



Isla Mujeres

📍 998 / POP 16,000

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Olivia (p81)
- ➔ Mango Café (p81)
- ➔ Mininos (p81)
- ➔ Lola Valentina (p81)
- ➔ Pita Amore (p79)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Poc-Na Hostel (p78)
- ➔ Casa El Pio (p79)
- ➔ Hotel Villa Kiin (p79)
- ➔ Xbulu-Ha Hotel (p79)
- ➔ Hotel Kinich (p79)

Why Go?

Some people plan their vacation around Cancún and pencil in Isla Mujeres as a side trip. But Isla Mujeres is a destination in its own right, and it's generally quieter and more affordable than the options you get across the bay.

Sure, there are quite a few tacky tourist shops, but folks still get around by golf cart and the crushed-coral beaches are even better than those of Cozumel and Holbox. As for the calm turquoise water of Isla Mujeres, well, you really just have to see it for yourself.

There's just enough here to keep you entertained: snorkel or scuba dive, visit a turtle farm or put on your sunglasses and settle in with that book you've been dying to finish. Come sunset, there are plenty of dining options, and the nightlife scene moves at a relaxed island pace.

When to Go

- ➔ For the experience of a lifetime, go from mid-June through August to snorkel with 15-ton whale sharks in nearby waters.
- ➔ It's quite a sight to watch sea turtles come ashore for nesting season around August and September, and if you want to get a closer look at the little fellas you can always drop by the island's turtle farm.
- ➔ Hotels tend to get booked up during the winter high season (December to April), so you're better off visiting in November, when you'll find vacancies and low-season discounts.

Isla Mujeres Highlights

1 Drop by the **Isla Mujeres Turtle Farm** (p78) and say hello to your new flippered friends.

2 Relax on the white sands of **Playa Norte** (p77) and have a swim in the shallow crystalline waters.

3 Rent a golf cart or scooter and feel the warm wind in your face as you explore **Punta Sur** (p77) and other parts of the island.

4 Head out on a boat from the **Fisherman's Cooperative** (p77) to go snorkeling with whale sharks.

5 Dive into the deep Caribbean blue and explore a sunken ship at **Ultrafreeze** (p77).

