

Yucatan

Information Brief



Technical and Statistical Data on the Port of
Progreso as a Cruise Destination

+260,000

Cruise passengers
visited Yucatan during
2023

About

105

Cruiseship calls
programmed for 2024



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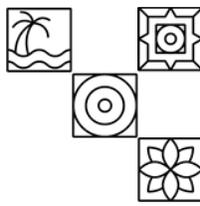


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“

“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”





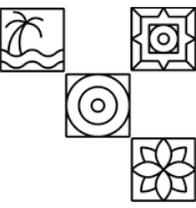
Overview

This comprehensive document comprises maps, graphs, and statistical charts that provide crucial information on the Port of Progreso and Yucatan state. Our goal is to inspire cruise line executives to consider Yucatan as a cruise destination.

Highlighted features of this information package include:

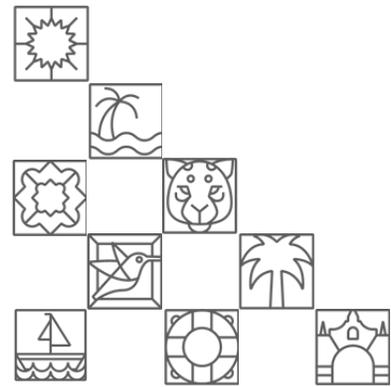
- A broad overview of the geography of the region
- Detailed specifications of Progreso's International Cruise Terminal
- Primary tourist attractions in the Progreso area
- Key sights in Yucatan
- Statistical data for Yucatan and the Port of Progreso
- A summary of the ongoing modernization projects

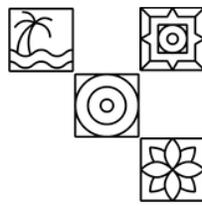
Yucatan is renowned worldwide for its rich history and culture, particularly its numerous Mayan ruins and stunning nature reserves along the serene coastline. The region boasts a unique blend of Mexican and Mayan cuisine, art, and culture. Some of the most noteworthy tourist attractions in Yucatan include the ancient Maya ruins of Chichen Itza and Uxmal, as well as the picturesque flamingo reserves.



Port of Progreso

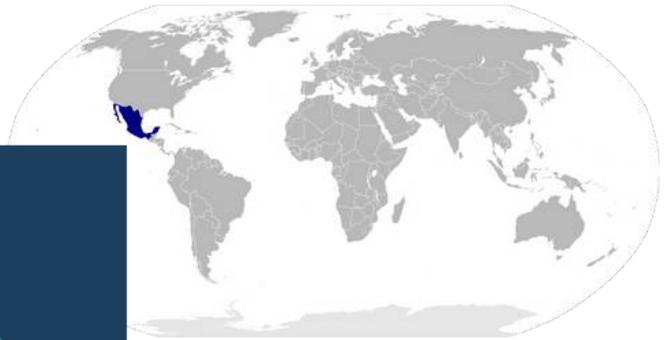
Progreso is the main port of Yucatan and serves as a gateway to many of the state's popular tourist destinations.





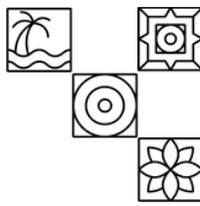
The Yucatan Peninsula, located at the **southeastern edge of Mexico**, is divided into three independently governed states: Yucatan, Quintana Roo, and Campeche.

In Yucatan, the cruise port is **Port of Progreso**, located 18 miles from the state capital, Merida.



| 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 Port of Progreso has a strategic location for many western cruise routes.

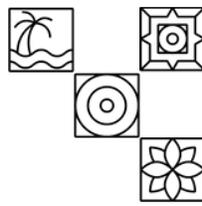


The Port of Progreso boasts **the Longest Pier of the World**, certified by Guinness Records on July 1st, 2023, as part of the town's founding anniversary celebrations.

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.

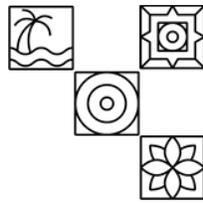




Certified for the fourth time in September 2023, Port of Progreso's Blue Flag beaches represent the ongoing commitment and dedication of Yucatan's state and local authorities to maintaining the highest standards across various crucial aspects such as sustainability, water quality, safety, environmental education, and cleanliness.

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) diligently conducts periodic studies to assess these conditions, ensuring the continual renewal of this certification, which is considered of great importance to the Yucatan Tourism Board and to the Progreso Municipality.





As one of the most prominent ports in the country, the Port of Progreso falls under the jurisdiction of a federal institution known as **ASIPONA Progreso** (Administraciones del Sistema Portuario Nacional) due to the recent restructuring of such organizations by the Mexican government.



SSA Mexico, a subsidiary of SSA Marine and the Carrix Group, has overseen the Progreso International Cruise Terminal for over two decades.

Although not directly responsible for the administration or operation of the Cruise Terminal, the **Ayuntamiento de Progreso** (local municipality government) and the **Secretaría de Fomento Turístico** (also known as the Yucatan Tourism Board) collaborate to promote the port as a favored cruise destination and to enhance the overall tourist experience.



Gobierno del Estado

SEFOTUR
SECRETARÍA DE FOMENTO TURÍSTICO

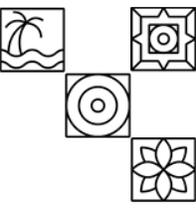


This is achieved through training programs, active participation in international cruise events and fairs, and services provided at the Cruise Terminal, such as the Tourist Information Desk.

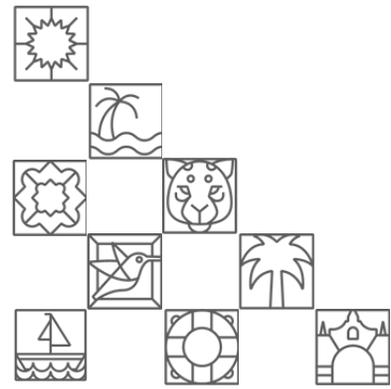
These four institutions also form the core of **Progreso's Cruise Committee**, first created in 2008 to serve as an open forum to discuss and work proactively in matters related to the arrival of cruise ships and their passengers to the Port of Progreso.

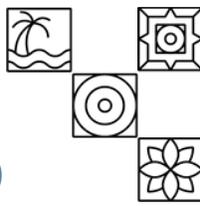
Cruise Committee meetings are held as needed, no fewer than twice per year with representatives from the different public and private entities involved.





Progreso Cruise Terminal



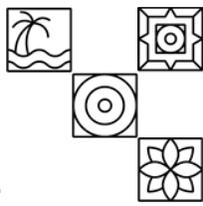


SSA Mexico, which is a subsidiary of the Carrix Group and SSA Marine, manages the International Cruise Terminal located in the Port of Progreso. The terminal is situated 6.5 kilometers (4 miles) away from the coast, on the World's Longest Pier. To reach the port, cruise ships have to navigate through a 7-kilometer (4.3-mile) channel that has a draft of 12 meters (39.37 ft).

By land, access to the Cruise Terminal is controlled by several levels of security due to its unique position next to an important cargo terminal and its distance from the town for which it is named. For this reason, unregistered transportation and tour providers are not permitted access to the terminal.

While navigating through this Terminal, visitors can explore various local shopping opportunities, including duty-free shops. Additionally, the Terminal provides a range of services such as a complimentary shuttle service to the downtown area of the Port of Progreso, an authorized taxi service, emergency medical personnel, and a tourist information desk.





SSA Mexico is currently working on an expansion project based on private investment, which is aimed at upgrading and modernizing the local infrastructure and image. The company has not disclosed the specifics of the project yet.

Infrastructure:

- A 34.8 squared miles (56,000 sq. mts.) area.
- Berth with two docking positions.
- Berthing dolphin for a total of 1,082 ft (330 m) in length, 525 ft (160 m) of berth, and 34.4 ft (10.5 m) of the draft.
- A 179.6 ft (54.75 m) ferry dock, with berthing dolphin for a total of 360.9 ft (110 m) in length and 23 ft (7 m) draft.
- A patio of 28.5 sq. miles (45.8 sq. mts.).
- Mooring services.



Passenger Services:

- Duty-free shops
- Custom and immigration services.
- Parking and transportation services.



SSA México
Grupo Carriz

Yucatan in numbers



Every year, Yucatan rolls out the red carpet for over 635,000 jet-setters from around the globe. With a bustling Cruise Terminal receiving around 100 ships annually, an International Airport with over 1,400 direct international flights, and a convenient highway connecting to nearby tourist meccas, it's no surprise that Yucatan has become one of Mexico's top international spots.



During 2023, Port of Progreso received 75 calls with a higher passenger number than in previous years, which increased the number of visitors arriving by cruise to almost 261 thousand. 2024 is expected to surpass that by reaching over 312 thousand visitors. This has maintained the Port of Progreso in the top 7 Mexican Cruise Ports' National Ranking.



| | PORT | PASSENGERS | MARKET SHARE |
|----|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | COZUMEL | 4,076,976 | 44.9% |
| 2 | Majahual, Q. Roo | 1,807,021 | 19.9% |
| 3 | Ensenada, B.C. | 1,006,890 | 11.1% |
| 4 | Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S. | 735,686 | 8.1% |
| 5 | Puerto Vallarta, Jal. | 543,609 | 6.0% |
| 6 | Mazatlán, Sin. | 468,970 | 5.2% |
| 7 | Progreso, Yuc. | 260,968 | 2.9% |
| 8 | Huatulco, Oax. | 42,232 | 0.5% |
| 9 | Pichilingue, B.C.S. | 36,527 | 0.4% |
| 10 | Others | 99,406 | 1.1% |
| | TOTALS | 9,078,320 | 100.0% |

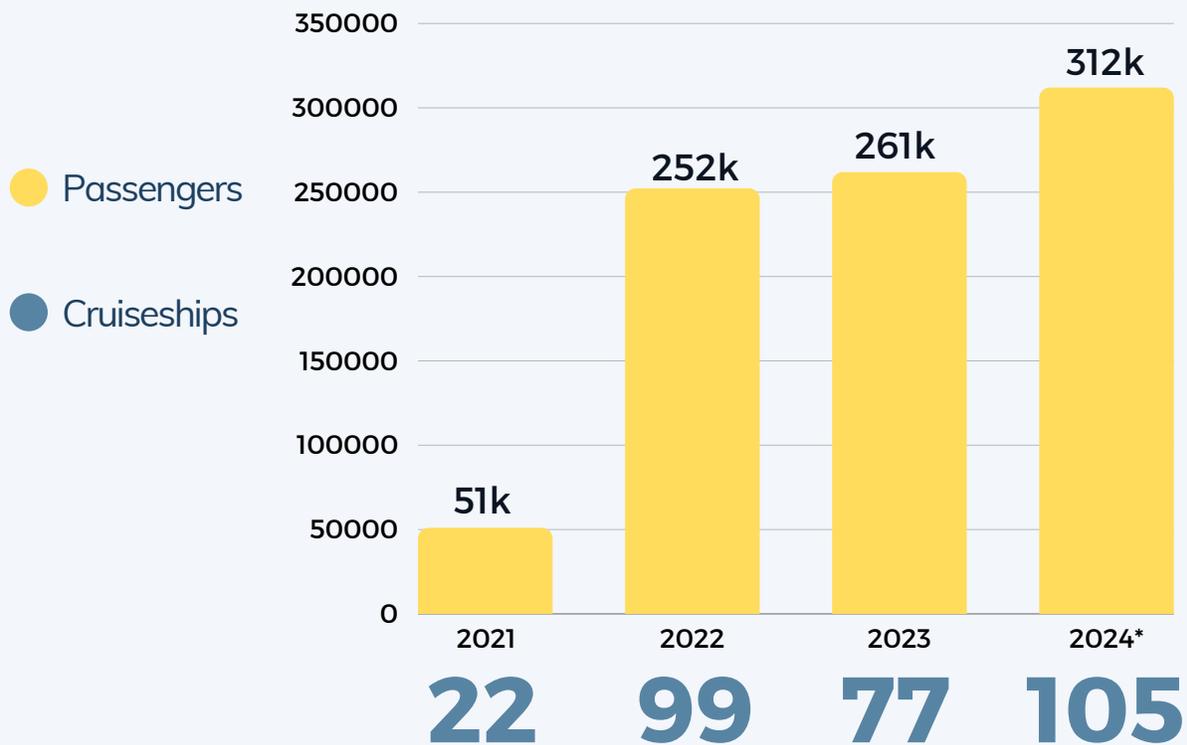
SOURCE: DATATUR de la Secretaría de Turismo, 2024.



During the second half of 2021, regular port operations restarted with a 50-60% passenger occupation, and by 2022, the occupancy percentage had returned to the traditional numbers.

In 2023, the number of tourists arriving by cruise reached 260, 968 people in 75 cruise calls, increasing the number of visitors even when the number of calls decreased from the previous year.

This year, the Port of Progreso is estimated to surpass 325 thousand cruise passengers arriving in over 110 calls. This corresponds to the trends observed internationally and it is expected to continue in the coming years.



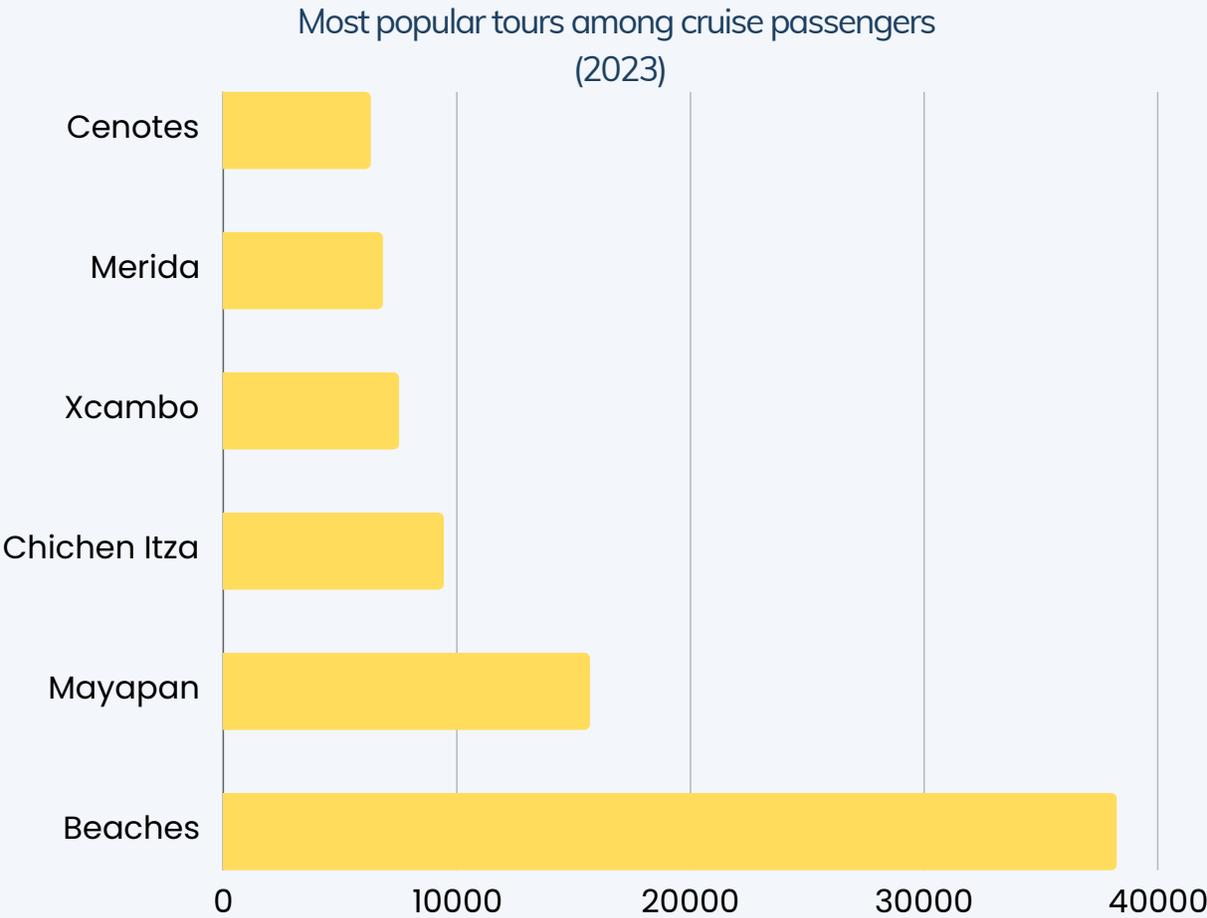
2025
Estimates

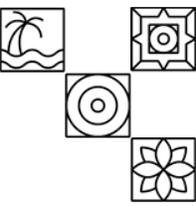
427K
Passengers

154
Cruise calls

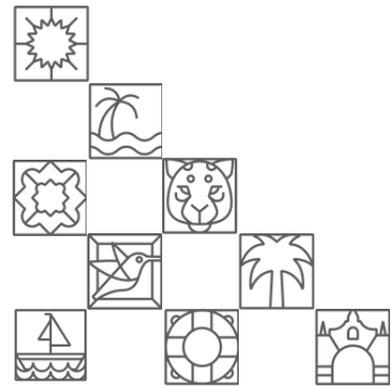
5
Cruise lines

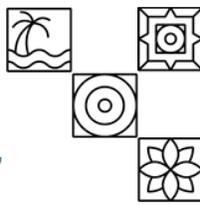
While the lulling waves of local beaches hold an undeniable allure for tourist visiting by cruise, there exist other popular experiences. Last year, significant percentage of cruise passengers visited the Archeological Mayan sites of X'cambo and Mayapan, the city of Merida, or explore the hidden treasures of the subterranean caves known as Cenotes and unique to the Yucatan peninsula.





Sightseeing in Progreso

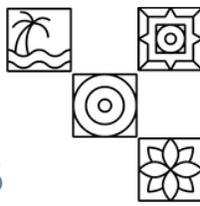




Yucatan has an impressive coastline that spans almost 235 miles. Along with its rich cultural history, it is a popular tourist destination. The Port of Progreso, which started as a small fishing village in 1856, is now the most prominent in the state due to its strategic location near Merida, the state capital, and its top-notch infrastructure. The town has a population of around 42,000 and boasts almost four miles of pristine coastline.

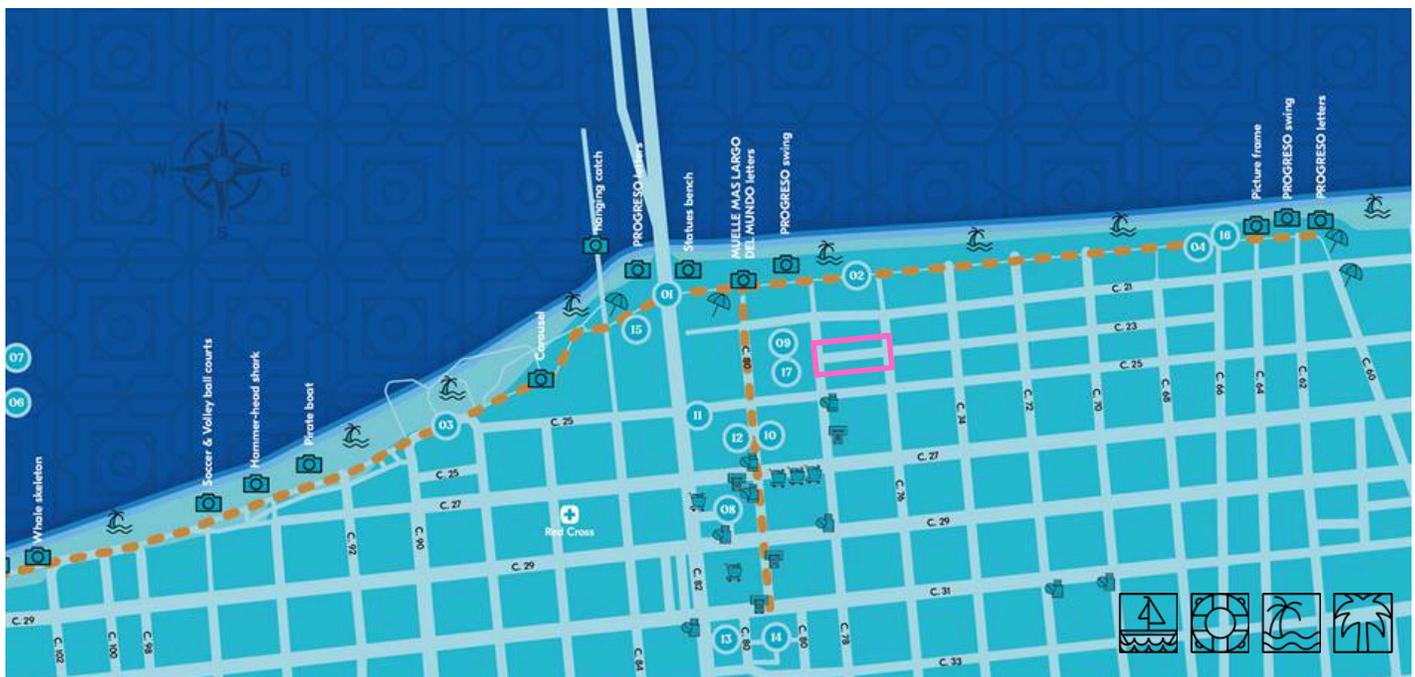
Since 2018, the town has continued to undergo significant urban development. For example, Port of Progreso's boardwalk, known as El Malecón, has been expanded and renewed, and it is now divided into two sections: Malecon Tradicional, which has a selection of restaurants for all preferences and budgets, and Malecon Internacional, which features several cute photo spots to make the visit memorable.

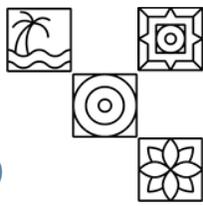




The population growth in the Port of Progreso has led to an increased demand for urban and commercial services. As a result, properties in the downtown area that were traditionally used as makeshift market areas are now being developed into new buildings. This presents an opportunity for the Ayuntamiento de Progreso to provide new public spaces. They plan to create a new shopping alley with booths available to local artisans, and a modern, weather-friendly design.

These modernization efforts have given the town a new lease of life and made it an even more attractive destination for locals and tourists alike.



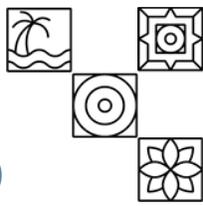


The new spaces in the Port of Progreso offer various tourist services and communal areas that feature recycled material sculptures and several photo spots. The connecting wharf between the two boardwalks, known as **El Deck**, is equipped with benches and picturesque illumination. It also has a Ferris wheel and a carousel that can delight children.

Along the boardwalk, there is a **Meteorite Museum**, which provides a modern interactive experience that amazes and educates visitors.

Moreover, for families with small children, the Port of Progreso also features the **Jurassic Trail**, an excellent opportunity to learn more about dinosaurs and their extinction.

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.



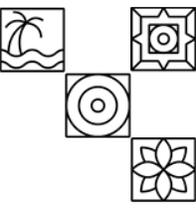
Yucatan is known for its breathtaking natural beauty, with numerous natural reserves and animal sanctuaries.

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.

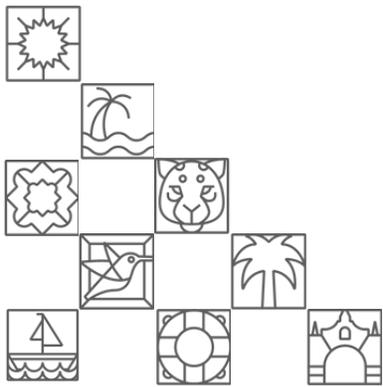
Additionally, there are many colorful and fun common areas to explore, such as the increasingly popular **Pig Beach**, where visitors can mingle with the charming pigs, or **Isla Columpios**, a cluster of islands offering a safe and fun place to enjoy outdoor activities.

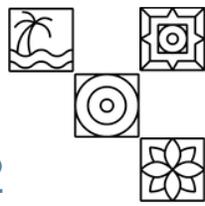




Merida & the Mayan World

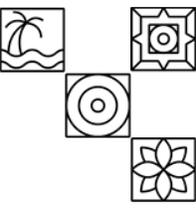
From the Port of Progreso, tourists can easily access the nearby city of Merida, renown for its culture, art, and history.





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.



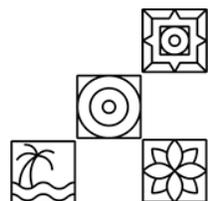
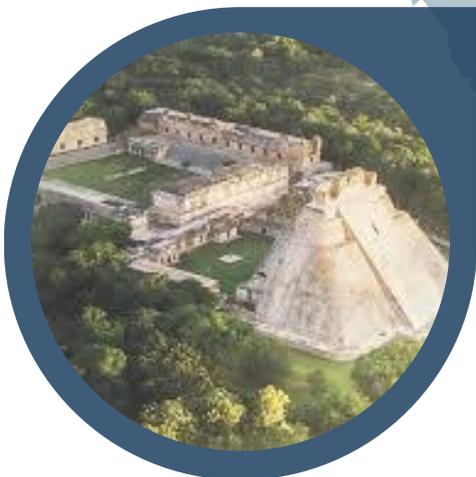
Moreover, the city is considered the gastronomic hub of the region, showcasing both traditional and modern Yucatecan cuisine. Merida's 2023 Sabores de Yucatan Gastronomic Festival included the prestigious Best Chef Award, presented for the first time outside of Europe.



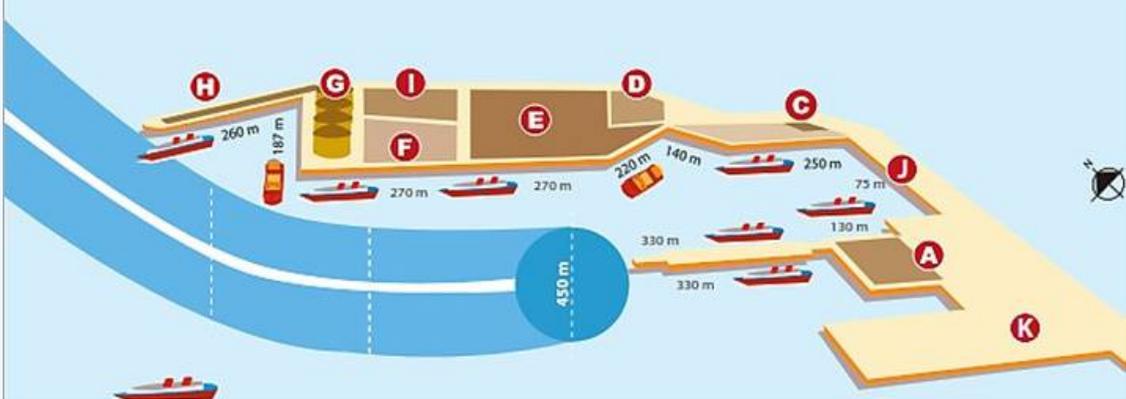


The Yucatan Peninsula is an ideal starting point to explore the Mayan World in Mexico, housing several historically significant and recognized Mayan sites. Among them, **Xcambó**, while comparatively small compared to others in the area, is the closest and most accessible from the Port of Progreso. It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



Due to the unique maritime geography of the Yucatan peninsula, access to the Cruise Terminal requires a navigation channel. The growing size of modern cruise ships has made the enlargement of this canal a necessity. The Dredging Project has been moving forward steadily and it is expected to begin shortly, lasting 18 months.



| CURRENT MEASSURES |
|----------------------------|
| Length: 4.41 miles (7.1km) |
| Width: 511.8 ft (150m) |
| Depth: 36 ft (11m) |
| Draft: 32 ft (9.75m) |

| PLANNED MEASSURES |
|---------------------------|
| Length: 6.21 miles (10km) |
| Width: 590 ft (180m) |
| Depth: 46 ft (14m) |
| Draft: 42 ft (12.8m) |

Modernization of roads and public areas is underway. The ongoing construction of a new overpass across the Port of Progreso will greatly improve traffic flow. Once completed, this project will benefit cruise passengers and tourists by providing a smoother travel experience.



Current
transit flow

12,000
vehicles

1,400
tons of cargo



The Tren Maya is currently the largest railway under construction in the world. It is being planned and created as a public service to connect the communities in the area and to benefit the tourism sector. The most significant part of the railway in Yucatan will be 159.7 kilometers long and will run from Campeche - which is a neighboring state on Yucatan's west side - to Yucatan.

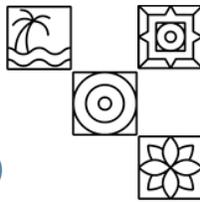


Great care is being taken during construction to preserve the region's archaeological and natural wealth and to minimize environmental harm. Construction works related to this have brought the Yucatan State Government the opportunity to upgrade the connecting highways and city beltway.

Investment

TREN MAYA
\$28,600
 million dollars

ROAD UPGRADE
\$10
 million dollars



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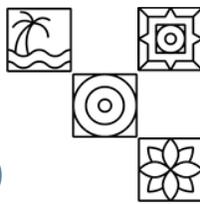
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YUCATAN

July 2024