



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Mexico – Cancun

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Mexico City
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish + 68 indigenous (like Nahuatl / Yucatec Maya / Mixtec)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 722,800
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 1979
- ✓ **Currency:** Mexican Pesos (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +52
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore 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 (cooler) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wet (hot) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| High season | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Budget | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Altitude: 15m. Climate: Tropical Savanna.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Walk into a 5* hotel and pretend you belong there. Enjoy all their facilities.
- ☺ Turn your back to the ugly buildings scarring the coastline and enjoy what's left of the beach: Playa Delfines, Tortugas, Chac Mool, Forum, Marlin, Caracol Gaviota Azul, Langosta, Linda, Las Perlas, Ballenas.
- ☺ Sights: [Parroquia de Cristo Resucitado](#).
- ☺ Local culture: Mercado 23.
- ☺ Shopping malls cater for tourist entertainment.

This Is Going To Cost You...

- 👍 Tourist stuff: Boat/sightseeing tour, [Torre Escenica](#), watersports, golf, [Wet 'n Wild](#), kayak, parasailing, canyoning, rappelling, cooking classes, surf, [Dubai Palace Casino](#), [Ka'Yok Planetario](#).
- 👍 Excellent site for scuba and snorkeling (Cozumel).
- 👍 Maya: [Museo Maya de Cancun](#) / El Rey / Yamil Lu'um / Kohunlich.

If you love animals, skip Dolphinaris, Delphinus, Interactive Aquarium etc. where dolphins are held in captivity. [More info!](#)

Festivals

- ☼ Carnaval: Feb.
- ☼ Semana Santa: Religious, Mar-Apr.
- ☼ Cancun hosts many music festivals: Stay updated, check [this website](#).

Budget Bites

⌘ Market: Mercado 23 (Ciricote 15), Mercado 28 (Avenida Xel-Ha Mz. 13)

⌘ Cheap supermarket: Bodega Aurrera, Soriana, Mega, Walmart, Superama, Chedraui, Comercial Mexicana... Some have dirt cheap on-site restaurants.

⌘ Mexico's options for streetfood & cheap *comedores* are endless: Guacamole, Tacos, Tamales, Marquesitas, Mollete, Churros, Cochinita Pibil, Camote, Flautas, Tostadas, Nachos, Fajitas, Volcanditos, 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 & MUCH more.

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

Mama Said

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

☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock.

☠ Avoid walking around alone at night. Especially if you're drunk.

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

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ [Mezcal Hostel](#), +529981259502, Avenida Nader Calle Mero 12.
- ❖ [Orquideas Hostel](#), +529988840674, Calle Orquideas 25.
- ❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#). Paid work in hospitality is widely available.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ The City Night Club, Boulevard Kukulcan KM 9.5.
- ◆ Coco Bongo, Boulevard Kukulcan KM 9.5.
- ◆ Karamba (gay), Avenida Tulum 11.

...Seated Down

- ◆ Teatro de Cancun, Boulevard Kukulcán KM 4.
- ◆ Teatro Xbalamqué, Avenida Yaxchilán 31.

Free-Riding?

- The Cancun centre and beach are quite far apart. Plus the heat can make long-distance walking intense... a bus might be a better idea.
- Taxi's are relatively cheap, but Cancun can charge you tourist prices. Negotiate prices up front.
- There's not really a clear system with city buses. They're privately owned and destinations are displayed on the front window and so is the price (cheap!). It works in your advantage if you speak Spanish. To get out of Cancun: The bus terminal is located on the corner of Av. Tulum & Uxmal. If you travel with ADO, pre-book tickets online with your credit card for a 50% discount. Hail down a 'Playa Express' colectivo anywhere for Playa del Carmen (from there you can take one to Tulum). Other colectivos go to surrounding villages.
- Hitch-hiking is common and doable, but there's always a risk. In order to pre-arrange a ride & share gas costs, try [BlaBlaCar](#). Also check the 'Comparte Tu Auto' Facebook-page.

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: Tulum, Cozumel, Chetumal, Valladolid, Merida.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Belize, Guatemala, US.

Don't exchange your money at the (Guatemalan) border!

The Earth Becomes My Throne