



BACALAR



BACALAR

Lagoon of the Seven Colors

The Bacalar Lagoon makes a fascinating impression when seen for the first time. Just as its name "Seven Colors" suggests, this body of water exhibits a unique chromatic variation on its surface, showcasing seven different shades of blue ranging from Prussian blue to turquoise.

THE PIRATES' CHANNEL

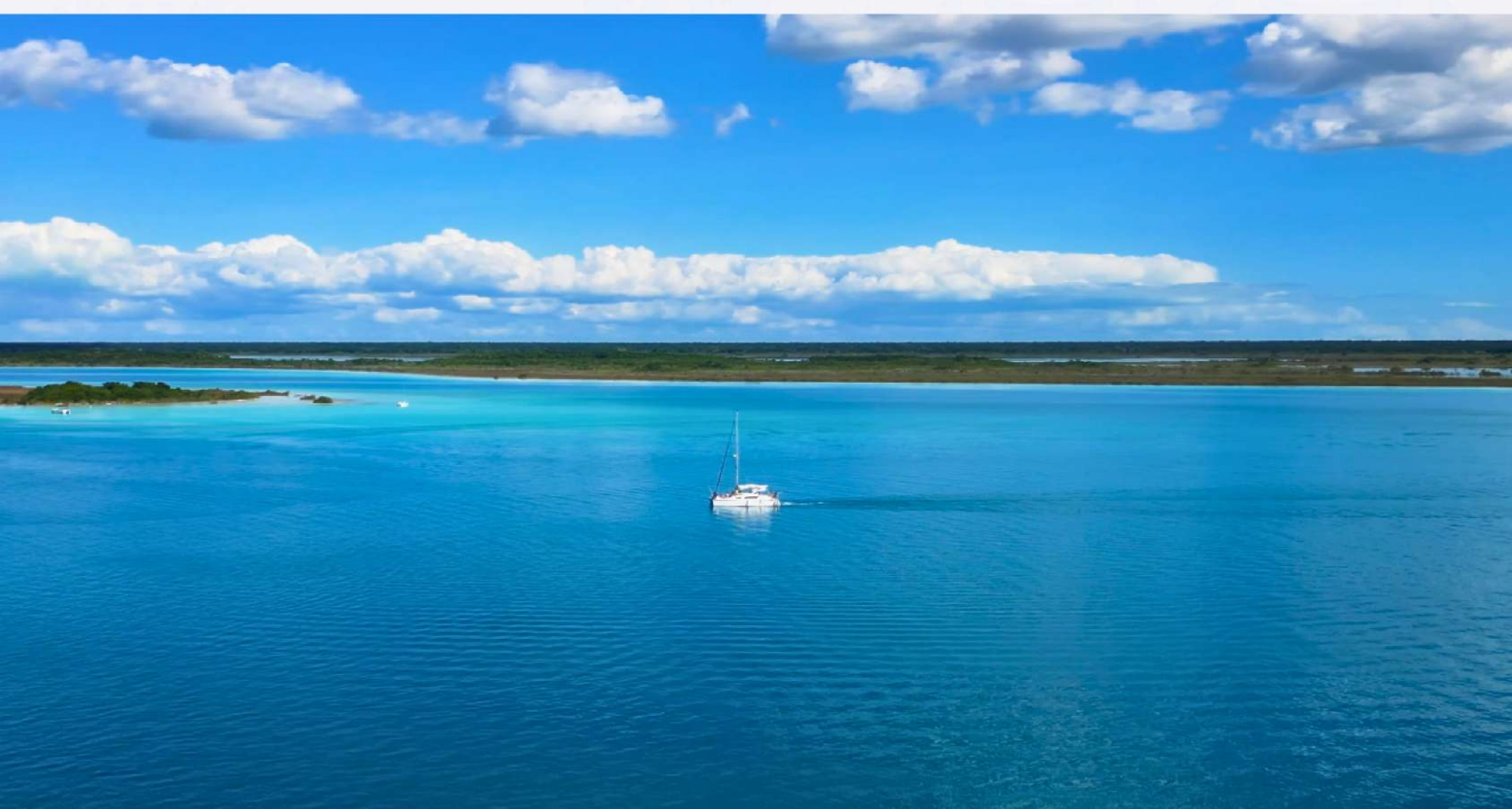
This historic site was created by human hands with the purpose of facilitating trade between the northern Maya and those of Central America. This initiative led to a prosperous exchange of goods, particularly food, exotic bird feathers, and precious woods, which have been the primary sources of wealth in the region for centuries.

During the colonial era, this place was known as the Salamanca Channel and served as a significant connection point between Europe and America. This canal not only facilitated trade but also attracted the attention of renowned pirates and privateers such as Henry Morgan (1635-1688) and Francis Drake (1543-1596).



These daring navigators took advantage of the strategic location of the channel to exploit local timber resources, necessary for repairing their ships and constructing new vessels, thereby marking an intriguing chapter in Caribbean maritime history.

Today, this place is a prominent tourist attraction in Bacalar, renowned for its rich history and stunning natural beauty. Moreover, its mineral-rich waters are appreciated for their beneficial properties for the skin, making it a destination that combines history, nature, and wellness.





FLORA AND FAUNA

The flora and fauna of Bacalar are characterized by their diversity and richness, with various species both terrestrial and marine.

One of the most representative species in the municipality is the Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*), an emblematic species of the region. In terms of mammals, there are species such as the agouti, wild boar, white-tailed deer, and coati. Among birds, the toucan stands out for its importance in the local ecosystem.

It is a mangrove forest where you can find red mangrove, white mangrove, and buttonwood mangrove, along with a diverse fauna including the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), birds such as the Jabiru (*Jabiru mycteria*), and fish like the cubera snapper (*Lutjanus apodus*) and crevalle jack (*Caranx latus*).

In the waters of the municipality of Othón P. Blanco, where Bacalar is located, you can find various marine species such as spiny lobster, groupers, snappers, barracudas, triggerfish, and a diverse array of corals on the reef barrier.



Additionally, in lesser abundance, otters, lizards, and turtles such as loggerheads, hawksbills, and green turtles can be spotted, further enriching the biodiversity of the region. This diverse and vibrant ecosystem is a testament to the natural richness that Bacalar and its surroundings offer, attracting visitors and nature lovers from around the world.



THE LEGEND OF THE WITCH

Surrounded by abundant vegetation, its name is due to its dark color. It is also known as the Witch's Cenote due to a local legend.

It is the smallest of the four cenotes in Bacalar Lagoon, with a diameter of 130 meters. The depth varies from one and a half meters to nearly 100 meters, as it is a natural precipice.

According to this old legend, from which this cenote takes its name "Cenote de la Bruja," many years ago, there lived near this cenote an elderly woman over a hundred years old. She was a Maya elder who survived the Caste Wars that took place between 1847 and 1901, conflicts between the Maya people and the criollo (creole) and mestizo populations in this region of Yucatán.



This elderly woman had a small stone house next to the Cenote Negro. At that time, the house and its surroundings were surrounded by dolls that the elderly woman placed in trees, bushes, and walls of the house, giving it a rather eerie appearance. The elderly woman lived in this house when around the 1960s or 1970s, the municipality of Bacalar wanted to remove her house to build the Regional Center for Normal Education Javier Rojo Gómez.

It was then that the elderly woman bewitched the area, causing anyone who stepped on it to either take their own life or contract a deadly disease.

After the expulsion of the elderly woman from the place, the fear of the spell was so great that some inhabitants began to perform rituals to undo it.



STROMATOLITES

Stromatolites represent the oldest known form of life on Earth and constitute a crucial component of the fossil record of early microbiological life. In Bacalar, the stromatolitic formations estimated to have developed between 2.5 to 1 billion years ago are significant.

These structures were pioneers in oxygenating the early atmosphere, a process facilitated by cyanobacteria, photosynthetic organisms that released oxygen into the atmosphere. Stromatolites also played a fundamental role in the formation of reef zones, being the first to establish these crucial environments.



Today, marine stromatolites are primarily found in shallow waters, with optimal growth observed around 15 meters deep. However, they can develop in both deeper and shallower waters, forming reefs that provide a diverse ecosystem for thousands of species.

These reefs provide food, shelter, and calm waters ideal for the reproduction of fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and other marine organisms. Additionally, they serve as substrates for encrusting organisms and other microorganisms, and protect the substrate from erosion caused by waves.

Over millions of years, the creation of new ecosystems by stromatolites has likely promoted the speciation of numerous taxonomic groups, thereby contributing to the biodiversity and evolution of marine life.



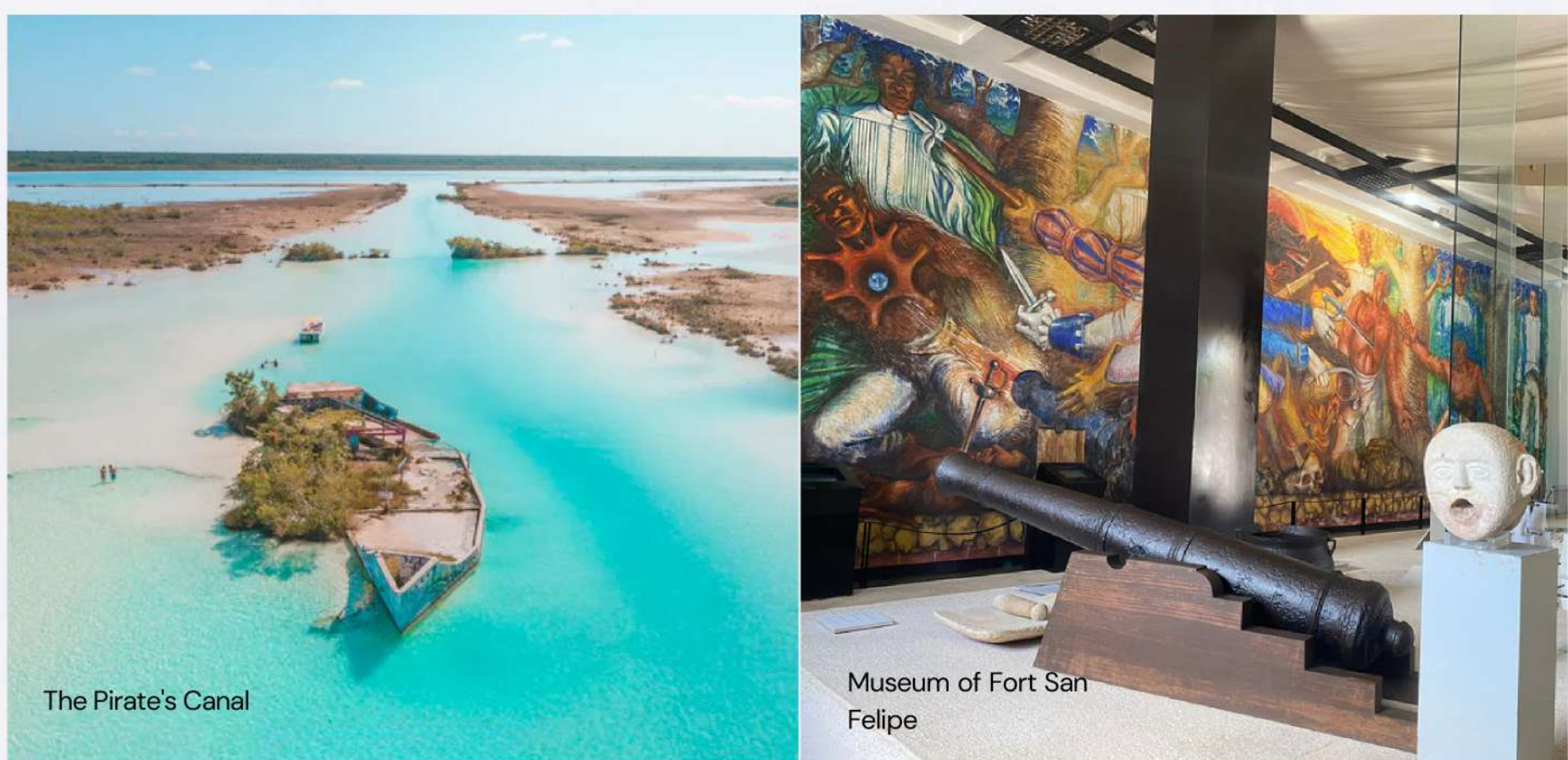
FORT OF SAN FELIPE



HISTORY

The history of Fort San Felipe Bacalar, also known as Castillo de San Felipe, this famous fort located in Bacalar, belongs to the Mexican state of Quintana Roo.

This fort was proposed to be built in 1725 by the governor of Yucatán, Antonio de Figueroa y Silva. It was developed as a stronghold for defense and preservation against constant attacks and assaults by the English. Its construction took around 8 years, completing in 1733. Its well-preserved structures encapsulate over 250 years of historical memory, featuring encounters with pirates from around the world, Mayan natives, and Spanish settlers. It also holds some secrets and mysteries regarding Mexico's relationship with Belize, as well as many aspects of local and regional identity.



Its well-preserved structures encapsulate over 250 years of historical memory, featuring encounters with pirates from around the world, Mayan natives, and Spanish settlers. It also holds some secrets and mysteries regarding Mexico's relationship with Belize, as well as many aspects of local and regional identity.

The fort currently houses 11 cannons, although it originally had around 34, which were located in places like the Santa Ana Bastion and the San José Bastion.

Founded around 500 AD, the port of Bakhahal was perhaps one of the most important settlements in the vast Maya province of Uaymil. During the pre-Hispanic era, this region served as a crucial hub for trade, facilitating the exchange of commodities such as salt and cocoa between Yucatán and Honduras.





Gracias por elegir México para vivir momentos inolvidables con tu familia y amigos.

Estamos felices de haberte acompañado en tu viaje y esperamos haya sido tan placentero como lo fue para nosotros.

Si te gustó nuestro servicio ayudanos compartiendo tu experiencia.



Gracias