



The Insider's Guide to Tulum 2026

Your Complete Guide to Beaches, Cenotes, Rail Travel & More

Brought to you by Luxury Jungle VIBE — LuxuryJungleVibe.com

Best Beaches



Playa Paraiso



Playa Ruinas

Playa Paraiso

Consistently ranked among the world's most beautiful beaches. Powder-white sand meets impossibly turquoise water with palm trees providing natural shade. Arrive before 10 AM for a prime spot. Calm, shallow waters perfect for swimming.

Playa Ruinas

The iconic beach directly below the Tulum archaeological site. Access through the ruins entrance (150 MXN). Ancient Mayan temples on the cliff above while you swim in crystal-clear Caribbean water. Best in early morning light.



Ziggy Beach



Sian Ka'an Reserve

Ziggy Beach

Hotel zone favorite with beach club amenities and natural beauty. Sun loungers, cocktail service, laid-back vibe. Minimum spend typically applies.

Playa Pescadores

Quieter stretch south of Playa Ruinas, popular with locals. Great snorkeling off shore. Nearby fishing boats add authentic character.

Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve

UNESCO World Heritage Site with untouched beaches for miles. Float the ancient Mayan canals. Worth the 45-minute drive for true solitude.

Top Cenotes

The Yucatan's limestone shelf holds thousands of natural sinkholes filled with crystal-clear freshwater. Sacred to the ancient Maya, these remain extraordinary swimming experiences.



Cenote Dos Ojos



Gran Cenote

Top Cenotes Near Tulum

Gran Cenote — Crystal-clear pool with stalactites, turtles, and a cave system. Most popular in Tulum; arrive early.

Cenote Dos Ojos — "Two Eyes" — twin sinkholes connected by an underwater cave. Incredible for snorkeling and diving.

Cenote Azul — Open-air cenote with cliff jumping platforms. Great for families. Free entry.

Casa Cenote — Unique mangrove-lined cenote that connects to the ocean. Mix of fresh and saltwater.

Cenote Calavera — "Temple of Doom" — jump through skull-shaped holes in the limestone ceiling into deep water below.

Cenote Zacil-Ha — Calm, shallow, beginner-friendly. Zip lines and platforms. Good for kids.

Cenote Suytun — Iconic platform in the center of a dome cave with a single beam of light. Instagram famous.

Cenote Cristalino — Next to Cenote Azul, smaller and quieter. Crystal-clear water, less crowded.

Where to Eat

Tulum's food scene spans \$2 street tacos to \$200 tasting menus.

BUDGET — UNDER \$15 USD

Taqueria Honorio

Legendary taco spot. Cash only. Open mornings until sold out (~1 PM). Cochinita pibil and chicharra tacos. Expect a line.

Antojitos La Chiapaneca

Chiapas-style tamales, empanadas, fresh juices. Where locals actually eat.

El Carboncito

Grilled meats Yucatecan-style. Poc chuc, longaniza, handmade tortillas. Under 200 pesos.

MID-RANGE — \$15-40 USD

Burrito Amor

Creative Mexican-fusion burritos and bowls. Breakfast burrito with mole is excellent. Vegan options.

Matcha Mama

Healthy bowls, smoothies in the hotel zone. Acai bowl and matcha latte are bestsellers.

La Nave

Wood-fired pizzas by an Italian expat. Truffle pizza and burrata are exceptional. BYOB.

SPLURGE — \$40+ USD

Arca

Open-fire kitchen. Nightly tasting menu. Reserve 2-3 weeks ahead. Worth every peso.

Hartwood

Put Tulum on the food map. Everything over open flame. Line at 5:30 PM or book via app. Octopus is legendary.

NuTulum

Japanese-Mexican fusion. Sashimi with habanero ponzu, wagyu tacos. Top-tier cocktails.



Burrito Amor • Tulum Cuisine



Getting Around

Tren Maya (Mayan Train)

Mexico's new rail network connects Tulum across the Yucatan. Station near Tulum International Airport, ~20 min from hotel zone.

Key routes: Cancun ~1.5h (~350 MXN) | Merida ~3.5h (~600 MXN) | Valladolid ~1.5h (~300 MXN) | Bacalar ~2h (~400 MXN)

Book at trenmaya.gob.mx or at the station. Tourist/primera class recommended.

Tulum International Airport (TQO)

Opened 2024. Domestic + growing international. Much closer than Cancun. We offer **free airport pickup** for guests.



Bicycle

Best way to explore. Flat terrain, bike lanes. 150-250 MXN/day. Most hotels offer free bikes.

Taxi & Colectivos

No meters — agree on price first. Town to hotel zone: 100-200 MXN. Colectivos on Hwy 307: 25-50 MXN.

Car Rental

Useful for cenote-hopping. Book at airport (Hertz, Sixt). Watch for topes. Full insurance recommended.

Day Trips by Rail

The Tren Maya makes these easy day trips. No rental car needed.



Chichen Itza



Merida

Chichen Itza

~2 hours via Valladolid • Entry ~600 MXN — One of the New Seven Wonders. Pyramid of Kukulcan. Hire a guide for history and acoustics. Go early. Combine with Valladolid lunch.

Merida

~3.5 hours • Capital of Yucatan — Colonial architecture, museums, best food on the peninsula. Gran Museo del Mundo Maya, Paseo de Montejo. Stay overnight if possible.



Laguna de Bacalar



Valladolid

Bacalar

~2 hours south • “Lagoon of Seven Colors” — Seven shades of blue. Kayak or sail. Cenote Azul (free). Quieter than Tulum, excellent ceviche at lower prices.

Valladolid

~1.5 hours • Colonial gem — Central plaza, San Bernardino convent, Cenote Zaci in town. Great Yucatecan food at budget prices. Half-day pairs with Chichen Itza.

Packing List

Tulum is casual and hot. Pack light, pack smart.

Essentials

- Passport (valid 6+ months)
- Printed hotel confirmation
- Biodegradable sunscreen
- Reef-safe insect repellent
- Reusable water bottle
- Power bank
- Cash (MXN) — many spots cash-only
- Travel insurance docs

Clothing

- Lightweight linen/cotton shirts
- Swimsuits (2-3)
- Cover-up or sarong
- Walking sandals
- Water shoes (rocky cenotes)
- Light rain jacket (May-Oct)
- Sun hat with brim
- One nice dinner outfit

Gear

- Snorkel mask
- Dry bag for boat trips
- GoPro or waterproof phone case
- Sunglasses with strap
- Flashlight/headlamp
- Microfiber travel towel

Health & Comfort

- Anti-diarrheal medication
- Electrolyte packets
- After-sun aloe gel
- Hand sanitizer
- Basic first aid kit
- Prescriptions in original bottles

Pro Tip

Buy biodegradable sunscreen before you arrive — 3-4x more expensive in Tulum. Stream2Sea or Raw Elements on Amazon.

Local Tips

Money

Mexican Peso (MXN) is king. Use bank ATMs, not standalone. Many accept USD at poor rates. Credit cards at nicer spots. Cash for taxis, street food, cenotes.

Tipping

10-15% at restaurants (check for service charge). 20-50 MXN for tour guides. 20 MXN for bag handlers. Many guides depend on tips.

Language

Spanish primary. English in tourist areas. Key phrases: "Por favor," "Gracias," "La cuenta," "Cuanto cuesta?"

Best Time to Visit

Nov-Apr: peak, dry, warm. May-Jun: lower prices. Jul-Oct: cheapest, afternoon rain. Dec-Jan: most crowded.

Safety

Generally safe for tourists. Don't flash jewelry, lock your bike, use hotel safes. Hotel zone road unlit at night — taxi after dark. Avoid buying anything illegal.

Water

Don't drink tap water. Bottled water is cheap. Restaurant ice usually safe. Our villa has reverse osmosis — rare in Tulum.

SIM Cards

Telcel SIM at OXXO ~200 MXN with data. Our villa: 200 Mbps fiber WiFi. Download offline maps before arriving.

Power

Type A/B plugs (same as US/Canada). 127V. No adapter needed. Keep phone charged for occasional outages.

About Luxury Jungle VIBE

Your home base in Tulum. A private 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath villa in uptown Tulum — minutes from beach, cenotes, and restaurants.



Private Pool

Your own plunge pool with tropical landscaping. No sharing, no crowds.

200 Mbps Fiber WiFi

Work remotely without compromise. Video calls, streaming. Rare in Tulum.

Reverse Osmosis Water

Clean filtered water from every tap. Almost unheard of in the region.

Free VIP Shuttle

Complimentary shuttle to beach and town.

Free Airport Pickup

We meet you at TQO and drive you to the villa.

Chef's Kitchen

Full kitchen. Local markets or private chef experience.

Location: XUL KAA, Uptown Tulum, 10 Avenida Nte. & Calle Palma. 7 min to Zamna, 10 min to beach, 10 min to town. Sleeps 6. A/C, 55" Smart TV, laundry.

Book Your Stay

Ready to experience Tulum? Luxury Jungle VIBE: perfect location, every amenity, a fraction of hotel zone prices.

3 bedrooms • 3.5 baths • Private pool • Sleeps 6

Full kitchen, rooftop terrace, 200 Mbps WiFi, reverse osmosis water, free shuttle, free airport pickup, A/C, Smart TV.



Ready to Book?

Book direct for the smoothest experience, or find us on Airbnb.

[Book Direct](#)

[View on Airbnb](#)

Questions?

Call or text: **(833) 723-2244**

Visit: LuxuryJungleVibe.com

Getting Here

From TQO: Free pickup

From CUN: ~2h by car or Tren Maya

Address: XUL KAA, 10 Ave Nte, Tulum



Luxury Jungle VIBE — Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico

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