public parking lots where you can leave your car.

Hotels

Lodging options in Holbox range from rustic wooden cabins and inns to charming boutique hotels with intimate and relaxed atmospheres in perfect harmony with the majestic natural scenery. Whichever type of establishment you choose to stay in, just let yourself be pampered by the friendly and hospitable people of the island











Experiences you should not miss on Isla Holbox



Swimming with the whale shark (May to September)



Appreciate the uniqueness of the bioluminescence



Eat lobster pizza!



Practice kitesurfing, kayaking or paddle boarding.



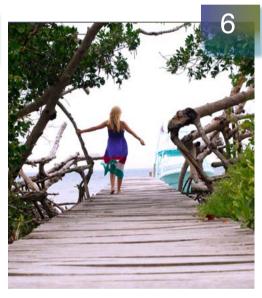
Enjoy the sunset



Enjoy a "marquesita" at the main plaza



Take a mural tour



Take the Three Islands Tour



Bird watching





olbox



Symbology

- ── Holbox Aerodrome
- Diving
- Snorkeling
- Ferry
- Kayak
- Swim with whale sharks
- Bird watching
- Dolphin watching
- Fishing
- Point of Interest
- Self-service store









This small paradise in the Mexican Caribbean has captivated travelers from all over the world, who have fallen in love with the island and have decided to make it their home. As a result, Holbox's gastronomy has been enriched by international flavors that, combined with the seasoning and ingredients of the region, give rise to a wide variety of exquisite dishes that you won't find anywhere else. Lobster, octopus and groupers stand out as the main ingredients in the island's typical cuisine, but you will also

have the opportunity to taste local fish such as chac-chi, corvina, mullet, juler, bonito and cojinuda, as well as other species prepared in delicious Mexican dishes such as seafood panuchos, fresh ceviches and seafood grills. You cannot leave Holbox without having tried its iconic and traditional lobster pizza, one of the most representative dishes of the island, but it is important to consider the closed season to help its conservation (March to June). Other options that this beautiful island also offers are meat platters and different fusion and gourmet dishes.



Ourist Attractions



Isla Pasión

It is a small island ideal to relax and enjoy the sun and the sea in total contact with nature, it is surrounded by cays where it is possible to enjoy a relaxing walk.

Isla Pájaros

This island is bigger than Isla Pasión and is surrounded by mangroves. Home to a great home to a great diversity of birds such as: pelicans, frigate birds, cormorants, white ibis, ducks, herons, storks and flamingos in certain seasons. It is a protected area so access on foot is not allowed, only along the walkways and to two viewpoints, in order to minimize direct contact with this ecosystem.

It is one of the most beautiful and peaceful places in the Mexican Caribbean. At the beginning of April and until the end of October, it is possible to see thousands of flamingos.









Yalahau

Located 30 minutes away from Holbox, this waterhole is a large natural freshwater pool with a direct connection to the sea and surrounded by lush vegetation.

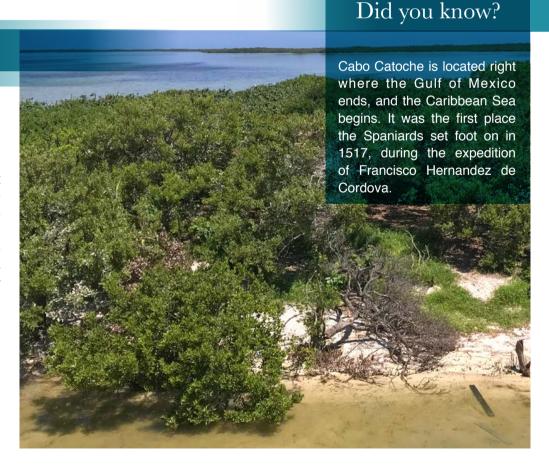
In ancient times it was an important port for Mayan traders and is attributed with rejuvenating qualities. Legend has it that its waters possess curative properties, which is why it is known as the "fountain of eternal youth".

For a long time it was the largest source of fresh water on the island of Holbox and is currently a must-see attraction, which is part of the natural protected area.

Like other places in the area, Holbox was a refuge for pirates.

Cabo Catoche

This site combines nature and history, with an exuberant marine life that makes it the ideal place to practice fishing and snorkeling. Here are the archaeological remains of Ekab and Boca Iglesia, the first Catholic temple built in Mexico. There are no roads to get there by land, so you can only access it by sea.









Solferino

It is located on the road to Holbox and is a small town located 15 minutes away from Chiquilá and 30 minutes away from Holbox. It is a place with a unique natural beauty in the middle of wetlands, swamps, mangroves and lowland jungle where you can appreciate the diverse flora and fauna of the region. This region is an important wetland known for its cork trees, red mangrove, palo de tinte (logwood tree), chicozapote (Panama rubber tree), bromeliads and more than 35 species of orchids.

In this area you can visit El Corchal, which takes its name from being surrounded by ancient cork trees, which is also why Solferino is known as "the town of the millenary tree". It is a totally flooded ecosystem that is full of cork trees and water lilies. El Corchal is the habitat of a large number of birds such as flamingos, roseate spoonbills, herons and pelicans, among others, as well as other animal species such as pumas, ocelots, deer, wild boars and monkeys. In addition, El Corchal is home to one of the largest populations of jaguars in Mexico.









Reserva Nativa

It is a natural park located in Solferino that offers a great number of activities such as canoeing in the lagoon, Mayan ceremonies, ATV-rides, visits to a rubber plantation, a panoramic tower for bird watching, a meliponarium, an interactive natural museum, among others. An adventure worth experiencing!











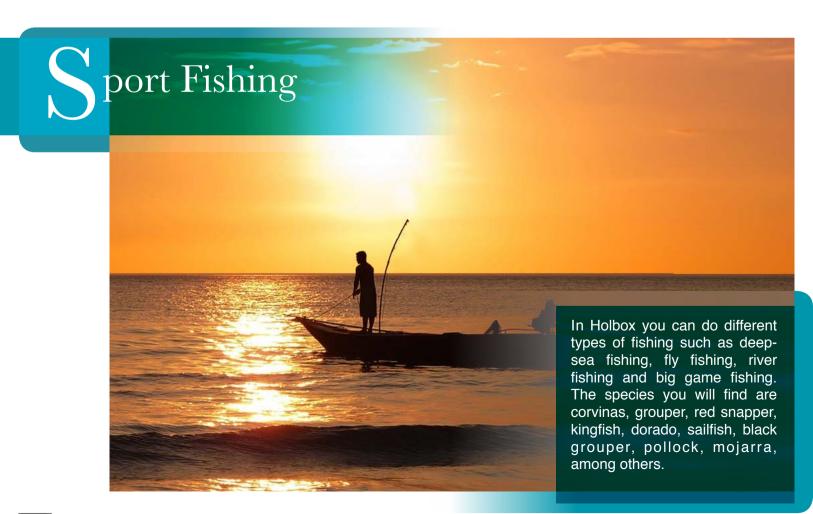








Tequila Catamaran Holbox





Swimming with whale sharks







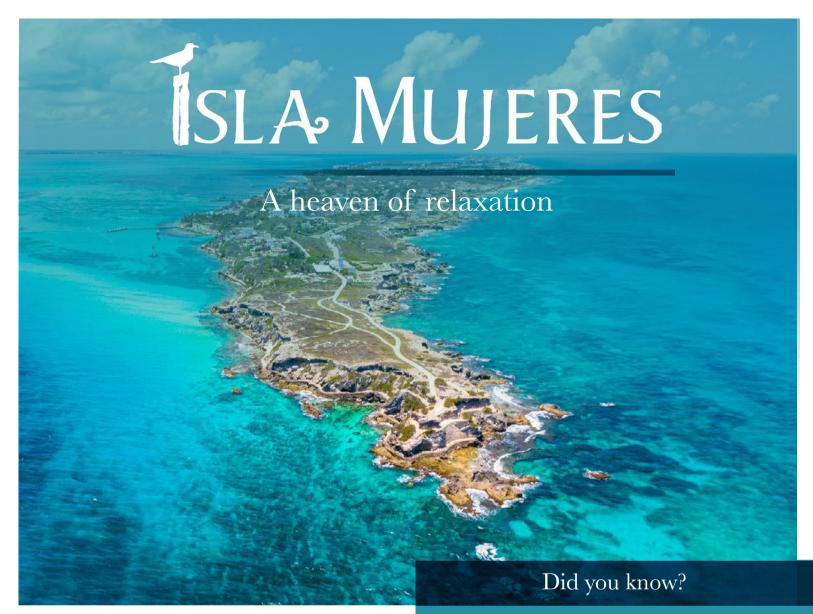
From May to September Holbox beaches receive Sea turtles that come to lay their eggs and from April to October the island is visited by flamingos.

Local fishermen can take you to observe dolphins, manatees, and crocodiles in their natural habitat. In the case of whale shark watching, swimming with turtles or any other species you must take into account the following:

- Wear your life jacket at all times and respect all the indications of the boat captain and the guides.
- Do not jump or dive from the boat, entering the water should be done slowly.
- Keep a distance of at least two meters from wildlife and remember that under no circumstances should you touch them.
- Do not swim under them.
- Take pictures but do not use the flash.







Arriving at Isla Mujeres is like traveling to a dream world where every traveler finds his or her second home. For many, it is love at first sight since it is impossible to get away from the Caribbean charms and natural beauty of the island. Its climate is tropical, so don't forget to pack light clothes, comfortable shoes and biodegradable sunscreen. It is located off the coast of Cancun, is approx. 7.5 kilometers long and in average 500 meters wide. Isla Mujeres offers something for all preferences, it has a hotel infrastructure with facilities of various categories, international and regional specialty restaurants for all tastes, beach clubs, marinas, a turtle farm, and endless things to discover. Take a pleasant stroll through its main square while you enjoy its streets with colorful houses, small cafes and craft and souvenir stores.

Its inhabitants, who are mostly fishermen, display the simple and pleasant life of the Caribbean. It is impossible to say no to its beaches, which are more like white sandy The most common means of transportation are golf carts, which can be rented to drive around the island, but you can also rent motorcycles or bicycles, or if you prefer, there are also cabs.

paths, ideal for sunbathing and gazing at the sea. Give in to the temptation of a good meal, the joy of a dance, the excitement of the moment, or simply enjoy the serenity in the middle of a small paradise – all experiences the island has to offer.

At nightfall you can continue to enjoy the island as there are several restaurants and bars with live music where you can dance and enjoy a pleasant atmosphere. There are entertainment options inside the hotels, in the center of the island and in the beach clubs.









How to get there



To get to Isla Mujeres it is necessary to take a ferry from Cancun, where there are four departure points: Playa Tortugas, Playa Caracol and El Embarcadero (all located within the hotel zone) and Puerto Juarez. Departures are every half hour, and the trip takes approximately 15 minutes. There is also a ferry to cross your car to Isla Mujeres, it departs from the Punta Sam Maritime Terminal.

Another option is to rent a private luxury yacht. This is a complete experience as you can go fishing or snorkeling, or just relax and sunbathe from the deck

NOTES

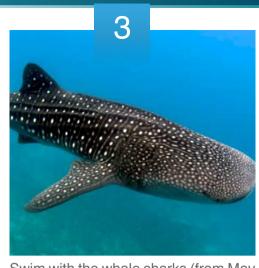
Ferry schedules vary depending on the season, weather conditions and the service provider, so it is advisable to check in advance.



Experiences you shouldn't miss on Isla Mujeres



Watch the sunrise at Punta Sur, the first place in Mexico to receive the sun's rays. It reaches 20 meters above sea level, giving you the most wonderful view of the Caribbean Sea.



Swim with the whale sharks (from May to September). A unique experience in which you can interact with the largest fish in the world.



Try the Tikin-Xic fish, a typical dish of the island, an exquisite fillet or fresh fish marinated in a sauce of axiote and sour orange wrapped in a banana leaf, a culinary delight with unique flavor.



Spend the day at Playa Norte and take the most spectacular pictures with its crystal-clear waters and beautiful sunsets in the background.



Fly over the sea on a zip line and enjoy an unforgettable panoramic view.

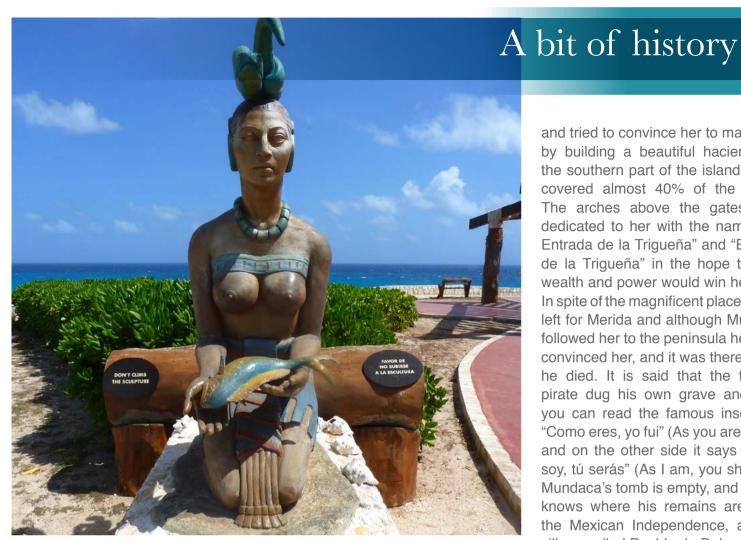


Walk along Hidalgo Street and buy some handicrafts or souvenirs.



Snorkel or dive in any of the wonderful reefs, with approximately 50 options to choose from: there are options for beginners or more experienced divers.





With more than 480 years of history, Isla Mujeres is a place with great tradition and Caribbean culture. Its history begins during Mayan times when Isla Mujeres was not a human settlement but a sanctuary of great prestige, which was part of the Mayan province of Ekab and was consecrated to Ixchel, Mayan goddess of the moon, love and fertility, who received offerings that believers deposited on the island's beaches. Mayan women had to make offerings and undertake a pilgrimage to the island as part of their transition from girl to woman.

It also served as a lighthouse, as the light from the torches passed through holes in the walls and could be seen by navigators.

It maintained its status as a sanctuary until 1517, when Francisco Hernández de Córdoba arrived at the island and, upon finding several figurines in the

shape of a woman, decided to give it the name of Isla de Mujeres, which was eventually adapted to what it is known today, Isla Mujeres. In 1850 the town of Dolores was founded on Isla Mujeres, where more than 250 fishermen, pirates and Mayans who had fled the Caste War settled. Due to its geographical position, Isla Mujeres, like many islands in the region, became a refuge and home to pirates, smugglers, and slave traders.

It is believed that another reason it was given that name is because pirates would leave their women here while they went to plunder European ships.

One of the best known was Fermín Mundaca, a slave trader who settled on the island in the early 19th century when the British navy began to pursue slave traders. He fell in love with a pretty local girl known as "La Trigueña"

and tried to convince her to marry him by building a beautiful hacienda on the southern part of the island, which covered almost 40% of the island. The arches above the gates were dedicated to her with the names "La Entrada de la Trigueña" and "El Paso de la Trigueña" in the hope that his wealth and power would win her love. In spite of the magnificent place the girl left for Merida and although Mundaca followed her to the peninsula he never convinced her, and it was there where he died. It is said that the famous pirate dug his own grave and on it you can read the famous inscription "Como eres, yo fui" (As you are, I was) and on the other side it says "Como soy, tú serás" (As I am, you shall be). Mundaca's tomb is empty, and no one knows where his remains are. After the Mexican Independence, a small village called Pueblo de Dolores grew on the tip of the island, which is now

It was populated by Mayas fleeing the Caste War that was taking place in the interior of the peninsula.





Isla Mujeres







Courist Attractions



Punta Sur

Located in the southern part of the island about 20 meters above sea level.

This cliff is located next to the Garrafón reef and offers a wonderful view of the Caribbean Sea and the coast of Cancun.

Here you will discover a beautiful sculpture park that houses contemporary works by 23 sculptors from different countries, in addition to the shrine to Ixchel, Mayan goddess of fertility, love and the moon, wife of the sun god.

Playa Norte

This beach is considered one of the 10 Best Beaches in the World for its fine white sand, palm trees and crystal clear, shallow waters. Here you can visit several beach clubs where you can enjoy a delicious meal, accompanied by a refreshing drink while contemplating its beautiful waters. It is also Blue Flag certified, just like Playa Centro and Playa Albatros, and is ideal to spend the day relaxing in a hammock, admiring a spectacular sunset.





El Farito

This natural marine park is located 1.5 kilometers away from the island and is considered a National Aquatic Park. It is a small lighthouse that lies on a rocky area in the center of a spectacular reef where you can admire the marine fauna and the statue of the "Virgen del Farito", patron saint of fishermen and which was submerged in 1966. Both fishermen and visitors pay tribute to her with flowers.

It is an excellent place for novice divers and for snorkeling. Here you can interact with a wide variety of colorful fish, as well as barracudas and moray eels.



La Cruz de la Bahía (The Bay Cross)

This bronze cross was placed on the Manchones reef in August 1994, as part of the celebration of the founding of the island that took place in 1850. The cross is 3 meters high, weighs almost a ton and is located at a depth of 12 meters. It is a tribute to the men and women who have lost their lives at sea.





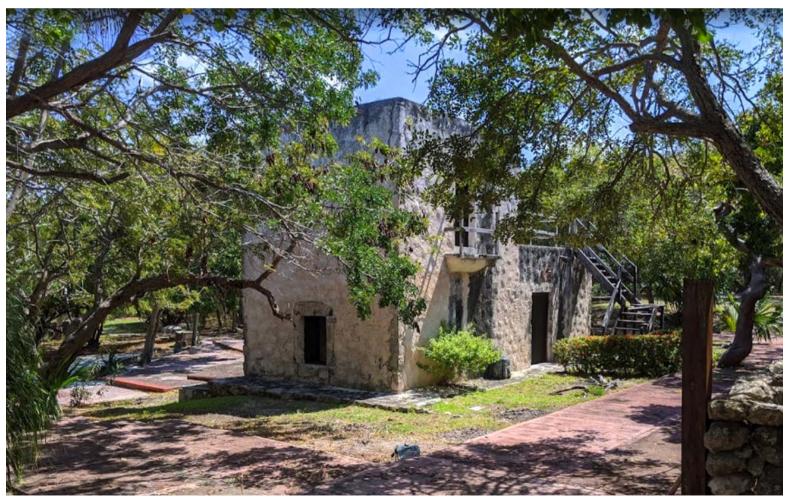


Hacienda Mundaca

It was built by Fermín Antonio Mundaca y Marecheaga, a 19th century pirate and slave trader, for a beautiful "Trigueña" with whom he fell in love.

It is located on the road to Garrafón just 4 kilometers south of town and is a beautiful place where you can stroll through its pleasant shady passages, arches, gardens, and wells while enjoying the legends that surround this place. In addition, the arch at the entrance where you can read the legend "The entrance of La Trigueña" is still preserved.









It is an uninhabited island located 30 kilometers north of Isla Mujeres with a length of 8.75 kilometers, a land surface covering 230 hectares and a marine portion of 4,900 hectares. Since 1961 it has been considered a Natural Protected Area and was declared a National Park in 1998. This wonderful natural paradise is home to various species of flora and fauna, with an extension of almost

nine kilometers long and 70% is covered by impressive mangroves. It also has lagoons, and low jungles, which are home to 210 species of birds including cormorants, herons, terns, frigate birds, boobies, and brown pelicans; but you can also observe crocodiles, manta rays and three different types of sea turtles: hawksbill, loggerhead and white turtles, which are in danger of extinction.

How to get there

Through a tour, since being a Natural Protected Area, the number of daily visitors is controlled, and only authorized boats can reach the island. The estimated travel time is one hour, depending on weather conditions. Visits to Contoy are only made during the day and there are no lodging establishments.



What to see on Isla Contoy

Beaches

The beaches of this island are unparalleled, with crystal clear waters and gentle waves perfectly complemented by the lush vegetation and coconut palms. The depth is less than a meter deep, making it perfect for children to enjoy the sea as well.



Ixlaché Reef

Abundant with beautiful coral species, fish, lobsters, and pink snails. It marks the beginning of the second longest barrier reef in the world, the Great Mesoamerican Reef. Here you can snorkel but only if you are an expert due to the strong currents.



Viewpoint for bird watching



From here you can appreciate different species of birds in their natural habitat. The observation tower of the visitor center offers an impressive view of the island and furthermore, after climbing the many steps leading to it, the cool sea breeze is a pleasant bonus.

Interpretive Trails

Along the trails you can admire the flora and fauna of the island in all its splendor, while letting your senses be enchanted by the sounds, smells and colors that Contoy has to offer.















iving spots

Manchones

It has calm and shallow waters and is located about 10 minutes from Isla Mujeres, with a 12 kilometer long and 700 meters wide coral bank. At a depth of 9 to 12 meters (30 to 40 ft.) you will find incredible coral landscapes, majestic schools of fish and a diversity of marine flora that are a paradise for underwater photographers; in addition, the Cruz de la Bahía (Bay Cross) is located here.

Juan de la Barrera C-55

Formerly known as USS Ransom (AM-283), it was used by the U.S. Navy during World War II, acquired in 1962 by the Mexican Navy and renamed to its present name in 1994. The ship was intentionally sunk in 2000 to make an artificial reef. As a dive site, it is only for advanced divers due to the strong currents and its depth of 25 meters (82 ft). Some of the species you will see here are eagle rays, reef sharks, turtles, colorful fish and even dolphins.

UltraFreeze

Also known as El Frio, it is a 200-foot sunken ship, a former cargo vessel that was purposely submerged to create an artificial reef. The hull of the Ultrafreeze is virtually intact, and the site is home to a variety of marine life such as sea turtles, manta rays, groupers, barracuda, and other very large fish, making the site popular with underwater photographers. UltraFreeze is located 30 meters (100 ft.) below the surface in Mujeres Bay, between Cancun and Isla Mujeres.

Bandera Reef

It is characterized by its elongated shape and is located between Cancun and Isla Mujeres. At a depth of 12 meters (40 ft.) you can find beautiful elkhorn reefs and large crabs, moray eels, lobsters, barracudas, turtles, and angelfish.

Tavos Reef

With a depth of 11 meters (35 ft.) it is one of the smallest reefs and has unique rock formations that create tunnels and crevices through which white tip reef sharks can be seen swimming.

Arrecife Media Luna (Half Moon Reef)

At a depth of 10-12 meters (30-40 ft.) it has channels, arches, and bridges where you can enjoy a great variety of corals with large anemones, as well as sea urchins and lobsters.





Puentes y Pailas Reef

Only 5 minutes from the island by boat in a depth of 12 meters (40 ft.) are several caves, bridges, and tunnels to explore. This reef is home to a great variety of marine fauna such as: manta rays, dolphins, barracudas, nurse sharks, turtles, lobsters, parrot fish, jacks, among others.

Piedra Atravesada Reef

It is located 30 minutes from the island with a depth of 18 to 21 mts. (60-70 ft.) where you can find colorful corals, habitat of octopuses, starfish, parrotfish, manta rays and jacks

Punta Negra Reef

It is located 35 minutes from the island with a depth of 21 mts. (70 ft.) and is the place where the second largest barrier reef in the world begins. In its little current it is easy to find turtles and sharks.

Punta Sur Reef

Located 15 minutes from the island where the Gulf of Mexico meets the Caribbean, at a depth of 10 to 12 meters (35 to 50 ft.). It is a magical place where, in certain seasons, sea turtles come to mate, and you can observe them just centimeters away. The arrival of turtles begins in April and ends between July and August.

Atlantis

A place with calm waters, good visibility and excellent for beginners. You can find turtles, barracudas and the occasional nurse shark.

El Hondureño

A shrimp boat that sank in 1988 to a depth of 21 meters (70 ft.). It is a place to find everything from parrotfish, groupers, and snappers to nurse sharks.

Cueva de los Tiburones Dormidos (Cave of the Sleeping Sharks)

Only 30 minutes by boat from Isla Mujeres is this unique place that has fascinated marine biologists from all over the world, including the renowned French diver Jacques Yves Cousteau. In the cavities of the cave there is a high concentration of oxygen that reduces salinity and thus the sharks do not need to move and can remain motionless for several hours. This amazing adventure is recommended for expert divers only, as it is located at a depth of 20 to 30 meters (65 - 98 ft.).





ishing



In Isla Mujeres you can also practice sport fishing, since the waters surrounding the island are rich in marine fauna such as marlin, dorado, swordfish, wahoo, bonito, tuna, pollock, barracuda, among others.

Did you know?

Several international fishing tournaments are held throughout the year.

Boat or catamaran tours

Whether during the day, afternoon or evening, there are several tours that offer a combination of experiences where you can choose between a boat or catamaran ride that will take you to some of the best snorkeling spots, or you can just enjoy the Caribbean aboard one of these boats enjoying the breeze, delicious cocktails, and the spectacular coastal views of Cancun and Isla Mujeres.





Swimming with whale sharks





