



# UNDERSTANDING QUINTANA ROO

*- A Deep Dive into Quintana Roo:  
Geography, Cities, Culture,  
and Economic Dynamics*

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### GEOGRAPHY

Quintana Roo stretches along the eastern coast of the **Yucatán Peninsula**, caressed by the **Caribbean Sea's gentle waves**. The state's geography is diverse, with coastal plains giving way to flat terrains dotted with **cenotes** and **underground rivers**. **Mangroves** and **lagoons** dot the **coastline**, while further inland, tropical jungles flourish, sheltering a vast array of flora and fauna.





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### CITIES & NOTABLE DESTINATIONS:

**CANCÚN:** Often the first name that springs to mind when one thinks of Quintana Roo, Cancún is a world-renowned resort city. Known for its vibrant nightlife, luxury resorts, and stunning beaches, it's a magnet for tourists and investors alike.

**PLAYA DEL CARMEN:** Once a quiet fishing town, Playa del Carmen has evolved into cosmopolitan beach destination. Its famed 5th Avenue, a pedestrian only thoroughfare, buzzes with restaurants, shops, and entertainment venues.

**TULUM:** A harmonious blend of ancient and modern. While it's home to one of the best-preserved Mayan coastal ruins, it's also a hub for eco-tourism and spiritual wellness retreats.

**COZUMEL:** An island paradise known for its coral reefs and dive spots, Cozumel attracts divers and snorkelers from around the globe.



## GEOGRAPHY OF QUINTANA ROO

- 50.843 KM territory
- 900 km COASTLINES
- 10.6% NATIONAL
- 1,200 km Cenotes and underground rivers
- 264,000 hectares of bays, estuaries and lagoons.



## GEOGRAPHY OF QUINTANA ROO

### Importance of MESOAMERICAN REEF, the second largest worldwide

The Mesoamerican reef is considered one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. It is the largest reef system in the Atlantic Ocean and the second worldwide. It extends from the Yucatan Peninsula in southeastern Mexico, passes through Belize and Guatemala and reaches Honduras.

Two representative sites of the Mesoamerican reef in Quintana Roo are the Sian Ka'an biosphere reserves and Banco Chinchorro.

The reefs of Sian Ka'an 29 make up a complex of coral reefs with potential geomorphology scientific, economic, tourist, educational, fishing, historical and cultural. Various formations stand out here corals whose massifs measure up to twelve meters height in its most developed part; they are inhabited by a diversity of associated species.



## GEOGRAPHY OF QUINTANA ROO

### CENOTES & SAC ACTUN SYSTEM

In addition to our spectacular white-sand beaches and turquoise blue sea, one of the greatest attractions of the **Mexican Caribbean** are without a doubt the **cenotes**. These fascinating natural pools of intense cobalt blue, turquoise blue, or emerald green color leave anyone who dares to explore them breathless.

The cenotes are exclusively found in the **Yucatan Peninsula (in Mexico), Belize, and Guatemala**, where the soil is porous and soft limestone, which allowed rainwater to seep in and create an underground system of rivers called the **Sac Actun System**. The largest underground river system in the world, located along the Mexican Caribbean, connects all the cenotes.





## COASTLINE OF QUINTANA ROO

The coast of **Quintana Roo**, known as the **Mexican Caribbean**, and since 2016 a **federal Biosphere Reserve** that covers **5,754,055 hectares**.

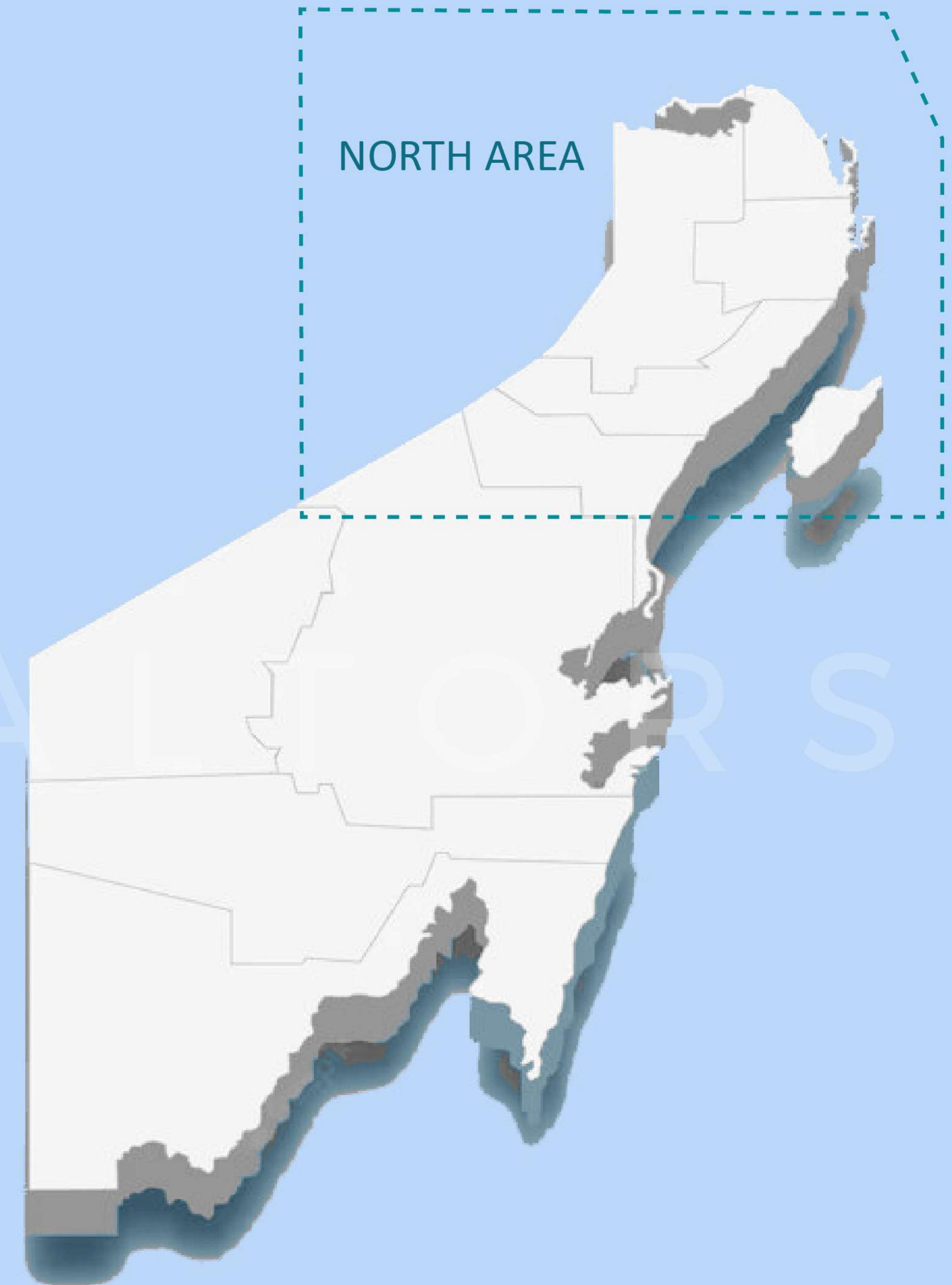
The **Mexican Caribbean** begins at **Cabo Catoche** (at the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula) and ends to the south at the border with Belize.



## COASTLINE OF QUINTANA ROO

### NORTH AREA

The first is the **Northern Zone** that covers the municipalities of **Lázaro Cárdenas, Isla Mujeres, Benito Juárez, Puerto Morelos, Solidaridad** and **Cozumel**. The second is the **Central Zone**, which covers the municipalities of **Tulum** and **Felipe Carrillo Puerto**, including the **Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve**. And the third is located in the municipality of **Othón P. Blanco** and will be called the **South Zone**.





## COASTLINE OF QUINTANA ROO

### NORTH AREA

#### CONTOY ISLAND

It is a National Park, administered by the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP). The southern tip of **Isla Contoy** marks the beginning of the Mesoamerican Reef System, the largest in America.

#### ISLA MUJERES

Which is part of the Costa Occidental National Park of **Isla Mujeres**, **Punta Cancún** and **Punta Nizuc** where a large number of species of flora and fauna live.

#### COZUMEL

The third island in the northern area with one of the most important archaeological remains of the State of **Quintana Roo**, which is also the largest island in **Mexico**. In the central southern part of this island is the **Arrecifes de Cozumel National Park** and in the central-north the **Cozumel Island Flora and Fauna Protection Area**.

#### ARROWSMITH BANK

It is a submerged reef platform, located east of **Punta Cancún**, in a transition zone between the biotic provinces of the **Caribbean Sea** and the **Gulf of Mexico**, in the northern part of the **Mexican Caribbean Biosphere Reserve**.

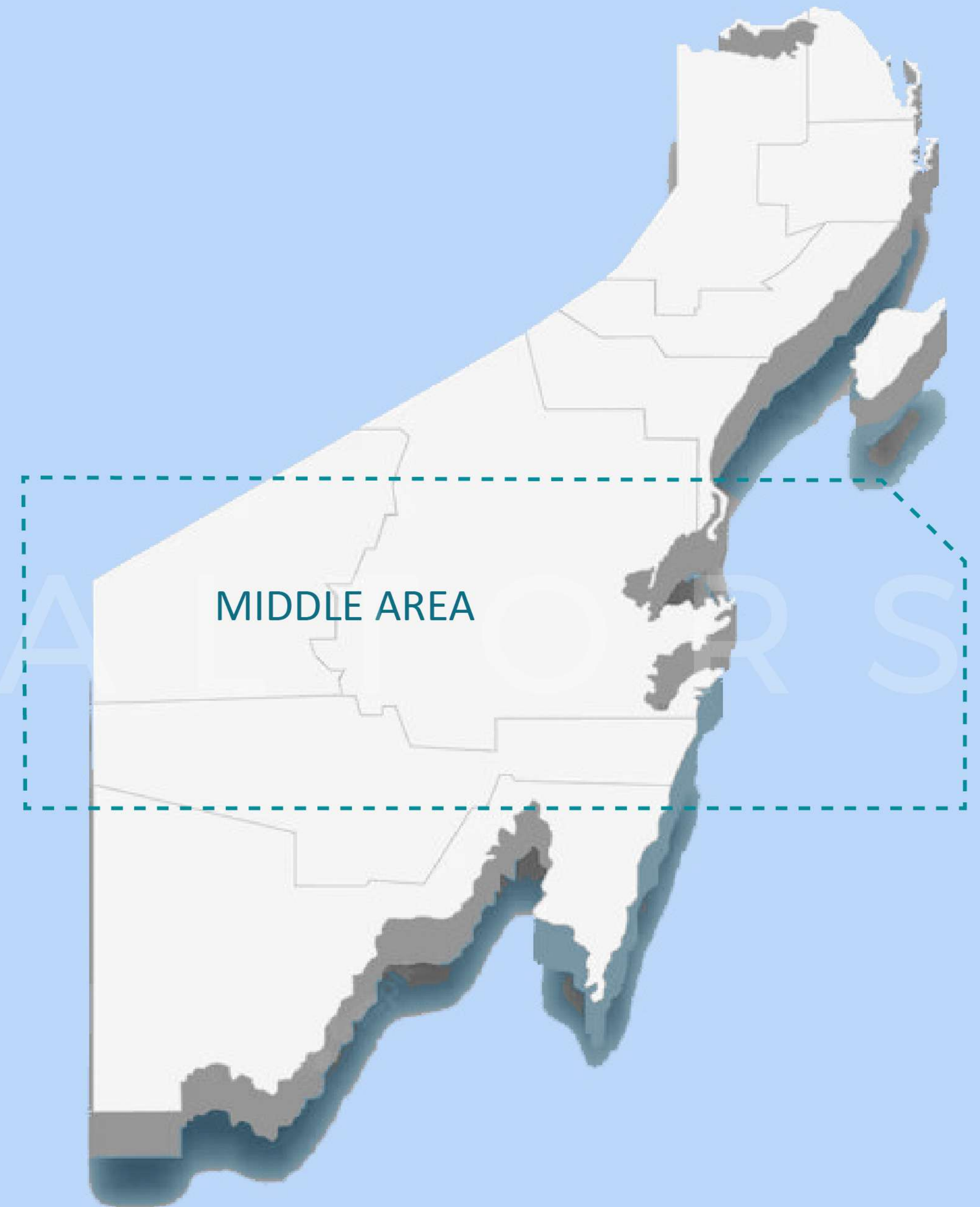


## COASTLINE OF QUINTANA ROO

### MIDDLE AREA

It develops from the municipality of **Tulum** to that corresponding to **Felipe Carrillo Puerto**. The main population within this area is **Tulum**, a city in increasing development, and the **Mayan area** concentrated from **Muyil, Chumpon, Felipe Carrillo** and **Uh May**, among others, and in the coastal area **Punta Allen**.

It includes the area of the **Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve** also declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) due to the importance of its ecosystems.

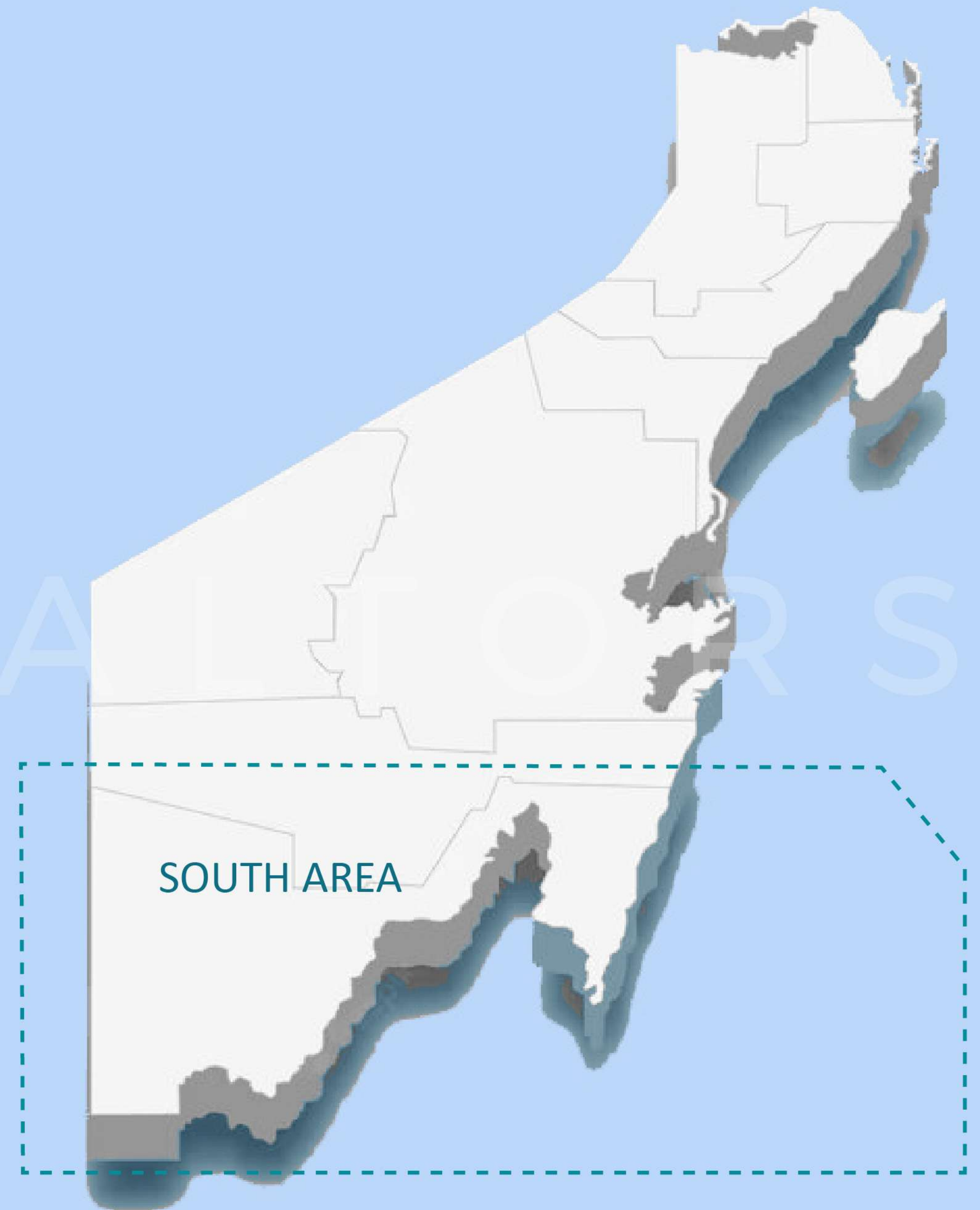


## COASTLINE OF QUINTANA ROO

### SOUTH AREA

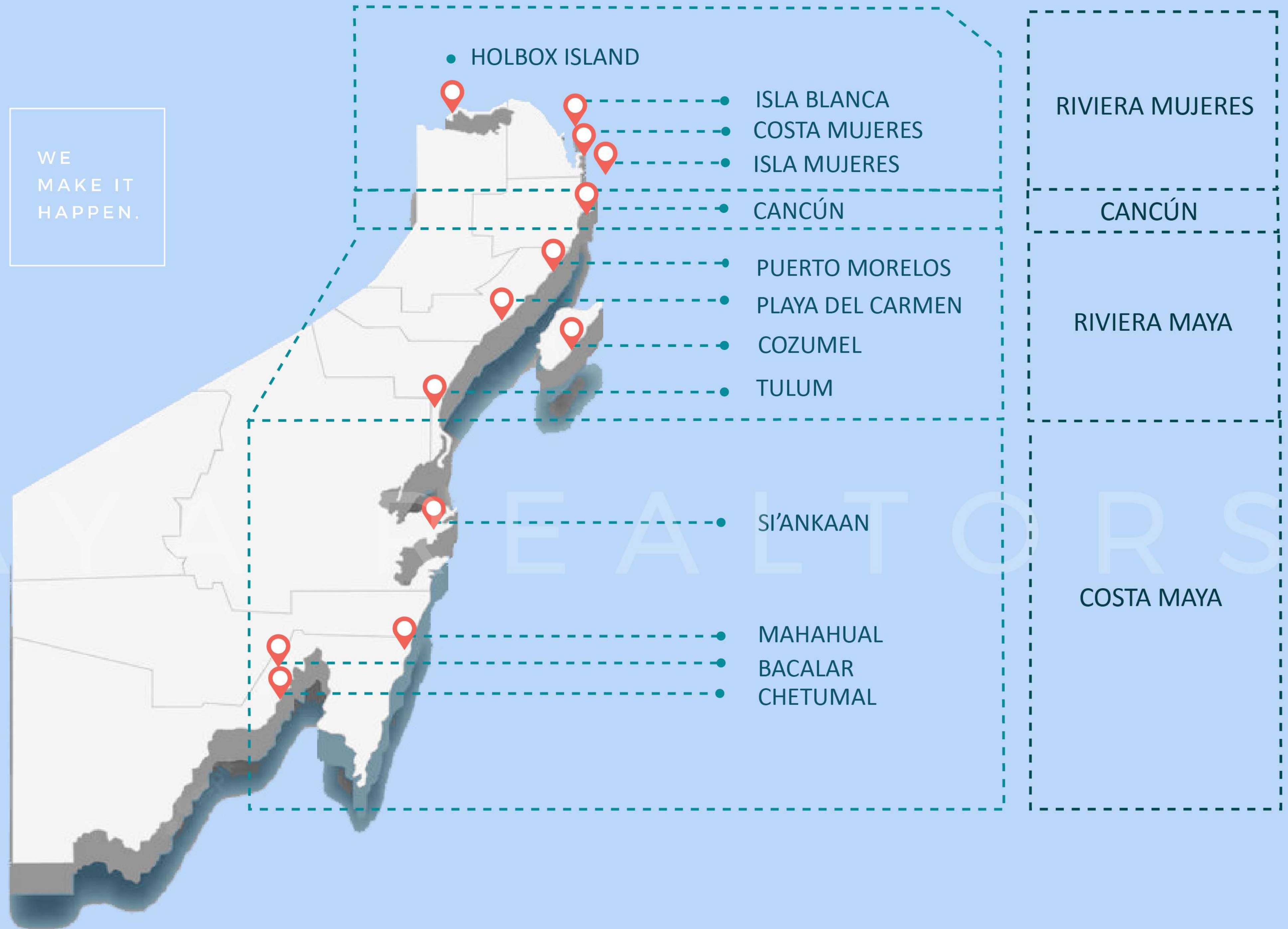
It spans from **Punta Pulticub** to the **Xcalak Arrecifes National Park** in the southern part of the state of **Quintana Roo**. It is located in the municipality of **Othón P. Blanco**, whose main city is **Chetumal**, capital of the state of **Quintana Roo**. **Mahahual** is a town in growing development, and docking point for tourist cruises.

It includes the southern part of the **Mexican Caribbean Biosphere Reserve** and the **Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve** in the open sea as important lobster and queen conch fishing sites. This area of the state is home to 3 tourist destinations: **Mahahual, Bacalar and Chetumal**.



WE  
MAKE IT  
HAPPEN.

# MEXICAN CARIBBEAN MAP





THANK YOU