

**México**conservación  
Protejamos nuestro patrimonio natural.

# THE GREEN GUIDE

TO THE MEXICAN CARIBBEAN<sup>®</sup>



Mexiconservación is a private, non-profit organization. It is dependent on the help of like-minded individuals concerned about the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in Mexico.

The Green Guide to the Mexican Caribbean is intended to be both useful and interesting. Any comments or concerns regarding the guide are welcome and may be directed to [www.mexiconservacion.org](http://www.mexiconservacion.org).



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David Nuñez

## Numbers to call to report an environmental offense

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# Introduction

WELCOME TO THE BEAUTIFUL MEXICAN CARIBBEAN



David Nuñez

The Yucatan Peninsula is home to an astonishing number of ecosystems, such as mangroves, lagoons, cenotes, coastal dunes, seagrass beds, the most extensive subterranean river system in the world, and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (the second largest barrier reef on the planet). All of these ecosystems contribute to the region's breathtaking beauty, with its dazzling abundance and diversity of life.



Liliana Tinoco

Mexico shelters an amazing variety of life, but sadly more than 1,200 of its species are listed as threatened or endangered. Many of these live in the Yucatan Peninsula, including sea turtles, manatees, ocellated turkeys, and margays. These animals and their habitats are threatened by unsustainable development, pollution, illegal fishing/hunting and climate change.

The growth of tourism, accompanied by a widespread lack of understanding about the region's habitats, places pressure on the environment. Visitors to the Mexican Caribbean have the opportunity to help. Tourism generates a large percentage of Mexico's revenue and well-informed tourists can help maintain the prosperity of this region while safeguarding its natural wonders.

**Mexico is home to the greatest number of reptile species in the world. The second highest variety of mammal species on earth can be found in Mexico. Mexico has the fourth largest amount of plant and animal species on the planet.**



David Nuñez



David Nuñez

The purpose of this guide is to educate both individuals and businesses as to the value of the region's biodiversity and the threats it faces. By providing the necessary practices to help preserve the diversity of life found in the Mexican Caribbean, it arms both tourists and the tourism industry with the basic tools necessary for the protection of the very things that make this region so attractive to all: its biodiversity and natural beauty.

**The Mexican Caribbean has one of the largest concentrations of endangered species in Mexico.**

**It is home to Green, Loggerhead and Hawksbill sea turtles, the black howler monkey, the Central American spider monkey, the jaguar and puma.**

## QUICK ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

**Do not litter, trash can injure and kill animals that get entangled in it or choke on it.**

**Do not touch turtles, coral, or any wildlife.**

**Use biodegradable sun block or preferably wear a t-shirt or rash guard.**

**In Mexico, fishing is prohibited within 250 meters of bathing beaches.**

**Do not purchase (or sell) products made from coral, shells, turtles, seahorses, starfish or shark.**

**Conserve water and electricity.**

**Conserve fuel by walking, biking or using public transportation.**

**Do not throw any hygienic products waste down the drain (e.g. toilet paper or sanitary products).**

**Avoid using disposable bags, containers and table wear made of styrofoam or plastic.**



Liliana Tinoco



Lucy Chaharajew



David Nuñez

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# Coral Reefs

Along the coast of the Mexican Caribbean lies a magnificent and complex reef system, which extends from the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula to the Bay Islands in Honduras. This natural wonder is the second largest barrier reef in the world and is called the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef.

## CORAL REEFS ARE IMPORTANT

Though they cover less than 1% of the Earth's surface, coral reefs shelter an incredible variety of life. Reefs are home to a higher density of species than any other marine environment. They are often called the "Rainforests of the Sea" because they are second only to rainforests in the wealth and diversity of life they support.

For many coastal communities, healthy reefs are key to sustaining traditional fishing activities. Coral reefs are also good for business: diving tours, fishing trips, hotels, restaurants and other establishments based near reefs provide jobs and are important income to local economies.



Lucy Gallagher

Lucy Gallagher

## IT'S ALIVE!

Coral is made of numerous tiny animals, coral polyps, related to anemones and jelly fish. Each polyp lives on a calcium carbonate skeleton, it builds upward at a slow, average rate of 6 cm/year. These skeletons form the solid part of a coral reef. So actually, a piece of coral is a hard, rock-like skeleton covered by a thin, living skin of fragile animals. This delicate living skin is the most vulnerable part of the coral, so it is important not to touch it.



David Nuñez

## CORAL REEFS ARE IN DANGER

As the Mexican Caribbean coastline develops into a popular tourist destination, unsustainable human activities are inflicting a great strain on its fragile reefs.

Activities such as the destruction of mangroves and seagrass beds can increase sedimentation in near shore waters and coral reefs.

The over-harvesting of key marine species and destructive fishing practices can upset the delicate balance of reef life in the region.

Touching, finning into, and standing on reefs damages corals.

The release of waste water into the ocean is harmful to corals. In addition, fertilizers from golf courses and agriculture favor algal growth which can smother coral.

These activities further damage reefs already weakened by factors such as hurricanes and climate change.

Guillermo Gonzalez



The corals of the Mexican Caribbean build reefs that are part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the second largest barrier reef system in the world

## HOW TO HELP

**Do not step on, touch or harvest coral.**

**Avoid picking up and disturbing pieces of coral.**

**Do not stir up the sandy ocean floor, suspended sand and sediment can suffocate the tiny coral animals.**

**Do not drop anchors onto coral reefs.**

**Do not buy or sell coral, turtle or conch jewelry.**

**Do not spear fish.**

**Use biodegradable sun block or preferably wear a t-shirt or rash guard.**

**Help keep the beach and ocean clean.**

**Do not eat prohibited or out of season fish or seafood.**



Lucy Gallagher



# Sea Turtles

In the Mexican Caribbean, reefs, seagrass beds and nesting beaches offer unique opportunities to witness marine turtles in their natural habitats. Unfortunately, their numbers are not what they once were as many factors combine to threaten these incredible creatures, which once thrived in the Earth's seas.



One major threat is the loss of nesting grounds to coastal development projects: artificial lighting, crowded night-time beaches, and obstructive beach furniture all discourage turtles from nesting.

Pollution damages turtle habitats like reefs and seagrass and has been linked to a rise in turtle diseases. Furthermore, sea turtles ingest marine trash and entangle themselves in debris, such as fishing nets.

Poaching of sea turtles occurs throughout Mexico, even in the Mexican Caribbean and is increasing with population growth.

## HOW TO HELP

Do not chase or attempt to touch sea turtles while diving or snorkeling.

Never purchase turtle meat, eggs or souvenirs made from turtle shell.

Do not engage in activities requiring you to handle a turtle, no matter how tempting; human contact is stressful and can be unhealthy for the animal. Contact may also be unhealthy to humans, as handling reptiles can lead to salmonella infections.

Do not encourage activities which involve the removal of baby turtles from their nests for release at a later date. The practice of capturing and holding baby turtles in an unnatural environment can seriously debilitate them, expose them to harmful bacteria and weaken their physiology.

**DURING THE NESTING SEASON (MAY-OCTOBER):**

Remove chairs and beach games from the beach at night.

Don't approach turtles on the beaches, observe them from afar.

Do not take flash photos of turtles, it disorients them.

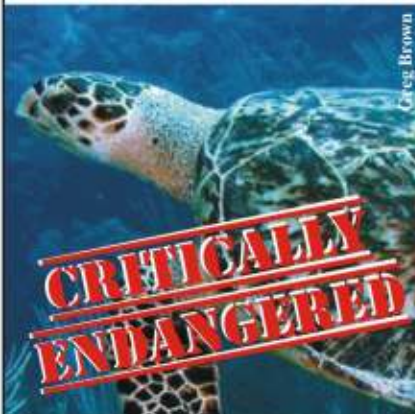
Do not disturb turtles nests, most are marked to keep them safe.

Do not shine flashlights or other lights on the beach at night.

Remember, it's a federal crime to handle any endangered species without proper authorization.

Inform authorities of any suspicious behavior.

### HAWKSBILL *Eretmochelys imbricata*



Approx. **22,900** nesting females worldwide...  
Pointed, narrow, hawk-like beak used to pick its prey out of the reef.  
Length up to 90 cms / 3 feet.  
Weight up to 60 kg. / 150 lb.

### GREEN TURTLE *Chelonia mydas*



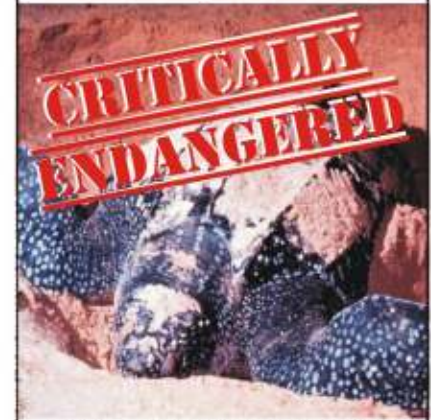
Approx. **88,500** nesting females worldwide.  
Feeds on seagrass. Head is small and blunt.  
All flippers have one visible claw.  
Length up to 1.5 meters / 5 feet  
Weight up to 180 kg. / 400 lbs.

### LOGGERHEAD *Carreta carreta*



Approx. **44,600** nesting females worldwide.  
Very large head and strong jaws used to crush shellfish.  
Length up to 1.1 meters / 3.5 feet  
Weight up to 180 kg. / 400 lbs.

### LEATHERBACK *Dermochelys coriacea*



Approx. **35,800** nesting females worldwide.  
Black, ridged, rubber-like carapace with white or grey spots.  
Length up to 2 meters / 6.5 feet.  
Weight up to 900 kg. / 2,000 lbs.



# Whale Sharks

Snorkeling or diving with whale sharks is an exhilarating experience. Every year, thousands of tourists flock to the Northern coast of the Yucatan Peninsula to witness the gathering of these amazing animals as they feed on the large plankton patches that form during the summer months.



David Nuñez



Lucy Gallagher

The sole living member of its family, the whale shark is the world's largest living fish and is considered harmless. Whale sharks can grow to be over 15 meters long but their average adult length ranges between 9 to 12 meters. They tend to swim slowly, near the surface, filter feeding on plankton, crustacean and small fish, such as sardines and anchovies. Whale sharks are found in all tropical and subtropical oceans, along coastal regions, and enter lagoons on tropical islands.



Lucy Gallagher

Like many shark species, the Whale Shark is threatened. An estimated 100 million sharks are killed each year to meet the demand for shark meat, fins and cartilage. In addition, pollution from land, increased boat traffic and coastal development alter the natural conditions of their habitats which in turn affects their survival rates..

## HOW TO HELP

- Do not chase or attempt to touch whale sharks while diving or snorkeling.**
- Undertake a controlled entry by slipping into the water feet first and avoid splashing.**
- Remove sun screen before entering the water and use a wetsuit or a life jacket.**
- Make sure the distance between your boat and the whale shark is at least 10 meters.**
- In the water, maintain a distance of 2 meters between you and the whale shark.**
- Only use authorized tour guides and follow all guidelines. Report any irregularities to the authorities.**

# Birds

About half of Mexico's bird species can be found in the Yucatan peninsula. The region contains an unusually high level of endemic bird species such as the Ocellated Turkey, the Yucatan Parrot, the Yucatan Nightjar, the Yucatan Woodpecker and the Yucatan Flycatcher. Along the north coast of the Yucatan, extensive lagoons and mangrove areas support large populations of nesting and migrant birds, including impressive nesting colonies of American Flamingos.



Lillian Tinoco

Habitat destruction is the largest threat to birds in the Mexican Caribbean. As large areas of coastal forest and vegetation are being cleared to make way for new buildings and roads, local birds are being forced to relocate to more suitable habitats. In many Yucatan villages, birds are still hunted for food and it is not uncommon to see young boys kill birds for sport with slingshots



Greg Brown

In Mexico, birds are also often kept in cages or on perches about the house or at the workplace as pets. The illegal international bird trade also places great pressure on the populations of some birds families like the macaws, parrots and Parakeets.

As the human population grows in the region, so does the introduction of domestic animals such as dogs and cats which greatly increases the natural levels of predation on birds.

## HOW TO HELP

- Support the preservation and protection of native plants as they provide the fruit, insects and nectar that birds feed on.**
- Help protect mangroves as they are a source of food and shelter for birds.**
- Discourage the raking of beaches as washed-up algae provides a feeding area for many wading birds.**
- Avoid using pesticides.**
- Keep your domestic animals indoors.**
- Do not keep birds as pets.**
- Preserve dead trees stumps as well as old termite and wasp nests as many birds nest in their cavities.**



# Mangroves and Seagrass

Mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs may appear to be very different ecosystems, yet they are all dependent upon each other. They are linked by the water that flows between them and by the animals that share these habitats. While they do affect each other, each ecosystem also has its own unique attributes that contribute to the health of coastlines as a whole.



Tania de la Vega

**MANGROVES** are tropical evergreen shrubs that thrive in the brackish water of coastal areas. These hearty plants have been called walking trees, as they almost appear to be tip-toeing on their roots over marshy areas. Their ability to cope with changing salinity allows them to flourish in this unusual environment, where they have several positive effects on surrounding ecosystems.



Tania de la Vega

Mangroves provide habitat and shelter for juvenile fish that would otherwise be easy prey in the open water. The majority of fish species caught commercially (approx. 75%), spend some time in mangroves or are dependent on food chains based in mangroves. Mangroves are important nursery grounds for shrimp, lobsters, snappers and many other species which eventually migrate to the open sea. They also provide safe havens for breeding bird colonies such as egrets, herons and flamingos and are home to species like the Clapper Rail, Mangrove Cuckoo and kingfishers.

These coastal forests are an ecologically and economically important buffer against storm surges, protecting coastlines and coastal communities from erosion.

Mangroves also protect downstream marine habitats by absorbing sediment and pollutants that would otherwise damage reefs and seagrasses.



Laney Gallagher



David Nunes

**SEAGRASS** may not appear very interesting at first glance, but this often overlooked habitat is one of the most efficient ecosystems on our planet, producing almost the maximum amount of energy for a given area of vegetation on Earth.



Lilian Tinoco

Snorkelers and bathers are likely to encounter seagrass in the tranquil protected waters found landside of coral reefs and within bays.

Seagrass is the basis of many shallow water communities, much in the same way that grass and plants are the basis for land based ecosystems.

Marine animals consume seagrass, and are then eaten by other marine creatures that cannot eat seagrass, which are then eaten by other animals in a complex food chain. In this way, seagrass indirectly provides food for many more species than may be readily apparent.

Seagrasses also stabilize coastal sediments and shorelines by decreasing erosion and increasing water clarity, which is essential for healthy reefs. Seagrass beds also provide reproductive, nursery, and feeding grounds for many fish and sea urchins, and for threatened species such as green turtles, manatees, queen conches, and Caribbean spiny lobsters.

The two main seagrass species found along this coast are Turtle Grass and Manatee Grass, named after creatures that primarily feed on them.

## HOW TO HELP

**Do not trample seagrass beds.**

**If building, refrain from destroying mangroves and preserve native vegetation when possible.**

**When boating, avoid anchoring over seagrass beds and coral reefs.**

**Frequenting golf courses encourages heavy fertilizer use which is harmful down stream. Try enjoying the natural beauty of the region instead.**



# Cenotes, Lagoons & Beaches



David Nuñez

**There are over 3,000 cenotes in the Yucatan Peninsula, and more are being discovered all the time. Only about 1,400 have actually been studied and registered.**

## CENOTES

A trip to a cenote (a fresh water sinkhole) is an absolute must for anyone visiting this coast. The unique geology of cenotes creates a beautiful and fascinating destination. Rain water trickling through and dissolving the porous limestone bedrock of the Yucatan Peninsula formed the largest underground cave and river system in the world. Cenotes are entrances to this unusual underground watershed, and appear as bedrock cave-ins, allowing access to the underground river systems.

Unfortunately toxins, pathogens and pollutants from garbage dumps also trickle down into the system with rainwater. Furthermore, drawing unsustainable quantities of freshwater causes an unnatural amount of salt water to flow into the system from the sea. This phenomenon is known as saline intrusion, and is already occurring: high levels of salinity have been noted far inland. Due to the unique hydrology of the region, popular waste water treatment and disposal techniques, such as septic tanks and deep injection wells are ineffective.



Tania de la Vega



David Nuñez

## LAGOONS

Along the picturesque Mexican Caribbean coastline, visitors have the opportunity to observe the many lagoons dotting the landscape. These brackish water inlets are exceptionally fertile and productive, and support a stunning variety of plants, animals, and surrounding habitats. They are of special interest to visitors, as they serve as feeding, nesting, and nursery areas for many unusual local species of birds and fish.



David Nuñez



Greg Johnson

## BEACHES

The soft white beaches and coastal dunes found along the Mexican Caribbean coast are understandably one of the main attractions of the area. Yet, these stunning beaches are more than just another pretty tourist attraction.

Some of the most exciting creatures found along the coast nest in coastal dunes, such as Green and Loggerhead sea turtles.

Beaches are also home to an array of other fascinating animals including snails, crabs, seabirds, reptiles and mammals, all of which depend on the pristine beaches of the Mexican Caribbean as feeding grounds.



Heidi Herrmann

## HOW TO HELP

**Conserve water and favor hotels that have sound water conservation policies, for example: those that use gray water for gardening, or water plants only at night.**

**Use biodegradable sun screen or wear a t-shirt instead of using sun block.**

**Help keep the cenotes, lagoons and beaches clean. Pick up trash if you see any, and encourage others to do the same.**

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# Sportfishing



If you feel you are catching fewer and smaller fish than you have in the past, there is a reason: a significant decline in fish populations in recent years.

This is unfortunate for fishermen, tourism ventures, the local economy and the environment alike. Interestingly, fishermen themselves can have the greatest impact on this problem. Fishermen have the opportunity to increase their enjoyment and improve the sustainability of their sport by having a positive impact on the diversity and number of fish in the sea.

## BEWARE OF LOCAL LAWS

**Only one line and rod are permitted per recreational fisherman.**

**Sport fishing is not allowed within 250 meters of bathing beaches or commercial fishing boats.**

**Each fisherman is allowed up to 10 fish.**

**Only 1 swordfish, marlin, sailfish or shark is allowed and each count as 5 toward the catch limit.**

**Only 2 dolphinfish are allowed and every 2 of these count as 5 toward the catch limit.**

**Spearfishing while scuba diving is prohibited.**

**Only 5 fish are permitted when breath held spear fishing.**



Major issues include over harvesting of key species, selective fishing of only the largest individuals and pollution from recreational fishing activities.

Over harvesting threatens not only the species that are over fished, but species that are ecologically linked to them. Wiping out one species will frequently cause a chain reaction, threatening species dependent upon it for food, shelter, or ecological viability. Avoid over harvesting by respecting fishing regulations such as catch limits and seasons.

## OUT OF SEASON

*En veda*, or closed season, refers to the period each year that it is illegal to fish or harvest certain animals. During these times, do not capture *en veda* species. Refrain from ordering them in restaurants, as they may have been captured illegally and ordering them will only encourage an illegal and ecologically unsustainable practice. Some important closed seasons to fishing are listed on the right.

## CONCH

May 1 - October 31

## OCTOPUS

December 15 - July 31

## LOBSTER

March 1 - June 30

## GROUPE

February 15 - March 15

Older fish produce many more eggs than their smaller, younger counterparts. Selective fishing of the largest individuals removes the oldest and most reproductively viable members of fish populations, greatly decreasing a population's ability to sustain its numbers. Allowing these older individuals to survive can lead to more young fish, and a subsequent increase in fish populations.



Lost and discarded fishing gear can kill fish, coral, sea turtles, birds and any other wildlife that become entangled in it. Take care not to leave any debris behind, and clean up any that you find in your travels.

Plan fishing strategies in accordance to local laws: you will be contributing towards the sustainability of the local fish populations!



# Recreational Boating



Marie Freymuth

Taking a boat into the turquoise waters of Quintana Roo can be one of the most rewarding and exciting experiences for visitors to this coast.

Whether a captain, or merely a passenger on someone else's vessel, insisting on standards of good practice will help ensure that this opportunity for adventure continues to exist.

Anchoring on reefs or seagrass beds can destroy vast stretches of these habitats, and carelessly flung anchors can kill aquatic life. Large cruise ships can damage up to 200 square meters of ocean floor in a single anchoring. Even small vessels can seriously damage habitats, especially in high-traffic tourist destinations such as reefs frequented by divers and snorkelers.

Use mooring buoys whenever possible. Anchor in rubble and sand instead of on reefs and seagrass beds and engage in alternative procedures such as drift diving when possible.

Obey channel markers and speed regulations.

The release of human waste and chemical pollutants into coastal waters can upset the health and balance of life in fragile coastal ecosystems. Waste released into bays and other shoreline areas tends to linger and build up due to the still water's lack of cleansing currents.

Do not dump untreated waste into near shore waters, and properly treat any waste before releasing it. If facilities do not exist in ports and marinas to correctly treat human waste, encourage marinas to install them.



Tamia de la Vega



Alvaro V. Herr

Ask about your cruise ship's waste management policy and procedures.

Make sure that boat engines have been serviced and boats have been inspected to determine that pollutants like oil and chemical residues are not released into water.

Ensure that chemical absorbent sponges are available in case of spills.

Use biodegradable detergents to clean boats.

Jetski engines are inefficient and highly polluting. Avoid using them.

When chartering a vessel, favor those from authorized tour operators.

Educating boat operators and visitors as to these practices, and ensuring their adherence to these guidelines helps preserve the pristine beauty of the Mexican Caribbean coastline, and all the economic and aesthetic attributes that make it so valuable.



Rafael Gonzalez

**Regular boat maintenance will not only extend the life of your boat, but will also help keep our bays and coasts pristine. It's easy!**

**Regularly inspect the areas of the boat that have the potential to leak toxic substances into the water.**

**Have regular service from a qualified technician.**

**Replace older, inefficient 2 stroke engines with 4 stroke engines if possible.**

**Remove toxic anti-fouling paints from boat hulls.**

**Avoid pumping out toxic bilge water near coral reef and other delicate habitats.**

**Clean boats using biodegradable, non-toxic cleaning agents.**

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org**



Lucy Gallagher



# Hotels & Restaurants



Alvaro Viteri

Visitors to the Mexican Caribbean are drawn to its hotels and restaurants overlooking idyllic beachfront scenery. Yet, it is important to understand that the sensational setting which makes these hotels and restaurants so desirable can be damaged by these same enterprises.

Restaurants and hotels produce waste which must be dealt with. Choose businesses that encourage recycling, reuse supplies like towels and tableware and treat waste before releasing it.

## DOES YOUR FAVORITE HOTEL/RESTAURANT...

### CONSERVE ENERGY?

Use alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar power?

Ask guests to turn off lights and AC when not in use?

### CONSERVE WATER?

Reuse grey waters for irrigations?

Water only at night?

Use low flow showerheads and faucets & low flush toilets?

Provide water conservation tips to guests/clients?

Carry out checks on plumbing to avoid leaks?

### REDUCE WASTE?

Reduce the amount of packing used?

Recycle and provide recycling facilities for guests?

Eliminate the use of disposable plates, utensils and cups?

Use linens instead of paper napkins and hand towels?

Compost organic waste?

Purchase products that can be recycled?

### AND MOST IMPORTANTLY...

Do they demonstrate a sense of ecological awareness, and encourage such awareness to their clients and customers?

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Alvaro Viteri

Look for establishments that have minimized their effects on the coastal environment. Coastal erosion is increased by building on the dunes, clear cutting mangroves and removing other coastal vegetation, removing sand and installing artificial coastal barriers. Erosion leads to sedimentation, which can smother coral reefs and other marine habitats.



David Nuñez

Businesses may further reduce their impact on the environment by landscaping with native vegetation, which supports native wildlife and requires less watering.

Clean, fresh water is a limited resource in the Mexican Caribbean. Choose establishments with efficient plumbing and sound water conservation policies. Energy should also be conserved by using energy efficient appliances, and requesting that guests turn off lights and air conditioners when not in use. The use of solar panels or windmills to generate electricity can also aid in energy conservation.



Alvaro Viteri

Check to see if your favorite hotels and restaurants are environmentally sustainable by using the checklist on the left. As paying guests of hotels and restaurants, visitors have a strong voice, and can help convince businesses to change.



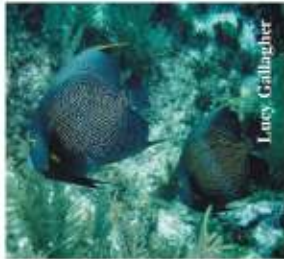
# Tips for the responsible Traveler

## Reduce Carbon Emissions:

- Favor biking or walking tours.
- Use public transportation.
- Buy local rather than imported goods.

## Minimize Water and Energy Usage:

- Use less water when bathing and showering.
- Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth.
- Let the cleaning staff in your accommodation know that it is not necessary to change your sheets and towels on a daily basis.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.



Lacey Gallagher

Don't leave appliances on standby and remember not to leave appliances charging unnecessarily.

## Avoid Waste:

- Separate your waste and use recycling bins if available.
- Say no to plastic bags and opt for a reusable bag or for when you go shopping.
- Leave the courtesy bottles of shampoo, conditioner and creams unopened in your holiday bathroom.
- Avoid Styrofoam. Carry your own cup. Use a re-usable piece of aluminum foil for take-away.
- Take only the brochures or maps you need and then pass them on to others.

## Help Protect Local Wildlife:

Do not purchase products made from coral, shells, turtles, seahorses, starfish or shark.

Do not condone activities which involve the removal of animals from their natural habitat in order to entertain tourists.

- To not touch nor feed local wildlife.
- Observe minimum approach a for wildlife.
- Use biodegradable soap, shampoo and creams.

## Think Local:

- Buy your souvenirs directly from local people.
- Favor local produce and products.
- Choose establishments that support local livelihoods.



Lillian Tinoco

The term 'Eco' has become a buzzword used not only by organizations genuinely dedicated to conservation but also those seeking to exploit its marketing potential for economic gain. We hope the Green Guide will help you make responsible choices and will enrich your experience in the Mexican Caribbean.