



# Night Shift

Quintana Roo pulses with after-hours activity.

BY BRANDON SCHULTZ

**ACTION-PACKED:**  
Maya shaman in the Xcaret México Espectacular performance (left), and nightclub in Cancún (right)

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**LONG PRIZED FOR ITS BEACHES AND RESORTS**, and more recently appreciated for its healthy dose of Maya ruins and increasing access to the ancient culture's remaining communities, Quintana Roo is one of Mexico's most-visited states. While its capital, Chetumal, sits on the southern border, most of the action happens in the north, where legendary hot spots like Cancún, Cozumel and Playa del Carmen draw hordes of sun worshippers to the Caribbean Sea. As a jet set destination popular for celebrations like bachelor(ette) parties, spring breaks and getaway weekends, northern Quintana Roo's after-hours offerings prove as abundant as its sunshine and sand.

Coco Bongo, Cancún's most infamous venue, provides a night to write home about. Expect concert-like crowds

(generally on the younger side) for a debauchorous nightclub experience, including entertainment from musicians, impersonators, showgirls, aerial performers and all manner of dancers. Those looking for less of a total package and more of a traditional club but not wanting to sacrifice the energy of a large crowd will appreciate The City, the self-professed "largest club in Latin America," with capacity for 6,000 revelers across three levels. Internationally renowned artists and DJs visiting Cancún often perform here. LGBTQ+ nightlife is growing in Cancún, with a variety of gay venues ranging from the quieter Sentimientos Bar and drag-forward Láser Hot Bar to the pulsing 11:11 Club. Outside of Cancún, Quintana Roo's undisputed nightlife capital, Playa del Carmen's increasing inclusivity creates a second area haven for the LGBTQ+ community with several welcoming nightlife options of its own.

Those seeking a more sit-down experience will enjoy Riviera Maya's Rauxa, a cabaret dinner theater with a four-course meal and an open bar, or the 300-artist musical revue Xcaret México Espectacular, also in Riviera Maya. Reserve tickets for the whole family for an action-packed evening at sea with comedy and sword fights aboard the *Jolly Roger* at the *Pirate Show*. Another option: Escape to Cirque du Soleil's first resident show in Mexico, *JOLÍ*, offering five levels of tickets from simply enjoying the world-famous performances to indulging in Cirque's only dinner theater experience in the world.