

Playa del Carmen

Quintana Roo · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Playa del Carmen is a lively beach town on the Riviera Maya, south of Cancún. It grew from a small ferry port into a resort city. Today it has white beaches, a long pedestrian street, many restaurants and a large mix of visitors and foreign residents.

It suits first-time visitors who want a beach base with easy trips to cenotes, Maya sites and Cozumel. Nights are lively, and the town is easy to use without a car.

When to visit

December to April is dry, sunny and the busiest period. Prices are highest around Christmas and in March.

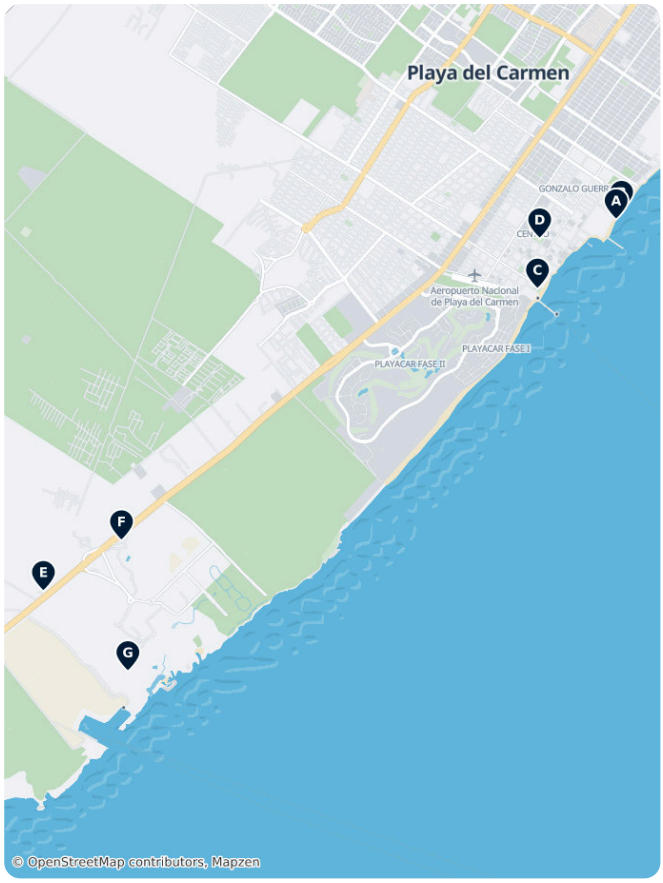
May to October is hot, humid and rainy, with less crowding. Hurricane season runs from June to November. Seaweed (sargassum) can reach the beaches from spring to autumn.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 28°	22° / 18°	13 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
February	Great Great for watersports	27° / 29°	22° / 18°	Muggy, humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
March	Great Great for watersports	28° / 30°	23° / 19°	23 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 10 (Very high)
April	Great Great for watersports	29° / 31°	24° / 21°	23 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · UV 11 (Extreme)
May	Good Good for watersports	30° / 32°	25° / 23°	Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
June	Poor Poor for watersports	30° / 32° Feels like 33°	26° / 24°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
July	Fair Fair for watersports	31° / 32° Feels like 34°	26° / 25°	Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Fair Fair for watersports	31° / 32° Feels like 35°	26° / 25°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Poor Poor for watersports	30° / 32° Feels like 34°	26° / 24°	26 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Fair Fair for watersports	29° / 31° Feels like 32°	25° / 22°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
November	Good Good for watersports	27° / 29°	23° / 20°	15 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
December	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 29°	22° / 19°	14 rainy days · Muggy, humid air

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

Top sights

- A Playa de Coco is the main town beach, close to the ferry pier. It is busy and has beach clubs and loungers.
- B Playa Mamitas is a short walk north along the same coast. It is a good place for a quieter beach day.
- C Parque Fundadores is the park beside the ferry pier and the start of the main tourist street. It has a church and street performers.
- D Plaza 28 de Julio is a central square with food stalls and a small market feel.
- E Rio Secreto is an underground river cave. Visitors walk and swim through it with a guide.
- F XPLOR Park is an adventure park with zip lines, caves and rafting in underground rivers.
- G Mulchí is a small Maya site on the edge of town. It is quiet and quick to see.



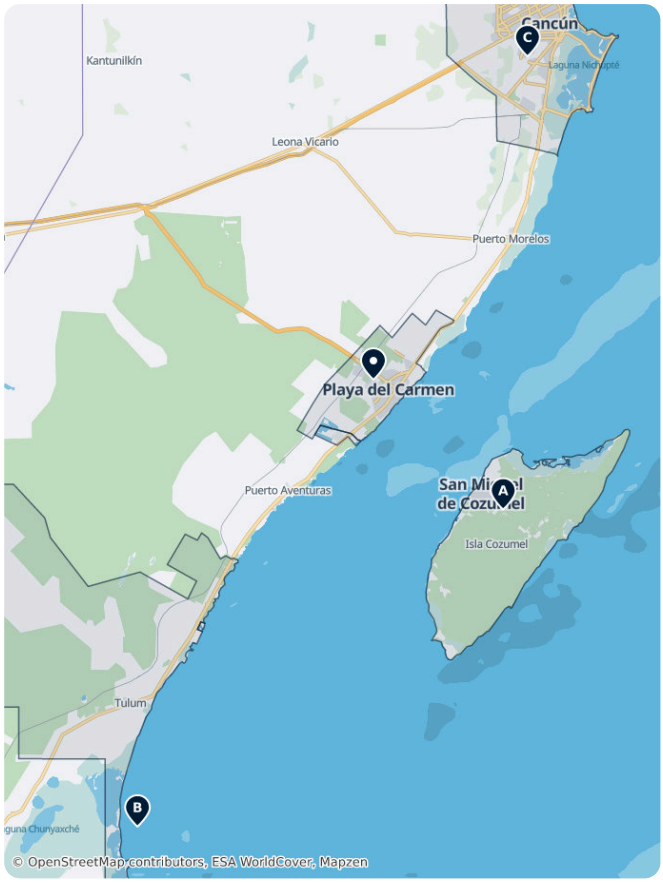
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Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
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What to experience

- Walk along the main pedestrian street (Quinta Avenida) in the evening, when shops and bars are open.
- Take the ferry to Cozumel and snorkel or dive on the reef.
- Swim in a cenote and a cave river with a guide.
- Join a night of live music in the bars near the main square.

Day trips

- A Cozumel: the ferry takes about 40 minutes. It has some of the best diving and snorkelling in Mexico.
- Akumal: about 25 minutes by car. A bay where green turtles feed on seagrass.
- B Tulum: about 1 hour by bus or car. Maya ruins on a sea cliff and many cenotes.
- Chichén Itzá: about 2 hours by car. The most visited Maya site in the region.
- C Cancún: about 1 hour by bus. The airport and the hotel zone.



Where to explore

- Tulum for ruins, cenotes and a slower beach scene.
- Cozumel for diving and a quiet island town.
- Cancún for flights and large resorts.
- Isla Holbox for a car-free island with a relaxed pace.

Getting there

- **By air**: Most visitors land at Cancún airport (CUN), about 55 km north. ADO buses run directly from the airport to Playa del Carmen in about an hour. Shuttles and taxis are also available. Cozumel airport has some flights too.
- **By bus**: ADO coaches link Playa del Carmen with Cancún, Tulum, Mérida and other cities. The main bus station is a short walk from the centre.
- **By ferry**: Ferries to Cozumel leave from the pier next to the main square.
- **Shared vans**: Colectivo vans run along the highway to Tulum and Cancún.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre and the main tourist street are walkable and mostly flat.
- **Taxi**: Taxis have no meters. Agree the fare before you start.
- **Colectivos**: Shared vans run to nearby beaches, parks and towns along the highway.
- **Bike**: Bikes are easy to rent for short trips.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The centre and the main tourist street are flat and easy to walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Bikes are easy to rent. Traffic is heavy on the main roads.

Food & drink

Try tacos al pastor, fresh fish and ceviche. Yucatán dishes such as cochinita pibil are easy to find.

Eat on the streets away from the main tourist street for better prices. Calle 38 and the area around Plaza 28 de Julio have many small local places. Restaurants on Quinta Avenida are more expensive.

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

Playa del Carmen is a major tourist town and is generally safe in busy areas. Take normal care at night and on quiet streets.

- Do not leave bags unattended on the beach.
- Use licensed taxis and agree the fare first.
- Drink bottled or purified water.
- Be careful with drinks in nightclubs.
- Follow beach flag colours. Currents can be strong.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



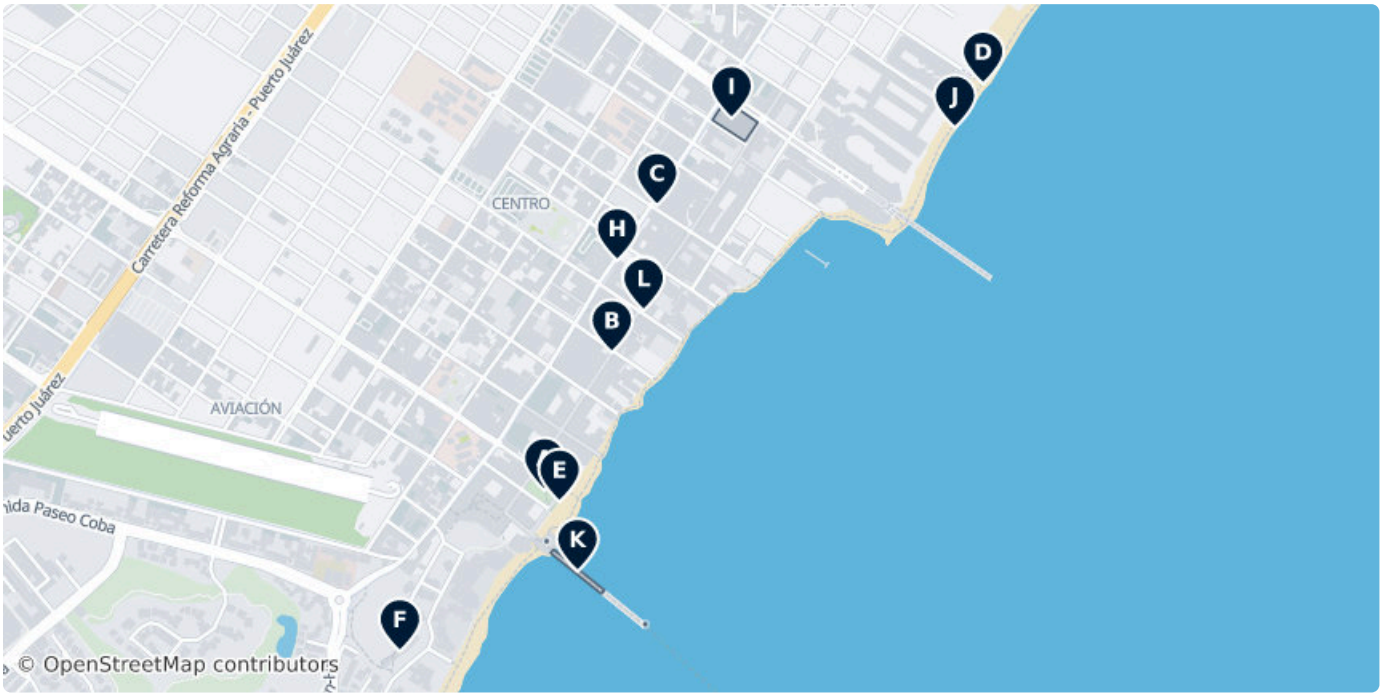
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Playa del Carmen Essentials

Playa del Carmen's center is defined by Quinta Avenida, a pedestrian thoroughfare lined with international shops and dining. The coastal area features the iconic Portal Maya sculpture at Parque Fundadores and the active beach clubs of Playa Mamitas. Cultural highlights include the Frida Kahlo Museum and the 3D Museum of Wonders, while the Playacar district preserves ancient Maya ruins. The ferry terminal provides direct transit to Cozumel, and the nightlife is anchored by the large-scale acrobatic performances at Coco Bongo.





A Parque Fundadores

Beachfront public square known for the Voladores de Papantla (flying dancers) performances and the Portal Maya sculpture.

Calle Juárez, Playa del Carmen 77713, Mexico (20.62204, -87.07501)



B Fifth Avenue

The pedestrian street is Playa del Carmen's main road where numerous restaurants, cafés and shops can be found. There are also many clubs.

156 Calle 6 N, Playa del Carmen 77710, Mexico (20.62499, -87.07347)



C Coco Bongo

Multi-level venue combining a nightclub with live acrobatic performances, musical tributes, and cinematic special effects.

224 Avenida 10 N, Playa del Carmen 77710, Mexico (20.62815, -87.07244)



D Playa mamitas

Beach club area featuring a wide sandy shore, sun loungers, and regular electronic music events.

Calle 28 N, Playa del Carmen 77720, Mexico (20.63074, -87.06498)



E portal maya

A 16-meter-high bronze sculpture by José Purús, installed in 2012 to commemorate the Mayan calendar cycle.

Calle 2, Playa del Carmen 77713, Mexico (20.62180, -87.07467)



F Maya ruins

Small archaeological site located within the Playacar residential area, featuring stone structures from the post-classic period.

19 Calle Bahía del Espíritu Santo, Playa del Carmen 77713, Mexico (20.61859, -87.07833)

G Frida Kahlo

Biographical museum documenting the artist's life through photographs, interactive displays, and conceptual art installations.

5th Avenue, 77720 Playa del Carmen, ROO, Mexico (20.62592, -87.07276)

H 3D Museum

Indoor gallery featuring large-scale optical illusion artwork designed for interactive photography.

(20.62696, -87.07335)

I Quinta Alegría

Multi-level, open-air shopping center housing international fashion brands and a central plant-filled atrium.

Ave Constituyentes, 77710 Playa del Carmen (20.63000, -87.07073)

Mo–Su 10:00–23:00



J Coco Beach

This beach is always busy, regardless the time or season. Lined with hotels, bars and restaurants.

Costera Norte Lte. 1 Mza. 7 S/N, Región 6, Luis Donaldo Colosio, 77728 Playa del Carmen, Q.R., Mexico (20.62980, -87.06562)

thereefcocobeach.com, +52 844 413 2655

K Ferry to Cozumel

Transportation hub providing regular passenger ferry service across the Caribbean to Cozumel island.

Mexico (20.62031, -87.07426)

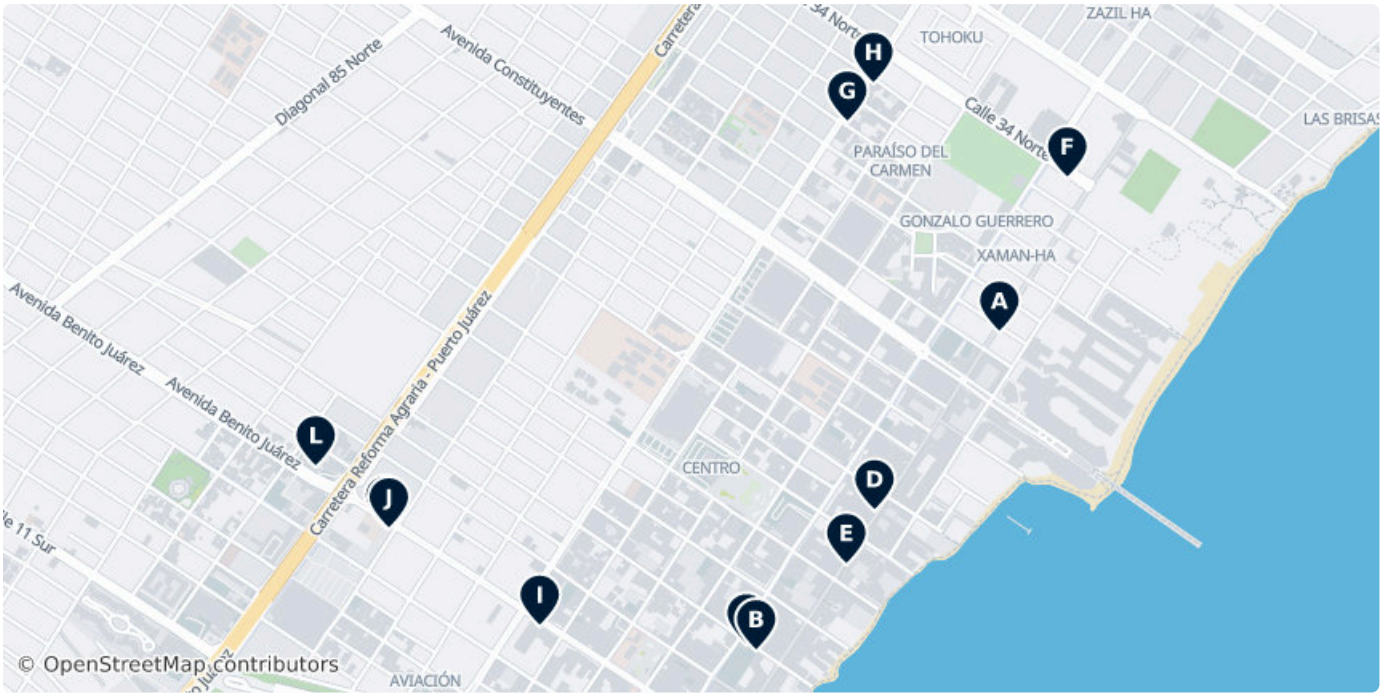
L Frida Kahlo Restaurante

Gourmet restaurant specializing in Mexican cuisine with decor and plating inspired by the artist Frida Kahlo.

(20.62589, -87.07274)

Best Mexican Food

Playa del Carmen's culinary scene offers a diverse mix of regional Yucatecan specialties and street-style favorites. This selection includes El Fogon, renowned for its tacos al pastor, and Loncheria Doña Mary, which serves traditional salbutes and panuchos. For regional flavors, El Almendro focuses on ancestral Mayan recipes. The list also features modern seafood at Zitla Ceiba, which accepts cryptocurrency, and Nativo, a local staple for oversized fruit smoothies and traditional Mexican breakfasts.



A senior frogs

Collaborative venue featuring a lively atmosphere and a menu designed by American chef Guy Fieri.

618 Calle 20 N, Playa del Carmen 77720, Mexico
(20.63096, -87.06922)

guyfieri.com

B Ajua

Restaurant specializing in Yucatecan regional cuisine and authentic Mexican cooking classes.

Calle 4, Playa del Carmen 77710, Mexico
(20.62440, -87.07457)

C El Almendro

Traditional Yucatecan restaurant serving regional specialties like cochinita pibil, papadzules, and sopa de lima.

158 Avenida 10 N, Playa del Carmen 77710, Mexico
(20.62453, -87.07478)

D Tequila Barrel

Bar and grill on 5th Avenue featuring a large selection of tequilas and casual Mexican fare.

221 Calle 12, Playa del Carmen 77710, Mexico
(20.62728, -87.07196)

tequilabarrel.com, 9848731061

E Tropical

Open-air restaurant on 5th Avenue serving a variety of Mexican breakfast dishes and international cuisine.

(20.62618, -87.07258)

tropical-playa.com, 9848732111

F Zitla Ceiba

Seafood-focused restaurant serving aguachile and ceviche, notable for accepting Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

(20.63413, -87.06772)

Mo–Th	14:00–23:45
Fr–Su	12:00–23:45

facebook.com/Zitla-Ceiba-10216224529... , +529841984480

G Loncheria Doña Mary

Local eatery specializing in traditional Yucatecan snacks including empanadas, salbutes, and panuchos.

Avenida 30 N, Playa del Carmen 77720, Mexico (20.63528, -87.07256)

H El Fogon

Local spot specializing in tacos al pastor, roasted over an open flame, and grilled meats.

231 Calle 32 N, Playa del Carmen 77720, Mexico (20.63607, -87.07199)

I Carnitas Merchant

Casual restaurant specializing in Michoacán-style carnitas and pork tacos.

Avenida Benito Juárez García, Playa del Carmen 77713, Mexico (20.62491, -87.07933)

J Doña Juanita y Cia.

Local kitchen serving traditional Mexican breakfast and lunch dishes.

Avenida Benito Juárez García, Playa del Carmen 77713, Mexico (20.62691, -87.08265)

K El Querreque

Casual Mexican grill serving tacos, mezcal, and regional grilled specialties.

Avenida Benito Juárez García, Playa del Carmen 77713, Mexico (20.62695, -87.08273)

L Nativo

Local favorite known for traditional Mexican breakfast plates and exceptionally large fresh fruit smoothies and juices.

Avenida Benito Juárez García, Playa del Carmen 77712, Mexico (20.62819, -87.08426)

International Cuisine

Playa del Carmen's culinary scene extends beyond local fare to include a sophisticated array of global flavors. This selection features specialized venues such as Paz Kosher for Mediterranean dishes and Yum Yum by George for Thai and Indian spices. European influences are prominent at LE P'TIT SHOUX SHOUX with French pastries and Belmonte by George for Portuguese specialties. Several establishments, including Schnitzel Garten and Zitla Ceiba, facilitate modern payment methods by accepting Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.



A Sr Frogs

Beachfront bar and international restaurant featuring a lively atmosphere and casual dining options.

Playa del Carmen 77713, Mexico (20.62093, -87.07519)



B Blue Lobster

International restaurant specializing in fresh seafood dishes and Caribbean lobster preparations.

221 Calle 12, Playa del Carmen 77710, Mexico (20.62744, -87.07156)

9848731360

C Los Rancheros

International restaurant often featuring live Mexican music and a menu of traditional local and global dishes.

156 Calle 6 N, Playa del Carmen 77710, Mexico
(20.62463, -87.07366)

losrancheros.net, 9848733430

D Paz Kosher Restaurant

Glatt Kosher establishment serving Mediterranean cuisine with available Wi-Fi for guests.

(20.62690, -87.07305)

Mo–Th	14:00–23:00
Fr	12:00–16:30
Su	14:00–23:00

m.facebook.com/pazplayadelcarmen/, 9841540267

E Belmonte by George

Restaurant specializing in Portuguese and Mediterranean cuisine. Serves breakfast and accepts Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

(20.62530, -87.07469)

Mo	07:00–14:00
Tu–Su	07:00–22:30

grupobygeorge.com, +529841295981

F Yum Yum by George

Fusion restaurant focusing on Thai and Indian cuisine. The venue accepts credit cards and various cryptocurrencies.

(20.62554, -87.07446)

Mo–Su	07:00–22:30

grupobygeorge.com

G Di Vino

International restaurant featuring an Italian-influenced menu and an extensive selection of wines.

221 Calle 12, Playa del Carmen 77710, Mexico
(20.62757, -87.07176)

divino.com.mx, 9848031270

H Schnitzel Garten

European-style eatery serving German, Italian, and Spanish dishes. This establishment accepts Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

(20.64352, -87.06197)

Mo–Fr	16:00–22:00
Sa–Su	17:00–21:30

facebook.com/Schnitzel-Garten-Playa-D... , +529841976695

I Zitla Ceiba

Seafood-centric restaurant blending Mexican flavors with international techniques. Accepts cryptocurrency payments including Bitcoin.

(20.63413, -87.06772)

Mo–Th	14:00–23:45
Fr–Su	12:00–23:45

facebook.com/Zitla-Ceiba-10216224529... , +529841984480

J LE P'TIT SHOUX SHOUX

French cafe and bakery offering breakfast and outdoor seating. Provides free internet access for patrons.

(20.63984, -87.06281)

Mo–Su	07:00–14:30

le-ptit-shoux.business.site, +529842223446

Cheester Es Pasta

Casual dining venue dedicated to pasta dishes, known for generous portions and a wide variety of sauces.

(20.62841, -87.08027)

cheesterplaya.mx

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