

MEXICO

QUINTANA ROO

MUNDO MAYA



ENGLISH VERSION

 **CONACULTA**



Instituto Nacional
de Antropología
e Historia

Chetumal



The State capital was founded in 1898 by Othón P. Blanco, envoy of President Porfirio Díaz to control this remote territory. Originally called Payo Obispo, it was given the name of Chetumal in 1936. The attractions of the city include the **Corredor Escultórico Chactemal** (Chactemal Sculpture Corridor), the **Plaza Las Américas** and the **Museum of the Mayan Culture**. Please visit the boulevard - that surrounds the city and is the longest of the Yucatan Peninsula - and visit the **lighthouse** and beaches **Punta Estrella** and **Dos Mulas**. In the vicinity of Chetumal one can find natural resources like lakes, rivers and thick jungles, as well as places like the fishing village of **Calderitas**.

Bacalar



Town founded in 1544 under the name of Villa de Salamanca. It was the



PHOTO: MARIA DE LOURDES ALONSO

Fort of San Felipe, Bacalar.

scene of clashes between Mayan and Spanish people and was ravaged by pirates, which led to the construction of the **Fort of San Felipe**. In the nineteenth century it was the bastion of the rebel Mayans during the war of castes. Among the attractions of this place, considered a magical town,

are the aforementioned Fort that currently works as a Museum, the **Church of San Joaquín**, patron of the city and the **Casa de Cultura**. It has also two notable natural attractions, the **lagoon of Bacalar** - or the seven color lagoon - and the **Cenote Azul**, one of the largest in the Mayan area.

Lagoon of Bacalar.

PHOTO: SECTUR

Riviera Maya



This area, with about 120 km of coastal extension, which has abundant flora and fauna, has a superb infrastructure and extensive beaches, ecological parks and archaeological sites. Among the sites that make up the Riviera Maya are **Holbox, Isla Mujeres, Contoy, Cozumel, Cancún, Punta Bete, Playa del Carmen, Xcaret, Puerto Aventuras, Xpu Ha, Akumal, Xelhá** and **Tulum**.

Cancún



It has a wide range of services, which added to its natural beauty makes it, undoubtedly, one of the most important resorts of Mexico and the world. By the Caribbean Sea and surrounded by extensive lagoons, the hotel zone of Cancún is a paradise



PHOTO: SECTUR

Riviera Maya.

for all kind of watersports. It is also an ideal starting point to visit the archaeological Mayan sites, - one of them in the same Cancún and is known as **El Rey** - and other places like **Punta Nizuc, Punta Cancún, Bahía de Mujeres** and **Nichupté lagoon**, all ideal for the enjoyment of the sea and nature

Tulum



It was the most important Mayan trading port of the Eastern coast of Quintana Roo in the Late Postclassic Period (1200-1521 AD). A wall with five gates surrounds the ceremonial center of the city, which consists of temples, palaces, shrines and platforms in which the ruling group rooms were located. It also had facilities and spaces dedicated to trade, ceremonies and public administration. The most important structures include: **The Castle**, the largest and most important of Tulum, the **Temple of the Descending God** and the **Temple of the Frescoes**. Other sites of the Eastern Coast that can be visited are **El Meco, Xcaret, Xelhá** and **Muyil**.

Isla Mujeres



Here arrived, in 1517, the first Spanish expedition to Mexican territory. Isla Mujeres has a very complete tourist infrastructure and numerous attractions, including natural reefs and places for the practice of diving, such as the **Cruz**, the **Virgen** and the **"Cueva de los Tiburones Dormidos"** (Cave of the sleeping sharks).



The Castle, Tulum.

PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAÍCES

Isla Mujeres.
PHOTO: CLAUDIO CONTRERAS KOOB



Cozumel



Surrounded by numerous reef formations, it's the Mexico's largest inhabited island. In addition to the archaeological site of **San Gervasio**, Cozumel has magnificent beaches like **San Francisco** and **San Juan**, close to **San Miguel** in Cozumel, the island's capital. It is also one of the best places in Mexico for the practice of diving; it has about 55 sites in which you can practice this activity.

Banco Chinchorro



It's the largest and richest coral atoll of Mexico - 800 km² — and the second in the world. By its geology, extension and marine biodiversity, it's a unique place in Mexico. In addition you can practice sport fishing and is ideal for diving.

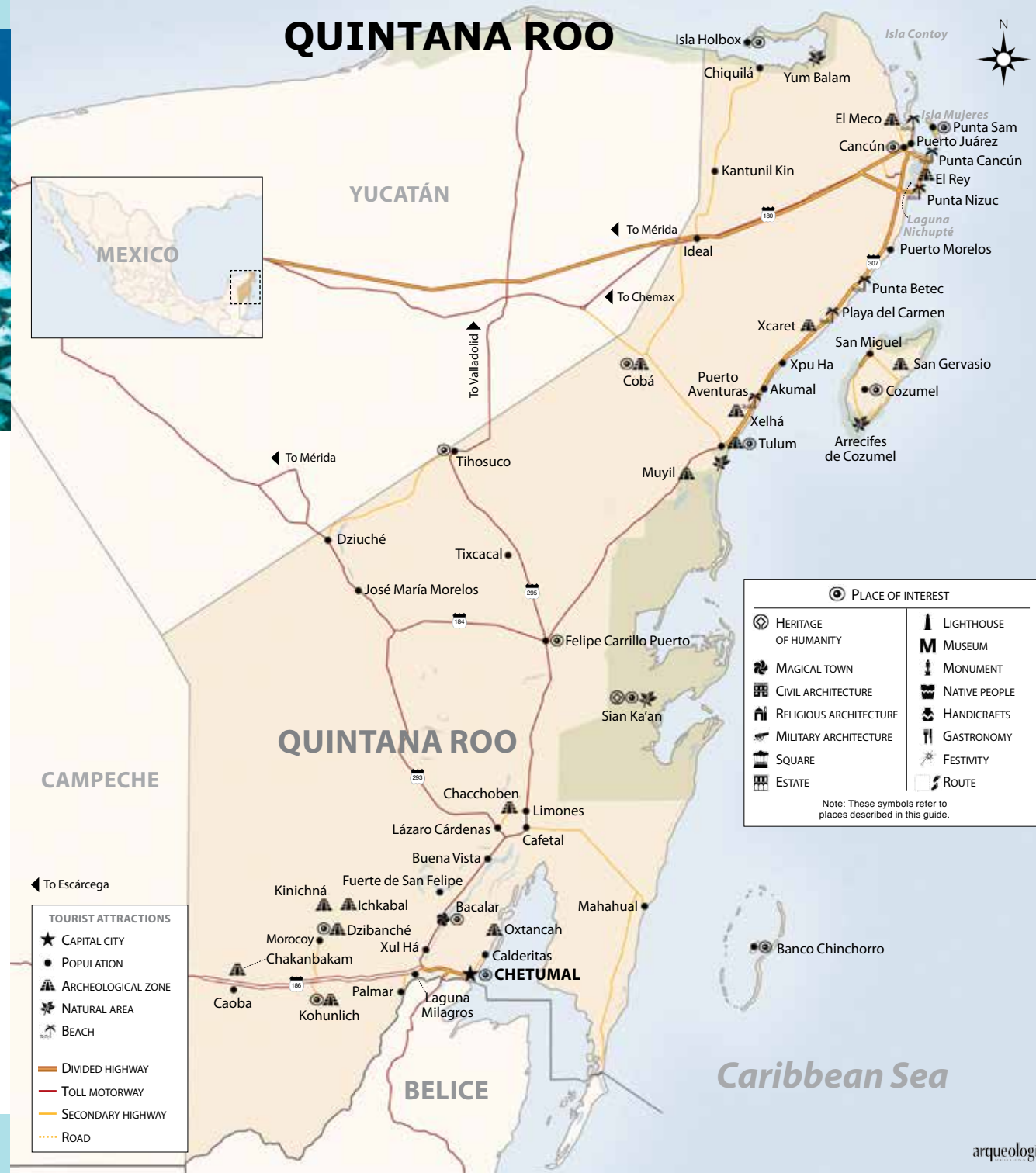
Holbox



Rustic and picturesque Island of quiet environment - which is part of the protected area of flora and wild fauna of Yum Balam-, in which the inhabitants are mainly engaged in shark and lobster fishing. Mangroves and swamps of the **Yalahau Lake** are home to a variety of birds. The **Isla de Pájaros** (Island of birds) is an incomparable place for bird watching, which has about 140 species.



Mayan girl, Holbox.



Tihosuco



Conquered in 1544 by Francisco de Montejo here was built in the 16th century, one of the most important Franciscan convents in the region. This village was one of the places featured during the great Mayan insurrection of the nineteenth century, and here is located the **Museum of the "Guerra de Castas"** (War of Castes).

Felipe Carrillo Puerto



Village founded in 1850 by the Mayan rebels during the war of castes, is now a traditional town that has many natural beauties and historical and cultural vestiges as the **Balam Nah Catholic Church** and the **sanctuary of the "Cruz Parlante"** (Speaking Cross).

Cobá



This huge site, which had its heyday at the Late Classic Period (200-900

AD) and beginning of the Postclassic (900-1521 AD), contains vestiges of more than 6 500 structures, some scattered and others grouped in sets. A great trail system that goes beyond 200 km in length altogether communicated the different parts of the site or led to distant cities, like the one joining Cobá with Yaxuná, with 100 km length is the largest in the Mayan area.



Cobá.



Tihosuco.

PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO



Sian Ka'an.

PHOTO: CLAUDIO CONTRERAS KOOB

Sian Ka'an



It is a large biosphere reserve, covering 600 000 ha of rainforests, swamps, mangroves, cenotes (deep water pits), lagoons and two large bays. Declared a world heritage site in 1987, it has a chain of coral reefs of approximately 100 km. Among other animals, you can observe birds - more than 325 species have been catalogued -, lizards and sometimes manatees.



PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

Laguna Guerrero.

GASTRONOMY



The Quintana Roo's cuisine shares its roots and ingredients with other Mayan entities. Thus, appear alike the traditional ingredients such as pumpkin seed, annatto or the Havanan chile and others from European kitchens or the one from Belize. In addition, there are dishes like **cochinilla pibil** (slow roasted pork or chicken meat with a rich sauce of annatto), the **puchero** (prepared stew), the **chocolomo** and tamales of **xpelon** (a type of bean) and the **sotobichay** (tamales prepared with a leaf called chaya). With sea products they prepare dishes as bread of dogfish and the fish tikinxic. Traditional drinks include the **balché** and the **xtabentún**.

Kohunlich



City that had its splendor during the Late Classic Period (600-900 AD), although there are buildings from previous eras, as the known building of the large masks (**Edificio de los Mascarones**). The site has a good number of areas open to the public, which include ceremonial civic buildings as well as other architectural developments, which allow us to know aspects of the everyday and ritual life of its inhabitants.



PHOTO: SERGIO LUTREY / RAÍCES

Kohunlich.

Dzibanché-Kinichná



One of the cities of the Classic Period (200-900 A.D.) with the largest dimensions compared to other sites of the Mayan region. Its dimensions make us realize of its importance: it covers an area of more than 40 km² and contains constructions of great monumentality: **Tuttil, Lamay, Kinichná and Dzibanché**. The city had such power that it held control of the region with Calakmul. In this same area are sites such as **Ichkalbal, Chacchoben, and Oxtankah**.



PHOTO: CRISTINA GOWRIE / RAÍCES

Dzibanché.

HANDICRAFTS



Thanks to its Mayan roots, Quintana Roo has a rich craft tradition. To develop its products the artisans turn to a wide variety of raw materials, given to them by the rich natural environment. As in the rest of the Mayan zone, it stands out the development of **textiles, embroidery and hammocks**. Diverse wood objects are carved; vegetable fibers are used for **wickerwork, hats and figures of animals**; with jugs are made **vases** decorated with natural motifs and materials from the coast - coral, shell or snail - are used to make **jewelry** and objects.



PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

Seamstress at Tihosuco.

YOU MUST...!

- Visit Tulum
- Make scuba diving in the coral reefs of Cozumel or at the Chinchorro Bank
- Visit Bacalar
- Walk by the 5th Avenue in Playa de Carmen
- Enjoy Xcaret
- Admire Sian Ka'an
- Take a tour of Kohunlich and Dzibanché
- Visit Tisohuco
- Go to Cobá

Información turística

Dirección Fondo y Desarrollo Turístico de Benito Juárez (Bureau of Tourist Fund and Development), Av. Nader and Cobá without number km. 5 just next to FONATUR offices, C.P. 77500, Cancún, Quintana Roo, +52 998 892 8009

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Oficina de la Secretaría de Turismo de Quintana Roo in Playa del Carmen (Office of the Ministry of Tourism of Quintana Roo in Playa del Carmen, Av. 30 Norte, without number between Calle 34 Norte Bis and 36 Norte, C.P. 77710, Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, +52 984 803 1106

Oficina de la Secretaría de Turismo de Quintana Roo en Cancún (Office of the Ministry of Tourism of Quintana Roo in Cancún, Av. Yaxchilán Smza 17, M2, L6, C.P. 77500, Cancún, Quintana Roo, +52 998 881 9000

Oficina de la Secretaría de Turismo de Quintana Roo en Chetumal (Office of the Ministry of Tourism of Quintana Roo in Chetumal), Calzada del Centenario No. 622, Col. del Bosque, C.P. 77019, Chetumal, Quintana Roo, +52 983 835 0860

Oficina de Convenciones y Visitantes de Cancún (Office of Conventions and Visitors of Cancun), Edif. del Centro de Convenciones de Cancún (Building of the Convention Center in Cancun), Blvd. Kukulcán Km. 9, 1st. floor, Hotel Area, C.P. 77500, Cancún, Quintana Roo, +52 998 881 2745 cvb@cancun.travel, www.cancun.travel

Fideicomiso de Promoción Turística de la Riviera Maya (Trust for the Riviera Maya Tourist Promotion), Building Playa Med 1st. floor, C.P. 77710, Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, +52 984 206 3150, www.rivieramaya.com

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