



Photo: Helen Filatova/Shutterstock.com



Jean-Philippe Navarro/Shutterstock.com



Sven Hansche/Shutterstock.com



lunamarina/Shutterstock.com

Dubbed "the crown jewel of the Caribbean Sea," Cozumel is sought after as a breezy vacation destination away from the everyday. Known for its wildlife, pristine waters and Mayan heritage, the sun-kissed island offers a great deal of outdoor activities: snorkeling and scuba diving take on a whole new dimension here.

*NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit [ArrivalGuides.com](https://www.arrivalguides.com)*

# QUIZ

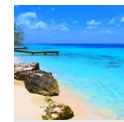
*What Type of Traveller  
Are You Based on  
Your Travel IQ?*

**TAKE THE QUIZ**

### Top 5



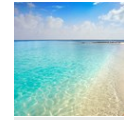
**Punta Sur**  
In the very south of the island and part of the largest ecological park on C...



**El Cielo**  
Famous for its silky white beaches, El Cielo is a mesmerizing hidden gem abo...



**Punta Molas**  
One of the most famous sights and one definitely not to be missed is Punta M...



**Playa Palancar**  
On the western coast of Cozumel and about 17 km from San Miguel, Playa Palan...



**San Gervasio Ruins**  
Located on the northern part of the island, San Gervasio ruins are an archae...



## THE ISLAND



*Brian Lasenby/Shutterstock.com*

Just off the southeastern coast of Mexico and opposite Playa del Carmen, Cozumel is an important cruise ship port famous with snorkeling and scuba diving enthusiasts for its fascinating reef which is part of the second-largest reef system on earth: the Mesoamerican Reef. White, unblemished beaches stretch north to south, east to west, leaving travelers taken with the island's seemingly endless swathes of sand.

The city of San Miguel de Cozumel is the largest city on the island and the right place to be to get a peek into the mystical Mayan culture and catch a glimpse of Spanish colonial architecture.

The Cozumel of today has recovered from the damage notoriously done by Hurricane Wilma in 2005, warmly welcoming guests from around the world.

## DO & SEE

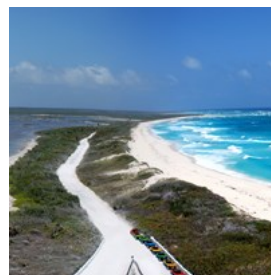


*Susan Schmitz/Shutterstock.com*

The fascinating island of Cozumel is a treasure trove for snorkelers and divers who come here to admire the beauty of its underwater world. With 500 different species of fish and 65 different corals, pristine waters, archaeological sites and white beaches, Cozumel is undoubtedly a must-visit leisure destination in Mexico.

Read on to find out about the best places to snorkel and dive around Cozumel.

### Punta Sur



In the very south of the island and part of the largest ecological park on Cozumel, Punta Sur is a tiny piece of heaven on earth made up of white beaches, turquoise waters, wild flora, exotic birds, and crocodiles in their natural habitat.

Must-do activities include snorkeling, the "El Caracol" Mayan Vestige, and taking in the stunning view from the Celarian Lighthouse.

The fastest way to get here is by booking a private jeep excursion.

Photo: Ramunas Bruzas/Shutterstock.com

Address: Autopista Km. 30 Sur Matamoros Norte-Centro-Sur,

Guaycura, San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R.  
Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-4pm  
Phone: +52 987 872 0833

### El Cielo



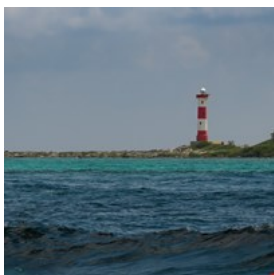
Famous for its silky white beaches, El Cielo is a mesmerizing hidden gem about 2 miles from the Cozumel coast. It is a popular snorkeling spot

where locals and tourists come to swim among thousands of colorful starfish and stingrays to catch a glimpse of the magical underwater world.

Note that El Cielo is only accessible by boat.

Photo: blue-sea.cz/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Carretera a Punta sur salida el cielo, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico  
Opening hours: 24/7  
Phone: +52 987 878 3094

### Punta Molas



One of the most famous sights and one definitely not to be missed is Punta Molas - a picturesque beach in the north of Cozumel. The anchor

point here is the old white-and-red lighthouse surrounded by tropical vegetation and secluded beaches. Punta Molas is where the bright blue of the sky blends with the pristine waters of the Caribbean Sea creating a stunning horizon line.

The fastest way to reach the destination is by jeep (this can be challenging because of the unpaved roads) or tour boat.

Photo: Marik Peter/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Punta Molas, Cozumel

### Playa Palancar



On the western coast of Cozumel and about 17 km from San Miguel, Playa Palancar boasts flawless white beaches, turquoise waters, and a

palapa-roofed dining area where you can sample the acclaimed local fish tacos.

Activities such as snorkeling are also pursued here.

Photo: lunamarina/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Playa Palancar, Cozumel Island

### San Gervasio Ruins



Located on the northern part of the island, San Gervasio ruins are an archaeological site of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization and a must-do

excursion for history buffs. The site was originally dedicated to the deity of midwifery and medicine, Ix Chel, and was an important pilgrimage site for Mayan women. Today, the ruins are Cozumel's only preserved Mayan ruins and a noteworthy location to find out more about the fascinating Mayan civilization.

Photo: aguinaldo matzenbacher/Shutterstock.com  
Address: San Miguel de Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico  
Opening hours: Daily 8am-3:45pm  
Phone: +52 983 837 0796  
Internet:  
[www.inah.gob.mx/zonas/101-zona-arqueologica-san-gervasio](http://www.inah.gob.mx/zonas/101-zona-arqueologica-san-gervasio)

## RESTAURANTS



*Olga Nayashkova/Shutterstock.com*

While the main attractions are underwater, Cozumel has much to offer on dry land, too. The cuisine is mainly a *mélange* of Mayan/Aztec and Spanish influences, but the tourist boom of the last decades has opened up new horizons and many international chefs have made the island their home, making Italian and French cuisines easy to come by.

### Guido's (San Miguel)



Guido's brings authentic taste of Italy to the sun-kissed island of Cozumel. With top-notch Italian food from wood-oven pizza to

lasagna, homemade pasta, and fresh seafood, it's easy to understand why the beloved restaurant is an institution to locals and a lovely find to tourists.

Photo: MR. AEKALAK CHIAMCHAROEN/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Av. Rafael E. Melgar 23, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico  
Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 11am-11pm, Sunday 3pm-11pm  
Phone: +52 987 872 0946  
Internet: [www.guidoscozumel.com](http://www.guidoscozumel.com)

### La Choza Cozumel



Set a few strides from the main square, La Choza restaurant offers typical Yucatecan-Mexican dishes like 'poc chuc' (a Mayan/Yucateco version of barbecued pork) and 'mole poblano' (a sauce of chilies, fruits, nuts, spices, and chocolate). Don't miss out on the lovely backyard.

Photo: Marcos Castillo/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 10 Avenida Nte. # 216, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico  
Opening hours: Daily 7:30am-10:30pm  
Phone: +52 987 872 0958

### Burritos Gorditos (San Miguel)



Burritos Gorditos is a great pit stop for something fast yet delightful. The menu offers around 21 types of burritos, from vegetarian to meat-based, as well as salad burritos, quesadillas, and tacos. Yucatan-style burritos filled with 'cochinita' (pulled pork shoulder marinated and braised in achiote paste, orange juice, and lime) are also on offer.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com  
Address: 5a Av. Nte S/N, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico  
Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm  
Phone: +52 987 120 0237  
Internet: [burritosgorditos.wixsite.com/burritosgorditos](http://burritosgorditos.wixsite.com/burritosgorditos)  
Email: [burritosgorditos@gmail.com](mailto:burritosgorditos@gmail.com)

### El Sitio (San Miguel)



No trip to Cozumel would be complete without paying a visit to El Sitio, a hole-in-the-wall eatery with red folding chairs that specializes in tacos.

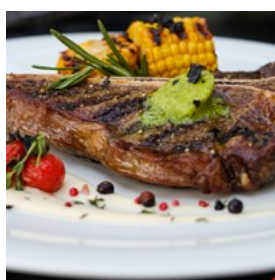
Try out the 'puerco torta' (pork sandwich) or the mouth-watering 'camarón' tacos (shrimp tacos).

Photo: Jason Rothe/Shutterstock.com

Address: 10a Av. Nte 310, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Daily 7am-1:30pm

### Kinta Mexican Bistro



Considered the chicest restaurant on the island, Kinta offers traditional Mexican food with a modern twist. From the main course to dessert,

Kinta knows how to pamper guests. The Midnight Pork Ribs accompanied by a refreshing drink is a combo to die for.

Photo: golubovystock/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5ta Avenida 148 X 2 y 4, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Daily 5:30pm-11:30pm

Phone: +52 987 869 0544

### CAFES



Mauricio Avramow/Shutterstock.com

Mexico is the eighth-largest coffee producer in the world, with much of the coffee harvested in the coastal region of Soconusco in Chiapas, near the border with Guatemala. Coffee plays a significant role in daily life on the island too, with major coffee roasters scattered throughout San Miguel.

The list below shows the most noteworthy coffee shops on Cozumel, where one can savor the exquisite taste of the best Mexican coffee.

### The Coffee Cozumel



Right in the city center, The Coffee Cozumel fills the neighborhood with the aroma of freshly-baked goods, from pies to pastries, and delightful, locally sourced coffee.

Photo: Lia Koltyrina/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 3 Sur No.98, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Daily 7am-11pm

Phone: +52 987 869 0456

### COZ Coffee Roasting Company (San Miguel)



At COZ Coffee Roasting Company you'll be served the finest 100% Arabica brews, from beans shade-grown at high altitudes in Vera Cruz,

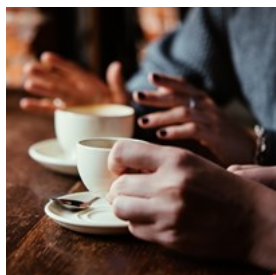
Chiapas and Oaxaca, and hand-sorted to create the perfect taste of gourmet coffee. Pastries and other goods are also on offer.

Photo: NOBUHIRO ASADA/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5a Av. Nte 50, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-9pm

### Maple Bakehouse146



For the best pastries in town, look no further. With a great offer of fresh-baked goods (bread, cinnamon rolls, pies, and many more) and strong

organic coffee, it's no wonder that Maple Bakehouse is the perfect setting for a relaxing afternoon break.

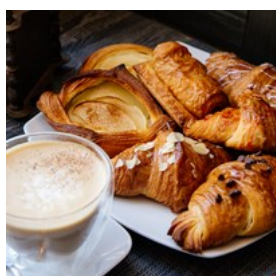
Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 6 Norte 5A Entre Rafael Melgar y, Calle Quinta Avenida, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Daily 7:30am-10pm

Phone: +52 987 146 4053

### Sucré / Salé Café (San Miguel)



Sucré / Salé Café is a small family-run business that brings a dash of romantic France to the tiny tropical island of Cozumel. The menu

features either savory or sweet, Mexican or French specialties at reasonable prices. Patrons

recommend French-style breakfast (fresh-baked baguette, butter, jam) or the Mexican desayuno (eggs, beans, chilaquiles, bread, butter, jam) accompanied by a rich coffee.

Photo: Dzmitry Ryshchuk/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 2 Nte 101b, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-10pm

Phone: +52 987 115 5968

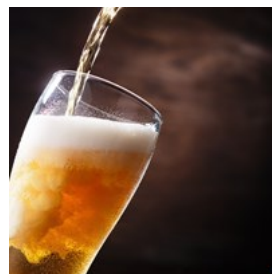
### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Marina Tatarenko/Shutterstock.com

Though Cozumel might not be on the bucket list of party animals, there are plenty of venues by the seafront that are worth a try come night. La Rumba and Wet Wendy's are the perfect setting to dance all night long while Thirsty Cougar and La Internacional Cervecería offer the best selection of cocktails and beers on Cozumel.

### La Internacional Cervecería



The great location and an outstanding selection of local and international beers make La Internacional Cervecería a great evening hot spot.

The charming bar also has a terrace for guests to enjoy.

Photo: NaturalBox/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida Rafael E. Melgar 590 Segundo Piso, Centro, San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Daily 10am–2am

Phone: +52 987 869 1289

### Thirsty Cougar (San Miguel)



An unending supply of cocktails paired with freshly cooked food and the enchanting waterfront view all amount to the winning

formula of Thirsty Cougar.

Photo: Teri Virbickis/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle 3 sur entre Rafael E. Melgar y Av. 5, 317, Local 6, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Monday–Thursday 9am–11pm,

Friday–Saturday 9am–12am

Phone: +52 987 869 0214

Internet: [thirstycougar.restaurantwebexperts.com](http://thirstycougar.restaurantwebexperts.com)

### Freedom in Paradise Reggae Beach Bar & Grill



In the southern part of the island, Freedom in Paradise is a great place to lounge with a chilled beer and an amazing view before you. Just across

the street, there's their sibling restaurant — Rastas — offering the same quality, plus a souvenir shop.

Photo: Yonca60/Shutterstock.com

Address: 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico

Opening hours: Monday–Saturday 10:30am–6pm

Phone: +52 987 869 8300

Internet: [www.bobmarleybar.com](http://www.bobmarleybar.com)

### Wet Wendy's (San Miguel)



Dubbed "margarita house", Wet Wendy's is an institution on Cozumel when it comes to quality food, creative cocktails, and entertainment. From rock to jazz to live salsa nights; only positive vibes are accepted in the house.

Photo: Sean Locke Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5a. Avenida Norte x Juárez y, Calle 2 Nte, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Monday–Saturday 10am–12am

Phone: +52 987 872 4970

Internet: [www.wetwendys.com](http://www.wetwendys.com)

## SHOPPING



PR Image Factory/Shutterstock.com

Small traditional outlets line up with massive department stores on Cozumel. Handcrafts, customized items, one-of-a-kind silver jewelry, and Mexican vanilla are the main articles that folks seek to bring home.

### Chocolateria Isla Bella (San Miguel)



Chocoholics will be pleased to note that there is a chocolate shop – Chocolateria Isla Bella, just a few blocks away from the center. They

offer samples of handmade chocolate treats

made with the finest beans of Criollo, Guayaquil, and Patastillo varieties of cacao.

Photo: Shulevskyy Volodymyr/Shutterstock.com

Address: 5a Avenida Norte, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Monday–Saturday 11am–8pm

Internet: [www.chocolateriaislabella.com](http://www.chocolateriaislabella.com)

### Los Cinco Soles (San Miguel)



For some serious souvenir shopping, head to Los Cinco Soles (which translates to "the five suns"). Run by Don Pancho Morales and his wife Doña Sharon, the shop offers the chance to bring home an authentic taste of Mexico: from silver jewelry to handcrafts to souvenirs.

Photo: Natali Glado/Shutterstock.com

Address: x Calle, Av. Rafael E. Melgar, Calle 8 Nte, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Monday–Saturday 9am–7pm, Sunday 11am–5pm

Phone: +52 987 872 9004

Internet: [www.loscincosoles.com](http://www.loscincosoles.com)

### Mayan Flea Market (San Miguel)



Mayan Flea Market displays its heaps of clothing, traditional souvenirs, bottles of pure vanilla (and more), all at reasonable prices in one of the busiest streets in San Miguel. Look carefully for some true gems.

Photo: Iren Key/Shutterstock.com

Address: Av. Rafael E. Melgar 399, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Phone: +52 987 872 0541

### Plaza Punta Langosta (San Miguel)



Located just off the cruise ship docks, Plaza Punta Langosta is a good alternative to the small shops scattered around the city, specially if brand-name items are what you're looking for. The shopping mall encompasses a food court, jewelry shops, and souvenir shops.

Photo: kikovic/Shutterstock.com

Address: Av. Rafael E. Melgar 599, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Daily 8am–12am

### Mercado Municipal de Cozumel (San Miguel)



Mercado Municipal de Cozumel is the beating heart of the city of San Miguel where locals come for daily groceries. Vendors load stalls with fresh meat, catch of the day, vegetables, fruit, homeware, and many other items. Stalls also offer ready-to-eat food.

Photo: ZoneFatal/Shutterstock.com

Address: Calle Dr Adolfo Rosado Salas, Centro, 77600 San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico

Opening hours: Daily 8am–6pm

Phone: +52 987 118 4823



## TOURIST INFORMATION



Kent Weakley/Shutterstock.com

### Cozumel International Airport



The island of Cozumel on the Caribbean coast is served by Cozumel International Airport which handles both international and

domestic flights. Approximately 2.8 km (1.7 miles) from the center, taxis and shuttle buses are an easy way to move from the airport to the city center, and vice versa. While hailing a taxi, make sure to have Mexican pesos or US dollars as many taxi drivers do not accept credit cards. Taxi fares start at USD 5 for short rides up to USD 60 for an all-island tour.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Boulevard Aeropuerto Cozumel s/n, 77600, Mexico

Phone: +52 987 872 2081

### Tourist Tax



Nearly every commercial airline flying into Mexico now includes the Tourism Tax (known as DNI - Derecho No Inmigrante) in the price of each flight ticket. Request an itemised receipt from your

tour agent or airline, where the DNI charge is normally listed, and present it at check-in and/or immigration in order to avoid double payment.

If, however, your airfare does not include this tax, or if you've been travelling by land, the tax will need to be paid separately. If you're leaving Mexico by air, the easiest way to pay this tax will be at the check-in counter for your departing flight/the airport immigration office. Note that the tax can only be paid in cash, in USD, Mexican pesos or Sterling. The exact fee is subject to change; at the time of writing, it amounts to just under \$30 per person.

If you are departing by land, you are still required to pay this tax, which can also be done at a bank. Note that those arriving by land and departing from Mexico within 7 days are exempt from paying the fee.

The DNI tax is not to be confused with the Mexican Airport Departure Tax, which will be automatically included with any flight ticket purchase, and will also appear on the itemised receipt.

Make sure to hold on to any receipts, slips or documents issued to you by Mexican immigration authorities throughout the entire trip.

Photo: Jambronk/Shutterstock.com

### Ferry from Playa del Carmen to Cozumel



If Cozumel is a quick pit-stop on your way to Mexico, read on and find out what's the fastest way to get from the mainland to Cozumel. The fastest way to reach this island is by ferry from downtown Playa del Carmen. Ferries leave

nearly every hour and the ride lasts approximately 45 minutes. Tickets cost around \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children, and can be purchased at kiosks near the ferry pier.

The company Ultramar has introduced the luxury ferry that takes you to Cozumel in only 20 minutes. The slightly higher prices reflect the service provided on board.

Photo: M-O Vector/Shutterstock.com

### Passport/Visa



Visa exemption applies to citizens of all EU countries, most countries in the Americas, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, and

more. Both tourists and business visitors from these countries may stay in Mexico for up to 180 days. For Russian, Turkish and Ukrainian passport holders, electronic authorisation (SAE) is required, which then grants travellers from these countries the right of a single entry followed by a stay of up to 30 days. Please consult an official source/consulate in your home country for the latest information on visa requirements.

When travelling to Mexico, you will need to fill out a Forma Migratoria Múltiple (FMM), which is essentially a visitor's permit for Mexico. All travellers are encouraged to do so online prior to travel, and present the printed out document upon entering the country.

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

### Best Time to Visit



March to June represents the best period to visit the island of Cozumel and enjoy the pleasant temperatures. Cozumel is also a hit spot during the winter. Being a snow-free island, it is the perfect haunt to soak up the sun. The low season runs from July to November; the island is quieter and accommodation rates are lower, but keep an eye out for hurricanes warnings as they're very frequent during this period. Every season is characterized by a particular event or festivity. Here are some highlights:

- Fiesta of the Virgin of Guadalupe (December)
- Carnaval (February-March)
- El Cedral Festival (April-May)
- Boat Rodeo and Fishing Tournament (May)
- Cozumel Independence Day (September)
- Ironman Cozumel (November)

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

### Taxi



Taxis are the easiest way for cruise passengers to get from the port to downtown and vice versa. Taxi fares are relatively cheap (particularly if compared to other countries) and depend on the different zones you want to reach. Since 2016, all taxi drivers must produce a list of fares before taking on a passenger.

Taxi stands can be found just outside the pier.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

## Public Transport



Traveling around Cozumel by bus is not very common among tourists, who prefer to hail a taxi. Uniper Cozumel is a private

company that has been in business for over 30 years and offers a wide range of services to make guests feel comfortable while roaming around the island. Public buses run 7 days a week from 6 am to 9 pm. On Sundays, service may be delayed.

Check the following website [www.unipercozumel.com/en/home](http://www.unipercozumel.com/en/home) for more information.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

## Correos de Mexico / Cozumel, Q.R.



The post - Correos de Mexico / Cozumel, Q.R. - is located close to the city center and offers all postal services (e.g. mailing, shipping).

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Calle José María Morelos, entre 35 y, Gral Felipe Angeles, San Miguel de Cozumel, Q.R., Mexico  
Opening hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-12pm  
Phone: +52 987 872 0106

## Medical Care in Cozumel



The most reputable hospital in Cozumel is the Cozumel Medical Center (CMC) ready to offer the best service to patients in need of help. Other

clinics to be found throughout the area are

Amerimed Cozumel Islamed, International Hospital, Cozumel General Hospital. All visits will require a fee to be paid by cash (US dollars also accepted) or credit cards.

As for pharmacies, check the list below for the nearest one to the center.

- Farmacias del Ahorro (Monday-Saturday 8 am-10 pm, Sunday 8 am-9 pm)
- Farmacias YZA (24/7 service)

Please note that travel insurance is highly recommended while traveling to Cozumel.

Photo: ilicon/Shutterstock.com

## Electricity



In Mexico, the standard voltage is 127 V and the standard frequency is 60 Hz. Power plugs and sockets are of type A and B, mainly used in North and Central America, Japan, and China.

You may need an adapter for your trip to Cozumel.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

## Telephone



+52 is Mexico's country code that allows calls from abroad; 987 is Cozumel's area code; +52 987 is then followed by a 7-digit number (e.g. +52 987 xxx xxxx).

Note that when calling via cell phone an extra 1 is required (e.g. +52 1 987 xxx xxxx).

Photo: Jardson Almeida/Shutterstock.com

**Population**

86,000

**Currency**

Mexican peso (\$ / Mex\$)

1/100

Mex\$1 = USD0.051

**Opening hours**

Shops generally operate Monday to Sunday from 8 am to 7 pm with variations by individual shop. Banks run Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.

Cibanco ATM Cajero has a 24-hour ATM just a few strides from the city center.

**Newspapers**

Cozumel 4 You (Newsletters)

**Emergency numbers**

Emergency Number: 911/066

**Tourist information**

Ayuntamiento de Cozumel

Address: Plaza del Sol

Official website: [cozumel.gob.mx](http://cozumel.gob.mx)

\*This guide was researched and written by Brixhilda Dedej