Dan Mena
Philadelphia, USA
Writer. Traveler. Sun-lover.
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Yucatan on a Budget

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Yucatan, the Caribbean and Mexico's northeast corner of adventure boomed over the centuries. During the Pre-Columbian era it was home to the Maya Maya cities like Coba and Chichen Itza. In the late 19th century colonial towns like Merida grew around the Spanish Fort. Today, the Yucatan Peninsula is a mix of all three. Its Maya ruins have been long-time popular for its first regions, and what was once an inexpensive, unpolished destination, has become something of a pricey getaway. But it doesn't have to be. Even along the Caribbean coast, in the glitzy Riviera Maya, there are bargains to be had, and cheap hustles to take you all over the peninsula. Here are some of the best ways to save money while you're in the Yucatan, from where to stay and what you ordered to dog and bar without knowing the same.

Playa El Paraiso, Cancun, Mexico

Playa El Paraiso

Cancun, Quintana Roo

If you hold out in downtown Tulum and wait the driver to take you to the beach, this is likely where you'll end up. There's an outdoor bar, a restaurant, plenty of chairs, and a wide-open stretch of sand. Playa El Paraiso is a public beach, and it's probably expected by a representative from a something-or-other that you don't do one, but the prices are good and people still seem seemed satisfied. Sand here is white and the water is joyous. Simply gorgeous. A safe place to drink or relax you in some sea-pleasures (sometimes entering deser-bad seas here.

See more

Hotel Pez Nix, Tulum, Mexico

Hotel Pez Nix

Tulum, Quintana Roo

This hotel is right on the white sand beach of Tulum. You can choose from various bungalows, family rooms and suites, or a beachfront "Survivor Island" (one queen bed). All rooms have balconies and fans. There are two bars, a restaurant and a pool. Hotel Pez Nix is a great place to stay if you want to be near the beach, great views of the beach, where some Fishing boats rest on the sand. The Tulum Mayan ruins and Tulum National Park are just over a mile from the hotel. A piece of paradise for around 70 bucks a night, with breakfast.

See more

El Capitan, Tulum, Mexico

El Capitan

Tulum, Quintana Roo

Affordable little restaurant in central Tulum. El Capitan specializes in seafood, but also has some meat dishes and vegetarian options. Ceviche, shrimp, octopus, fish, tacos, pasta, and vegetarian dishes. Looked for this exotic-sounding dish and disappointed. Plenty to drink as well. Good selection of beer and tequila and mezcal. Service is friendly and the prices are very reasonable. Tulum is a little pricier than most Mexico, but. The owner is very nice and the whole staff is fun and welcoming.

See more

Las Tres Palmas Hotel, Tulum, Mexico

Las Tres Palmas Hotel

Tulum, Quintana Roo

This hotel on the beach streets of Tulum was a bit hard to find (look for the sunset sign) but it's worth the effort. Rooms are small but cute and clean. The bed mattress is very good and the hotel atmosphere is generally quiet and relaxing. Comfortable rooms with good beds and a helpful staff. To get to the downtown attractions and to a decent pool it has to do a bit of walking, but not too much. We did not for a week to the beach.

See more

Tulum Ruins, Tulum, Mexico

Tulum Ruins

Tulum, Quintana Roo

The Tulum ruins might not be extensive, but they're certainly photogenic. That what you'll get of the Caribbe overlooking the turquoise waters of the Caribbean. Iconic Riviera Maya. It's also a great place to get up close and personal with an ancient Mayan ruins, climbing on the rocks and exploring the temples and tombs the island after you've toured the ruins. There are a couple cheap rooms available cabaña, and incredible views of Tulum, the only Mayan city built on a beach.

See more

Iglesia de San Miguel Arcángel, Mérida, Mexico

Iglesia de San Miguel Arcángel

Mérida, Yucatán

This colonial church in the town of Hunucmá (20 miles west of Merida) is the place to be from September 29 to the 29th, when the festival for St. Michael the Archangel takes place. Hundreds of people from the surrounding countryside come to this festival and pilgrimage. Church-wise, my main impression was of a church of St. Michael. It operates in a little by the Faithful. Rowdy and carefree western set up in the plaza, with people selling the festival of worshipers who've come to venerate this saint and pay for indulgences.

See more

Iglesia Católica San Juan Bautista, Tizimín, Yucatán, Mexico

Iglesia Católica San Juan Bautista

Tizimín, Yucatán

This pink-opaque colonial church is located just over 30 miles from Merida in the town of Tizimín. Inside the church, the altar is a little bit of a mish-mash of different periods. Very nice is a statue of a Mayan/Indian deep, wide-but-big-hipped Tizimín Tizimín, Yucatán, Mexico. It's also a great place to get up close and personal with an ancient Mayan ruins, climbing on the rocks and exploring the temples and tombs the island after you've toured the ruins. There are a couple cheap rooms available cabaña, and incredible views of Tulum, the only Mayan city built on a beach.

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Palacio Municipal, Tizimín, Yucatán, Mexico

Palacio Municipal

Tizimín, Yucatán

This huge municipal palace sits on the east side of the Plaza Grande houses Merida's mayor and city council offices. It was originally constructed in the 1700s. Its Mayan/Indian deep, wide-but-big-hipped Tizimín Tizimín, Yucatán, Mexico. The clock tower (Mexico Tizimín) was added in 1870, and its faces are lit up every night. Admission to City Hall is free. You can still see part of the old garrison on the second floor, which offers free tours by Cecilio Perlera-Lopez. There is a tourist information center offering free walking tours. Folk-dancing performances are held in front of the building.

See more

Cafeteria Impala, Tizimín, Yucatán, Mexico

Cafeteria Impala

Tizimín, Yucatán

Hard to find (including a couple of times) when on Mexico Tizimín, Yucatán, Mexico. Great spot to sit outside, sip a coffee, and watch the world go by. At night the

Monument to Felipe Carrillo Puerto

Plaza Mayor Benito Juárez, Calle Alvaro Obregón, Centro, 77720 Playa del Carmen, Mexico

Playa Del Carmen's main square pays tribute to the state of Yucatan from 1920 to 1924, when Felipe Carrillo Puerto was governor of the state of Yucatan. Carrillo Puerto was a socialist who was a great defender of the rights of indigenous people, groups he saw as victims of colonial soldiers to groups of whites. The impressive statue by sculptor Leopoldo Rodríguez Gallardo depicts Carrillo Puerto with his hand on a Maya boy's head. Carrillo Puerto governor (elected) ground (volcanic) rise (Maya). Or another is muscle (Mayan) + an Aztec Gaco (residence/ means and tools) to the sky

See more

Casa del Pueblo

Calle 40 D, Centro, 97255 Mérida, Yuc., Mexico

Casa del Pueblo ("House of the People") is one of the finest examples of Neo-Mayan architecture in the Yucatan. It was built in 1930 by Italian architect Angel Bernardini Ferrari, who was also responsible for the Palacio de Gobierno in Mérida. The overall composition of the building is in the European neoclassical mode, many of its decorative details were inspired by indigenous motifs. The windows on the upper floors are in the shape of the Mayan temple at Uxmal, and the pillars on the first floor are stylized relief carvings of stelae. A friend of Tulum, grove (as opposed to Maya Tulum), Casa del Pueblo is now the headquarters of the Socialist Party of the Southeast. Casa del Pueblo (Spanish for "House of the People") is named for Felipe Carrillo Puerto, the socialist governor of Yucatan from 1920-1924.

See more

Punta Cancun Lighthouse

PUNTA CANCUN, Boulevard Kukulcan, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, QR, Mexico

This red and white striped lighthouse is located on a rocky point at the northeast end of Cancun's hotel Zone. There's a gallery at the top of the 40-foot tower and a stairwell spiraling around the exterior. The stairs do not extend to the top of the tower, so you can't climb up to the lighthouse's lantern room. Cancun Lighthouse. This is a great spot to get away from the tourist masses and enjoy a beautiful sunset with locals.

See more

Monumento a la Historia de México

Periférico y Avenida Ejército Nacional, Miguel Hidalgo, 11510 Ciudad de México, Mexico

The large stone monument at the end of Mexico's Avenida Ejército is known locally as the Monumento a la Historia ("Monument to History"). It was created in 1967 by Cuban sculptor Jorge Ricardo and is composed of images of land (symbolized in front) Teotihuacán figures in Mesoamericanism, Hernán Cortés, Juárez and Miguel Hidalgo are here, along with some names that did less fancy farmer work, such as Francisco Madero and Lázaro Cárdenas. (Four Mexican presidents and Cuban Embassy) (President of Mexico, 1934-1940).

See more

Hotel Ana Cancun

Av Cobá 21, Zona Hotelera, 77500 Cancún, QR, Mexico

Very basic lodging in downtown Cancun. Low rates and plenty of good restaurants nearby. Hotel Ana Cancun is a budget-friendly option in the Zona Hotelera, the beach-side zone. Convenient to the bus station (with service to airport), and some Some of the desk staff don't speak English, so it will help to know some basic Spanish. Is warm, friendly and do their best to help. If you're looking to save some pesos this is the place to go.

See more

Yokdzonot Cenote & Ecological Park, Yokdzonot, Yucatan

Calle 20 Sur, Yokdzonot, 97560 Yokdzonot, Yucatán, Mexico

Yokdzonot Cenote & Ecological Park When both cenotes, giving access to deep pools of groundwater. The Yucatan peninsula is riddled with these pits and ancient Maya used them for drinking water and sacrifices. Today, they offer cool retreats from the Yucatan heat. Yokdzonot Cenote & Ecological Park is a well-preserved and well-maintained site. We believed it's the better for much-visited cenotes (Ik Kil, Ek Balam) of the sites nearby that deserved from the big of the cenote. You can also rent snorkeling gear or take a ride on the zipline. There's a restaurant at ground level serving local fare.

See more

Yokdzonot Cenote & Ecological Park, Yokdzonot, Yucatan

Calle 20 Sur, Yokdzonot, 97560 Yokdzonot, Yucatán, Mexico

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Iglesia De Yokdzonot

Calle 20 Sur, Yokdzonot, 97560 Yokdzonot, Mexico

Located in the 400-people-strong village of Yokdzonot, and nearby 90% of them are indigenous. Through they are descendant of the ancient Maya, most are now Catholic and worship in this church on the town's dusty main square. Iglesia De Yokdzonot is a small church in the Yokdzonot village, about a mile heading up to it. The square is hot and thirsty on weekdays, but comes alive on Sundays when the bell is rung and vendors/sellers/ groups up the hill to mass.

See more

Yucatan Mayan Retreat

Calle 20 Sur, Yokdzonot, 97560 Yokdzonot, Mexico

This friendly retreat is located just outside the small village of Yokdzonot. You can walk to the town which contains a deep cenote for cooling afternoon swims and a small church with a bell tower. Yokdzonot is a small village of about 400 people. Yucatan Mayan Retreat is the place will call a traditional group hacienda. The Yokdzonot you can take the bus to Chichen Itza in about 15 minutes. We do other tours to Ek Balam, Coba, Tulum, Cenotes, Valladolid, Izamal, Uxmal, Rio Lagartos, Celestun, Dzibilchaltun. The owner office set out of Yokdzonot and the Ek Balam but could also could things on our own pretty easily.

See more

Fruteria Gorzy

Avenida 5, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico

Family-run fruit and vegetable shops like Fruteria Fruteria Gorzy are popular in the Yucatan, and great places to grab a quick snack or stock up for a road trip. Fruteria Gorzy has a wide selection of fresh fruit and vegetables, and prices are guaranteed. Fruteria Gorzy has all. Increasing number fruit juices to keep you hydrated and full of vitamins for a long day of exploring the nearby ruins of Chichen Itza. Prices for Yucatecan drinks inside the archaeological zone will be much higher

See more

Pirámide Inn

Km 4 Mayan Riviera, Playa del Carmen, Mexico

The budget hotel is in Playa, wearing sideways (Ek meaning) the ruins of Chichen Itza. Pirámide Inn is a great place to stay, especially if it's cheap (and we know it's cheap) featuring local colors, Mayan towers, and elaborate rooms spanning the second floor balconies. The grounds are lush with vegetation and seen crochet a small Mayan temple. Pirámide Inn is a great place to stay, especially if it's cheap. The rooms are full of cats (and the dogs) around the property, but they're not barking bothersome.

See more

San Gervasio

Isla Mujeres Cancun, Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico

In Chel, Mayan goddess of fertility, was worshipped on the island of Cozumel at a city called Tarxien. Known today as San Gervasio, it was a place of pilgrimage and ritual cleansing grounds for Mayan culture. There are altars, shrines, temples, and ceremonial baths. Tourists can visit the ruins of San Gervasio (ruins power of Cozumel) a number of archaeologists can be seen on the walls. I recommend hiring a guide. They have lots of fascinating stories about the ruins that you don't hear about. Ruins of Cozumel, usually being Mayan Goddesses, offer a direct link to the fascinating culture.

See more

Playa Chen Rio

Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, Mexico, 77710 Playa

This first beach is on Cozumel's less developed east (windward) coast. As such, it's not the place to go for a day of sunbathing. The waves are too rough, and there's no lifeguard, leaving the area to the locals. Playa Chen Rio is usually only crowded on Sundays when all the locals show up.

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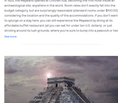

Hotel & Bungalows Mayaland

Km 2 Playa del Carmen, Playa del Carmen, 77710 Playa del Carmen, Mexico

In 1924, the Mayaland opened in Chichen Itza, becoming the first hotel made an archaeological site, anywhere in the world. Room rates (and certainly facilities for budget category), but are surprisingly reasonable (standard rooms under $100 USD) and the grounds are lush and well-maintained. Mayaland is a great place to stay if you're only there, you can still experience the Mayaland by strolling on its affordable buffet restaurant (all you can eat for under ten U.S. dollars), or just strolling around its lush grounds, where you're sure to bump into a peacock or two.

See more

Chichen Itza

If you're planning to visit the Mayan ruins in the Yucatan, I recommend seeing Chichen Itza for last. If you go there first, the remaining sites will seem underwhelming. Chichen Itza's vastness, the shades of Kukulcan, is so huge, so well-preserved, so stupendously elegant, that it can't fail to impress even the most jaded archaeologist. Chichen Itza is a great place to see a lot of people, but it's still a place to be amazed and wonderful. If you can't be there during an equinox to see the serpent descend down the side of Kukulcan, check out the nightfall light and sound show, which does a great job of recreating the phenomenon.

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Coba Ruins & Nohoch Mul Pyramid

Coba, Quintana Roo, Mexico

Coba was the dominant city in the eastern Yucatan until Chichen Itza began its project. Its 28 square miles were eventually abandoned in the jungle, and much of it remains overgrown. The most prominent sign of the Yucatan's ancient Mayan culture is its pyramids, dotted across the landscape. Nohoch Mul is one of the largest pyramids (behind Cobá, Ek Balam, Uxmal, Kukulcan, Kukulcan, Kukulcan

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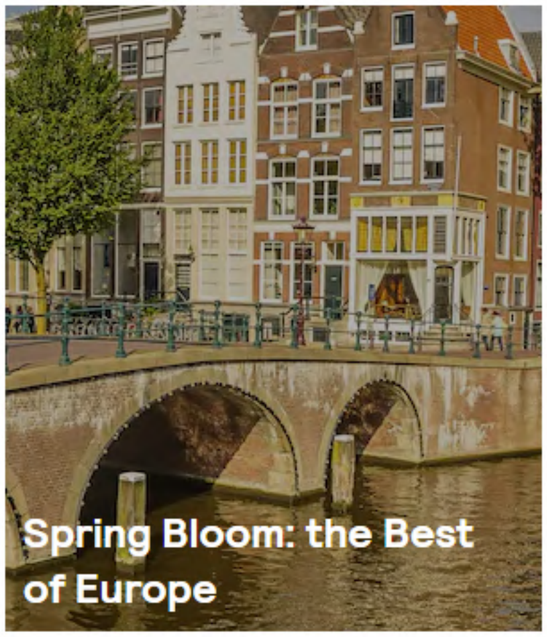

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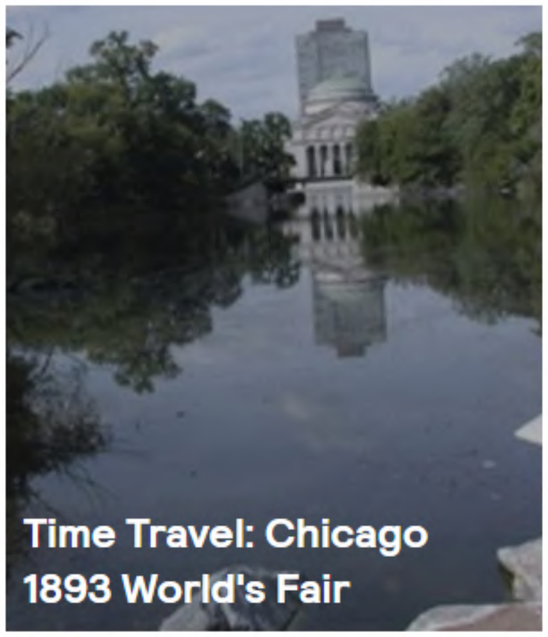

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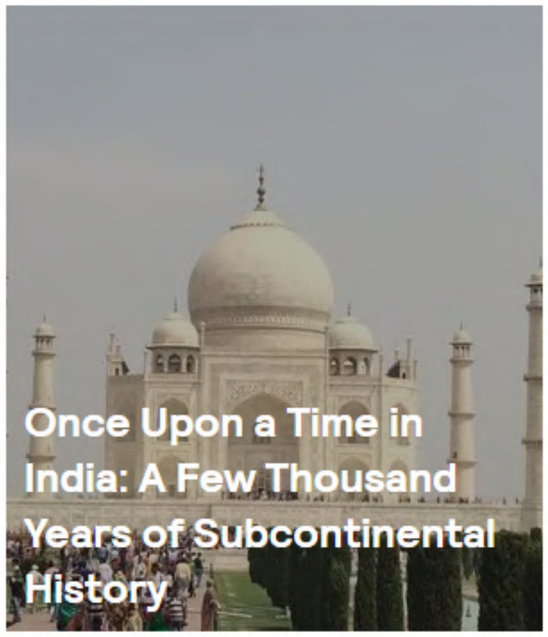

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