

Index

• A •

- AARP, 79, 93
- abbreviations, 2–3, 268
- Access-Able Travel Source, 80
- Accessible Journeys, 80
- accommodations. *See also*
 - accommodations, Cancún
 - Akumal, 235–236
 - budget planning, 56
 - Chichén Itzá, 246–248
 - Cozumel, 191, 193–199
 - discounts, 74–76
 - family travel, 78
 - Isla Mujeres, 169–174
 - major chains, 273–274
 - package tours, 70, 71
 - Playa del Carmen, 219, 220–223
 - pricing conventions, 3, 73–74
 - Puerto Morelos, 230–232
 - rating system, 73
 - top picks, 10–13
 - Tulum, 240–241
 - types, 72–73
 - accommodations, Cancún
 - airport arrival, 102, 104
 - Antillano, 109
 - Bel Air Collection, 109–110
 - Blue Bay Getaway & Spa Cancún, 110
 - Cancún INN Suites El Patio, 12, 110, 112
 - CasaMagna Marriott Cancún Resort, 112
 - Dreams Cancún Resort & Spa, 114
 - El Pueblito, 114–115
 - El Rey del Caribe Hotel, 115
 - Fiesta Americana Grand Aqua, 115–116
 - Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach, 116
 - Gran Meliá Cancún Beach & Spa Resort, 117
 - Hilton Cancún Beach & Golf Resort, 117
 - Hotel Margaritas, 118
 - Hotel Xbalamqué Resort & Spa, 118
 - Hyatt Cancún Caribe, 118–119
 - InterContinental Presidente Cancún, 119
 - JW Marriott Cancún Resort & Spa, 119–120
 - Le Blanc Spa Resort, 11, 120–121
 - Le Méridien Cancún Resort & Spa, 121
 - maps, 111, 113
 - overview, 108–109
 - Parador, 122
 - Radisson Hacienda Cancún, 122
 - Ritz-Carlton Cancún, 122–123
 - Riu Palace Las Americas, 123–124
 - Sun Palace, 124
 - Westin Regina Cancún, 124–125
- achiote, 28
- address, 2, 106
- Admiral Yacht Club, 145–146
- Aeromexico, 65, 66
- AIDS rate, 91
- Aioli, 126
- Air Canada, 66
- Air Tickets Direct, 67
- air travel
 - budget planning, 56–57
 - to Cancún, 102
 - carriers, 66, 273
 - to Cozumel, 188, 190
 - deals, 67–68
 - package tours, 70
 - security, 97–98
 - travelers with disabilities, 81
 - to Yucatán, 65–66
- airports, 81, 190
- Aktun Chen, 159, 237

- Akumal
 - accommodations, 235–236
 - attractions, 236–237
 - overview, 216, 235
 - restaurants, 236
 - travel to, 235
 - Akumal Dive Adventures, 237
 - Akumal Dive Shop, 236–237
 - Al Cielo, 235
 - Alaska Airlines, 66
 - alcohol laws, 262–263, 271
 - All About Cancún site, 105
 - All Hotels on the Web, 76
 - All Sports Bar, 210
 - all-inclusive resorts. *See also* *specific resorts*
 - budget planning, 56–58
 - multiple destinations, 46
 - overview, 39, 72
 - scuba lessons, 146–147
 - selection, 39–46
 - top picks, 10–11
 - Alltournative, 227
 - Amar Inn, 230–231
 - American Airlines, 66
 - American Express, 62, 63
 - Ana y José, 240
 - Antillano, 109
 - apartments, 73
 - apiary, 238
 - Apple Vacations, 71
 - Aqua Safari, 205
 - aquariums, 148
 - Aquatours, 146
 - Aquaworld, 144–145, 147
 - archaeological sites. *See also* *Mayan people*
 - Cancún museums, 149
 - Cancún ruins, 150, 158–159
 - Cozumel, 209
 - history, 17–18
 - Isla Mujeres, 183
 - maps, 245, 247, 255, 257
 - overview, 243
 - Playa del Carmen, 226
 - selection, 243–244
 - top picks, 15–16
 - Tulum, 241–242, 253–255
 - Xel-Ha, 238
 - architectural styles, 20–21, 24–26
 - art
 - Cozumel, 210
 - history, 24–25
 - Isla Mujeres, 182–183
 - ATA, 66
 - Atlantis Submarine, 158, 207
 - ATMs, 60–61, 229, 268
 - atole, 28
 - attractions. *See also* *attractions, Cancún*
 - Akumal, 236–237
 - budget planning, 58–59
 - Chichén Itzá area, 251–253
 - Cozumel, 203–210
 - Isla Mujeres, 157, 179–185
 - Playa del Carmen, 225–227
 - Puerto Morelos, 232–233
 - Riviera Maya, 216, 218
 - top picks, 14–16
 - Tulum area, 241–242
 - Tulum city, 238–239
 - attractions, Cancún
 - aquariums, 148
 - bullfights, 149–150
 - ecotheme parks, 159–161
 - golf, 150–151
 - horseback riding, 152
 - museums, 149
 - overview, 143
 - tennis, 151
 - water sports, 143–149
 - Austin-Lehman Adventure Vacation Travel, 79
 - Australian tourists, 86
 - Autobuses Riviera, 220
 - Aviacsa, 65
 - Azúcar, 156–157
- B •**
- baby sitters, 77
 - baggage
 - airport security, 97
 - Cancún arrival, 202

insurance, 88–89
 Mexico City flight, 65
 Bahía de Mujeres, 144, 180
 Bahía Dive Shop, 180
 bakeries, 200
 Balankanché, 252
 banks, 61
 Barcos México, 190, 192
 Basic, 153
 beach
 Cancún, 143–149
 Cozumel, 203–204
 hurricane damage, 38
 Isla Mujeres, 157, 179–180
 overview, 38–39
 Playa del Carmen, 225–226
 safety, 144
 top picks, 9–10
 Bed and Breakfast Channel, 76
 beer, 29, 58
 Bel Air Collection, 109–110
 Belmar Hotel, 170
 Benito Juárez's Birthday
 celebration, 49
 bicycle rental, 169
 birding, 15, 158
 Blue Bay Getaway & Spa Cancún, 110
 Blue Bayou, 126
 Blue Parrot, 227
 boating
 boat rental, 144, 146
 Cancún tours, 144–145, 146, 158
 Cozumel tours, 207
 BOB Cancún, 145
 Bodo's, 232
 breakfast, 28, 58
 bribes, 263
 British Airways, 66
 British tourists, 86, 270
 bucket shops, 67
 budget planning, 55–59
 Buenos Aires Grill, 13–14, 128
 buffets, 58
 Buho's, 185
 Bulldog Café, 154
 bullfights, 149–150

bus travel
 Cancún, 107
 Chichén Itzá, 246
 Cobá, 256
 Isla Mujeres, 168
 Playa del Carmen, 220

• C •

cab
 budget planning, 57, 58
 Cancún, 104, 106–107
 Cozumel, 193, 199
 Isla Mujeres, 168–169
 Puerto Morelos, 229–230
 Cabaña del Pescador, 202
 Cabañas María del Mar, 170
 Cabañas Tulum, 12, 240
 Café Cito, 175
 café de olla, 267
 Cafetería Ruinas, 248
 calendar, event, 48–51
 Canadian tourists, 86, 270
 Cancún. *See also* Ciudad Cancún;
 Isla Cancún
 archaeological interests, 149, 150
 day trips, 157–161
 nightlife, 153–157
 orientation maps, 103, 141
 overview, 9
 package tours, 101
 pros and cons, 39, 42
 safety, 142
 tourist information, 140–142
 travel in, 106–107
 travel to, 65–66, 102, 104–105
 Cancún accommodations
 airport arrival, 102, 104
 Antillano, 109
 Bel Air Collection, 109–110
 Blue Bay Getaway & Spa Cancún, 110
 Cancún INN Suites El Patio,
 12, 110, 112
 CasaMagna Marriott Cancún
 Resort, 112
 Dreams Cancún Resort & Spa, 114

Cancún accommodations (*continued*)

- El Pueblito, 114–115
- El Rey del Caribe Hotel, 115
- Fiesta Americana Grand Aqua, 115–116
- Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach, 116
- Gran Melía Cancún Beach & Spa Resort, 117
- Hilton Cancún Beach & Golf Resort, 117
- Hotel Margaritas, 118
- Hotel Xbalamqué Resort & Spa, 118
- Hyatt Cancún Caribe, 118–119
- InterContinental Presidente Cancún, 119
- JW Marriott Cancún Resort & Spa, 119–120
- Le Blanc Spa Resort, 11, 120–121
- Le Méridien Cancún Resort & Spa, 121
- maps, 111, 113
- overview, 108–109
- Parador, 122
- Radisson Hacienda Cancún, 122
- Ritz-Carlton Cancún, 122–123
- Riu Palace Las Americas, 123–124
- Sun Palace, 124
- Westin Regina Cancún, 124–125

Cancún attractions

- aquariums, 148
- bullfights, 149–150
- ecotheme parks, 159–161
- golf, 150–151
- horseback riding, 152
- museums, 149
- overview, 143
- tennis, 151
- water sports, 143–149

Cancún Convention and Visitors Bureau, 105**Cancún Hideaways**, 108**Cancún INN Suites El Patio**, 12, 110, 112**Cancún Mermaid**, 147–148, 152**Cancún Online**, 105**Cancún restaurants**

- Aïoli, 126
- Blue Bayou, 126
- Buenos Aires Grill, 128
- Captain's Cove, 128
- Club Grill, 128, 130
- El Fish Fritanga, 130
- El Pescador, 130–131
- El Rincón del Vino, 131
- La Casa de las Margaritas, 132
- La Destileria, 132
- La Dolce Vita, 133
- La Habichuela, 134
- La Joya, 134
- La Madonna, 134–135
- La Parrilla, 135
- Labná, 14, 131
- Laguna Grill, 133
- Lorenzillo's, 135–136
- maps, 127, 129
- Mocambo, 136
- nightlife, 155–156
- 100% Natural, 136
- overview, 126
- Paloma Bonita, 137
- Périco's, 137
- Pizza Rolandi, 138
- Plantation House, 137–138
- Puerto Madero, 138–139
- Thai, 14, 139
- Ty-Coz, 139

Cancún Travel Guide, 105**Candlemass**, 49**Captain Rick's Sportfishing Center**, 234**Captain's Cove**, 128**car rental**

Akumal, 235

budget planning, 57

Cancún arrival, 104–105

Chichén Itzá, 245–246

Cobá, 255–256

Cozumel arrival, 190

Cozumel travel, 192–193

discounts, 92–93

- Isla Mujeres, 168
 myths, 263
 overview, 92
 Playa del Carmen arrival, 218–219
 Puerto Morelos, 229–230
 Riviera Maya region, 228–229
 safety, 93–94, 105
 Tulum, 238–240
- Carlos 'n' Charlie's, 155, 210
- Carnaval celebration, 49
- Casa Cenote, 239
- Casa de los Sueños Resort and Spa Zenter, 184
- Casa Denis, 200
- Casa Mediterránea, 224
- Casa O's, 175
- Casa Rolandi, 175–176
- CasaMagna Marriott Cancún Resort, 112
- cave diving. *See* diving; cenotes
- Ceiba del Mar, 231
- cellphones, 94–95
- cenotes. *See also* diving
 Chichén Itzá area, 252–253
 Cozumel, 205
 definition, 15
- centavos, 59
- ceviche, 267
- Chankanaab National Park, 203–204, 206
- Charlie's, 241
- Cheap Tickets, 93
- Chen Rio, 204
- Chichén Itzá
 accommodations, 246–248
 area attractions, 251–253
 Cozumel day trips, 209
 highlights, 248–251
 map, 247
 overview, 158, 244
 Playa del Carmen day trips, 226
 restaurants, 248
 top attractions, 16
 tourist information, 253
 travel tips, 244–245
 travel to, 245–246
- Chikin-Ha, 159–160
- children
 all-inclusives, 194
 budget planning, 56
 illness, 91
 passports, 85
 travel tips, 77–78
- chiles, 27–28
- Christmas, 51
- Cinco de Mayo holiday, 50
- The City, 16, 154
- Ciudad Cancún. *See also* Cancún
 maps, 113, 129
 overview, 108
 travel in, 106–107
 travel to, 104
- Classic Custom Vacations, 71
- Cliff of the Dawn, 183
- clothing. *See* dress codes
- clubs
 budget planning, 59
 Cancún, 153–155
 Cozumel, 210
 Isla Mujeres, 185
 top picks, 16
- Club Akumal Caribe/Hotel Villas Maya Club, 236
- Club de Golf Cancún, 150
- Club Grill, 128, 130
- Club Nitrox, 185
- Cobá
 Cancún day trips, 158–159, 160
 Cozumel day trips, 209
 map, 257
 overview, 244
 travel to, 255–256
- Coco Bongo, 16, 154
- Cocos Cozumel, 200
- coffee, 28, 267
- colectivo service, 104
- Community Sian Ka'an Tours, 242
- condos, 73, 195
- consolidators, 67
- Constitution Day, 49
- Continental Airlines, 66
- Copacabana, 234
- Coral Scuba Center, 180

Cozumel

- accommodations, 191, 193–199
- attractions, 203–210
- beaches, 203–204
- maps, 189, 191
- overview, 10, 188
- pros and cons, 43–44
- restaurants, 191, 199–203
- shopping, 210
- tourist information, 211–212
- travel in, 192–193
- travel to, 188–192

Cozumel Country Club, 208

Cozumel Vacation Villas and Condos, 195

credit cards

- conventions, 3
- gas purchase, 94
- overview, 61, 268
- stolen, 63–64

credit-reporting bureau, 64

crib, 78

Croco Cun, 232–233

Cuevas de los Tiburones, 181

cuisine

- favorite dishes, 265–267
- food festivals, 51
- glossary, 34–37
- illness, 90
- myths, 262
- overview, 27–29

currency

- exchange rate, 60
- overview, 59–60, 269
- pricing conventions, 3

customs

- Cancún arrival, 102
- Cozumel arrival, 190
- overview, 87, 269

• D •

Dady'O, 154

dance club

- budget planning, 59
- Cancún, 153–155
- Cozumel, 210

Isla Mujeres, 185

top picks, 16

dance, folkloric, 156–157

Day of the Dead celebration, 50–51

day trips

Cancún, 157–161

Cozumel, 209

Playa del Carmen, 226–227

Tulum, 242

deep-sea fishing. *See* fishing

dehydration, 90, 91

Delta, 66

Deseo Hotel + Lounge, 13, 220–221

D'Gomar Hotel, 171

Día de Independencia celebration, 50

Día de la Candelaria celebration, 49

Día de la Constitución holiday, 49

Día de los Muertos celebration, 50–51

Día de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, 51

Día de Revolución celebration, 81

Día de Reyes celebration, 49

diapers, 77–78

diarrhea, 90

dinner, 28

disability, traveler with, 80–81

discounts

accommodations, 74–76

air travel, 67–68

car rental, 92–93

online booking, 69

senior travelers, 78–79

diving. *See also* cenotes

Akumal, 236–237

Cancún, 146–148

Cozumel, 195, 203, 204–206

Hidden Worlds Cenotes center, 238–239

Isla Mujeres, 180–181

Playa del Carmen, 226

Puerto Morelos, 232

safety, 204–205

top picks, 15

Xel-Ha, 237–238

doctors, 89, 90, 269

dolphin swimming

Cancún, 146, 148, 149

Cozumel, 207

Isla Mujeres, 181
 Xcaret area, 234
 Don Cafeto's, 241
 Dos Ceibas, 241
 Dreams Cancún Resort & Spa, 114
 dress codes
 Cozumel restaurants, 199
 Isla Mujeres restaurants, 174–175
 myths, 263–264
 drift diving. *See* diving
 driving tips, 93–94
 drugs, illegal, 91–92, 263, 269
 Dub, 156

• E •

ecotheme parks, 159–161. *See also*
specific parks
 Ek Balam, 159
 El Cozumelero, 195–196
 El Fish Fritanga, 130
 El Garrafón National Underwater
 Park, 157
 El Moro, 200
 El Pescador, 130–131
 El Pueblito, 114–115
 El Rey del Caribe Hotel, 12, 115
 El Rincón del Vino, 131
 Elderhostel, 79
 ElderTreks, 79
 electricity, 269
 embassies, 269–270
 escorted tours
 Akumal, 237
 budget planning, 58
 Cancún, 152
 Chichén Itzá, 246
 Cozumel, 203
 insurance, 88
 Playa del Carmen, 226–227
 Puerto Morelos, 232–233
 Tulum, 241–242
 Esencia, 235
 ethnic cuisine
 favorite dishes, 265–267
 food festivals, 51
 glossary, 34–37

illness, 90
 myths, 262
 overview, 27–29
 event calendar, 48–51
 exchange rate, 60
 exit tax, 62
 Expedia, 68, 75

• F •

fall, 48, 50
 family travel
 all-inclusives, 194
 budget planning, 56
 illness, 91
 passports, 85
 travel tips, 77–78
 Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe, 51
 ferries
 Cozumel, 190, 192
 Isla Mujeres, 166, 168
 Playa del Carmen, 220
 Fiesta, 248
 Fiesta Americana Grand Aqua, 115–116
 Fiesta Americana Grand Coral
 Beach, 116
 fiesta night, 156–157
 Fiestas de Mayo celebrations, 50
 fishing
 Cancún, 148
 Cozumel, 207
 Isla Mujeres, 181
 top picks, 15
 flag colors, 144
 Flights.com, 67
 FlyCheap, 67
 fly-fishing. *See* fishing
 Flying Wheels Travel, 80
 FMT, 102, 190
 folkloric dance, 156–157
 food
 favorite dishes, 265–267
 festivals, 51
 glossary, 34–37
 illness, 90
 myths, 262
 overview, 27–29

Fortress of Mundaca, 183
Francis Arlene Hotel, 171
French Quarter, 201
Frontier Airlines, 66
full fare, 67
Funjet Vacations, 71

• G •

gardens, 182–183
Garrafón National Park, 179, 180
gas, 94
gay and lesbian travelers, 81–82
geography, 18–19
gods, 26
GOGO Worldwide Vacations, 71
golf
 Cancún, 150–151
 carts, 169
 Cozumel, 208
 Playa del Carmen, 226
GoNomad.com, 68–69
Gran Arrecife Maya, 146, 147
Gran Meliá Cancún Beach & Spa
 Resort, 117, 150
Great Mesoamerican Reef, 146, 147
guided tours
 Akumal, 237
 budget planning, 58
 Cancún, 152
 Chichén Itzá, 246
 Cozumel, 203
 insurance, 88
 Playa del Carmen, 226–227
 Puerto Morelos, 232–233
 Tulum, 241–242

• H •

Hacienda Andalucía Equestrian
 Club, 152
Hacienda Chichén, 246
Hard Rock Cafe, 155, 210
health
 insurance, 88
 myths, 261

 tourist information, 270, 275
 trip planning, 89–91
Hidden Worlds Cenotes center, 238–239
hieroglyphs, 24
Hilton Cancún Beach & Golf Resort,
 117, 150
history, 17–18, 19–24
Hola Asia, 232
holidays, 48, 49, 51
Holy Week celebration, 50
honeymoon package, 56
horseback riding, 152, 208
hospitals, 91
hotels, 72–73
Hotel & Bungalows Mayaland, 246–247
Hotel Copacabana, 234
Hotel Dolores Alba, 247–248
Hotel Jungla Caribe, 13, 221
Hotel Lab Nah, 221
Hotel Lunata, 222
Hotel Margaritas, 118
Hotel Ojo de Agua, 12, 231
Hotel Xbalamqué Resort & Spa, 118
hoteldiscount.com, 76
Hotwire, 69, 75
huevos motuleños, 267
hurricanes, 1, 38, 47
Hyatt Cancún Caribe, 118–119

• I •

Iberostar Cozumel, 196
Iberostar Tucán, 222
identification, 84–87, 89
identity theft, 63–64
Ikal del Mar, 11, 230
Ik-Kil, 252
Il Giardino di Toni e Simone, 241
Independence Day celebration, 50
InnSite, 76
insurance, 87–89, 92
Interactive Aquarium, 148
InterContinental Presidente
 Cancún, 119
InterMar Cozumel Viajes, 203

Internet access, 95–97, 270
 InTouch USA, 95
 Isla Cancún. *See also* Cancún
 maps, 111, 127
 overview, 108
 travel in, 106–107
 Isla Contoy, 158, 183
 Isla Mujeres
 accommodations, 169–174
 attractions, 157
 beaches, 157, 179–180
 history, 165
 maps, 167
 nightlife, 185
 overview, 10, 159–160, 165–166
 pros and cons, 43
 restaurants, 174–179
 shopping, 184–185
 tourist information, 185–187
 travel to, 158, 166–169
 water sports, 180–181
 Ixchel Beach Hotel, 171–172

• J •

Jeep rental, 263
 jewelry
 Cozumel, 210
 Isla Mujeres, 184–185
 John Grey's, 232
 juice, 28
 jungle tours
 Cancún, 144, 152
 Cozumel, 208
 Puerto Morelos, 232–233
 JW Marriott Cancún Resort & Spa,
 11, 119–120

• K •

KaRaMBa Bar, 155
 Kayak.com (Web site), 93
 Kuzamil Snorkeling Center, 206

• L •

La Buena Vida, 236
 La Casa de las Margaritas, 132
 La Casa de los Sueños Resort & Spa
 Zenter, 13, 172
 La Casa del Agua, 224
 La Casona Real, 196
 La Choza, 201
 La Cocay, 201
 La Destileria, 132
 La Dolce Vita, 14, 133
 La Habichuela, 134
 La Joya, 134
 La Madonna, 134–135
 La Parrilla, 135, 224
 La Posada del Capitán Lafitte, 231–232
 La Tarraya Restaurante, 224–225
 Labná, 14, 131
 Labor Day holiday, 50
 Laguna Grill, 133
 lancha, 168
 language
 glossary, 29–37
 myths, 262
 overview, 270
 Las Palapas Chimbo's, 176, 185
 Le Blanc Spa Resort, 11, 120–121
 Le Café d'Amancia, 232
 Le Méridien Cancún Resort & Spa, 121
 lesbian and gay travelers, 81–82
 liability insurance, 93
 Liberty Travel, 70
 lighthouse, 180
 liquados, 267
 Liquid Blue Divers, 205
 Lobby Lounge, 16, 156
 Lobster House, 202
 lodging. *See* accommodations
 Loma Bonita, 152
 Lorenzillo's, 14, 135–136
 Los Carboncitos, 223
 lost items
 luggage, 88–89
 wallets, 63–64

lounge, Cancún, 155–156

luggage

airport security, 97

Cancún arrival, 102

insurance, 88–89

Mexico City flight, 65

lunch, 28

luxury resorts. *See also specific resorts*

budget planning, 56–58

multiple destinations, 46

overview, 39, 72

scuba lessons, 146–147

selection, 39–46

top picks, 10–11

• M •

mail, 271

Mambo Café, 227

Manchones Reef, 180

manta ray swimming, 148

maps

archaeological sites, 245, 247,
255, 257

Chichén Itzá, 247

Cobá, 257

Cozumel, 189, 191

Isla Mujeres, 167

Playa del Carmen, 219

Riviera Maya, 40–41, 217

Tulum ruins, 255

maps, Cancún

accommodations, 111, 113

overview, 103, 141

restaurants, 127, 129

Marakame Café, 156

Marina Barracuda Reef Adventures, 148

Maritima Chankanaab, 192

Maroma, 11, 230

masa, 27

MasterCard, 62, 63

May Festivities celebrations, 50

Mayan people. *See also* archaeological
sites

historical events, 19–20

overview, 17–18

Media Luna, 14, 225

medical issues

insurance, 88

myths, 261

tourist information, 270, 275

trip planning, 89–91

Mexican immigration form, 190

Mexicana, 66

Mexico Boutique Hotels, 76

Mexico City, 65

Mexico Web Cancún Chat, 105

Mexico-Caribbean Food Festival, 51

mezcal, 29

mini-sub, 180

Mocambo, 136

Moon Palace Golf Club, 151

mopeds, 107, 193

mordida, 263

moto, 169

Mr. Sancho's, 204

Mundaca Travel and Real Estate, 169

murals, 25

Museo Arqueológico de Cancún, 149

Museo de Arte Popular Mexicano, 149

Museo de la Isla de Cozumel, 209–210

museums

Cancún, 149

Cozumel, 209–210

music events, 156, 157

myths, 261–264

• N •

Na Balam, 13, 172–173, 185

napping, 262

National Passport Agency, 86

Nectar Bar Lounge, 16, 155

Net2phone, 95

New Zealander, 86

nightlife

budget planning, 59

Cancún, 153–157

Cozumel, 210

Isla Mujeres, 185

Playa del Carmen, 227

top picks, 16

Northwest Airlines, 66

• 0 •

observation bubble, 145
 Occidental Grand Cozumel, 197
 Ocean Runner Tour, 145
 Old Chichén, 252
 Olmec people, 19
 Om Bar and Chill Lounge, 185
 100% Natural, 136
 online booking, 68–69
 Orbitz, 68

• P •

package tours
 budget planning, 56–57
 Cancún, 101
 Cozumel, 195
 options, 70–71
 overview, 69–70
 Palancar Reef, 205
 palapa, 10, 204
 Paloma Bonita, 137
 Panoramic Tower, 15, 182
 panucho, 266
 Paradise Cafe, 204
 Parador, 122
 Paraiso de la Bonita, 230
 Parque de las Palapas, 157
 Parque Nizuc, 148
 Party Hopper pass, 153
 passenger ferries
 Cozumel, 190, 192
 Isla Mujeres, 166, 168
 Playa del Carmen, 220
 passports
 application, 84–87
 Cancún arrival, 102
 performing arts, 156–157
 Périco's, 137
 personal accident insurance, 93
 pescado tikik-chik, 265
 peso, 3, 59–60
 pharmacies, 89, 141, 186, 271
 pibil, 265–266
 Picus, 176
 Pinguino, 177, 185
 Pizza Rolandi, 138, 177–178
 Planet Hollywood, 155
 Plantation House, 137–138
 Platinum Car Rental, 105
 Playa Azul Golf and Beach Hotel, 197
 Playa Bonita, 204
 Playa del Carmen
 accommodations, 219, 220–223
 attractions, 225–227
 Cozumel day trips, 209
 crowds, 218
 ferry to Cozumel, 192
 maps, 219
 nightlife, 227
 overview, 10, 215, 216
 pros and cons, 44–45
 restaurants, 219
 shopping, 227
 tourist information, 228
 travel in, 220
 travel to, 218–220
 Playa Lancheros, 179–180
 Playa Linda, 168
 Playa Maya, 220–221
 Playa Mia, 204
 Playa Mujeres Golf Club, 151
 Playa Norte, 157, 179, 180
 Playa Palancar, 204
 Playa San Francisco, 204
 Pleasant Mexico Holidays, 71
 Poc-Chuc, 177
 Pocna, 185
 police, 94, 271
 Posada del Mar, 173
 Presidente InterContinental Cozumel
 Resort & Spa, 11, 198
 Priceline, 69, 75
 Prima, 14, 202
 public beach. *See* beach
 puchero, 267
 Puerto Aventuras, 234
 Puerto Calica, 192
 Puerto Cancún Golf Club, 151
 Puerto Juárez Gran Puerto, 166
 Puerto Madero, 13–14, 138–139
 Puerto Morelos
 accommodations, 230–232
 attractions, 232–233

Puerto Morelos (*continued*)

overview, 216, 229

restaurants, 232

travel to, 229

Punta Morena, 204

Punta Nizuc, 146

Punta Sur Ecological Reserve, 204, 206

Puuc style, 20–21

pyramids, 24

• Q •

Quinta Avenida, 16

• R •

Rachat & Rome, 185

rack rates, 74–75

Radisson Hacienda Cancún, 122

rain, 47

Rancho Loma Bonita, 152

Rancho Palmitas, 208

reefs. *See* diving

religion

architectural style, 25–26

celebrations, 49, 50

overview, 26–27

rental cars

Akumal, 235

budget planning, 57

Cancún arrival, 104–105

Chichén Itzá, 245–246

Cobá, 255–256

Cozumel arrival, 190

Cozumel travel, 192–193

discounts, 92–93

Isla Mujeres, 168

myths, 263

overview, 92

Playa del Carmen arrival, 218–219

Puerto Morelos, 229–230

Riviera Maya region, 228–229

safety, 93–94, 105

Tulum, 238–240

resorts. *See also specific resorts*

budget planning, 56–58

multiple destinations, 46

overview, 39, 72

scuba lessons, 146–147

selection, 39–46

top picks, 10–11

restaurants. *See also* restaurants,

Cancún

Akumal, 236

budget planning, 57–58

Chichén Itzá, 248

Cozumel, 191, 199–203

family travel, 78

favorite dishes, 265–267

Isla Mujeres, 174–179

Playa del Carmen, 219

Puerto Morelos, 232

top picks, 13–14

Tulum, 241

Restaurant Bar Amigos, 178

restaurants, Cancún

Añoli, 126

Blue Bayou, 126

Buenos Aires Grill, 128

Captain's Cove, 128

Club Grill, 128, 130

El Fish Fritanga, 130

El Pescador, 130–131

El Rincón del Vino, 131

La Casa de las Margaritas, 132

La Destileria, 132

La Dolce Vita, 133

La Habichuela, 134

La Joya, 134

La Madonna, 134–135

La Parrilla, 135

Labná, 14, 131

Laguna Grill, 133

Lorenzillo's, 135–136

maps, 127, 129

Mocambo, 136

nightlife, 155–156

100% Natural, 136

overview, 126

- Paloma Bonita, 137
 Périco's, 137
 Pizza Rolandi, 138
 Plantation House, 137–138
 Puerto Madero, 138–139
 Thai, 14, 139
 Ty-Coz, 139
 Restaurant del Museo, 202–203
 Revolution Day celebration, 51
 Ritz-Carlton Cancún, 11, 122–123
 Riu Palace Las Americas, 123–124
 Riviera Maya. *See also specific Yucatán destinations*
 attractions, 216, 218
 definition, 39
 maps, 40–41, 217
 overview, 215
 pros and cons, 45–46
 top accommodations, 13
 travel in, 228–229
 RoadPost, 95
 romantic vacations, 56
 Roots, 156
 Ruinas del Rey, 150, 159
 ruins. *See also* Mayan people
 Cancún museums, 149
 Cancún ruins, 150, 158–159
 Cozumel, 209
 history, 17–18
 Isla Mujeres, 183
 maps, 245, 247, 255, 257
 overview, 243
 Playa del Carmen, 226
 selection, 243–244
 top picks, 15–16
 Tulum, 241–242, 253–255
 Xel-Ha, 238
- S •**
 safety
 airline security, 97–98
 ATMs, 61
 Cancún overview, 142
 car rental, 93–94, 105
 diving, 204–205
 hospitals, 91
 Isla Mujeres overview, 186
 moped rental, 107
 overview, 91–92, 271–272
 stolen wallet, 63–64
 swimming, 144
 water, 261
 sailing, 145–146
 salbutes, 266
 San Francisco Reef, 205
 San Gervasio, 209
 San Miguel de Cozumel
 accommodations, 193–199
 map, 191
 travel in, 192–193
 Sanborn Tours, 80
 Santa Rosa Wall, 205
 Scuba Cancún, 147
 scuba diving. *See* diving
 Sculptured Spaces, 182–183
 Sea Passion Catamaran, 146
 seafood, 28
 seasons, 48, 67
 Secreto, 173–174
 Selvática, 227
 Semana Santa celebration, 50
 senior travelers, 78–80
 Señor Frog's, 155, 210, 227
 Shangri-La Caribe, 223
 sharks, 181
 shopping
 budget planning, 59
 Cozumel, 210
 customs, 87
 Isla Mujeres, 184–185
 Playa del Carmen, 227
 Sian Ka'an Biopreserve, 242
 SideStep, 68
 skiing, 144–145
 Smarter Travel, 69
 smoking, 73
 smoothies, 28
 snorkeling
 Cancún, 144–145, 147
 Cozumel, 206

snorkeling (*continued*)

Hidden Worlds Cenotes center,
238–239

Isla Mujeres, 180–181

Puerto Morelos, 232

top picks, 15

Xel-Ha, 238

Snuba diving. *See* diving

Sociedad Cooperativa Turística, 181

soft drinks, 28

Spanish language. *See* language

Spanish people, 21–22, 25–26

Spirit Airlines, 66

sports. *See also specific sports*

Akumal, 236–237

budget planning, 59

Cancún, 143–149, 149–151

Cozumel, 195, 204–206, 207–208

Isla Mujeres, 180–181

Playa del Carmen, 226

Puerto Morelos, 232

spring, 48, 49–50

STA Travel, 67

stelae, 25

street addresses, 2, 106

Sub See Explorer, 147, 207

submarines, 180, 207

Suites Colonial, 198

Suites Vima, 199

summer

events, 50

prices, 48

temperature, 47

Sun Palace, 124

sunburn, 91

sunscreen, 243

Sunset Grill, 178

surfing, 144–145

swimming. *See also* swimming, with
dolphins

Cancún day trips, 161

Cancún dolphins, 146, 147, 149

Cozumel beaches, 203

Cozumel dolphins, 207

Ik-Kil, 252

Isla Mujeres beaches, 180

Isla Mujeres dolphins, 181
safety, 144

swimming, with dolphins

Cancún, 146, 148, 149

Cozumel, 207

Isla Mujeres, 181

Xcaret area, 234

• T •

tacos, 27

tamales, 266

Tank-Ha Dive Center, 226

taxes, 62, 272

taxis

budget planning, 57, 58

Cancún, 104, 106–107

Cozumel, 193, 199

Isla Mujeres, 168–169

Puerto Morelos, 229–230

TCP Cancún, 151

telephones, 94–95, 272

temperatures

myths, 264

summer, 47

winter, 47

tennis, 151, 226

Teotihuacán, 20

tequila, 29

Terraza ChacMool, 157

Thai, 14, 139

theft, 63–64

Three Kings Day, 49

timeshares, 263

tipping, 58, 199, 272

Toltec people, 20–21

topless sunbathing, 179, 218

tortillas, 27

tours. *See also specific types*

Akumal, 237

budget planning, 58

Cancún, 152

Chichén Itzá, 246

Cozumel, 203

insurance, 88

Playa del Carmen, 226–227

Puerto Morelos, 232–233
 Tulum, 241–242

tourist information
 Cancún, 140–142
 Chichén Itzá, 253
 Cozumel, 211–212
 Isla Mujeres, 185–187
 overview, 274–275
 Playa del Carmen, 228
 sources, 274–275

transportation, 34, 56–57. *See also specific types*

travel agents, 68–69
 traveler's checks, 62, 63
 Travelocity, 68, 75
 TravelWeb, 76
 travelzoo.com, 68
 Treetops, 12, 223
 Tres Ríos, 160
 tricycle taxis, 168–169
 TripAdvisor.com (Web site), 69
 trip-cancellation insurance, 87–88
 Tulum
 accommodations, 240–241
 attractions, 241–242, 253–254
 Cozumel day trips, 209
 day trips, 242
 overview, 10, 159, 216, 218, 244
 Playa del Carmen day trips, 226
 restaurant, 241
 ruins, 241–242, 253–254
 top accommodations, 12, 13
 top attractions, 15
 travel to, 238–240
 turista, 90
 Turtle Bay Café and Bakery, 236
 turtle watching, 182
 Ty-Coz, 139
 Tzompantli, 251

• **U** •

ultrabaroque style, 25
 Ultramar, 190, 192
 United Airlines, 66
 US Airways, 66

• **V** •

value-added tax, 62
 villas, 73
 Villa Rolandi Gourmet & Beach Club, 174
 Visa, 62, 63
 Vista del Mar, 199
 Vista del Mar Hotel and Condos, 236

• **W** •

walking, 193, 230
 wallets, 63–64
 water
 health concerns, 90, 91
 local cuisine, 28
 myths, 261
 overview, 272
 water sports. *See sports*
 Water Taxi, 168
 weather, 47, 264
 Westin Regina Cancún, 124–125
 weddings, 82–83
 Whale and Dolphins Conservation Society, 149
 wheelchairs, 80–81
 winter
 events, 49, 50–51
 prices, 48
 temperature, 47
 wireless connections, 96

• **X** •

Xcaret
 Cancún day trips, 160–161
 Cozumel day trips, 209
 overview, 216, 233–234
 Playa del Carmen day trips, 227
 Xel-Ha, 161, 216, 237–238
 Xpu-Ha, 216, 234–235
 Xpu-Ha Palace, 234

• **Y** •

yachting, 145–146
Yachts ET, 146
Yahoo! Travel, 93
Yaxché, 14, 225
yoga, 184
Yucab Reef, 205
Yucatech Expeditions, 205

• **Z** •

Zamas, 241
Zanzibar, 156
Zazil Ha, 178–179
Zermatt, 200
zip line, 159–160
Zona Hotelera
 maps, 111, 127
 travel in, 106, 107