

DZILAM DE BRAVO & SANTA CLARA

The white-sand beaches are so quiet here and the pace so slow that you wonder if *mañana* will ever come – the ultimate escapist's retreat.

OXKUTZCAB

Most people are usually just passing through here before visiting the Grutas de Loltún, a sprawling nearby cave system. But checking out the town's sights and regional cooking certainly has its rewards if you're craving local flavor.

RÍO LAGARTOS

A biosphere reserve that's home to flamingos, crocs, herons and other fascinating creatures. It's reached from a laid-back fishing village far off the tourist track.

PUNTA ALLEN

Prepare yourself for a four-hour, transmission-grinding road trip to this small fishing village, but all is forgiven once you settle into a hotel on the quiet beach here.

PUNTA HERRERO

At the end of a long, bumpy dirt road, this remote fishing village sits pretty between the Caribbean Sea and the lush Sian Ka'an jungle. It makes for a great day trip from Mahahual.

DZIBANCHÉ

This archaeological site is out of the way and you'll need a car to get here, but the precious country scenery along the road makes it all worthwhile. Inside, it's usually just you, the ruins and the iguanas.

CENOTES MIGUEL COLORADO

A 10km potholed road leads to the village of Miguel Colorado, where you can set out on a hike along rocky trails to reach two wonderfully scenic cenotes (limestone sinkholes). Swimming is prohibited but you can take a kayak out.

EL TIGRE

These recently uncovered Maya ruins set in wetlands see few visitors. It's believed to be none other than the place where conquistador Hernan Cortés executed Cuauhtémoc, the last Aztec ruler of Tenochtitlán.

