

June 15th, 2011

V & P

Cozumel, Mexico

Dear Family and Friends,

*W*e are excited that you have decided to join us on our wedding day in Cozumel, Mexico. It means the world to us and we are very grateful to have you there.

We have chosen Mexico for many reasons – we love the island and the reefs surrounding it, and we wanted something different—a Caribbean wedding has always been on our minds. Anecdotally, this is also where Peter proposed to Vicki and she accepted!

Since Cozumel is quite an exotic destination for most of us, there are many unknowns and questions that you might have that we will try to address in this booklet. If you have more questions, feel free to contact us and we'll do our best to help you out.

We are looking forward to celebrate our wedding with you.
Safe travels and see you soon under the sun and on turquoise waters!

Thank you!
Vicki & Peter



INTRODUCTION

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Wedding Day

June 15th, 2011

- 17:00 Wedding Ceremony – San Francisco Beach
- 17:30 Reception – San Francisco Beach/palapa
- 20:00 Dinner – Beach Club Restaurant
- 22:00 Dance party – Beach Club Restaurant

The wedding will begin at 5 o'clock in the afternoon at the San Francisco Beach, Occidental Grand Cozumel. It will be conducted in Spanish (according to Mexican law) and will be simultaneously translated in English. The wedding reception will follow right after the ceremony. It will take place near the palapa. The dinner will be setup at the Beach Club Restaurant, right across the activities pool. The dance party will also take place at the Beach Club Restaurant after dinner.

Please note: In case of rain, the ceremony will take place under the big palapa at the San Francisco Beach.

Dress Code

The dress code for the wedding is **Beach Chic**: dress shirt, long pants, summer cocktail dress, and shoes. Cotton, linen, and silk fabrics will be appropriate for the climate. Light colors are recommended. Below are our wedding colors. Though you are not obliged, feel free to pick from these colors.



WEDDING DAY

Practical Things about Mexico and Cozumel

Language: Spanish

Most hotel staff know a fair amount of English, sometimes French.

Currency: Mexican pesos

1 US dollar = ~12 Mexican pesos

1 euro = ~16 Mexican pesos

Resorts have ATMs that accept US/European cards but you will be charged an extra *variable* fee on top of currency conversion fees; we suggest you bring some MXN pesos and US dollars with you.

The Occidental Grand has ATMs that dispense US dollars and Mexican pesos.

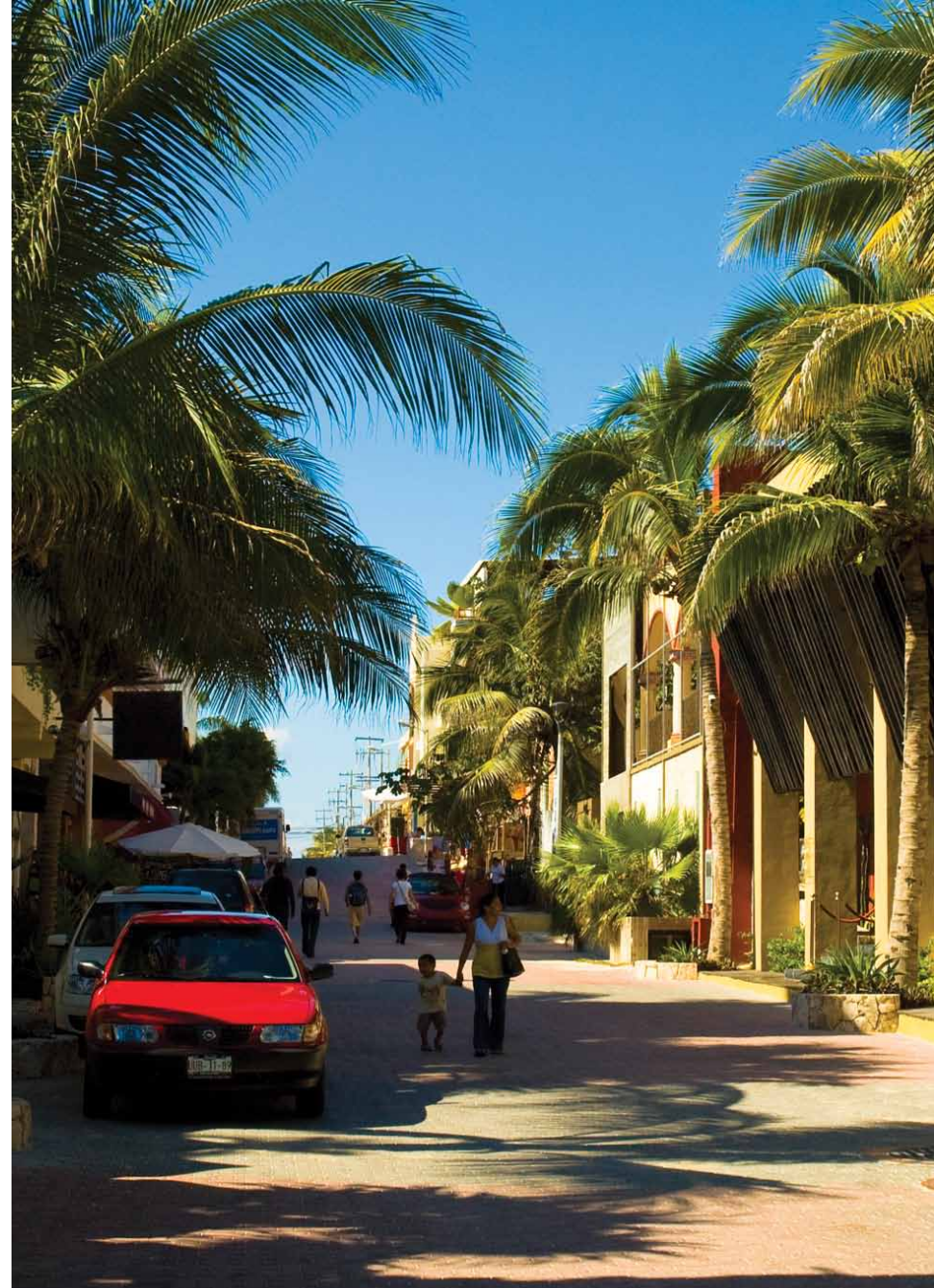
The most common credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, American Express) are accepted just about anywhere.

Immigration requirements:

- » You will need a **valid passport** to enter Mexico.
- » You will receive a **tourist card** when you arrive in Mexico.
A tourist card, or FMT, is a tourist permit required for travelers to Mexico who will be staying longer than 72 hours, or traveling outside the United States-Mexico border zone. Tourist cards are valid for up to 180 days and allow the holder to remain in Mexico as a tourist but not to perform any type of remunerated work. The fee for your tourist card is included in the cost of your trip, and you will be given the card to fill out. You do not have to pay anything extra. Don't lose it!

Where will we be?

The wedding will be in Cozumel—an island South of Cancun. The culture of Cozumel is highly unique, in that it combines ancient Mayan, modern Mexican, modern Caribbean, and



PRACTICAL THINGS ABOUT MEXICO AND COZUMEL

the unique culture of an area devoted almost entirely to tourism. In some ways, Cozumel is timeless, with ancient ruins, small village habits and modern resorts all standing side-by-side in a small geographic area bounded by gorgeous beaches.

Weather:

March – June: (Spring/Summer)

- » Seas are usually flat, skies sunny, and a lot of "no cloud" days.
- » Water temperature is 79-81 Fahrenheit (26 Celsius).
- » Underwater visibility from 250+ feet depending on if the island gets any rain.
- » A boat ride is pleasantly warm because there is less humidity.
- » Bring a lot of sunscreen!

Safety

Cozumel is one of the safest travel destinations in Mexico and may be one of the safest places for travelers all across the world. The people of Cozumel are friendly, the government of Cozumel is legitimate and the area is designed with the needs of tourists in mind. Nevertheless, common sense precautions should always be taken when traveling, especially when traveling to a new location or foreign destination.

Crime

Luckily, crime is almost non-existent in Cozumel, which is not true of many Mexican vacation spots. Violent crime is rare and travelers do not need to worry about it at all. Pick pocketing and purse snatching are slightly more common so normal precautions should be taken, including carrying very little cash, keeping wallets in front pockets and remaining aware of your surroundings. Still, there is very little to fear in Cozumel.

Driving

Driving in Cozumel is as easy as back home, but be careful to keep your distance from the cars ahead of you. Taxi drivers especially like to follow too close then make sudden stops or turns without signaling and cause most of the accidents. Stop signs and traffic lights are often just taken under advisement by natives and not necessarily obeyed, so be sure to be



PRACTICAL THINGS ABOUT MEXICO AND COZUMEL

defensive in your driving when approaching intersections, even if you don't have the stop sign and the other street does. If you want to rent a vehicle, it's much safer to rent a car if you can afford it instead of a scooter or moped. It's also much dryer and less dusty if it rains or you're on a dirt road.

Medical Emergencies

Let's hope you don't need these services, but if you do, then here is your contact information and locations. Cozumel has a number of basic life support ambulances and two small hospitals. Contact staff members of your hotel first if possible; the Occidental has 24 hours medical support.

These aren't the exact addresses, but will get you within eyesight of them. Unlike the USA or Europe, few places have a street address on them. The street intersections are good enough for finding these locations.

Cozumel Medical Center (aka: CMC):Tel. 872-5370

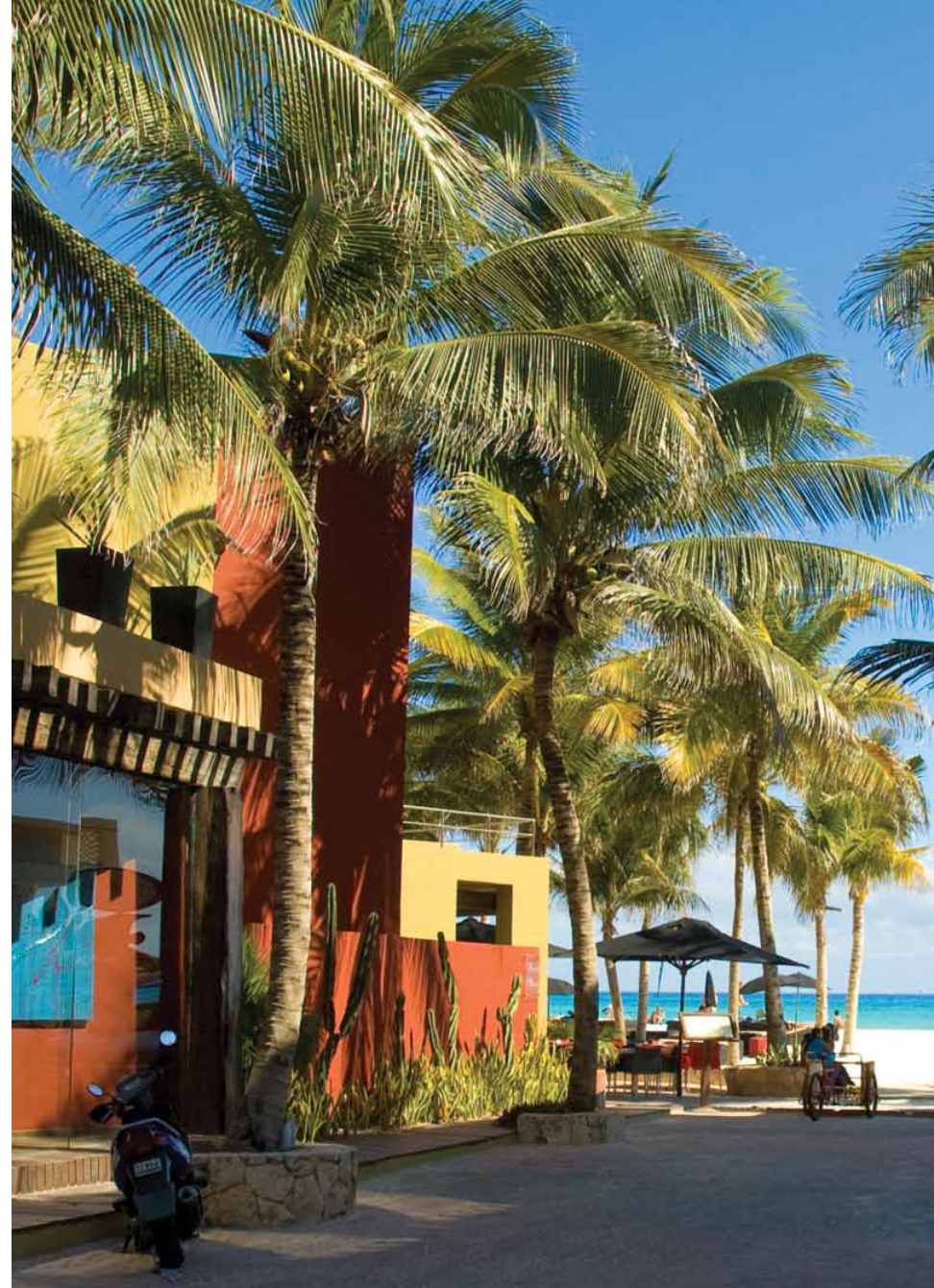
On Calle 1 South (Sur), between Avenidas 50th and 55th or about 2 blocks West of Avenida 65th on Calle 1 South. (101 Sur 1 Corner of Avenida 50) English speaking Doctors. For accidents requiring advanced emergency treatment such as broken bones, head injury, anything requiring stitches, cardiac treatment, diabetic & allergic reactions, medivac, etc.

Clinica San Miguel:Tel. 872-0103 or 872-0140

Clinica San Miguel is on Calle 6 Norte between Aves. 5 & 10. Has very good emergency room service and able to treat most any injury or illness. Specialists available for gastrointestinal upset or other internal medicine treatment. ENT (ear, nose/sinus, throat), dive recompression, medivac.

Buceo Medico Mexicano Hyperbaric Chamber:Tel. 872-1430

Buceo Medico Mexicano (BMM) Clinic is also known as the "SSS" or the Cozumel Recompression Center. (Three names, one location!). It's on Calle 5 Sur between Melgar and Ave. 5. Ear, nose and throat, dive recompression, flu & colds, gastrointestinal upset, medivac.



Cozumel Red Cross: Tel. 987-872-1058

On Avenida 65 South and Calle 25 (renamed Calle Lourdes Castilla) – near the new sports complex & one block North of the San Francisco supermarket. Ambulance service, pediatrics, dentistry, internal medicine, laboratory, nebulization, first aid, physical exams, injections. Diabetics can check blood sugar & receive insulin.

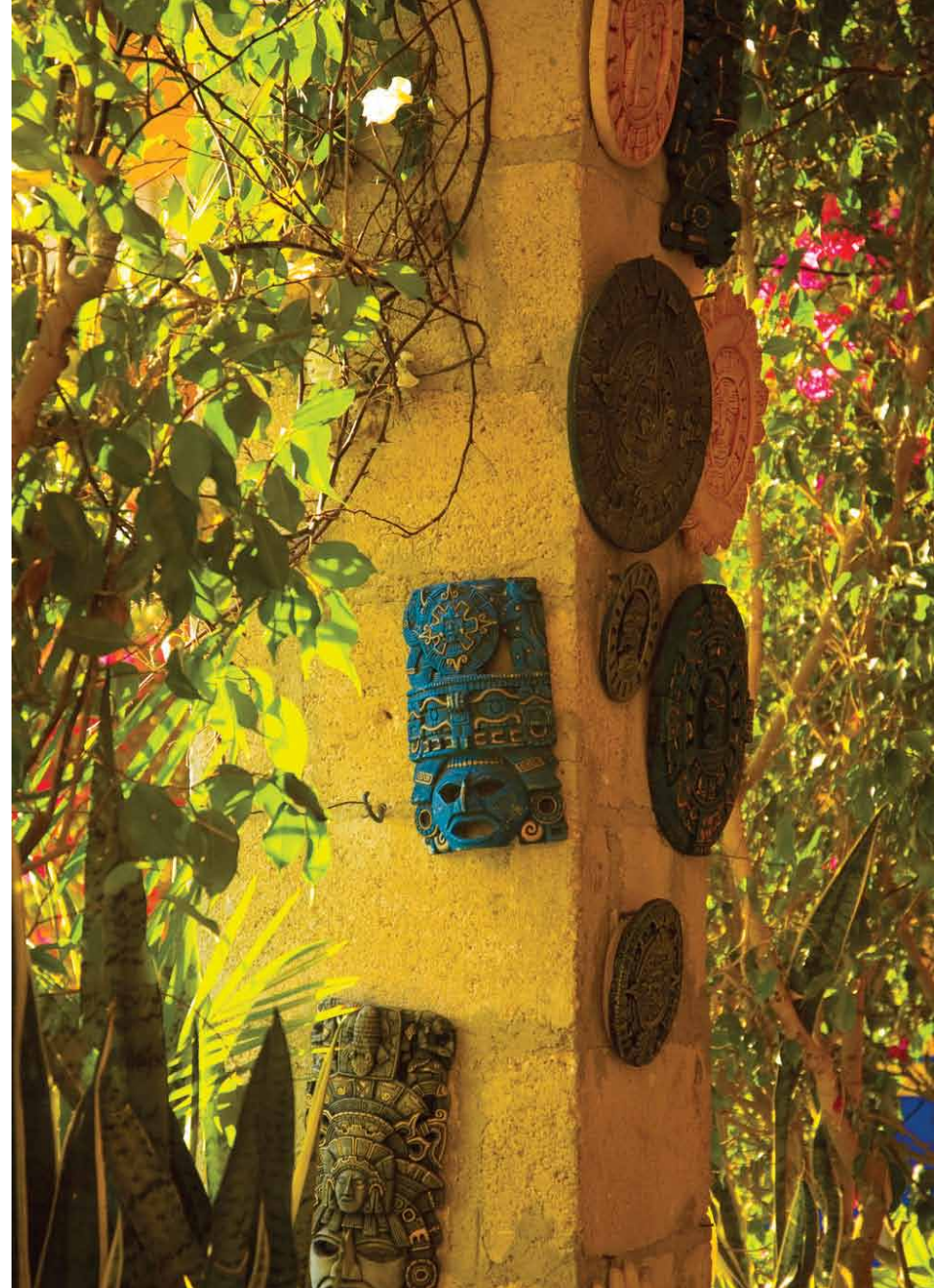
Centro de Salud, the General Hospital (primarily treats Mexican nationals)

On Calle 11 South (Sur) near the intersection with Avenida 20 South (Sur) 24 hours Ave.

This might be worth printing and sticking in your wallet. All give referrals to specialists

References:

- » http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html
- » **US embassy in Mexico:** <http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/main.html>
- » **Belgian embassy in Mexico:** <http://www.diplomatie.be/mexicofr/>
- » <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g150809-s204/Cozumel:Mexico:Neighborhoods.html>



Getting to Cozumel from Europe

From Europe to Cancun

Cozumel is an island to the South of Cancun.

From Cancun to Cozumel – Option 1

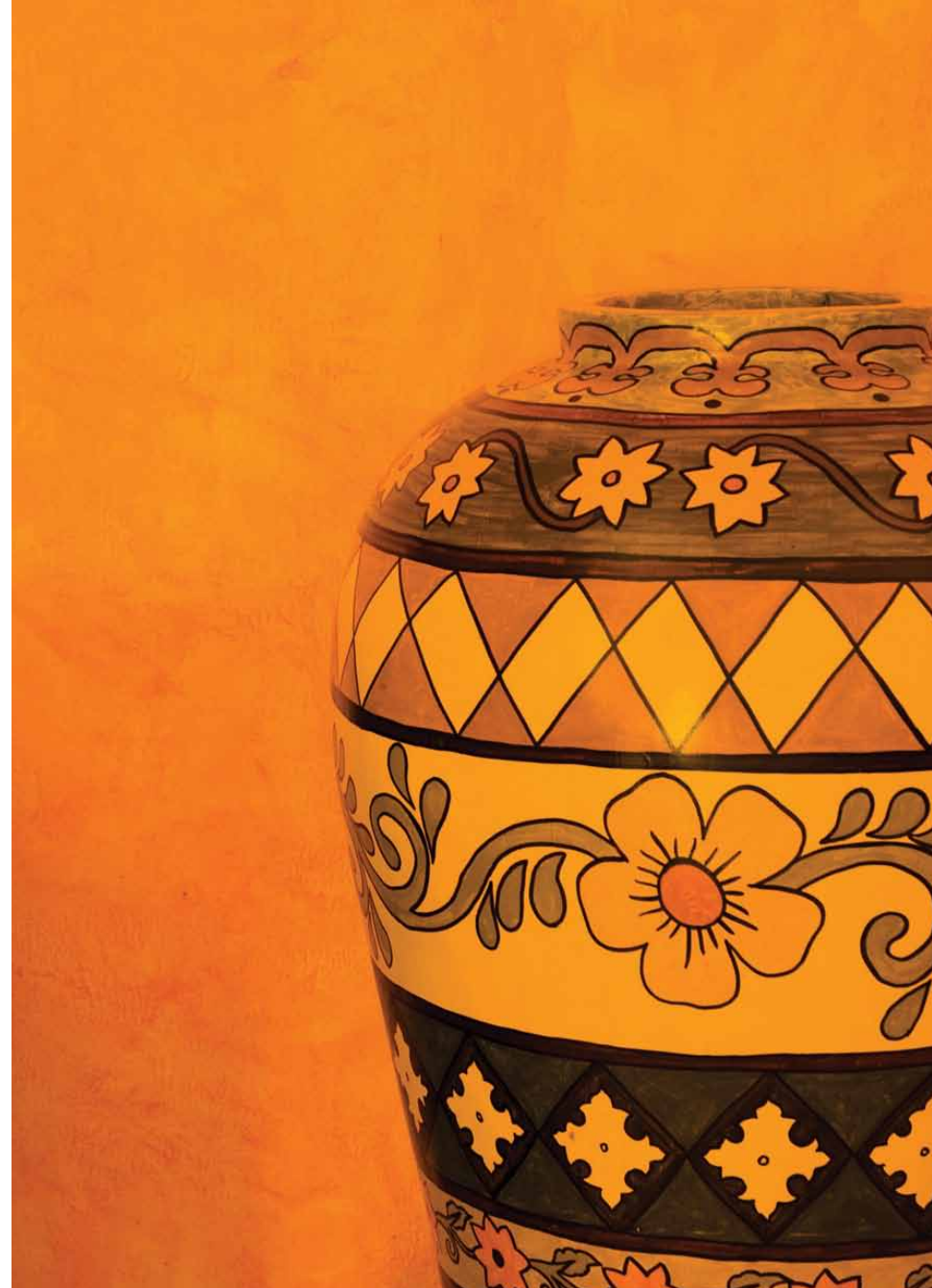
There are 2 options to get to Cozumel from the Cancun airport. One option is to take a shuttle/taxi from the Cancun Airport to Playa del Carmen (50' ride) and then ferry to Cozumel. You can also use airport shuttles. There are plenty of taxis waiting outside of the airport, just make sure you negotiate a price before you get in. It takes about 50 minutes or less to get there by car. You can buy your ferry ticket at the ferry dock. The ferry schedules can be found here <http://www.cancun-discounts.com/cozumel-ferry.htm>. Depending on the weather, it takes 45 minutes to get to Cozumel by ferry. From there, you can take a taxi or you can arrange with us to pick you up. We are planning to rent a car. From the ferry dock in Cozumel to the Occidental Grand, the taxi ride is 30 minutes. The taxi fare will be between \$15-\$20 USD. Again, negotiate the price before you get in.

From Cancun to Cozumel – Option 2

Instead of taking the ferry in Playa del Carmen, you can get on a charter plane with Maya Air to Cozumel. Charter planes run every 2 hours and it takes 25 minutes to get to Cozumel. It costs \$69/ person one way. Be sure to check their schedule here <http://www.mayair.com.mx/>. Also, these flights numbers 7M11, 7M15, 7M18 have luggage restrictions. It is the fastest way to get from Cancun to Cozumel but it is slightly more expensive. From the airport in Cozumel, you will need to take a taxi or arrange with us to pick you up.

Option 3

Fly directly to Cozumel – usually more expensive and will require a lay-over in an American airport.



GETTING TO COZUMEL FROM EUROPE

Getting to Cozumel from the USA

From the US to Cancun

Virgin America has a direct flight from San Francisco to Cancun, which takes 6 hours. We recommend it. Other options include flying to Houston, Dallas, TX, or Atlanta, GA, and then to Cancun. You can also fly to Mexico city and then to Cancun.

From Cancun to Cozumel – Option 1

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GETTING TO COZUMEL FROM THE USA

Car Rental

A car may be rented directly at the Occidental Grand. A more inexpensive option would be to rent at one of the places below and reserve online ahead of time. Make sure the price includes all insurances that you need. Expect to pay between \$15-\$30 USD per day for a standard size car.

- » Smart Car: <http://www.islacozumel.net/services/smartcar/>
- » Lesspay: <http://www.islacozumel.net/services/lesspay/>



CAR RENTAL



OCCIDENTAL GRAND COZUMEL

Occidental Grand Cozumel

The Occidental Grand is an all inclusive hotel located on the West side of Cozumel. We stayed in this hotel before and were very satisfied. We hope you enjoy your stay!

Location

The Occidental Grand is located in a natural preserve area and surrounded by a jungle. The colonial style buildings are spread around an area of 400 sq. meters and surrounded by lush gardens, water fountains, all around. The hotel has its own private beach.

Standard Rooms

The rooms have all modern amenities, queen bed or double single beds, TV, and very good showers. On the shower knobs, "C" stands for "caliente", which means "hot" in Spanish.

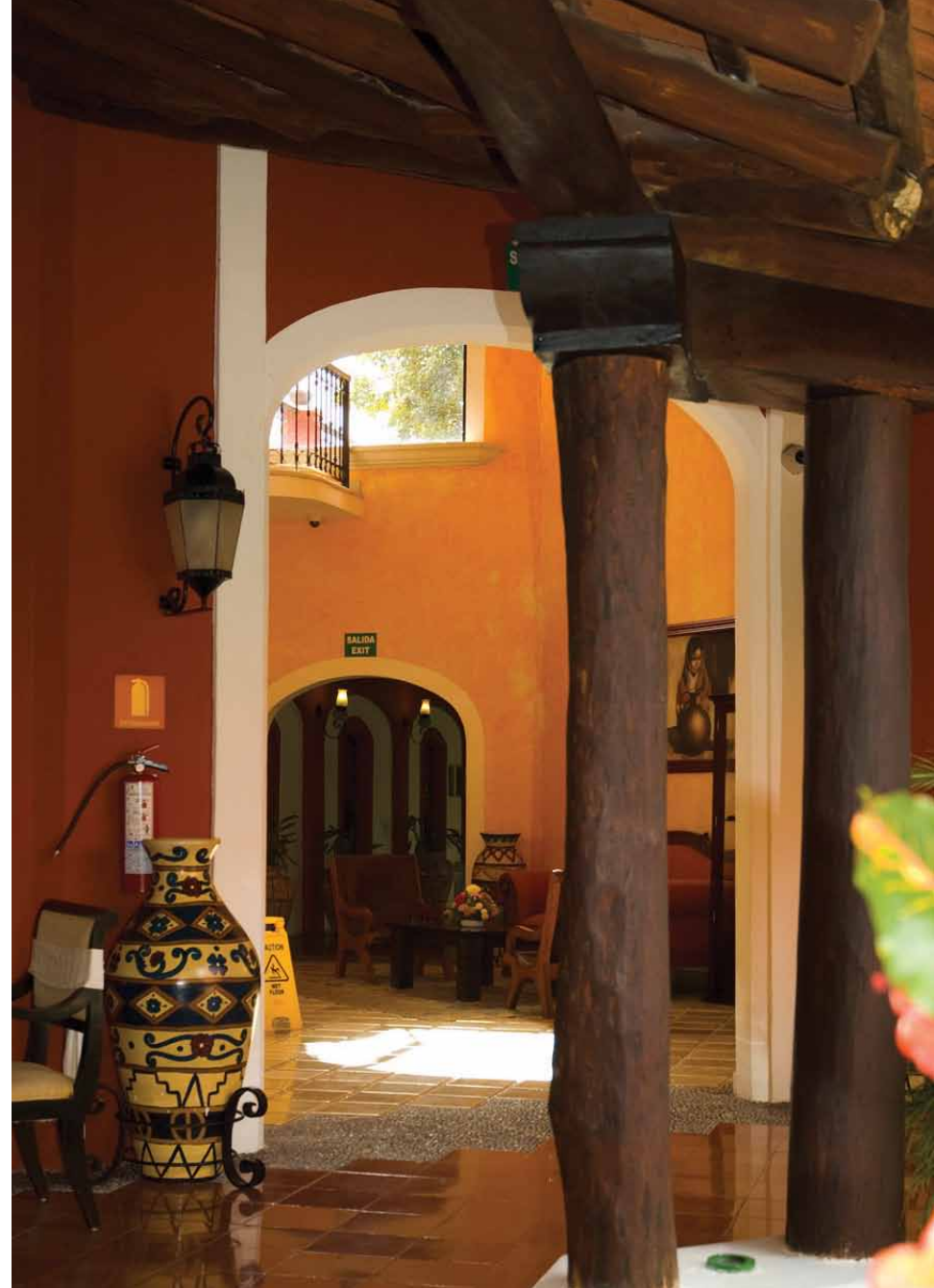
Royal Club Rooms

The Royal Club has a slightly higher rate. Guests can enjoy a private restaurant, a small private pool and slightly bigger rooms.

All Inclusive Rates (pp, pn = per person, per night)

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Standard room (dble occup.) | \$ 101 USD pp, pn |
| Extra person..... | \$ 92 USD pp, pn |
| Standard room (single occup) | \$ 144 pp, pn |
| Children 2-12 yrs | \$ 60 USD pp, pn |
| Children under 2 yrs | Free! |
| Royal Club room (dble occup.) | \$ 135 USD pp, pn |
| Extra person..... | \$ 119 USD pp, pn |
| Royal Club (single occup.)..... | \$ 179 USD pp, pn |
| Children 2-12 yrs | \$ 87 USD pp, pn |
| Children under 2 yrs | Free! |

To reserve your room, email us your dates **ASAP** and we will book the room for you.



OCCIDENTAL GRAND COZUMEL

All Inclusive

All meals and drinks during the day and night are included in the price. There is no limit on how much you can consume. Tips are not required. However, as you will see, the staff is incredible and a tip of \$1 – \$2 goes a long way.

Restaurants

The Occidental Grand offers 3 restaurants – the La Posada and the Beach Club are buffet restaurants and offer a great variety of foods, buffet style. No strict dress code, except they require a shirt and sandals on. Sonora Grill and Los Olivos are “a la carte” restaurants, meaning they have a set 4-course menu and are open for dinner only. Their dress code is long pants, shoes, and no shorts. La Piazza serves pizza after 9 PM.

See below for restaurant schedule:

- » **La Posada** – buffet style, breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- » **Beach Club** - buffet style, lunch
- » **Sonora Grill** – “a la carte”, dinner (requires reservation)
- » **Los Olivos** – “a la carte”, dinner (requires reservation)
- » **La Mission** – pizza, served after 9 PM
- » **Royal Club restaurant** – for RC guests only – breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Bars

The lobby bar, relaxation bar, and disco bar serve margarita, mai tai, mojito, cerveza, and all kinds of drinks throughout the day and night.

Night Entertainment

There is music and entertainment program, which includes dance shows and program for children, etc. Check it out at the piazza starting at 9 PM.



OCCIDENTAL GRAND COZUMEL

Disco

The disco club, La Mission, offers drinks, a pool table, and dance music.

Pools

The Occidental Grand has several pools – 1 relaxation pool, 1 activities pool, 2 children pools. The Royal Club guests enjoy an additional small pool.

Diving

Cozumel has the second, most beautiful reef in the world and is an amazing diving location. The dive shop is located next to the Beach Club, on the beach. It offers diving lessons, diving certificates, diving equipment, hobby cats, kayaking, etc. Price is not included in all inclusive, but you can get a free initiation to most water sports. Check your daily newsletter.

Tennis Courts

Tennis courts are available to use. You may need to bring your own rackets and balls.

Children's Club

The Children's Club offers a playground with a supervisor for daily activities. Children younger than 4 years need an adult supervision. External baby sitter can be hired at 10 USD/hr per kid (minimum 3 hrs.), 2 kids – 15 USD/hr., or 3 kids – 20 USD/hr. Arrangements can be made through the hotel. Two weeks notice required.

Internet access

Wifi Internet access is available in the rooms, provided by www.hotspotinternational.com. Rates vary from \$25/day to \$80/week.

Royal Club members have access to a complimentary internet-connected workstation (shared per building).

Things of interest

Natural Preserve

The Natural Preserve is separated by a wooden bridge from the relaxation area pool and the activities pool. It is a natural habitat where turtles, ibises, and other species can be observed.



OCCIDENTAL GRAND COZUMEL

Iguanas

The iguanas are the natural inhabitants of the premises and can be seen enjoying the sun, close to the water pools, through the hotel grounds. Please be respectful.

Giant chess game

You will notice a giant chess board right next to the activities pool

Ping pong table

Located behind the relaxation bar

Pottery painting

The pottery kiosk is located on the beach. Please note price is not part of the all inclusive.

Daily Activities

The hotel staff offers various free daily activities to which we encourage you to participate. These change every day, so check your hotel newsletter (delivered to your room every day.) Some of these include, but are not limited to:

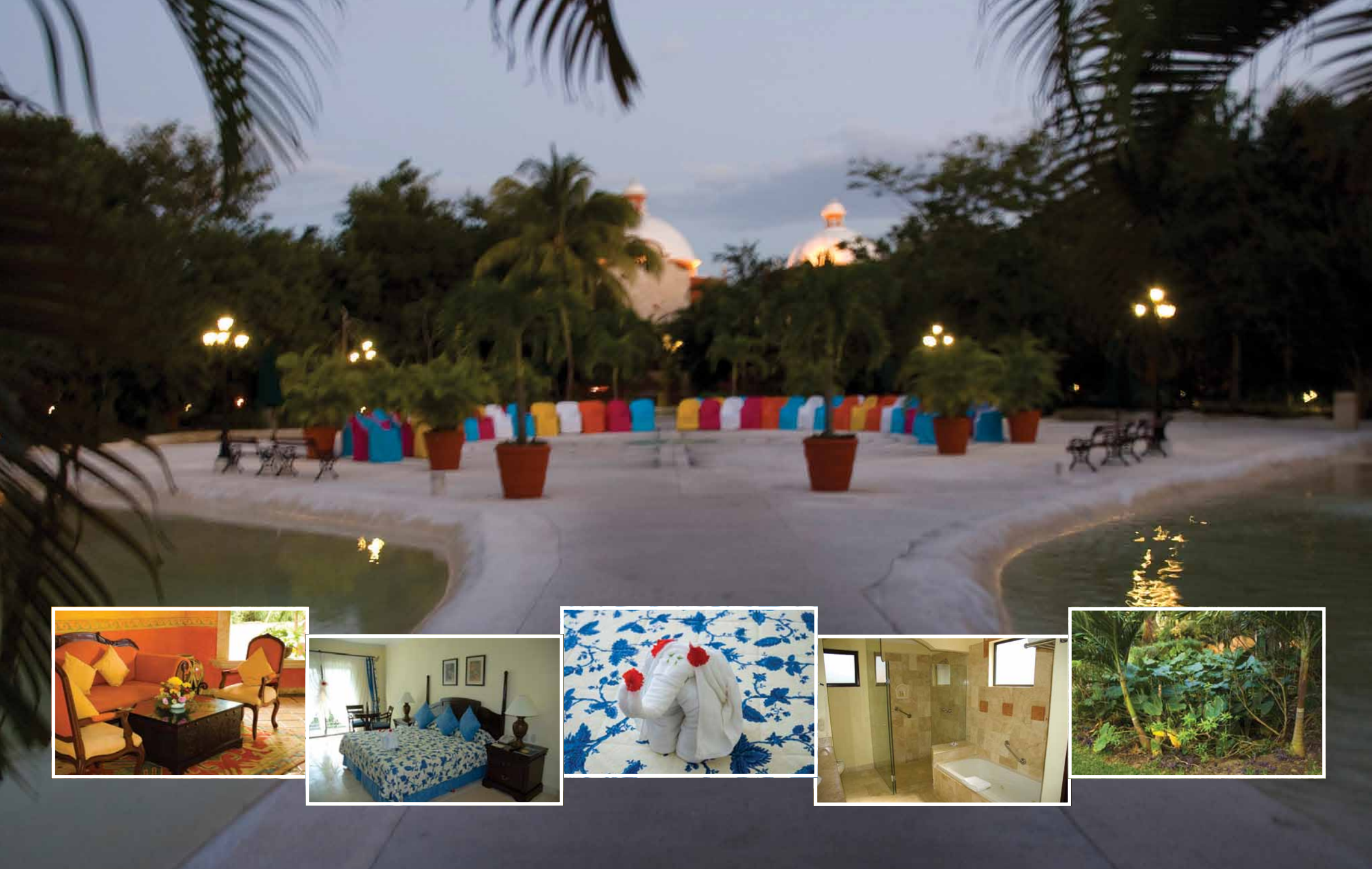
- » Diving initiation lesson – free
- » Sailing initiation lesson – free
- » Wind-surfing initiation lesson – free
- » Ping-pong tournament – free
- » Aquagym – free

References

Hotel website: <http://en.occidentalhotels.com/grand/Cozumel.asp>



OCCIDENTAL GRAND COZUMEL



OCCIDENTAL GRAND COZUMEL



THINGS TO DO IN COZUMEL

Things to do in Cozumel

To visit the island, you will need to rent a car. See the car rental page for more information.

Bob Marley Bar

This unique reggae bar is located in the South-East side of Cozumel. It has beach access and hammocks to enjoy. We recommend the "Coco Loco" and "The Iguana"! Other bars and restaurants can be found along the coastline.

San Hervacio Ruins

Located to the middle side of island

Hacienda Cava Antigua

The tequila hacienda is located on the East side of the island. It offers a tour in English and tequilas for purchase. We plan to organize a group visit there.

Main town Cozumel

You may wish to visit the main town for shopping or to enjoy the local food.

Restaurants

We haven't visited any of the following restaurants but these were the best rated on www.tripadvisor.com.

» Casa Mission

International, Mexican, Seafood

55 Avenida entre Avenida Juarez y calle I Sur, Cozumel

www.missioncoz.com

» Kinta Mexican Bistro

Mexican

5ta Av No. 148B | Entre 2 y 4 norte, Cozumel

www.kintacozumel.com



THINGS TO DO IN COZUMEL



THINGS TO DO IN COZUMEL

» **Wet Wendy's Margarita House and Restaurant**

American, Barbecue, Hungarian, Mexican

#53 Avenida 5 | Entre Calle 2 y Juarez, Cozumel

www.wetwendys.com/

» **Del Sur Argentina Empanades**

Argentinian

5 ave. corner calle 3, Cozumel

» **Espicias Restaurante**

Fusion

3rd street with 5th and 10th ave, Cozumel



THINGS TO DO IN COZUMEL



THINGS TO DO IN COZUMEL

V&P June 15th, 2011
Cozumel, Mexico

Cozumel Beaches

The South and South-East side of Cozumel offer pristine natural beaches, not obscured by many buildings in sight. The beaches offer powder-like sand and clear turquoise water.

Beaches North of San Miguel

- » **Playa San Juan** has sandy beaches with beach bar and restaurant. No entrance fee.
- » **Country Club Beach** is just beach with no facilities. No entrance fee.
- » **Playa Azul Beach Club** is a lovely beach with restaurant, children's park, showers, volleyball, snorkel equipment, and aquatic bicycles. No entrance fee.

Beaches South of San Miguel

- » **Villa Blanca** is the closest public beach South of San Miguel. No entrance fee.
- » **Chankanaab Eco-Park** has a beach area, snorkeling, baby pool, dolphin encounter [\$120 USD], restaurants, bars, lockers, restrooms, and showers. \$10 USD entrance fee.
- » **Playa Maya** is a rustic sandy beach with restaurant and bar. No entrance fee.
- » **Playa San Francisco** has a nice beach for kids, snorkel equipment is available for rent. No entrance fee.
- » **Playa Sol Beach Club** has a beautiful beach with restaurants, bars, shops, banana boat rides, windsurfing, jet skis, parasailing, diving, swimming pool and a small zoo. There is also a giant inflated "iceberg" for kids to play on. It floats in the water just off the beach. Entrance fee.
- » **Mr. Sancho's** is a fun place with a nice beach, bars, restaurants, shops, jet skis, parasailing, windsurfing, swimming pool, diving, trampolines, restrooms, showers and horseback riding. No entrance fee.



- » **Playa Nachi Cocom** is a nice beach with windsurfing, jet skis, parasailing, restaurant, bar, swimming pool. No entrance fee.
- » Playa Palancar is a beautiful rustic beach area with a small bar and restaurant. No entrance fee.

East Side Beaches

To get to the East of Cozumel you can either drive around the Southern tip or cut across the interior. The East coast of the island is virtually undeveloped except for a few small beach bars/restaurants and secluded beaches. All beaches are free on the East side.

- » At the Southern tip is **Parque Punta Sur**, an ecological reserve with lighthouse, restaurant, snorkeling and tours. After Punta Sur the road curves and goes North down the coast.
- » **Playa Bosh** is the first beach area on the eastern side of the island. There are two small bars/restaurants there. Along the road is Cocos. A bar on the side of a cliff. You cannot see this bar from the road so watch for signs.
- » Two spots that are usually calm enough for swimming are **Punta Chiqueros** and **Chen Rio**, both are in sheltered coves. You can camp at both beaches. There is not much at either beach but Punta Chiqueros has a small restaurant, "Paradise Cafe".
- » **Mezcalitos** is the last beach before the road cuts back across the island to the other side. There you will find a deserted beach and the popular Mezcalitos restaurant.
- » North of Mezcalitos [on the dirt road] is **Playa Bonita** then **Playa Santa Cecilia**. These beaches will more than likely be deserted. You can camp at Playa Bonita so sometimes you will have company.



COZUMEL BEACHES

Beach Flags

Depending on the weather, wave and tide conditions, beaches are marked with a flag indicating whether it is safe to swim there:

- » **Black Flag** – Don't swim, too dangerous.
- » **Red Flag** – Use caution, dangerous.
- » **Yellow Flag** – Use caution.
- » **Green Flag** – Water conditions okay safe to swim.
- » **Green Flag** – Very rarely, even if it is calm – exercise caution.

References

http://www.travelyucatan.com/cozumel_beaches_mexico.php



COZUMEL BEACHES

Mayan Ruins

Some of most extraordinary Mayan sites can be found in the Yucatan peninsula, such as Chichen-itza, Tulum, Ek-Balam. We highly encourage you to visit one or more. Please plan a day as these sites are tucked away deep in the jungle. The following ruins are located in the Quintana Roo and Yucatan Peninsula.

Chacchoben - Mayan ruins in Quintana Roo Mexico

Roughly 110 miles (177 kilometers) South of Tulum Mexico are the seldom seen Mayan ruins of Chacchoben, an excellent but distant day-trip to see a broad-leaf jungle ruin site. These majestic, mostly restored temple pyramids take on a mystical quality surrounded by towering mahogany trees, enormous cohune palms, strangler figs and the hanging tentacles of banyan trees. Chaccoben means "the Place of Red Corn", in Spanish "Lugar de Maiz Colorado".

Chac Mool - Mayan ruins in Quintana Roo Mexico

Within the Sian Kaan Biosphere Reserve, about 1.5 hours South by boat from Punta Allen, on the Santa Rosa peninsula, is the seldom seen archaeological site of Chac Mool. This is a small site requiring permission from the land owner, Casablanca Fishing Lodge, for entry. Of primary interest is Chac Mool's similarity to Chichen Itza and Tulum because of the presence of a Chac Mool shrine room and a location directly on the Caribbean sea. Also nearby are the Tupac ruins.

Chichen Itza - Mayan ruins in Yucatan Mexico

The Chichen Itza archaeological site is the most visited Mayan site on the peninsula. Eighteen structures have been restored over the years. Pyramid Kukulcan is the tallest of them and allows a view from the top of all Chichen Itza. During the Spring and Fall equinoxes, (March 21 & Sept 21) the setting sun creates shadows down the steps of the pyramid that resemble a snake descending. This is a popular event to see and usually draws big crowds.

Coba - Mayan ruins in Quintana Roo Mexico

The Coba archaeological zone is located 42 km. West of Tulum. With many buildings still covered by jungle, Coba is over 80 sq. miles with 5 lakes. Nohoch Mul is the tallest pyramid in the Yucatan peninsula. It is 12 stories tall and has 120 steps to the top! But from the top you



Chacchoben



Chac Mool



Chichen Itza



Coba



Dzibilchaltun



Ek Balam

MAYAN RUINS

can view a magnificent span of jungle with the tops of other ruins reaching above the jungle canopy.

Dzibilchaltun - Mayan ruins in Yucatan Mexico

Dzibilchaltun archaeological zone is located only 9 mile from the Yucatan state capital of Merida, Dzibilchaltun ruins are a must see for visitors interested in a significant Maya ruins site and excellent cultural museum full of Maya and Spanish artifacts including 16th century Spanish swords and weapons, Maya textiles, monolithic stela, temples and deep cenote freshwater well, excellent for a cool swim. Located on the road to Progreso. Taxi transport from central Merida and combis from San Juan Park.

Ek Balam - Mayan ruins in Yucatan Mexico

Ek Balam was built in the Maya Classic Period and has a grand central pyramid, two large palaces, and numerous other temples and buildings. While the archaeological zone is not as completely restored, or as large a site as Chichen Itza or Uxmal, Ek Balam is under active restoration and gives the visitor a great overview of the entire archaeological process. The effect is almost mystical with restored buildings pushing out of the huge mounds of rubble and jungle undergrowth.

Kohunlich, Dzibanche and Oxtankah - Mayan ruins in Quintana Roo Mexico

Kohunlich, Dzibanche and Oxtankah make up one of the largest concentrations of archaeological sites located in the Southern part of Quintana Roo. Just a few hours South on Hwy 307 will bring you to the Lake Bacalar area. Most of the ruins in Southern Quintana Roo are located South of there. Bring a new guidebook with you for specific directions. The jungle is lush and alive with exotic birds and wildlife.

Mayapan - Mayan ruins in Yucatan Mexico

Mayapan (“Banner of the Mayas”) is considered the last great Maya capital, dating back to the beginning of the common Era and reaching its golden age in the Postclassic period. Mayapan’s ancient grandeur is still evident in its great buildings. There is a strong influence played by Chichen Itza, as seen in its main building, a smaller replica of the Castillo of Kukulcan.

Muyil - Mayan ruins in Quintana Roo Mexico

The Muyil ruins are located 25 kilometers South of the Pueblo of Tulum, passed Ejido Pino



Kohunlich, Dzibanche and Oxtankah



Mayapan



Muyil



Tulum



Uxmal



Xel-Ha

MAYAN RUINS

Suarez. This site is rarely visited but quite spectacular. The ruins are partially excavated and the jungle surrounds them. A combination path-boardwalk leads from the ruins through a lush jungle-marsh area to wide Laguna Muyil. The Mirador observation platform gives a spectacular view of the surrounding area. Tours of the lagoons are available by the dock.

Tulum - Mayan ruins in Quintana Roo Mexico

Tulum archaeological zone is located 131 kilometers South of Cancun, just 20 minutes South of Akumal on coastal highway 307. Facing the sea, Tulum is impressive and powerful. Known as the “Walled City”, Tulum was thought to be one of the most important cities of the ancient Maya during its time. Fresco remnants are still visible inside some of the structures. There is also a popular beach accessed by a stairway next to the El Castillo pyramid so bring your bathing suit!

Uxmal - Mayan ruins in Yucatan Mexico

The Uxmal Mayan ruins are some of the best on the peninsula. The name Uxmal means ‘thrice-built’ in Mayan, referring to the construction of its highest structure, the Pyramid of the Magician. The Maya would often build a new temple over an existing one, and in this case five stages of construction have actually been found. Uxmal was one of the largest cities of the Yucatán peninsula, and at its height was home to about 25,000 Maya.

Xel-Ha - Mayan ruins in Quintana Roo Mexico

The Xel-Ha ruins are part of the Xel-Ha Lagoon eco-park, located between Akumal and Tulum. These are a small collection of stone buildings right on the highway opposite the entrance to Xel-Ha Lagoon. The Maya had a coastal port at Xel-Ha for maritime trade via canoes between the principal towns up and down the coast, and to Cozumel. There are a couple of interesting cenotes nearby the ruins group. Some of the structures still have painted hands and other drawings of the Maya.

References

<http://www.locogringo.com/research/ruins.html>.



Stay Tuned

Expect to receive a few updates from us as we get closer to June 15th. Once we have more visibility into your travel plans, we will finalize activities such as cultural excursions, deep-sea fishing trips, sports tournaments, outings, etc.

In order to facilitate all this and **book your room**, please let us know, as soon as possible, your travel details (flights and ferry/charter hours), and **the dates** you plan to be at the Occidental. We will book the room for you with the hotel.

Thanks and stay tuned!

Concept, design, and photography by Victoria Atanassova.

STAY TUNED