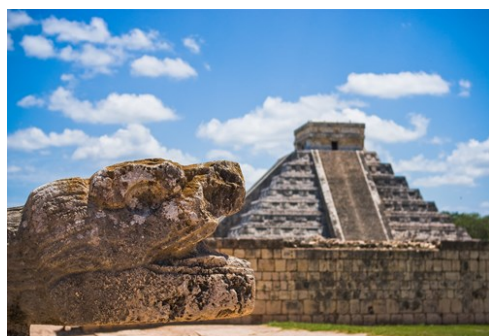




# Riviera Maya

Photo: Plan B Viajero/Shutterstock

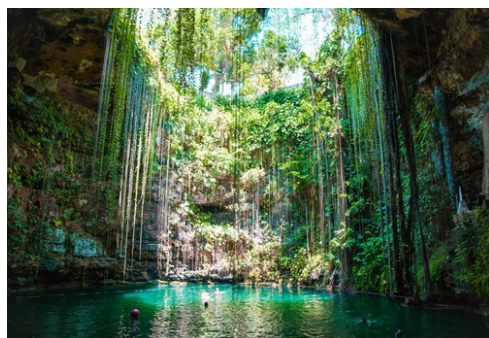


Marv Watson/Unsplash

Few places on Earth inspire awe like the Riviera Maya. What makes this destination special is the privileged location on Mexico's Caribbean coast, where turquoise waters blend with silky white sands, lush jungles, and breathtaking Mayan ruins, where ancient pyramids and stone temples whisper tales from centuries past. Whether diving into coral reefs, swimming in mystical cenotes, or strolling through chic beach towns, the Riviera Maya offers an enchanting mix of history, adventure, and natural beauty.

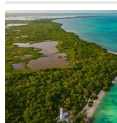


Denisse Pohls/Shutterstock



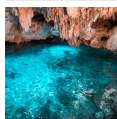
Tiago Fialho/Shutterstock

## Featured



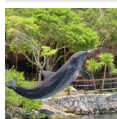
### Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reser...

Sian Ka'an, meaning 'where the sky is born' or 'gift from heaven' in the May...



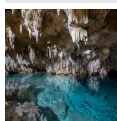
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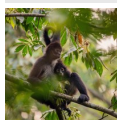
### Xel-Há Park (Tulum)

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### Río Secreto (Playa del Carmen)

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### Monkey Sanctuary (Akumal)

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## Top 5



### Chichén Itzá (near Tulum)

Chichén Itzá, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, is a must-visit for...



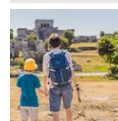
### Xcaret Park (Playa del Carmen)

Xcaret Park is an expansive eco-archaeological wonderland featuring vibrant ...



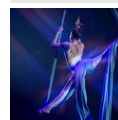
### Aktun Chen (Akumal)

Recommended by the National Geographic Society as one of the Top 10 Best and...



### Tulum Ruins

Tulum, whose original name is Zamá meaning 'sunrise' in the Mayan language i...



### Cirque du Soleil Joyà (Pla...

Cirque du Soleil Joyà in Playa del Carmen offers an extraordinary experience...



## THE REGION



*elvirkins/Shutterstock*

Beyond its pristine white-sand beaches, crystal-clear turquoise waters, and high-energy nightlife, which draws holiday-makers from all corners of the world, the Riviera Maya is steeped in rich cultural history.

Once the heartland of the ancient Maya civilisation, which flourished between 2000 BC and the 16th century AD, the area is dotted with impressive archaeological sites such as Tulum and Coba, where visitors can marvel at well-preserved ruins and learn about the fascinating history and traditions of the Maya people. The nearby city of Chichen Itza, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, offers a deeper dive into this ancient civilisation's architectural and astronomical achievements.

The modern era has seen the Riviera Maya transform into a premier travel destination, evident in the region's luxurious resorts, exquisite restaurants, and prestigious shopping centres.

Key destinations within the Riviera Maya include Playa del Carmen, a bustling beach town known for its lively Quinta Avenida, and Tulum, famous for its clifftop Mayan ruins and bohemian vibe. Akumal is a must-visit for snorkelling

enthusiasts, offering the chance to swim with sea turtles in its calm bays. Meanwhile, the island of Cozumel is a diver's paradise with some of the best coral reefs in the world.

## DO & SEE



*JDMainz/Shutterstock*

The Riviera Maya offers an abundance of attractions for every type of traveller. Nature enthusiasts can explore the enchanting cenotes—natural sinkholes perfect for swimming and snorkelling—or wander through lush jungles teeming with exotic wildlife.

The region's beaches, with their powdery white sand and crystal-clear waters, provide the ideal setting for relaxation or thrilling water sports such as diving and kayaking.

Culture and history buffs will find plenty to marvel at, from the majestic ruins of Tulum and the ancient city of Chichen Itza to the vibrant local markets filled with traditional crafts and souvenirs.

For those seeking adventure, the Riviera Maya boasts numerous eco-parks like Xcaret and Xel-Há, where you can zip-line through the jungle or swim with dolphins.

### Chichén Itzá (near Tulum)



Chichén Itzá, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, is a must-visit for any traveller exploring the Yucatán Peninsula. This ancient

Mayan city, renowned for its impressive architecture and historical significance, offers a captivating glimpse into a bygone era.

At its heart stands the iconic El Castillo pyramid, also known as the Temple of Kukulcán, showcasing the Mayans' advanced knowledge of astronomy and engineering. Visitors can explore expansive ruins and discover remarkable structures such as the Temple of the Warriors, the Great Ball Court, and the Observatory, each telling a story of the Mayan civilisation's rich culture and scientific achievements.

Photo: Ivan Soto Cobos/Shutterstock

### Xcaret Park (Playa del Carmen)



Xcaret Park is an expansive eco-archaeological wonderland featuring vibrant cultural shows, enchanting underground

rivers, and diverse marine life. Whether you're floating through crystal-clear waters, exploring lush jungles, or enjoying captivating performances, Xcaret Park promises a day filled with adventure, culture, and breathtaking scenery.

Photo: Leonard Zhukovsky/Shutterstock

Address: Carretera Chetúmal Puerto Juárez Km 282, Solidaridad, Playa del Carmen  
Opening hours: Daily 8:30am-10:30pm  
Phone: +52 998 883 3143  
Internet: [www.xcaret.com/en](http://www.xcaret.com/en)

### Aktun Chen (Akumal)



Recommended by the National Geographic Society as one of the Top 10 Best and Most Impressive Underground Walkways in the World,

does the Aktun Chen National Park need further introduction?

This picturesque rainforest park features an underground river perfect for swimming, along with a zipline and opportunities for cave exploration. Considered sacred by the ancient Maya, these mystical freshwater pools offer a serene and magical experience.

Photo: Miss Nephew/Shutterstock

Address: Carretera Cancún - Tulum Km 107, Akumal

Opening hours: Daily 10am-5pm

Phone: +52 984 806 4962

Internet: [www.aktun-chenpark.com](http://www.aktun-chenpark.com)

Email: [info@aktun-chen.com](mailto:info@aktun-chen.com)

### Tulum Ruins



Tulum, whose original name is Zamá meaning 'sunrise' in the Mayan language is the best-known and the most representative site of the

region. This majestic archaeological zone offers breathtaking views that inspire visitors to immerse themselves in the mysticism that surrounds them.

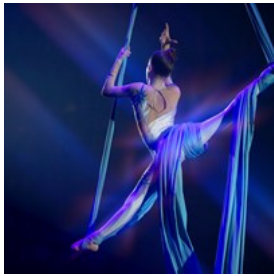
Home to over 60 perfectly preserved structures, Tulum's crowning jewel is 'El Castillo' or 'The Castle', the highest construction in the area, whose splendour is beautifully framed by the turquoise blue waters of the Caribbean Sea. With numerous murals and paintings found in the

buildings, it is believed that Tulum was a significant ceremonial site dedicated to the Descending God.

Photo: Elizaveta Galitckaia/Shutterstock

Address: Tulum Archaeological Zone, Zona Hotelera Tulum, Tulum

### **Cirque du Soleil Joyà (Playa del Carmen)**



Cirque du Soleil Joyà in Playa del Carmen offers an extraordinary experience that combines jaw-dropping acrobatics, captivating storytelling,

and gourmet dining in an intimate theatre setting.

This unique show takes you on a whimsical journey through a lush jungle, where vibrant characters and stunning visuals come to life. As the first Cirque du Soleil resident show in Mexico, Joyà is a must-see attraction for travellers seeking an unforgettable night of entertainment and enchantment.

Photo: SviatlanaLaza/Shutterstock

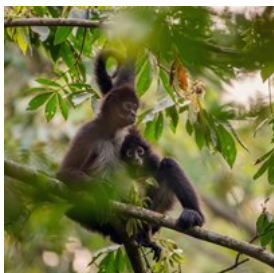
Address: Carretera Federal, Cancun - Chetumal Km 48, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Subject to availability

Phone: +52 800 247 7837

Internet: [www.cirquedusoleil.com/joya](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/joya)

### **Monkey Sanctuary (Akumal)**



The Monkey Sanctuary in Akumal is not a traditional zoo, but truly a safe place where rescued animals are well taken care of and protected.

Join a tour to get fascinating insights into more than 50 rescued species, including primates, macaws, and snakes.

Visitors can also participate in bonding programmes with these incredible creatures, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of wildlife—an ideal experience for families with kids.

Photo: MrLion84/Shutterstock

Address: Camino Uxuxubi, Akumal

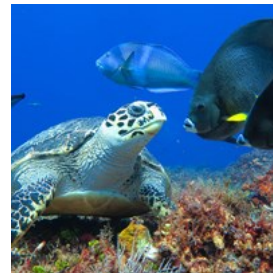
Opening hours: Daily 9am–5pm

Phone: +52 984 123 1083

Internet: <https://akumalmonkeysanctuary.com>

Email: [info@akumalmonkeysanctuary.com](mailto:info@akumalmonkeysanctuary.com)

### **Cozumel Reefs National Marine Park (Cozumel)**



The Cozumel Reefs National Marine Park is a diver's and snorkeller's paradise, showcasing the island's most celebrated underwater treasures. It

features renowned dive sites such as the Palancar, Columbia, and Paradise reefs, where you can explore stunning coral formations and encounter an array of marine life. Dive into the dramatic Devil's Throat at Punta Sur or discover the historic Felipe Xicoténcatl shipwreck, a WWII minesweeper now home to an impressive array of sea creatures. With up to 26 species of coral and 300 species of fish, the park offers an unforgettable underwater adventure in one of the Caribbean's most spectacular marine environments.

Photo: Denisse Pohls/Shutterstock

Address: Cozumel Reefs National Marine Park



### Río Secreto (Playa del Carmen)



Río Secreto offers a fascinating journey through a natural crystal museum, where dramatic stalactite and stalagmite formations reveal the

geological history of the Earth. This magical adventure includes hiking and swimming excursions along a turquoise underground river, allowing visitors to explore the mystical beauty of the Mayan underworld.

Photo: Headout Agencia Reklamowa/Shutterstock

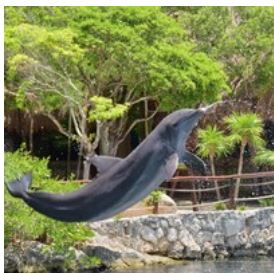
Address: Carretera Federal Libre Chetumal - Puerto Juárez  
Km 283.5, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Daily 9am-3pm

Phone: +52 984 242 0074

Internet: [www.riosecreto.com](http://www.riosecreto.com)

### Xel-Há Park (Tulum)



Xel-Há Park, the largest natural aquarium in the world, is a must-visit destination in the Riviera Maya. Begin your adventure with a bike

ride through the jungle, then swim in natural rivers winding through mangroves, ending at the sea where fresh and saltwater mix in the creek. Marvel at the colourful Caribbean fish beneath your feet as you enjoy a refreshing swim. After an exhilarating tour, indulge in a delicious meal at one of the park's fantastic restaurants. Don't miss the chance to swim with dolphins and take the plunge from the Cliff of Courage.

Photo: Johna Wright/Shutterstock

Address: Carretera Chetumal Puerto Juárez Km 240, Tulum

Opening hours: Daily 8:30am-6pm

Phone: +52 998 883 3143

Internet: [www.xelha.com/en](http://www.xelha.com/en)

### Cenote Chikin Ha (Puerto Aventuras)



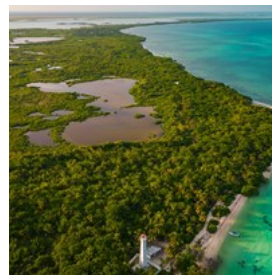
For a thrilling yet leisurely exploration of the Riviera Maya, visit Chikin Ha, an eco-park that promises unforgettable adventures.

Swim in cenotes with crystal-clear turquoise waters, perfect for snorkelling and diving enthusiasts, take a tranquil bike ride into the serene jungle or, if you're feeling adventurous, zip-line through the lush canopy.

Photo: Tom Ha/Shutterstock

Address: Cenote Chikin Ha, Puerto Aventuras

### Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (Tulum)



Sian Ka'an, meaning 'where the sky is born' or 'gift from heaven' in the Mayan language, is a remarkable destination renowned for its diverse

cultural and biological preservation. Declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, this pristine area is home to over 500 species of birds and the historic Muyil archaeological site, making it a haven for nature and history enthusiasts alike.

Visitors can explore Sian Ka'an through Community Tours Sian Ka'an, a non-profit Maya co-op program offering a variety of immersive experiences. From kayaking through serene waters to visiting a local Maya community and learning the traditional art of chewing gum making.

Photo: crowley production/Shutterstock

Address: Reserva de la Biósfera Sian Ka'an

### Croco Cun Zoo (Puerto Morelos)



Croco Cun is an interactive zoo where visitors can get up close and personal with a variety of animals, including crocodiles, monkeys, snakes, and parrots.

Photo: Mohamed Hakem/Shutterstock

Address: Carretera Cancún - Tulum Km 31, Joaquín Zetina Gasca, Puerto Morelos

Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-4:30pm

Phone: +52 998 850 3719

Internet: [www.crococunzoo.com](http://www.crococunzoo.com)

### Xplor Park (Playa del Carmen)



Xplor Park offers a thrilling adventure with zip lines, the unique Tobogánxote waterslide, and a wave pool. Visitors can drive amphibious

cars through the jungle, explore ancient caves, go rafting, and then cool off in stalactite rivers. By night, the park transforms into Xplor Fuego, with illuminated paths and caves creating an exhilarating atmosphere for zip-lining, swimming, and driving adventures.

Photo: Monstar Studio/Shutterstock

Address: Carretera Chetumal, Puerto Juárez Km 282, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-11pm, Sun 9am-5pm

Phone: +52 998 883 3143

Internet: [www.xplor.travel/en](http://www.xplor.travel/en)

## DINING



*montatip lilitsanong/Unsplash*

Mexican cuisine is celebrated for its diverse flavours and rich variety of spices and ingredients, many of which are native to the country. Its unique culinary heritage was recognised by UNESCO in 2010 as an Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Many dishes are prepared traditionally, with recipes passed down through generations, making the cooking process a ritualistic artistry. Food holds significant cultural importance in Mexican society, often taking half a day to prepare exquisite dishes that are steeped in history.

For those missing home, Riviera Maya's international diversity offers a range of dining options. Amidst the local culinary delights, you can find various international restaurants catering to different tastes.

### Alux (Playa del Carmen)



Nestled in a millenary underground cave with colourful lighting and wait for it...real bats, Alux offers visitors a once-in-a-lifetime fine dining experience in Playa del Carmen. The contemporary Mexican cuisine served here

delights with fresh ingredients and a symphony of flavours, while the enchanting atmosphere transports guests to a realm of wonder and delight. While the experience is pricey, the unique cenote setting and exquisite food make it worth every penny.

Photo: Thisisrits/Shutterstock

Address: Avenida Benito Juárez Mz 217 Lote 2, Ejidal, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Daily 6pm-11pm

Phone: +52 984 206 1401

Internet: [www.aluxrestaurant.com](http://www.aluxrestaurant.com)

Email: [contacto@aluxrestaurant.com](mailto:contacto@aluxrestaurant.com)

### Hartwood (Tulum)



Founded by a husband-and-wife team from New York, this off-grid culinary gem features a rustic, jungle-like setting and an ever-changing menu of market-fresh dishes that expertly blend Yucatan-style food with American cooking—all prepared in a wood-burning oven and grill within a solar-powered kitchen.

To secure a table at this much-loved eatery, early booking is essential.

Photo: wideonet/Shutterstock

Address: Carretera Tulum-Boca Paila 7-6km, Zona Hotelera Tulum, Tulum

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 5:30pm-10pm, Mon closed

Internet: [www.hartwoodtulum.com](http://www.hartwoodtulum.com)

### Guido's (Cozumel)



Guido's brings the authentic taste of Italy to the sun-kissed island of Cozumel. With top-notch Italian food from wood-oven pizza to

lasagna, homemade pasta and fresh seafood, it's easy to understand why the beloved restaurant is an institution to locals and a lovely find to tourists.

Photo: Fusionstudio/Shutterstock

Address: Avenida Rafael E. Melgar 23, Centro, Cozumel

Opening hours: Sun-Wed 2pm-10pm, Thu-Sat 2pm-11pm

Phone: +52 987 872 0946

Internet: <https://guidoscozumel.com>

Email: [info@guidoscozumel.com](mailto:info@guidoscozumel.com)

### Aldea Corazón (Playa del Carmen)



Step into a magical environment surrounded by dream catchers, lush tropical greenery, ancient trees, and underground cenotes to enjoy a fusion of Mexican cuisine with a Mayan twist, featuring mouth-watering dishes like 'cochinita' (slow roasted pork), roasted cauliflower, and the catch of the day with bean sauce and pico de gallo, along with frozen cocktails and beers.

Photo: Sergio Casero/Shutterstock

Address: 5 Avenida Norte, Centro, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Daily 8am-midnight

Phone: +52 984 803 1942

Internet: [www.instagram.com/aldeacorazon](http://www.instagram.com/aldeacorazon)

### Burritos Gorditos (Cozumel)



Burritos Gorditos is a great pit stop for something fast, cheap, yet delicious. The menu offers around 20 types of burritos, made fresh to

order with the freshest ingredients—from vegetarian and vegan to traditional meat-based, as well as salad burritos, quesadillas, and tacos. Yucatan-style burritos filled with 'cochinita' (pulled pork shoulder marinated and braised in



achiote paste, orange juice, and lime) are also on offer.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock

Address: 5a Avenida Norte, Centro, Cozumel

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-5pm, Sun closed

Phone: +52 987 116 7214

Internet:

<https://burritosgorditos.wixsite.com/burritosgorditos>

### El Asadero (Tulum)



For a delightful break from typical Mexican cuisine, visit El Asadero, a quality steakhouse in the centre of Tulum.

Upon entering, you are greeted by the enticing aroma of grilled meats and spices. At the heart of El Asadero is an impressive charcoal grill where cooks expertly prepare flank steak, sirloin, ribs, and chorizo. Fresh guacamole and salsa are also made table-side.

Photo: rocharibeiro/Shutterstock

Address: Calle 2 Ote, Centro, Tulum

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 2:30pm-10:30pm, Sun closed

Phone: +52 984 157 8998

Internet: <https://lurobledo.wixsite.com/elasaderotulum>

### La Cueva del Chango (Playa del Carmen)



La Cueva del Chango is a charming restaurant set in a lush tropical garden offering Mexican food from breakfast to dinner, including vegetarian and vegan options, plus a variety of juices made from fresh fruits.

Photo: Sergio Hayashi/Shutterstock

Address: Calle 38 Norte Mz. 4-Lote 3, Zazil-ha, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-10:30pm, Sun 8am-2pm

Phone: +52 984 147 0271

Internet: <https://lacuevadelchango.com>

Email: [info@lacuevadelchango.com](mailto:info@lacuevadelchango.com)

### La Choza Cozumel



Set a few strides from the main square, La Choza serves typical Yucatecan-Mexican dishes like 'poc chuc' (a Mayan/Yucateco version of barbecued pork) and 'chicken mole poblano' (served with a thick sauce made with chilis, fruit, nuts, seeds, and chocolate) in an upbeat and relaxing atmosphere.

Photo: Marcos Castillo/Shutterstock

Address: 10 Avenida Norte # 216, Cozumel

Opening hours: Daily 8am-10pm

Phone: +52 987 872 0958

Internet: [www.instagram.com/lachozaczmm](http://www.instagram.com/lachozaczmm)

### Pizzeria Manglar (Tulum)



With an unassuming entrance, Pizzeria Manglar is a simple yet charming restaurant that serves tasty and affordable Italian

favourites. Enjoy pasta and wood-fired pizzas, all on a lovely garden terrace. Don't forget to save some room for their delectable desserts.

Photo: New Africa/Shutterstock

Address: Calle Asunción Manzana 38 Lote 2, La Veleta, Tulum

Opening hours: Wed-Mon 9am-11pm, Tue closed

Phone: +52 984 120 0770

Internet: [www.instagram.com/pizzeria.manglar](http://www.instagram.com/pizzeria.manglar)



### Buccanos (Cozumel)



Buccanos is both a vibrant beach club where tourists can swim, snorkel, and enjoy the sun and a laid-back restaurant serving simple and modern Mexican food, with an infusion of local seafood and other street-food favourites. Everything here is made with fresh ingredients and their menu also features vegetarian and vegan options. Drop by Buccanos to sip some margaritas while watching the sunset or come here for a romantic dinner on their terrace overlooking the ocean and decorated with torches and candlelight.

Photo: Nataliya Muzhetskaya/Shutterstock

Address: Carretera San Juan Km 4.5, Zona Hotelera Norte, Cozumel

Phone: +52 987 114 5607

Internet: [www.instagram.com/buccanos/](https://www.instagram.com/buccanos/)

### CAFÉS



Nathan Dumlao/Unsplash

Mexico produces coffee of excellent quality thanks to the ideal topography, altitude, climate, and soil of its growing regions, particularly in the coastal area of Soconusco in Chiapas, near the Guatemalan border. This rich heritage ensures that you'll consistently find an excellent cup of coffee throughout the Riviera Maya, where the local scene is as diverse as it is inviting.

From quaint beachfront cafés to chic urban hideaways, the Riviera Maya offers a vibrant coffee culture to suit any occasion. Whether you're looking to kickstart your morning, savour a coffee with a slice of cake in the afternoon, or enjoy a cup after a sumptuous dinner, you'll find an abundance of options.

### Chez Céline (Playa del Carmen)



Chez Céline is a beloved bakery and breakfast spot offering a delightful taste of France on the Mexican Riviera Maya. From freshly baked baguettes

and buttery croissants to crepes, éclairs and the classic crème brûlée. Complementing these French treats is their exquisite Mexican, organic, 100% Arabica coffee sourced from the highlands of Chiapas.

Photo: JpegPhotographer/Shutterstock

Address: Avenida 5ta, Calle 34 Norte, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Daily 7:30am-11:30pm

Phone: +52 984 803 3480

Internet: [www.instagram.com/chez\\_celine\\_](https://www.instagram.com/chez_celine_)

### Raw Love Town (Tulum)



As the name suggests, Raw Love Town is committed to raw, 100% plant-based food, offering healthy options such as açaí bowls, avocado toast,

and tacos, alongside hydrating drinks, superfood smoothies, healing shots, and coffee. Perfect for recharging with pure nourishment, this café not only serves wholesome food made with love but also provides a complete sensory experience of peace and love through its lush jungle vibe, enchanting outdoor garden seating, and serene

atmosphere.

Photo: Maridav/Shutterstock

Address: Avenida Tulum Mz 5, Lote 1, local 21, Tulum Centro, Tulum

Opening hours: Tue & Wed 9am–6pm, Thu–Mon 8am–8pm

Phone: +52 984 130 2013

Internet: [www.rawlovetulum.com](http://www.rawlovetulum.com)

### Aqui + Ahora Coffee Bar (Cozumel)



More than just a coffee shop, Aqui + Ahora Coffee has everything you would want in a hangout spot: amazing coffee, tasty food, super friendly

staff, games, a cool urban vibe, and occasional live music. With excellent WiFi, it's also a great place for digital nomads to get some work done. A standout feature is the rooftop with ocean views, perfect for watching the sunset. Come by for breakfast, lunch, drinks, or a late-night snack as they stay open until late.

Photo: PhotoSunnyDays/Shutterstock

Address: Avenida Rafael E. Melgar 111, Centro, Cozumel

Opening hours: Sun–Thu 8am–1am, Fri & Sat 8am–3am

Phone: +52 987 800 3804

Internet: [www.aqui-ahora.co](http://www.aqui-ahora.co)

Email: [hello@aqui-ahora.co](mailto:hello@aqui-ahora.co)

### Ah Cacao Chocolate Café (Playa del Carmen)



Discover the rich flavours of Mexican cacao in every delicious bite and sip at this unique café. Delight in energising coffee and chocolate drinks, savour

mouth-watering cocoa treats, and indulge in their renowned dark chocolate brownies and Mayan chocolate ice cream—probably one of the best you'll ever taste.

Photo: PeopleImages.com - Yuri A/Shutterstock

Address: Avenida Constituyentes, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Daily 7:15am–11:15pm

Internet: <https://ahcacao.com/en>

### DelCielo (Tulum)



DelCielo is a popular breakfast and brunch spot known for its healthy dishes and delicious pastries. The menu features Mexican

favourites alongside unique twists on international breakfast staples. Since DelCielo is a hit among locals and tourists alike, be sure to arrive early.

Photo: Elena Veselova/Shutterstock

Address: Satélite Sur 5, Tulum Centro, Tulum

Opening hours: Daily 8am–2:30pm

Phone: +52 984 211 0752

Internet: [www.instagram.com/delcielo\\_tulum](http://www.instagram.com/delcielo_tulum)

### Marley Coffee (Playa del Carmen)



Marley Coffee is a small coffee shop in Playa del Carmen offering a relaxing retreat from the Mexican heat. Named after the world's most

famous reggae singer, this café boasts a super chill atmosphere with reggae music playing in the background and a comfy sofa in their air-conditioned space. Dedicated to sustainability and ethical farming, Marley Coffee sources its artisan roasted beans from top locations like Ethiopia, Central and South America, and Jamaica. Enjoy the highest-quality flavours paired with delicious croissants, doughnuts, and cakes, making it the perfect spot for a rejuvenating coffee break.

Photo: Aleksandrs Muiznieks/Shutterstock

Address: Avenida 10, Calle 2 Norte, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Daily 7am-10pm  
Phone: +52 984 206 5500  
Internet: [www.instagram.com/marleycoffeepdc](https://www.instagram.com/marleycoffeepdc)

### El Coffee Cozumel



Located near the cruise ship terminal, El Coffee Cozumel fills the neighbourhood with the aroma of freshly baked goods, from pies to

pastries, and delightful, locally sourced coffee. The chilaquiles come highly recommended.

Photo: Manuel Vazquez Lopez/Shutterstock  
Address: Calle 3 sur, Local 9, Centro, Cozumel  
Opening hours: Daily 8am-11pm  
Phone: +52 987 869 0456  
Internet: [www.instagram.com/elcoffeecozumel](https://www.instagram.com/elcoffeecozumel)

### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



*Louis Hansel/Unsplash*

The Riviera Maya is a nightlife paradise, offering a diverse array of experiences from the vibrant streets of Playa del Carmen to the laid-back charm of Tulum.

In Playa del Carmen, the famous Quinta Avenida buzzes with energy as bars, clubs, and restaurants spill out onto the street, creating a festive atmosphere.

Just a ferry ride away, the island of Cozumel

offers a more relaxed but equally captivating nightlife scene. Beachfront bars provide the perfect setting for enjoying live music and cocktails with your toes in the sand.

In Tulum, the nightlife is a seamless blend of laid-back bohemian vibes and electrifying energy, with open-air venues offering everything from sultry beats spun by world-class DJs to live performances by local musicians.

Whether you're dancing till dawn or chilling under the stars, the Riviera Maya's nightlife promises unforgettable memories.

### Coco Bongo (Playa del Carmen)



Coco Bongo redefines nightlife with its unique blend of Cirque du Soleil, concert, theatre, and disco, offering an unforgettable night of

entertainment. Instead of the usual dance floor and DJ, this vibrant venue dazzles with musical performances featuring talented local artists impersonating famous celebrities, while trapeze artists and dancers deliver jaw-dropping acrobatics. With its top-notch production, excellent music selection, and cutting-edge technology, Coco Bongo promises a spectacular show that leaves audiences with memories to cherish for a lifetime.

Photo: Kyle Head/Unsplash  
Address: Avenida 10 Norte, Playa del Carmen  
Phone: +52 984 803 5939  
Internet: [www.cocobongo.com/show/playa-del-carmen](https://www.cocobongo.com/show/playa-del-carmen)



### Wet Wendy's (Cozumel)



Wet Wendy's is an institution on Cozumel when it comes to delicious food, frozen cocktails—they're known for serving the giant

Margaritas on the island—, and entertainment. From rock to jazz to salsa nights, only positive vibes are accepted in the house.

Photo: Evannovostro/Shutterstock

Address: 5a Avenida Norte, Centro, Cozumel

Opening hours: Daily 9am-1am

Phone: +52 987 872 4970

Internet: [www.instagram.com/wetwendys](https://www.instagram.com/wetwendys)

### Batey Mojito and Guarapo Bar (Tulum)



Batey is a lively venue serving up local bites and cheap drinks, with an unbeatable atmosphere that captures the heart of Tulum. This vibrant spot

boasts a beer garden where you can enjoy a drink or two — and by drink, we mean their famous mojitos, which give Havana a run for their money — fresh 'guarapo' (sugarcane juice) that you can help press from a little station set up in an old Volkswagen Beetle, and last but not least, live music. If your stomach starts to growl, be sure to order their delicious shrimp burritos, a big hit among patrons.

Photo: gresei/Shutterstock

Address: Calle Centauro Sur, Tulum Centro, Tulum

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-1am, Sun closed

Internet: [www.instagram.com/bateytulum](https://www.instagram.com/bateytulum)

### La Bodeguita del Medio (Playa del Carmen)



La Bodeguita del Medio will transport you to Cuba's heyday with its enticing atmosphere, the best Mojito in Playa del Carmen, and its

infectious salsa rhythms that fill the air, inviting you to let your hair down and have a memorable night.

Photo: Tsuguliev/Shutterstock

Address: 5ta Avenida Calle 34 Norte, Gonzalo Guerrero, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Daily 10am-2am

Phone: +52 984 803 3950

### Mistico Tulum



Mistico Tulum is a vibrant bar and lounge that pulses with electrifying energy and infectious vibes, perfect for travelers seeking a lively

nightlife experience. Dance to the rhythms of Afro beats, soca, and hip hop while savouring exotic cocktails under the starlit sky. The eclectic cuisine and flavourful hookah add to the allure, making Mistico Tulum a must-visit destination for an unforgettable evening in Tulum.

Photo: Vershinin89/Shutterstock

Address: Andromeda Oriente Calle Centauro Sur, Tulum Centro, Tulum

Opening hours: Daily 9am-2am

Phone: +52 984 202 7048

Internet: [www.mistico.mx](https://www.mistico.mx)

Email: [misticotuluminfo@gmail.com](mailto:misticotuluminfo@gmail.com)

### Señor Frog's (Playa del Carmen)



Señor Frog's is a bar and grill chain known for its festive atmosphere, tasty food, gigantic drinks, and lots of singing and dancing. So, join the

conga line and make the best out of your time here.

Photo: Herson Rodriguez/Unsplash

Address: Plaza Marina Condos

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10:30pm

Phone: +52 984 877 2347

Internet:

<https://senorfrogs.com/what-to-do-in-playa-del-carmen>

### Thirsty Cougar (Cozumel)



A never-ending supply of cocktails paired with freshly cooked food and the enchanting waterfront view all amount to the winning

formula of Thirsty Cougar.

Photo: corners74/Shutterstock

Address: Calle 3 Sur, Centro, Cozumel

Opening hours: Daily 9am-midnight

Phone: +52 987 869 0214

Internet: [www.instagram.com/thirstycougar](http://www.instagram.com/thirstycougar)

### Mandala (Playa del Carmen)



Mandala is a popular bar in the heart of Playa del Carmen, where the attractive Asian decor immerses you in an oriental atmosphere full

of mystery and glamour. Dance the night away on the ground floor, where DJs mix the latest pop and techno tunes, or head to the mezzanine for a vibrant party scene. For a more relaxed vibe,

the open-air terrace on the top floor offers a perfect spot to enjoy a drink and chill out under the stars.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock

Address: 1 Avenida Norte, Centro, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Daily 8pm-3am

Phone: +52 998 883 3333

Internet: <https://mandalatickets.com/en/playa/disco/mandala>

## SHOPPING



Braden Collum/Unsplash

The shopping scene in the Riviera Maya is a vibrant blend of traditional Mexican charm and modern luxury, offering a diverse range of experiences for every shopper. From the bustling Quinta Avenida in Playa del Carmen, lined with high-end boutiques, quirky local shops, and lively markets, to sophisticated open-air complexes like Paseo del Carmen, there's something for everyone.

Discover handcrafted jewellery, colourful textiles, and unique souvenirs reflecting the region's rich cultural heritage. For those seeking upscale options, the area boasts numerous designer stores and gourmet shops, ensuring visitors can indulge in retail therapy amidst the stunning Caribbean coast backdrop.

### Plaza Punta Langosta (Cozumel)



Located just off the cruise ship docks, Plaza Punta Langosta is an elegant, open-air shopping mall providing everything a traveller could need in one stylish and convenient location.

Photo: Prostock-studio/Shutterstock

Address: Avenida Rafael E. Melgar 599, Centro, Cozumel

Opening hours: Daily 8am-10pm

Phone: +52 987 869 1127

Internet: [www.instagram.com/langostamall](https://www.instagram.com/langostamall)

### Quinta Avenida (Playa del Carmen)



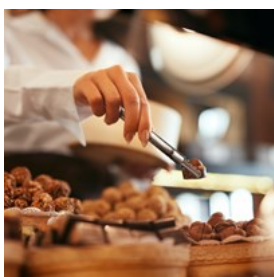
Quinta Avenida, or Fifth Avenue, in Playa del Carmen, is a shopper's paradise brimming with vibrant energy and eclectic charm. This

bustling

pedestrian-only street runs parallel to the ocean in downtown Playa del Carmen and offers an array of shopping experiences—from high-end boutiques and designer shops to quirky local stores and buzzing markets. Wander along the avenue to discover everything from stylish clothing and unique souvenirs to handcrafted jewellery and art.

Photo: Arkadij Schell/Shutterstock

### The Mayan Cacao Company (Cozumel)



The Mayan Cacao Company offers a fascinating journey into the origins of chocolate, set in the very land of its creators, the Mayas. This

high-quality chocolate shop features artisanal

bars crafted from cacao beans meticulously selected by Mayan farmers in the Yucatán Peninsula and expertly blended by their Belgian Master Chocolatier.

Visitors can delve deeper with an interesting tour that explores the rich history of Maya culture and the significance of chocolate in their society. The tour also includes a live chocolate-making demonstration followed by cacao tastings.

Photo: puhhha/Shutterstock

Address: Carretera Costera Sur Km 15.000-Sur, Zona Hotelera, Cozumel

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-4pm, Sun closed

Phone: +52 987 120 9431

Internet: [www.themayancacaocompany.com](http://www.themayancacaocompany.com)

### Mexicarte (Tulum)



Mexicarte, with locations in both Akumal and Tulum, is a vibrant destination for unique Mexican arts and crafts.

In Tulum, you'll find two distinct shops: one centrally located and another, specialising in textiles and clothing, about 35 minutes south of the city. Both locations offer an eclectic mix of pottery, sculpture, housewares, jewellery, and colourful Mexican skulls.

While the prices are a bit on the higher side, the unique and high-quality gifts make Mexicarte a must-visit for those seeking to take home a piece of authentic Mexican artistry.

Photo: Belikova Oksana/Shutterstock

Address: Avenida Tulum, Tulum

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm

Internet: <https://mexicarte.shop>



### Paseo del Carmen (Playa del Carmen)



Paseo del Carmen is an upscale, open-air complex featuring a variety of international retailers and a couple of eateries. Stroll through its scenic

pathways, and enjoy a sophisticated yet relaxed atmosphere that captures the essence of Playa del Carmen.

Photo: Ivanko80/Shutterstock

Address: Quinta Avenida 10, Centro, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Daily 7am-11pm

Phone: +52 984 803 3789

Internet: <https://paseodelcarmen.com>

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Thea/Unsplash

### Best Time to Visit



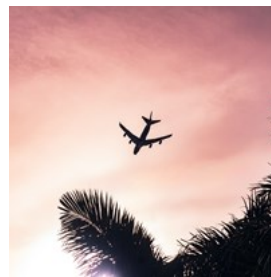
The best time to visit the Riviera Maya is between November and April when the weather is warm and dry, ideal for exploring the region's

stunning beaches, ancient ruins, and vibrant marine life. During these months, you'll find pleasant temperatures, low humidity, and minimal rainfall, perfect for outdoor activities and sightseeing.

Accommodation prices are generally higher during the peak winter season, especially around the holidays, but the trade-off is a lively atmosphere and a wealth of events and festivals.

Photo: Martin Corr/Shutterstock

### Cancún Airport International (CUN)



The main airport serving the Riviera Maya is Cancun International Airport (CUN). It is located about 30 minutes from Playa del Carmen

and roughly an hour from Tulum. From the Cancun International Airport, there are several transportation options to reach Playa del Carmen and Tulum.

For Playa del Carmen, you can choose from shared shuttles, which are economical and convenient or private shuttles for a more direct and comfortable journey. You can book these in advance through various travel companies or directly at the airport.

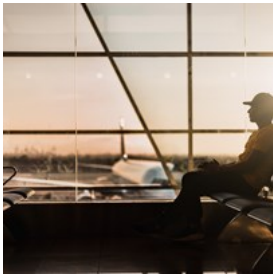
The company ADO operates a direct bus service from the airport to Playa del Carmen. The buses are frequent and offer a reliable option. Taxis are readily available at the airport but pricier. Other options include renting a car or ride-sharing services like Uber, though their availability can vary.

For Tulum, shared shuttles are also available and can be booked in advance, though they may take longer due to multiple stops. Private shuttles offer a more direct route and can be booked ahead of time. ADO provides a cost-effective bus service, although you'll need to transfer from the

airport to their terminal in Cancun. Taxis to Tulum are also costly. Ride-sharing services like Uber may be an option, though they can be unreliable.

Photo: Eduardo Velazco Guart/Unsplash  
Address: Cancún Airport International  
Internet: <https://airportcun.com>

### Cozumel International Airport (CZM)



The island of Cozumel is served by Cozumel International Airport, which handles both international and domestic flights.

Travellers can reach the city centre by taxis and shuttle vans, both private and shared, as well as private minibuses, which have a capacity of 4-10 passengers.

Car rental companies are also present at the airport for those who prefer to drive.

When hailing a taxi, ensure you have Mexican pesos or US dollars, as many taxi drivers do not accept credit cards.

Photo: Marco López/Unsplash  
Address: Cozumel International Airport  
Phone: +52 987 872 2081  
Internet: <https://airport-cozumel.com>

### Tourist Tax



The state of Quintana Roo, where the Riviera Maya is located, introduced a visitor tax called the 'Visitax' in April 2021. The tax applies to all international tourists over the age of 4 entering the state. At the time of writing, the

tax is approximately 224 Mexican pesos (around \$10-11 USD), although this amount can vary slightly due to exchange rates.

Tourists are required to pay this tax online before their departure from Mexico, and proof of payment must be shown at the airport. The payment can be made through the official Visitax website.

Photo: 5l/Shutterstock  
Internet: [www.visitax.gob.mx/sitio](http://www.visitax.gob.mx/sitio)

### Passport/Visa



Citizens from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and most European Union countries can enter Mexico without a visa.

Other nations that also enjoy visa-free access are visitors from Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

However, nationals from some countries do need a visa to visit Mexico. Notable examples include citizens from India, China, Russia, South Africa, and the Philippines.

With such a diverse range of entry policies, it's always advisable for travellers to check the latest requirements with their local Mexican embassy or consulate before planning their trip.

Photo: maramade/Shutterstock

### Taxi



In the Riviera Maya, taxis are available 24 hours a day and offer a convenient way to navigate the region. While taxis are relatively

easy to find, especially around popular tourist spots, they can be a bit pricey compared to local transport options.

Unfortunately, ride-sharing apps like Uber do not operate extensively in this region, so it's advisable to agree on a fare before starting your journey to avoid any surprises. Make sure to carry small bills or the correct amount as change is difficult sometimes.

Photo: Gustavo/Unsplash

Address: RideTransport - Playa del Carmen

Phone: +52 984 125 6661

Internet: <https://ridetransport.mx/es/index.html#>

### Public Transport



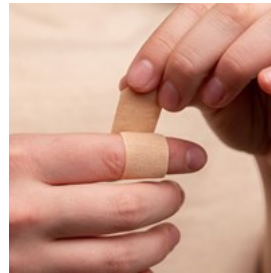
There are a couple of ways to travel around the Riviera Maya: Colectivos: these shared minivans, known as 'colectivos', are a popular choice for

shorter trips along the main highway between Cancún and Tulum. They run all day and can be flagged down at the side of Highway 307. There is no fixed timetable, so patience is a virtue. In Playa del Carmen, you can catch them at the colectivo stand located at 2nd Street between 15th and 20th Avenue. Do be aware that these vans can be quite full during rush hours, making it a bit challenging to find a spot.

For longer journeys, the ADO bus company offers a reliable and comfortable service connecting major destinations like Cancún, Playa del Carmen, and Tulum. These buses are popular among tourists for their convenience and affordability.

Photo: taravelworld1971/Shutterstock

### Pharmacy



Some of the main pharmacy chains found in the Riviera Maya include Farmacias del Ahorro, a well-known pharmacy chain throughout Mexico, Farmacias Similares, and Farmacias YZA, to name but a few.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/Unsplash

Address: Farmacias del Ahorro - 10 Avenida Norte, Mzn 100 Lote 01, Centro, Playa del Carmen

Opening hours: Open 24 hours

Phone: +52 984 879 4204

### Telephone



Country code: +52 Playa del Carmen: 984 Tulum: 984 Cozumel: 987

Photo: Miryam León/Unsplash

### Electricity



For Mexico, there are two associated plug types, types A and B. Plug type A is the plug which has two flat parallel pins and plug type B is the plug which has two flat parallel pins and a grounding pin. The country operates on a 127V supply voltage and 60Hz.

Photo: Clint Patterson/Unsplash

### Population

Playa del Carmen: 281,142 (2024)

Cozumel: 109,708 (2024)

Tulum: 25,827 (2024)

### Currency



The main currency is the Mexican Peso (MXN), but the US Dollar is accepted everywhere.

#### Opening hours

Shops and supermarkets typically operate from around 9am to 9pm. Many smaller shops might close for a siesta in the early afternoon, usually from 2pm to 4pm, before reopening in the evening. Banks usually have more restricted hours, often open from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

#### Newspapers

Riviera Maya News: <https://riviera-maya-news.com>

#### Emergency numbers

Dial 911 for all major emergencies, including medical, fire, and police services.