

Your Most Pressing Cancun Questions Answered

By Johanna Read

Underwater and above in Cancun



Cancun has long been a favorite of those who like to spend their days exploring the sea. Scuba divers and snorkelers love the clear water and marine life found along this stretch of Mexico's coastline shaped like the number seven. For those who prefer to stay dry under the sun, there's plenty to do, too. Travelers in the know pick top resorts like Grand Residences Riviera Cancun as their home away from home.

Q: What ocean is Cancun on?

A: [Cancun](#), on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico's state of Quintana Roo, is on the Caribbean Sea. The other side of the peninsula, including the resort town of Merida, is on the Gulf of Mexico.

Q: What is the weather in Cancun, Mexico?

A: Cancun has beach weather all year round. Daytime highs range from the low 80s in December and January to the low 90s in the summer months. At night, the average temperature dips between 70 and 77 degrees F. September is by far the rainiest month with over 10 inches of rain, and hurricanes can happen from July through October. January to May are the driest months.

Q: When is low season in Cancun?

A: Cancun's low season begins in May and lasts until school vacation starts. The low season begins again in the fall after school is back in session.

Q: When is the best time to go to Cancun?

A: The best season weather-wise for Cancun is December to April, but this is also the busiest season when crowds and prices are highest. The best time to go to Cancun to avoid the crowds but still have good weather is in May and November. July and August are the peak months for swimming with whale sharks.

Q: What is the currency in Cancun, Mexico?

A: As in the rest of Mexico, the official currency in Cancun is the Mexican peso. Some businesses will accept U.S. dollars, but laws prohibit the amount of foreign currency that businesses are able to accept each month.

Q: Do you need a passport to go to Cancun?

A: Both a valid passport and a visitor's permit are required to visit Mexico, including Cancun. The visitor's permit has no cost and is usually provided onboard flights arriving in Mexico. Visas are not needed for passport holders from the United States and almost 50 other countries.

Q: What are the best resorts in Cancun?

A: Cancun has a wide variety of resorts catering to almost every taste and budget. When choosing a hotel, keep beach preferences in mind. There's virtually no surf around downtown Cancun up to Punta Cancun. For more wave action, accommodations on the long strip of sand known as the hotel strip are a good option.

Top Cancun resorts include:

- **Grand Residences Riviera Cancun:** This luxury resort, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, is in an ideal spot next to the village of Puerto Morelos. The resort is quiet and relaxed, yet close to all of Cancun's attractions. Accommodation for discerning guests includes elegant suites and villas, and there are several excellent restaurants and bars. Choose from activities like yoga by the sea, spa services, water sports, tennis, or fun designed just for the kids. Or just relax and enjoy the calm water lapping at the white sand beach or the infinity pool.
- **Live Aqua Beach Resort Cancun:** Directly on Cancun's hotel strip, spend a perfect day here cooling off in one of eight pools while listening to the waves crash on the beach. The 391 rooms and suites are in a white pyramid-like building on the beach.
- **NIZUC Resort & Spa:** In secluded Punta Nizuc, this resort has two beaches, several pools and six restaurants on a huge estate, and sits right next to a golf course. Modern rooms are in cool gray or taupe and the villas have private infinity pools.