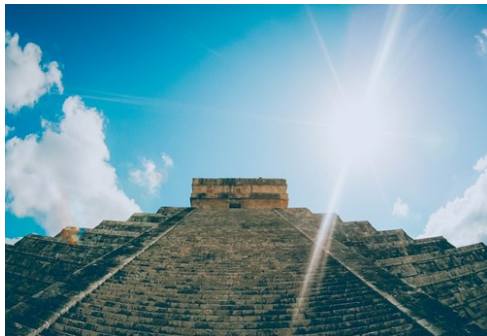


Costa Maya

Photo: Spencer Watson/Unsplash



Mari Duarte/Unsplash

Costa Maya is a rising star of the Yucatán peninsula that offers a quiet alternative to its "big brothers" such as Chetumal or the Riviera Maya. But despite its young age as a tourist resort, it boasts an abundance of historical and natural landmarks, and has a genuinely impressive beach bar scene, which no doubt makes it a worthy rival.



Los Muertos Crew/Pexels



Uber Scuba Gili/Unsplash

Featured



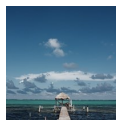
Lake Bacalar

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Top 5



Maya Ruins of Chacchoben

A favorite daytrip destination from Costa Maya, the Chacchoben Maya ruins ar...



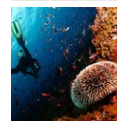
Costa Maya Cruise Port

The cruise center is a sight in itself that allows you to experience many as...



Malecón

A simple yet effective way to see the best of Mahahual is to take a stroll a...



Banco Chinchorro

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Dolphin Discovery

A popular choice for kids and grown-ups alike, Dolphin Discovery offers a ra...



COSTA MAYA



Amar Preciado/Pexels

Costa Maya is an emerging tourist region in the state of Quintana Roo, washed by the Caribbean Sea less than 100 miles away from Mexico's border with Belize. The area includes a shore of 60 miles stretching from Sian Ka'an in the north to Xcalak in the south.

The history of Costa Maya dates back to ancient times, when the area was inhabited by the Maya and other Native American civilizations. The Maya built a series of city-states in the region, including the sites of Chacchoben, Kohunlich, and Dzibanche, and conducted flourishing maritime trade across the Yucatán peninsula. From the 16th century onwards, the region saw a series of clashes involving Spanish colonizers and English pirates, which lasted until the advent of Mexican independence.

The area has not been spared by natural disasters, either. Xcalak ceased to exist as a major port after Hurricane Janet in 1955, and Mahahual too was hit in the years of 2007 and 2012. These were a setback for the development the region had seen in previous decades, but today Costa Maya is on an upswing again and is seeing more and more visitors every year.

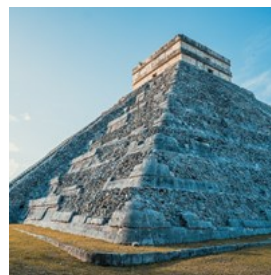
DO & SEE



Darren Lawrence/Pexels

Costa Maya is an up and coming tourist region that has something to offer to all age groups. Lesser-known Maya ruins such as Chacchoben and Kohunlich are sure to amaze with their amazing history and architecture, and natural wonders like Banco Chinchorro are a bucket list item for all sea lovers. If it's some quiet time by the beach you are after, the Malecón (boardwalk) in Mahahual will likely cater to all your needs.

Maya Ruins of Chacchoben



A favorite daytrip destination from Costa Maya, the Chacchoben Maya ruins are located nearby a city of the same name only 50 minutes

away from the cruise port. This fascinating landmark is estimated to have been inhabited since as early as 1000 BC, and after a fairly late discovery in the 1940s, it still contains several unexcavated areas. Visitors can pick from a range of tour operators to be guided through the site, and as a bonus can admire the remarkable flora of what is called the "Region of the Lakes."

Photo: Ruben Hanssen/Unsplash

Phone: +52 983 103 5955

Internet: www.chacchobenruins.com

Costa Maya Cruise Port



The cruise center is a sight in itself that allows you to experience many aspects of Mexican culture even if you don't have time to visit any

other location. Aside from restaurants, shops and bars with traditional Mexican fare and products, there is also a saltwater swimming pool, Maya spa, aviary park, tequila museum, and many more. It is also possible to book excursions to iconic places such as Chacchoben and Bacalar.

Photo: Alena Darmel/Pexels
Address: Costa Maya Cruise Port
Phone: +52 998 894 8597
Internet: www.costamaya.com
Email: info@costamaya.com

Malecón



A simple yet effective way to see the best of Mahahual is to take a stroll along this 1.2-mile long boardwalk.

Connecting a multitude of restaurants, beach clubs, hotels, vendors and the town's picturesque lighthouse in the north, El Malecón is no less than Mahahual's main artery.

Photo: Juan Ortega/cc by 3.0/wikimedia (cropped)(image cropped)

Banco Chinchorro



Not only does Costa Maya have excellent conditions for diving and snorkeling, it also boasts a true rarity: Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve is a coral reef located around 18 miles off the coast of Mahahual. As part of the Mesoamerican Reef,

the second largest coral reef system in the world, it is home to a diverse array of marine life as well as dozens of sunken ships, some of which date back to the 16th century. Those interested can find a multitude of dive centers along Mahahual's boardwalk, Malecón.

Photo: Walter Torres/Pexels

Dolphin Discovery



A popular choice for kids and grown-ups alike, Dolphin Discovery offers a range of programs for up-close encounters with marine animals. Dolphin

activities are made unforgettable with belly rides, handshakes and hugs. Visitors can also swim with (and learn about) manatees and sea lions.

Photo: Ranae Smith/Unsplash
Address: Plaza Caracol local 20-B Puerto Costa Maya Mahahual Puerto Costa Maya, 77940 Mahahual
Phone: +1 800 727 5391
Internet: www.dolphindiscovery.com/costa-maya
Email: info@thedolphinco.com

Kohunlich



Under the shelter of lush rainforest, the archeological site of Kohunlich is an outstanding example of Maya architecture.

Palaces, citadels, temples (such as the top attraction Temple of the Masks) and other elaborate structures are scattered over an area of more than 20 acres, with most landmarks dating back to as early as 250 to 600 AD. Chetumal is a common starting point to visit Kohunlich, but tours are available at the Costa

Maya Cruise Port, too.

Photo: bvi4092/CC by 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

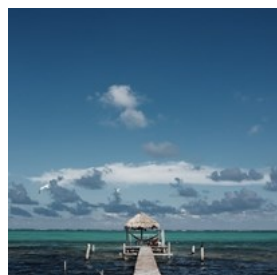
Address: Carretera Federal 186, Chetumal

Opening hours: Daily 8am-5pm

Internet: www.costamayacruiseexcursions.com/excursion/costa-maya-kohunlich-maya-ruins

More Info: Dzibanche, another outstanding Maya landmark is around 20 miles away from Kohunlich

Xcalak National Reef Park



Located 15 miles south of Mahahual, Xcalak is a secluded stretch of Costa Maya with stunning marine life in the Xcalak National Reef Park,

extending over 25 miles as part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. Activities are plentiful and include fly fishing, scuba diving, SUP, kayaking and more. Without the hustle of nearby popular resorts, this is also a perfect place for peaceful strolls or romantic sunsets on the beach.

Photo: Dr. Matthias Ripp/CC by 2.0/Flickr (cropped)(image cropped)

Internet: www.xcalakmexico.com

Email: contact@xcalakmexico.com

Lake Bacalar



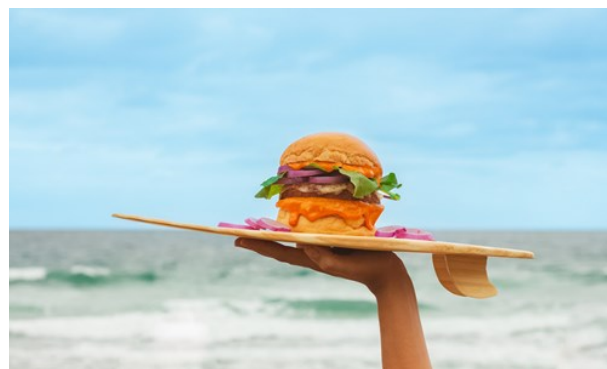
With a length of 30 miles, Lake Bacalar (or Laguna Bacalar) is the largest lake of the Yucatán peninsula. Also called lake of seven colors, it is

a spectacular landmark for its clear azure water, fed by groundwater emerging from "cenotes," or natural sinkholes. The landmark is within a 60-mile distance from Mahahual. There are restaurants near to the shore, and sports activities such as kayaking and windsurfing are

available, too.

Photo: Camila Vázquez/unsplash

DINING



Lucas Andrade/Pexels

Despite its friendly size and low-key ambiance, Mahahual has no shortage of restaurants with exciting local flavors. Most of these venues are found on the town's lively boardwalk (Malecón), and as beach clubs they also provide visitors with beach chairs and a range of services and fun activities, all in exchange for a day pass. You decide whether it's light ceviche or a filling lobster meal — your beach spot and entertainment are taken care of.

Pez Quadro



As part of 40 Cañones Hotel, Pez Quadro has a paradisiac beachfront location and offers a range of packages to enjoy a day of lounging by

the sea. Aside from filling platters, visitors can also avail of massage services, excursions, snorkeling and fishing that both kids and grown-ups can enjoy.

Photo: Los Muertos Crew/Pexels

Address: 40 Cañones Hotel, Malecón, Mahahual

Opening hours: Daily 8am-6pm

Internet: www.pezquadrocostamaya.com

Ki'Ha



For a quick refresher after your arrival in Costa Maya, you cannot go wrong with Ki'Ha: Mahahual's favorite coffeehouse offers

homemade ice cream, packed sandwiches, and a variety of drinks, only 3 minutes away from the cruise port. It is also worth scheduling a visit for they regularly host exciting events such as markets and meetups, too.

Photo: Rachel Claire/Pexels

Address: Avenida Paseo del Puerto #1301, Local 1, Mahahual

Opening hours: Daily 10am-9pm

Phone: +52 983 101 3117

Internet: www.facebook.com/kihamahual

Jaime's at the Blue Reef



Jaime's is a popular hangout place that gives you access to shaded beach chairs, kayaks and paddle boards, and a mouthwatering selection

of burrito, tacos, and other Mexican and Caribbean meals, to be washed down with cocktails made from the freshest of fruits.

Photo: Alex Favali/Pexels

Address: Calle Huauchinango 5, Mahahual

Phone: +52 983 154 1405

Email: playadejaime4@gmail.com

Nohoch Kay



The restaurant's famed Beach Break package includes an open bar, guaranteed beach chairs with palapas, and a lunch of your choice. There is

ceviche, tacos, quesadillas and more to choose

from, with several meat options available.

Nohoch Kay offers a variety of programs as well from visits to Maya ruins to snorkeling and fishing tours.

Photo: ROMAN ODINTSOV/Pexels

Address: Avenida Mahahual 101, Mahahual

Opening hours: Daily noon-8pm

Phone: +52 983 122 7293

The Crazy Lobster



A laid-back beach bar with undisturbed views of the azure sea, coconut cocktails and a vast and fresh seafood selection for any appetite from

light snacks to hearty platters to share. There is no shortage of exciting sauces and fillings for your meal, be it crab, shrimp, or lobster.

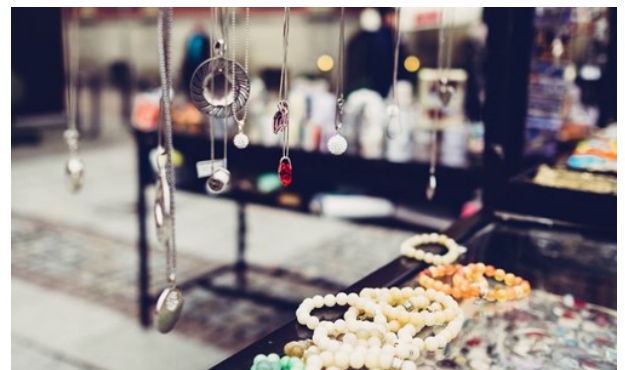
Photo: 奥尼尔 孙/Pexels

Address: Calle Huachinango 28, Mahahual

Opening hours: Daily 8am-5:45pm

Phone: +52 998 230 9283

SHOPPING



freestocks/Unsplash

From elegant stores in the bustling cruise center to local vendors on Malecón boardwalk by the beach, there is an abundance of places to do your souvenir shopping when in Costa Maya.

Colleen's Magnetic Jewelry



Start your journey in Costa Maya by indulging in a beautiful selection of artisan bracelets, anklets, and necklaces, made from carefully selected

Swarovski crystals, gemstones, and rare-earth magnets.

Photo: Alexey Demidov/Unsplash

Address: Costa Maya Cruise Port

Opening hours: All hours cruise ships are in port at Costa Maya

Phone: +52 983 177 1008

Internet: www.costamagnet.com

Email: costamagnet@gmail.com

Cactus Shop Independent



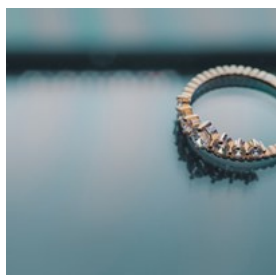
A friendly store that's also environmentally conscious: Cactus Shop offers a range of locally made, organic items including bags,

swimsuits, books, beauty products and other accessories, all created in a bid to support local communities and various good causes.

Photo: Mauricio Thomsen/Pexels

Address: Malecón 21, Mahahual

Diamonds International



Those already familiar with the retailer can expect the same quality of products and customer service they've experienced at other DI

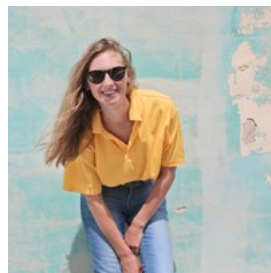
locations. The store is conveniently located at the cruise port and offers a large selection of duty-free fine jewelry, diamonds, luxury watches, and more.

Photo: Photo by FOX/Pexels

Address: Camino Punta Chachic S/N, Locs 1-12, Edificio Kukulkan, Mahahual

Internet: www.distores.com/costa-maya

La Casita Azul



Only a few minutes' walk from the "lake of seven colors," La Casita Azul is another colorful experience thanks to its vast selection of artisanal

products from blouses, scarves, and bags to candles, marmalade, cups and much more.

Photo: Andrea Piacquadio/Pexels

Address: Calle 20 entre Avenidas 5 & 7, Centro, Bacalar

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm

Phone: +52 983 127 7303

TOURIST INFORMATION



Photo by Joan Costa/Pexels

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

Photo: Porapak Apichodilok/Pexels
Internet: embamex.sre.gob.mx

Best Time to Visit



Costa Maya has a tropical climate, with hot and humid weather year-round. The peak tourist season runs from December to April, and it is also the warmest and driest period of the year. The rainy season starts in June and lasts until around October, with the wettest months being September and October.

Photo: Spencer Aguilar/Pexels

Costa Maya Cruise Port (Puerto Costa Maya)

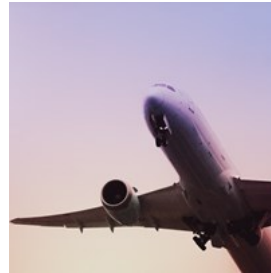


Cruise ships dock at Costa Maya Cruise Port, which is also a popular entertainment center with plenty to see and do. The place is home to numerous eateries, bars, shops, and offers a wide range of programs for all age groups. It is

around 1.8 miles to the north of Mahahual village.

Photo: Andrea Piacquadio/Pexels
Address: Costa Maya Cruise Port
Internet: www.costamaya.com

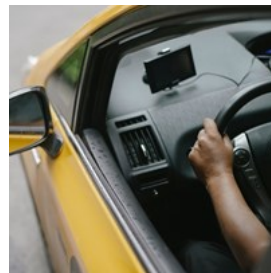
Chetumal International Airport (CTM)



There is no airport within reasonable distance to Costa Maya. The nearest airport, Chetumal International Airport (CTM), is around 90 miles from Mahahual, but car rental options are available there, and road conditions are also considered good.

Photo: Patrick Tomasso/Unsplash
Address: Avenida Revolución 660, Industrial, Chetumal
Internet: www.cancunairport.com/airports-around-world/mexico/chetumal-international-airport

Taxi



The taxi stand is located just outside Costa Maya Cruise Port. Costa Maya Yellow Cab provides transportation not only to Mahahual but also to a number of famous landmarks in the region.

Photo: Photo by Tim Samuel/Pexels
Address: Costa Maya Cruise Port
Phone: +52 983 103 9028

Golf Carts



A popular way of reaching Mahahual from the cruise port and getting around in town is renting a golf cart. Red Shirts Golf Carts are only

a few minutes' walk from the cruise port and provide four and six-seaters with a range of supplementary services.

Photo: Photo by Mikhail Nilov/Pexels

Address: Avenida Caribe, between calles Chicle & Cafe, Mahahual

Opening hours: Daily 7:30am-7:30pm

Phone: +52 983 102 6162

Pharmacy



There are a couple of pharmacies both at the cruise port and in Mahahual, usually open from around 7am until 9pm. A relatively well-supplied pharmacy is Farmacia Econofarma.

Photo: cottonbro studio/Pexels

Address: Calle Sardina, Mahahual

Opening hours: Daily 8am-9pm

Population

Mahahual: 2,636 inhabitants

Currency

The main currency is the Mexican peso (MXN), but the US Dollar is accepted everywhere.

Opening hours

Shops and supermarkets are usually open every day from around 8am until late in the evening.

Internet

www.costamaya.com

www.mexicancaribbean.travel/grand-costa-maya

Emergency numbers

National Emergency Service: 911
(police, ambulance, firefighters)

Tourist information

Terminal Marítima

Costa Maya

Mahahual, Quintana Roo.

Avenida Del Puerto S/N

Mahahual 77940 Otón P. Blanco

info@costamaya.com

+52 998 894 8597

Mon-Fri 9am-6pm

www.costamaya.com