



# Campeche & Around

## Includes ➔

Campeche.....	203
Hecelchakán .....	213
Bécal .....	213
Hopelchén.....	214
Edzná .....	216
Champotón.....	217
Sabancuy .....	218
Isla Aguada .....	218
Laguna de Términos .....	218
Ciudad del Carmen.....	219
Atasta Peninsula.....	220
Chicanná.....	224
Becán .....	224
Xpujil .....	225
Hormiguero.....	226

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Río Bec Dreams Restaurant (p224)
- ➔ Marganzo (p210)
- ➔ La Fuente (p220)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Las Villas (p220)
- ➔ Río Bec Dreams (p224)
- ➔ Hacienda Puerta Campeche (p209)

## Why Go?

Tucked into the southwestern corner of the Yucatán Peninsula, Campeche state is home to serene villages, vast stretches of tangled jungle, bird-dotted mangroves and lagoons, and some of the region's most imposing Maya ruins – many of which you might have all to yourself. On deserted beaches endangered turtles lay their eggs, while offshore playful dolphins frolic in the surf. The walled capital city of Campeche is the region's cultural epicenter, providing a great jumping-off point for your adventures into this offbeat hinterland.

Campeche is the least visited of the Yucatán's states, laced through with lonely back roads, friendly people, quiet coastlines and a provincial, lost-land charm. It makes a welcome break from the tourist hordes that descend on the peninsula's more popular destinations; here you'll find peace and surprising attractions.

## When to Go

- ➔ Visit Campeche city any time of year, though high season is from mid-December to Easter. Hotel prices are at their peak during this time, but there are also some merry festivities – especially Carnaval (late February to early March).
- ➔ The dry months of November through March are the most pleasant for visiting Calakmul and its nearby sites. During the rainy season access is often limited due to muddy roads.
- ➔ To set turtle hatchlings free in Sabancuy, be there from April to October (peak June to August).



## Campeche Highlights

- 1** Stroll through history along the colonial streets of **Campeche** (p203), lined with pastel-hued buildings and edged by stone ramparts.
- 2** Explore the large and impressive complexes of **Edzná** (p216), the most significant Maya ruins near Campeche.
- 3** Spot dolphins and seabirds from **Isla Aguada** (p218), or set turtle hatchlings free at **Sabancuy** (p218).
- 4** Eat fresh seafood or find yourself a little patch of deserted beach along the **southwestern coast** (p217).
- 5** Haul yourself up the massive pyramids of **Calakmul** (p221) while the calls of howler monkeys reverberate in the surrounding jungle.