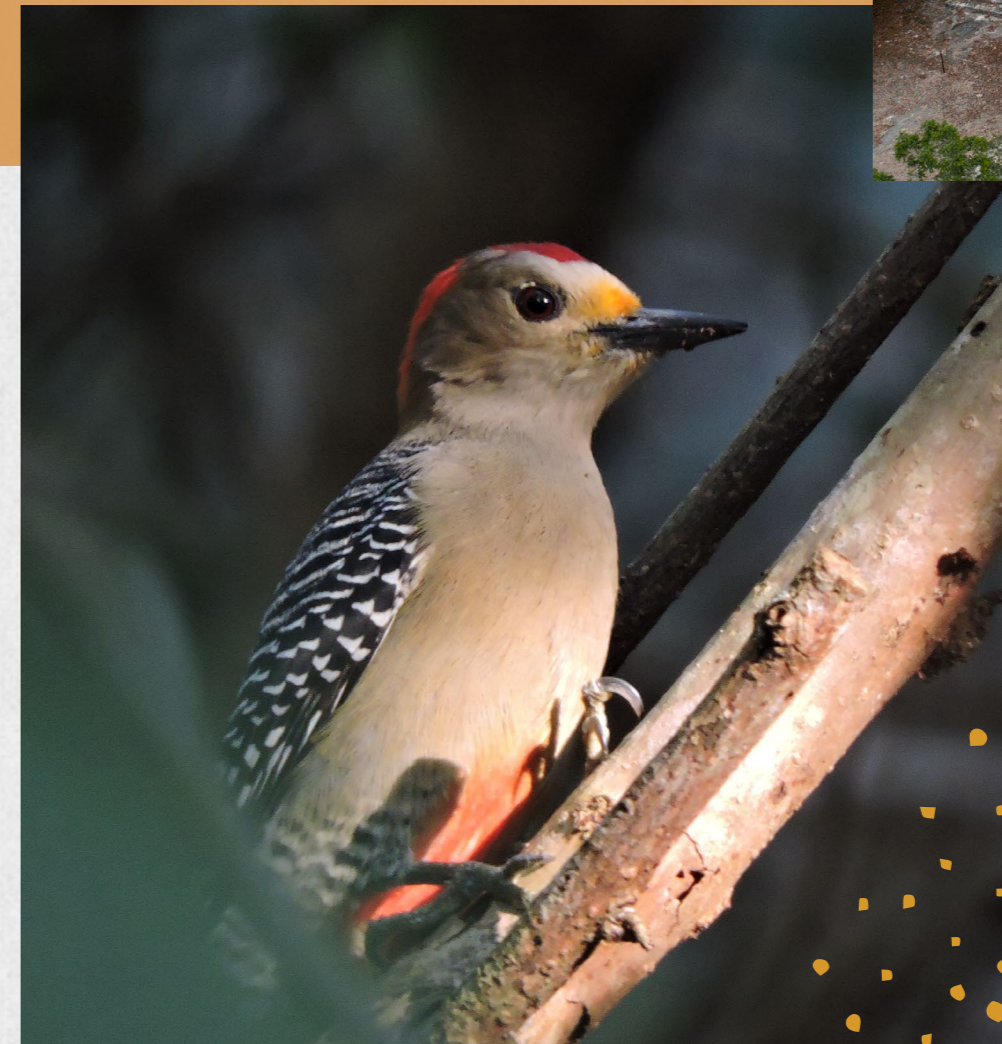
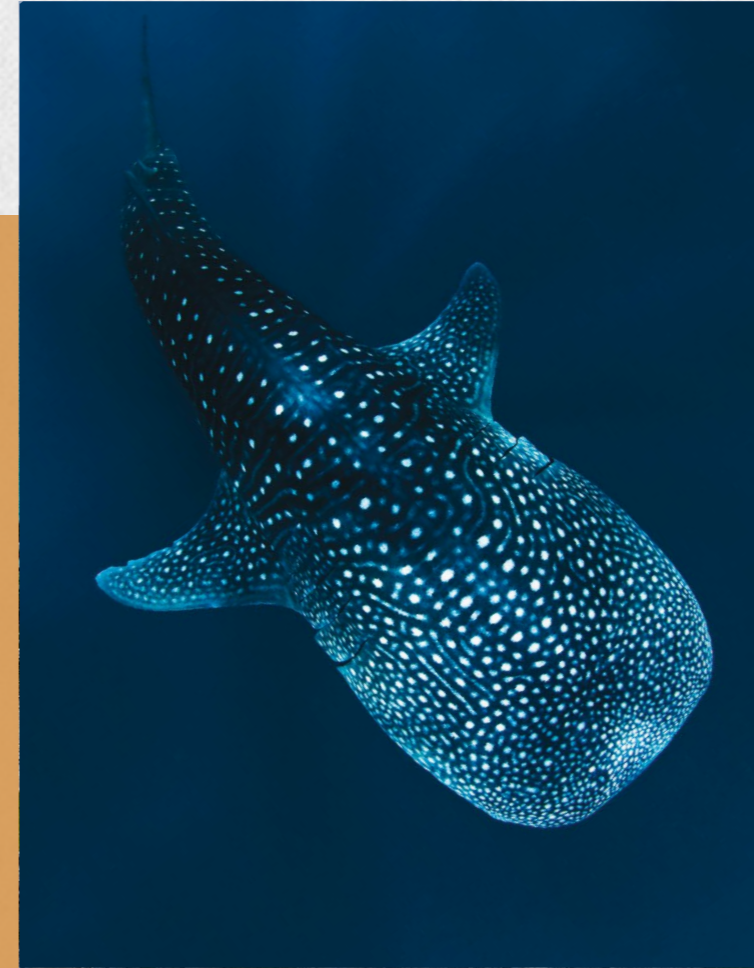


Visit, Admire, Preserve,

Guide to Be a Responsible Traveler

MEX:ICANCARIBBEAN.TRAVEL



The **Mexican Caribbean** is a lush destination, with several natural wonders that holds an impressive biodiversity which is one of the main reasons this destination is so unique.

Some facts worth-knowing:

20% of our territory is protected by law

Federal Protected Natural Areas:

- 6 Biosphere Reserves
- 6 National Parks
- 6 Flora and Fauna Protection Areas
- 1 Sanctuary

70%  Mayan jungle

19 Archaeological sites & **Living Mayan Culture** 

A **Historical Monuments Area** (Decreed by the INAH) **Tihosuco**

7,938 

Fauna species

- 106 species of reptiles / 17 of them are endemic
- 483 species of birds / 9 of them are endemic
- 4 of 8 species of sea turtles arrive to our beaches

HOLBOX
COSTA MUJERES
CANCÚN
ISLA MUJERES
PUERTO MORELOS
PLAYA DEL CARMEN
COZUMEL

1 Man and Biosphere UNESCO (MAB) **Site**

TULUM
RIVIERA MAYA

1 World Heritage **Site (Sian Ka'an)** 

MAYA KA'AN 



Water sceneries:

The **Mesoamerican Reef** (the second largest barrier reef in the world)

The **Sac Actun system** (the largest underground river system in the world)
- 347 km length
- 101 mts depth

407 flooded caves

GRAND COSTA MAYA

BACALAR 

MAHAHUAL 

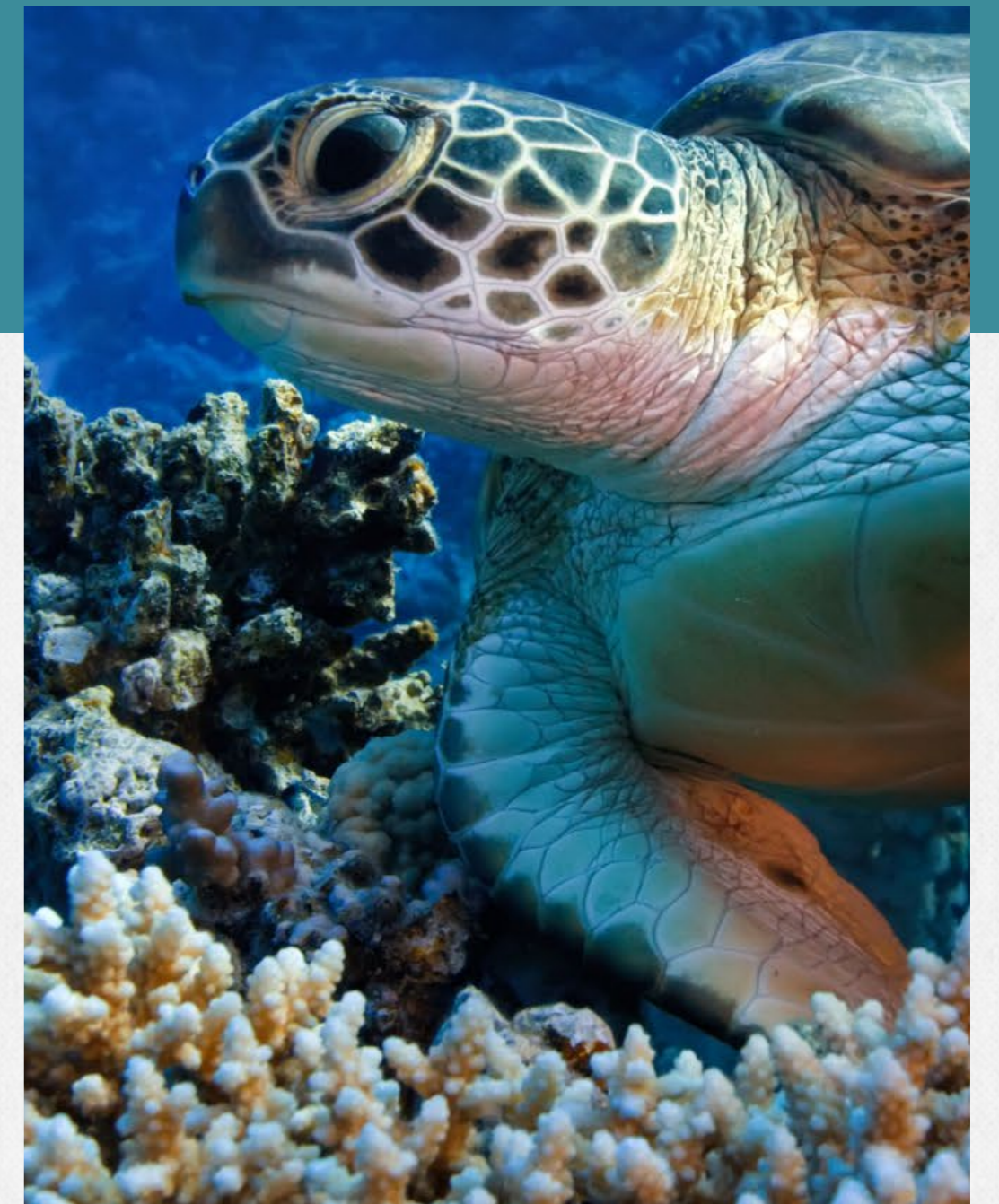
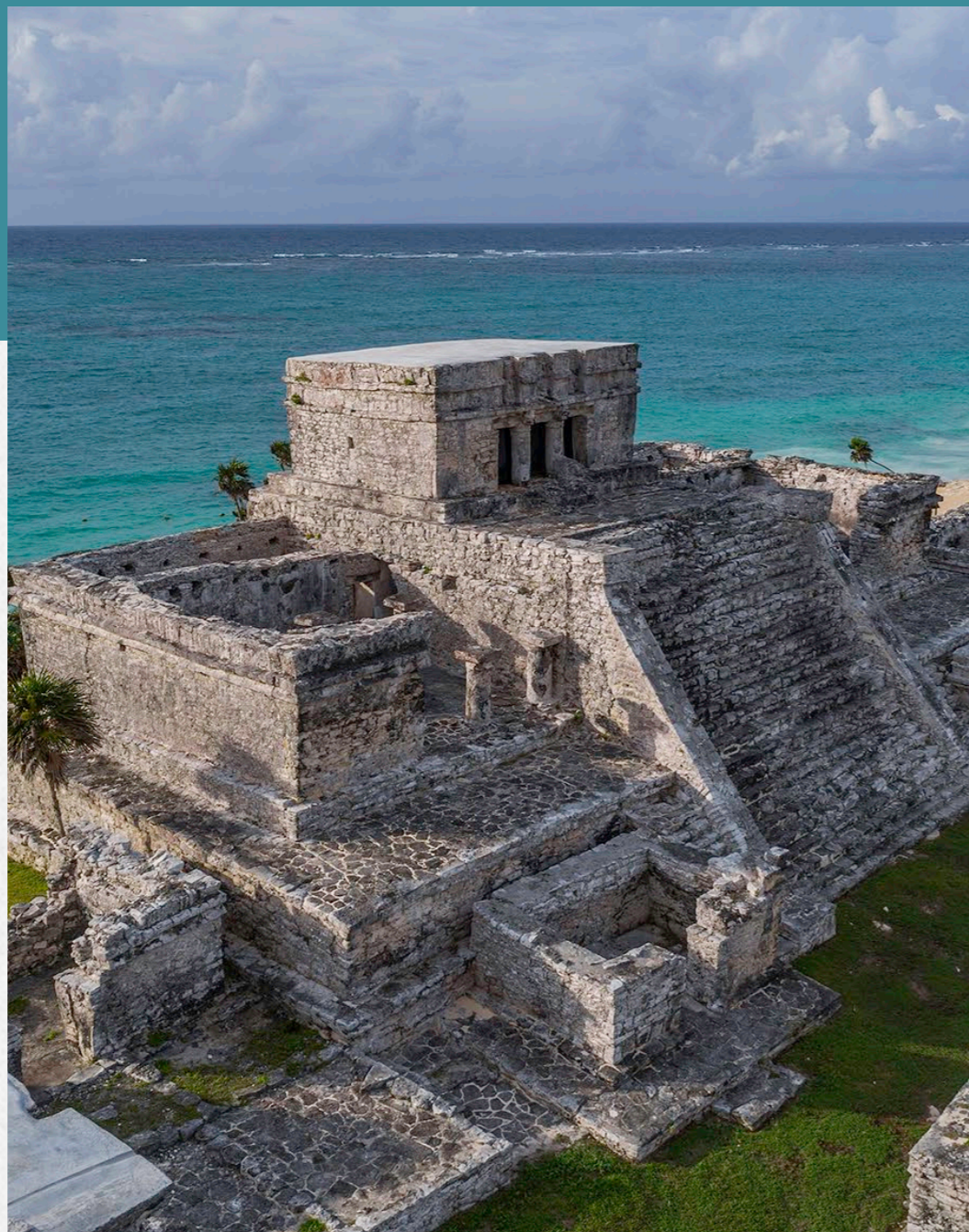
CHETUMAL 



Approximately **2,500** Cenotes



As you can tell, the Mexican Caribbean's natural environment is one-of-a-kind! And we are privileged to be able to offer our visitors endless activities, that is why we want you to help us preserve the ecosystems as well as the many species, our historical sites and Mayan culture, so that future generations can continue to enjoy this paradise that we call home.



HOW TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY

Here, you can find some **information** worth knowing when visiting our **beaches, cenotes, lagoons, underwater rivers, caverns, the jungle, islets, cays, and sand dunes:**



If you snorkel or dive around a reef, remember not to step on the corals, do not touch them and keep your distance from the species that you may find to ensure not to stress them.



Starfish are beautiful and delicate sea creatures, so don't touch them and much less bring them to the surface, as they could die.



Respect the flora and fauna that is located inside and out of the cenotes.



Do not fly any drones at these Natural Protected Areas.



Do not hunt or take plants from the places you visit.



Do not hang/swing from the tree roots.



Wear a life vest if mandatory.



In the cenotes, caverns and underwater rivers you will find stalactites and stalagmites. These impressive rock formations have taken hundreds of thousands of years to form. When people touch them, the oils in our bodies interrupt their growth process and they end up “dying”, so we ask you to only admire them.



We know it can be very tempting to take some sand, seashells or corals as a souvenir, but it is best to leave nature intact so that you and others can continue to admire it. Also, do not buy products made out from materials that are result of exploitation.



We hold the earliest direct evidence of life on Earth: stromatolites. These mineral structures are of great importance to the marine life of the planet, so we ask you not to sit or stand on them. You can find them in Bacalar, in the south of our state.



It is necessary for you to take a quick bath before you get into any of our bodies of water in order to remove any chemicals from your body, (body lotions, perfumes, sunblock, makeup, deodorants, etc.) as these products pollute the water.



To protect yourself from the sun, we recommend you to wear a long-sleeved rash guard, a cap or a hat, since sunscreen (even if it is biodegradable) damages the ecosystem.



Before you go to any of these places and you want to bring your dog make sure they are allowed, since some of these areas are protected by law.

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

Our **destination** is ideal for establishing a close connection with *nature*, and there is no better way to do it that interacting closely with one of the **7,938** species of **fauna** that have the honor of calling this their home; but some others visit us for a period of time. That is the case of **whale sharks** and **giant manta rays** (From May to September), *flamingoes* (From April to October), **bull sharks** (From November to March) **eagle rays** (December to March), **sea turtles** (From May to September), among others.

Other fascinating **animals** that inhabit **Quintana Roo** are **jaguars**, **crocodiles**, **coatis**, **manatees**, **toucans**, **pumas**, **armadillos** and **spider monkeys**.



Help us preserve our wildlife:



In case you choose some water activities, wear a life vest at all times and follow the instructions of the people in charge.



Keep a distance of at least two meters from the wildlife and remember that under no circumstances you should touch them.



Make sure the activity you perform is regulated by the law, and that they provide you a certificated tour guide.



Get slowly into the water, so you don't disturb the marine life. Don't jump from the boat.



Take as many pictures as you want, but please don't use flash.



Do not swim under any of the marine life species.



Do not feed them.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES

Our cultural heritage transports us through the history of Quintana Roo, from Mayan times to the time when several of our destinations were coveted sites by pirates from different parts of Europe.

Our history fills us with pride. Our goal is to keep the Mayan culture alive and pass the traditions and wisdom to the new generations and our visitors.



The use of professional equipment and drones is not allowed. In case you want to take professional photos or videos, you must request a permit from the INAH (National Institute of Anthropology and History).



Some ways to contribute to the preservation of our historical sites are:



Do not take any fragments or objects from their original location.



Respect the fauna that inhabits these sites.



Do not detach flattened or mural painting.



Do not climb the pyramids if it is forbidden.



Do not paint or graffiti the structures or constructions.



Do not litter.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS

We suggest you to *conduct* yourself showing some respect to the **artistic, cultural, historical** and **gastronomic** heritage of the region. Let yourself be **enriched** by these **life-changing** experiences.



Respect closed seasons to protect the breeding period of some species, such as lobster. **IMPORTANT:** parrotfish, pink snail and manta rays are banned for consumption.



Take guided tour running by locals who are highly trained, equipped and paid for the services they provide.



Consume resources responsibly. Use water, electricity or gas responsibly, only consume what you need.



Show respect for the flora and fauna and do not remove plants or animals from their natural habitat.



Support the economy of local communities by buying or consuming their products and services.



Do not try to take away objects that are of great value to the community.



Over short distances, we suggest you to ride a bike or walk.



Do not take pictures of children in their communities.



Respect the Mayan ceremonial centers.

& come back...

We invite you to discover more about the **Mexican Caribbean** and put into practice these tips to become a responsible traveller!

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