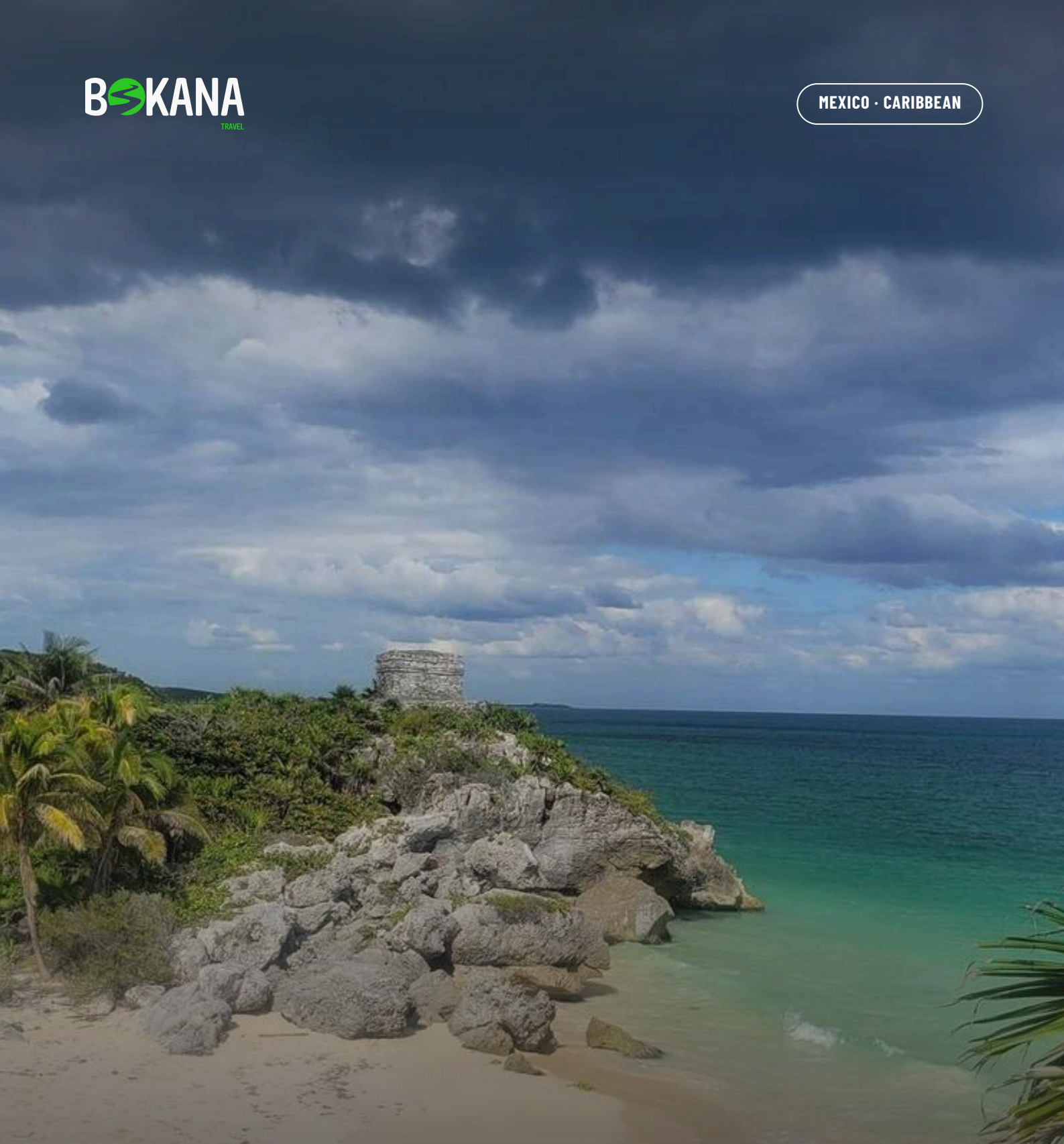
BOKANA TRAVEL

MEXICO · CARIBBEAN



TRAVEL GUIDE 2026

MEXICAN CARIBBEAN

Reef, jungle cenotes, Bacalar lagoon and Maya sites like Tulum and Chichén Itzá, all less than four hours' flight from Bogotá.

Travel. Discover. **Connect.** bokanatravel.co

THE ESSENTIALS

TURQUOISE SEA, CENOTES AND MAYA CITIES

The Mexican Caribbean is the coast of Quintana Roo, on the Yucatán Peninsula. Cancún is the gateway, and its airport takes direct flights from Colombia. Heading south you pass Puerto Morelos, Playa del Carmen, Tulum and, close to Belize, Bacalar lagoon. Offshore sits Cozumel, ringed by reefs. Inland, the limestone is riddled with cenotes, freshwater sinkholes the Maya saw as doorways to the underworld.

The real draw is the mix. Spend one day on the beach snorkeling, another at ruins and cenotes, another in a small town eating Yucatecan food. Chichén Itzá, in the neighboring state of Yucatán, is a few hours away by road and is now also on the Tren Maya (Maya Train) line. The region is very touristy, so plan ahead: get to archaeological sites early, pack biodegradable sunscreen and check sargassum seaweed reports before you pick a beach.

WHERE IT IS

Quintana Roo state, on the Caribbean coast of the Yucatán Peninsula, in southeastern Mexico.

GETTING THERE

Nonstop from Bogotá to Cancún in about 3 h 45 min (Avianca and Viva Aerobus). From Medellín, Viva Aerobus flies nonstop in about 3 h 30 min on some days of the week. From Cali, with a connection.

WEATHER

Warm and tropical year-round: average highs of 28 to 34 °C (82 to 93 °F) and lows of 19 to 25 °C (66 to 77 °F). Rain from May to October, with September and October the wettest months.

DOCUMENTS

Colombian passport holders: valid passport (ideally 6 months), INM electronic pre-registration with QR code, return ticket, hotel booking and proof of funds. No visa required.

MONEY

Mexican peso (MXN). Cards are accepted at hotels, restaurants and parks; carry pesos in cash for taxis, colectivos (shared vans), small cenotes, tips and the cash-only fees in some areas.

LANGUAGE

Spanish. Some communities in the region also speak Yucatec Maya, and English is common in tourist areas.

TIME ZONE

Quintana Roo is on UTC-5 year-round, the same time as Colombia. Yucatán state (Chichén Itzá, Mérida) is one hour behind.

PLUGS

Types A and B (flat-pin plugs, as in Colombia), 127 V and 60 Hz. You won't need an adapter.

DON'T MISS

HIGHLIGHTS

01
TULUM BY THE SEA

The walled Maya city on a cliff above the Caribbean. Since July 2026, foreign visitors pay a reduced fee for the archaeological zone and the national park. Arrive when it opens at 8 a.m., ahead of the heat and the tour groups.

02
CHICHÉN ITZÁ

A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the great Maya centers, with El Castillo, the ball court and the Sacred Cenote. It sits inland in Yucatán state; get there by road or on the Tren Maya. Go early: there's little shade.

03
JUNGLE CENOTES

Crystal-clear freshwater pools between Playa del Carmen, Tulum and Valladolid. Some are open to the sky, others are semi-enclosed caverns. Shower before you get in, wear a life vest if you're not a strong swimmer and leave chemical sunscreen in your suitcase.

04
BACALAR LAGOON

Known as the lagoon of seven colors, a shallow freshwater lagoon in the south of the state. Best by kayak or sailboat at sunrise. Its stromatolites, rock-like living formations, are fragile: don't stand on them.

05
COZUMEL'S REEFS

The island is ringed by Cozumel Reefs National Park, part of the Mesoamerican Reef System. Take the ferry from Playa del Carmen. Snorkel and dive with certified operators, and don't touch the coral.

06
XCARET PARKS

Theme parks between Playa del Carmen and Tulum that combine underground rivers, wildlife and shows about Mexican history. They only allow biodegradable sunscreen free of certain chemicals; at the entrance you can swap yours temporarily.





PLAN YOUR TRIP

WHEN TO GO

The dry season, from November or December through April, is the most comfortable: less rain, lower humidity and calm seas. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June to November, peaking between mid-August and mid-October. Sargassum seaweed usually arrives between spring and late summer, though in 2026 it started in January and has been heavy. December, Holy Week (Semana Santa) and July are high season.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

BEST

DEC – MAR

The best time to go.

GOOD

APR – MAY · NOV

A good time, with a catch on weather or crowds.

RAINY

JUN – AUG · OCT

More rain: keep plans flexible.

AVOID

SEP

Hurricane peak, wettest month.

WHAT YOU NEED TO TRAVEL

For Colombian passport holders: no visa is needed for tourist stays of up to 180 days, but you must complete the INM (Mexico's National Migration Institute) electronic pre-registration and, at the entry interview, show the purpose of your trip and proof of funds. Meeting every requirement doesn't guarantee entry: the immigration officer makes the final call. Traveling on another passport? Requirements differ, so message us and we'll check yours.

- Valid Colombian passport, preferably with at least 6 months of validity.
- Mandatory electronic pre-registration for air arrivals on the National Migration Institute portal (inm.gob.mx). It's free and generates a QR code: print it and keep it on your phone too.
- A ticket out of Mexico (back to Colombia or on to another destination).
- Hotel booking with proof of payment, or a signed letter of invitation if you're staying with family or friends.
- Trip itinerary with booked activities, plus contact details for one person in Colombia and one in Mexico.
- Proof of funds: Colombia's Foreign Ministry (Cancillería) suggests being able to show USD 100 to 500 per day of your stay (cash, cards or bank statements). A letter from your employer stating your vacation dates helps.
- At airports such as Cancún, entry is recorded digitally (Digital Multiple Migration Form, or FMM); check the number of days granted on your stamp or receipt and download your digital FMM from the INM portal.
- Visitax: Quintana Roo's state tax for foreign visitors, equal to 2.5 UMA (Mexico's official reference unit) per person (about MXN 290 in 2026; the exact amount shows when you pay). Pay it only at visitax.gob.mx and keep the QR code: it's checked when you leave through the airport.
- Environmental sanitation fee: charged by your hotel per room, per night. In Cancún it's 70% of one UMA (about MXN 82 in 2026); in Playa del Carmen, Tulum, Cozumel, Isla Mujeres and Bacalar, 30% (about MXN 36).
- Minors traveling without one parent: an authenticated exit permit from the parent who isn't traveling, under Migración Colombia rules.

Checked in September 2026 with Colombian Foreign Ministry (Cancillería): recommendations for traveling to Mexico. Rules change, so confirm with the official source before you travel, or message us and we'll help.

WHAT WE'D TELL A FRIEND

BOKANA TIPS

1 Prepare for the immigration interview

Carry your pre-registration QR code, paid booking, return ticket and itinerary, both printed and on your phone. Answer calmly and consistently. Mexico has turned away thousands of Colombians; arriving well documented lowers the risk.

2 Pay Visitax on the official site

Third-party sites charge fees of up to double. Use only visitax.gob.mx, pay before you head to the airport and screenshot the QR code, because there are checks before the security line.

3 Biodegradable sunscreen

Cenotes, parks and reefs ask for sunscreen based on zinc oxide or titanium dioxide, without oxybenzone or octinoxate. Even better: a rash guard and a hat. Before you enter a cenote, shower off lotions and insect repellent.

4 Check sargassum before you pick a beach

The seaweed arrives in amounts that change from day to day and beach to beach. Check the traffic-light alerts from the Quintana Roo Sargassum Monitoring Network (Red de Monitoreo del Sargazo) before choosing where to stay or spend the day.

5 Start early at the Maya sites

Tulum opens at 8 a.m.; the first hours bring fewer people and less heat, and the same goes for Chichén Itzá. Bring water, a hat and pesos in cash. At Chichén Itzá you pay for two tickets: one for INAH, Mexico's national heritage institute, and one for the state.

6 Ride the Tren Maya or a colectivo

The Tren Maya links Cancún Airport, Playa del Carmen, Tulum, Bacalar and Chichén Itzá. Between Cancún, Playa and Tulum you can also take colectivos (shared vans) and ADO buses. When you check schedules, remember Yucatán is one hour behind Quintana Roo.

7 Hurricane season needs a plan B

If you travel between June and November, buy travel insurance that covers weather cancellations, follow alerts from Mexico's National Weather Service (Servicio Meteorológico Nacional) and the National Hurricane Center, and register your trip with the Colombian consulate in Cancún.

8 Pay in pesos

Tourist areas take dollars, but the exchange rate is usually poor. Pay in pesos by card or withdraw cash from bank ATMs, ideally inside shopping malls or bank branches.

TRAVEL MINDFULLY

Use only mineral sunscreen and shower before you enter cenotes and reefs: they're fragile ecosystems and the peninsula's source of fresh water. If you eat seafood, skip lobster between March 1 and June 30, when Conapesca, Mexico's fisheries agency, sets the closed season in Quintana Roo and Yucatán.

WHERE TO EAT

OUR RESTAURANT PICKS

Chosen for their food, their track record and what past diners say. Price: $ budget · $$ mid-range · $$$ splurge.

LONCHERÍA EL POCITO $

Home-style Yucatecan · Downtown, SM 63 (Cancún)

★ **4.6** · 5,300 reviews on Google Maps

A family-run lonchería (casual lunch spot) downtown, far from the Hotel Zone, where locals eat. An easy introduction to Yucatecan cooking at neighborhood prices.

What diners love: Reviewers praise the home cooking, the generous portions and the friendly service. The daily menu changes and is written on a board.

Order: Cochinita pibil or huevos motuleños, a Yucatecan egg breakfast

Closed Tuesdays. Best for breakfast or lunch, not dinner.

EL FOGÓN $

Taquería, tacos al pastor · Av. Constituyentes (Playa del Carmen)

★ **4.5** · 13,300 reviews on Google Maps

Playa del Carmen's go-to taquería for tacos al pastor (spit-roasted marinated pork) and grilled meats. Fast, cheap and full of locals.

What diners love: Reviewers love the pastor carved straight off the trompo (vertical spit), the quick service and the honest prices. No reservation needed, and food lands in minutes.

Order: Tacos al pastor with pineapple

There are several locations; the one on Av. Constituyentes is the best known.

TAQUERÍA HONORIO $

Yucatecan antojitos (snacks), cochinita pibil · Tulum town (Tulum)

★ **4.7** · 3,670 reviews on Google Maps

A breakfast and lunch taquería famous for its cochinita pibil. It shows you local Tulum, far from beach-zone prices.

What diners love: Reviewers agree the cochinita is among the best in the area and that you eat well for very little. Expect a crowd.

Order: Cochinita pibil tacos or torta

Open 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; closed Mondays. Go early.

HARTWOOD $$$

Wood-fired cooking, local produce · Tulum-Boca Paila road, Hotel Zone (Tulum)

★ **4.4** · 1,575 reviews on Google Maps

The restaurant that put Tulum on the food map back in 2010. Everything is cooked over a wood fire with ingredients from Yucatán markets and producers.

What diners love: Reviewers praise the flavor the fire brings, the fish and seafood, and the open-air setting. Some find it pricey and the service uneven.

Order: Wood-fired catch of the day

Book on their website a month ahead. Open Wednesday to Sunday.

LA PLAYITA $$

Seafood and Mexican · Costera, on the lagoon (Bacalar)

★ **4.5** · 10,900 reviews on Google Maps

Bacalar's most-reviewed restaurant, with a garden and hammocks facing the lagoon of seven colors. A good way to spend the afternoon.

What diners love: Reviewers highlight the lagoon view, the ceviche, the shrimp burger and the cocktails. A lively scene, with a DJ some nights.

Order: Ceviche and a spicy margarita

Arrive before sunset to get a table near the water.

HOSTERÍA DEL MARQUÉS (HOTEL MESÓN DEL MARQUÉS) $$

Traditional Yucatecan · Main square, Centro (Valladolid)

★ **4.5** · 5,100 reviews on Google Maps

A Valladolid classic in a 17th-century colonial mansion facing the plaza. A good place to try regional dishes on a stop between Chichén Itzá and the cenotes.

What diners love: Reviewers single out the plant-filled colonial courtyard, the sopa de lima, the papadzules (egg-filled tortillas in pumpkin-seed sauce) and the cochinita. They describe it as calm and well run.

Order: Queso relleno (stuffed cheese) or Valladolid longaniza sausage

Opens at 7 a.m.; a good breakfast stop before the cenotes.

LOCAL FLAVORS

WHAT TO EAT

COCHINITA PIBIL

Pork marinated in achiote and sour orange, then slow-cooked wrapped in banana leaves. You eat it in tacos or tortas (sandwiches) with pickled red onion.

TIKIN XIC FISH

A fish fillet rubbed with achiote and grilled over wood in banana leaves. A classic of the Quintana Roo coast and Isla Mujeres.

SOPA DE LIMA

Yucatecan chicken broth with the local lima, a fragrant lime, plus strips of fried tortilla and herbs. Light and aromatic, just right for a hot day.

MARQUESITAS

A crisp rolled wafer filled with grated queso de bola (an Edam-style cheese) and cajeta (goat's-milk caramel) or Nutella. The classic street snack in town squares at night.



BOKANA TRAVEL

PICTURE YOURSELF IN THE MEXICAN CARIBBEAN? LET'S PLAN IT TOGETHER.

Join one of our groups on your own, or bring your people on a private trip.
Scan the code or message us.

Chat with us on WhatsApp

WhatsApp +57 315 817 6079

bokanatravel@gmail.com

bokanatravel.co/en/destinations/caribe-mexicano/

SOURCES

Cancillería de Colombia: recomendaciones para viajar a México (26 de marzo de 2024)
Instituto Nacional de Migración: portal de servicios, pre-registro y formulario digital migratorio
Embajada de México en Colombia: Soy colombiano, ¿qué necesito para viajar a México?
Infobae: trámite en línea para colombianos que viajan a México (20 de mayo de 2026)
Infobae: más de 53.000 colombianos inadmitidos en México en 2024 (26 de marzo de 2025)
Visitax, portal oficial del SATQ de Quintana Roo
Congreso de Quintana Roo: Ley de Derechos del Estado (art. 51 octies, 2,5 UMA)
The Cancun Sun: controles de Visitax en el aeropuerto de Cancún en 2026
Reporte Quintana Roo: Derecho de Saneamiento Ambiental 2026 y valor de la UMA
Presidencia de México: Plan Tulum Renace, tarifas de zona arqueológica y Parque del Jaguar (17 de julio de 2026)
PorEsto: costo de entrada a Chichén Itzá en 2026 (INAH y Cultur)
Blog de Xcaret: protector solar biodegradable
Red de Monitoreo del Sargazo de Quintana Roo
La Jornada: se adelanta arribazón de sargazo en Quintana Roo (9 de enero de 2026)
NOAA National Hurricane Center: climatología de la temporada atlántica
Wikipedia: Cancún (tabla climática del Servicio Meteorológico Nacional y zona horaria)
Viva Aerobus: ruta Bogotá a Cancún
Aviacionline: Viva Aerobus llega a Medellín con vuelos a Cancún
Trip.com: duración del vuelo Bogotá a Cancún
Wikipedia: Tren Maya
Infobae: vedas marinas de Conapesca en marzo de 2026
Wikipedia: electricidad por país (enchufes y voltaje)
Restaurant Guru: Lonchería El Pocito (Cancún)
Restaurant Guru: El Fogón (Playa del Carmen)

Photos: Erik Cleves Kristensen (CC BY 2.0), Wikimedia Commons (cover) · Arian Zwegers (CC BY 2.0), Wikimedia Commons · Bruce Tuten (CC BY 2.0), Wikimedia Commons · Gage Skidmore (CC BY-SA 4.0), Wikimedia Commons · Jennifer Woodard Maderazo (CC BY 2.0), Wikimedia Commons.

Bokana Travel. In compliance with Colombian Laws 679 of 2001 and 1336 of 2009, Bokana Travel rejects the exploitation, pornography, sex tourism and any form of sexual abuse of children and adolescents.