

Campeche

Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Campeche is a walled colonial port on the Gulf of Mexico, in the south-east of the country. Its historic centre is a World Heritage Site, with pastel houses, baroque churches and fortified walls that were built against pirates. The streets are quiet and clean, and the seafront promenade is popular in the evening.

It suits two nights, with day trips to Maya sites such as Edzná. It is also a base for the remote jungle ruins of Calakmul.

When to visit

November to March is the driest and coolest time. April to October is hot and humid, with heavy rain and storms. Hurricane season runs from about June to November.

Evening light-and-sound shows run at the city walls on most nights.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 33°	21° / 17°	Humid air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 35°	21° / 17°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for sightseeing	33° / 37°	23° / 19°	20 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 9 days above 35°
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	35° / 39°	24° / 21°	Muggy, humid air · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 19 days above 35°
May	Poor Poor for sightseeing	36° / 40°	26° / 23°	Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 20 days above 35°
June	Poor Poor for sightseeing	34° / 38° Feels like 37°	26° / 24°	17 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 9 days above 35°
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	34° / 36° Feels like 37°	25° / 24°	16 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 6 days above 35°
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	33° / 36° Feels like 37°	26° / 24°	19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
September	Poor Poor for sightseeing	32° / 35° Feels like 36°	25° / 24°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	31° / 34° Feels like 34°	24° / 21°	16 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
November	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 33°	22° / 19°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 33°	21° / 18°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds

Best months: January, December

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Centro Histórico de Campeche is the walled core with colourful houses, a main square and pedestrian streets.
- B Baluarte de San Carlos is a bastion with a museum about the pirate history of the city.
- C Baluarte de San Francisco is a bastion with a view over the old town and the sea.
- D Baluarte de San Pedro is a bastion and museum on the south-east side of the walls.
- E Iglesia de Jesús de Campeche is a baroque church near the walls.
- F Fuerte de San Miguel is a hilltop fort south of the town, with a museum of Maya objects and sea views.



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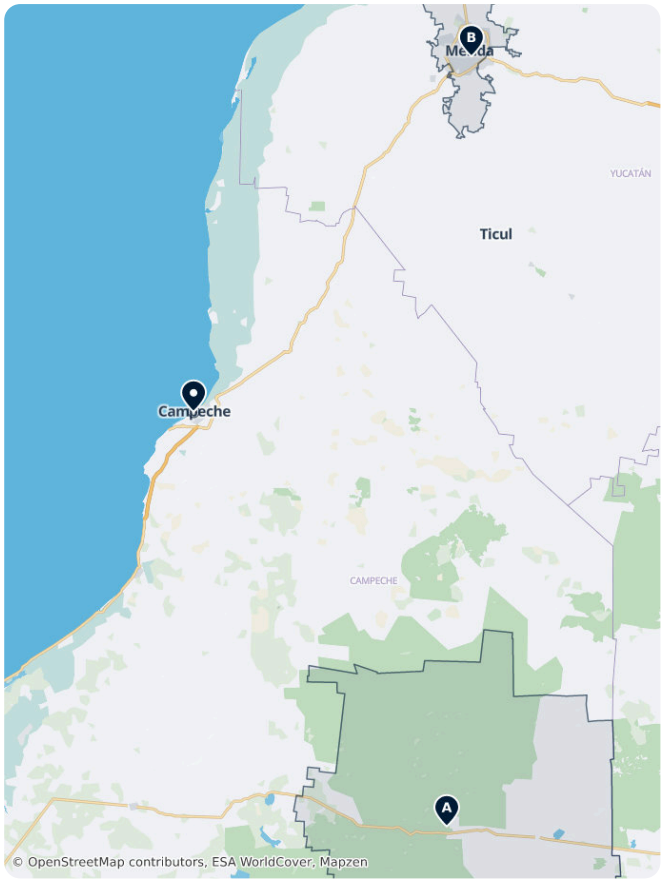
What to experience

- Walk the city walls and visit the bastions.
- Watch the evening light-and-sound show.
- Walk the seafront promenade at sunset.
- Take an early trip to the Edzná ruins.

Day trips

- Edzná: about 1 hour by car. A Maya site with a five-storey pyramid.
- A Calakmul: about 4 hours by car. Remote ruins in a large jungle reserve.
- B Merida: about 2.5 hours by car or bus. The capital of Yucatán.



Where to explore

- Merida for Yucatán's colonial capital.
- Calakmul for jungle ruins and wildlife.

Getting there

- **By air**: Campeche has a small airport (CPE) with flights from Mexico City. Mérida (MID) is a larger option, about 2.5 hours by road.
- **By bus**: ADO buses run to Mérida, Palenque, Villahermosa and Cancún. The main station is south-east of the centre.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The walled centre is flat and compact.
- **Tourist tram**: A tram-style bus loops around the old town and the fortresses.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are cheap. Agree the fare first.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The walled centre is flat, compact and pedestrian-friendly.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The centre and seafront are flat, but traffic and heat limit longer rides.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Useful for Edzná, Calakmul and other ruins. Not needed in town.
- **Roads**: Main highways are in good condition. Speed bumps (topes) appear at villages.
- **Parking**: Park outside the walls or in paid lots.

Food & drink

Campeche is known for seafood: pan de cazón (layered tortillas with shark or ray and beans), shrimp, crab and fish in tomato sauce. Yucatecan dishes such as cochinita pibil are also common.

Restaurants in the walled centre serve regional food, and markets offer cheaper meals.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Cochinita Pibil
Slow-roasted, citrus- and achiote-marinated pork, a Yucatán specialty traditionally cooked in an underground pit.

DINNER

Mole
A complex sauce, often built from chiles, spices, and sometimes chocolate; mole poblano and Oaxaca's several moles are the best known versions.

Chiles en Nogada
A Puebla dish of stuffed poblano chiles topped with a walnut cream sauce and pomegranate seeds, in the colors of the Mexican flag.

Pozole
A hominy stew with pork or chicken, topped with shredded cabbage, radish, and chile, traditionally eaten on special occasions.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Tacos
Corn or flour tortillas filled with meat, fish, or vegetables, with endless regional and stall-to-stall variation.

Tamales
Corn dough filled with meat, cheese, or vegetables, wrapped in a corn husk or banana leaf and steamed.

Elote/Esquites · Elote / Esquites
Grilled or boiled corn on the cob (elote) or served off the cob in a cup (esquites), topped with mayonnaise, cheese, chile, and lime.

DRINKS

Mezcal
A smoky agave spirit from Oaxaca and several other states, distinct from tequila, traditionally sipped neat.

Tequila
An agave spirit from the region around the town of Tequila in Jalisco, Mexico's best-known export spirit.

Horchata
A sweet, cinnamon-spiced rice-based drink, popular as a non-alcoholic accompaniment to spicy food.

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Safety & health

The walled centre is generally safe and well lit. Take usual care with bags and phones at night.

- The heat and humidity are strong. Drink plenty of water.
- Hurricane season is June to November. Follow weather news.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

The Spanish founded the city in 1540 as a port on the Gulf coast. Pirates raided it repeatedly in the 16th and 17th centuries. In response, the Spanish built a wall with bastions between 1686 and the 1700s. Most of the fortifications still stand.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



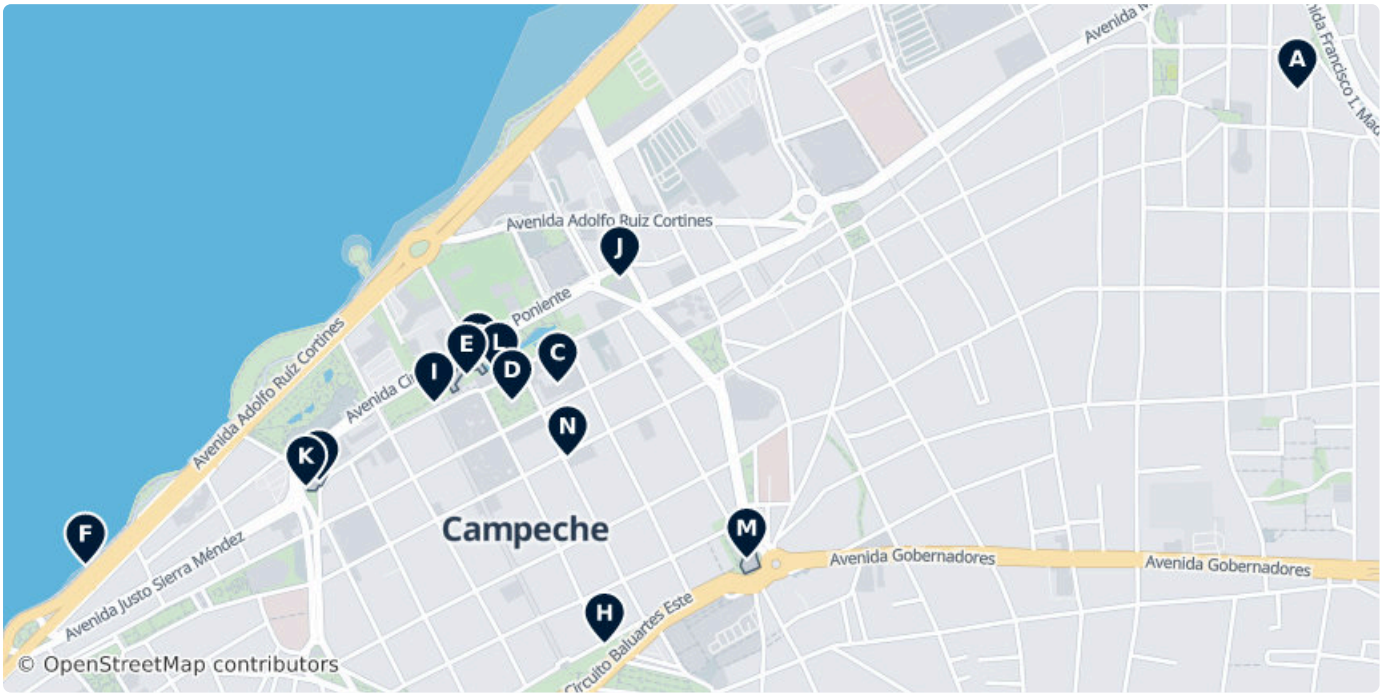
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

San Francisco de Campeche Essentials

San Francisco de Campeche is a UNESCO World Heritage site defined by its well-preserved 17th and 18th-century military architecture. The city's historic core features a grid of pastel-colored colonial buildings enclosed by defensive bastions like San Carlos and La Soledad, which now house archaeological and historical museums. Notable landmarks include the baroque Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the original city gates. Along the Gulf of Mexico, the two-mile waterfront promenade offers views of the sea walls once built to defend against pirate attacks.





A Historic Center of Campeche

The fortified city of Campeche is a part of the UNESCO heritage. Its center is beautiful and compact enough to be explored on foot.

5 Calle Altamirano, Campeche 24010, Mexico
(19.85123, -90.52265)



B Bastion of San Carlos

Dating back to the 17th century, this fort in pentagonal shape is the seat of the city museum, exhibiting various historic artifacts.

329 Calle 8, Campeche 24000, Mexico
(19.84452, -90.54051)



C Catedral de Nuestra Señora de la Purísma Concepción

Baroque-style cathedral on the main plaza featuring a limestone facade and two distinctive bell towers. Construction spanned from the 16th century until 1850, resulting in a blend of colonial architectural elements and a marble-paved interior housing sacred art.

311 Calle 10, Campeche 24000, Mexico
(19.84619, -90.53615)



D Plaza Principal

Also known as the Independence Square, this plaza is one of the oldest parts of Campeche and is a popular meeting point for the locals.

6 Calle 57, Campeche 24000, Mexico (19.84590, -90.53698)

E La Soledad

The largest bastion was built to protect the city from the sea side. The impressive structure holds a notable archaeological museum.

Calle 8, Zona Centro, 24000 Campeche, Camp., Mexiko
(19.84634, -90.53781)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

inah.gob.mx, +52 981 816 8174



F Campeche Waterfront Promenade

More than two miles long, this promenade leading along the sea is a great place for a walk. Come here to watch sunset!

62 Avenida Adolfo Ruíz Cortines, Campeche 24040, Mexico
(19.84308, -90.54477)



G Museum of Mayan Architecture

Located inside the Bastion of Solitude, this museum displays various interesting archaeological findings, especially monoliths.

Circuito Baluartes, Campeche 24000, Mexico (19.84653, -90.53760)

Tu–Su 08:00–17:00

inah.gob.mx/es/red-de-museos/199-museo-de-arquitect...



H San Francisco Walls

It is worth climbing the bastion as it offers very good panoramic view of the city.

Baluartes 163, Santa Ana, 24050 Campeche, Mexico (19.84172, -90.53529)

I The Ocean Gate

The strikingly simplistic structure was once an important entrance to the city. Destroyed and rebuilt again from the original material.

2 Calle 59, Campeche 24000, Mexico (19.84586, -90.53841)



J Santiago Bastion

The 18th century bastion now holds a nice botanical garden. Worth visiting if you're botanical enthusiast.

49, Centro, 24000 Campeche, Mexico (19.84801, -90.53502)



K Bastion of Santa Rosa

The oldest bastion in Campeche offers a magnificent view of the city and the sea and also houses several galleries of art.

342 Avenida Justo Sierra Méndez, Campeche 24040, Mexico (19.84442, -90.54075)

L Campeche Library

One of the most beautiful buildings of Campeche serves as a library. Notice its magnificent arched facade.

Calle 8 s/n entre 55 y 57, 24000 Campeche, Mexico (19.84637, -90.53723)

bibliotecacampeche.campeche.gob.mx, +52 981 811 6598



M Bastion of San Pedro

Local rumours say that this fort used to be the seat of the Inquisition. Nowadays, there is a visitor center and a museum here.

87 Circuito Baluartes, Campeche 24050, Mexico (19.84318, -90.53270)



N Church of Jesus of Campeche

Dating back to the 16th century, this is one of the main churches in Campeche. Come to see its beautiful altars.

Calle 55 con la Calle 12 en el Centro, 24000 Campeche, Mexico (19.84493, -90.53597)

DATA SOURCES

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