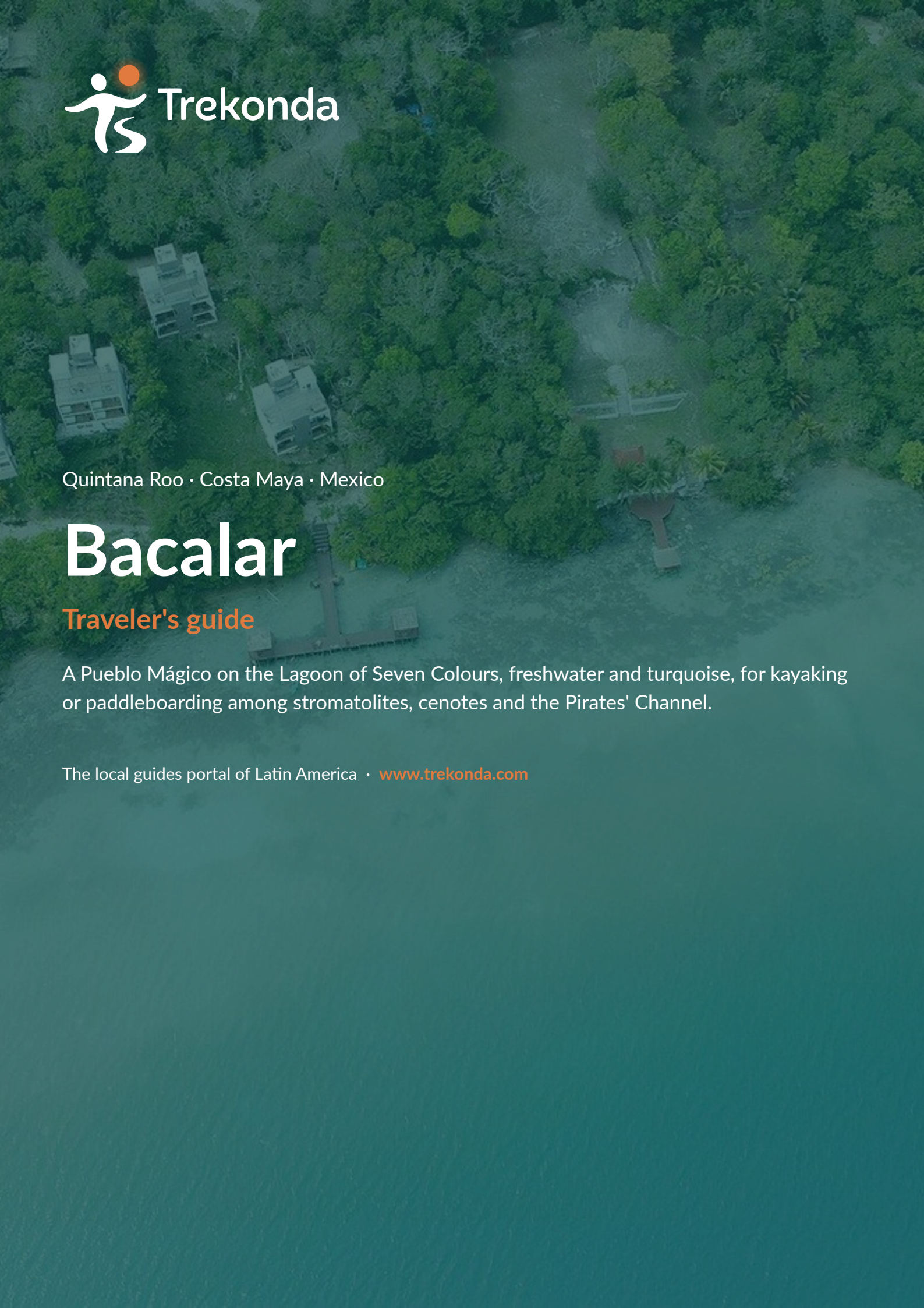


Trekonda

Quintana Roo · Costa Maya · Mexico

Bacalar

Traveler's guide

A Pueblo Mágico on the Lagoon of Seven Colours, freshwater and turquoise, for kayaking or paddleboarding among stromatolites, cenotes and the Pirates' Channel.

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Contents

1. Nature 3
2. Activities 3
3. When to go 3
4. How to get there 3
5. Experiences 4
6. Guides 4
7. Photo gallery 4
8. Map 5
9. How to book with a local guide 5

Nature

Bacalar Lagoon, in southern Quintana Roo, is more than 40 km long and up to about 2 km wide. It is called the Lagoon of Seven Colours for the shades of blue and turquoise the water takes over its pale bottom depending on the depth. It is freshwater, with deep cenotes inside the lagoon itself, and drains towards the Río Hondo and Chetumal Bay. Stromatolites grow along its shores: rock structures built by microorganisms, considered the largest freshwater system of its kind in the world and easily damaged by contact. The town, a Pueblo Mágico since 2006, keeps an 18th-century fort.



Activities

- Kayak or SUP at sunrise, while the water is calm before the wind picks up, towards Cenote Negro and the Pirates' Channel; easy level
- Three- to four-hour trip by sailboat, catamaran or motorboat to Cenote Esmeralda, Cenote Negro, Bird Island and the Pirates' Channel, with swimming stops
- Los Rápidos, in the south, on the channel linking Bacalar Lagoon with Xul-Ha Lagoon: the current lets you float or paddle past stromatolites, which must not be stepped on or touched
- Cenote Azul, beside the federal highway south of town: about 200 m across and up to about 90 m deep, for swimming in very deep water
- Fort of San Felipe, built in the 18th century against pirates who came for logwood, now a museum on piracy and the Caste War, with views over the lagoon

When to go

From December to April, the dry season, clear skies bring out the lagoon's colours; the year-end holidays and Easter Week are the busiest periods. From June to October there is more rain, and June to November is hurricane season; after heavy rain the water can lose its clarity for a while. For paddling, the first hours of the morning are best. Use biodegradable sunscreen or protective clothing.

How to get there

The nearest airport is Chetumal International (CTM), about 40 km away on federal highway 307, roughly 40 min. Tulum airport (TQO) is about 2 h 30 by road, and Cancún (CUN) about 340 km, 4 h 30 to 5 h by car and a little longer by bus. Bacalar has had a Tren Maya station since 2024, on the line linking Cancún, Tulum and Chetumal, and there are frequent buses from Chetumal, Tulum and Playa del Carmen.

Activities in this destination

Hiking & trekking · Volcano · Rafting & hydrospeed · Boat trips, canoe & kayak · Hot springs · Zipline & tree climbing · Canyoning & rappelling · Paragliding · Horseback riding · Snow & snowshoeing · Local & indigenous culture · Nature & photography · Stargazing · Full-day excursions · Food & wine · Family & inclusive · Surfing & bodyboard · Sandboarding & dunes · Cycling & MTB · Climbing & mountaineering · Ice & glaciers · Kitesurfing & windsurfing · Diving & snorkelling · Wildlife & whale watching · City & walking tours · Birdwatching · Fly & sport fishing · Archaeology & ruins · Wine & wineries · Coffee & cocoa · 4x4 safari & overland

Experiences

No experiences published in Bacalar yet Are you a guide here? Create your free profile and be the first to appear.

Guides

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Photo gallery



Estromatolito gigante en la laguna de Bacalar · Jiinjung · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons



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Map · Bacalar



18.6769, -88.3953 · Directions in Google Maps

How to book with a local guide

Choose your experience → Request your date → Experience Bacalar

Send your request and the guide contacts you directly with availability and price.

https://www.trekonda.com/en/experiencias/bacalar

Contact platform: each guide provides the service.