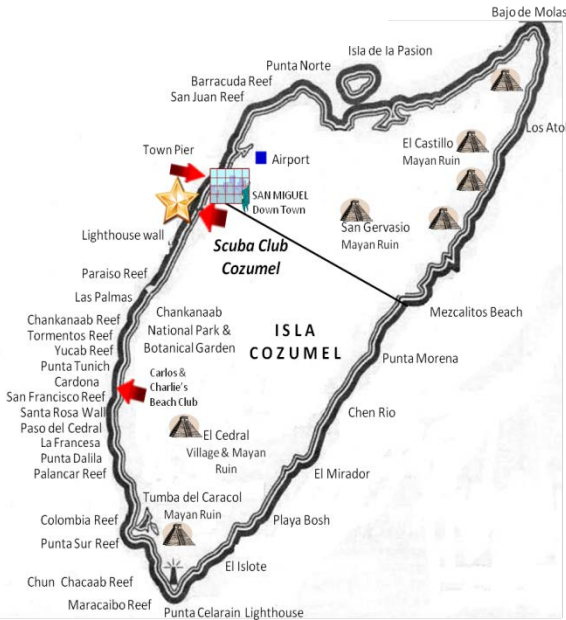


# COZUMEL



deplaning. You will first clear Immigration and then collect your luggage.

## MEXICAN CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION

After going through immigration, you will proceed to collect your luggage. After you pick up your luggage you will proceed to the exit where you will need to put your luggage through the X-Ray machine, give your Customs declaration to agent and will be asked to push a button on a machine resembling a stop light. If you get a green light it means your luggage will not be inspected, red means your luggage will be inspected. The whole process usually takes about 30 - 45 minutes. Speedy by U.S. standards.

## ATM

You can get small amounts of pesos (up to \$3000 pesos) and there are 2 or 3 places where you can get dollars (\$300 US Maximum) with your Visa and MasterCard credit cards. You will **need your PIN number**.

For American Express card, please check at the front desk for update information.

## TELEPHONE SERVICE

You can make International calls from the front desk from 7 AM - 9 PM. You can call collect or use calling cards to place the call. Be sure to ask about rates before placing your calls as long-distance charges can get quite expensive. There is a \$2 service charge to place the call payable at the front desk. You must have an international calling card to charge phone calls. Local phone calls can be made from the telephone booths located by the stairway in the main building by dialing 201 and asking the operator to dial the local number for you. Check with your cell phone provider before coming to Cozumel, many like Verizon and AT&T offer service while abroad for very competitive rates.

To call the USA dial 001 area code and the number.

## WATER CONSERVATION

We would appreciate your help in conserving the fresh water supply at the hotel. Being an Island, we must rely on underground wells and rain. City water at times becomes so scarce water has to be trucked in. You can help us by not letting the water run in rooms needlessly, reporting any leaks or faulty plumbing and using the rinse tanks for your scuba equipment. You'll notice in the rooms you can also help by deciding when to change linens and reusing the towels in our efforts to conserve and preserve our environment. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

## Planning your trip to Cozumel

### DOCUMENTS

U.S. citizens need to bring a valid passport. Travelers from other countries need to check with the Mexican Embassy. A visa may be required.

### LOCATION

Mexico's largest island, 10 miles off Yucatan Peninsula, 28 miles long by 9 miles wide. Cozumel follows Central Standard Time. Located 20.25 N 86.55 W.

### LANGUAGE

Spanish and Maya. Almost everyone speaks some English.

### AIRPORT ARRIVAL

Cozumel has an international airport, fully equipped for both large jets and private planes. International arrivals are expected to fill out 2 forms. A Mexican Tourist card and a Customs Declaration. These should be given to you on the plane before you arrive and need to be filled out before

### AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

Transfers are not included in your package. Before you exit the airport, you will need to buy a TAXI ticket approx. US \$12 per person. Be sure to make sure all of your luggage gets loaded in the van before getting into the van. Remember the taxi number and keep your taxi receipt. Be sure your luggage is unloaded before the van takes off. The ride is only 15 minutes.

### MONEY EXCHANGE

The local currency is pesos. Dollars are accepted everywhere. Travelers checks are no longer accepted at the banks or businesses. You can use your credit cards at most places, Personal ID such as a driver's license or passport will be required. We suggest that you bring plenty of \$1, \$5, & \$10 bills to use for taxis and tips. The official exchange rate varies daily. You can exchange dollars for pesos at the banks from 10 am to 2 pm on weekdays. On weekends and after banking hours you can use the exchange houses in town. The hotel can exchange small amounts of dollars into pesos however the exchange rate is not as good as the banks.

**CHECK – IN TIME IS 3 PM CHECK –OUT TIME IS 12 NOON**



**☑ GETTING AROUND**

Taxis are plentiful and relatively cheap. If you need a taxi it is faster to flag one down as they pass by. Always ask how much the fare will be to your destination before getting into the taxi. All taxis drivers must carry with them a rate sheet listing the approved fares. Taxi drivers are notorious for not having any change. Try to have small bills handy. The usual fare to town from Scuba Club Cozumel is about US \$6 for 1 to 4 people. (It's only a 15-minute walk).

**☑ CAR, JEEP & MOTORCYCLE RENTALS**

Rentals of cars, jeeps and motor scooters are available through the front desk. The hotel has no affiliation with any of the rental agencies and just provides the service of calling the rental offices for you. Minimum rental times are 24 hours. For overnight parking, please use our parking spots located in front of the hotel across the street. Parking in the downtown area is limited and the **NO PARKING ZONES are marked with red curbs**. The main street in downtown has a no parking policy and enforced from Monday through Saturday from 9 AM to 6 PM. Parking is permitted after 6 PM and on Sundays.

**☑ SAFETY BOXES**

Scuba Club Cozumel is not responsible for valuables left in the rooms. We now provide electronic safes in the rooms. We still offer safety deposit boxes free of charge for your convenience at the front desk. Safety deposit boxes located at the front desk can be accessed from 7 AM to 9 PM daily. Please use the same precautions for your personal items as you would anywhere else you travel. **DO NOT LEAVE TEMPTATIONS laying around your room and please lock all the doors when you leave the room.**

**☑ STAMPS**

Only Mexican stamps can be used for mail from Cozumel. Bring your post cards and letters ready to go to the front desk. There they will tell you what the postage is and mail them for you. You will need to pay for the stamps at that time. Please leave plenty of space for the stamps. Make sure the address is complete including zip code and country. Mexican stamps are quite a bit bigger than stamps from the states. Mexican mail is not very fast, delivery time is about 3 -4 weeks.

**☑ DRINKING WATER AND ICE**

The water in your rooms is potable but not suitable to drink. Drink only bottled water. The water served in the restaurant is bottled water and the ice we use is purified. The pitcher in your room can be filled with bottled water available in the corridors and the ice buckets can be filled in the restaurant. Bottled water is available at most stores in town.

**☑ FOR YOUR SAFETY**

Scuba Club Cozumel policy is NO VISITORS IN THE ROOMS. Visitors are only allowed on the premises BETWEEN 7:30 AM to 9:00 PM. If you are expecting visitors, please advise them to check-in at the Front Desk when they enter the Club. This is done for your protection and helps us keep Scuba Club Cozumel exclusive for our guests. The safety of all our guests is very important to us. There is a security guard at the front entrance 24/7 and night watchman on duty from 9:00 PM to 7:00 AM.

**JUST IN CASE !!**

We want you to enjoy your stay here. Sometimes an air conditioner acts up and the room isn't cool enough. The plumbing in your bathroom decides to spring a leak. A waiter is not feeling well and does not understand what you want. The kitchen is slow. Your divemaster had a fight with his girlfriend and he is distracted. You want to dive with your friends and they are in a different boat... Please give us a chance to try and solve these problems right away! **LET THE FRONT DESK KNOW IMMEDIATELY!** They will do their best to help you solve the problem. Your business is important to us and by making you feel at home, we hope you will consider coming back in the future.

**WORD OF CAUTION**

Not all the roads in Cozumel are paved and there are pot holes in unexpected places. Add to that the taxis and scooters racing about, and you can get into some very nasty situations. Please use the same common sense when driving in Cozumel as you would back home. The traffic laws are about the same as they are in the states with the exception that when someone commits a traffic violation in Cozumel the police **CONFISCATE THE VEHICLE**. Our experience shows that it is much safer for several people to rent a vehicle than to rent mopeds individually. The front desk will **NO LONGER** arrange mopeds rentals for our guests due to the accidents our guests have had. They will give you the rental agencies telephone numbers if you insist where you can arrange your own rentals.

**☑ LAUNDRY**

There are several places in town to get your laundry done. Please ask the front desk to call one of them to pick up your clothes. The service is quite reasonable and quick 1 day is normal. This service must be paid in cash.

**☑ CHILDREN**

Children 10 years old and under can stay for free in the same rooms with their parents and eat free. Meals for the children will consist of child portioned meals and a special children's menu. In order for the children to ride the boats they must be 10 years of age and have adult supervision to take of them at all times while on board the boats. Parents must pay the snorkeler's rate for both (\$29 per person **plus park fee**).





# “FAT GROUPER” GRILL

## DESAYUNO - BREAKFAST



The restaurant will have coffee ready everyday by 6:30 AM. Breakfast will start at 7:00 AM. The usual scrambled eggs or omelette with bacon or hash browns, hot cakes and French toast will be served with plenty of fresh fruit. Be adventurous and try the local favorites such as "Huevos a la Mexicana", "Huevos Rancheros", "Motuleños or "burritos. To satisfy your sweet tooth try the "Pan Dulce" baked fresh every day.

### DIVER'S LUNCH

Wherever you go in Mexico, the influence of corn or "Maíz" is evident. The natives harvested it, stripped the stem of its kernels which were soaked overnight in water and lime and then were ground into fine flour. A dough or "Masa" was made from the flour and used to shape the thin round disks or "Tortillas". Nowadays the tortilla serves as a basis for many dishes such as tacos, quesadillas, enchiladas and tostadas. Masa is also used to shape and make Tamales.



# TACOS



Everyday a special lunch is prepared to be ready when divers return from the day of diving. They are hungry and don't like to wait. Serve yourself from our salad bar to get started while you order lunch. The lunch consists of a combination of Mexican, Yucatecan and native Maya dishes, giving you the opportunity of tasting traditional foods from this region. Old time favorites like "Tostadas de Pollo", "Frijoles con Carne", and "Chiles Rellenos" combined with typical Maya dishes such as "Tamales" and "Pollo Pibil" (Chicken wrapped and cooked in banana leaves to give it a special flavor), "Carne a la Yucateca" will give you a little of everything: beans, guacamole, fried plantains, chips and flank steak basted with recado rojo (annatto seasoning). Of course, if you can't live without a sandwich or hamburger and fries you can order from the menu. Please understand that when you order from the menu it will take more time to prepare.

**IMPORTANT:** The restaurant does not handle cash. You can open a bar bill by leaving a credit card or cash deposit at the front desk when you check-in and will need to settle this account when you check-out. There are no refunds for unused portion of any package, nor is any portion of your package transferable to another person, including meals. TIPS ARE NOT INCLUDED. We suggest you tip at the end of your stay. Tipping envelopes are provided at the front desk.

### CENA - DINNER

Dinner takes a more continental flavor. Seafood from the Gulf of Mexico and meat from the northern states of Chihuahua and Coahuila. Poultry and pork introduced by the Spaniards are now a principal part of the Maya diet. Everything in the kitchen is prepared taking advantage of the rich assortment of fresh produce grown in the Yucatan Peninsula and using local spices and sauces dating pre-Hispanic times. Due to the Yucatecan's years of isolation from the rest of the country, many of the dishes are still referred to by their Mayan names, such as "Pescado Tikin-Xik" (Fish marinated with achiote (annatto seeds), wrapped on banana leaves and baked) and "Papadzules" (rolled tortillas stuffed with hard boiled eggs covered with pumpkin seed sauce).

From the Spanish influence we have "Sopa de Lima" the classic Yucatecan chicken soup and "Pollo Valladolid" marinated chicken with bay leaf, oregano and x-catic peppers. Seafood has a Caribbean flavor in "Pescado a la Veracruzana" (broiled fish in a tasty sauce with fresh tomatoes, green olives and bell peppers) and "Cameron al Mojo de Ajo" (shrimp in garlic lemon butter). You will also learn to respect the fiery hot "Chile Habanero" (only grown in this area), get to know the nutritious "Chaya", a vegetable similar to spinach. Every house in Cozumel grows at least one in their garden.

Of course, you will also be offered pasta dishes and vegetarian dishes so that you will always find a variety of options. Dinners consist of soup or Salads, main course dishes and some wonderful desserts. Our ice cream is famous for being too good to pass up!

**VEGETARIAN MEALS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE EVERYDAY.  
SPECIAL DIETS CAN BE SOLICITED AT THE FRONT DESK.**

You will be asked to sign for all your meals as you leave the restaurant. Most of our packages include breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. If you arrive early and start with lunch your first day you will end your package meal plan at the end of the week with breakfast your last day. Your PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE: ice tea, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, or extra helping (like guacamole, nachos or quesadillas). Breakfast includes coffee, tea and juices. Beverages and extras will be charged to you at the end of every meal.

ENJOY OUR  
TRADITIONAL  
MEXICAN PARTY!!  
(if weather permits)



**TIPPING GUIDE**

Tipping is a personal matter. Using the normal guide of 15 - 20% here is a general guideline based on averages of costs and suggested by former clients.



**Waiter and Restaurant staff (Waiters share tips with the kitchen staff)**

	<b>\$8 - \$10 Dollars per day / per guest</b>
<b>CHAMBERMAIDS</b>	<b>\$4 - \$5 Dollars per day / per guest</b>
<b>DIVEMASTERS</b>	<b>\$6 - \$8 Dollars per day / per guest</b>
<b>BOAT CREW</b>	<b>\$6 - \$8 Dollars per day / per guest</b>

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT YOU WRITE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE TIP ENVELOPE: YOUR NAME, ROOM NUMBER AND THE NAME OF THE PERSON THE TIP IS FOR.**

Again this will depend on you and the service you receive during your stay. For your convenience we have established a system where you need not tip until the end of your stay. We have a tip box located in the lobby entrance, where you can leave your tips. Tip envelopes are available at the front desk. Please don't leave the tip envelopes in the rooms or give them to staff. All tips go into the tip box and are distributed every Monday afternoon.

Please use a separate envelope for each area, such as Divemaster, Restaurant, Chambermaids and Boat Crew (please use boat name). If you feel there was someone that went out of their way to make your vacation special, please make a separate envelope with their name or specify how you want the tip divided. Please no PERSONAL CHECKS OR TRAVELERS CHECKS, the banks will not cash personal checks and Travelers Checks are no longer accepted.

**COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS MAY BE LEFT IN THE SAME BOX**

<b>CLUB OFFICE HOURS</b>		<b>DONTOWN</b>
Front desk	6 am to 11 pm	9 am to 9 pm
Telephone service	7 am to 10 pm	Most closed Sundays
Safety deposit boxes	7 am to 9 pm	
<b>SCUBA COZUMEL Dive Shop</b>		<b>BANKS</b>
Hotel shop (Dive Center)	7 am to 6 pm	10 am to 3 pm
Retail shop	8 am to 6 pm	Closed weekends
(Across the street)	(Closed Sundays & Holidays)	
<b>S.C.U.B.A. COZUMEL DIVE SHOP 5 STAR DIVE CENTER</b>		
OPEN: 7 AM - 6 PM DAILY		
No dive trips on December 25 <sup>th</sup> & January 1 <sup>st</sup> .		
Dive Shop will open to provide tanks for beach diving only.		
From 10 AM to 2 PM.		

<b>Restaurant Hours</b>	
Morning Coffee	6:30 a.m.
Breakfast	7 a.m. to 9 a.m.
<b>LUNCH</b>	12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
<b>DINNER</b>	
First Seating	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Second Seating	8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Last dinner order	9:00 p.m.
<b>KITCHEN CLOSSES</b>	10:00 p.m.
<b>AT</b>	
Last drink order	10:15 p.m.
Closing Time	10:30 p.m.
As in any Restaurant-bar back home, <b>NO outside drinks</b> are allowed in the dining-bar and pool area.	

**DIVE CENTER INFORMATION**

The dive center is located to the left of the courtyard through the arched hallway and straight back. Upon arrival all divers need to register at the dive shop and should have in their possession a voucher from the front desk showing the number of dive days included in your package. **YOU WILL NEED TO PRESENT PROOF OF CERTIFICATION** at this time. Divers will be asked to sign-up for boat dives one day in advance on the sign-up sheet located in front of the dive shop. Failure to do so will put you in a space available status. If you sign up, and do not show up, you will be forfeiting one day of diving. Cancellations must be made by 7:30 am at the dive shop. There are no REFUNDS for the unused portion of any package nor is any portion of the package transferable to another person. Your package includes tanks, weights and weight belts. Any other gear you check out is on a daily rental basis, **DEPOSIT REQUIRED**- and must be paid at the dive shop and cannot be put on the hotel bill.



**➤ DIVE TRIP DEPARTURE**

Dive boats leave the dive shop at 8:30 am (weather permitting) from our docks. You must be ready by 8:15 am for the boarding. Please check the boat list at the dive shop where we post the boat name and the divers on the boat you will be on that day. If you are diving with friends or would like to dive with someone in particular, please let us know one day in advance so we can make the necessary arrangements. Two dives are made each morning, returning to the hotel for lunch around 1 - 1:30 pm.

**➤ DRIFT DIVING**

Due to the prevailing currents found in Cozumel, we drift dive when diving off the boats. It is very important that you pay attention to the Divemasters on board the boats to insure safe diving. The boat trip out to the first dive site is roughly 30-50 minutes. You have plenty of time to set up your equipment on the way out. The divemasters

will give a briefing upon getting to the dive site. It is very important in drift diving that you control your buoyancy and dive as a group. The divemaster will give you the signal to get in the water. Please maintain visual contact with the Divemasters at all times.

**➤ UNLIMITED BEACH DIVING Tank check-out is from 8 am - 5:30 pm.**

This is included in your dive package. Tanks may be checked out one at a time per person, ONLY during shop hours of 8 am to 5:30 pm. Tanks must be returned the same day they were checked-out used or not. Tanks are no longer allowed off the hotel property. **PLEASE NO TANKS IN THE ROOMS OR IN THE SWIMMING POOL.** Our beach diving is a lot of fun and makes for a great night dive. Depth is 20 -25 feet, we suggest you stay within the marked area, diving outside of this buoyed area there will be boat traffic. Always be aware of the currents offshore as they change from day to day, hour to hour. The prevailing current is

usually going to the north. If you are having a hard time swimming against the current it's best to end the dive.

Beach diving is done at your own risk. Please dive responsibly.

**GEAR STORAGE** Lockers are located below the pool area and in front of the Dive Center, along with fresh water rinse tanks. Please feel free to use any open locker. You must provide your own padlock. Use common sense about what you leave in the lockers. Leaving gear in the lockers is done at your own risk.

**➤ NIGHT DIVING**

If you think the reefs are beautiful during the day you need to see them at night! You'll be amazed at the marine life and colors you'll see at night. The Splendid Toadfish (only found in this area) is usually seen during night dives along with Octopus, Squids and eels out hunting. Boat night dives are scheduled on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays or upon request (minimum 6 divers). Night dives have an additional cost and cannot be exchanged for package dives.

**TWILIGHT DIVE**

The hour or so before sunset is the most exciting time on the coral reef. Fish get prepared for the journey back to their night resting places and others take advantage of the low light conditions to make their feeding moves. You can experience Dusk Diving on Palancar Reef by taking the TWILIGHT 2 TANK DIVE. One dusk dive on Palancar and a Night Dive on Tormentos Reef.

**WRECK DIVING:**

Laying in 84 feet of water near Tormentos Reef, the 600-ton Felipe Xicotencatl or C-53 as it's known is a 600-ton mine sweeper from the U.S. Navy during World War II. It was later sold to the Mexican Navy in 1962. In June 2000 it was sunk here to create an artificial reef. It's a great afternoon 1 tank dive. Departure time 3:00 pm.

**STUDENT REFERRALS:**

Take your final open water check out dives in 100+ visibility and warm water. Referrals are accepted from PADI, SSI, NAUI, PDIC and all major certifying agencies.

**FULL OPEN WATER CERTIFICATION:**

This PADI course can be done in 5 days and gets you ready for a world of possibilities. Minimum age is 10 years old. Save time by doing the class room portion online. Ask for details.

**SPECIALTY COURSES:**

Get more bottom time, learn some new skills and have some fun by taking one of our specialty courses. Many of these courses are done in the afternoon and do not interfere with your morning dives. Other courses can be integrated with your package dives and have a 15% discount. Some of the courses available are: Deep Diver, Search and Recovery, Night Diver, Drift Diver, U/W Navigation, Nitrox Diver, Peak Performance Buoyancy to mention a few!

**NATIONAL MARINE PARK:**

You will be diving in National Marine Park. It IS FORBIDDEN to break corals, collect shells or coral, handle, molest or hunt marine life or take anything out of the water. PLEASE HELP US PROTECT THE REEF BY STAYING OFF THE CORAL AND NOT TOUCHING THE REEFS. Divemasters are there to assist you in any way and also protect the reefs. There is a daily park fee (**not included in your package**) that will need to be paid at the shop.

**5 STAR TRAINING FACILITY**

**S.C.U.B.A. COZUMEL**

Is the in-house dive operation and an established 5 Star International Training Facility offering a full range of instructions ranging from Refreshers and Introductory Courses and Full certification courses, Advanced and Specialties all the way through Divemaster courses. With an experienced staff the 4 full time instructors can help continue your diving education.

**DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING:**

Learn to dive and get in on the fun if you are not certified. This course gives you a chance to try diving without going through a whole certification. We can adjust our schedule to yours.



## **THE CODE OF THE RESPONSIBLE DIVER:**

As a Responsible Diver, I understand and assume the risks I may encounter while diving. Responsible Diving Begins with:

- ✿ Diving within the limits of my ability and training
- ✿ Evaluating the conditions before every dive and making sure they fit my personal capabilities and training.
- ✿ Being familiar with and taking care of my equipment before and after every dive.
- ✿ Always diving with a buddy and knowing their ability level as well as my own.
- ✿ Accepting the responsibility for my actions and my own safety on every dive.
- ✿ Being environmentally conscious on every dive.



### **BEFORE YOU DIVE PLEASE CONSIDER THIS . . .**

You will be diving in one of the most beautiful reef formations in the world. As you enjoy your dives remember these reefs are very fragile. Most of what you see is animal life. The sea fans, those large plant like fronds extending from the bottom, the branch like corals reaching toward the surface, the purple sponges, the sea cucumbers are all living creatures and must not be handled, touched, kicked or hit by hanging gauges or cameras as they are very fragile. The corals are actually colonies of small animals called polyps. If you look carefully you will see six tentacles on each polyp feeding on microscopic zoom plankton. Look closely but **PLEASE DON'T TOUCH**. The slightest touch of your hand, fin or gauges can kill thousands of them at one time. Some corals secrete calcium at the base of the polyps, thus creating the hard coral skeleton that grows, generation after generation building up into the huge formations you will be swimming through and over. This process is very slow, a 10 foot column represents thousands of years of growth. The coral has two ways of protecting itself. One is with a thin mucous layer that is easily damaged by being hit or touched. Once this layer is disturbed the coral becomes susceptible to increase predation by other corals, feeding fish and disease. The other way the coral protects itself is through a sting like action when touched. This mechanism produces a rash like symptom or REEF RASH that can take weeks to heal.

### **HELP US OUR REEFS ALIVE AND HEALTHY FOR YEARS TO COME. HERE SOME TIPS:**

- **BE AWARE** of fragile the reefs are. Educate others! Be aware of your body and equipment all times, maintain neutral buoyancy. Don't let your equipment or gauges drag across the reef.
- **TRAINING:** Don't overweight yourself with lead. Practice your buoyancy. Practice staying safe distance from the reef at all times.
- **COMMON SENSE:** Photography is a wonderful way to bring back a part of your experience but don't sacrifice our reefs for that special shot. Practice responsible Photography by being aware of where you set your hand or body while getting that picture.
- **REMEMBER TAKE ONLY PICTURES... LEAVE ONLY BUBBLES... KILL ONLY TIME.**

#### **JUST IN CASE!!**

We strongly suggest you join (DAN) Divers Alert Network. This could be the best \$65 you spend as it provides secondary insurance should you find yourself in need. There are 4 chambers operating in Cozumel. Two of them provide direct insurance from diving accidents.

Please contact them directly.

Clínica Internacional de Cozumel Tel. 872-2387 & 872-1430  
Meditur Tel. 872-3070