

THE BEST OF HOLBOX



03

Holbox: Natural Paradise
Between Turquoise Waters
and White Sands



04

Yalahau: The Magical Spring
of Holbox

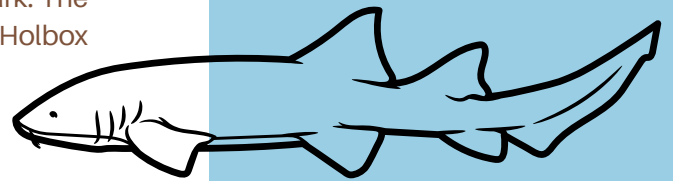
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Flamingos, Whale Shark, and
Nurse Shark in a Natural
Paradise

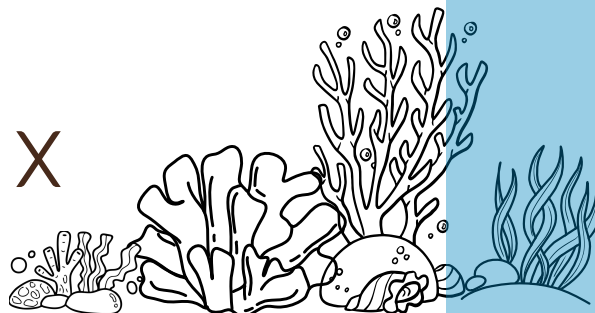


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Caribbean Nurse Shark: The
Gentle Giant of Holbox



HOLBOX



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HOLBOX

Its name means "black hole" in the Mayan language.

It is located at the northern tip of Quintana Roo and is part of the Yum Balam protected natural area. It has an extension of 42 km, of which 34 km are beach area and only 8 km belong to the populated zone.



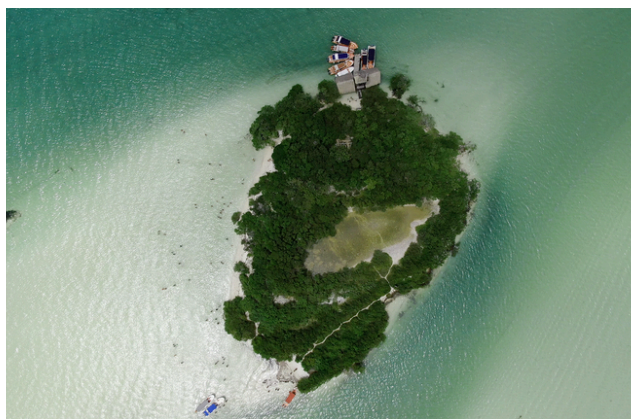
ISLAND OF PASSION

Just 15 minutes by boat from Holbox, there is a small and charming island, surrounded by calm, shallow waters, perfect for swimming or simply cooling off. Away from the tourist bustle, this spot is known for its tranquility and for offering an authentic connection with nature.

The surroundings are perfect for walking along the shore, exploring its untouched corners, and enjoying birdwatching, including herons, frigatebirds, cormorants, and even pelicans. On clear days, the panoramic view allows you to appreciate the different shades of the Caribbean Sea, ranging from the most intense turquoise to a deep blue that blends with the horizon.

The island owes its name to the tranquility it offers: it is an intimate, almost secret space, ideal for romantic getaways or moments of complete relaxation. Many visitors choose it for a couple's picnic, to watch an unforgettable sunset, or simply to rest in the shade of the surrounding vegetation.

If you are looking for a place where time seems to stand still, away from the crowds and in harmony with nature, this island becomes a hidden gem that cannot be missed on your visit to Holbox.





PUNTA MOSQUITO

Also known as "the sandbanks," it is considered by many to be the most spectacular beach in Holbox. Located just a few minutes from the island's center, this natural paradise amazes with its extensive stretch of white sand that extends into the sea, surrounded by crystal-clear, shallow waters. It is the perfect place to walk long distances in the water, swim peacefully, and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere fully connected with nature.

The beach remains practically untouched, giving it a unique charm for those looking to escape the crowds. During the day, Punta Mosquitos is ideal for relaxing under the sun, strolling along its shores, and marveling at birdwatching, especially the pink flamingos that often gather in this area during certain seasons, along with herons, pelicans, and frigatebirds.

Its name comes from the mosquitoes that appear at sunset during certain times of the year, although with a little repellent, this detail doesn't prevent you from enjoying the experience. On the contrary, the sunsets here are unforgettable, as the sky is painted in golden and pink hues that reflect on the shallow water, creating a dreamlike landscape.

Visiting Punta Mosquitos is discovering the essence of Holbox: pristine beaches, wildlife, and landscapes that look straight out of a postcard. An unmissable spot for those who want to experience the island in its purest form.



YALAHAU

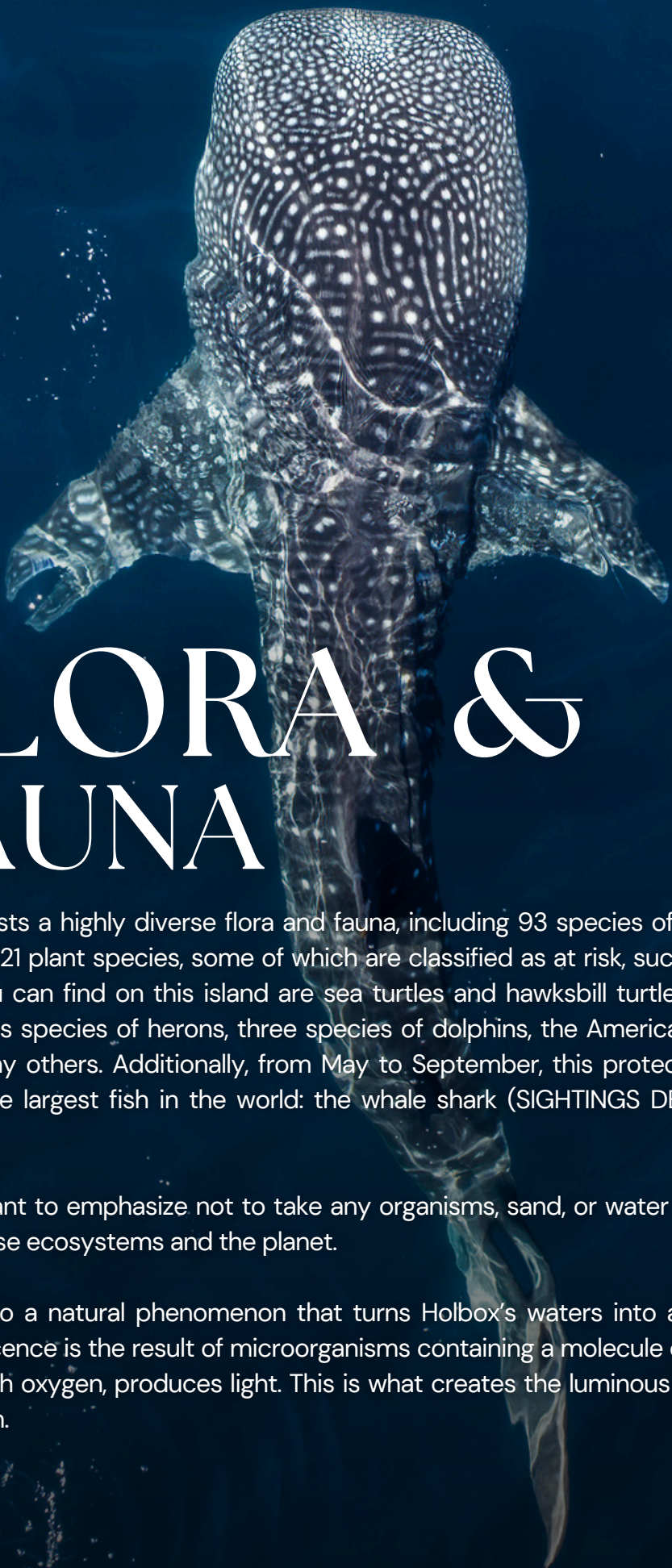
Yalahau is an impressive natural pool surrounded by mangroves and lush vegetation, from which fresh, crystal-clear water flows. For many years, it was the main source of drinking water for the inhabitants of Holbox, and today it is part of a protected natural area that safeguards its ecological richness.

This spring is believed to have magical properties: those who immerse themselves in its waters claim to emerge renewed, with a sense of freshness and vitality that has earned it the reputation of being the “fountain of eternal youth.”

Beyond its natural beauty, Yalahau is shrouded in mystery and legend. It is said that the pirate Francisco de Molas lived here for over 40 years and that he buried his treasure in the surrounding area—a myth that continues to captivate visitors.

With its clear waters, the shade of the mangroves, and the surrounding tranquility, Yalahau is the perfect place to swim, refresh yourself, and connect with the history and magic of Holbox.



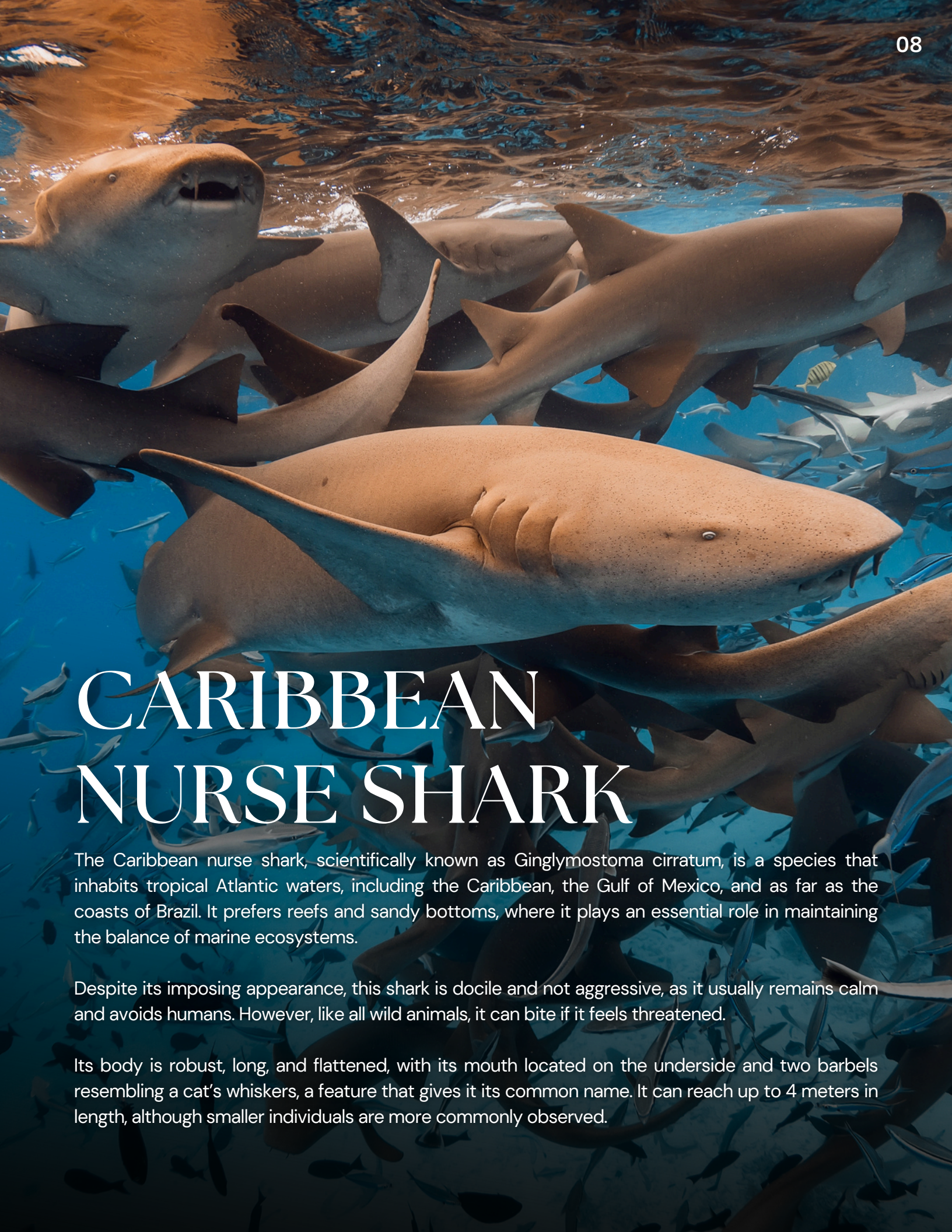


FLORA & FAUNA

Holbox boasts a highly diverse flora and fauna, including 93 species of mammals, 420 species of birds, and 421 plant species, some of which are classified as at risk, such as the jaguar. Among the animals you can find on this island are sea turtles and hawksbill turtles, boa constrictors, hawks, kites, various species of herons, three species of dolphins, the American flamingo, and manatees, among many others. Additionally, from May to September, this protected natural area becomes home to the largest fish in the world: the whale shark (SIGHTINGS DEPEND ON THE AREA AND SEASON).

It is important to emphasize not to take any organisms, sand, or water from this ecosystem. Let's protect these ecosystems and the planet.

There is also a natural phenomenon that turns Holbox's waters into a visual spectacle at night. Bioluminescence is the result of microorganisms containing a molecule called luciferin, which, when reacting with oxygen, produces light. This is what creates the luminous effect in the sea when the waves crash.



CARIBBEAN NURSE SHARK

The Caribbean nurse shark, scientifically known as *Ginglymostoma cirratum*, is a species that inhabits tropical Atlantic waters, including the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and as far as the coasts of Brazil. It prefers reefs and sandy bottoms, where it plays an essential role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystems.

Despite its imposing appearance, this shark is docile and not aggressive, as it usually remains calm and avoids humans. However, like all wild animals, it can bite if it feels threatened.

Its body is robust, long, and flattened, with its mouth located on the underside and two barbels resembling a cat's whiskers, a feature that gives it its common name. It can reach up to 4 meters in length, although smaller individuals are more commonly observed.

CONSERVATION AND THREATS

The nurse shark is classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN, primarily due to overfishing—especially sport fishing—and the loss of its natural habitat. Its conservation is essential for maintaining the balance of marine ecosystems.

INTERACTION WITH HUMANS

These sharks offer a unique opportunity to interact with marine life in its natural state, provided the activity is conducted with responsible companies and under sustainable practices that respect their habitat.

A UNIQUE ENCOUNTER IN HOLBOX

In Mexico, there are few places where you can interact with nurse sharks in the wild. One of them is Cabo Catoche, near the island of Holbox, right in the area where the Gulf of Mexico meets the Caribbean. There, under specific conditions and with proper guidance, visitors can have an unforgettable experience with this fascinating species.

It is essential to engage in these activities with companies committed to sustainable tourism, with experience in nature-based operations, and that ensure responsible interactions without disrupting the natural processes of the ecosystem.

One of the main risks to the sharks comes from poor practices by companies lacking certifications, experience, and bioethics, which can endanger both the species and environmental balance. Choosing responsible providers ensures not only a safe and enriching experience but also the conservation of marine life for future generations.





GASTRONOMY



CEVICHE



PICKLED CHICKEN



LOBSTER PIZZA

GASTRONOMY

Holbox is a beach destination, so much of its cuisine comes from seafood. It is also common to find dishes combining different seafood, creating unique delicacies.

A classic dish is ceviche, which consists of pieces of raw fish “cooked” in lime juice, accompanied by onion, tomato, and cilantro. The original ceviche is made with fish, but it can also be prepared with octopus, shrimp, or conch.

Pickled chicken is a fresh and flavorful option. One theory of its origin points to an Arab–Persian creation called sikkbâg (pronounced “Iskabech”), whose main ingredients are vinegar and spices, very similar to what we know today. Fishermen on the island used to take a pickled chicken sandwich as lunch, which became a local tradition.

If you are in Holbox and looking for something delicious to try in your free time, be sure not to miss the iconic lobster pizza. This delight, created by a local restaurant, combines two of the most loved foods in the world and has become very popular—a gastronomic experience you cannot miss!

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