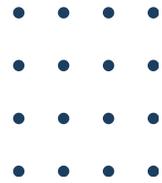
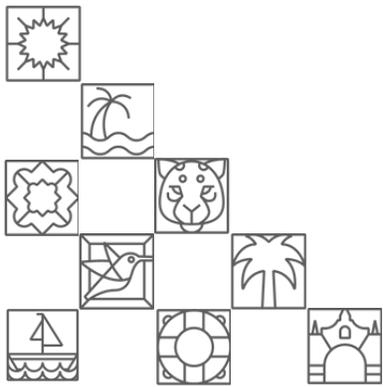


Ports of Yucatan



Information for small vessels and yachts.



“

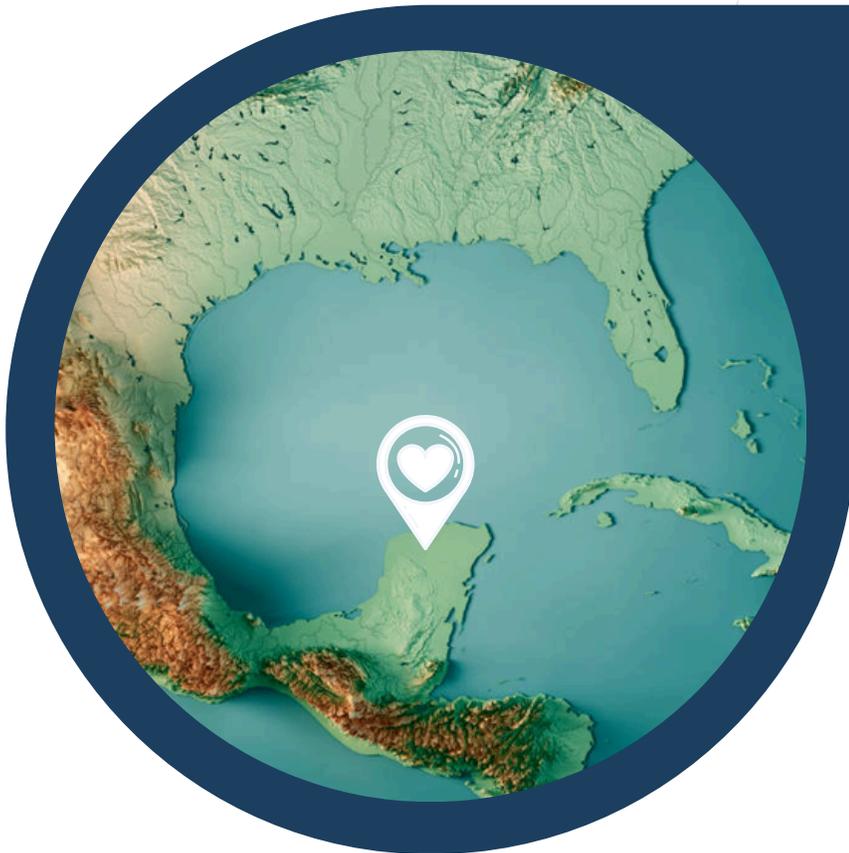
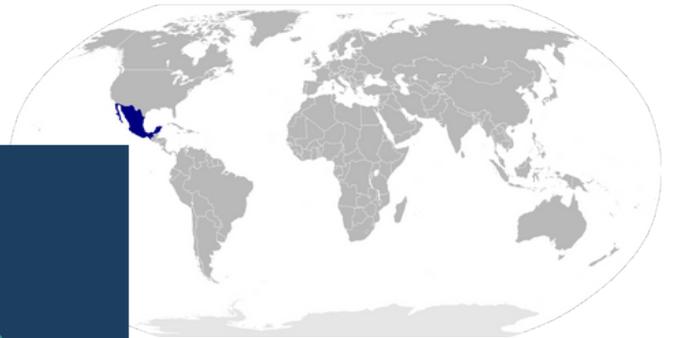
“The cradle of Mayan culture, alive in beautiful colonial cities of unparalleled architecture and exquisite cuisine; with miles of calm waters and soft sand beaches”





Overview

The Yucatan Peninsula, located at the **southeastern edge of Mexico**, is divided into three independently governed states: Yucatan, Quintana Roo, and Campeche. In Yucatan, the main port is Port of Progreso, located 18 miles north of the state capital, Merida, concentrating the cargo shipping and cruises. However, the smaller ports around Yucatan's long coastline are home to a number of leisure and sport boats.



DESTINATION	DISTANCE (nautical miles)
Havanna	401
New Orleans	642
Mobile	671
Miami	756
Tampa	777
Galveston	844

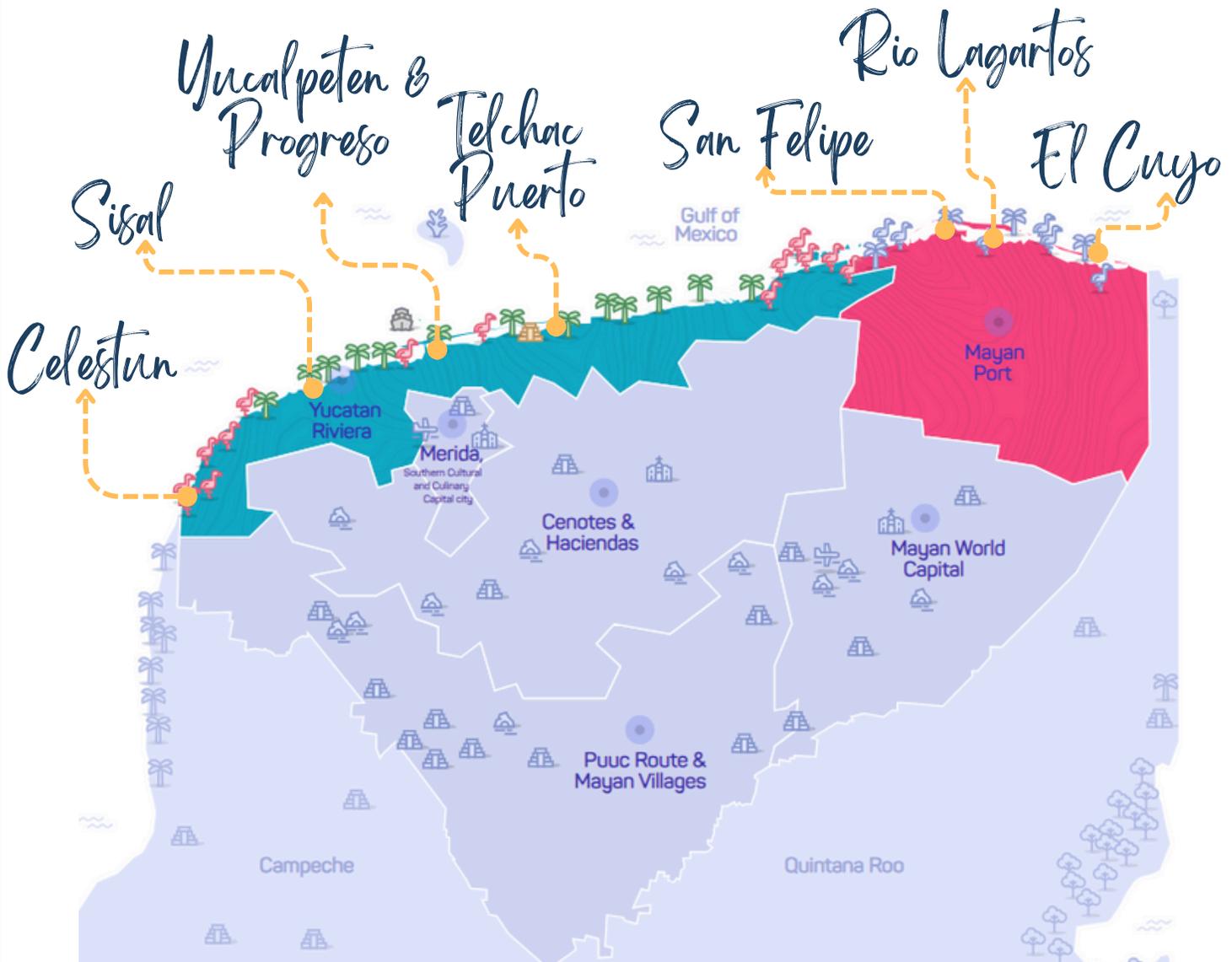
Due to its geographic positioning with **access to the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea**, the Yucatan has a strategic location for many western cruise routes.

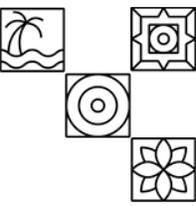


The state of Yucatan boasts an impressive coastline of nearly 235 miles, stretching from Celestun to El Cuyo. With two large protected areas, it is a stunning example of natural beauty.

Custom and migration offices are based in the Port of Progreso.

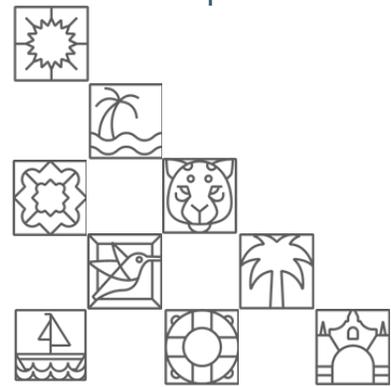
From west to east, the main port discussed in this document will be Celestun, Sisal, Yucalpeten and Progreso, Telchac Puerto, San Felipe, Rio Lagartos and El Cuyo.





Celestun

Celestun, surrounded by a large natural reserve, is home to a large population of pink flamingos.



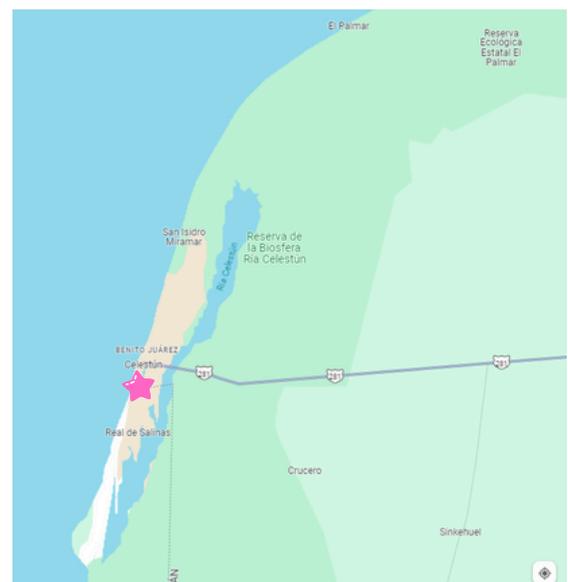
Location & geography



Celestun is located on the west side of the state. It is surrounded by a 21 km long natural reserve, established in 1979, called Celestun.

Bordered by a statuary on one side and the Gulf of Mexico on the other, the town has a magnificent biodiversity to be shared.

This port is suitable for vessels with a length smaller than 15 meters (49 ft) as they can enter without any restrictions. However, for larger vessels, it is important to note that the port's bottom is soft and almost flat. Therefore, to ensure safety, it is recommended to maintain a distance of 2 km (1.2 miles) from the coast to achieve a safe depth.

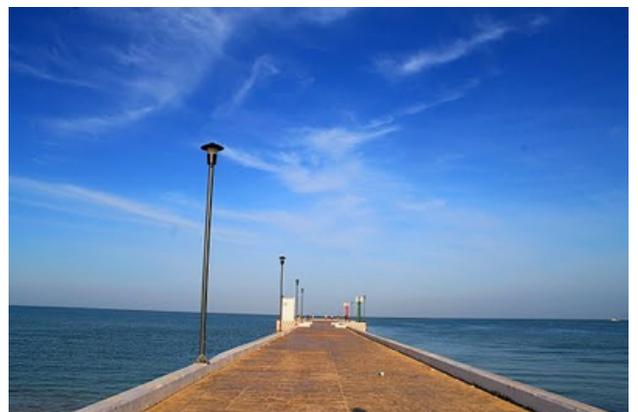


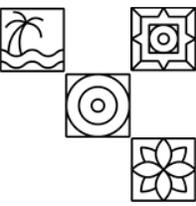
Description

Celestun is located less than 68 miles (109 km) east of Merida city. It is a charming fishing town that offers a wide range of natural attractions. Visitors can explore many water springs that are suitable for swimming and diving.

The town is home to a diverse array of regional fauna, including different species of birds, marine life, and large mammals. Additionally, tourists can enjoy a mouth-watering selection of fresh seafood while enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

Visitors to Celestun can traverse the estuary, locally known as “La Ria”, on small boats dedicated to carrying tourists on nature observation tours lasting up to 75 minutes.

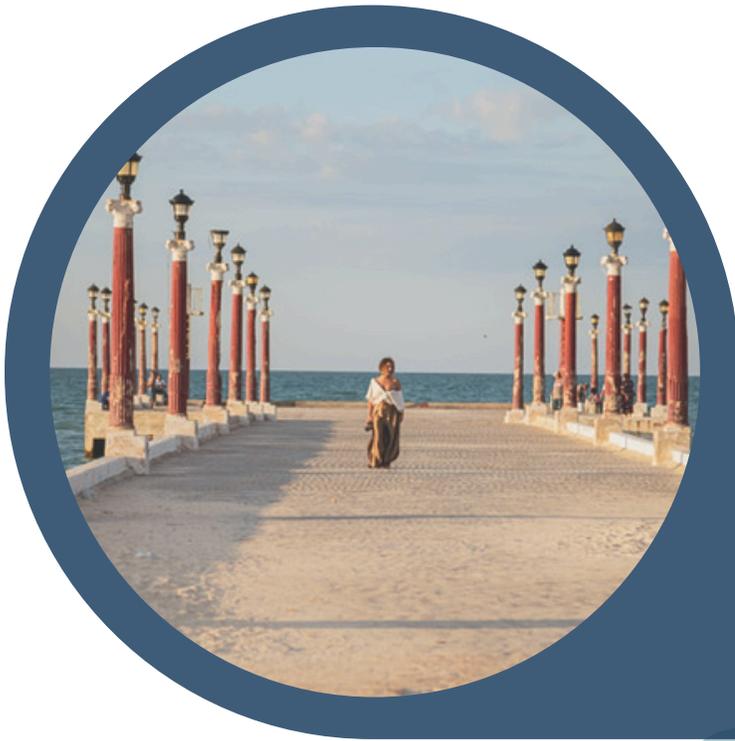
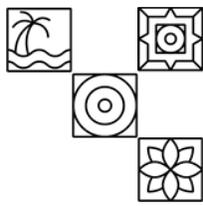




Sisal

Previously an internationally recognized port, Sisal is now the only coastal Pueblo Magico, a name given to historically and culturally significant towns in Mexico.





Location & geography

Originally the main export port of Yucatan, Sisal is located between the east side of El Palmar State Natural Reserve and a large mangal area.



During the 1840s, Sisal was an important port for the export and import of goods. However, as time passed, the town lost its significance as a commercial port and became a tourist spot. As a result, the customs and other infrastructures related to the port were abandoned and now serve as a tourist attraction.

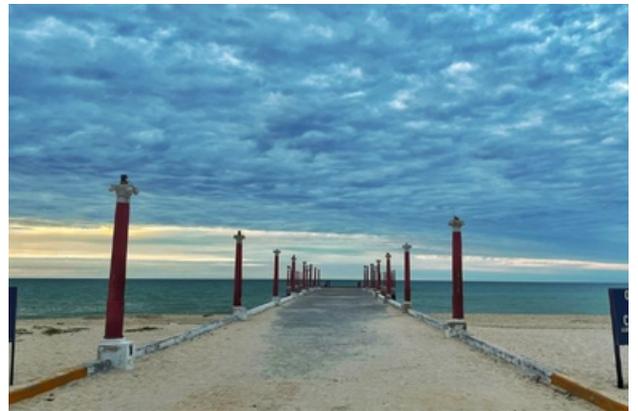
There is a small coral growth on the coast of Sisal, which is an important ecological feature. To prevent damage to the coral, larger vessels are advised to maintain a distance of 12 meters (40 ft) from the coastline.

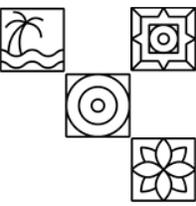
Description

Sisal is a charming and serene beach town that offers a perfect getaway for those seeking a calm and peaceful experience away from the hustle and bustle of busy tourist areas. Unlike other popular beaches in the region, Sisal is not overcrowded, providing visitors with a more intimate and relaxing atmosphere.

One of the highlights of Sisal is its historical fort, which was originally built to protect the town from pirate attacks. Additionally, the town's lighthouse, built in the late 1800s, is also a notable landmark.

Apart from its historical attractions, Sisal boasts a wide variety of outdoor activities, including fishing, kayaking, and birdwatching. There are also several restaurants and bars in the area that serve delectable local cuisine, including fresh seafood and traditional Yucatan dishes.

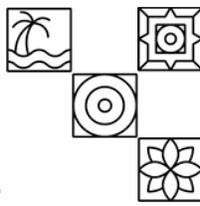




Yucalpeten & Progreso

While the Port of Progreso is the main port of Yucatan, for cargo and cruise ships, the nearby Yucalpeten is a popular harbor for smaller recreational vessels.



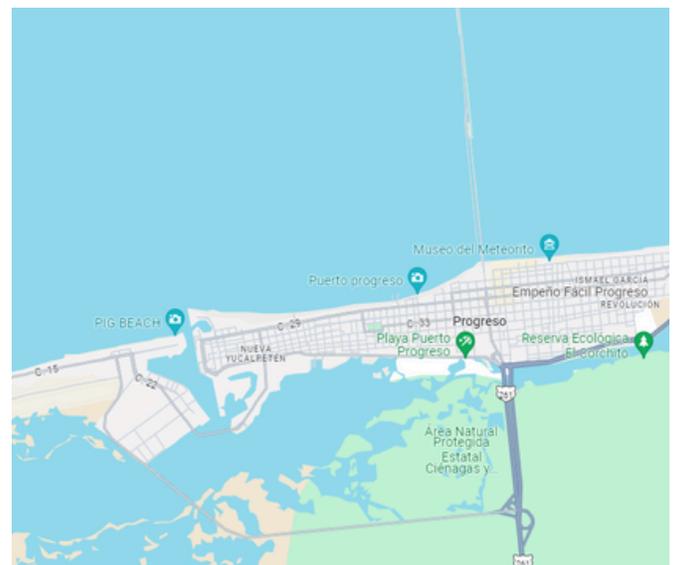
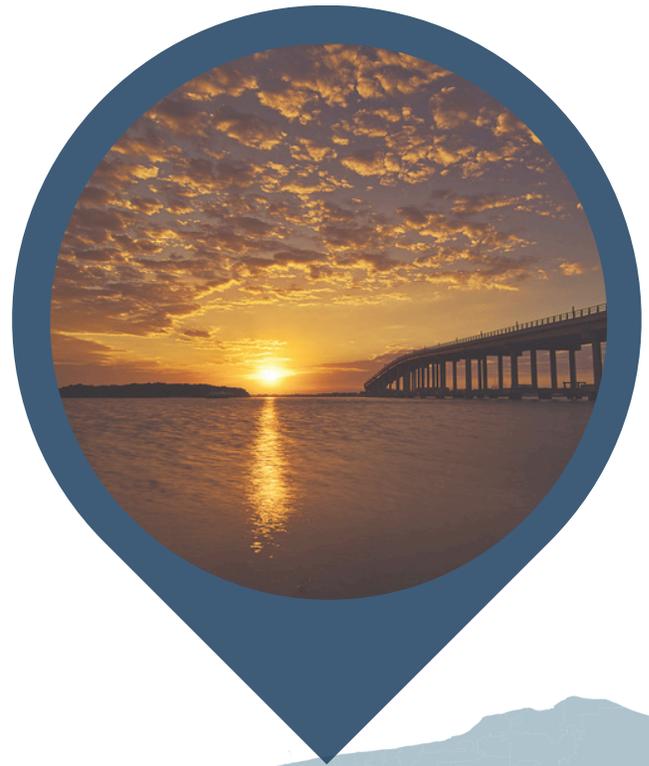


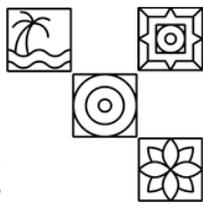
Location & geography

Yucalpeten is a town situated about half a mile away from the Port of Progreso. Despite its proximity to the port, Yucalpeten is well-known for its large number of marinas that cater to small and medium-sized vessels. These marinas offer a variety of services, ranging from basic to high-end lodging facilities, for fishing boats and yachts alike.

The harbor features a 2.2-meter-deep access channel that leads to several marinas. These marinas provide different services, accommodating the diverse needs of their customers.

Since Yucalpeten is located close to a larger urban area, it hasn't developed any tourist infrastructure. However, the town benefits from Progreso's existing services that are aimed at cruise passengers.





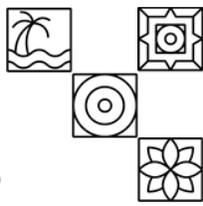
Port of Progreso

The Port of Progreso boasts **the Longest Pier of the World**, certified by Guinness Records on July 1st, 2023, as part of the town's founding anniversary celebrations.

Originally built in two stages, in 1937 and 1984, as commercial cargo infrastructure, it opened a dedicated Cruise Terminal in 2000 under the administration of SSA Mexico.

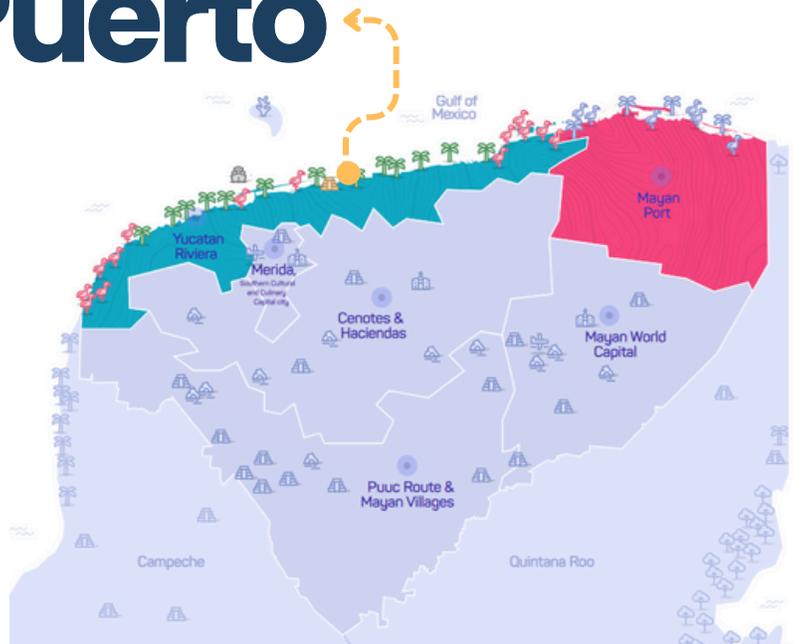
In 2014, a modernization project was completed that extended the pier to its current length of 26,309 miles (8,018.98 km). However, the length of the pier presents a challenge when it comes to the transportation of cruise passengers to the town. To address this issue, a local transportation company called AutoProgreso provides a free shuttle service. The shuttle service runs every 20 minutes from the arrival time until 1 hour before departure and can be requested directly from the port agent.

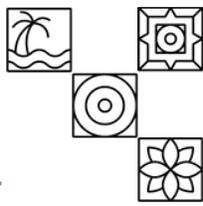




Telchac Puerto

To the east of Progreso's Port, Telchac Puerto is a popular town due to its beaches and nearby Mayan site.

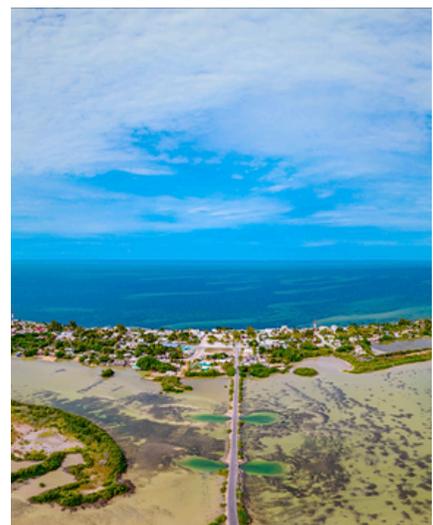
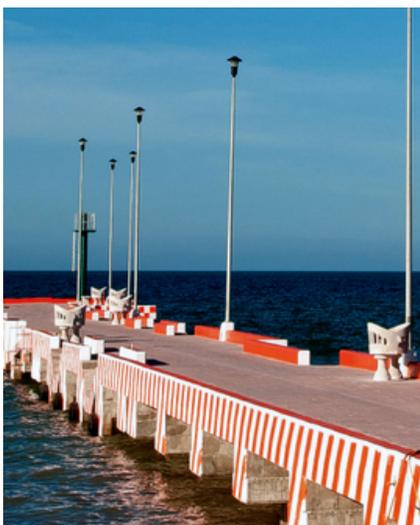
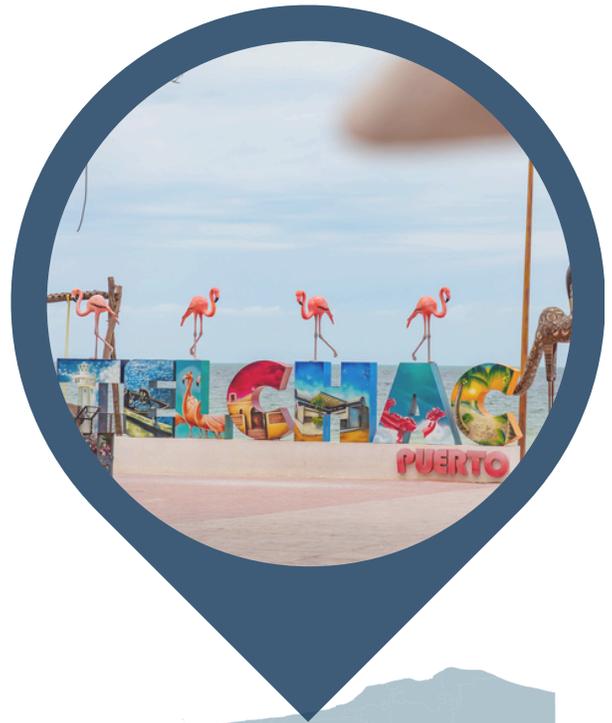


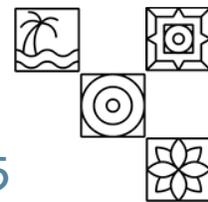


Description

Telchac Puerto is situated at a distance of 43 km (26 miles) to the east of Port of Progreso. The place is known for its 30-meter-wide and 2-meter-deep access channel that leads to an inlet. This inlet is protected by rustic infrastructure and is mainly used by small fishing vessels.

Due to its extensive coastline, Telchac has several hotels that offer beach access. Additionally, it is in close proximity to Xcambo, which is the only Mayan site in Yucatan located near the beach. Laguna Rosada is another nearby attraction where you can spot pink flamingos and enjoy kayaking.

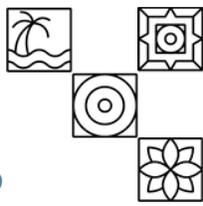




San Felipe

Next to the popular flamingo sighting area, Las Coloradas, San Felipe is one of the ports further east of Yucatan.





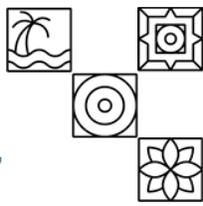
Description

San Felipe is a small port located to the east of the previously mentioned ones. It is situated within an inlet and is protected from the weather by concrete jetties. The port can be accessed through a 90-meter-wide channel that has 40-meter concrete piers and the port has no official draft measurement.

Ria Lagartos, which is known for its large pink flamingo habitat and is part of the Natural Reserve of the same name, is located 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) from San Felipe.

However, due to its small size, this port cannot accommodate larger vessels.

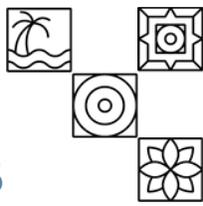




Rio Lagartos

Located 168 miles from the capital city of Merida, and 102 miles from the Port of Progreso, Rio Lagartos is the municipality inside Ria Lagartos Reserve recognized by the Mexican Government in 1979 as an important and protected wildlife refuge area of Yucatan.





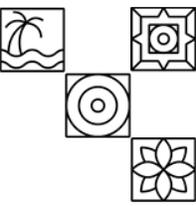
Description

Rio Lagartos port has a single main access channel to the estuary and the interior of the port. and its official depths vary between 1.5 and 6.5 ft. along the estuary.

Ria Lagartos Reserve is the main nesting area of flamingo in Mexico. The port is an authentic fisherman ville with sustainable tourism activity.

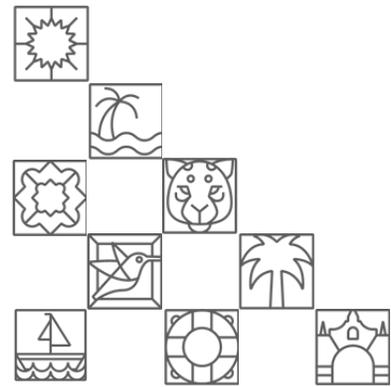
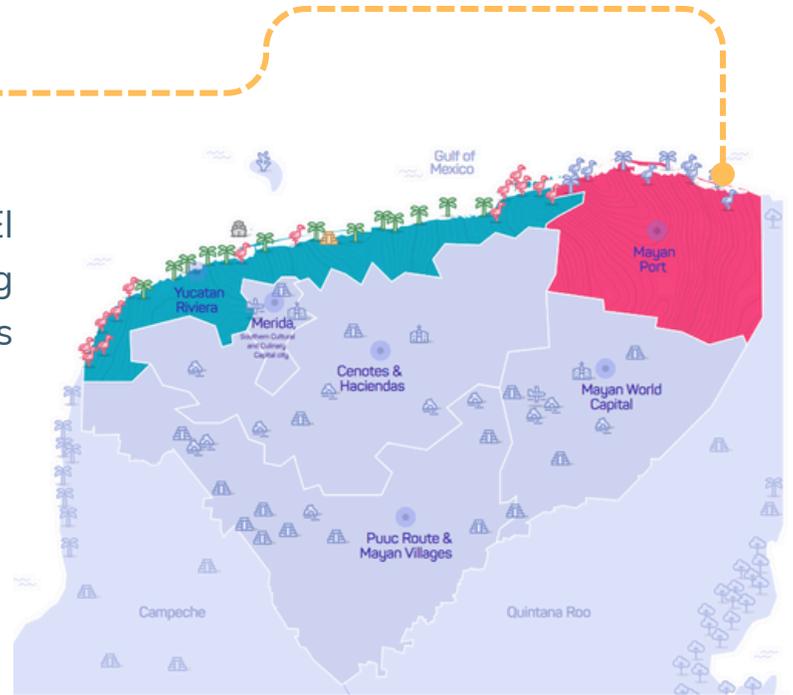
The nearby attractions such as the pink waters of Las Coloradas, the Chiquila waterhole and sailing along the estuary to watch birds, make nature activities the strong point of the place.

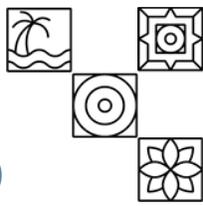




El Cuyo

The last port east of Progreso's, El Cuyo is an old fashioned fishing village inside the Ria Lagartos Reserve.



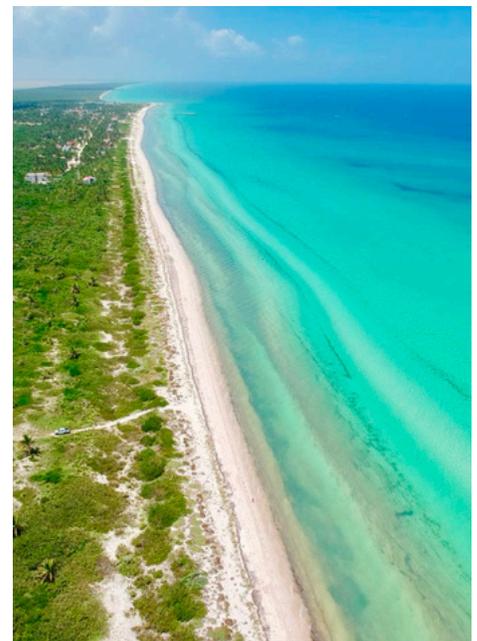
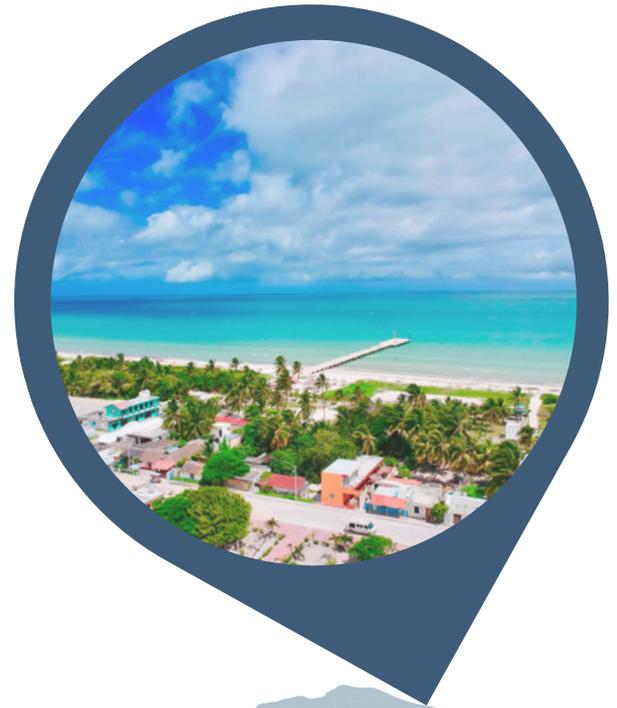


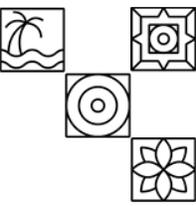
Description

Situated on Barrera Island, which serves as a buffer between the sea and the Ría de Lagartos, the port of El Cuyo holds a significant position within the protected natural expanse of the Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve.

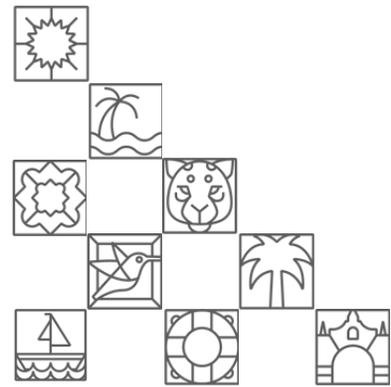
Currently, there hasn't been an official draft measurement assigned to this port. Nonetheless, it holds significant importance within the biosphere reserve for its vital contribution to protecting the habitats of the Carey and white turtles.

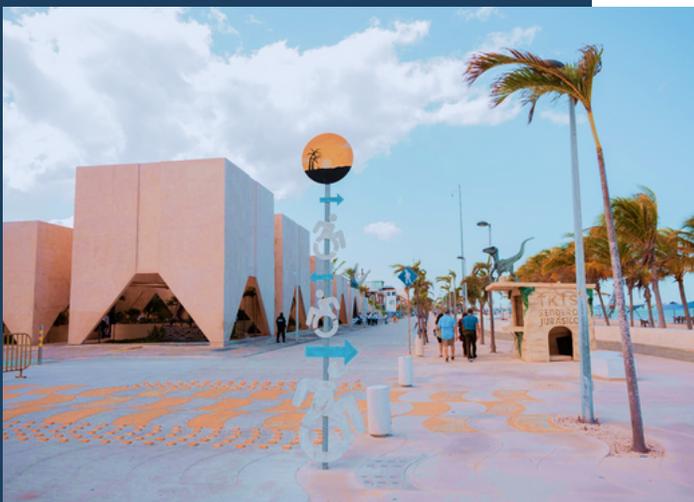
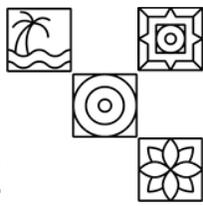
It's important to note that there are no designated anchorage areas within this port.





Sightseeing in Yucatan



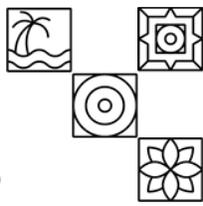


Easily accessible from almost any point on the Yucatecan coast, the Port of Progreso possesses a long boardwalk, known as El Malecón, which has been expanded and renewed in later years, and it is now divided into two sections: Malecon Tradicional, which has a selection of restaurants for all preferences and budgets, and Malecon Internacional, which features several cute photo spots to make the visit memorable.

The connecting wharf between the two boardwalks, **El Deck**, is equipped with benches and picturesque illumination. It also has a Ferris wheel and a carousel that can delight children.

Walking along the boardwalk, you can find the **Meteorite Museum**, which provides a modern interactive experience that amazes and educates visitors.

Across from the Museum, the Port of Progreso boasts an **Accessible Beach** access, where a wooden path extends to the water and floating beach wheelchairs are available for visitors.



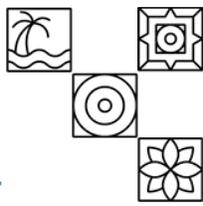
Yucatan is known for its breathtaking natural beauty, with numerous natural reserves and animal sanctuaries.

One such attraction is **El Corchito EcoPark**, situated at the northern edge of the town and easily accessible from the Port of Progreso. This park is home to several species of native animals and offers a peaceful escape into the mangroves, where visitors can immerse themselves in nature.

For those seeking adventure, there are plenty of water sports available in the large mangroves north of Port of Progreso, including kayaking and paddling.

Additionally, there are many colorful and fun common areas to explore, such as the increasingly popular **Pig Beach**, where visitors can mingle with the charming pigs, or **Isla Columpios**, a cluster of islands offering a safe and fun place to enjoy outdoor activities.





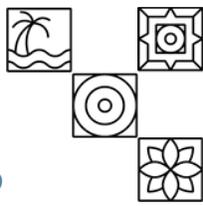
Las Coloradas & Valladolid

Yucatan is a state in Mexico that has a lot to offer for tourists. While most of the tourist infrastructure is located near Merida and its international airport, the eastern edge of the state is home to some unique and incomparable natural beauty. One such place is Las Coloradas, where you can witness the extraordinary sight of a large salt flat that displays an array of unbelievable colors. The pink hues of the water are caused by high levels of salt and red-colored algae that thrive in the hypersaline environment.

If you head south from Las Coloradas, you'll eventually reach the city of Valladolid. This city is one of the largest in the state and was built by the Spanish. It is also the closest major urban area to the ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza. Valladolid is known for its rich history and culture, and it's a great place to explore Spanish colonial architecture. It also has a lot of activities for tourists to enjoy, such as cenote diving and swimming, exploring the nearby ruins, and sampling delicious local cuisine.

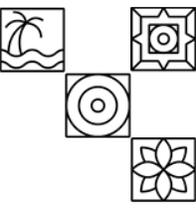
In conclusion, Yucatan is a state that has both natural and cultural treasures to offer. Whether you want to marvel at the unique beauty of Las Coloradas or explore the rich history and culture of Valladolid, there is something for everyone in this beautiful state.





Beautiful Merida, Yucatan’s capital city, is located 40 kilometers from the Progreso’s Cruise Terminal. It is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, stunning architecture, and delicious cuisine. The city is home to many historical landmarks, such as the **Monumento a la Patria** and the **San Idelfonso Cathedral** -the oldest in the continental mainland.

Merida's Manuel Crescencio Rejón International Airport (MID) is the second most important airport in the region, after Cancun's. The airport offers direct flights to several destinations including Houston, Dallas, Miami, Oakland, Havana, Toronto, Camaguey, Flores, and Guatemala. It is conveniently linked to Cancun and its international airport by a highway, making open-jaw travel possible. Additionally, the airport provides connections to 11 major cities in Mexico.



Merida is also known for hosting many diverse cultural events, including music festivals, art exhibits, and traditional dance exhibitions. With its warm climate, friendly people, and vibrant atmosphere, Merida is a must-visit experience.



Moreover, the city is considered the gastronomic hub of the region, showcasing both traditional and modern Yucatecan cuisine. Merida's 2023 Sabores de Yucatan Gastronomic Festival included the prestigious Best Chef Award, presented for the first time outside of Europe.





The Yucatan Peninsula is an ideal starting point to explore the Mayan World in Mexico, housing several historically significant and recognized Mayan sites. Among them, **Xcambó**, while comparatively small compared to others in the area, is the closest and most accessible from the Port of Progreso. It is situated just slightly over half a mile away from the Cruise Terminal.

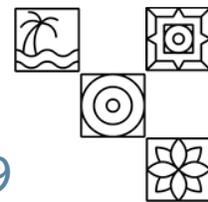
In contrast, **Chichen Itza** and **Uxmal**, two of the largest Mayan cities in the region, are quite popular among those interested in history and archeology even though the transit time to these locations exceeds 90 minutes. For those who want to experience it all there is an alternative Mayan site, **Aké**, is surrounded by haciendas, cenotes, and other natural wonders, while occupying a middle ground between size and distance from the port.



For more references on more touristic locations please visit:



<https://yucatan.travel/en/region/riviera-yucatan/>



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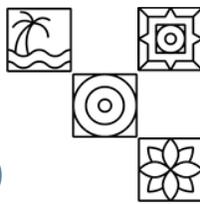
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Progreso
2021-2024

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Rio Lagartos

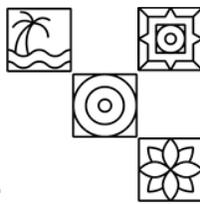
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El Cuyo

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