YUCATÁN
CRUISE NEWS

Num. 02 Jun 10th, 2020

Motivated by the welcome of our first edition, today we present the second number of the *Yucatán Cruise News*, which is prepared as a strategy coordinated by the State Government, through its Yucatan Tourism Board, to keep the decision makers of the cruise industry about the situation of the Port of Progreso, located in the Yucatán Peninsula, México. As in our previous issue, in this newsletter we include statistical information, news on tourism activity, developments in economic opening, as well as our plans for the post-Covid-19 era. From Yucatan, we are prepared with sanitary protocols for the next reactivation of cruise travel.

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YUCATÁN RECEIVES WTTC SAFE TRAVEL STAMP

London, UK, (June, 8, 2020). Major destinations around the world have signed up to the world's first ever global safety and hygiene stamp, launched recently by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

WTTC, which represents the global Travel & Tourism private sector, designed the special Safe Travels Stamp to enable travelers to identify destinations and businesses around the world which adopted its health and hygiene global standardized protocols – so consumers and holidaymakers can experience 'Safe Travels'. The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) also embraced the WTTC Safe Travels Stamp, which have the safety and hygiene of travelers as their top priority.

Source: https://wttc.org/News-Article/WTTC-gives-global-destinations-stamp-of-approval-for-safety-protocols

Since the launch last week of the Safe Travels Stamp, Turkey, Bulgaria, Jamaica, Mauritius, Ontario (Canada), Portugal, Saudi Arabia and the Mexican destinations of Baja California Sur Quintana Roo and Yucatan, have now adopted WTTC's new protocols.

The protocols were devised following the experience of WTTC members dealing with COVID19 and based on guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Safe travels
approved by
WORLD TRAVEL & TOURISM COUNCIL

YUCATÁN BIOSECURITY RISK PREVENTION CERTIFICATION

Setting the stage for return of cruises and tourists, the **"Certificado Buenas Prácticas Sanitarias Yucatán" (Biosecurity Risk Prevention Certification)** is presented on May 28th. Developed in conjunction with experts, a certification based on current scientific information, POSI procedures (Prevention of Spread of Infections), international recommendations, tourism quality programs and sustainable protocols for attention in tourist centers before the outbreak by Covid-19, issued by the Boards of Health and Tourism of the Government of Mexico.

SEVEN STEPS PROCESS

1. Development of training materials and health manuals
2. Verifier training
3. Opening of the business registration system
4. Analysis of self-managed verifications
5. Validation of implemented processes and evidence documents of the company
6. Online training for the tourism sector
7. With an approval grade from the Yucatán Tourism Board, the certificate is issued.

BLUE FLAG

CERTIFICATION OF BEACHES IN THE PORT OF PROGRESO

Blue Flag is an internationally recognized and valued by millions of people badge awarded to beaches and marinas around the world. It operates under the auspices of the Foundation for Environmental Education based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Candidates for the Blue Flag badge must meet and maintain a series of strict environmental criteria during the current season; security and services; environmental education and water quality.

As a result of the work carried out by the City Council for several months, on June 10, 2020, two beaches of Puerto de Progreso, located on the Traditional Malecon and the International Malecon, were recognized as part of the International Network of Blue Flag sites, the which is focused on environmental preservation and responsible tourism.

YUCATÁN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CRUISE INDUSTRY

Where are we located?

Port of Progreso has maritime accessibility, as part of the Western Caribbean routes for cruise ships, with the main ports of the Gulf of México with a strategic location that gives it a very important position of connectivity.

CITY	NAUTICAL MILES
GALVESTON	303
HOUSTON	316
MIAMI	338
MOBILE	274
NEW ORLEANS	300
TAMPA	289
COZUMEL	159
COSTA MAYA	184
PORT OF BELIZE	248
ROATAN	347

IMPORTANCE OF CRUISES FOR YUCATAN

- Progreso pier has been always an important economic reference for the state.
- First, the 2 km (1.3 miles) fiscal pier was built between 1937 and 1941, then the remote terminal, which was a 5 km (3.3 miles) extension of the Progreso pier, built between 1984 and 1989 with a cruise terminal concessioned to the company SSA México in 2000.
- Finally, the 2.5 km (1.6 miles) long alternate parallel pier was opened in 2014.
- Average expense of $57.31 dollars per cruise passenger (BREA, Sept, 2018).
- New and more ships with greater capacity are arriving every year.

YUCATAN

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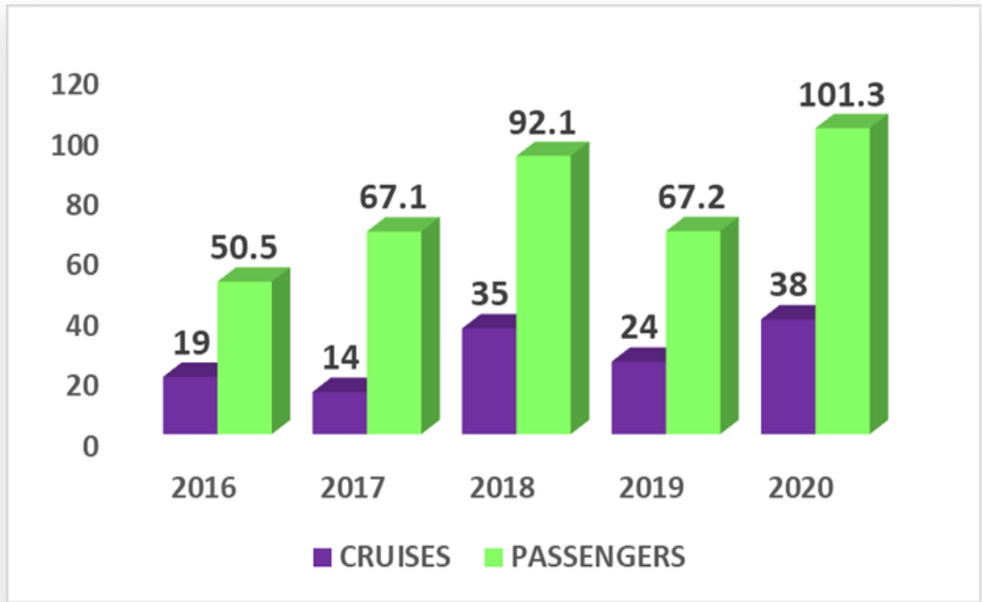
In the first **two months period of 2020**, Port of Progreso got in sixth place among the ports of México in the reception of cruise passengers:

	Mexican Ports Ranking (1st Bimester 2020)	Passenger	Calls
1	Cozumel	918,823	300
2	Costa Maya (Majahual)	373,180	115
3	Puerto Vallarta	122,369	39
4	Ensenada	113,975	49
5	Cabo San Lucas	109,554	38
6	Port of Progreso	101,273	38

SOURCE: DATATUR.

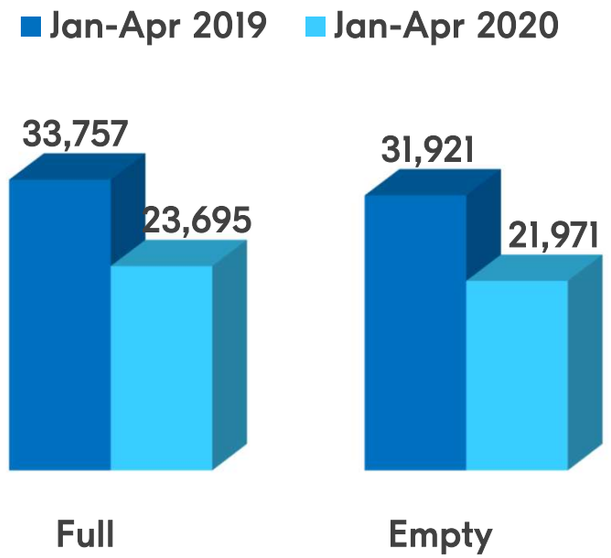
In recent years, the growth in **the first two months period** for Port of Progreso has been remarkable:

- From 2016 to 2020, we have received 19 additional cruises, that is an increase of 100% in just 5 years.
- In 5 years, the number of passengers increased by 50,530, meaning a 100% increase.



SOURCE: Yucatán Tourism Board.

Cargo Volume. TEUs.



API Progreso, presents the volume of cargo in the period from January to April 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. Although container handling has not been interrupted, it has had a slight decrease (1).

SSA México, concessionaire of the cruise terminal, prepared the tourist facilities before the outbreak in mid February, installing 7 automatic hand sanitizers within the premises of the tourist port. Is current working on health and safety protocols based on Federal and State Government health authorities (2).

SOURCES: (1) API Progreso.
(2) SSA México.

SITUATION IN CONTEXT OF COVID-19

How do we face the current situation with COVID-19?

The COVID-19 pandemic presents the world community and the tourism sector with an important and constantly evolving challenge.

The Port of Progreso has not stopped its business and remains open for port cargo, oil and trade. However, the arrival of cruise ships was stopped by the suspension of the cruise lines agreed with the Government of the USA, as a preventive measure for the pandemic.

The last arrival of cruise ships to Progreso was on March 14, with the Carnival Fantasy (1,666 passengers).

What is our current situation?

Covid-19 cases in México **(1)** as of June 10th are:

CONFIRMED	NEGATIVE	SUSPICIOUS	DECEASED
124,301	182,077	50,677	14,649

The comparative table by state places (2) Yucatán in the 10th national place as of June 10th, according to the number of cases:

CONFIRMED	DECEASED
2,299	276

With the data updated to June 10th and according to the Yucatán Health Secretary, there are 2,299 positive confirmed cases and 276 deaths due to complications for COVID-19 registered. The breakdown by municipality is 1,310 of the positive cases in the capital city Mérida and 27 cases in the municipality of Progreso.

SOURCES: (1) Gobierno Federal. https://coronavirus.gob.mx/datos/
(2) Secretaria de Salud de Yucatán. https://coronavirus.yucatan.gob.mx/

YUCATÁN ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY

The implementation of preventive health measures reduces the impact on the request for hospital medical care services, however, it has generated a severe blow to the economy. Therefore, the economic reopening of Yucatan is carried out in a gradual and staggered way through measures that ensure the return to a “new normal”, where we will share the activities of daily life with this new virus.

One of these measures is the implementation of health security protocols that will allow economic reactivation, which must be staggered by means of waves (stages) according to the level of risk of economic activity.

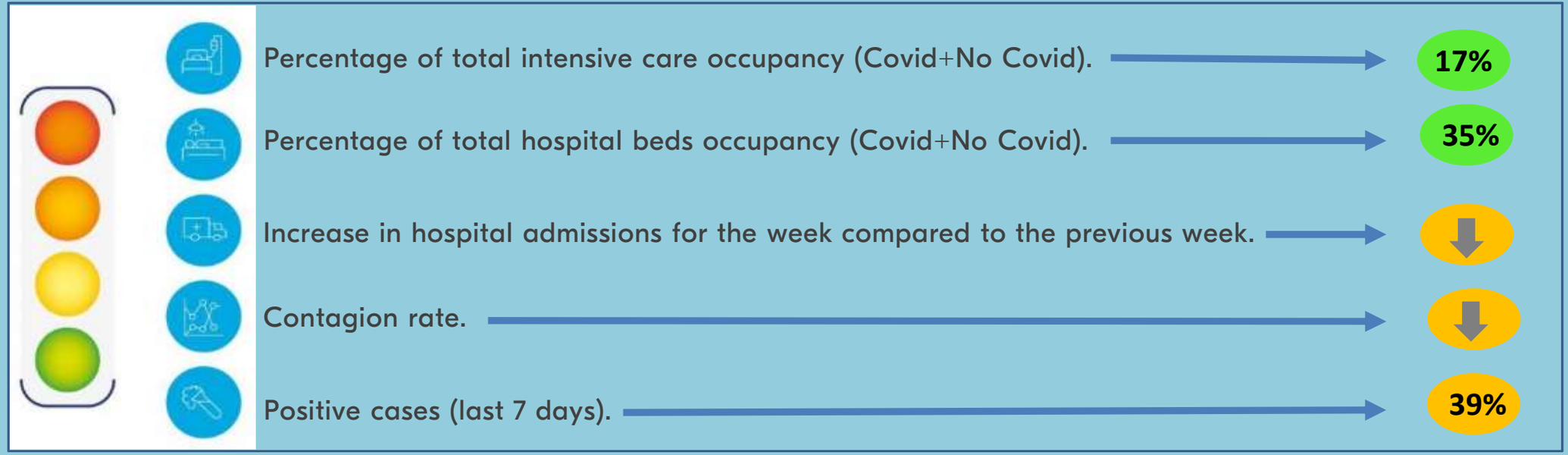
The reopening "Waves" will be determined by the weekly results of the Federal Covid19 Traffic Light, data that will be validated based on the state Traffic Light, to confirm that they correspond to the reality of the pandemic in Yucatan.

VERY GOOD NEWS: Since June 8, the state traffic light is orange, which is why Yucatan began with the economic opening of wholesale trade activities, manufacturing, real estate and rental services, hotels and restaurants, the latter at 25% of their capacity.

YUCATAN MEASURES AND ACTIONS

The Plan of Tourism Reactivation of Yucatán was presented to associations and commercial chambers, between March 23 and May 21, to standardized criteria with respect to the State Plan of Economic Reactivation and the Federal Plan of Reopening of the Tourism Sector, both to be published in the near future.

A system of indicators, based in colors, is presented on May 16th for the economic activities restart, all in different stages according the relevance of the company's activities and following previously established protocols.

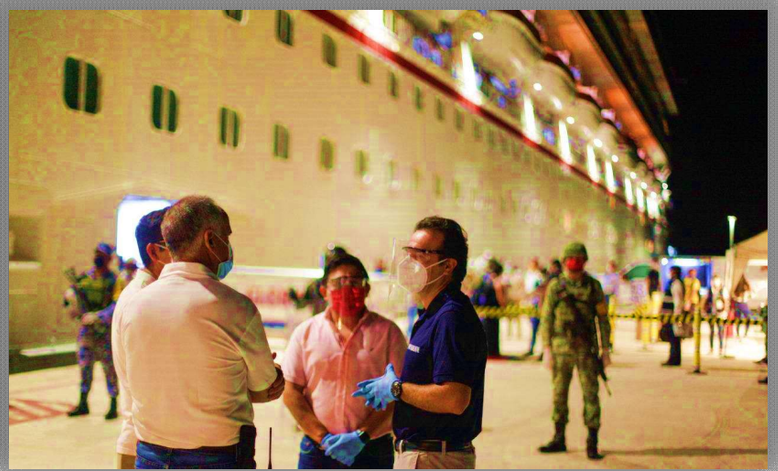


SUPPORT OF THE PORTS OF MEXICO TO THE CRUISE INDUSTRY

Disney Fantasy. On May 14th, as a humanitarian response to disembark 68 Mexican crew, Cozumel received the Disney Fantasy and repatriate stranded workers to return their homes.

Holland Koningsdam. Puerto Vallarta repatriated 73 crew members on May 21, 187 on May 22 and 414 on May 23, to have flights to Barbados, Belgrade and Amsterdam. Besides of having the Seven Seas Splendor on asylum until June for humanitarian reasons.

Carnival Glory. Another humanitarian response from the Mexican Government was the docking of Carnival Glory on Puerta Maya pier on May 21, to repatriate 76 crew members stranded on cruises from Carnival Corp. taking every health measure to process their entrance to Mexican soil.



PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRY EVENTS

- Five FCCA talks and webinars: Platinum Membership conference call (April 28); Byoplanet International webinar (May 7); Port of Miami webinar (May 14); Creating a safer destination with Mico Cascais (May 21); FCCA-CLIA industry update (May 27)

- PAMAC Virtual Conference Jamaica, (June 5).

- Yucatan Nautical Cluster, between local companies and the Yucatan Tourism Board (May 4).

- Maximizing Opportunities with Cruise by Aquila (May 20).

- Recovery Readiness with Expedia (May 14).

- Two Tourguide chattings, YucatánTourguide Community with Lemoneight (May 15 and May 20).

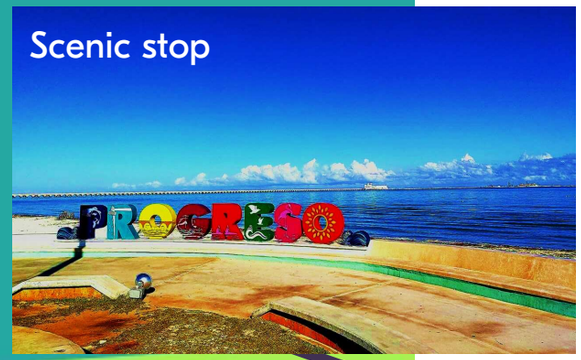
FCCA
PAMAC2020
JAMAICA

RENEWED TOURIST AREAS IN PORT OF PROGRESO

Lights show

International Malecon

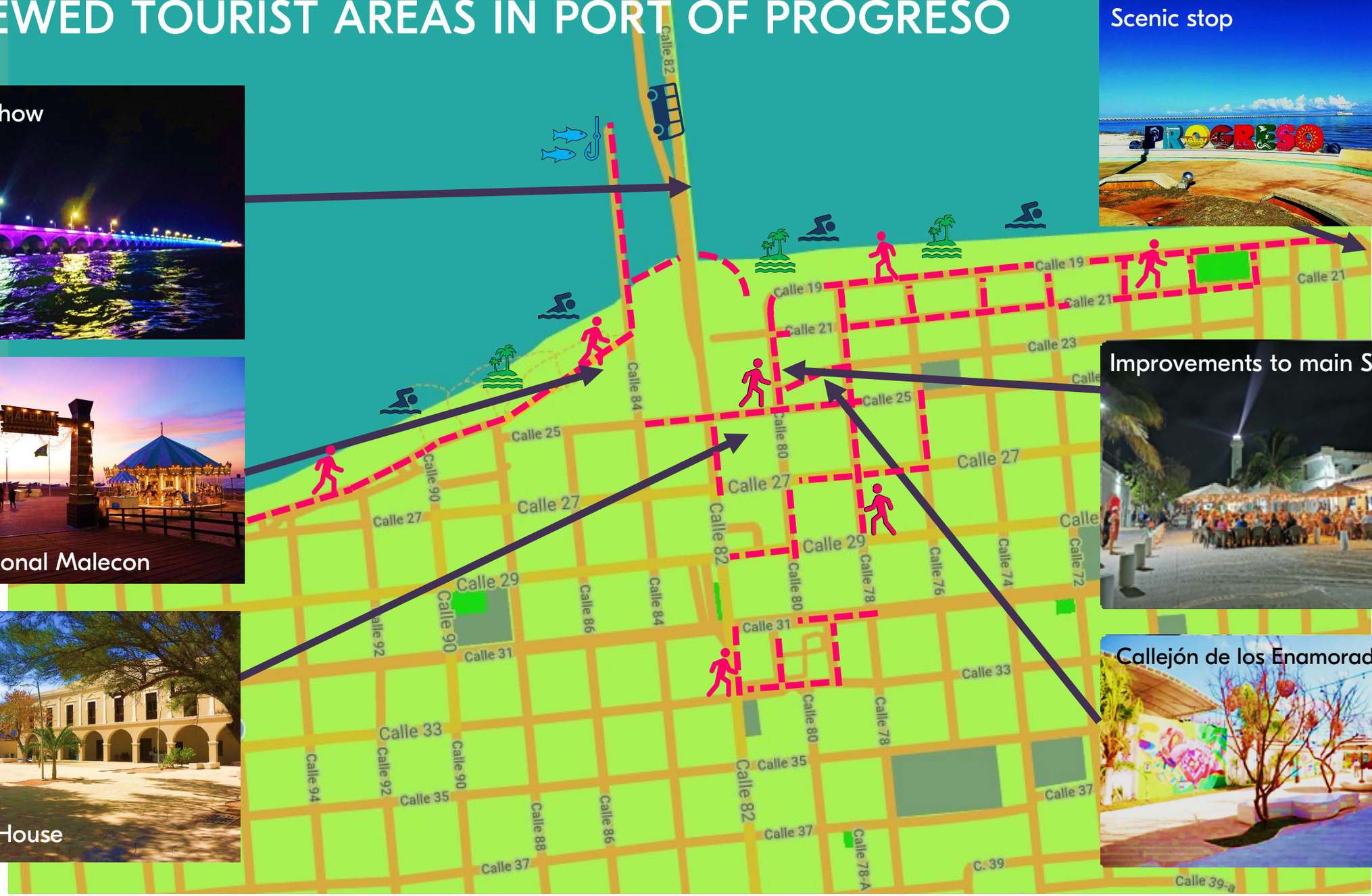
Culture House



Scenic stop

Improvements to main Street

Callejón de los Enamorados Street



NEW TOURIST INVESTMENTS

GRUPO XCARET, is ready to open in December 2021 its new themed park and first in Yucatán: XIBALBÁ. An almost $42 million dollars investment with:

- 3 Boutique hotels
- Restaurant area
- Aviary (more tan 4,000 birds)
- 8 Interconected cenotes
- Snorkeling activities
- Zip lines
- Hiking trails

Everything with inclusive facilities.

Distances from:

Mérida 126 M
Progreso 150 M
Valladolid 26 M

RESERVA DE XIBALBÁ by xcaret

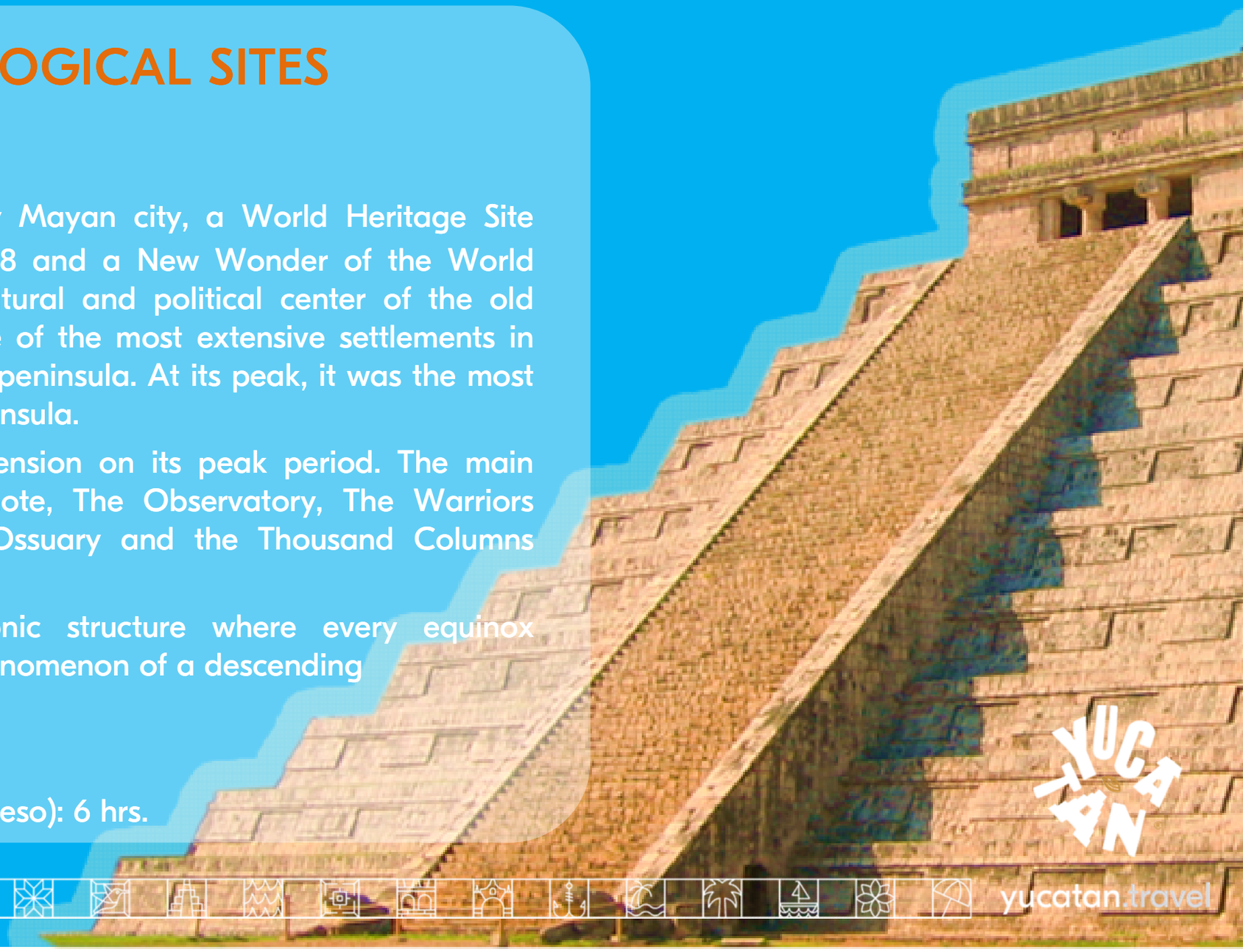
YUCATAN ARQUEOLOGICAL SITES

Chichén Itzá a legendary Mayan city, a World Heritage Site declared by UNESCO since 1988 and a New Wonder of the World since 2007, stood out as a cultural and political center of the old Mayan civilization and was one of the most extensive settlements in the center-north of the Yucatan peninsula. At its peak, it was the most powerful city in the Yucatan peninsula.

This city covered a 16.5 M extension on its peak period. The main buildings are: The Sacred Cenote, The Observatory, The Warriors Temple, The Ball Court, The Ossuary and the Thousand Columns structure.

The Kukulcán Castle, the iconic structure where every equinox presents a light and shadow phenomenon of a descending snake.

Tour duration (from Port of Progreso): 6 hrs.



NATURE DESTINATIONS CLOSE TO PORT OF PROGRESO

El Corchito. It is located 200 meters from the entrance to the Port of Progreso on the highway to the Port of Chicxulub.

You have to cross on a boat from the embarkation offices, navigate through the mangroves path and discover the park. This protected park has three cenotes and two shallow water holes ideal for younger children. In the surroundings there are areas to rest and watch the wildlife around the park.

Tour duration: 3 hrs.

SERVICES:

- Lobby
- Free Internet
- Scenic point
- Fast Food Area
- Handcrafts Area
- Picnic area
- Scenic Trails
- Ramps
- Embarkation point
- Paramedics
- Interpretive trails
- Parking lot
- Ticket office
- Restrooms
- Resting area

COLONIAL JEWELS CITIES OF YUCATÁN, NEAR PORT OF PROGRESO:

Mérida. The capital of Yucatan, founded in 1542 and built on the ancient Mayan city of T´ho, it stands out for its extensive offer of cultural and artistic attractions, a colonial historic center with European architectural influence and an outstanding French style that we can admire in the mansions from the Paseo de Montejo, the most important avenue in the city.

Currently awarded as "Best Small City in the World" and "Best Convention Destination" by specialized tourism media.

It offers several options of culture, history, fun and its delicious gastronomy, so we recommend you to start your visit in the Historic Center of the City, where you can see a wide variety of colonial buildings, museums, galleries, theaters, open-air cafes, bars, typical clothing, parks, hotels, restaurants with typical, national and international food.

Tour duration: 4 to 5 hours (depending on the activity).

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TOUR OPERATORS NEWS

Preparing the scenario, tour operators are making an evolution on service for the cruise passengers.

Vía Yucatán presents “Safety is the new cool!” campaing.

Vía Yucatán
Excursions

https://www.facebook.com/viayucatan/

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Yucatán & Port of Progreso Authorities

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COORDINACIÓN GENERAL DE PUERTOS Y MARINA MERCANTE

www.puertosyucatan.com

SSA México
Grupo Carrix

www.ssamexico.com

Port of Progreso: Tour Operators

Shore Excursions is one of the areas with the highest satisfaction rates according to cruise passengers that visit Port of Progreso.

Aviomar Adventours

www.aviomar.com.mx

explora CARIBE

www.explora-tours.com

TOTAL GUSTO | TOTAL GUEST SATISFACTION TOURS

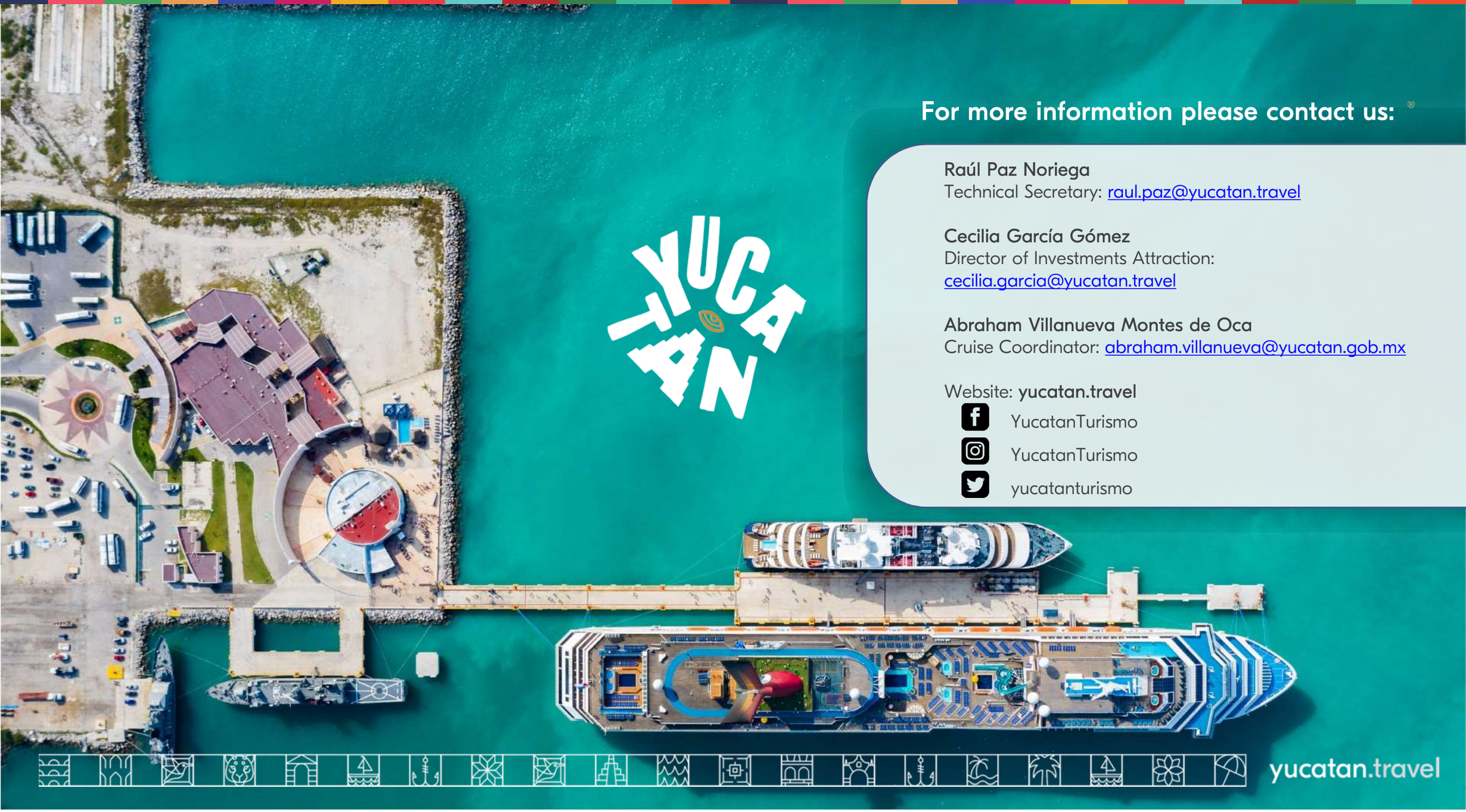
www.totalgusto.com

TOURS autoprogreso

www.autoprogreso.com

Vía Yucatán Excursions

https://www.facebook.com/viayucatan/



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