



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Mexico - Tulum

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Mexico City
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish + 68 indigenous (like Nahuatl / Yucatec Maya / Mixtec)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 18,200 (pueblo)
- ✓ **Currency:** Mexican Pesos (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +52
- ✓ **Visa:** For some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 066
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Rabies / Dengue / Malaria prevention (+ anti-mosquito).



History Recap Over 1 Drink

AD 250-900: Mayas → mysterious collapse → 10th-16th centuries: Revitalized Maya civilization in Yucatan (Chichen Itza/Uxmal). 1428-1521: Aztec Empire: Central Mex. '19: Start Spanish conquest. 1521-1820: Mex Spanish. 1810-21: War of Independence → creation Mex Empire. '24: Federal republic → formation of Guat/Honduras/ES/Nica/CR. '36: Texas secedes after war (US). '46-48: Mex-American War ends → Mex forced to sell modern-day California/Nevada/New Mex/Arizona/Utah. '76-191: Dictatorship Diaz ("Porfiriato") → '10-'20: Mex Revolution: Constitutional republic. '20: Pres Carranza murdered → Civil War. '42: Mex declares war on Japan & Germany '50s-60s: Tortures & killings of hundreds political activists by security forces. '68: Student demonstration in Tlatelolco → Killed too. '70s-'80s: Left-wing activists disappear. '85: Earthquake DF kills thousands. '93: Nafta (free trade) with Canada & US. '94: Guerrilla rebellion Chiapas (Zapatista/EZLN): Oppose Nafta, pro Indian rights. '95: Government & EZLN agreement on greater autonomy Mayans. '96: Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR) attacks government troops. '97: 45 Indians killed by paramilitary gunmen (Chiapas). '01: "Zapatour". '05: Gang violence in prisons. '06: Pres Calderon: "War on Drugs". '08/'09: Drug-related killings rise (Juarez) → '06-'12: 50,000+ people died. '14: Disappearance of 43 trainee teachers in Guerrero. '15: Druglord El Chapo prison escape.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry												
Wet (humid)												
High season												
Budget												

Altitude: 6m. Climate: Tropical savanna.

Bucket List For Free

☺ Beaches: Playa Paraíso, Ziggy, Mayan, Tulum.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 Cenotes: Casa Cenote, [Dos Ojos](#) (\$\$), [Babkalum](#), Caracol, Dos Pies, Manatee, [Gran Cenote](#) (\$\$), Calavera, Carwash, Zacil-Ha, Cristal, Escondido, [Angelita](#), Tercer Cielo, Yax-Chen, Yax-Muul, Esqueleto.

👍 Ruins: [Tulum Ruins](#) (go before 10AM), Coba, Muyil.



👍 Nature: [Sian Ka'an](#), Punta Laguna Nature Reserve.

👍 Watersports: Snorkeling, scuba-diving, kiteboarding, stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, canoeing. Other: Ziplining & bike rental.

👍 Eco amusement parks: [Xplor](#), [Xel Ha](#), [Xenotes](#), [Xcaret](#), [LabnaHa](#), [Aktun-Chen](#). "Zoos" shouldn't be supported.

👍 Go yoga or visit a spa.

Festivals

☼ Carnaval: Feb.

☼ Semana Santa: Religious, Mar-Apr.

Check out the [Tulum Event Calendar](#).

Budget Bites

⌘ Market: Market stalls throughout Tulum Town / wed & sat Organic Markets.

⌘ Supermarket: Chedraui.

⌘ Mexico's options for streetfood & cheap *comedores* are endless: Guacamole, Tacos, Tamales, Marquesitas, Mollete, Churros, Cochinita Pibil, Camote, Flautas, Tostadas, Nachos, Fajitas, Volcancitos, Panuchos, Gringas, Gorditas, Tampiquenas, Salbutes, Empanadas, Quesedillas, Sincronizadas, Enchilladas, Burritos, Enfrijoladas, Empalmes, Chalupas / Huaraches / Tlacoyos, Elote, Esquites, Tortas / Cemitas / Molotes / Pambazos, fruit with chili, Carnita.

... everything served with the hottest chilisauce you ever ate in your life. Level 'bushfire'.

What is it? [Check this Mexican Food Glossary!](#)

Mama Said

☠ In Mexico and especially Chiapas there are many roadblocks. While mostly not dangerous, take your precautions and don't provoke.

☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Don't flash your valuables.

☠ Avoid walking around alone at night.

☠ Drug trafficking is big in Mexico and most violence is related to this. Don't get involved.

Sleep Cheap

You can either stay in Tulum Town or at the beach strip (pretty far apart). I recommend the beach, as also many budget camping options are available and all main activities are closer from there. Don't book hostels in advance, the cheapest places didn't go digital yet.

❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#). Paid work in hospitality is widely available and locally advertised.

Nights Best Spent

◆ La Zebra, Carretera Tulum a Boca Paila, KM8,2 (Sun: free salsa).

◆ Locos Do It Better, Avenida Tulum.

◆ Todos Santos, Avenida Tulum.

Free-Riding?

■ Within the city centre Tulum town everything is walkable, but the beach is way too far. The coastline is too long to walk.

■ Biking is *the* way to get around here. Besides many rental companies, a majority of the hotels rent (cheaper) beach bikes too.

■ Taxi's are relatively cheap and can be convenient to get to places outside of the centre. Negotiate prices up front.

■ Minibuses (collectives/combis) are privately owned and destinations are displayed on the front window. It works in your advantage if you speak Spanish. To get out of Tulum: ADO has a terminal in Tulum town and next to the ruins (on the highway side), but cheaper minibuses and second class buses leave from the main road crossing Tulum town.

■ Hitch-hiking is common and doable, but there's always a risk.

Tip: Download the Triposo Mexico app for offline maps, landmark descriptions & more, or load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

Next?

➔ In Mexico: Palenque, Cozumel, Cancun, Valladolid, Isla de la Mujeres, Holbox.

➔ International destinations closeby: Guatemala, Honduras, US.

Don't exchange your money at the (Guatemalan) border! The exchange rates are terrible here. You get a way better deal in every city.

The Earth Becomes My Throne