



# MIAMIBEACH

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **A Transatlantic Journey of Peace from Cozumel to the World** *-- Miami Beach, Cozumel's Sister City, is the Expedition's first U.S. Stop --*

**Miami Beach, FL** — The Island of Cozumel, free of any military conflict since the ancient Maya, was recently declared the Island of Peace by the International Committee for the Banner of Peace, a non-governmental organization affiliated with the United Nations. And, because of this honor, the island will be the core leader of a project known as "The Child, the Sea and Cozumel for Peace," a symbolic expedition through the Atlantic Ocean delivering a message of universal peace and acceptance to the world.

The Trimaran Zamna, the ship of peace, will embark its remarkable journey on August 27, on a trip that is expected to last four and a half months, before reaching its final haven, the Port of Pireus in Greece. In its route, the ship will stop in 15 ports, with Miami Beach being the first city to welcome the ship and its crew in the United States. The election of this port was not arbitrary, since Miami Beach and Cozumel established a Sister City relationship in 1992 to strengthen their bond through artistic, cultural, educational and business exchanges.

Traveling aboard the vessel, will be a 12-year-old Mayan boy – raised in a family of fishermen, who has been chosen as Cozumel's ambassador throughout the entire journey.

Sixth graders at Miami Beach schools wrote an essay defining what peace meant to them. From these submissions, two students were selected by Miami Beach Mayor Matti Herrera Bower to represent Miami Beach. The students, Abigail Garcia, Fienberg-Fisher K-8 Center, and Emily Witt, Nautilus Middle School, will welcome the delegation and formally exchange flags.

A **welcoming ceremony** will be held upon the ships arrival on **Saturday, August 29 at 5:00 p.m. in the Miami Beach Marina**. Matti Herrera-Bower, Miami Beach City Mayor, Ambassador Juan Miguel Gutierrez Tinoco, General Consul of Mexico in Miami, and Teresa Villarreal Director of the Mexico Tourism Board in Miami as well as a group of local children will be on hand to greet and welcome the arrival of the boy, the Captain and the ship's crew. As part of the ceremony there will be a symbolic exchange of flags, the Mayan boy will bestow the flag of Mexico and the flag of peace to a Florida child.

The Trimaran Zamna will remain anchored at the Miami Beach Marina for five days; during its stay different events will be hold at the ship:

- **Sunday, August 30:** The vessel will be **open to the public** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in order to allow the local residents to visit the ship and get familiarized with the project.
- **Monday August 31:** A private cocktail will be offered by the Mexico Tourism Board, for officials, distinguished members of the local community and press. 6pm
- **September 2:** The Mayan boy and the committee of Peace will attend the inauguration of the exhibit *Portraits* by Mexican painters at the Miami Art Central.

On September 3, the ship of peace will continue its journey to New York before heading to Spain, Portugal, Italy, Tunisia and Egypt on its way to the final destination in Piaro, Greece.

The ship, a unique handcraft wooden masterpiece of 110 feet long and three masts, was built by a team of 40 Mexican ship makers of the city of Alvarado in the state of Veracruz and will be commanded by Captain Vital Alsar an experienced and skilled sailor, from a fishermen family.

For more information on the Cozumel project, contact Cessie Cerrato at 786.522.0177, and for information on the City of Miami Beach Sister Cities program, contact Max Sklar at 305.673.7577.

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