

BACALAR

LEGENDS & COLORS

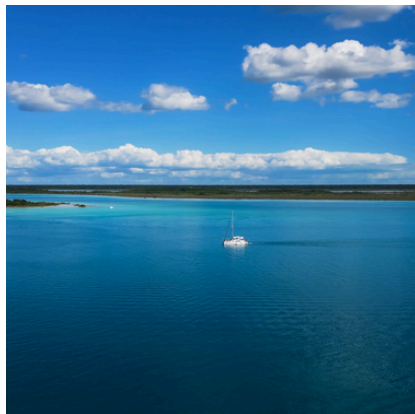


EKINOX

T O U R S

03

The Seven Colors Lagoon enchants with its crystal-clear waters and unique shades of blue.



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BACALAR

THE LAGOON OF SEVEN COLORS

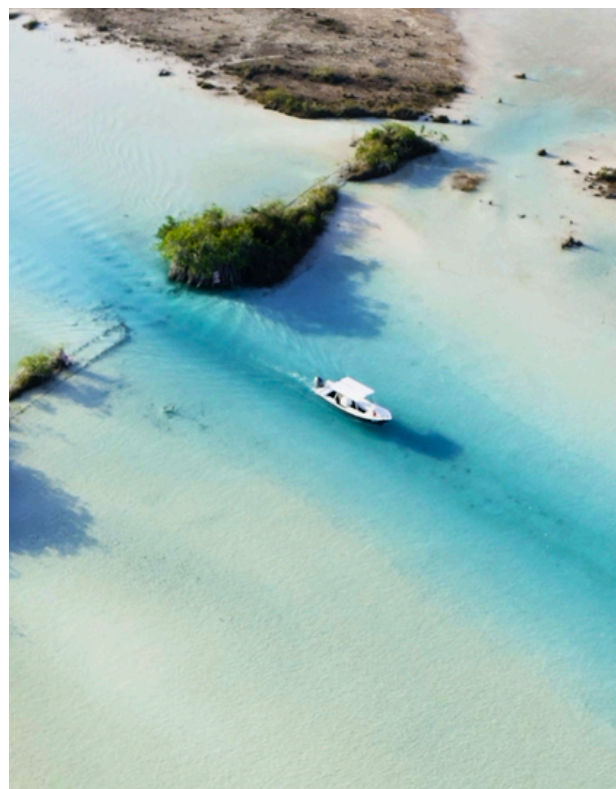
La Laguna de Bacalar causa una fascinante impresión al verla por primera vez. Tal y como su nombre "Siete Colores" hace referencia, este cuerpo de agua expone una singular variación cromática en su superficie, destacando siete distintas tonalidades de azul, las cuales varían entre azul prusiano y azul turquesa.



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, highlighting food, exotic bird feathers, and precious woods, which have been the region's main source of wealth for centuries.

During the colonial era, this place was known as the Salamanca Channel and served as an important connection point between Europe and America. This channel not only promoted commerce but also attracted the attention of renowned pirates and privateers, such as Henry Morgan (1635–1688) and Francis Drake (1543–1596).



Today, this site is a prominent tourist attraction in Bacalar, known both for its rich history and its stunning natural beauty. Additionally, its mineral-rich waters are valued for their beneficial properties for the skin, making it a destination that combines history, nature, and wellness.

FLORA & FAUNA





The flora and fauna of Bacalar are characterized by their diversity and richness, featuring a variety of both terrestrial and marine species.

Among the most representative fauna of the area is the queen conch (*Strombus gigas*), an emblematic species of the region. Mammals such as the paca (tepezcuintle), wild boar, white-tailed deer, and coati are also common. Among birds, the toucan stands out for its ecological importance. The mangrove forest includes red, white, and buttonwood mangroves, along with fauna such as the manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Jabiru stork (*Jabiru mycteria*), and fish like cubera snappers (*Lutjanus apodus*) and jacks (*Caranx latus*).

In the waters of the Othón P. Blanco municipality, where Bacalar is located, various marine species can be found, including spiny lobsters, groupers, snappers, barracudas, needlefish, and a diverse range of corals along the reef barrier.



LEGEND OF THE WITCH

Surrounded by abundant vegetation, its name comes from 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 the Bacalar Lagoon. It has a diameter of 130 meters, and its depth ranges from one and a half meters to nearly 100 meters, as it is a natural cliff.

According to the old legend from which this cenote takes its name, many years ago, there lived near this cenote an elderly woman over one hundred years old. A Maya elder who survived the Caste Wars fought between 1847 and 1901, between the Maya people and the Creole and Mestizo population of this area of Yucatán.

This elderly woman had a small stone house next to the Black Cenote. At that time, the house and its surroundings were covered with dolls that she placed on the trees, bushes, and walls of the house, giving the place quite a spooky appearance. She lived in this house until around the 1960s or 70s, when the Bacalar municipality wanted to remove her house to build the Javier Rojo Gómez Regional Education Center.

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

After the woman was expelled from the place, the fear of the curse was so strong among some inhabitants that they began performing rituals to break it.

STROMATOLITES

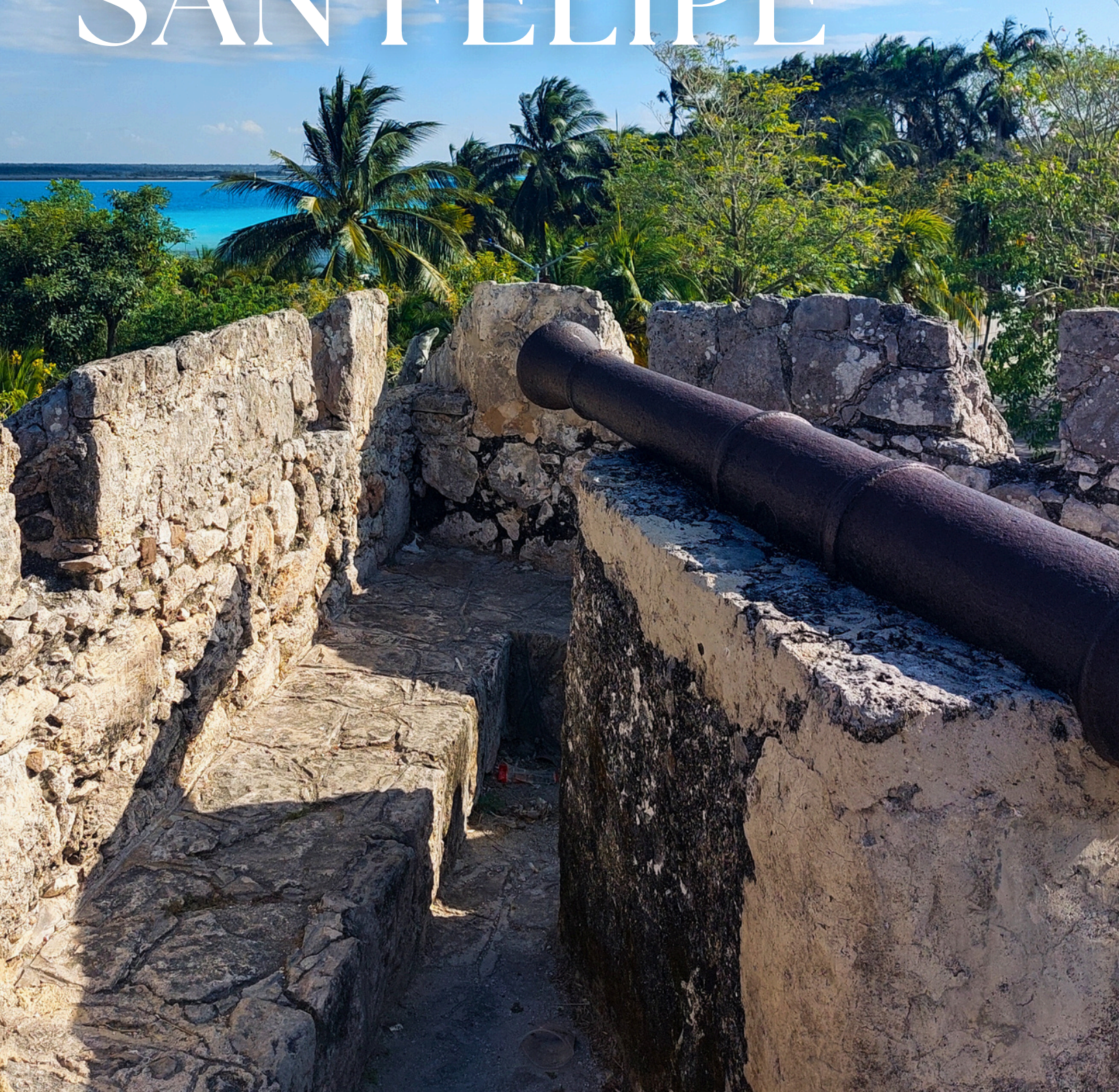
Stromatolites are the oldest known forms of life and fundamental in the history of life on Earth. In Bacalar, the stromatolites date back between 2,500 and 1,000 million years. These structures, formed by photosynthetic cyanobacteria, were key in oxygenating the primitive atmosphere and creating the first reefs.

Currently, they develop in shallow waters—ideally at about 15 meters deep—where they form reefs that serve as habitat, refuge, and breeding grounds for various marine species. They also protect the seabed from erosion.

Over time, stromatolites have driven the formation of new ecosystems, promoting biodiversity and the evolution of numerous marine species.



FORT OF SAN FELIPE

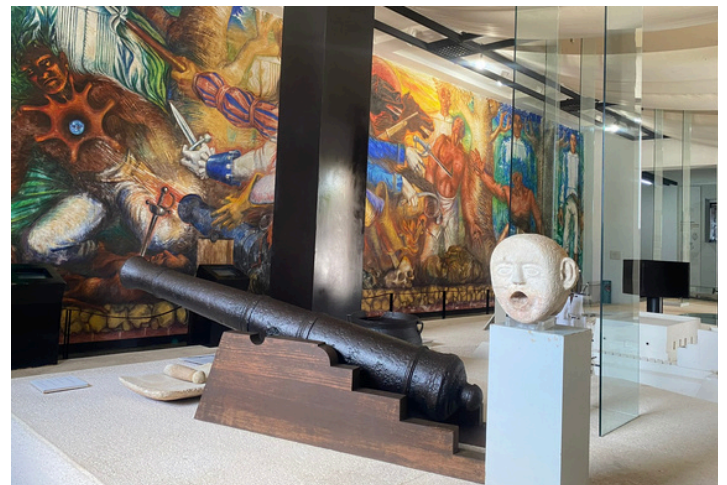




The Fort of San Felipe, also known as the Castle of San Felipe, is a landmark structure located in Bacalar, Quintana Roo. Its construction was commissioned in 1725 by the governor of Yucatán, Antonio de Figueroa y Silva, with the purpose of defending the region from constant English attacks. The fort was completed in 1733 after eight years of work.

This fort holds over 250 years of history tied to pirates, the Maya, and Spanish settlers. It preserves key elements of local identity and reflects the historic relationship between Mexico and Belize. While it currently displays 11 cannons, it originally housed up to 34, distributed across bastions such as Santa Ana and San José.

Long before the colonial period, Bacalar —formerly known as Bakhahal— was an important pre-Hispanic Maya port, serving as a key trade hub for goods like salt and cacao between Yucatán and Honduras.





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