

# Cozumel

The island of Cozumel derives its name from the Maya words “Kusam” or “Kosom” (swallow) and “Lumil” (land of), for that reason is called the “**island of swallows**”. It is an island in the Caribbean Sea off the eastern coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, specifically in the State of Quintana Roo. **It is located opposite Playa del Carmen in the Riviera Maya and it is about 12 miles / 20km from the mainland.** Cozumel is the third-largest island in Mexico, following Isla Tiburón and Isla Ángel de la Guarda (both of them located in the Gulf of California).



Please, take a look to the next recommendations on how to get to Cozumel:

1. **By comfortable tourist boats.** From Playa del Carmen are several departures every hour and the trip takes around 40 minutes.

2. **By car ferry.** From Calica Port, located 10 minutes south of Playa del Carmen and the trip takes around 2 hours.

3. **By cruise ship.** A lot of Caribbean Cruises stop in Cozumel as part of its itinerary. Ask to your travel agent about the cruises that stop in Cozumel.

4. **By airplane.** There is an air shuttle that flight from the Cancun International Airport to Cozumel, the trip takes 20 minutes. As well, there are direct flights from Mexico City and from specific cities in U.S. to Cozumel. Ask to your airline agent.

The main attractions in the island are the water activities, thanks to the beautiful view to the Mexican Caribbean Sea, the white sand beaches and the amazing coral reefs around the island that are part of the **Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS)** that stretches from the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula down to the Bay Islands of Honduras, this reef structure is the largest coral reef in the Western Hemisphere and the second-largest coral reef in the world.



Cozumel has its own International Pier for the Caribbean Cruises and the Cozumel International Airport, so the accessibility to the island is easy by sea and air. As well, a lot of deluxe jewelries and handcraft shops in downtown Cozumel can be found.



The most famous park in the island is **Chankanaab National Park**, the largest monument to nature in Cozumel. While visiting Chankanaab one becomes part of a conservation area, which offers a swimming area, or if you wish, you can plunge into the underwater world and enjoy Christ and Virgin sculptures. You can also enjoy a variety of food at any of the restaurants, but if you want to remember Cozumel and Chankanaab forever, do not miss the chance to swim with dolphins with the different programs that the park offers.

The largest archaeological site on the island, **San Gervasio** was a sacred Maya center for worship to the Maya fertility goddess, Ixchel. As well, it was as a strategic political and commercial hub. San Gervasio takes its name from an agricultural and cattle ranch which was founded by Mr. Gervasio Novelo in 1858. While the original name is unknown, it is believed that it could have been "Tan Tun" (Over Rock).



The **Punta Sur Light House** is an ecological park and nature reserve is a breathtaking environment of mangrove jungles, white sand beaches and reef formations at the south end of the island. The park extends over more than 247 acres of land harboring a varied wildlife, including crocodiles, which visitors can watch from a safe distance in a look-out tower, 220 species of birds, iguanas, and giant turtles, which come to shore between June and August to lay their eggs. Among the park's most interesting structures is an old lighthouse and navigation museum displaying the evolution of seamanship and navigation from the time of the Maya to nowadays. Here, visitors can also learn about life in Cozumel during the first part of the 20th century through photos

and other articles belonging to several generations of lighthouse keepers and their families. Near the lighthouse, "El Caracol" is a well-preserved ancient structure, used by the Mayas to signal the approach of a hurricane.

The **Museum of the Island of Cozumel** is located in downtown San Miguel, showcases the island's history and natural environment; its origins, wildlife migration patterns, reefs, archeology, galleons and pirates. Four exhibit halls, dioramas, sculptures, charts, traveling exhibits and interactive demonstrations, complete with guides who speak English, Spanish and Maya, bring the museum to life. The museum also has a casual restaurant, located on the second-floor terrace, that offers breakfast and sweeping views of the Caribbean Sea.



# Tourist Attractions



**Atlantis Submarine**



**Downtown San Miguel, Cozumel**



**San Gervasio**



**Cozumel at Sunset**



**Swim with Dolphins**



**Playa Uvas Beach Club**



**Catamaran Tours**