

Cancun Travel Guide

Discover Cancun: Paradise Where Caribbean Dreams Come True
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Things to do in Cancun

Beaches & Coastal Areas

Cancun's stunning coastline features **powdery white sand beaches** and crystalline turquoise waters along the famous Hotel Zone. From lively party beaches to serene family-friendly shores, discover your perfect slice of Caribbean paradise.



Must See
Playa Delfines
2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Known as **Dolphin Beach**, this is Cancun's most iconic public beach featuring the famous *CANCUN* sign. Perfect for photography, surfing, and enjoying powerful waves. The beach offers **free parking, restrooms, and lifeguards**. Less crowded than Hotel Zone beaches, it's ideal for sunset watching and experiencing authentic Cancun vibes without resort crowds.



Must See
Playa Norte (Isla Mujeres)
4-8 hours (including ferry) No Booking Needed



Consistently ranked among the **world's best beaches**, this stunning stretch on Isla Mujeres features incredibly calm, shallow waters perfect for families. The beach offers **pristine white sand, beach clubs, and spectacular sunset views**. Access requires a 20-minute ferry ride from Cancun, making it a perfect half-day or full-day excursion combining beach relaxation with island exploration.



Must See Book Ahead
MUSA Underwater Museum
2-4 hours Book Ahead



The world's largest **underwater sculpture museum** featuring over 500 life-sized statues submerged 3-8 meters deep. Created by British sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor, the installations promote coral growth while creating surreal art experience. Accessible via **snorkeling, diving, or glass-bottom boat tours**. Statues depict human figures, cars, and houses now covered in coral and marine life. Three main galleries include Salon Manchones, Salon Nizuc, and Salon Punta Sam. Combines art, marine conservation, and adventure uniquely.





Must See Book Ahead

Whale Shark Swimming

Full day (8-10 hours) Book Ahead



Map

Experience swimming alongside the **world's largest fish** during their migration season (June-September, peak July-August). These gentle giants reach up to 12 meters long and filter-feed on plankton. Tours depart early morning to Isla Mujeres or Isla Holbox areas. **Small group snorkeling** with strict conservation rules: no touching, maintain distance, limited time in water. Includes breakfast, lunch, and open bar. Sightings not 100% guaranteed but highly likely during peak season. Unforgettable bucket-list experience.



Top Pick

Playa Tortugas

2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **family-friendly beach** with calm waters, water sports, and easy access to restaurants and shopping. Named after sea turtles, it offers **jet ski rentals, parasailing, and boat tours**. The beach features palapas for shade, clean facilities, and is the departure point for ferries to Isla Mujeres. Ideal for families with children due to gentle waves and shallow entry.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Isla Mujeres Snorkeling

4-8 hours Book Ahead



Map

Discover vibrant **coral reefs teeming with tropical fish** around Isla Mujeres. Popular sites include El Farito, Manchones Reef, and parts of MUSA. See colorful parrotfish, angelfish, barracudas, and sea turtles in clear shallow waters. **Catamaran tours** often include snorkel stops, open bar, lunch, and beach time at Playa Norte. Equipment provided with professional guides. Suitable for beginners and families. Water visibility typically excellent except during seaweed season (April-August). Combine with island exploration for full-day adventure.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Scuba Diving Certification

3-4 days for certification Book Ahead



Map

Earn your **PADI Open Water certification** in Caribbean paradise. Cancun's numerous dive schools offer 3-4 day courses including pool training, theory, and open water dives at stunning reef sites. Warm, clear waters provide ideal learning conditions. After certification, explore **advanced sites including cavern diving, deep dives, and night dives**. Experienced divers can join drift dives, wreck dives, and bull shark dives (winter season). Many resorts offer resort courses for one-time diving experiences without full certification.



Notable

Playa Chac Mool

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Popular with **locals and experienced swimmers**, this beach features moderate to strong waves and undertows. Named after the Mayan rain god statue, it offers **excellent surfing conditions, free parking, and spectacular views**. The beach has basic facilities including palapas and vendors. Not recommended for small children due to currents, but perfect for wave lovers and surfers.





Notable

Contoy Island

Full day (8-10 hours) Book Ahead



Map

A protected **national park and bird sanctuary** accessible only with authorized tour operators (limited to 200 daily visitors). The uninhabited island hosts nesting grounds for frigatebirds, pelicans, cormorants, and sea turtles. Tour includes **snorkeling at Ixlache Reef**, bird watching, beach time, and fresh ceviche lunch prepared by guides. Crystal-clear waters and pristine beaches offer serene nature escape. Full-day tours depart from Cancun or Isla Mujeres. Book well in advance due to visitor restrictions. True eco-tourism experience.

Tips for Beaches & Coastal Areas

- **Swim Safety:** Pay attention to flag warnings - red flags indicate dangerous conditions, yellow means caution, and green is safe
- **Sun Protection:** Apply reef-safe SPF 50+ sunscreen every 2 hours; the Caribbean sun is intense year-round
- **Best Time:** Arrive early (before 10am) for prime beach spots and calmer waters
- **Valuables:** Don't bring expensive items; use waterproof pouches for phones and money
- **Hydration:** Bring plenty of water - beach vendors charge premium prices
- **Seasickness Prevention:** Take medication 30 minutes before departure; ginger candies help naturally
- **Reef-Safe Practices:** Never touch coral or marine life; maintain neutral buoyancy when diving
- **Best Seasons:** November-April offers calmest seas and best visibility; avoid September-October hurricane season
- **Certification Cards:** Bring dive certification card and logbook if already certified
- **Underwater Cameras:** Rent or bring GoPro/waterproof camera; many tours offer photo packages
- **Respect Marine Life:** Observe whale sharks from required distance; never chase or crowd animals



Ancient & Historical Sites

Explore the magnificent legacy of the **ancient Maya civilization** with archaeological sites featuring towering pyramids, intricate carvings, and profound astronomical knowledge. These UNESCO World Heritage sites offer glimpses into one of history's most sophisticated cultures.



Must See Book Ahead

Chichen Itza

3-4 hours (plus 2.5 hours drive each way) Book Ahead



Map

One of the **New Seven Wonders of the World** and Mexico's most visited archaeological site. The iconic El Castillo pyramid demonstrates remarkable astronomical precision with equinox shadow serpents. Explore the massive ball court, Temple of Warriors, Sacred Cenote, and the astronomical observatory. **Arrive early** (8am opening) to avoid crowds and heat. The site covers 5 square kilometers with structures spanning 1,000 years of Mayan history.



Must See Book Ahead

Tulum Ruins

2-3 hours (plus 2 hours drive each way) Book Ahead



Map

The only **Mayan city built on coastal cliffs** overlooking the Caribbean Sea, creating one of Mexico's most photographed archaeological sites. This walled city served as a major port for trade. The site features El Castillo temple, Temple of the Frescoes with original murals, and the Temple of the Descending God. **Access to the beach below** allows swimming after exploring ruins. Compact site perfect for combining with beach time.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Coba Ruins

3-4 hours (plus 2 hours drive each way) Book Ahead



Map

Home to **Nohoch Mul pyramid**, the tallest climbable Mayan pyramid in Yucatan at 42 meters (138 feet). This extensive jungle site sprawls across 70 square kilometers connected by ancient stone roads (sacbeob). Visitors can **rent bicycles or tricycle taxis** to explore. The summit offers breathtaking jungle canopy views. Less crowded than Chichen Itza, providing authentic exploration atmosphere with howler monkeys and tropical birds.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Ek Balam

2-3 hours (plus 2.5 hours drive each way) Book Ahead



Map

A remarkably **well-preserved Mayan city** known for intricate stucco sculptures and fierce jaguar imagery. The main Acropolis pyramid is still climbable, offering spectacular views. Features unique winged figures and detailed facade decorations rarely seen at other sites. **Less touristy** than major sites, providing intimate exploration experience. Combine with nearby Cenote X'Canche for swimming after climbing. The name means 'Black Jaguar' in Mayan.



Notable

El Rey Ruins

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Conveniently located **within Cancun's Hotel Zone**, this compact archaeological site offers quick cultural immersion without long drives. Features 47 structures including temples, residential buildings, and a central platform. The site is famous for **resident iguanas** that freely roam the ruins, creating unique photo opportunities. Perfect for travelers with limited time or those wanting archaeological experience without day-trip commitment.



Tips for Ancient & Historical Sites

- **Early Arrival:** Reach sites by 8-9am to avoid tour bus crowds and intense midday heat
- **Guided Tours:** Hire certified guides at entrances for historical context and hidden details (100-300 pesos)
- **Wear Appropriate Gear:** Comfortable walking shoes, wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and breathable clothing
- **Bring Essentials:** Water, snacks, sunscreen, and insect repellent - facilities are limited at sites
- **Climbing Pyramids:** Only certain pyramids allow climbing; follow posted regulations and be cautious on steep, uneven steps
- **Photography:** Professional cameras may require additional permits; tripods usually prohibited



Natural Wonders & Cenotes

Discover the **mystical underground world of cenotes** - natural sinkholes sacred to the Maya. These crystal-clear freshwater pools offer unique swimming, snorkeling, and diving experiences in stunning geological formations within the Yucatan's limestone bedrock.



Must See

Gran Cenote

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of the most **beautiful and accessible cenotes** near Tulum, featuring crystal-clear waters, underwater caves, and natural rock formations. Excellent for snorkeling with visibility up to 100 meters. See **freshwater turtles, small fish, and stunning stalactites**. Well-maintained facilities include changing rooms, lockers, snorkel rentals, and life jackets. The open-air design provides natural lighting perfect for photography. Popular but spacious enough to not feel crowded.



Must See

Cenote Dos Ojos

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Named **'Two Eyes'** for its two connected sinkholes, this is one of the world's most famous diving cenotes with over 80km of surveyed underwater passages. Snorkelers enjoy crystal-clear waters with **incredible visibility and light effects**. The cave system features dramatic stalactites and stalagmites. Guided snorkel tours available; diving requires certification. Bat Cave section accessible for adventurous visitors. Facilities include equipment rentals, guides, and refreshments.



Top Pick

Cenote Ik Kil

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A spectacular **open-air cenote** located just 3km from Chichen Itza, making it perfect for post-ruins cooling off. Features a dramatic 26-meter descent via stone staircase into a circular pool surrounded by lush vegetation and cascading vines. The cenote reaches 40 meters deep with **clear turquoise waters and small catfish**. Facilities include restaurant, changing rooms, lockers, and life jacket rentals. Can get crowded during midday tour groups.



Top Pick

Cenote Suytun

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An **Instagram-famous underground cenote** featuring a dramatic circular opening that creates a stunning light beam effect on a central platform. The main pool is partially underground with stalactites creating mystical atmosphere. Perfect for photography, especially during **midday when sunlight beams directly through**. Less crowded than major cenotes but visitor numbers limited. Clean facilities and affordable entry. Located near Valladolid, ideal for combining with Chichen Itza visit.





Top Pick Book Ahead

Rio Secreto

3-4 hours Book Ahead



Map

A premium **underground river and cave system** offering guided walking tours through crystal-filled caverns. Wade through waist-deep water exploring stunning geological formations illuminated by strategically placed lighting. **Semi-private tours** with small groups provide intimate nature experience. Includes professional photos, equipment, lockers, and lunch buffet. More expensive but offers unique subterranean adventure. Biodegradable sunscreen required. Located near Playa del Carmen, accessible from Cancun.

Tips for Natural Wonders & Cenotes

- **Biodegradable Products Only:** Use only biodegradable sunscreen and insect repellent to protect cenote ecosystems
- **Best Lighting:** Visit between 11am-2pm for optimal natural light beams in semi-open cenotes
- **Bring Towels:** Most cenotes provide life jackets but not towels; bring quick-dry towels
- **Waterproof Protection:** Use waterproof bags/cases for phones and valuables
- **Life Jackets:** Mandatory at most cenotes; depths can exceed 10-30 meters
- **Water Shoes:** Recommended for rocky entries and uneven surfaces underwater



Parks & Gardens

Experience **adrenaline-pumping theme parks** combining nature, culture, and extreme activities. These all-inclusive parks offer zip-lining, underground rivers, wildlife encounters, and Mexican cultural performances in stunning natural settings.



Must See Book Ahead

Xcaret Park

Full day (8-10 hours) Book Ahead



Map

Cancun's premier **eco-archaeological park** showcasing Mexican culture, nature, and history. Float down underground rivers, snorkel in coves, visit butterfly pavilion, sea turtle sanctuary, and jaguar island. Watch traditional **Xcaret Mexico Espectacular evening show** with 300+ performers featuring pre-Hispanic dances, mariachi, and equestrian performances. Explore Mayan ruins, Mexican cemetery, and folk art museum. All-inclusive packages include meals and equipment. Full day required to experience everything. Located 45 minutes south of Cancun.



Must See Book Ahead

Xplor Park

5-7 hours Book Ahead



Map

Ultimate **adventure park for thrill-seekers** featuring underground activities. Experience highest zip-line circuit in Yucatan (14 lines including water landing), drive amphibious vehicles through jungle and caves, paddle rafts in underground rivers, and swim in **stalactite-filled grottos**. Two circuits allow repeating favorite activities. All-inclusive buffet and unlimited beverages. Open until evening for unique nighttime experiences. Requires good physical condition. Located near Playa del Carmen, 45 minutes from Cancun. Xplor Fuego offers nighttime adventure version.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Xel-Há

Full day (6-8 hours) Book Ahead



Map

An **all-inclusive natural aquarium** where freshwater meets Caribbean seawater creating unique ecosystem. Unlimited snorkeling in vast inlet teeming with tropical fish. Activities include **cliff jumping, zip-lining into water, lazy river tubing, and cenote swimming**. Rope swings, waterslides, and lighthouse with panoramic views. All food, drinks, snorkel equipment, towels, and lockers included in admission. More relaxed pace than Xcaret, perfect for water lovers and families. Located near Tulum, about 90 minutes from Cancun.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Selvatica Adventure Park

4-5 hours Book Ahead



Map

Offers some of the **longest and fastest zip-lines** in Cancun area, including water landing zip-lines. Drive ATVs or dune buggies through jungle terrain, swim in cenotes, and experience **bungee swing and Tarzania rope course**. More intimate and adventurous than mega-parks with emphasis on adrenaline activities. Various package combinations available. Transportation from Cancun included. Guides are energetic and entertaining. Good option for adventure seekers wanting concentrated excitement without full-day commitment. Muddy activities - bring change of clothes.





Notable

Xenses Park

4-6 hours Book Ahead



Map

A **sensory and optical illusion park** challenging perception with over 50 fantastic scenarios. Walk through upside-down houses, float in saltwater rivers, experience zero-gravity sensation, navigate labyrinth of underground arteries, and explore **Path of Feeling barefoot through different textures**. Combines mind-bending activities with nature-based experiences. Perfect for families and Instagram-worthy photos. Less physically demanding than other parks. Includes meals and beverages. Can be combined with Xplor for multi-park passes. Located same area as Xplor near Playa del Carmen.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- **Book Online:** Save 10-20% booking directly through park websites versus at-hotel vendors
- **Arrive Early:** Gates open 8:30am; early arrival means shorter lines for popular activities
- **Waterproof Everything:** Bring waterproof bag/case; most activities involve water
- **Multi-Park Passes:** Consider combo tickets if visiting multiple Xcaret Group parks for significant savings
- **Biodegradable Products:** Parks only allow reef-safe sunscreen and biodegradable repellent (available for purchase)
- **Wear Water Shoes:** Essential for comfort on rocky surfaces and in rivers
- **Light Breakfast:** Eat lightly before zip-lining and physical activities to prevent nausea



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Cancun, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

Ilios★★★★★ 4.9 (10,474)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ilios | Greek restaurant in Cancun is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.9★ from 10474 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan Km. 13.5, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM

Must See

Harry's Steakhouse & Raw Bar★★★★★ 4.9 (9,267)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Harry's Steakhouse & Raw Bar | Cancun is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.9★ from 9267 reviews. Located at Km. 14.2, Kukulcan 1, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 1:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 1:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 1:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 1:00 PM – 2:00 AM



Must See

Capri Pizzeria Moderna★★★★★ 4.9 (1,043)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Capri Pizzeria Moderna is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.9★ from 1043 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan Km 9.5, Punta Cancun, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Must See

Fred's★★★★★ 4.8 (7,702)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Fred's | The best seafood in Cancun is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.8★ from 7702 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan 14.5, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Must See

Nicoletta★★★★★ 4.8 (4,346)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Nicoletta | Italian restaurant in Cancun is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.8★ from 4346 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan Km. 13.5, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM



Must See

Al Chimichurri Cancún★★★★★ 4.8 (2,202)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Al Chimichurri Cancún is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.8★ from 2202 reviews. Located at Av Carlos Nader 3-L111, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 2:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 2:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 2:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 2:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 2:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 2:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 2:00 – 11:00 PM

Must See

Ryoshi Cancún★★★★★ 4.8 (1,065)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ryoshi Cancún is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.8★ from 1065 reviews. Located at Boulevard Kukulcán Lote 18-10 Manzana 52, U.P. 1 Sección "A, La Isla, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM

Must See

Mochomos★★★★★ 4.7 (367)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mochomos is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.7★ from 367 reviews. Located at Boulevard Kukulcán Lote 18-10 Manzana 52, UP. 1 sección "A, Local B, La Isla, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM



Must See

Puerto Madero Cancún★★★★★ 4.7 (3,535)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Puerto Madero Cancún is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.7★ from 3535 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan Km. 14.1, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM

Must See

Bovinos Steakhouse & Seafood★★★★★ 4.7 (5,955)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Bovinos Steakhouse & Seafood | Cancún is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.7★ from 5955 reviews. Located at Av Yaxchilán 17, Coral Rivera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Must See

El Timón De Cancún★★★★★ 4.7 (7,005)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

El Timón De Cancún is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.7★ from 7005 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan km. 9.5, Punta Cancun, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Must See

Navíos★★★★★ 4.6 (3,171)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Navíos is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.6★ from 3171 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan Km. 19.5, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM

Must See

Porfirio's Cancún★★★★★ 4.6 (5,389)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Porfirio's Cancún | Restaurante de comida mexicana is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.6★ from 5389 reviews. Located at Km 14.2, Blvd. Kukulcan No.1, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM

Must See

La Coyota Cancún - Cocina & Mixología★★★★★ 4.6 (1,206)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

La Coyota Cancún - Cocina & Mixología is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.6★ from 1206 reviews. Located at Av Carlos Nader 138, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 7:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:00 PM – 1:30 AM
- Friday: 7:00 PM – 2:30 AM
- Saturday: 7:00 PM – 2:30 AM
- Sunday: 7:00 PM – 1:00 AM



Must See

Puerto Santo★★★★ 4.6 (3,357)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Puerto Santo is a highly-rated restaurant in Cancun, rated 4.6★ from 3357 reviews. Located at Av. José López Portillo s/n, Puerto Juárez, Juárez, 77505 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:30 – 11:00 PM



Beach Bars

Real, highly-rated Beach Bars in Cancun, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

Miches and Beaches Cancún★★★★★ 5 (29)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Miches and Beaches Cancún is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 5★ from 29 reviews. Located at Plaza Solare, Av. Bonampak Local 302, Zona Hotelera, 77503 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

Cañabar Beach Club★★★★★ 4.6 (666)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Cañabar Beach Club is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.6★ from 666 reviews. Located at Playa Norte, 77410 Isla Mujeres, Q.R., Mexico.

Top Pick

Zama Beach Club★★★★★ 4.5 (2,137)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Zama Beach Club is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.5★ from 2137 reviews. Located at Av Rueda Medina Manzana 1 entre Lopez Mateos y Playa Norte, Colonia Centro, 77400 Isla Mujeres, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM



Top Pick

Unico Beach★★★★★ 4.5 (2,172)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Unico Beach is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.5★ from 2172 reviews. Located at Javier Rojo Gomez, 77580 Puerto Morelos, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 6:30 PM

Top Pick

Mandala Nightclub★★★★★ 4.5 (3,075)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mandala Nightclub is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.5★ from 3075 reviews. Located at KM 9.5, Blvd. Kukulcan 5, Punta Cancun, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 PM – 3:00 AM

Top Pick

MUMMA Rooftop Bar★★★★★ 4.5 (940)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

MUMMA Rooftop Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.5★ from 940 reviews. Located at Av Carlos Nader, SM 2A, MZ04, Lote 27, Piso 3 Edificio, Nomads Hotel, Hostel & Rooftop Pool, Av Carlos Nader 27, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM



Top Pick

Green Demons Beach Club Isla Mujeres★★★★★ 4.5 (1,732)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Green Demons Beach Club Isla Mujeres is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.5★ from 1732 reviews. Located at Calle, Zazil-ha #118, CENTRO, 77400 Isla Mujeres, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Top Pick

Mandala Beach Club★★★★☆ 4.4 (3,245)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mandala Beach Club is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.4★ from 3245 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan km 09, Punta Cancun, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Top Pick

Coco Bongo Cancun★★★★☆ 4.4 (11,961)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Coco Bongo Cancun is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.4★ from 11961 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan 9.5, Punta Cancun, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 8:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:30 PM – 3:00 AM



Top Pick

Guru Beach Club & Restaurant★★★★☆ 4.4 (476)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Guru Beach Club & Restaurant is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.4★ from 476 reviews. Located at Zazil-ha, Centro - Supmza. 001, 77400 Isla Mujeres, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Top Pick

Mamita's Beach Club★★★★☆ 4.3 (16,751)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mamita's Beach Club is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.3★ from 16751 reviews. Located at Calle 28 Norte y la playa, Manzana 8 10, Lote, Centro, 77710 Playa del Carmen, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Top Pick

Mayan Beach Club★★★★☆ 4.3 (925)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mayan Beach Club is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.3★ from 925 reviews. Located at Av Rueda Medina 78, Centro - Supmza. 001, 77400 Isla Mujeres, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Top Pick

Kanna Beach Club★★★★☆ 4.2 (106)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Kanna Beach Club is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.2★ from 106 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan km 16.5, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Top Pick

Congo Bar Cancun★★★★☆ 4.2 (1,641)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Congo Bar Cancun is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.2★ from 1641 reviews. Located at km 8.5, Blvd. Kukulcan 9-km 09, Punta Cancun, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Tuesday: 8:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Wednesday: 8:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Thursday: 8:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 8:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 PM – 3:00 AM

Top Pick

La Vaquita Cancun★★★★☆ 4.2 (714)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

La Vaquita Cancun is a highly-rated beach bar in Cancun, rated 4.2★ from 714 reviews. Located at Blvd. Kukulcan Km. 9.5, Punta Cancun, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: Closed
- Thursday: 9:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Friday: 9:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:30 PM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:30 PM – 3:00 AM



Practical Information

Seasonal Guide to Cancun

Peak Season (December-April): Ideal weather with temperatures 75-85°F, minimal rainfall, and calm seas. Expect *higher prices and crowds*, especially during Christmas, New Year's, and Spring Break (March). Book accommodations 3-6 months in advance.

Shoulder Season (May & November): Best value with good weather, fewer crowds, and **30-40% lower prices**. May brings increasing heat and humidity. November has occasional rain but excellent conditions overall. Ideal for budget-conscious travelers seeking authentic experiences.

Low Season (June-October): Hot, humid weather with frequent afternoon showers. **Hurricane season peaks August-October** with potential storms. Significant discounts (40-60% off) on hotels and tours. Whale shark season (June-September) attracts marine enthusiasts. Sargassum seaweed can affect beaches April-August.

Best Overall: Late November through early December or late April through May offer optimal balance of weather, prices, and crowd levels.

Month	Avg Temp	Rainfall	Crowd Level
Jan-Mar	75-82°F	Low	Very High
Apr-May	80-88°F	Low-Medium	Medium
Jun-Aug	82-91°F	High	Low-Medium
Sep-Oct	80-90°F	Very High	Low
Nov-Dec	75-84°F	Medium	High

Getting Around Cancun

From Airport (CUN): Located 12km from Hotel Zone. Options include *ADO Airport Bus* (affordable, runs to downtown), **private transfers** (\$35-50, pre-book online), shared shuttles (\$15-25 per person), or taxis (\$40-60 to Hotel Zone). Avoid unmarked taxis.

Public Transportation

R-1 and R-2 Buses: Frequent, air-conditioned buses run 24/7 along Hotel Zone and to Downtown Cancun (Centro). Fare: **12-13 pesos** (about \$0.70 USD). Pay driver with exact change. R-1 travels north, R-2 south. Wave at bus stops marked by blue signs.

Colectivos: Shared white vans travel to Playa del Carmen (50-70 pesos, 1 hour), Tulum, and Puerto Morelos. Depart when full from ADO terminal downtown.

Taxis & Ride-Sharing

Official Taxis: White and yellow taxis with meters (insist on meter or agree on price before entering). Hotel Zone to Downtown: ~200-300 pesos. *Taxi apps:* Didi operates in Cancun offering lower rates than street taxis.

Uber: Available but operates in gray legal area. Generally cheaper than taxis but pickup can be discreet due to taxi union opposition.

Car Rentals

Useful for exploring Riviera Maya independently. **Daily rates:** \$25-60 depending on season and vehicle. Full insurance recommended (roads can be rough, police stops occur). International license accepted. Gas stations require cash



payment. *Toll roads (cuota)* are faster but expensive; free roads (*libre*) slower but scenic.

Ferries

To Isla Mujeres: Depart from Puerto Juarez (Ultramar) or Hotel Zone (slower). Frequency: every 30 minutes 5am-11:30pm. Cost: 200-250 pesos round-trip. Journey: 15-20 minutes. **Vehicle ferries** available but expensive; rent golf carts on island instead.

To Cozumel: Ferry from Playa del Carmen only (45 minutes, 400-500 pesos round-trip).

➔ Airport Transfer

Cancún International Airport (CUN) to city center:

- **ADO Bus:** Frequent buses to downtown Cancun and the Hotel Zone in 30-45 minutes, around 120-180 MXN
- **Colectivo (shared van):** Shared shuttle to Hotel Zone hotels in 30-60 minutes with multiple stops, around 200-300 MXN per person
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked private van direct to your hotel in 20-30 minutes, around 700-1000 MXN
- **Taxi:** Airport taxi to the Hotel Zone in 20-30 minutes, around 600-900 MXN fixed rate

Shopping in Cancun

What to Buy

Artisan Crafts: *Talavera pottery*, hand-woven textiles, hammocks, wooden masks, silver jewelry from Taxco, obsidian carvings, Mayan replicas, and embroidered huipil dresses. Authentic items found in markets and artisan shops.

Food & Beverages: Mexican vanilla (real vanilla from Papantla), artisanal hot sauces, **Mexican chocolate** (try Mayordomo or Ibarra brands), tequila and mezcal (100% agave only), Xtabentún (honey-anise liqueur), local coffee, and dried chilies.

Textiles: Colorful Mexican blankets (sarapes), beach cover-ups, Panama hats, leather goods (bags, belts, sandals), and huarache sandals.

Shopping Areas

Mercado 28 (Downtown): Large covered market with **hundreds of vendors** selling handicrafts, clothing, souvenirs, and jewelry. Prime bargaining territory. Less touristy than Hotel Zone shops. Food stalls offer authentic local meals. Open daily 8am-8pm.

Mercado 23 (Downtown): Local market where Cancun residents shop. Fresh produce, meat, flowers, and prepared foods. *More authentic experience* with few tourists. Great for people-watching and trying local snacks. Minimal English spoken.

La Isla Shopping Village: Upscale open-air mall in Hotel Zone featuring international brands, restaurants, aquarium, and scenic canal views. **No bargaining** - fixed prices. Good for air-conditioned shopping and dining. Interactive fountain and entertainment.

Luxury Avenue: High-end shopping at Kukulcan Plaza featuring Cartier, Fendi, Rolex, Louis Vuitton, and other luxury brands. Duty-free prices on some items for international visitors.

Plaza Las Americas: Largest mall in Cancun popular with locals. **Mexican chains, department stores** (Liverpool, Sears), cinema, food court, and affordable shopping. Located downtown - take R-1 bus.

Bargaining Tips

- **Start at 50-60%:** Initial prices in markets are inflated; offer half and negotiate up to 60-70% of asking price
- **Be Friendly:** Smile and joke with vendors; relationship matters in Mexican culture
- **Walk Away:** If price doesn't meet expectations, thank vendor and leave - often they'll call you back with better offer
- **Bundle Items:** Buying multiple items gives stronger negotiating position



- **Cash Talks:** Cash payment (especially pesos) provides leverage for discounts
- **Time of Day:** Late afternoon vendors more willing to negotiate as they want to close sales

No Bargaining: Fixed prices at malls, boutiques, grocery stores, chain stores, and restaurants.

Annual Events & Festivals

Carnaval (February/March): Week-long celebration before Lent featuring *parades, costumes, live music, and street parties*. Downtown Cancun hosts main events with colorful floats, dancing, and traditional food. Similar to Mardi Gras with Mexican flair.

Semana Santa / Easter Week (March/April): **Busiest domestic tourism week** when Mexican families vacation. Beaches and hotels at capacity with higher prices. Religious processions in downtown alongside beach parties. Book months in advance or avoid this period.

Día de la Independencia (September 15-16): Mexican Independence Day celebrated with *El Grito ceremony*, fireworks, mariachi music, traditional foods, and patriotic decorations. Main celebrations downtown at Palacio Municipal. Street parties and concerts throughout Cancun.

Day of the Dead / Día de Muertos (November 1-2): Mexico's most important cultural celebration honoring deceased loved ones. Elaborate **altars (ofrendas)** displayed in hotels, restaurants, and homes. Xcaret Park hosts spectacular Festival de Tradiciones de Vida y Muerte. Face painting, pan de muerto, marigold flowers, and cemetery visits. Moving cultural experience.

Caribbean Festival (Last week of November): Celebrates Caribbean culture with music, dance, food, and art from Caribbean nations. Free concerts, cultural exhibitions, and culinary events throughout Cancun.

Guadalupe-Reyes Marathon (December 12-January 6): Unofficial Mexican holiday season starting with Virgin of Guadalupe Day and ending with Three Kings Day. *Continuous festivities* including posadas (nightly processions), Christmas, New Year's, and Epiphany. Peak tourism season.

Spring Break (March): American college students descend on Cancun for legendary beach parties, club nights, and pool parties. **Hotel Zone transforms into massive party zone**. Love it or avoid it - no middle ground. Book early or stay downtown for quieter experience.

Cancun Jazz Festival (Various dates): International jazz artists perform at Moon Palace resort and other venues. Mix of established legends and emerging talent. Often free or low-cost admission.

5 Perfect Day Itineraries

Day 1: Classic Cancun Beach & Culture

Morning (8:00am-12:00pm): Start at *Playa Delfines* for sunrise and iconic CANCUN sign photos. Swim and relax for 2 hours. Drive to El Rey Ruins (15 minutes) to explore Mayan site and photograph iguanas.

Lunch (12:30pm-2:00pm): Tacos at El Tigre y El Toro or La Parrilla for authentic Mexican cuisine.

Afternoon (2:30pm-5:00pm): Visit **Mercado 28** downtown for handicraft shopping and cultural immersion. Practice Spanish with friendly vendors.

Evening (6:00pm-10:00pm): Dinner at Parque de las Palapas downtown for street food and local atmosphere. Watch free entertainment and try marquesitas (crispy crepes). End at rooftop bar like Batey Mojito & Guarapo Bar.

Day 2: Chichen Itza & Cenote Adventure

Early Morning (6:00am departure): Leave Cancun by 6am to reach *Chichen Itza* for 8am opening. Beat tour buses and heat. Explore for 3 hours with guide.



Mid-Morning (11:30am-1:30pm): Cool off at nearby **Cenote Ik Kil**. Swim in stunning natural pool and have lunch at cenote restaurant.

Afternoon (2:00pm-4:00pm): Visit colonial city of *Valladolid*. Walk main square, visit Convento de San Bernardino, try longaniza (local sausage).

Evening (4:00pm-7:00pm): Return to Cancun. Early dinner and rest after long but rewarding day.

Day 3: Isla Mujeres Island Escape

Morning (8:00am-12:00pm): Take 8am ferry to Isla Mujeres. Rent golf cart (\$50/day) to explore island. Visit **Punta Sur** sculpture garden and clifftop views. Stop at Tortugranja (turtle farm).

Lunch (12:00pm-2:00pm): Fresh seafood at *Playa Norte* beach club like Buho's or Mango Café.

Afternoon (2:00pm-5:00pm): Relax at **Playa Norte**, ranked among world's best beaches. Swim in calm, shallow turquoise waters. Snorkel at nearby reefs or rent snorkel equipment.

Evening (5:30pm-8:00pm): Drive golf cart to downtown for sunset at Punta Norte. Browse artisan shops on Hidalgo pedestrian street. Return on evening ferry with Cancun skyline views.

Day 4: Adventure Park Thrills

Full Day at Xcaret (8:00am-10:00pm): Arrive at park opening. *Morning:* Swim underground rivers (3 rivers, allow 2-3 hours). Visit aquarium and coral reef. *Lunch:* Buffet at included restaurants. *Afternoon:* Explore butterfly pavilion, aviary, jaguar island, and Mayan village. Snorkel in coves. *Evening:* Dinner and attend **Xcaret Mexico Spectacular show at 7pm** (don't miss!). Spectacular cultural performance with 300+ performers. Return to Cancun around 10:30pm.

Alternative: Choose Xplor for adventure focus - zip-lining, underground rafting, amphibious vehicles. Less cultural content but more adrenaline.

Day 5: Tulum Ruins, Beach & Cenotes

Morning (7:00am-10:00am): Depart early for *Tulum Ruins*. Arrive by 8am for cooler temperatures and fewer crowds. Explore archaeological site for 2 hours. Swim at beach below ruins.

Mid-Morning (10:30am-12:30pm): Visit **Gran Cenote** (10 minutes from Tulum). Snorkel with turtles in crystal-clear waters.

Lunch (1:00pm-2:30pm): Lunch at Tulum beach club or downtown taqueria. Try cochinita pibil tacos.

Afternoon (3:00pm-5:00pm): Explore *Tulum Beach* or visit **Cenote Dos Ojos** for more swimming. Shop at Tulum's bohemian boutiques.

Evening (5:30pm-8:00pm): Return to Cancun. Stop at Puerto Morelos for sunset and dinner at beachfront restaurant.

Best Photography Locations

Iconic Cancun Shots

CANCUN Sign at Playa Delfines: The most Instagrammed spot in Cancun. *Best time:* Early morning (7-9am) for soft light and fewer people, or sunset (6-7pm) for golden hour. Stand on beach side for ocean backdrop. Drone shots capture full beach panorama.

Punta Sur, Isla Mujeres: Clifftop sculpture garden with **dramatic ocean views** and colorful art installations. Best lighting: 9-11am or late afternoon. Capture crashing waves against cliffs. Lighthouse provides architectural element.

Archaeological Sites

Tulum Ruins: Photograph El Castillo temple with *Caribbean backdrop* - unique combination of ruins and beach. **Best time:** 8-9am for side lighting on temples and turquoise water contrast. Climb down to beach for low-angle shots looking up at ruins.



Chichen Itza: El Castillo pyramid from multiple angles. Early morning provides *dramatic shadows and golden light*. Kukulcan serpent heads on staircase make excellent close-ups. Temple of Warriors columns create leading lines.

Cenotes

Cenote Suytun: The platform with overhead light beam is *Instagram gold*. Visit between 11am-1pm when sunlight beams directly through opening. Bring smartphone with portrait mode or DSLR. Small fee for professional cameras. Arrive early to avoid waiting.

Gran Cenote: Underwater photography of turtles and stalactites. **GoPro essential**. Best visibility in morning (8-10am). Surface shots of lily pads and cave openings in soft light.

Urban & Street Photography

Parque de las Palapas: Capture *authentic local life*, street food vendors, families, and colorful decorations. Evening (7-9pm) brings energy with lights and activity. Candid shots of people dancing, eating, and socializing.

Puerto Morelos Pier: Leaning pier creates **unique angle** (hurricane damaged but still standing). Best at sunrise or sunset with dramatic sky. Long exposure for smooth water effect.

Underwater Photography

MUSA Underwater Museum: Surreal sculptures covered in coral. *Rent waterproof housing* for DSLR or use GoPro with red filter. Best on sunny days when light penetrates water (10am-2pm). Snorkeling sections easier to photograph than deep diving areas.

Whale Sharks (seasonal): Once-in-lifetime shots require **GoPro or action camera**. Set to video mode and extract frames. Early morning light best. Maintain legal distance - photos from responsible distance still spectacular.

Sunrises & Sunsets

Sunrise: East-facing beaches (Playa Delfines, Playa Chac Mool) offer *spectacular sunrises* over Caribbean. Arrive 30 minutes before sunrise (6:30-7am depending on season). Long exposure for silky water effects.

Sunset: Isla Mujeres' **Playa Norte** faces west for gorgeous sunsets. Sky turns pink, orange, and purple. Best 30 minutes before and after sunset. Silhouette shots of palm trees and people.

Photography Tips

- **Golden Hour:** First hour after sunrise and last hour before sunset provide best natural light
- **Weather Apps:** Check weather and cloud coverage - cloudy days create soft, even lighting for ruins
- **Waterproof Protection:** Essential for cenotes, beaches, and boat tours - use waterproof bags
- **Drone Regulations:** Drones restricted at archaeological sites; check park policies beforehand
- **Respect Privacy:** Ask permission before photographing locals, especially indigenous people
- **Professional Cameras:** Some sites charge extra for professional equipment (tripods, large cameras)

Electricity & Adapters

Voltage: Mexico uses 127V, 60Hz electrical system, similar to United States and Canada but different from most of Europe (220-240V).

Plug Types: Type A and Type B outlets are standard. **Type A** has two flat parallel pins, **Type B** adds grounding pin. Same as used in US/Canada.

Do You Need an Adapter?

US/Canada Travelers: *No adapter needed* - your plugs fit directly. Your devices will work normally.

European/UK/Asian Travelers: **Adapter required** for your plug types. Additionally, check device voltage compatibility (most modern electronics 100-240V work fine).



Voltage Converters: Only needed for devices rated exclusively for 220-240V (rare nowadays). *Most phone chargers, laptops, cameras, and tablets* are dual voltage (check label). Hair dryers and curling irons may require converter unless dual voltage.

Where to Buy

Purchase adapters at **airport electronics shops, Walmart, or Chedraui** supermarkets in Cancun. Better prices than hotel gift shops. Amazon or home country electronics stores offer cheapest options before travel.

USB Charging

Most modern hotels provide *USB ports in rooms*. USB charging works universally regardless of country. Bring USB cables for phones and tablets. Power banks useful for day trips and beach days.

Culinary Guide to Cancun

Must-Try Dishes

Tacos al Pastor: Marinated pork cooked on vertical spit with pineapple, served on corn tortillas with cilantro, onions, and salsa. *Quintessential Mexican street food*. Try at El Tigre y El Toro or any downtown taqueria.

Cochinita Pibil: Yucatecan specialty of *slow-roasted pork* marinated in achiote and sour orange, wrapped in banana leaves. Served in tacos, tortas, or plates with pickled red onions. Local favorite at La Habichuela.

Ceviche: Fresh raw fish or shrimp marinated in **lime juice with tomatoes, onions, cilantro, and chilies**. Coastal specialty best at seafood restaurants or Isla Mujeres. Pair with tostadas and cold beer.

Sopa de Lima: Traditional Yucatan *lime soup* with shredded chicken, crispy tortilla strips, and tangy lime broth. Comfort food perfect for lunch. Available at most local restaurants.

Marquesitas: Crispy rolled crepes filled with **sweet combinations** - Nutella, jam, and Edam cheese (unusual but delicious). Street food staple found at Parque de las Palapas and throughout downtown. Cost: 30-50 pesos.

Pescado Tikin-Xic: Whole fish marinated in *achiote paste and sour orange*, grilled in banana leaves. Authentic Mayan cooking method. Best at beachfront restaurants in Puerto Morelos or Isla Mujeres.

Panuchos & Salbutes: Yucatecan antojitos (snacks) - **fried tortillas topped with** shredded turkey, lettuce, tomato, pickled onions, and avocado. Panuchos have refried beans inside tortilla. Try at Mercado 23 or local fondas.

Drinks

Fresh Fruit Juices (Jugos): *Papaya, mango, watermelon, pineapple, and exotic fruits* blended fresh at markets and juice bars. Super refreshing in tropical heat. Try combinations like papaya-orange or mango-lime.

Horchata: Sweet rice-based drink flavored with **cinnamon and vanilla**. Served cold over ice. Perfect balance to spicy food.

Agua de Jamaica: Tart *hibiscus flower tea* served cold with sugar. Beautiful deep red color, refreshing and slightly tangy.

Tequila & Mezcal: Sample **100% agave spirits** - avoid mixtos (mixed with sugars). Good tequila sipped slowly, not shot rapidly. Mezcal smokier with artisanal production. Visit tequila tastings or specialty bars.

Michelada: Beer cocktail with *lime juice, hot sauce, Worcestershire, and spices* in salt-rimmed glass. Perfect refresher for beach days and hot weather.

Where to Eat

Local Favorites (Downtown):

- **Parque de las Palapas:** Street food hub with dozens of vendors offering tacos, tortas, marquesitas, and antojitos (evenings)
- **El Tigre y El Toro:** Popular taco chain with generous portions, creative flavors, unlimited salsa bar



- **La Parrilla:** Traditional Mexican restaurant with folkloric shows, grilled meats, extensive menu
- **Mercado 23:** Authentic local market with food stalls serving daily specials, fresh juices, and regional dishes (breakfast/lunch)

Mid-Range (Hotel Zone & Downtown):

- **La Habichuela:** Romantic garden setting, upscale Yucatecan cuisine, famous cochinita pibil and shrimp curry
- **Puerto Madero:** Waterfront Argentine steakhouse in Hotel Zone, excellent meat and wine selection
- **Navios:** Seafood restaurant at La Isla Shopping Village with lagoon views, fresh catches, ceviche

High-End Dining:

- **Harry's Prime Steakhouse:** Top-tier steaks and seafood in Hotel Zone with extensive wine cellar
- **Lorenzillo's:** Iconic lobster house over water, romantic setting, premium prices
- **RosaNegra:** Trendy Latin fusion with theatrical service, DJ, show performances

Dining Tips

- **Downtown vs Hotel Zone:** Downtown restaurants offer *authentic cuisine at 40-60% lower prices* than Hotel Zone equivalents
- **Comida Corrida:** Daily lunch specials (1-4pm) at local restaurants including soup, main, drink, and dessert (80-150 pesos) - best value
- **Tipping:** 10-15% standard; some restaurants add **service charge automatically** - check bill before tipping again
- **Water Safety:** Stick to bottled water and avoid ice in street food settings; hotel/restaurant ice usually safe
- **Spice Levels:** Mexican food can be very spicy; ask '*no picante*' if sensitive to heat
- **Reservations:** Book popular restaurants (especially Hotel Zone) 1-2 days ahead during peak season
- **Street Food Safety:** Choose vendors with crowds, visible food preparation, and high turnover for freshness

Tourist Passes

Go Cancun All-Inclusive Pass

Access to **35+ attractions, tours, and activities** with one pass. Includes *snorkeling tours, catamaran cruises, jungle tours, zip-lining, archaeological sites, and water sports*. Choose 2, 3, 4, or 5-day passes based on trip length. Save up to **50% compared to individual bookings**. Pass activates upon first use and covers consecutive days. Mobile pass eliminates paper vouchers. Advance reservations recommended for popular activities. Ideal for active travelers wanting to maximize experiences.



gocity.com

Xcaret Group Multi-Park Passes

Combine multiple **Xcaret Group parks** (Xcaret, Xplor, Xel-Ha, Xenses, Xavage, Xoximilco) with significant discounts. 2-park, 3-park, or 4-park combinations save 20-40% versus individual tickets. Parks must be visited on different days. Includes **transportation from Cancun/Playa del Carmen**. All-inclusive packages with meals, equipment, and activities. Book directly through Xcaret.com for best rates and flexibility. Add Xcaret Plus or Xplor Fuego (nighttime versions) for premium experiences. Perfect for families and adventure seekers planning multiple park days.



www.xcaret.com



Cancun Airport VIP Pass

Fast-track service through **Cancun International Airport** including dedicated immigration lanes, baggage assistance, and lounge access. *VIP arrival service* provides greeter at aircraft, escort through customs, and private transportation to vehicle. VIP departure includes early check-in, lounge access, and escort to gate. Saves **1-2 hours during busy periods**. Especially valuable during peak seasons (December-April, Spring Break). Book in advance through official airport website or third-party services. Worth investment for seamless travel experience and stress reduction.



www.cancun-airport.com

