

Isla Mujeres Municipality

Quintana Roo · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Isla Mujeres is a small island off Cancún, about 8 km long and a few hundred metres wide. It has a relaxed town at the northern end, calm beaches and clear water. The main sights are a sea turtle farm, reef snorkelling and a cliff at the south end with sea views.

It suits a day trip from Cancún or two to three nights if you want a slower pace. Most visitors get around by golf cart.

When to visit

December to April is dry and sunny. Summer is hot and humid, and hurricane season runs from about June to November. From June to September, whale sharks gather off the coast, and the season draws boat trips.

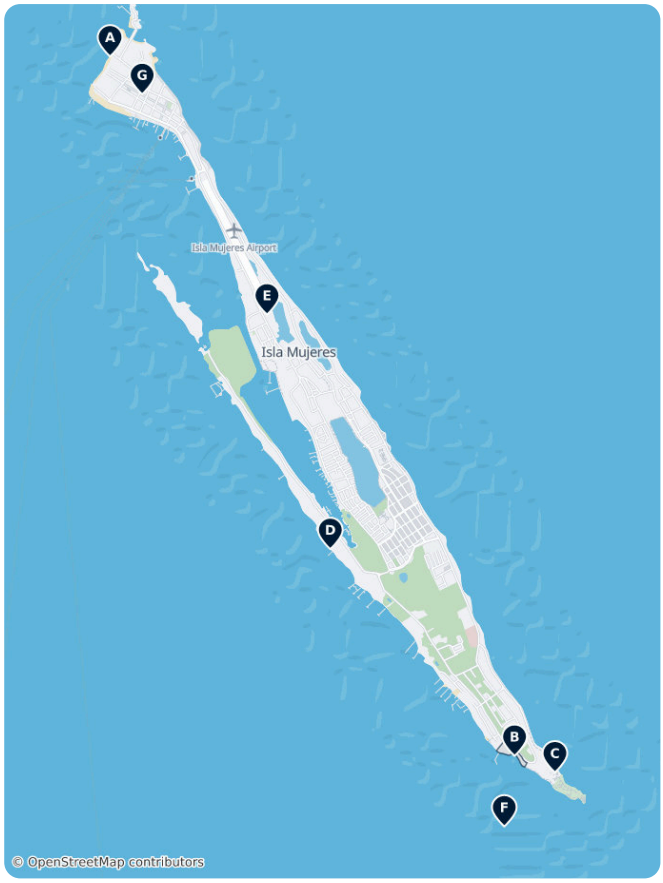
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 28°	22° / 19°	13 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
February	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 28°	23° / 20°	Muggy, humid air
March	Great Great for watersports	27° / 29°	24° / 20°	23 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
April	Great Great for watersports	28° / 30°	25° / 22°	22 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
May	Good Good for watersports	29° / 31°	26° / 24°	Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
June	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	29° / 31°	26° / 24°	20 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
July	Good Good for watersports	30° / 31°	27° / 25°	Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	30° / 32° Feels like 33°	27° / 25°	21 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	30° / 31° Feels like 33°	26° / 25°	24 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 9 (Very high)
October	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	28° / 30°	25° / 24°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
November	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 29°	24° / 22°	15 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
December	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 28°	23° / 20°	15 rainy days · Muggy, humid air

Best months: February, March, April

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

Top sights

- A North Beach is the town beach, with shallow calm water and sand.
- B Garrafon Isla Mujeres Reef Park is a reef park at the south end, with snorkelling, a zip line and a beach club.
- C Punta Sur is a cliff at the island's tip, with sculptures, a lighthouse and sea views.
- D Tortugranja is a sea turtle farm that protects and releases turtles.
- E Hacienda Mundaca is a ruined hacienda and garden, linked to a pirate story.
- F Museo Subacuático de Arte is an underwater sculpture park for snorkellers and divers.
- G Miguel Hidalgo is the main street in town, with restaurants, shops and bars.



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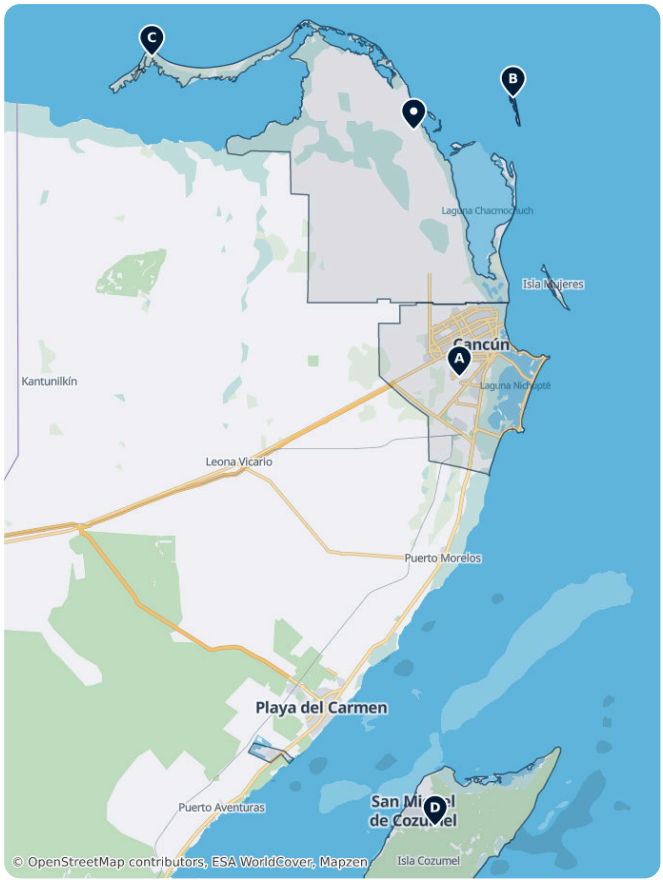
What to experience

- Rent a golf cart and drive to Punta Sur for the view.
- Snorkel at the reef park or at the underwater sculpture park.
- Visit the sea turtle farm and learn about turtle protection.
- Join a boat trip to swim near whale sharks in summer.

Day trips

- A Cancun: about 20 minutes by ferry from the mainland. It is the usual way to reach the island.
- B Isla Contoy: a boat trip of about 1.5 hours. A protected bird island with beaches.
- C Isla Holbox: about 3 hours by road and ferry. A car-free island with sandy streets.
- D Cozumel: about 2 hours by road and ferry. A diving island.



Where to explore

- Cancun for the airport, the ferry and the hotel zone.
- Isla Contoy for a protected bird island north of Isla Mujeres.
- Cozumel for diving and reefs.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest airport is Cancún (CUN), about 30 minutes from the ferry terminals.
- **By ferry**: Passenger ferries leave from Puerto Juárez and from Playa Tortugas in Cancún. The crossing takes about 20 minutes. A car ferry leaves from Punta Sam.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The town is small, and most things are close.
- **Golf cart**: The main way to see the island. Rent one for a few hours.
- **Bike or scooter**: Good on a flat island.
- **Taxi**: Taxis run at set fares across the island.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The town is small and flat. Most places are a short walk, and golf carts cover the rest.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The island is small and flat, and bikes are easy to rent.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not needed. Leave your car on the mainland and rent a golf cart on the island.
- **Roads**: The island has one main road, with speed limits and few cars.
- **Parking**: Parking lots near the Cancún ferry terminals charge a daily fee.

Food & drink

Seafood is the main food: grilled fish, ceviche, lobster and tikin xic, a fish dish cooked with achiote paste. Many places in town offer seafood at tables on the beach.

Street food and small family restaurants around the town are cheaper than the waterfront places.

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 island is small and generally safe. Take usual care with bags and phones at night.

- Currents can be strong on the east coast. Swim at marked beaches.
- Use boat operators who provide life jackets and have a licence.
- Use reef-safe sunscreen. Do not touch coral or marine life.
- Hurricane season is June to November. Follow weather news and your hotel's advice.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

The Maya used the island as a shrine to Ixchel, the goddess of the moon. Spanish sailors reached the coast in 1517 and named it Isla Mujeres, the island of women, after the female figures found at the shrine.

Fishing was the main industry for centuries. Tourism has grown since Cancún opened in the 1970s.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



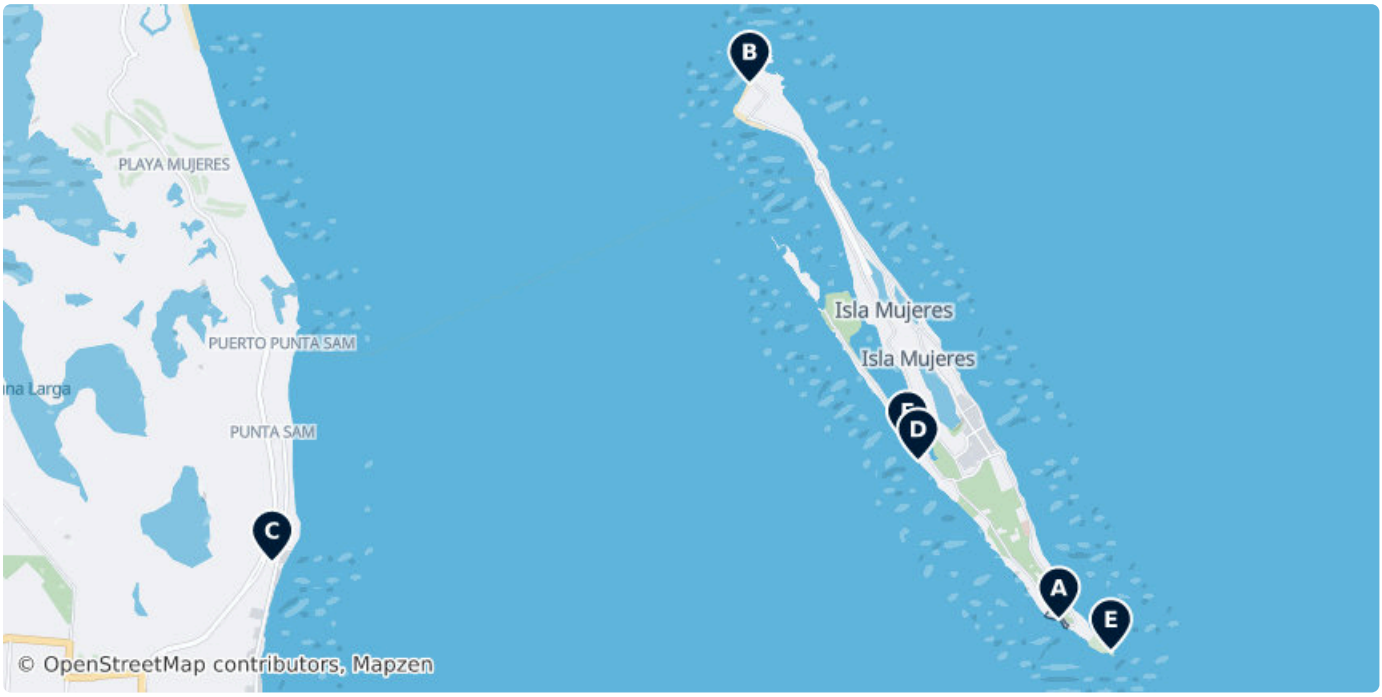
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Isla Mujeres Essentials

This selection explores the diverse landscape of Isla Mujeres, from its northern tip to the southern cliffs. Playa Norte offers shallow turquoise waters and white sand, while the southern end features the Garrafon Natural Reef Park for snorkeling and the ancient Mayan Temple of Ixchel, dedicated to the goddess of the moon. The island's heritage is preserved at the El Meco archaeological site and the Tortugranja turtle sanctuary, which focuses on local marine conservation. Playa Tiburón provides a quiet beach setting with traditional seafood dining options.





A Garrafon Natural Reef Park

The nature reserve preserves a part of cliffs and adjacent reefs. Enjoyable from the land as well as by snorkeling.

Avenida Rueda Medina, 77403, Mexico
(21.20529, -86.71669)

garrafon.com, +52 998 193 3360



B North Beach

Lined with resorts yet still welcoming. Fine white sand and turquoise water make warranty for a great day out.

77400 (21.26065, -86.75099)



C El Meco

Explore what is left from the once important port city. Off the beaten path - a pleasant experience with special atmosphere.

López Portillo, 84, 77525 Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico (21.21117, -86.80395)



D Turtle Farm

Take your kids to this government-run sanctuary and conservation centre that actually helps the animals, doesn't exploit them.

77400 Isla Mujeres, Q.R., Mexico (21.22166, -86.73231)

+52 998 877 0595

E Temple of Ixchel

Ancient Mayan ruins dedicated to the goddess of the moon and fertility, situated on the steep cliffs of Punta Sur, the island's southernmost point.

(21.20200, -86.71092)

F Playa Tiburón

A quiet beach area on the western side of the island featuring calm waters and local seafood palapas.

Avenida Capitán Dulche (21.22350, -86.73348)

DATA SOURCES

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