

# Mexico prepares for Hurricane Beryl landfall

July 5 2024, by Ivan SHAW

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A man walks past a boarded-up store in Tulum, Quintana Roo State, Mexico.

Tourist resorts in Mexico steeled Friday for a hit from Hurricane Beryl, which is expected to bring ferocious winds and a dangerous storm surge to the Yucatan Peninsula after slamming Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

"Conditions to soon deteriorate for the Yucatan Peninsula" with

"hurricane-like winds, dangerous storm surge, and damaging waves expected to begin shortly," the National Hurricane Centre (NHC) warned 01:00 am (0600 GMT) Friday.

Having restrengthened to a Category 3, Beryl is bearing down on tourist destination Tulum with winds of up to 115 miles an hour (185 kilometers an hour) and "little change in strength is expected before landfall" on Friday, the NHC said.

The storm has left a trail of destruction across the Caribbean and the coast of Venezuela, killing at least seven people.

It is the first hurricane since NHC records began to reach the Category 4 level in June and the earliest to hit the highest Category 5 in July.

In Mexico, schools in the area bracing for a hit were suspended and shelters set up for locals and tourists.

In Cancun, a two-hour drive from Tulum, people have been stocking up on food and other essentials for days and hotels have boarded up their windows.

Around 100 domestic and [international flights](#) scheduled between Thursday and Friday have been canceled at Cancun airport, the main hub in the Mexican Caribbean.



Hurricane Beryl is seen on July 3, 2024 as it approaches Jamaica in a satellite image obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Beryl is expected to hit the Yucatan Peninsula, emerge over the Gulf of Mexico, then arrive in the northern state of Tamaulipas, which borders the United States.

Hundreds of tourists were evacuated from hotels along Mexico's coastline while some were still attempting to take buses out of the impact zone.

However, some were still enjoying a sunny day at the beach before



taking shelter in their hotels.

"They cancelled our flight and we had to pay for two extra nights," said Virginia Rebollar, a Mexican tourist who traveled with three family members to Tulum.

"We have some fear, but we are convinced that people are prepared and know what to do," Rebollar said.

## Record-breaking storm

The Mexican army, which deployed around 8,000 troops in Tulum, announced that it has [food supplies](#) and 34,000 liters of purified water to distribute to the population.



A woman looks at a Jamaican beach littered with trash in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.



Military personnel stand close to stockpiles of water before Hurricane Beryl's arrival in Tulum.

The hurricane has already caused flash floods and mudslides in the Cayman Islands.

In Jamaica, more than 400,000 people were without power, according to the Jamaica Gleaner newspaper, citing a public service company.

Britain's King Charles said he had been "profoundly saddened" by the destruction from the hurricane in the Caribbean, which impacted several islands in the Commonwealth.

It is extremely rare for such a powerful storm to form this early in the Atlantic [hurricane](#) season, which runs from early June to late November.

Warm ocean temperatures are key for hurricanes, and North Atlantic waters are currently between two and five degrees Fahrenheit (1-3 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

UN climate chief Simon Stiell, who has family on the island of Carriacou, said [climate change](#) was "pushing disasters to record-breaking new levels of destruction."

"Disasters on a scale that used to be the stuff of science fiction are becoming meteorological facts, and the climate crisis is the chief culprit," he said Monday, reporting that his parents' property was damaged.

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Citation: Mexico prepares for Hurricane Beryl landfall (2024, July 5) retrieved 5 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2024-07-mexico-hurricane-beryl-landfall.html>

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