

# MX Progreso Cruise Port Guide

## Your Complete Guide to Mexico's Yucatán Coast, Ancient Mayan Cities & Cultural Adventures



Progreso is the gateway to Mexico's fascinating **Yucatán Peninsula**, a region rich in Mayan history, colonial architecture, beautiful beaches, and unique natural wonders. While the town itself has a relaxed beach atmosphere, many cruise visitors choose Progreso as their starting point for exploring some of Mexico's most spectacular archaeological sites—including one of the **New Seven Wonders of the World**.

Whether you're walking atop ancient Mayan cities, swimming in crystal-clear cenotes, relaxing on a Gulf Coast beach, or enjoying authentic Yucatán cuisine, Progreso offers experiences unlike anywhere else in the Caribbean.

For history lovers especially, Progreso is often one of the most rewarding ports in the Western Caribbean.

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## Where Do Cruise Ships Dock?



One of the first things visitors notice is the incredibly long pier.

At nearly **4 miles (6.5 km)**, Progreso's cruise pier is one of the **longest piers in the world**, built to reach deep enough water for today's large cruise ships.

After docking, complimentary shuttle buses transport guests from the ship to the cruise terminal.

The terminal offers:

- Shopping
- Local crafts
- Restaurants
- Taxi stand
- Excursion meeting points
- Visitor information
- Restrooms

Walking the entire pier isn't practical—the shuttle is the easiest way to reach shore.

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## Explore Progreso



The town of Progreso is much quieter than destinations like Cozumel or Costa Maya, making it perfect for travelers looking to enjoy a slower pace.

Highlights include:

- The Malecón (beachfront promenade)
- Local artisan markets
- Beachfront restaurants
- Seafood cafés
- Historic lighthouse
- Public beaches

The town is easily explored on foot from the shuttle drop-off point.

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## ★ Top Shore Excursions

### 🏛️ Chichén Itzá



The most famous excursion from Progreso.

One of the **New Seven Wonders of the World**, Chichén Itzá was once one of the greatest cities of the Mayan civilization.

Highlights include:

- El Castillo Pyramid
- Temple of the Warriors
- Great Ball Court
- Sacred Cenote
- Ancient astronomical observatory

Travel time is approximately **2½ hours each way**, making this a full-day excursion. Cruise line tours or reputable operators are highly recommended to ensure a timely return.

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## Uxmal



Often considered one of Mexico's most beautiful archaeological sites.

Compared to Chichén Itzá, Uxmal typically offers:

- Smaller crowds
- Intricate stone carvings
- Beautiful architecture
- More relaxed atmosphere

A favorite among repeat visitors and history enthusiasts.

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## Cenote Adventure



The Yucatán Peninsula is famous for its **cenotes**—natural limestone sinkholes filled with crystal-clear freshwater.

Many excursions include:

- Swimming
- Snorkeling
- Cave exploration
- Beautiful natural scenery

A truly unique Mexican experience.

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## Celestún Biosphere Reserve



Nature lovers shouldn't miss this UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Depending on the season, visitors may see:

- Thousands of pink flamingos
- Pelicans
- Herons

- Mangrove forests
- Crocodiles
- Sea turtles

Boat tours provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities.

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## Mérida City Tour



Known as "**The White City**," Mérida is the cultural heart of the Yucatán.

Explore:

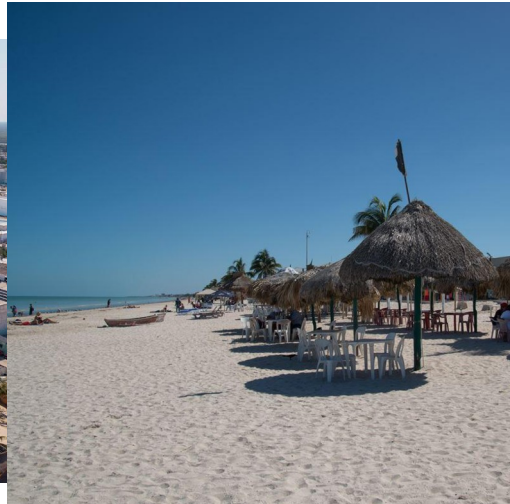
- Plaza Grande
- Mérida Cathedral
- Paseo de Montejo
- Museums
- Local markets
- Colonial mansions

Perfect for travelers interested in history, architecture, and authentic Mexican culture.

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## **Best Beaches**

### **Progreso Beach**



Located just steps from downtown.

Features:

- Calm Gulf waters
- Beach chairs
- Restaurants
- Family-friendly atmosphere

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### **El Corchito Ecological Reserve**

A peaceful natural area featuring:

- Mangroves
- Freshwater springs
- Wildlife
- Swimming areas

Great for travelers seeking a quieter experience.

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### **Silcer Beach Club**

One of the most popular beach clubs for cruise visitors.

Offers:

- Beach access
- Pools
- Food & drinks



## Shopping

Popular souvenirs include:

- Handmade hammocks
- Panama hats
- Vanilla
- Mexican chocolate
- Silver jewelry
- Embroidered clothing
- Local artwork
- Tequila

The artisan market near the cruise terminal is an excellent place to shop for locally made crafts.

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## What to Eat

The Yucatán has one of Mexico's most distinctive regional cuisines.

Don't miss:

- Cochinita Pibil
- Panuchos
- Salbutes
- Papadzules
- Fresh ceviche
- Lime soup (Sopa de Lima)
- Marquesitas (crispy dessert crêpes)
- Horchata

Popular restaurants include:

- Crabster
  - Eladio's
  - Los Mariscos de Chichi
  - Flamingo's Seafood
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## Hidden Gems

If you've visited Progreso before, consider exploring:

- Dzibilchaltún Archaeological Site
- Xcambo Mayan Ruins

- Sisal Pueblo Mágico
- El Corchito Nature Reserve
- Local fishing villages
- Hacienda tours

These attractions offer a deeper look into the history and culture of the Yucatán.

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## Weather Throughout the Year

Progreso enjoys warm weather throughout the year.

### **Winter (December – February)**

- Highs: **78–83°F (26–28°C)**
- Comfortable temperatures
- Excellent sightseeing weather

### **Spring (March – May)**

- Highs: **84–91°F (29–33°C)**
- Warm and sunny

### **Summer (June – August)**

- Highs: **90–95°F (32–35°C)**
- Hot and humid
- Afternoon showers possible

### **Fall (September – November)**

- Highs: **84–90°F (29–32°C)**
- Warm temperatures
- Fewer visitors

Because Progreso sits on the Gulf of Mexico, a refreshing sea breeze often helps make the warmer months more comfortable.

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## Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from:

**June 1 – November 30**

Peak activity generally occurs during:

- August
- September

- October

Cruise lines carefully monitor tropical weather and may adjust itineraries if necessary.

Travel insurance is always recommended.

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## Getting Around

Transportation options include:

- Cruise excursions
- Licensed taxis
- Shuttle buses
- Horse-drawn carriages (downtown)

Approximate travel times:

- Progreso Beach – **5 minutes**
- Mérida – **45 minutes**
- Uxmal – **90 minutes**
- Chichén Itzá – **2½ hours**

Because Chichén Itzá is a long journey, we strongly recommend booking through your cruise line or a reputable operator that guarantees your return to the ship.

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## What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
  - ✓ Swimsuit
  - ✓ Reef-safe sunscreen
  - ✓ Sunglasses
  - ✓ Hat
  - ✓ Lightweight clothing
  - ✓ Waterproof phone pouch
  - ✓ Small cash for local vendors and tips
  - ✓ Reusable water bottle
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## Premium Travel Group Tip

Progreso offers two completely different experiences. If you've always dreamed of visiting **Chichén Itzá**, this may be your opportunity to see one of the world's greatest archaeological wonders. Just be prepared for a long but rewarding day.

If you've already visited the ruins, consider spending time in **Mérida** or relaxing along the **Malecón** with fresh seafood and a view of the Gulf of Mexico. Many repeat cruisers discover that the slower pace of Progreso is one of its greatest strengths.

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## Continue Exploring the Western Caribbean

Continue planning your vacation with our other guides:

- Cozumel Cruise Port Guide
  - Costa Maya Cruise Port Guide
  - Belize City Cruise Port Guide
  - Roatán Cruise Port Guide
  - Montego Bay Cruise Port Guide
  - Falmouth Cruise Port Guide
  - Grand Cayman Cruise Port Guide
  - Labadee Cruise Port Guide
  - Western Caribbean Vacation Guide
  - Caribbean Vacation Planning Guide
  - Vacation Packing Guide
  - When to Visit the Caribbean
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## Why Visit Progreso?

Progreso offers a side of Mexico that many cruise travelers never expect. It combines world-famous Mayan ruins, fascinating colonial cities, pristine cenotes, authentic regional cuisine, and a laid-back Gulf Coast atmosphere into one unforgettable destination. Whether you're checking Chichén Itzá off your bucket list or simply enjoying a relaxing day along the Malecón, Progreso showcases the rich culture and history of the Yucatán Peninsula.

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## Joe's Logbook

Progreso is one of those ports where it's worth deciding **before you arrive** what kind of day you want. If history is your passion, few cruise excursions can match the experience of standing before Chichén Itzá or Uxmal. But if you've already explored the ancient ruins, don't overlook the charm of Progreso itself.