

Fun Things to Do

Jin or Freddy may be available for hire for some excursions

You can also rent a car – ask us for how to get a discount

Check at the office for pointers on how to have a great time on your excursion –
we can help you make the best plans

Items that are the most popular are noted with an ★

NEAR PUERTO MORELOS

★ **ARTISAN'S MARKET:** Local artisans have booths along a row in a straw building just 2 blocks south of the town square. Walk along the street in front of the church, past the restaurants and buildings. Worth a stop. Typical tourist items as well as hand carved wood figures, jewelry, hammocks and clothes.

★ **SNORKELING & DIVING ON THE REEF:** Puerto Morelos' most spectacular attraction is its reef filled with hundreds of varieties of fish, sea life and corals. This underwater playground is located directly in front of the village and is the second longest reef in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Because this is a Marine Reserve, snorkeling must be done with a guide. For scuba divers there are many dive sites: a military boat with large cut outs for divers to explore, a wooden wreck, a garden area with coral formations plus pathways and chimneys you can swim up. Jim will introduce you to the best person to take you out. Most boats leave from the main pier downtown and the trip lasts approximately an hour and a half. **Snorkeling Cost \$25 per person** (includes snorkeling gear and life jackets), scuba diving costs vary.

★ **JUNGLE SPA:** Wednesday's there is a spa in the jungle with massage, facials, manicures and pedicures at reasonable prices. See enclosed info sheet for directions.

BOTANICAL GARDENS: There are lovely botanical gardens just a half mile south from our town. Not much variety in plants and very few animals to see. The entrance fee is about \$10 a person. You can take a cab for about \$5.

CROCODILE GARDEN: Up on the highway about 2 miles north is a place you can see crocodiles and other wild life. It costs about \$15 a person and we have been told it is okay but not really worth the fee.

★ **JUNGLE DRIVE & ZIP LINE PLUNGE INTO COOL CENOTE:** Cenotes are natural limestone, fresh water "sinkholes" that are found all over the Yucatan where you can have a refreshing swim and cool off in the tropical heat (entrance fees varies between \$5 - \$8.) There are 3 cenotes within a 30 minute drive, each provides a different experience. Jin or Freddy can take you in their car for **\$30 (entrance fee not included.)**

HORSE BACK RIDING ON THE BEACH: There are two places that you can go riding on the beach. Jin can arrange the ride for you and drive you to the ranch. The riding is around \$55 per person.

FISHING: Puerto Morelos offers world class fishing for Marlin, Sailfish, Dorado (Mahi mahi), Bonito and Barracuda. Jin can introduce you to the best person to take you fishing. **Costs vary from \$150 - \$600 for an all day trip.**

★ **SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET AT POSADA AMOR:** For a great breakfast buffet featuring numerous traditional Mexican dishes as well as some American ones go to the restaurant, Posada Amor, just a block south of the Church, on Sunday morning between 8 – noon.

★ ISLA MUJERES "The isle of women", driving north past Cancun

A quaint, rustic Island a short ferry ride from Downtown Cancun. Golf carts are the main form of transportation and you can rent one and tour the island for about \$15 for 2 hours. Plenty to see the entire island. Ferry ride is \$15/person.

CANCUN – Jin or Freddy can take you for \$50 into Cancun to stop at any place listed below or tell you how to take the taxi and bus combination:

HOTEL ZONE -This is the famous American Zone (think “Mexican Las Vegas”) with big hotels, restaurants and malls.

LAS AMERICAS: One of the largest shopping mall in Cancun. Also where the movie theaters are. The VIP theater has soft reclining seats and stadium seating; the best movie theater we have ever been in.

CANCUN- MERCADO 23 (Market 23): Where the Mexican’s shop in Cancun. The Mexican constitution calls for a Mercado in each neighborhood and, if you want to experience the real Mexico, this is the best in Cancun. No souvenirs, all items for the locals.

CANCUN – MERCADO 28 (Market 28): The largest souvenir market in the area with the best selection. Nice little restaurants with seafood and Mexican fare in the center.

WAL-MART, SAM’S CLUB, COSTCO, ETC.: For stocking up on groceries and getting items you may need there are many choices of American “big box stores” in Cancun. It is cheaper to buy groceries and liquor at these stores.

HEADING SOUTH, DOWN THE RIVIERA MAYA – taking the bus is easy

COZUMEL: The world famous island destination is just a short ferry ride from downtown Playa del Carmen.

PLAYA DEL CARMEN – STROLLING ON 5TH AVENUE: Playa Del Carmen is the Monaco of the Mayan Riviera and is the cultural center where people congregate for the best in food and shopping. Stroll down the 12 blocks of the pedestrian-only, cobblestone 5th Avenue and enjoy every kind of restaurant and shop.

★YA KUL LAGOON NEAR AKUMAL: The large lagoon near Akumal is a great place to snorkel and relax for the day. The entrance fee is \$7 and you can rent snorkel gear and life jackets for \$15 a person. It is a 1.5 hour drive south due to bad traffic you often run into driving through Playa del Carmen.. There is a nice beachside restaurant, The Buena Viva, on the road between Akumal and the lagoon.

For Jin or Freddy to take you in their car the cost is \$100 for just the lagoon. Combine Tulum with snorkeling at the Ya Kul Lagoon (see below) for \$150 (a full day trip.)

TULUM: An hour south are the archeological ruins at Tulum. The view of the crystal blue ocean from the cliff is worth the trip. Entrance fee about \$7/person; guides can be hired for \$30.

COBA: One of the largest ruins in the area; settled in the jungle. Only partially restored. Different from the others. About 2 plus hours away. You will need to rent a car or hire Jin or Freddy to take you. Cost \$200 for the day.

XEL-HA OR XCARET: These two large “eco-parks” are like going to Adventure land in Disney World. VERY expensive and not that worth the expense. Ask at the office for more feedback from other guests.

DRIVING WEST, INLAND TOWARDS MERIDA

(Highway tolls, round trip, are \$36 to Chichen Itza and Ek Balam and \$60 to Izamal or Merida.)

CHICHEN ITZA: The most famous of the Mayan ruins in this area and also the most crowded; be sure to go early in the morning to avoid the crowds and the heat. About 1.5 hour drive each way using the toll road. Visit the famous cenote and colonial town of Valladolid if you like.) You can hire a car and take yourself. For Jin or Freddy to take you the cost: \$200 (tolls are extra.)

★EK BALAM: One of the best archeological sites on the Yucatan. Some of the best reconstruction of carvings and architecture of any of the ruins in the area. Usually not crowded. You can still climb to the top of the high temple, unlike other ruins where you can climb anything anymore. Near Chichen Itza and the town of Valladolid, 1.5 hours from Puerto Morelos. For Jin or Freddy to take you in their car the cost would be \$200 (tolls are extra.) Combine the two for a long day trip – cost \$250 (tolls are extra.)