



www.rivieramaya.com

### Telephone Numbers:

+ 52 984 85 921 70

+ 52 984 85 921 73

+ 52 984 87 300 03

**MEXICO**

## Welcome

The Mayan Riviera is a 200-kilometer long coastline that extends along the Mexican Caribbean, on the eastern shores of the State of Quintana Roo. It has a large quantity of beaches with especially white sand near the beaches, and a low-elevation jungle. Facing the Riviera Maya's coast is the world's second-largest coral reef, making it the perfect place for scuba diving and snorkeling. Taking great care not to disturb the surroundings, the hand of man has built a tourism infrastructure on the Riviera Maya. The coastal strip belongs to a half-million square kilometer region known as Mundo Maya. This zone was not only the center of an antique civilization but today is still inhabited by authentic Maya communities. Amusement becomes a habit among tourists because once they've visited this wondrous place, they keep coming back again.

## The Place

- ◆ **Climate:** Semi-tropical, with an average yearly temperature of 26 degrees Centigrade.
- ◆ **Money:** The official currency is the Mexican peso. One dollar is the approximate equivalent of 10 Mexican pesos.
- ◆ **Transportation:** The main point of arrival is Cancún International Airport.
- ◆ **Communications:** There are telephone booths all along the Riviera Maya where you can use your phone card for local and international calls.
- ◆ **Electricity:** Domestic electric current is 110 volts.
- ◆ **Business Hours:** Most business and shops from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M., and closed between 2 and 4 P.M.
- ◆ **People and Language:** Spanish is the official language in Mexico. The local people in the area also speak Maya. English is spoken almost everywhere, as well as another languages too.



## Water Sports

- ◆ **Diving:** The turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea are great for scuba diving and snorkeling to experience underwater life on the Great Maya Reef.
- ◆ **Cave Diving:** Many locations within the jungle provide rental equipment as well as guides and instructors for cave diving.
- ◆ **Fishing:** The Riviera Maya's 200-kilometer long coast provides many excellent locations for fishing, professional and amateur.
- ◆ **Flyfishing:** The refined art of flyfishing can be enjoyed on the salty waters of the lagoons in the interior of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve.
- ◆ **Kayak:** Guided excursions to the coral reefs take place.
- ◆ **Sailing:** There are many rental companies that provide equipment and organize group competitions.

## Playas del Norte



Crabs and sea turtles make their nests along these beaches. Cabin accommodations and an All-Inclusive

hotels are available in the area. Close by are Punta Maroma and Punta Bete linked by extended white sandy beaches and limestone rock. Tres Ríos is a natural sanctuary where you can explore, either on foot or by kayak, swim, or navigating on any of the three rivers which give the site its name. Xcalacoco's main attraction is camping among the palm trees and enjoying a view of the sea.

# Puerto Morelos

Considered as the gateway to the Riviera Maya, Puerto Morelos is located 15 minutes south of Cancún International Airport and 36 km north of Playa del Carmen. This small fishing community, with its warm, friendly and nice people, offers several sites of interest, as well as all kinds of activities for couples, friends or families, such as Crococun crocodile farm, or Yaax Che Botanical Garden, to name a few.



# Paamul

Paamul seems to have been a port of loading and unloading for the Maya embarcations that carried merchandise throughout the Caribbean sea. Today, Paamul is a place for resting, chosen by those who prefer nature as a getaway from everyday stress. It is also the place chosen by sea turtles to lay their eggs at night, between the months of May to July, thus making this an ecological site of choice. Paamul offers the comfort of cabins located in the jungle, which allow you to enjoy the Riviera Maya's natural wonders under open skies.

# Calica

Calica is a national and international port located at kilometer 282.6 of the 307 federal highway. This is the deepest ports in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, where international cruise ships and local ferries linking Playa del Carmen with the mainland. Today Calica serves as a port of call on the route traveled by cruise ships that navigate the Caribbean.



# Boca Paila

Located in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere, isolated from the traffic of the cities and the more developed towns, Boca Paila is the ideal place for those who prefer to be in contact with nature at its most unspoiled. Also, for those who love to fish, this site provides facilities and shelters that specialize in fishing for sport.

# Punta Allen

This is an ideal spot for ecological tourism, where you can admire colonies of herons, crocodiles and manatees. The zone's landscape offers jungle and sea, ecology and water sports like kayak and snorkel all along almost 100 kilometers of coastal reefs in the Sian Ka'an reservation.



# The Ecological Park of Xel-Há



Xel-Há is a place dedicated to ecology and the preservation of the region's natural flora and fauna. Inside the park there's a turtle sanctuary, a dolphin pool and an aviary where the conservation of these species is a priority. Xel-Há is located 58 kilometers from Playa del Carmen on the Riviera Maya.

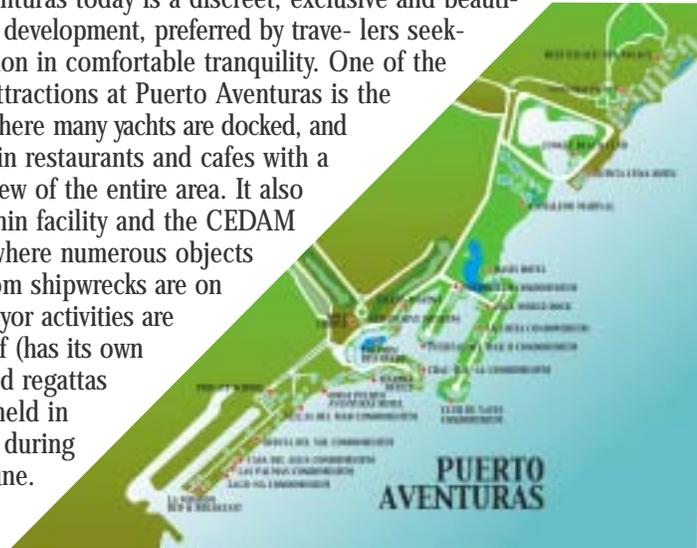
# Xel-Há



Xel-Há is an archeological site located 58 kilometers from Playa del Carmen. At the archaeological site one can observe many edifications and monuments as well as a road or sacbé 540 meters in length. They are classified by groups: the Group of the Birds, where the walls contain frescoes representing the diversity of birds in the region; the Group of the Jaguar, in reference to the descending figure of a feline of that species; and the Dock Group, near the inlet.

# Puerto Aventuras

Puerto Aventuras today is a discreet, exclusive and beautiful tourism development, preferred by travelers seeking relaxation in comfortable tranquility. One of the principal attractions at Puerto Aventuras is the "marina" where many yachts are docked, and abounding in restaurants and cafes with a splendid view of the entire area. It also has a dolphin facility and the CEDAM Museum, where numerous objects rescued from shipwrecks are on exhibit. Major activities are fishing, golf (has its own course), and regattas which are held in the marina during May and June.



# Aktun Chen



The zone known as Aktun Chen, a Maya word meaning "cave with cenote", or "subterranean waters", is located 16 kilometers from Tulum and 4 kilometers from Akumal, extending over a surface of 400 hectares. The subterranean cave, hidden into the tropical jungle plenty of exotical species of flora and fauna, can be covered in approximately one hour and a half; during this hike, you can observe stalactite and stalagmite formations which attest to five million years of geologic evolution. The soft lighting brings out flashes of illumination from the walls, rich in calcium carbonate, alternating every so often with the thick, damp roots of the trees that populate the tropical jungle surface.

# Playa del Carmen

Just 52 kilometers from Cancún Airport is Playa del Carmen, an old fishermen's village has now become an important touristic destination. Playa del Carmen luxury hotels, as well as smaller personalized establishments, numerous bars and discotheques, shopping centers, restaurants, cultural and recreational centers, water sports and golf. La Quinta Avenida (Fifth Avenue), the main thoroughfare, is the favorite spot for meeting, after you've enjoyed the beach and jungle trips, with a nightlife that goes on until dawn. Playa del Carmen is a must-see place for visitors who want to enjoy the magic charm of jungle and sea of Mexican Caribbean.



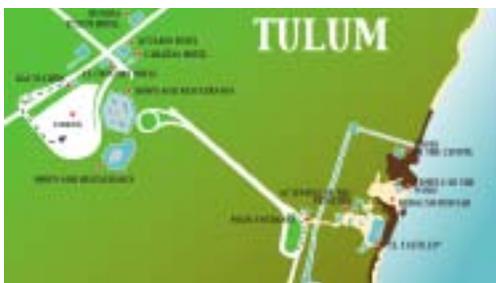
## Playacar

Just a few minutes away from the center of Playa del Carmen is the most important tourist development on the Riviera Maya: Playacar. This is an architectural complex with residential areas, several All-Inclusive hotels, villas, a shopping mall with specialized restaurants, a magnificent Golf course, archaeological site and the Xaman Há Aviary, with the greatest number of bird species in the region, living in their natural habitat. The attractions here are so varied and upscale that it's possible to do almost anything you like without leaving the complex.



## Tulum

The Maya site of Tulum located 72 kilometers from Playa del Carmen is one of the most beautiful places on the Riviera Maya. It was constructed at top of a cliff facing the blue Caribbean sea. The principal constructions are The Castle, that is dedicated to Venus (Kulkán) and the Temple of the Descending God adorned with bas-reliefs. On both you can admire exquisite frescoes which remain to this day, decorated in blue, orange, red, white and black.



### Sleeping in Tulum

There are few hotels on this 10 kilometer-long stretch of beach and they are all separated from each other. Comfortable lodging with all facilities its available but you can also choose a rustic palm-thatched cabin lighted by candles. These hotels blend into the natural surroundings and even use solar energy systems.

The Riviera Maya offers an impressive tourism infrastructure all along its coastline, from All-Inclusive Hotels with facilities and accommodations that rank with the top international levels to the so-called "Charm Hotels" where personalized service is the main feature. To make reservations directly, visit this Web Site: [www.rivieramaya.com/lodging](http://www.rivieramaya.com/lodging).

### Variety of Hotels

## Xcaret

Located only 5 kilometers from Playa del Carmen gets its name from the Maya word meaning "inlet". Xcaret was an important commercial exchange center for the Maya culture. Today, Xcaret is one of the preferred places on the Riviera Maya, both because of its archaeological monuments and its Ecological and Archaeological Park which is dedicated to disseminating the Maya and Mexican cultures in general, as well as to preserving the environment and the ecology.

## Xcaret

### Eco-archaeological Park

The park extends over a surface of almost 130 hectares of the rich variety of the local flora and fauna. You can swim in "Cenotes", drifting with the current of a subterranean river, and swimming with dolphins in their marine habitat. The park also provides a Museum of the Maya World, a butterfly sanctuary and more than 30 species of wild birds. The park also provides water sports including snorkeling and scuba diving. At night the theater features a show of Mexican music and dances from every region in the country.



# Cobá

Once one of the great Maya cities of the classical period, Cobá occupies an area of approximately 70 square kilometers where six thousand five hundred of different constructions and monuments from the ninth to the twelfth century. In Cobá one can see close to 45 roads or highways, known as Sacbé (white road), which connected the city with other places.



# Travelling through the Riviera

## ATTRACTIONS:

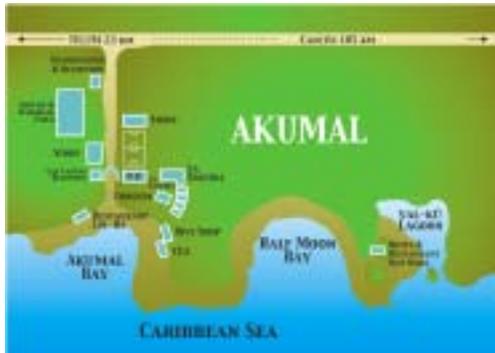
The Riviera Maya provides a wide range of attractions: Adventure sports, golf or tennis, hiking or riding on horseback through the jungle, water and nautical sports are some of the different and exciting options for visitors. Many restaurants of different types offer everything from typical Maya cuisine to a great variety of Mexican and International specialties.



You can visit the hidden city of Cobá or the walled city of Tulum which is the only Mayan city built by the sea.

# Akumal

Just 37 kilometers from Playa del Carmen, this small village is a favorite with those who love isolation and peace and quiet. What makes Akumal such a charming and fascinating place for tourists is its spectacular protected bay area of transparent waters and the sweetwater currents that flow through its caves and subterranean rivers. Located North of Tulum, Akumal offers excellent hotel capacity as well as rental houses, condos, and restaurants specializing in local and international cuisine.



# Chemuyil

A lovely bay with white sandy beaches, bathed by the blue waters of the Caribbean and surrounded by the jungle make this an excellent place for rest and relaxation. The shallow water here makes it an ideal spot for children. Chemuyil also has a restaurant with excellent shellfish and fresh seafood, accommodations with all the basic comforts, and camping facilities.



# Activities and sports

- ◆ **Golf:** There are two Golf Courses in the area: Playacar, 18 holes, and Puerto Aventuras, 9 holes.
- ◆ **Tennis:** You can play on clay courts or fast surfaces.
- ◆ **Gyms & Spas:** Many hotels provide their own gym facilities.
- ◆ **Parachuting:** The area offers several different options for parachuting.
- ◆ **Jungle tours:** All of them with instructors and guides.
- ◆ **“Playa” by Night:** Here you can find numerous discotheques, bars and restaurants for those who enjoy nocturnal pleasures.



# Sian Ka'an

The ecological sanctuary called Sian Ka'an, “where the sky is born” in the Maya language was established as such in 1986. This site, which is unique in the world for its diversity of biological species, extends for 120 kilometers from North to South along the Riviera Maya. The region offers visitors the services of knowledgeable guides familiar with the local flora and fauna.



# Felipe Carrillo Puerto

Located close to Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, this village is considered as the meeting and departure point to all the Mayan communities of the area. The many small villages in this region keep the same customs, traditions and way of life as two centuries ago. A visit to Felipe Carrillo Puerto gives you an insight of the Mayan culture.

Felipe Carrillo Puerto was founded in 1850. Its original name was Chan Santa Cruz, which means “little holy cross”. It was the sanctuary and capital city of the cruzob during the Caste War, and the place where the “talking cross” appeared. In this area, the Mayan people fought against the government for more than 50 years.



# Quintana Roo



## Yucatán Peninsula

to Cancún

Puerto Morelos

Playa del Secreto

Playa Paraíso

Punta Maroma

Punta Bete

Xcalacoco

Playa del Carmen  
Playacar

Xcaret

Calica

Paamul

Puerto Aventuras

Kantenah

Akumal

Chemuyil

Xcacel

Xel-Há

Tankah

Tulum

Punta Piedra

Reserva de la  
Biosfera  
Sian Ka'an

Felipe Carrillo  
Puerto

Boca Paila

Punta Allen

Cozumel

## Mexican Caribbean



# RIVIERA MAYA

