



Riviera Maya

Includes ➔

Puerto Morelos	99
Punta Bete	103
Playa del Carmen	103
Punta Venado.....	109
Paamul	109
Xpu-Há	110
Akumal	110
Xcachel-Xcachelito	111
Parque Dos Ojos	112
Bahías de Punta Solimán.....	112
Tankah.....	113
Tulum	113
Around Tulum	120

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Posada Margherita (p118)
- ➔ Taquería Honorio (p118)
- ➔ Al Chimichurri (p102)
- ➔ Los Aguachiles (p107)

Best Beaches

- ➔ Punta Allen (p124)
- ➔ Puerto Morelos (p99)
- ➔ Tulum (p113)
- ➔ Xcachel (p111)
- ➔ Playa del Carmen (p103)

Why Go?

The Riviera Maya, a tourist corridor of white-sand beaches, scenic ruins and fun-filled cenotes (limestone sinkholes), was made for road-tripping. Yes, it's growing fast, too fast some will say, but despite all the development, you can still find that small fishing town or head inland to catch a glimpse of the Mexico that tourism forgot.

If it's partying you want, you'll find serious hedonism in boomtown Playa del Carmen. Playa still trumps fast-growing Tulum as the Riviera's wildest city, but it's got nothing on Tulum's spectacular Maya ruins perched high above the beach.

Whether traveling by car or bus, getting from one town to the next is a breeze – after all, the Riviera is basically 135km of coastline that stretches south from Puerto Morelos to Tulum. Everything's so close that you can go diving in Puerto Morelos by day and still have time for a candlelit dinner in Tulum.

When to Go

- ➔ The Riviera Maya Film Festival in April screens local and international films on the beaches of Playa del Carmen; several weeks thereafter the fest tours to nearby Tulum, Puerto Morelos, Isla Mujeres and Cancún.
- ➔ Playa del Carmen hosts a wild Halloween street bash, then you can stick around for colorful Day of the Dead festivities in and around the Riviera Maya.
- ➔ The Riviera Maya Jazz Festival in Playa del Carmen features beachside performances from Mexico and abroad. The annual event is usually held in November, so good hotel deals can be found.



Riviera Maya Highlights

1 Marvel at **Maya ruins** (p114) dramatically situated on a rugged cliff in Tulum, then go for a swim down below.

2 Hang out at chic sidewalk restaurants and beachside bars in **Playa del Carmen** (p103),

or if you're feeling inspired, take a Spanish course.

3 Dive into the waters of **Puerto Morelos** (p99) and explore a colorful barrier reef.

4 Splash around or do some serious diving at impressive

cenotes (p120) in Tulum's surrounding areas.

5 Rent a bike at **Cobá** (p121) and follow trails that lead to amazing Maya ruins, then go for a dip in nearby swimming holes.