

Isla Holbox

Quintana Roo · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Isla Holbox is a long, narrow island off the north coast of the Yucatán Peninsula, in a protected nature reserve. It has no paved roads and cars are limited, so people walk or use bikes and golf carts. The village has colourful streets, small hotels and beach bars.

It suits two to four quiet nights. Visitors come for the wide sandy beaches, shallow water, birds and boat trips to see whale sharks in summer.

When to visit

December to April is dry and sunny. From June to September, whale sharks gather offshore and the island is busiest. Hurricane season runs from about June to November. Seaweed can wash up on beaches in some years.

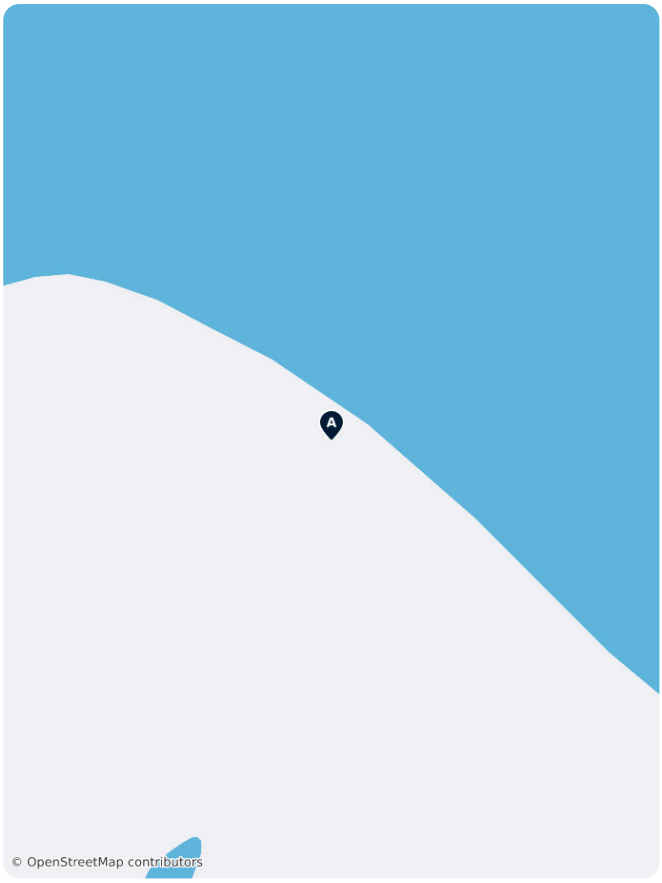
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for wildlife watching	27° / 30°	21° / 18°	Muggy, humid air
February	Great Great for the beach	28° / 31°	22° / 18°	Muggy, humid air
March	Great Great for the beach	29° / 33°	22° / 19°	20 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
April	Great Great for the beach	31° / 34°	24° / 21°	Muggy, humid air · UV 10 (Very high)
May	Good Good for the beach	32° / 35°	25° / 23°	Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
June	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	31° / 34° Feels like 35°	25° / 24°	16 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Fair Fair for the beach	32° / 34° Feels like 36°	26° / 25°	16 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	32° / 34° Feels like 36°	26° / 25°	20 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
September	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	31° / 33° Feels like 35°	26° / 24°	23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
October	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	29° / 32°	25° / 23°	19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
November	Good Good for wildlife watching	28° / 31°	23° / 21°	Muggy, humid air
December	Great Great for wildlife watching	27° / 30°	22° / 19°	Muggy, humid air

Best months: January, February, March

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

Top sights

- A Isla Holbox is the main beach along the village, with calm water and sand.
- Punta Cocos is a beach and sandbar at the western end of the island, known for sunsets and shells.
- Punta Mosquito is a sandbar at the eastern end, with birds and shallow water.
- Boat trips go to see whale sharks (June to September), flamingos and the Yalahau spring.
- On some nights, the water glows with bioluminescence near the beach.



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Getting there

- **By road and ferry**: Drive or take a bus to Chiquilá, about 2.5 hours from Cancún. Ferries to Holbox run through the day and take about 25 minutes.
- **By air**: The nearest large airport is Cancún (CUN). Small planes also fly to Holbox from Cancún and Playa del Carmen.

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

Isla Holbox Essentials

Isla Holbox is a car-free destination within the Yum Balam Biosphere Reserve, characterized by unpaved sandy streets and shallow turquoise waters. This list highlights essential locations, including the expansive sandbars of Punta Mosquito, the nocturnal bioluminescence at Punta Cocos, and the central plaza's vibrant street art. Key stops include the local animal sanctuary and Pizzeria Edelyn, credited with creating the island's signature lobster pizza.





A Holbox Island

Holbox is an island in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo, located on the north coast of the Yucatán Peninsula.

77310, Mexico (21.56049, -87.32897)

holboxisland.com, +52 998 865 42 25

B Punta Cocos

A quiet beach on the island's western tip with shallow, calm waters. Its minimal light pollution makes it a primary spot for viewing bioluminescence at night.

(21.50984, -87.39468)

C Punta Mosquito

A protected sandbar at the northern end of the island accessible by walking through knee-deep water. It serves as a feeding ground for flamingos and migratory birds.

(21.55831, -87.32673)

D Bioluminescencia

A natural phenomenon occurring in the shallow waters where microscopic organisms emit a blue glow when disturbed. Best viewed on moonless nights at the island's western edges.

(21.50854, -87.39263)

Mo–Su 20:30–00:00

E Holbox (Big Letters Sign)

Large, colorful sculptural letters situated on the main beach, serving as a landmark and photography point.

(21.52522, -87.37971)

F holbox hamacas

Traditional woven hammocks suspended over the shallow ocean water, located at various points along the northern shoreline.

Mexico (21.53222, -87.36932)



G Pizzeria Edeleyn

A central restaurant established in 1985, widely recognized as the birthplace of the island's specialty lobster pizza.

(21.52386, -87.37837)

H Plaza Principal

The island's social hub featuring a colorful acoustic shell, a basketball court, and numerous murals. It hosts local community events and evening food stalls.

(21.52374, -87.37893)

I Animal Refuge

A volunteer-run sanctuary that rescues and rehabilitates injured domestic and wild animals, including dogs, cats, and tropical birds.

(21.52183, -87.38211)

DATA SOURCES

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