

## Cozumel, Mexico

This is the largest cruise port in Mexico and consists of three separate piers. Cozumel is an island, surrounded by reefs, making this a popular port for divers and snorkelers.

### History



Cozumel's rich history dates back to 1 AD with the Mayans, who believed the island to be sacred to Ixchel, the Moon Goddess. In the 1500s the Spanish used the island to replenish supplies on their voyages. This brought smallpox to the island and decimated the native population. The survivors were continuously attacked by pirates and fled the island in 1688. During WWII the US developed the airport as it was needed as a stopover.



In 1970 this airport was reworked into Cozumel International Airport and is still in use.

### Food

The port is home to several restaurants and cafes serving traditional fare and of course, margaritas. Outside the gated port area there are street food vendors as well as a lively array of familiar and locally owned restaurants.

### Culture

The Mayan ruins of San Gervasio are located in the center of the island. Cozumel is the closest cruise port to the Chichen Itza ruins. San Miguel Church, dating to the 17th century, is open for visitors. Carnaval de Cozumel is a tradition from the 1800s; Cozumel's streets are filled with parades.

### Animals

Cozumel is home to several unique dwarf species; Cozumel fox, Cozumel Island coati, and the Cozumel Island raccoon, all are critically endangered. Ironically the rodent species on the island are larger than their mainland counterparts. Other wildlife includes the American crocodile, Spiny Tailed Iguana, and the Blue Land Crab.



### Language

Spanish is the official language of Mexico. English is spoken frequently.

### Currency

Is the Peso. 1 US Dollar = \$20.39 in Pesos. Vendors near the port take USD and handle the conversion math. Major credit cards accepted in many locations.



### Cell Service

Cell service is fairly reliable in the city area, scant in the park (Punta Ser) and ruins.

### Internet

Available at most cafes and pubs with your purchase.

### Drive

On the right hand side of the road.

