



LIFE IN MÉRIDA™  
NEIGHBORHOODS



— AMY JONES & ANGEL RODRIGUEZ —



You are about to embark on an adventure filled time learning all about the magical city of Mérida. There's so much to see, do, and experience here - there's truly something for everyone. I started [LifeinMerida.com](http://LifeinMerida.com) to provide answers to all kinds of questions including helpful recommendations. I dedicated countless hours investigating, experiencing, and researching. I made it my mission to become an expert on Mérida and many people call Angel and I Ambassadors of Mérida. For your convenience, I've included clickable links where you can find more information.

After 30 years in Dallas, Texas, I moved to Mérida three months after my research trip. There's something about this magical city that's hard to describe. It's a feeling. It's an energy. It's a fusion of cultures, history, and surprises. People feel it, or they don't. They love it, or they don't. For those of us that feel it and love it, Mérida is enchanting. I find something new to fall in love with every single day.

Angel who has lived here since 1993, and I feel incredibly fortunate and grateful to be able to help others learn and experience the beauty, the magic, and the uniqueness of the city and country we call home.

Remember that our hot months are Mid-April through Mid-October. Hurricane season is May through September. In September we experience lots of rain, showers, thunderstorms, mosquitoes, & power outages. Take special care if you choose to visit at this time.

Good luck with your journey through the neighborhoods of Mérida!

*Amy Jones & Angel Rodriguez*

*Connecting cultures through our services in Mérida!*

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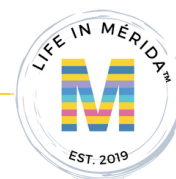


Whether you are a history buff, foodie, lover of the arts, hand-made crafts collector, or looking for a relaxing vacation experience, Mérida has it all. As the capital of the state of Yucatán, it serves as an important city attracting a wide variety of people from all walks of life. While Mexico has suffered negative news, many people move to and visit Mérida regularly. Yes, at first, Mérida will seem complicated to navigate; however, once you understand how the streets run and the layout of the diverse and different neighborhoods called colonias, you'll gain more confidence over time.

### **Paseo de Montejo and Prol. de Montejo**

The Paseo de Montejo is the main boulevard running north and south. Orient yourself to the city by this large boulevard for the best navigation. Named after Francisco de Montejo, the Spanish conquistador who founded the city in 1542. The Paseo de Montejo is the most important avenue extending from the Santa Ana neighborhood to the exit to the port of Progreso. In the last decades of the nineteenth century, Yucatan experienced an era of economic boom from the henequen industry, then named "green gold". At that particular time, the city did not have avenues.

In January 1888, with the support of a group of tax holders, industrialists, and merchants. The project to build a boulevard "Paseo de Montejo" aimed at modernizing the city in French style similar to the Champs Elysees in Paris. It was the boulevard to see and be seen. Over time, the Paseo was expanded three times. The Paseo de Montejo begins at Calle 47 at the southernmost end and is called The Remate. Continuing north on the Paseo de Montejo, you'll find the Monumento a la Patria. As the city expanded, so did the Paseo de Montejo. Once you pass the Monumento a la Patria, the Paseo turns into Prolongation de Montejo or Prol. de Montejo. Meaning the "extension of the Paseo," this boulevard continues until it connects north with Federal Highway 261, also known as the Periferico.





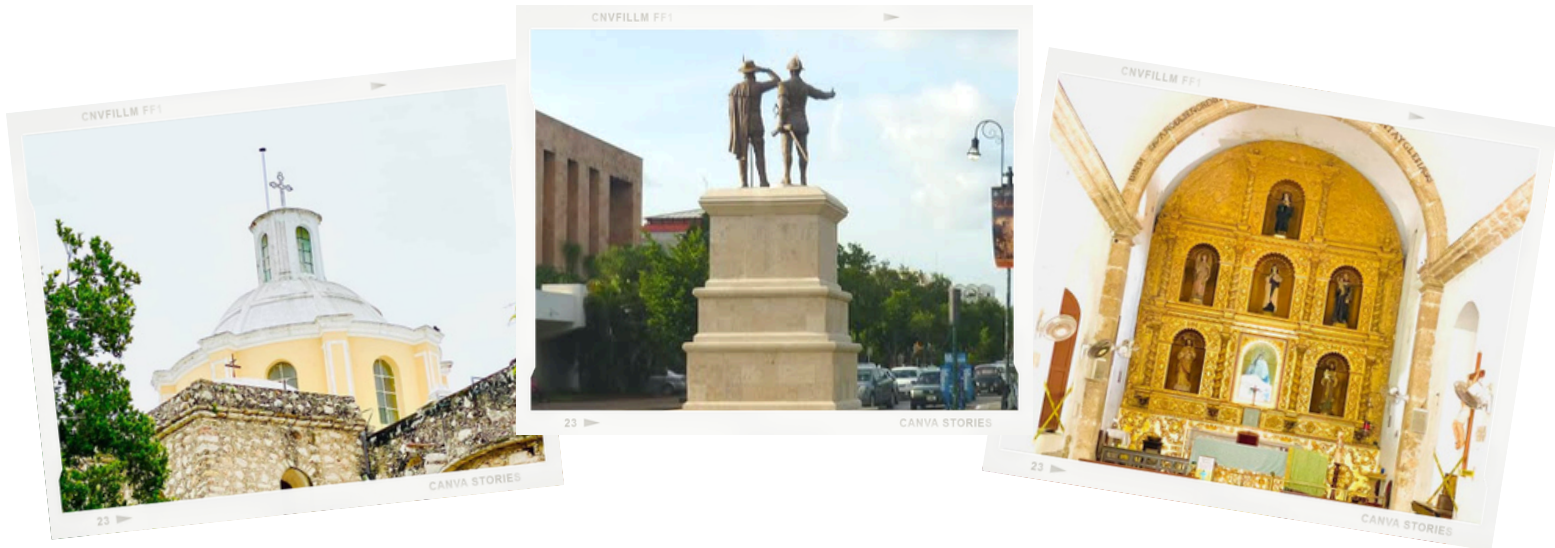
At Calle 37 (by the Oxxo), stands the Felipe Carrillo Puerto Monument. Politician, journalist and Mexican socialist revolutionary leader, Puerto was governor of Yucatán from 1922 to 1924. Known for social and educational works, in addition to the well-being of the Maya, he was overthrown by the Delahuertista rebels and then assassinated. He was romantically linked to the American journalist Alma Reed, who at the time, was a correspondent for the New York Times in Yucatán.

At the Walmart/Fiesta Americana Glorieta is the monument dedicated to Justo Sierra Mendez, a Mexican writer, historian, journalist, poet, politician, and philosopher. Mendez was a supporter of and an integral part of reopening the National University of Mexico (UNAM) after the long periods of political conflict. Known as "Teacher of America", a title awarded him by various universities in Latin America, he is considered one of the most influential figures in the modern history of Mexico.

### **Monumento a la Patria**

The Monument to the Fatherland (or Homeland) began in 1945 by the Colombian sculptor Rómulo Rojo in collaboration with architect Manuel Amábilis Domínguez, Manuel's son Max Amábilis, and master builder Víctor Nazario Ojeda. The construction lasted 11 years and was finally inaugurated on April 23, 1956.

The monument is one of the most iconic structures in the city and the only one in the world to be carved entirely and directly in stone. It exhibits more than 300 hand-carved figures reflecting the history of Mexico from the founding of Tenochtitlán in pre-Hispanic Mexico to the most important events in the country's history in the first half of the 20th century.



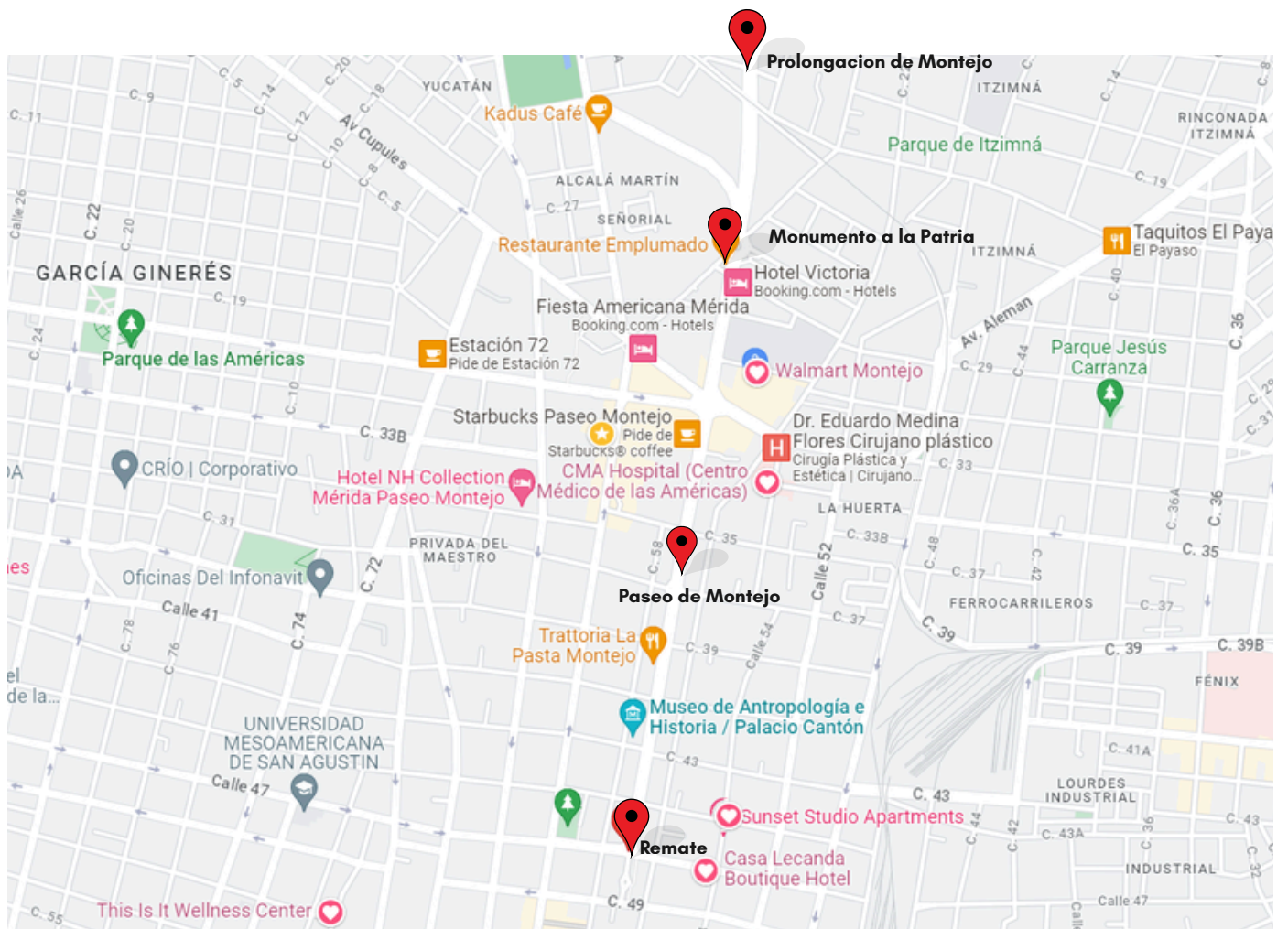
Originally dedicated only to the Mexican flag (also called Monumento a la Bandera), it was later decided it would graphically represent the history of Mexico in the most complete way possible, making it one of the few structures in the country to fulfill that purpose. In 2016, it was chosen as one of the Cultural Treasures of Mérida and is now part of the cultural emblems of humanity.

### **El Remate**

The southern most end of the emblematic Paseo de Montejo is called The Remate. You'll find a monument to Francisco de Montejo "El Adelantado" (the one that came first) and his son "El Mozo". This monument was erected in 2010, about the same time other areas were being cleaned up and remodeled (such as Santa Lucia park).

There's no doubt that the erection of the monument was controversial. Some regard the Montejos as murdering mercenaries. Others celebrate them as explorers ahead of their time. There's yet another Montejo to add to this pair, the nephew called "El Sobrino".

Notably, it took three campaigns and 20 years to conquer the Yucatan peninsula. While the conquest of the Yucatan peninsula had been achieved, the Maya revolted again. It was not until 1547 when "El Mozo" and "El Sobrino" were able to distinguish uprisings in most of the territory. Francisco de Montejo was governor and captain general of Yucatán from 1546. However, in 1550 he was accused of irregularities including committing abuse against the Maya. The pacification of the Maya undertaken by the Montejos, did not occur until 1697, 150 years later.



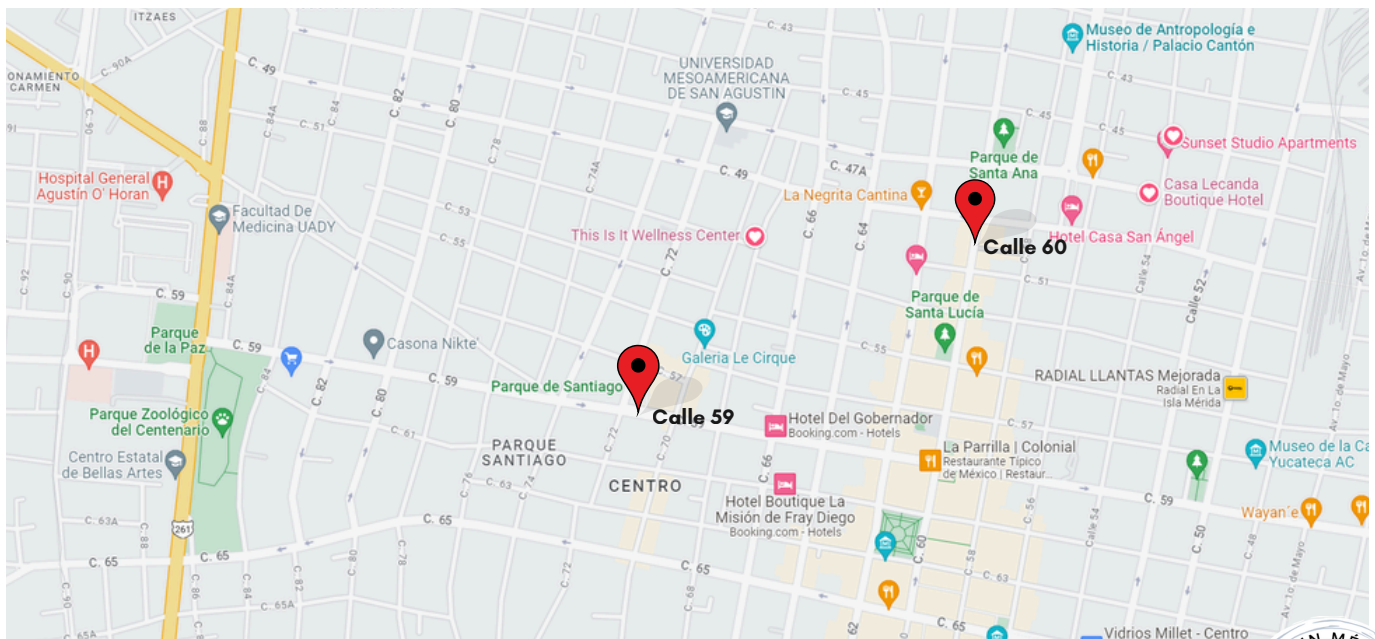


## Interesting & Little Known Facts

**Calle 60** was the old promenade avenue before the construction of the Paseo de Montejo. That's why you also see smaller-scale mansions along this historic street. Calle 60 is the longest street in the city, terminating in Progreso. There's a new and more modern road to Progreso now. **Calle 59** was the first paved street in Mérida.

Yucatan Today has great maps you can download [HERE](#), including:

- Yucatan Peninsula
- City, Centro, & Downtown
- Ruta Puuc



Images: Rafael Heredia-Abuxapqui available exclusively at [Bessanova Producciones](#)



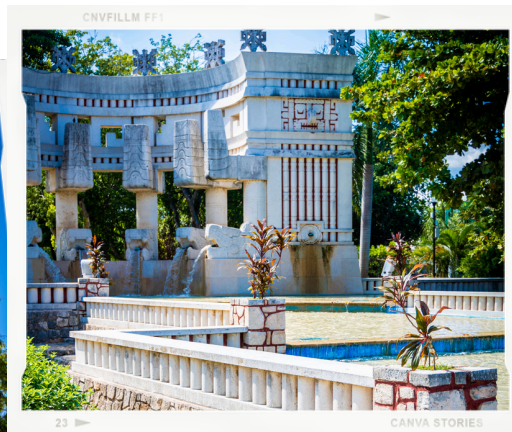


### Layout of the City

The Periferico encompasses the city. Like most large cities, most streets in the city center are one-way. Some larger avenues are one-way, while others are two-way. To determine if the street is one-way, locate the arrow on the street signs or notice how cars are parked. You will learn more as you spend more time in the city.

## Greater Mérida





## HELPFUL LINKS

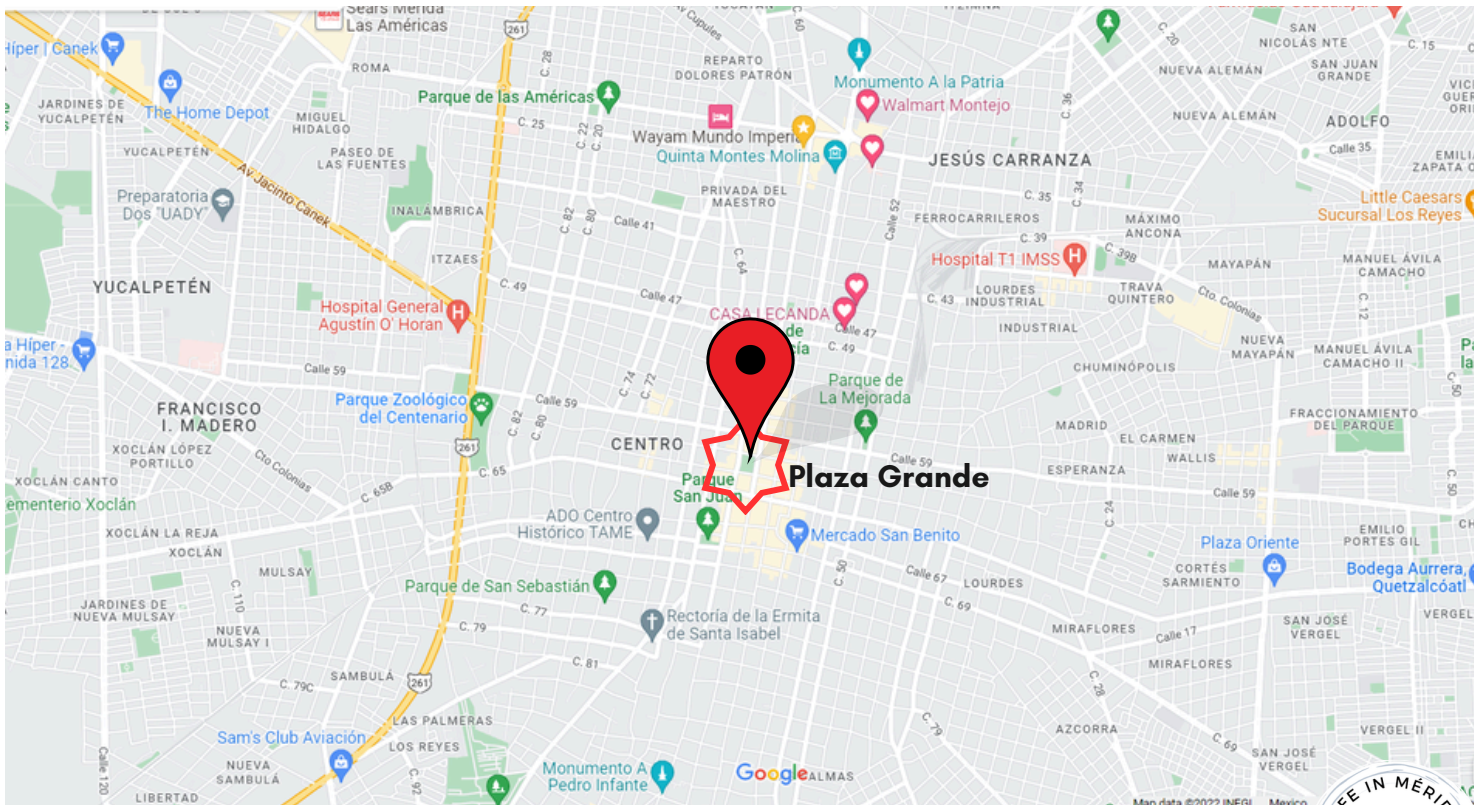
[Everything You Need to Know About Neighborhoods in Mérida](#)

[A Comprehensive Guide to the Mérida Mexico Map](#)

[A Beginner's Guide to Public Transportation in Mérida Mexico](#)

[Essential Spanish Phrases for Mérida Mexico](#)

## Centro



Images: Rafael Heredia-Abuxapqui available exclusively at [Bessanova Producciones](#)





## Neighborhoods

Each neighborhood has its own set of address numbers. For example, you'll have a Calle 41 in several different neighborhoods. Remember, to find your destination, you need all parts of the address, including the colonia's name and the codigal postal (C.P.) zip code.

Occasionally, the house numbers do not run in consecutive order. If you cannot locate the exact house or establishment, keep walking a block or two. I guarantee you'll eventually find it. To lessen confusion, cross streets, and C.P.s are provided.

### **Calle 28 #256 is found in the following colonias:**

- Montes de Ame
- Altabrisa
- Itzimna 108
- Azcorra
- Miguel Aleman

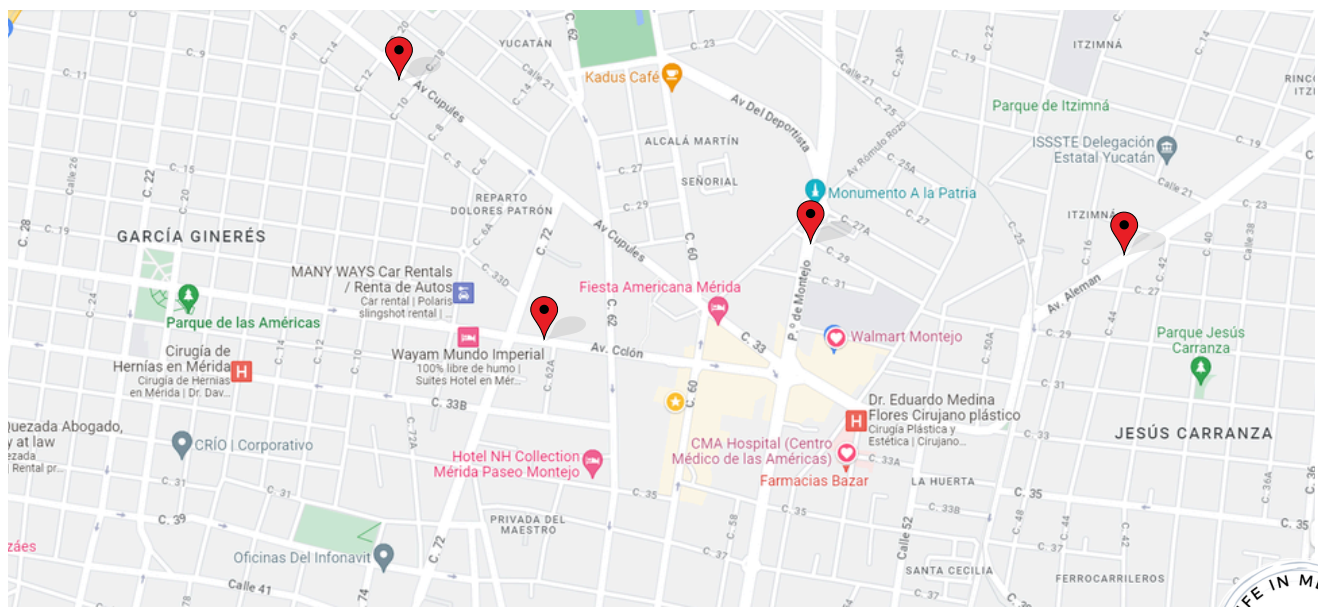
### **A typical address looks like this: Calle 41 #559 x 80 y 82, Centro, 97000**

- Calle 41 is the street
- 559 is the number of the house
- 80 y 82 are the cross streets
- x indicates by
- y indicates and
- Centro is the Colonia
- 97000 is the C.P.



### Quick Orientation Lesson

- Find Plaza Grande in the city center. Relate that to the Periferico to see how the city is laid out—Paseo Montejo, the central North and South avenues. Once you have these landmarks, you'll have a better sense of the layout of Mérida.
- Even-numbered streets run north-south, with lower-numbered streets starting in the east and increasing to the west.
- Odd-numbered streets run east-west, with lower-numbered streets starting in the north and increasing to the south.
- Larger avenues have names such as Av. Cupules, Av. Aleman, Av. Colon and Prol. de Montejo.





### Colonia and Fraccionamiento

The terms colonia and fraccionamiento are used to describe neighborhoods. There are no hard lines to demarcate changing from one colonia or fraccionamiento to the next. The best way to determine where you are is to look at the street signs which indicate the name of the colonia or fraccionamiento and the C.P.

For example, street signs in Centro say either Centro 97000 OR Ciudad 97000. Likewise, you'll find Col. Montes de Ame 97115 or Fracc. Monterreal 97133. Many of the colonias or fraccionamientos have a church and a park. This is the hub for all the activities, celebrations, and gatherings. The church, neighborhood, and park sometimes share the same name. However, some colonias or fraccionamientos have a church and not a park or vice versa.

### Helpful Tips

- Use caution at the traffic circles called gloriettas. Watch how the cars utilize these traffic circles; the rules are slightly different here than in other countries.
- Pedestrians DO NOT have the right of way. Be sure to observe whether you are a pedestrian or a driver.
- While there is no right-on-red rule here, there is a continua sign (see above). This sign has a black curved arrow pointing right; sometimes, a red circle surrounds the arrow. This sign indicates that a car can turn right with caution on a red light. This is one place to be super careful if you cross the street as you need to yield to the car. This applies even when the pedestrian crossing signal indicates it's your turn to cross.



### Esquinas de Mérida: The old way of navigating Centro

Scattered around Centro, you'll see charming square plaques on some corners. These are called the Esquinas de Mérida or the Corners of Mérida. These plaques were installed by savvy business owners who owned pubs or shops to help people navigate the city center. Red and white plaques included the particular corner's name and a drawing. It was much easier for residents to remember the corner's name than navigating the confusing street numbers. Some of the Esquinas de Mérida plaques are replicas. However, some are preserved originals dating back to the colonial period. Each corner and corresponding plaque has a unique history.

#### Examples

- **Dos Camellos:** The location where two Arab merchants on camel-back carried out illegal trades at the shop on the corner.
- **La Tucha:** The story of a girl who, because she misbehaved with the people who cared for her, was bewitched & turned into a monkey until she learned good manners
- **La Cupula:** A house with a large dome was located on this corner, the horse stable for the Canton Palace on the Paseo de Montejo. Now, La Cupula is a fabulous art gallery and event center.
- **El Loro:** The corner where two elderly women lived with a rooster and a one-eyed parrot who told passers-by good night after sundown.
- **El Teatro:** The location of the first theater, called San Carlos, in the city. In 1878, the name was changed to Peón Contreras & is the home of the Yucatan Symphony Orchestra.



Remember a few things as you learn about the city layout and explore the streets: address numbers ARE confusing! They are even confusing to locals. Be patient and take your time. None of us know why things don't make sense sometimes; it's just how it is. I tend to look at everything as an adventure to avoid getting frustrated. Address numbers can be similar to a treasure hunt. You are searching for something, but it may take you a bit longer, or you may need to ask for help. Even when asking a neighbor, they may not know the exact location of what you are searching for either.

### 3 MOST Dangerous Things in Mérida

- **Heat** – Plan accordingly with sunscreen, hat, or umbrella. You'll be grateful to have a light wrap or sweater with you due to the change between the outside heat & the inside air-conditioning.
- **Mosquitoes** – Always carry repellent with you. A great trick I found is that hand-sanitizer takes the sting out of bites. Rainy season means Dengue season – always use repellent everywhere you go.
- **Sidewalks** – Wear comfortable shoes, watch when stepping on & off of curbs. Don't multitask or look down. Be aware of where you place your feet at all times.

Neighborhoods close to and south of the international airport are avoided. These are rougher barrios where drugs are sold, and violence can occur. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.

**Be aware, like any city of a million people, petty crime and property theft do happen. However, in Mérida, violent crime is rare. Most crimes that occur here are crimes of opportunity – not preplanned.**

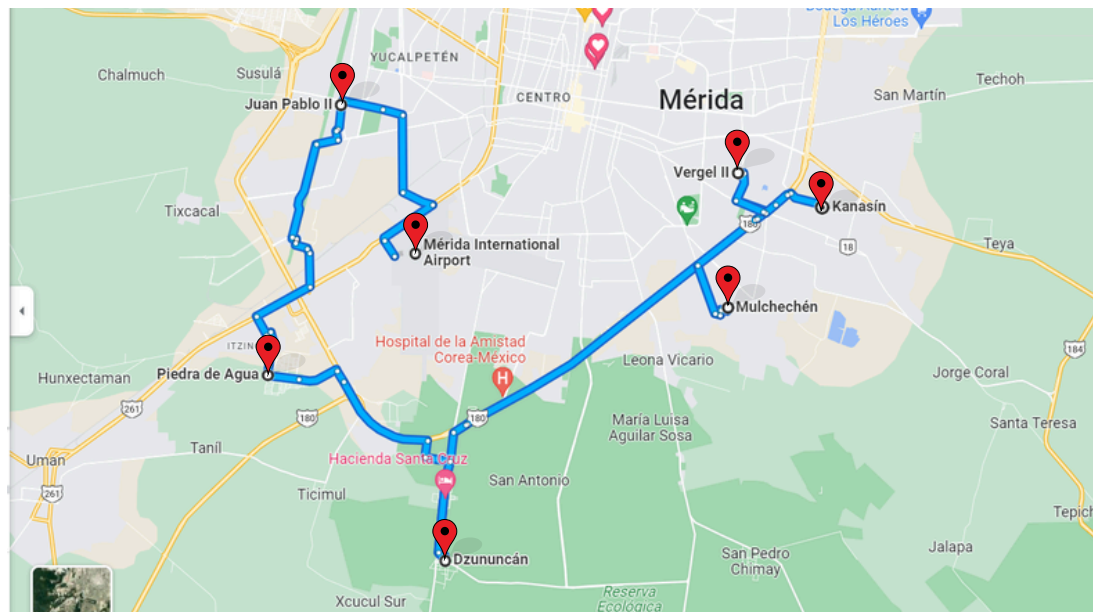


When in Mérida, utilize Google Maps or Google Earth to check out your surroundings. You can virtually see an area to become familiar with it. If you feel uncomfortable, find another location, and do the same.

**Importantly, avoid neighborhoods located south of the Periferico including:**

- Juan Pablo
- Piedra de Agua
- Dzununcan
- Mulchechen
- Vergel
- Kanasin

- Mérida International Airport, 97255 Mérida
- Juan Pablo II, 97246 Mérida, Yucatan
- Piedra de Agua, Uman, Yucatan
- Dzununcán, Yucatan
- Mulchechén, Kanasin, Yucatan
- Vergel II, 97173 Mérida, Yucatan
- Kanasin, Yucatan





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### General Safety Tips for Mérida

- Don't leave valuables in sight in your home or car.
- Be home when any service provider is there.
- Pay attention to your gut instinct - it is always right - such as awareness of your surroundings.
- If you are walking at night, keep an eye and ear out for unusual activity around you.
- Avoid dark streets.
- Don't bring anything you can't afford to lose.
- Never keep all of your money in one place. Keep a little bit in your wallet for easy access and the majority of it in another part of your wallet, purse, or bag.
- Do not ever allow the police to take your ID, passport, or license tags.
- Utilize the safety features in the Uber app if you feel uncomfortable.

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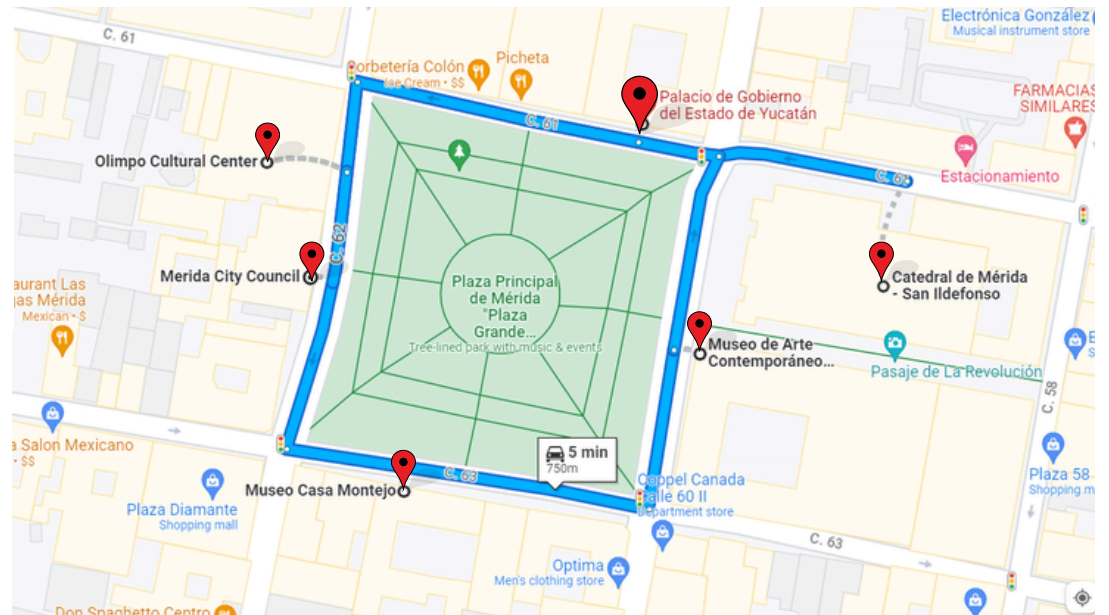
**In Centro, you can also use the Monumento a la Patria and the Fiesta Americana Hotel as reference points.**

### At Fiesta Americana you can:

- Rent a car
- Exchange money/use an ATM
- Buy a swimsuit, clothing, cigars, and souvenirs
- Use the bathroom
- Have a coffee or a cocktail
- Eat at one of several restaurants
- Get directions
- Park underground
- Book an appointment at their spa
- Purchase a Day Pass to use their pool



- Catedral de Mérida - San Ildefonso, C. 60
- Palacio de Gobierno del Estado de Yucatán
- Museo Casa Montejo, C. 63 506, Centro, 97130
- Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Ateneo de Mérida
- Olimpo Cultural Center, s/n Calle 62 x 61, 97130
- Merida City Council, C. 62 s/n, Centro, 97130



Ultimately, neighborhoods in Mérida radiate from Plaza Grande in the center of the city. This historic center features an elegant park and breathtaking Cathedral San Ildefonso. Plaza Grande is a beautiful place to experience the heartbeat of Mérida. Newsstands, coffee shops, restaurants, and various retail establishments exist. It's a great place to people-watch and immerse yourself in the culture.

**The Zocalo (buildings surrounding the plaza) include:**

- Cathedral San Ildefonso
- Governor's Palace
- Casa Montejo
- MACAY Museum
- Olimpo Cultural Center
- Ayuntamiento or City Hall



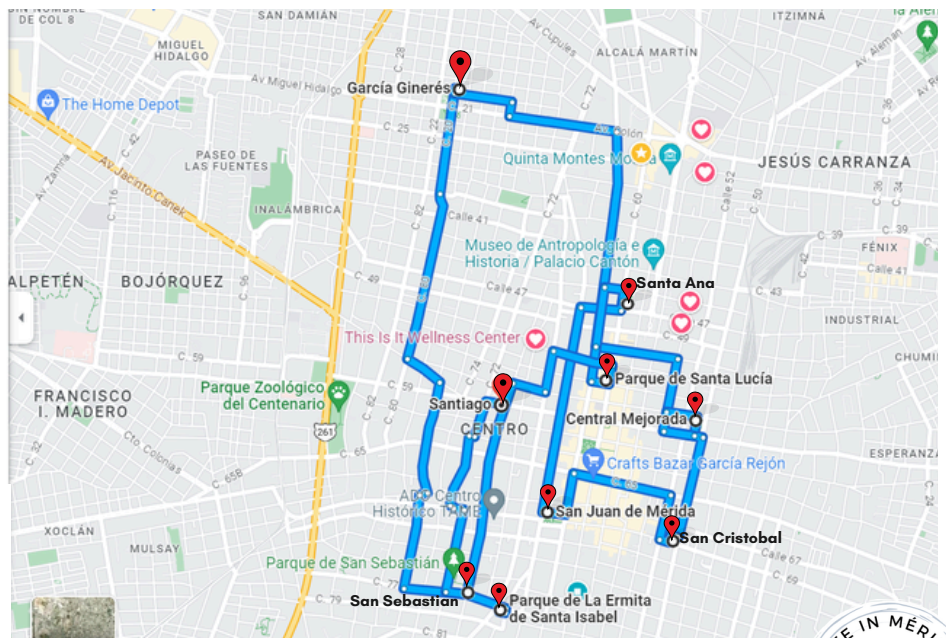


### Popular Colonias in Centro

- Ermita - Calle 66 x Calle 77 y Calle 77-A
- Garcia Gineres\* - Av. Colón x 20 y 23
- Mejorada - Calle 57, Parque de la Mejorada
- San Cristóbal - Calle 50 X 69
- San Juan - Calle 67 x 62 y 64
- Santa Ana\* - Calle 60 x 45
- Santa Lucia - Calle 60 x 55
- San Sebastian - Calle 72 x 75 y 77
- Santiago\* - Calle 70 x 57 y 59

\*These neighborhoods have popular local markets. Slow Food Market in Garcia Gineres is only open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Parque de La Ermita de Santa Isabel, 66 x 77
- García Ginerés, Mérida, Yucatan
- Central Mejorada, C. 50-A 487, Parque de la Mejorada
- San Cristobal, C. 69 453-455, Centro, 97000
- San Juan de Mérida, Centro, 97000 Mérida
- Parque de Santa Ana, C. 60 y 45, Zona Centro
- Parque de Santa Lucía, C. 60 476A, Parque de la Mejorada
- San Sebastián market, C. 70 entre 75 y 77
- Santiago, Barrio de Santiago, Centro, 97000



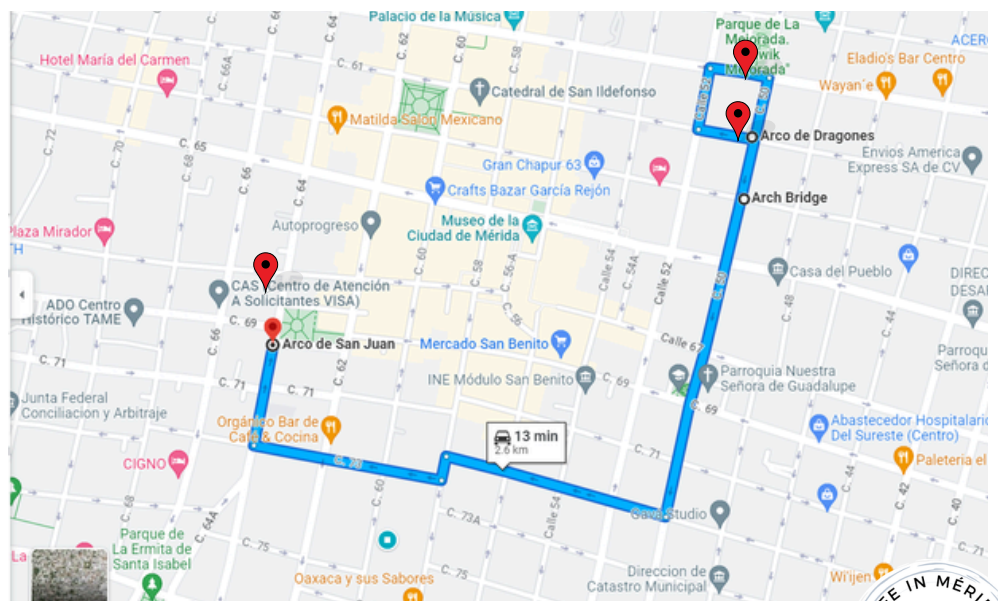


## Arches

Because there was a need to define the area designated for Spaniards and the indigenous, a city wall with arches was built at the city's main entry/exit points. Inside the city wall lived Spaniards and Creoles (offspring of the Spaniards). Outside the city wall lived the indigenous Maya, Mulattoes, and Mestizos. These colonial arches are unique in the Mexican Republic. Additionally, they are some of the most original monuments in Mérida. Best seen during the daytime, each has a plaque with some history. They are also important because they are the last of this type of preserved monument in the country. Of the eight arches planned, seven were built. Only three remain standing today.

- Dragones Arches - Calle 61 #440, Parque de la Mejorada
- Del Puente Arch - Calle 50, Parque de la Mejorada
- San Juan Arch - Calle 67 x 62 y 64

- Arco de Dragones, C. 61 440, Parque de la Mejorada
- Arch Bridge, C. 50, Parque de la Mejorada
- Arco de San Juan, calle 97000, C. 64<sup>a</sup> 54<sup>a</sup>

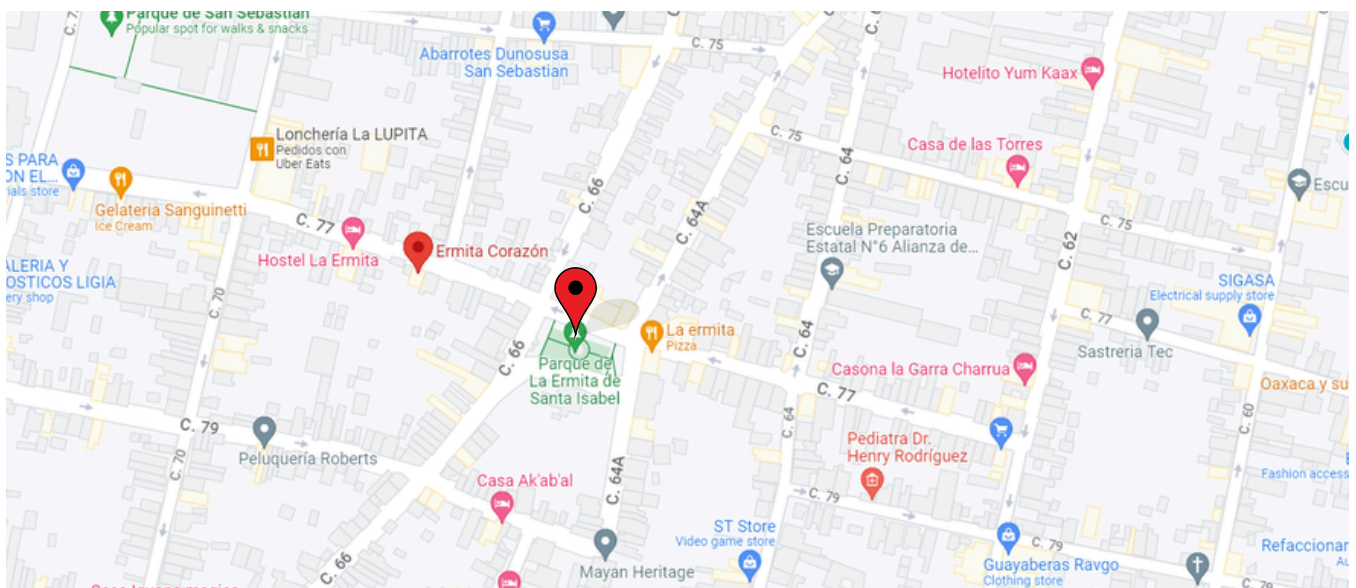




## Ermita

The names La Ermita and Ermita are interchangeable. Dedicated to Nuestra Señora del Buen Viaje or Our Lady of the Good Journey, the Ermita Church was originally built in the 1700s as a wayfarer's shrine. This was the last place to say your prayers before you set out for Campeche, a dangerous trip west at that particular time. Our Lady of the Good Journey is Mérida's equivalent of Saint Christopher, the patron saint of travelers.

There's a small, interesting, beautiful garden and patio with access through a wooden door just across from the park. The garden contains medicinal and ornamental plants, trees, flowers, ferns, and shrubs, all native Yucatecan species. Entry is free, but access is limited. If the door is open, peek in and ask to see the garden. Some say the garden has ghosts . . .





### **Garcia Gineres and Parque de Las Americas**

Don Joaquín Marcial Garcia Gineres arrived from Cuba in 1898, accompanied by his wife and brother. He was quite a visionary, proposing a project to develop an abandoned part of Mérida known as San Cosme. The idea was backed by Mayor Don Augusto L. Peón as San Cosme was an obligatory passage for the small trams traveling from his Tanlum and Chenkú haciendas to his henequen bale warehouses. Don Joaquín Garcia Gineres implemented his plans, including residential houses constructed from wood with spacious patios. As an example, he built his own home on 20th Street. The project was called “Alliance of Itzimná,” and some of the original houses are still preserved.

By 1904, residents of downtown Mérida began to trickle into Garcia Gineres, now bearing the name of its founder. Several of the area’s most iconic homes and monuments were designed by the Colombian sculptor Rómulo Rozo – famous for the Monumento a la Patria on Paseo de Montejo. Rozo is also remembered for spearheading the architectural style known as Deco Maya. This style fuses Art Deco with a heavy influence of Neo-Mayan architecture and iconography.

Additional examples of his work are found in the park and throughout the neighborhood. Parque de Las Americas is in the center of Garcia Gineres, not to be confused with the Las Americas subdivision north of Mérida. The four quadrants of this tree-filled park were beautifully constructed in Maya Art Deco style. Columns throughout the park are dedicated to all the nations of the Americas.

You’ll also see Chac Mool sculptures, similar to the one at Chichén Itzá. Carved stone steles with Maya figures pay homage to the countries of North and South America. The park was built to represent the unity of the American people, pre-Hispanic cultures, and socialist ideals.

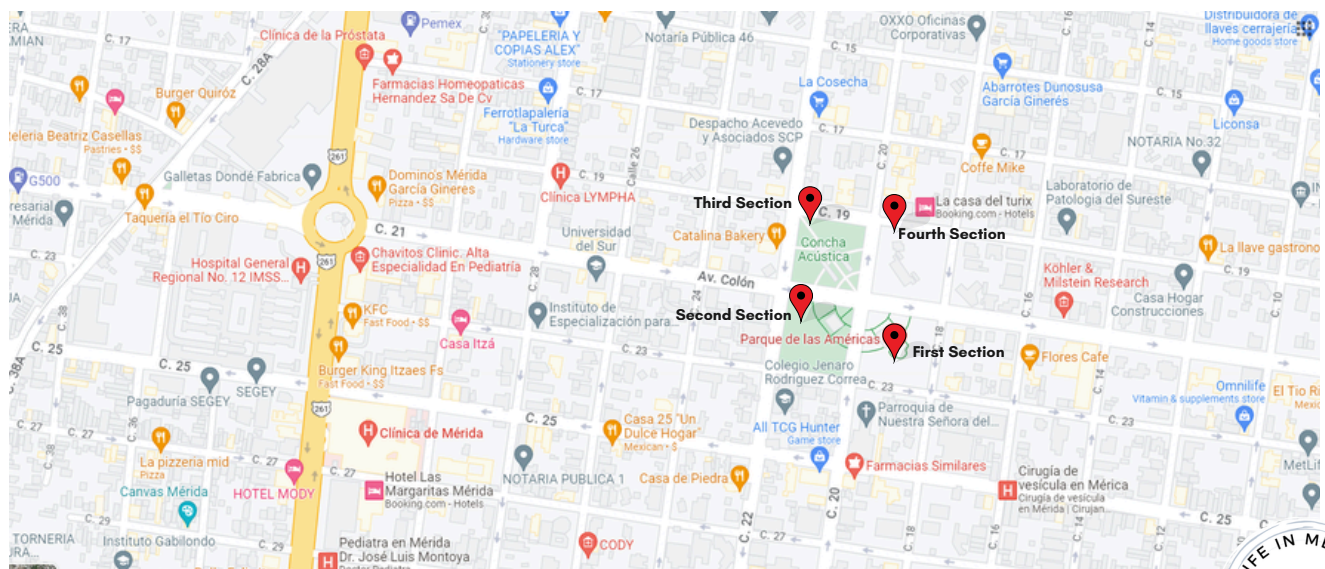


**The first section** consists of an enormous semi-circular fountain with Neomaya architectural influence. It has seven serpentine columns representing Kukulcán. When the fountain works, it is breathtaking and great for photo ops.

**The second section**, Centro Cultural José Martí, represents a Puuc-style Maya dwelling featuring the figures of the pheasant and the deer, iconic animals of Yucatán. The central part is an exhibition room with murals of the American continent and portraits of Bolívar, San Martín, José Martí, Sucre, Hidalgo, Morelos, and Washington, done by the painter Bolaños Gallardo.

**The third section**, the acoustic shell or concha, is an open-air theater with a grand esplanade. Its design and decoration refer to the thousand columns at Chichén Itzá. It is rumored there is a cenote under the concha. The iconography at the back of the concho is reminiscent of the style found on Greek urns.

**The fourth section** is a kids' park with games, a rink for skating, bicycling, and strollers. This area is fenced in for safety.





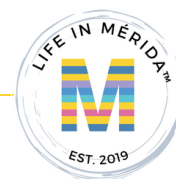
## Mejorada

One of the oldest buildings in the city, dating from the 17th century, Mejorada Church features a lovely cupula: one of the first on the peninsula. The church, originally called "Our Lady of Transit," is dedicated to Nuestra Señora del Carmen. This is the common name of Santa María del Monte Carmela, one of the various invocations of the Virgin Mary. The convent, after restoration and modification, is now the site of the architectural faculty of the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (UADY). Local youth sometimes use the park for dance, band, or parade practice.

The yellow building beside the church was originally a Franciscan hospital and then the site of military barracks. Today, it is the headquarters of the Centro Cultural del Niño Yucateco (CECUNY). The first hospital was built in Mejorada in 1562, and the first railway station at the beginning of the 20th century. This allowed vendors to travel into the city to sell their merchandise.

Look for a large bronze sculpture commemorating the Niños Heroes de Chapultepec in the tranquil park. Aged 13 to 19, the Niños Héroes (Boy Heroes) were six Mexican military cadets killed in defense of Mexico City during the Battle of Chapultepec, one of the last major battles of the Mexican-American War, in 1847. Built in the eighteenth century in Mexico City, Chapultepec Castle served as a Military Academy, training officers for the Mexican Army.

Mexican troops and academy cadets defended the castle under the command of Nicolás Bravo and General José Mariano Monterde at the time of the U.S. invasion. Bravo assigned Santa Anna to defend the castle, as two thousand soldiers were needed. Santa Anna could only commit 832 soldiers, most of whom were National Guards and not the regular army.

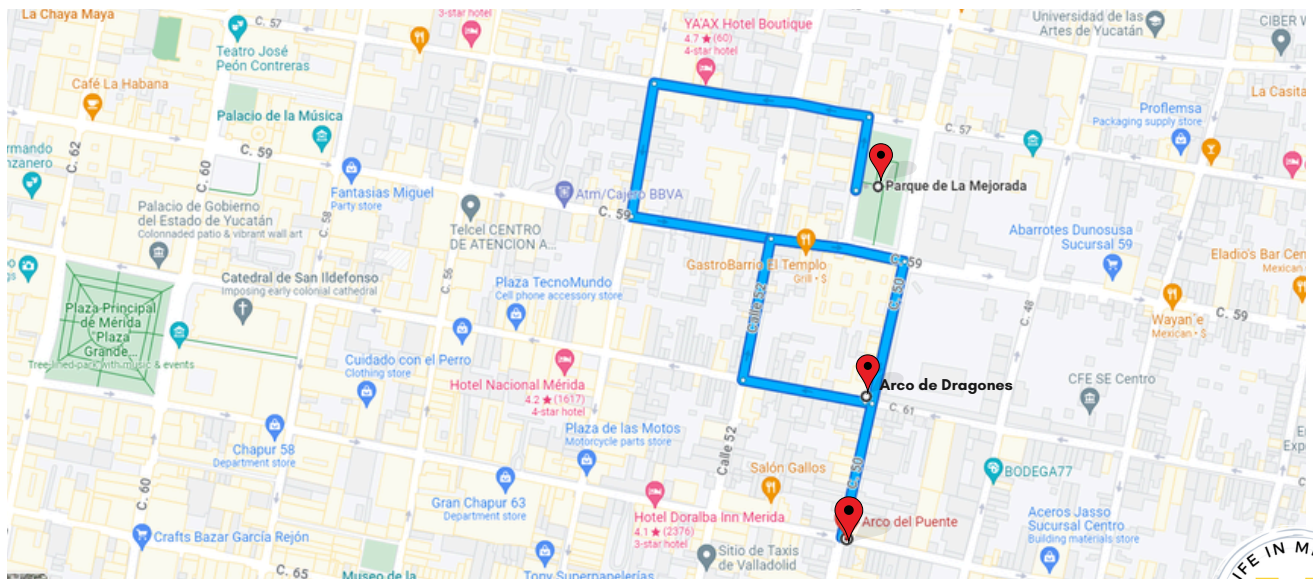




Needless to say, the outnumbered defenders battled the U.S. for about two hours before General Bravo ordered a retreat. Six cadets refused to fall back and fought to their deaths. Legend has it that the last of the six cadets, Juan Escutia, leaped from the roof of Chapultepec Castle wrapped in the Mexican flag to prevent the flag from being taken by the enemy. According to a later account of an unidentified US officer, “close to 100 cadets between the ages of 10 and 19 were among the prisoners taken after the Castle's capture.”

**Del Puente Arch** - Calle 63 at 50: Located at the entrance of Mejorada, this arch's niche features a stone cross instead of a saint. Previously, the Del Puente Arch had a wooden bridge, making it easier to access during floods.

**Dragones Arch** - Calle 50 at 61: Named after the “Cuartel de Dragones,” an old Franciscan hospital that today is the Yucatecan Child Cultural Center. In its niche, there is a barely visible image of San Antonio.

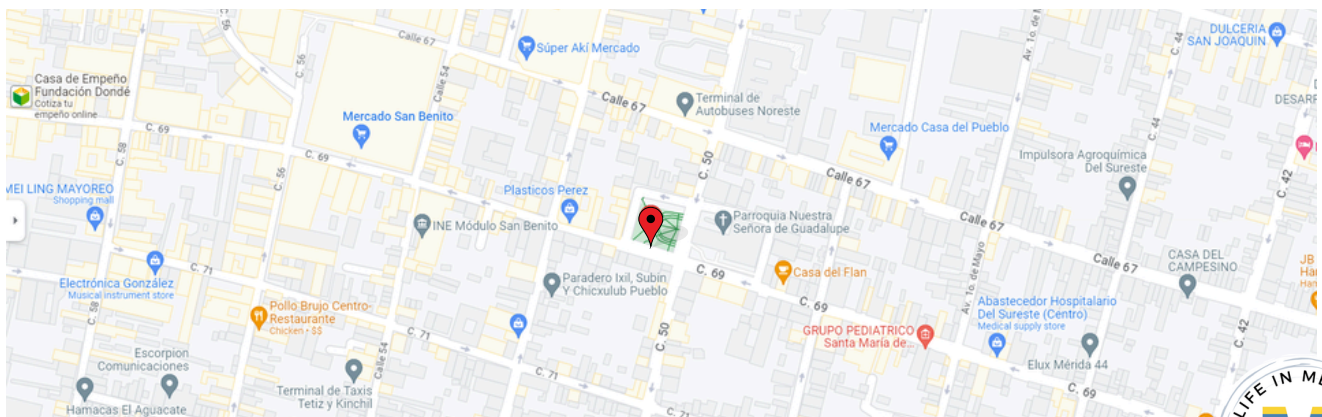


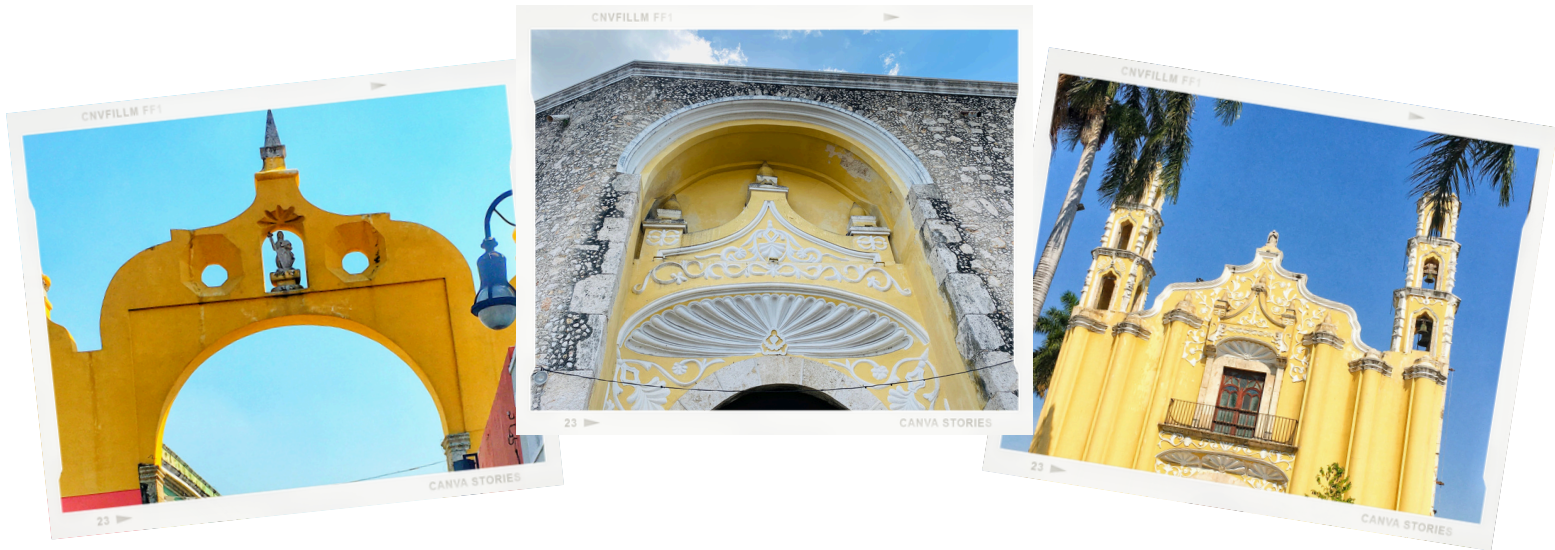


## San Cristobal

In the 1540s, Francisco Montejo and his conquistadores set aside this area to house the Indians from Central Mexico who helped them conquer the Maya. San Cristóbal Church, called Our Lady of Guadalupe, was the last one that Spaniards built in the Yucatán with its foundation stone laid in 1757. During the city's rapid growth, it was difficult to travel to San Cristobal because of a high hill and a street called "The Street of the Impossible." This extraordinary neighborhood sheltered five cultures: Maya, Mexican, Spanish, Mestizo, and Arab. A natural choice, Lebanese immigrants established their businesses and homes in San Cristobal. Undoubtedly, history assures us San Cristóbal appeared, for a time, to be like a suburb of Beirut or Damascus. From this cultural Colonia, two institutions of Yucatecan cuisine originated: the tortilla and the kibi.

The church is reminiscent of the Cathedral in the Plaza Grande. It also shares its recessed shell archway with the church in Uman. Take some time to enjoy the magnificent Moorish choir window featuring the Virgin. A stairway of 129 steps takes you to the nave's interior gallery with a neoclassical stone retablo, reportedly sculpted by an imported European sculptor. The inscription in Latin above the entrance reads, "This is the House of God and the Gate of Heaven."





## San Juan

Located just four blocks south of the Plaza Grande, the church of San Juan is my favorite in Mérida. This church, dating back to 1770, is breathtaking with its magnificent yellow color, architectural details, and magnificent presence in the park. A garden and fountain in the park adorned by a bronze statue known as the “Little Black Girl of San Juan.” The fountain in the park was brought from France in the early 1900’s.

During this time, lantern bearers would circle the park to keep the peace. At midnight, they would announce, “It’s twelve o’clock, and all is serene.” Here in San Juan, certain events triggered the movement toward Mexico’s Independence from Spain.

Change and renewal were sought by many of the Creoles, who began to question social guidelines and the inequality that supported the interests of the Spanish crown. This system was detrimental to the indigenous population, mestizos, and most of the Creoles. The only voice heard during three centuries of domination was that of the crown. Wanting greater political participation and freedom, the Sanjuanistas welcomed the tenets of the French Enlightenment of the 18th century. They promoted libertarian ideas that led to the independence of Yucatan. The initiator and founder of the Society was the Catholic priest and humanist Vicente María Velázquez.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Sanjuanistas were the precursors of the Mexican War of Independence. They were members of a society of Creole people who met in the San Juan church and had economic and social interests different from those of the Spanish crown.





## San Sebastian

In colonial times, San Sebastian was part of an area given by Francisco de Montejo to his son. Wanting large estates to be built, he removed Indigenous Maya from outlying and relocated them into the area now known as San Sebastian. This was the area where the disenfranchised local Maya and lower-class immigrants lived for hundreds of years. In the early 20th Century, San Sebastian was a dangerous area known as Barrio Bravo, where young men fought amongst themselves and other barrios. The main square used to be the site where bullfights were held. Festivals were often held in the streets, much like the ones in Pamplona, Spain.

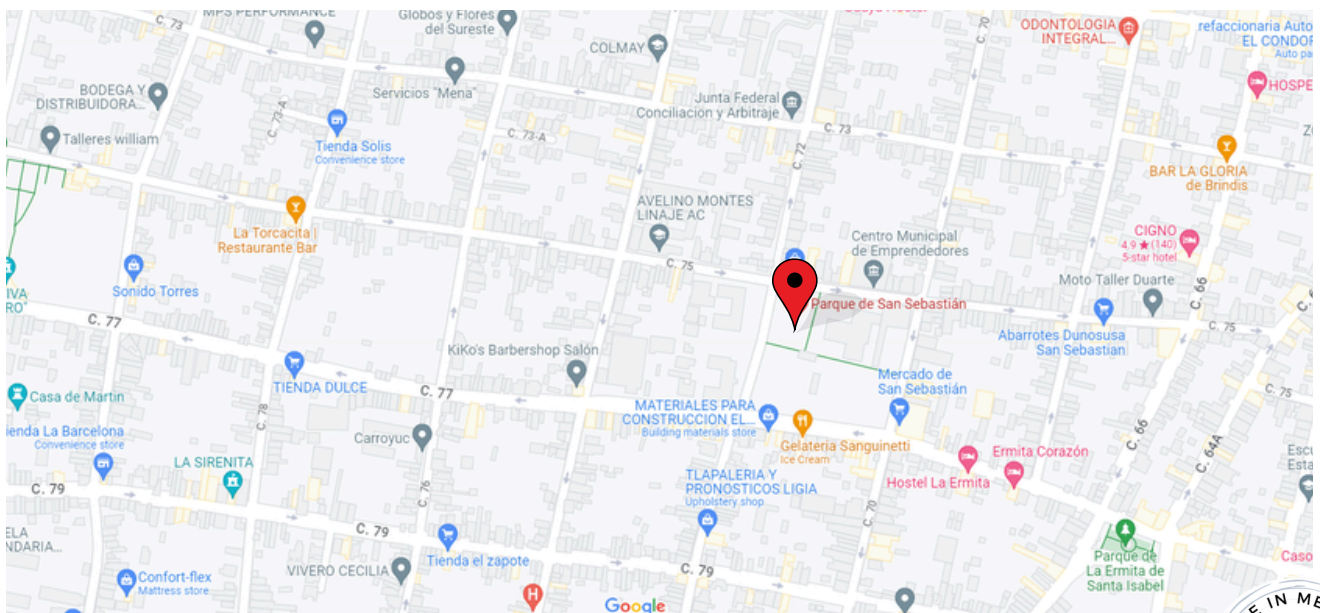
San Sebastian has quite a few legends and histories. However, a legend about the Lady of San Sebastian is not widely known today. Originally, San Sebastian was a small and extremely humble temple. In the 18th century, Don Juan Esteban Quijano was a wealthy and charitable city resident. One day, a strange woman showed up on his doorstep. Although she was poorly dressed, there was an extraordinary beauty and dignity about her.

Knowing the generosity of Don Juan, the woman asked him to rebuild her humble abode to shield her from the sun and rain. She also explained that her neighbors were impoverished and unhappy and could use help. Stating that he could not help her, she told him God would reward him for his benevolence. When Don Juan asked her for her address, she said he would discover it by a ray of sunlight in the southwest section of San Sebastian. When Don Juan arrived in the neighborhood, he found the humble abode as described. He entered and noticed a ray of sunlight illuminating the face of a virgin, who was the face of the lady who had visited him. Our Lady of San Sebastian is, perhaps, the quintessential Virgin of Yucatan. The patron saint of San Sebastián church is Our Lady of the Assumption.



Don Juan Esteban Quijano was also a Mérida City Council member and was supposedly involved in the murder of Governor Lucas de Galvez. However, he was acquitted. After proving his innocence, he turned the humble temple into the great and beautiful church it is today. The colonial building at the back of the church with the seven semicircular arches was used as a hospital in the 19th century. In 1905, it served as the general headquarters of the armed forces. Currently, it is occupied by SEP offices.

Another story is that of Don Hucho, who created the emblematic Yucatecan panucho. The panucho is a traditional dish consisting of a corn tortilla stuffed with beans, then lightly fried and topped with chicken, turkey, pork or beef, cabbage, tomato, onions, avocado, and a jalapeño pepper. Don Hucho offered this dish and a boiled egg to travelers crossing the old Camino Real from Mérida to Campeche around the 19th century.





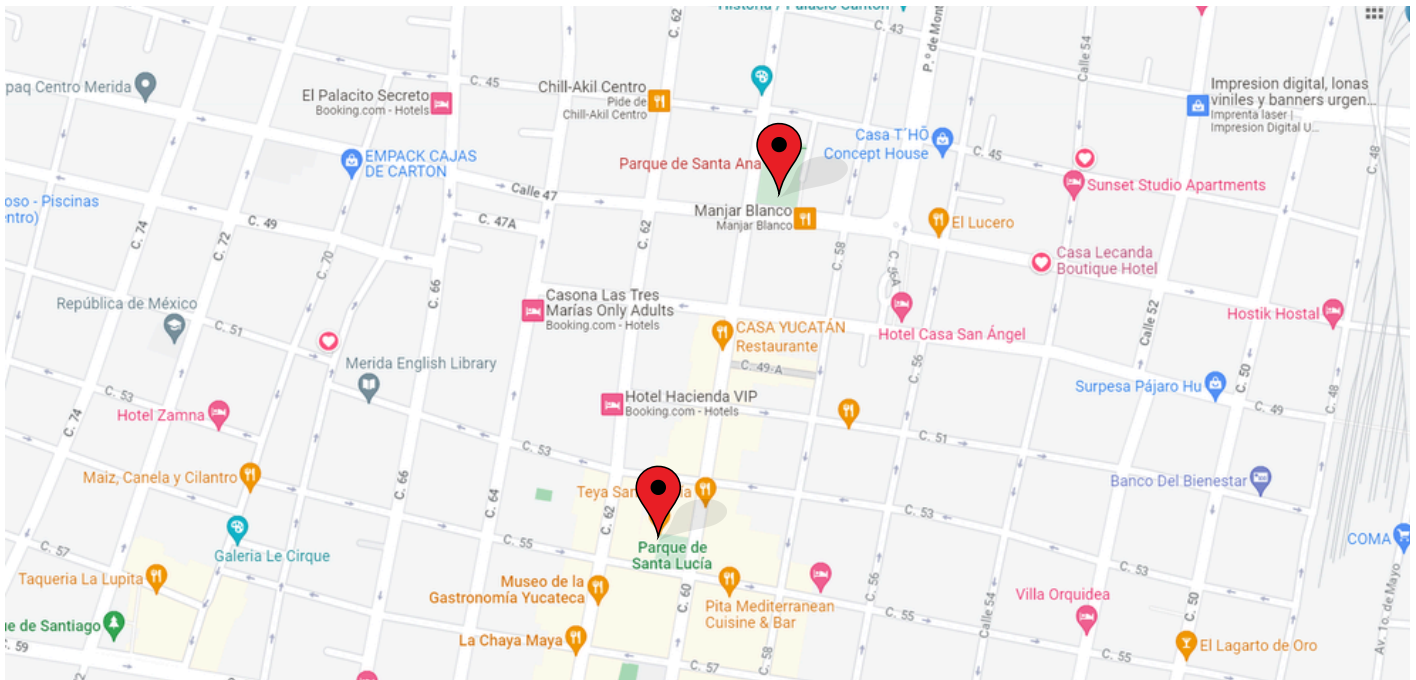
## Santa Ana

Santa Ana church is very plain, both inside and outside. The pyramidal spires and the raised platform foundation quickly identify Santa Ana church, most likely a former Maya temple platform. It is said that the ancient bell in Santa Ana church has the most pleasant sound of any church bell in the city.

Santa Ana Park was famous for the orange trees found in the square. It was also the location of a renowned bakery, "Los Catalanes," which distributed its exquisite bread in carts pulled by mules wearing bells on their necks. This bakery is attributed to the invention of pan frances.

At the corner of what is now Calle 60 at 47, one of the famous arches of Mérida stood to demarcate the city's outskirts. Unfortunately, it was demolished in the 19th century. While Santa Lucia was the site of the first cemetery in Mérida, it was soon moved to Santa Ana. Then, in the 1880s, it was moved to its current location in San Sebastian. The cemetery was moved because construction on the Paseo de Montejo had begun, and Santa Ana was becoming a more desirable place to live. Once the cemetery was moved, residents were forced to relocate to southern parts of the city.

Eventually, Santa Ana extended north as the Hyatt and Fiesta Americana are today. As you travel north, you can see evidence of the grand houses along Calle 60, ending with El Pinar (across from the Hyatt) with its pink, gingerbread style. Calle 60 is known as Art Gallery Row, with the park featuring local Yucatecan cuisine found on many YouTube videos.



## Santa Lucia

The patron saint of Santa Lucia dates to the 4th century. A bright-eyed young woman was born in Italy. As was common then, she had a dowry that would be given to her husband upon their marriage. Before the wedding, her fiancé asked her to denounce her faith. Because she would not do this, she was arrested, tortured, and blinded. The etymology of her name is “lux” (Latin), translated to light. She is now known as the patron saint of people who are blind. Dating back to the city's founding, Santa Lucia was home to one of the first churches built in Mérida in 1542.





The closest Colonia north of Plaza Grande, Santa Lucia, plays an essential role in the history of Mérida. When Franciscan missionaries claimed jurisdiction over the Maya, they forbade civil authorities from forcing them into labor. Instead, they imported slave labor from Cuba and other Caribbean islands. Santa Lucia was the neighborhood designated for black and mulatto slaves. This was the part of town where they lived, worshiped, and celebrated. One of the few cultural permissions granted in the Santa Lucia neighborhood was drum playing. It was common to hear singing and the soft drumbeats wafting through the neighborhood streets. Santa Lucia was considered a “foul and disgusting pigsty” during this time.

In 1804, Governor Perez Valdelomar initiated the construction of the plaza that faces Santa Lucia Church. He intended to beautify the state capital. The project included relocating the residents, demolishing the cemetery, and moving the bodies. Why or where the dead would be moved was never explained during that time. The residents saw this as an act of desecration, and drums beat in protest. Several groups started engaging in practices that eventually became Santeria.

Unfortunately, the former residents of Santa Lucia were met with discrimination in other neighborhoods. Some had to endure long commutes to attend mass after they relocated. Fearing an uprising, Governor Perez Valdelomar made it clear that any civil disobedience would be met with a ban on playing drums. Between April and June of 1867, Santa Lucia was one of the last scenes of bloody combats during the final days of the conquistadors.

Santa Lucia Park has undergone several updates, including adding a market (now the location of distinctive restaurants), installing the monument to Colonel Sebastian Molas, and the truncated obelisk. One of the interesting characters in the market was a food vendor called El Chino Mateo.



From southern China, he was a very kind and generous soul. Unfortunately, he went bankrupt due to his generous nature with the poor children in the area. One of the hacendados provided a job for him, but it made him very sad to be away from his beloved Santa Lucia. When asked about the nature of his sadness, he said, "I can't live without Santa Lucia!" Eventually, he returned to Santa Lucia and died in poverty.

Interestingly, today's park is a relatively recent development from 2010. The giant "tu y yo" chair or kissing chair was designed after the French tete-a-tete chairs. This way, courting couples could maintain eye contact while being discreet and decent. If you spend time in Santa Lucia and its iconic park, you may feel the same way as El Chino Mateo. I know I do!

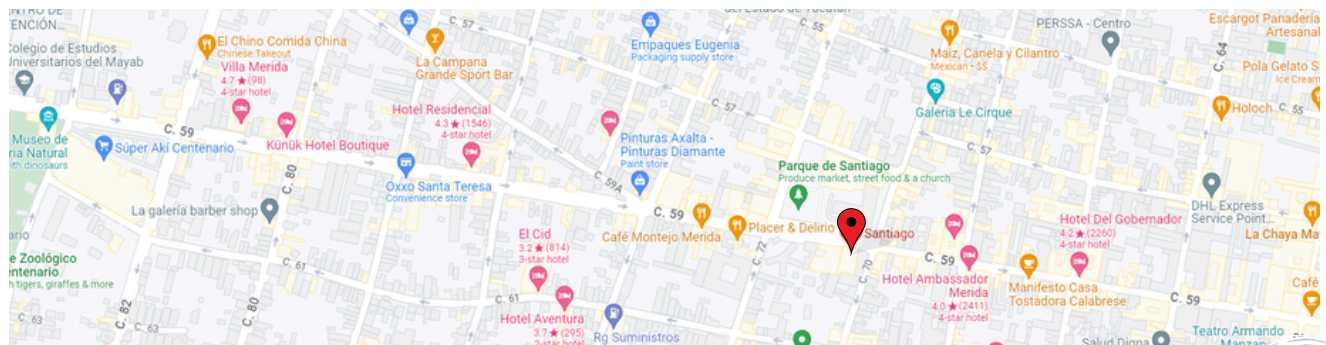




## Santiago

Santiago was one of the first areas settled by conquistadors after arriving in Mérida. Approximately 350–400 years ago, this area was relegated to the indigenous Indios and artisans. Named for the Patron Saint of Spain, the church of Santiago was founded in 1637. Little remains of the original structure other than a modest sanctuary with a baroque statue of Santiago and a dated inscription at the entry. Adjacent to the church is a small chapel. Inside is a plaque stating that the first mass in a chapel in Mérida was held there.

The main facade includes two sculptures on its doorways, possibly dedicated to San Miguel Archangel and Christ Transfiguration. In comparison, the side entrance displays Franciscan shields and a cross on a skeleton. This church contains the relic (heart) of Friar Luis de Piña y Mazo, one of the first bishops of Yucatán. After the Caste War, Santiago became the German district. Before Paseo de Montejo was built around the turn of the century, Santiago was considered the nicest place to live in Mérida. Calle 59 was the main formal entrance into Mérida after Porfirio Diaz built the Centenario Zoo and Parque de La Paz. Today, the Santiago Market is one of the best in Mérida. You'll find a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, flowers, a meat market, tortillas, and fresh juices made to order. At the corner of Calle 59 and 72 is the Nicolás Bravo school, built during the Porfirio Era.





There's absolutely no doubt the colonias of Centro are part of the charm of Mérida. The National Institute of Anthropology and History, referred to as INAH, is in charge of protecting and conserving the historical heritage of Mexico. Therefore, they oversee and approve building permits, colors, and plans. For houses, colors must be in a pastel palette, the front room cannot be altered in any way, and when adding a second floor, it cannot be seen from the street. You'll find the consistency of these pastel colors, along with wrought iron and architectural styling, alluring and fascinating.

Around the turn of the 20th century, Mérida was home to more millionaires than any other city in the world. Meridanos loved all things representative of the European elite of that era. Therefore, their goal was to create a city emulating the great cities of Europe, especially those of France and Italy, which they considered the height of art, culture, and sophistication.

Craftsmen came from the Continent to produce products that Mérida's elite were eager to buy. Among these craftsmen were artisans who worked with decorative wrought iron. Copying styles popular in France and Italy, they crafted elaborate gates, window grills, balconies, and more. Hundreds of examples of their work, their descendants, and local craftsmen who learned from them can be seen throughout Mérida's Centro district. One of my favorite streets is Calle 59 from the zoo to Mejorada. Observe all the different ironwork as you travel from west to east. It reminds me of the French Quarter in New Orleans.

Some of the best examples of colonial homes are these restaurants in Centro:

- [Restaurante Amaro](#)
- [Casa Yucatan Restaurante](#)
- [Museo de la Gastronomía Yucateca \(MUGY\)](#)
- [La Chaya Maya Casona](#)
- [Cafe Montejo Merida](#)





### **Colonial Houses**

The scale of old colonial homes in Centro is quite dramatic. Ceilings can reach up to 18' high which helped keep rooms cool in the tropical environment. You'll find iron beams holding up a thick cement and stone roof. The houses were constructed of thick walls made of tons of stacked stones held together with cement. This type of construction is known as "mampostería." It was also the way the Maya built their pyramids.

Most of the colonial houses in Centro Histórico are either a C shape or an L shape; allowing the inner rooms to open onto a central courtyard for air circulation. Generally, there aren't any hallways in most of these old houses. You'll find entrances to the rooms from the central courtyard which act as a kind of outdoor hallway.

In the section between 47th and 33rd streets, you'll find one of the first grand mansions, the Palacio Canton (now the anthropology museum). This was the official residence of the state governors. Also located here are Las Casas Gemelas (the twin mansions), Quinta Montes Molina, El Minaret, and Inbursa Bank owned by none other than Carlos Slim, Mexican business magnate.

### **Pasta Tiles**

The paste mosaic technique was first invented by Arabs more than 3,000 years ago. But its period of splendor and popularity did not come until the 19th century. Pasta tiles were first introduced to the Yucatan Peninsula in the 16th and 17th centuries. Spanish and French ships seeking Mexican gold, silver, and cacao as well as other valuables to take back to Spain packed the tiles as ballast. When the ships landed, the tiles were dumped on Yucatecan beaches catching the eyes fishermen, local residents, artisans, and masons.



The cement tiles were intricately designed with multiple colors. They were first known in as mosaicos de pasta. In the second half of the 16th century, Yucatecan artisans began developing their own designs and procedures with help from tile artists from Talavera de la Reina in Spain.

The base material of the pasta mosaic or hydraulic mosaic is Portland cement which was patented in 1824 in England. During this time, others worked to improve the composition of Portland cement to be more resistant to humidity and more profitable. The process to make pasta tiles was simple. Thick, wet, sandy concrete was poured into a square mold. A metal design mold called a "trepá" was placed on top and different colors were added to create particular patterns.

Next, a hydraulic press compresses all this together. One side is concrete and the other is the colorful design. No machines, no firing, simply some quick pressure. Left to dry for several weeks, the tiles can then be laid on a concrete base and polished to enhance the colors. At the turn of the 20th century, the region's first tile production workshop was established in the tiny pueblo of Ucu, outside of Mérida. At this shop, customers can select from 100 year old molds or create their own designs.

As you visit colonial homes and establishments, you'll see some pasta tile floors that have withstood centuries of use; still polished to their original brilliance. Because the tiles are 100% concrete, they are very durable. The life expectancy is a minimum of 50 years and many pasta tile floors last in good condition 100+ years.



## Markets

There's no doubt about it. Local markets are part of the charm of Mérida. Notably, they offer a unique perspective and an authentic experience of this enchanting city. Markets and tianguis (open-air flea markets or bazaars) offer a variety of handmade items, food, flowers, artisanal products, and more. They are also a place to socialize, integrate, and experience culture. Most markets have a variety of loncherias and cocina economicas (small, kitchen-style restaurants) serving delicious Yucatecan flavors. In tianguis, found all over the city, you'll find clothing, books, food, jewelry, decorations, furniture, and more.

Before I arrived, many people, including myself, requested to be within walking distance of a market. There's just something appealing about walking to a market - right? Walking distance to a foreigner is entirely different and lost in translation to a local. You'll find walking distance for locals can mean 20+ blocks. If this is a must-have, be sure to ask for your specific location and the closest market if you plan on staying in an Airbnb. And remember, the heat is incredibly intense. Please use your best judgment before setting out in the hot summer and getting dehydrated or heat exhaustion.

**Alemán Market** - Location: Calle 24 x 31a y 3, Miguel Alemán 97148

The German influence is prevalent in this neighborhood as the translation of Alemán is German. This market offers a variety of Yucatecan-style breakfast food, including the very popular kibi. A side note about how the Lebanese influenced food in the Yucatan Peninsula: with the arrival of Lebanese immigrants in the 19th and 20th centuries, both the kibi and the tortilla arrived - YES, the tortilla! The Lebanese also brought shawarma. This dish introduced the use of the vertical spit. The process of layering thinly sliced meat on the spit and cooking it is the process used to make pastor.





**Chen Bech Market - Location: Calle 57 x 42**

Chen Bech means “bird’s nest.” Discover typical Yucatecan food and local products at this cozy market.

**Garcia Rejon - Location: Calle 60 #501A y 65, Centro 97000**

This is our favorite hidden gem. Punto y Coma is our favorite cocina economica. Try the relleno negro - We think it’s the best in the city. We also love the traditional products from guayaberas to huipils to jipijapa hats to shoes. This small market has something for everyone, just one block from Plaza Grande.

**Lucas de Galvez Market - Location: Calle 56A x 67 y 69**

In the maze of stalls, you’ll find just about anything and everything you need and things you didn’t even know existed. Leave a breadcrumb trail so you don’t get lost among the 2,000 vendors in the labyrinth of 156,000 square feet.

**Miguel Hidalgo - Location: Calle 20A x 19 y 21A, Chuburná de Hidalgo 97205**

The flavor of Yucatan is everywhere, especially on Sundays, where you’ll get an honest-to-goodness local feeling. Try polcanes, panuchos, salbutes, and tortas.

**San Benito Market - Location: Calle 54 x 67 y 69, Centro 97000**

Feel this large market's ambiance, music, and wonderful smells a few steps from Lucas de Galvez. Venture into the center for fruits, vegetables, spices, and more.

**Santa Ana Market - Location: Calle 47 x 58 y 60, Centro 97000**

Made famous by a plethora of YouTubers, this market offers some of the best local food and freshly squeezed juices. Alongside the market on Calle 47, vendors offer a variety of products, including artisanal and touristic gifts.





**Santiago Market - Location: Calle 59 x 70, Centro 97000**

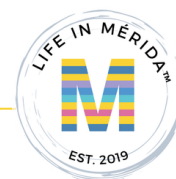
A popular market for locals, tourists, and extranjeros, this market is a great one to start with. Known for fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs, you'll also find beautiful flowers and freshly prepared juices. Go early for the best selection of meats, as they go very quickly.

**Slow Food Market - Centro Location: Calle 33d #498, Reparto Dolores Patrón 97070  
North Location: Parque Pista Roja, Calle 46 x 71 y 75, Cordemex 97115**

This Saturday market offers organic products such as produce, eggs, coffee, artisanal cheeses, baked goods, homemade sauces, dips, honey, and more. At the Centro location, this is a way many people socialize and purchase weekly products.

Exploring local markets allows you to connect with the locals and provides a small glimpse into the culture and daily life activity. You'll find each one has its personality, attracts different types of people, and offers a variety of products. This is a GREAT place to start practicing your Spanish, as vendors LOVE to help you learn about their products.

Remember to bring your bags. Many markets also sell colorful shopping bags that make great gifts as well. You may find spices you like in one market and fresh fruits in another—a word of advice for the larger markets of San Benito and Lucas de Galvez. I suggest wearing closed-toed shoes, especially in inclement weather. The market floors can get wet and dirty quickly after or during rain. If you're interested in bazaar-type shopping, check out the Tianguis. These little flea markets are located all over the city - see the list on the next page.



# TIANGUIS EN MÉRIDA

LUNES	HORARIO	DIRECCIÓN
Serapio	07:00 - 13:00	C. 121 x 46 Col. Serapio Rendón
Misne	17:00 - 23:00	C. 17 x 6-A y 6-C Fracc. El Vergel
Bojórquez	17:00 - 23:00	C. 104 x 59-J y 59-H Col. Bojórquez
MARTES	HORARIO	DIRECCIÓN
Esperanza	07:00 - 13:00	C. 61 x 14 y 16 Col. Esperanza
María Luisa	07:00 - 13:00	C. 21 x 20 Col. María Luisa
Polígono 108	07:00 - 13:00	C. 31-A x 16 Col. Polígono 108
Mulsay Caimede	17:00 - 23:00	C. 67 x 36-A Col. Jardines de Mulsay
Chenku	17:00 - 23:00	C. 19 x 36 y 38 Fracc. Chenkú
Fracc. del Parque	17:00 - 23:00	C. 10 x 57 y 59 Fracc. del Parque
MIÉRCOLES	HORARIO	DIRECCIÓN
Emiliano Zapata Oriente	07:00 - 13:00	C. 41 x 35 y 20 Col. Emiliano Zapata Ote.
Santa Rosa	07:00 - 13:00	C. 97 x 46 y 46-A Col. Santa Rosa
Porvenir	07:00 - 13:00	C. 51 x 132 Col. Porvenir
Serapio	17:00 - 23:00	C. 121 x 46 Col. Serapio Rendón
Macroplaza	17:00 - 23:00	C. 35 x 20 Col. Polígono CTM
Fco. de Montejo	17:00 - 23:00	C. 42 x 53 y 53-C Fracc. Fco. de Montejo
JUEVES	HORARIO	DIRECCIÓN
Bojórquez	07:00 - 13:00	C. 104 x 59-J y 59-H Col. Bojórquez
Los Reyes	07:00 - 13:00	C. 17 x 38 y 40 Col. Los Reyes
Juan Pablo-Nora	17:00 - 23:00	C. 5-B x 22 y 24 Col. Juan Pablo - Nora (Parque)
María Luisa	17:00 - 23:00	C. 21 x 20 Col. María Luisa
Fco. de Montejo	17:00 - 23:00	C. 51 x 54 y 56 Fracc. Fco. de Montejo
VIERNES	HORARIO	DIRECCIÓN
Esperanza	07:00 - 13:00	C. 61 x 14 y 16 Col. Esperanza
Vicente Solís	07:00 - 13:00	C. 79 x 81 y 30 Col. Vicente Solís
Chenkú	17:00 - 23:00	C. 19 x 36 y 38 Fracc. Chenkú
Mulsay Caimede	17:00 - 23:00	C. 67 x 116-A Col. Jardines de Mulsay
Caucel	17:00 - 23:00	C. 51-A x 106 y 108 Col. Ciudad Caucel
San José Vergel	17:00 - 23:00	C. 12 x 21 Col. San José Vergel
Macroplaza	17:00 - 23:00	C. 35 x 20 Col. Polígono CTM
Serapio Rendón	17:00 - 23:00	C. 121 x 46 Col. Serapio Rendón
SÁBADO	HORARIO	DIRECCIÓN
Fco. I. Madero	07:00 - 13:00	C. 35 x 20 Col. Francisco I. Madero
Amalia	07:00 - 13:00	C. 17 x 18 Col. Amalia Solórzano
Vergel II	07:00 - 13:00	C. 23 x 10 Col. Vergel II
Polígono 108	17:00 - 23:00	C. 31-A x 16 Col. Polígono 108
Fracc. del Parque	17:00 - 23:00	C. 10 x 57 y 59 Fracc. del Parque
Azcorra	17:00 - 23:00	C. 24 x 71 y 71-A Col. Azcorra
Fracc. Arbolada	17:00 - 23:00	Av. 86 x 179 y 177 San Antonio Xluch III
Tixcacal Opichén	17:00 - 23:00	C. 75 x 38 Col. Tixcacal Opichén
DOMINGO	HORARIO	DIRECCIÓN
Chuburná	07:00 - 13:00	C. 21 x 20 Col. Chuburná de Hidalgo
Fco. I. Madero	07:00 - 13:00	C. 31 X 32 Col. Francisco I. Madero
San Roque	07:00 - 13:00	C. 147 x 54 Col. San José Tecoh
Los Reyes	07:00 - 13:00	C. 17 x 38 y 40 Col. Los Reyes
Caucel	17:00 - 23:00	C. 51-A x 106 y Col. Ciudad Caucel
Juan Pablo Cardenales	17:00 - 23:00	C. 11 x 32 Col. Juan Pablo Cardenales
Vergel III	17:00 - 23:00	C. 88 x 178 y 19 San Antonio Kava
Fracc. del Parque	17:00 - 23:00	C. 10 x 57 y 59 Fracc. del Parque
Fracc. Arbolada	17:00 - 23:00	Av. 86 x 179 y 177 San Antonio Xluch III

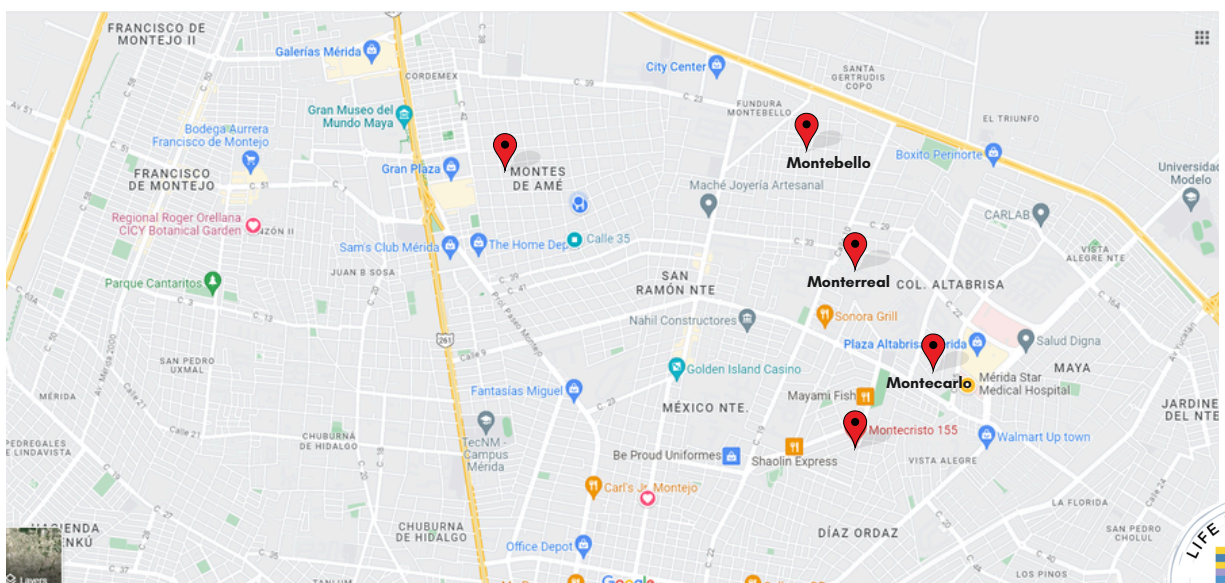


## North Mérida

This vibrant and dynamic area with many distinct neighborhoods offers various lifestyle options. These neighborhoods have something for everyone, from bustling plazas to quiet residential streets. Because most people are interested in Centro, there's little information about North Mérida. So, let's look at "The North," as locals call it, with its unique qualities and a different look and feel. While you'll find some areas modern and sleek, others feel more local, characteristic of what comes to mind when people think about Mérida.

## The Montes: Montecristo, Montebello, Monterreal, Montes de Ame, Montecarlo

You may have heard this area referred to as "The Montes." Housing options in The Montes are varied. You'll find traditional Mexican-style homes; some are referred to as compounds because they take up an entire block. There are small, humble houses. New modern townhouses, high-rises, modern condo complexes, and apartments have a variety of price ranges. These neighborhoods feature green spaces, gyms, shopping centers, restaurants, parks, etc. This area is considered the cosmopolitan area of The North.

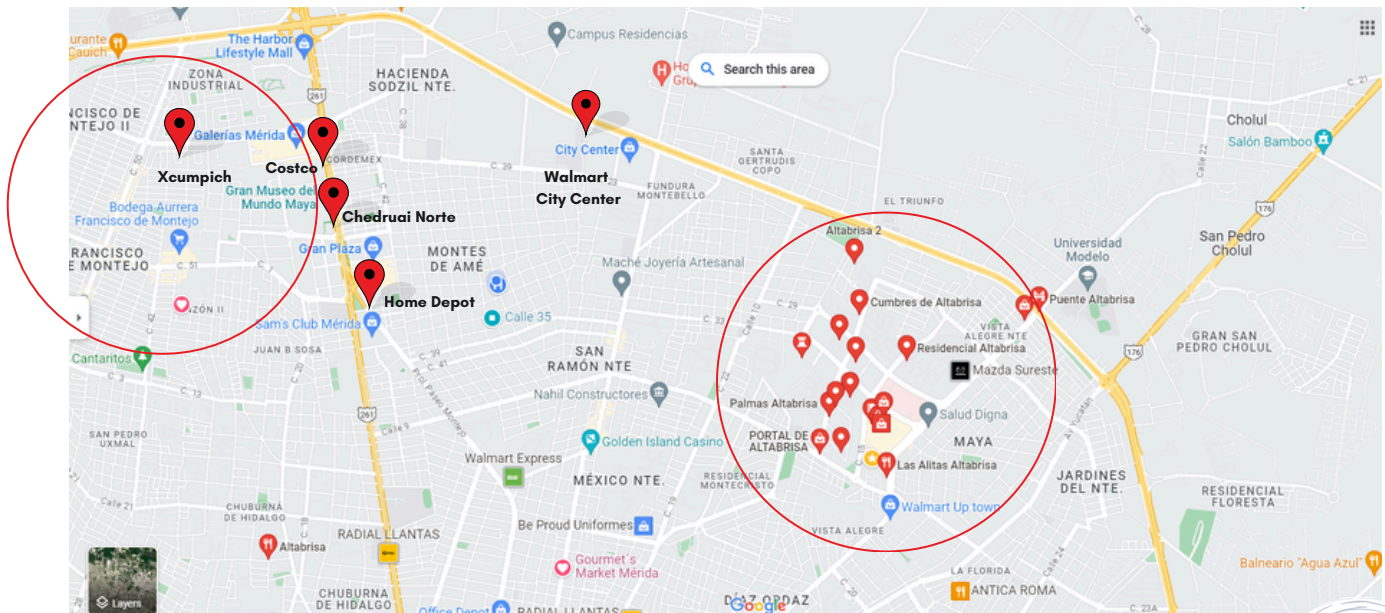




## Altabrisa

Altabrisa is a recognizable area due to the popularity of Altabrisa Mall, Star Medica Hospital, and many medical offices and facilities. It's both a sought-after residential area and a thriving commercial district. Some main draws of Altabrisa are its proximity to major shopping centers, easy access, and grocery stores. This makes it easy for residents to shop without venturing too far from home.

For those who enjoy spending time outdoors, Altabrisa has plenty of parks and green spaces to explore. A new park is planned but has not yet started. Altabrisa offers a high quality of life with its convenient location, excellent healthcare facilities, and ample recreational opportunities.





### **City Center and City 32**

The City Center area includes a large shopping center with Walmart, banks, restaurants, a cinema, and other retail stores. Many people confuse the name with Centro. Therefore, understanding the nuances of the different areas of the city is essential. Real estate in this area ranges from modern condo complexes and high-rises to spacious single-family homes and gated communities. This option is attractive for those wanting a more contemporary lifestyle. Additionally, its proximity to the Periferico makes traveling to other parts of the city or out of town easy. City 32 is one of the newest multi-use complexes in North Mérida, located directly across the street from City Center shopping area. Offering a mix of restaurants, retail, a food court, and a hotel, you'll find it's a relaxing spot for coffee or an elegant dinner.

### **The Harbor Mall, Costco, and Galerías**

This area is where the most commercial growth is happening, including the new U.S. Consulate. There are many high-rise condos, a greenbelt with a pond, a park, and a walking trail. You can choose from a luxurious lifestyle with upscale housing and modern amenities or a more local lifestyle in colonias such as Xcumpich and Francisco de Montejo. One of the highlights of this area is its proximity to the beach, only a 20-minute drive to Progreso. There are a variety of restaurants, grocery stores such as Chedraui Norte and Costco, and Galerías Mall, which has an ice-skating rink.

### **Francisco de Montejo**

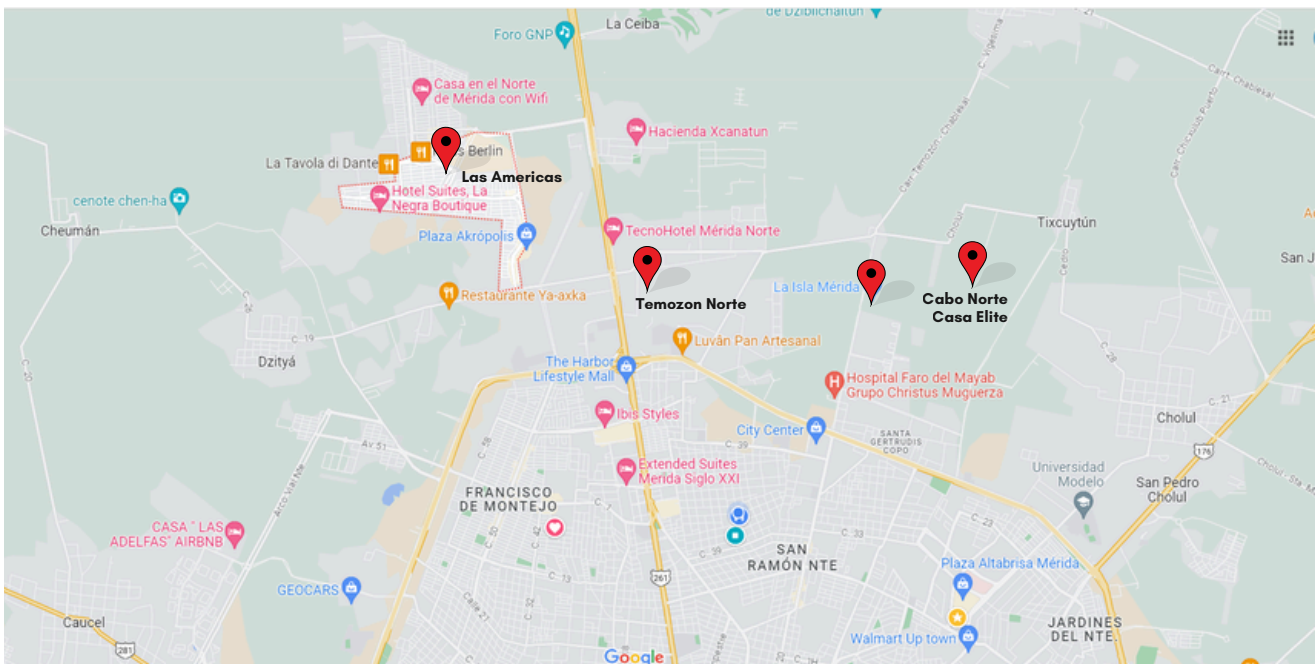
Francisco de Montejo is a large area consisting of Francisco de Montejo I, II, III, and IV. This area attracts locals, young professionals, and families due to its location and affordability. Find a variety of gyms, playgrounds, parks, basketball courts, soccer fields, dog parks, and walking and jogging trails. It has easy access to the Periferico and Calle 60 North/Av Tecnológico, which are great shortcuts to Centro.





## Las Americas

A residential neighborhood that we refer to as a master-planned community. You'll find neat rows of low-rise homes, primarily white. Not to be confused with Parque Las Americas in Garcia Gineres (people often confuse these). Las Americas has everything you need, from grocery stores, restaurants, shopping, gyms, and parks with jogging paths. This is a favorite area of Mexican Nationals moving to Mérida. However, this area is well known for the horrible flooding that occurs when it rains.





### **La Isla**

This popular mall features over 100 stores, restaurants, and a movie theater—a favorite hangout spot for locals and a popular destination for visitors. La Isla features several high-rise condo complexes overlooking a beautiful, landscaped pond with a walking path. It's kid-friendly, with many outdoor and indoor activities, Padel (pickleball) courts, and a state-of-the-art gym.

### **Temozon Norte**

Located in the La Isla area, Temozon Norte is a popular, growing community known for its modern design and gated communities. It is common to find high-end amenities in this type of residential area, such as tennis courts, paddle courts, playgrounds, and security. It is ideal for anyone wanting to enjoy the comfort and privacy of a peaceful residential area with high-end amenities and beautiful green spaces.

### **Cabo Norte**

Cabo Norte is designed for upscale living and offers residents a luxurious and modern lifestyle. The community is gated, offering maximum security to its residents. Enjoy a beautiful lake with a jogging and biking path, a soccer field, a basketball court, and a playground for children. Cabo Norte is also the location for Casa Elite Senior Living Community, the only one of its kind in Mérida.

### **Casa Elite**

For seniors looking for a comfortable and secure retirement community, Casa Elite offers luxury living with a range of amenities, such as a fitness center, swimming pool, and clubhouse. The community is surrounded by beautiful gardens and walking paths, providing a peaceful and tranquil setting. Various housing options include safety features like handrails and emergency call buttons. Casa Elite also offers a range of social activities. They provide on-site medical services to ensure residents have easy access to healthcare.



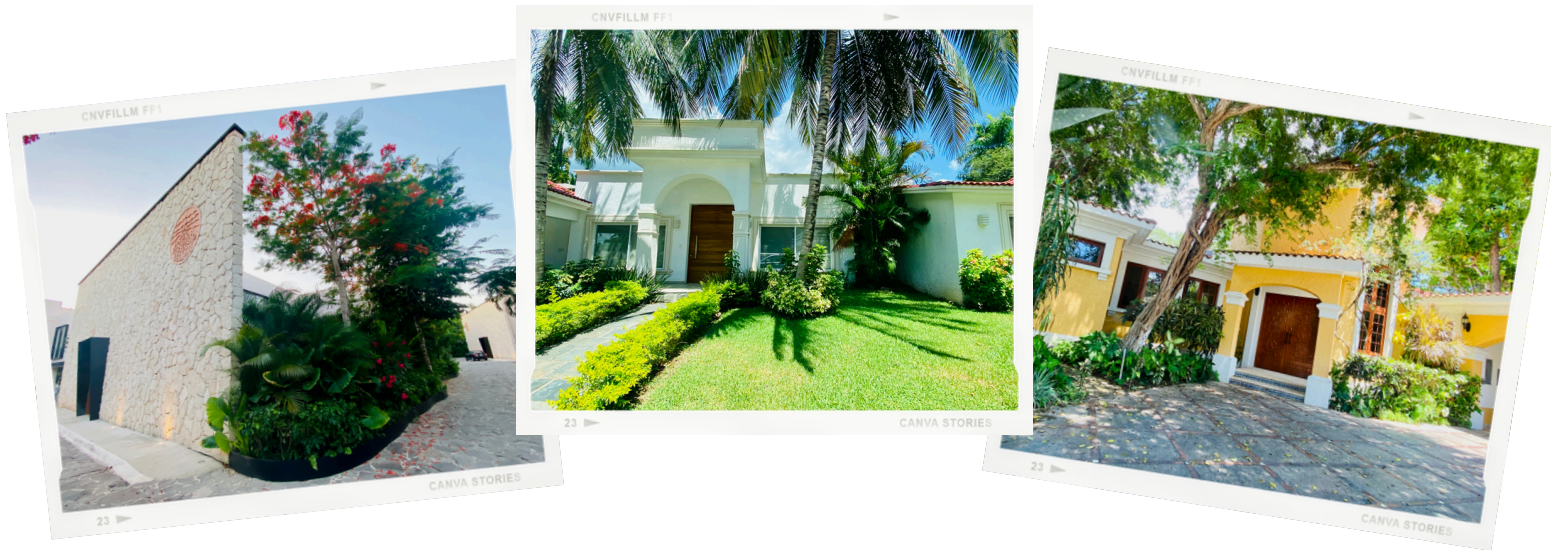
## Suburbs

While the city center offers a vibrant cultural scene, the suburbs provide a quieter lifestyle. One of the most significant advantages of living in Mérida's suburbs is the lower cost of living. Housing prices are generally more affordable. Additionally, you can get more space for your money. However, remember to factor in transportation costs to shop for groceries and other necessities, as well as going into the city for dining and cultural events. While most locations have small grocery stores for staples, you may need to come into Mérida for other items.

The suburbs offer the benefit of more space and a quieter environment. You'll have the option of older homes to newer townhouses with a range of pricing. Ideal for families, many homes have larger yards and more square footage. The suburbs tend to be less crowded. Keep in mind the suburbs may not offer the same level of convenience and access to amenities as being inside the Periferico.

One of the biggest drawbacks of the suburbs is transportation time. If you enjoy going out to restaurants, museums, shopping, or cultural events, factor in the extra time and expense of traveling back and forth. While the suburbs are safe, it's important to research specific neighborhoods. Take necessary precautions, especially in more isolated areas.

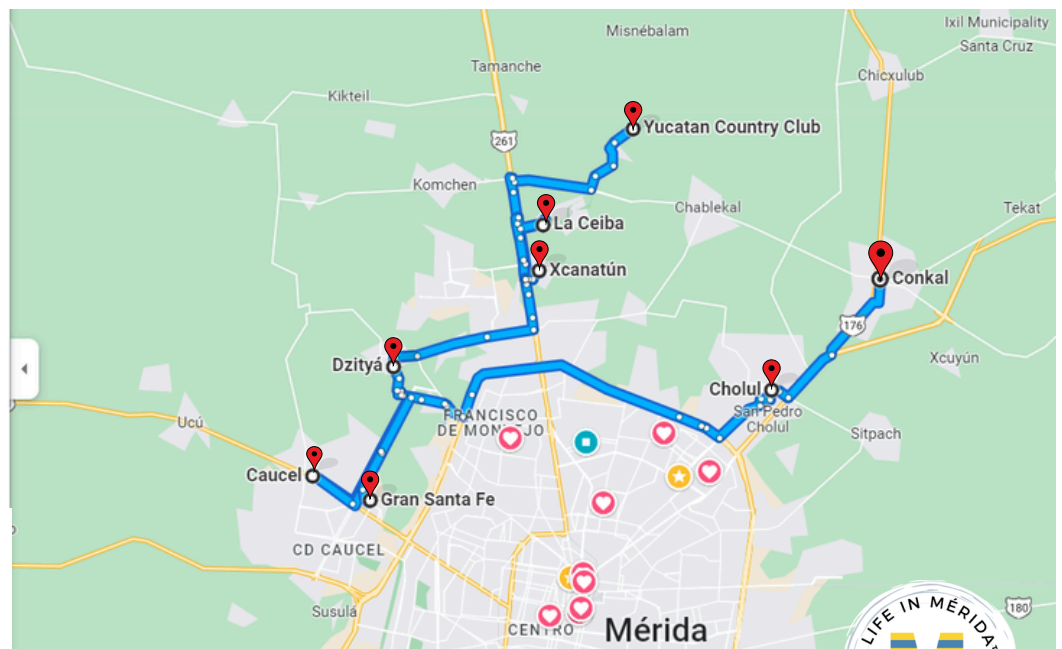
Here's a list of suburbs to get you started. Please note these are ALL located from the city's west, north, and east. Suburbs or areas south of the city are NOT on our recommended list as they tend to have more crime. You'll find large developments happening in Kanasin, but take special precautions. While the price is very affordable, the safety issues may not be worth it. Both Kanasin and Dzununcan are known as areas for crime and drugs.



**Suburbs** - Small communities located outside the Periferico. Notably, you'll probably need a car if a suburb is more to your liking. If you're looking for a more suburban experience vs. city experience, then one of these suburbs might work for you:

- Yucatan Country Club (w/golf course)
- La Ceiba (w/golf course)
- Xcanatun
- Dzityá
- Caucel
- Gran Santa Fe
- Cholul
- Conkal

- Yucatan Country Club, Carretera Mérida-F
- La Ceiba, 97302 Yucatan
- Xcanatún, 97302 Yucatan
- Dzityá, 97302 Yucatan
- Caucel, 97314 Yucatan
- Gran Santa Fe, 97314 Caucel, Yucatan
- Cholul, 97305 Yucatan
- Conkal, 97345 Yucatan



Meet the team

# The humans behind Life in Mérida™

A foreign resident and a Mérida native, guiding you through the move you're actually making.



## Amy

Co-founder • The Mérida Ambassador

From	Dallas, Tx
In Mérida from	2019
Background	Relo & real estate
Happy place	Santa Lucia
Restaurant	Micaela
Best Tacos	Jefe de Jefes

After 30 years in Dallas, I came to Mérida on a research trip in 2019. Three months later, I moved. I'm still finding something new to love every day. Mérida isn't for everyone — people feel it or they don't. For those of us who do, it's enchanting.

Before starting Life in Mérida™, I spent decades in real estate and relocation. These days I focus on what brings me the most joy — helping others navigate the things I had to learn the hard way. Including how to slow down and actually enjoy life here.



## Angel

Co-founder • The Local Insider

From	Tabasco, MX
In Mérida from	1993
Background	Culture & Hospitality
Happy place	Mayan Pub
Restaurant	Manjar Blanco
Best Tacos	El Negro

My background is in food and hospitality — if you join one of our tours, you'll figure out pretty quickly that Yucatecan cooking is a particular obsession. I love walking clients through the culture, the history, the neighborhoods, and slipping in a Spanish lesson along the way.

I joined Amy full-time in 2022 to expand our services and tours. In 2024 we launched Life in Mérida™ Real Estate — representing buyers and renters so they understand the culture and the process, not just the paperwork.



*"Life in Mérida™ is a labor of love. We've spent years building the resource we wish we'd had."*

What started as a blog has grown into the work we do today — scouting trips, a real estate brokerage, a monthly newsletter, a YouTube channel, a private community, and a library of free guides.

We're not slick relocation consultants with a polished pitch. We're two people who've been in the trenches with you — honest about what works, what doesn't, and what's worth it. Our goal isn't to sell you on Mérida. It's to help you figure out if it's the right move, and to make the transition easier if it is.

If you're considering Mérida, we'd love to hear from you. Reach Amy directly at: [amy@lifeinmerida.com](mailto:amy@lifeinmerida.com)

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## What readers are saying



I truly felt like I gained an immense amount of knowledge about an incredible city with the Learn About Mérida Guide. Amy and Angel are worth their weight in gold.

— Eva G.



We purchased the guidebook bundle. Each one was truly helpful with many things we hadn't considered. Amy has done the research and gets to the point with facts.

— Suzy & George B.