Cozumel, Mexico Port Review

To get the most from your shore excursion or your self-guided day on shore, ShoreFox provides you with useful information in this port review & port guide.

World Region
Caribbean / Bahamas / Florida

Time Zone
GMT -06:00

International Calling Code
+52

Languages
• Spanish (official language)
• English (widely spoken)

Currencies
• Mexican Peso (official currency)
• US Dollar (widely accepted)

Police / Emergency Phone Number
060

Overview
Cozumel is Mexico’s largest Caribbean island, located just off the Yucatan Peninsula. This once sleepy fishing village has become a tourist attraction in its own right, with over a million cruise passengers visiting each year. Cozumel has held onto its non-touristy side with large stretches of pristine jungle and sandy beach still untouched.

Cozumel is best known for it’s beaches, world class scuba diving and archeology. The island derives its name from the Mayan civilization that settled there approximately 2,000 years ago. According to Mayan legend, Cozumel was the home of Ixchel, the goddess of love and fertility. Legend has it that when religious temples were dedicated to her, she sent her favorite bird – the swallow – as a sign of her gratitude. For this reason, the people called the island “Cuzamil”, which is Mayan for “Land of the Swallows”.

Cruise Ship Pier Location
There are three piers in Cozumel where cruise ships dock. Make sure to check which one you are at as this will influence taxi prices and travel times:

• Punta Langosta: This pier is located right downtown so you can walk off the ship and into downtown San Miguel
• International Pier: The oldest cruise ship pier on the island, located about 1.5 miles south from San Miguel
• Puerta Maya: Located about five miles south from San Miguel and used by Carnival

Self-guided Shore Excursions & Cruise Excursions
Playa Casitas: Located just 1.5 miles north from the center of San Miguel, this is a quiet and safe beach with good ocean access. Entrance is free and there are public restrooms and restaurants nearby.

Playa Calatita: Located about 1 ½ miles south of the main square downtown is a man made sandy beach area. There are also showers and a new restaurant.
Taxi Transportation

Taxis are widely available at the entrance to the pier terminal. Taxi rates are all charged per person and not per taxi. The cost is approximately $5 per person for a ride into town. Rates to the east beaches can cost $10 to $15 per person and to the west beaches $20 per person and up. If you request a taxi van for your party, note that the rates will be doubled: You will be charged the price of 2 taxis plus $2 USD. However, if the van is next in a taxi stand and you put no more than 4 passengers, the price is the same as a taxi. All licensed taxis in Cozumel have a number painted on the side of the car.

Word to the wise: Be sure to settle on a fare before you hop in the cab, as some drivers aim to overcharge for longer trips, so bargain carefully and don’t be taken for a ride.

Taxi Companies Contact Data

- Cozumel Central Taxi Dispatcher, +52 (987) 872-0236

Water Taxi Transportation

There is a popular and convenient ferry service running between the island of Cozumel and Playa Del Carmen. The ride takes approximately 45 minutes with the ferries running approximately every hour, on the hour. The ferry runs 365 days a year, but make sure to check the schedule when you head out so that your return plans are confirmed. Tickets are $13 per adult (one-way) and $8 per child (one-way). The ferry terminal is just a short walk from the downtown cruise dock to the north.

General Store Opening Hours

Most stores are open from 9 am to approximately 8 pm Monday to Saturday. The stores in the cruise terminal area are always open when there is a cruise ship in port.

Service Locations

Free wifi

- Calling Station, Avenue Rafael E. Melgar 27, San Miguel
- Coffee Bean, Calle 3, San Miguel
- Senor Frogs, Avenue Rafael E. Melgar, San Miguel

ATM

- Santander Bank, corner of 3rd Avenue and 10th street

Tipping / Bargaining Habits

Even if prices are posted, they can be negotiated. Bargaining is widely accepted.
Safety Advice

Resort areas and tourist destinations in Mexico are generally safe. Nevertheless, crime and violence can be serious problems in Mexico, so it is recommended that you stay in the tourist areas and be aware of your surroundings. Don’t bring valuables to the beach as there are many pan handlers.

Nice To Know

- For U.S. and Canadian travelers, electrical converters are not necessary because Mexico operates on the 60-cycle, 120-volt system

Pharmacy / Hospital Contact Data

- Centro Medico de Cozumel, Calle 1, San Miguel, Tel.: +52 (987) 872-5664 or +52 (987) 872-3370

There are pharmacies all over San Miguel, stocking most over the counter medications. There is also a pharmacy located in the main cruise terminal.

Embassy / Consulate Contact Data

Consulate of the United States of America, Between Melgar and 5th Aves, Cozumel, Mexico, Tel.: +52 (987) 872-4574, Fax.: +52 (987) 872-6662, email: usgov@cozumel.net

British Embassy, Rio Lerma, No. 71, Col. Cuauhtémoc, CP. 06500, Mexico City, Mexico, Tel.: +52 (55) 1670-3200, Fax: +52 (55) 1670-3217, email: ukinmexico@fco.gov.uk

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Horacio 1506, Col. Los Morales, Sección Alameda, 11530 México, D.F., Tel.: +52 (55) 5283-2200, Fax: +52 (55) 5281-2588

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