



Mérida Visitors Guide

Everything you need to
know when visiting Mérida
in one simple guide.



AMY JONES & ANGEL RODRIGUEZ

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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.

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. My husband, 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.

Since 2020, we've vetted and established relationships with vendors, professionals, and service providers for just about all categories anyone would need. We've included some of our favorites here.

At the end of this guide is a list of our other free and low cost guides – all to help you learn more about Mérida. We are a full-service company that offers resources and recommendations for visitors, residents, and future residents.

It's a good practice to add the Google Translate extension to your browser. It will save time and frustration when trying to navigate and understand information and websites that are in Spanish only. Enjoy and Buena Suerte!

P.S. Click on the topic of interest in the Table of Contents to jump directly to that page. Click on the Table of Contents on any page to be taken back to the Table of Contents at the front of the guide.

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CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

Recognizing the distinction between different cultures is critical to being culturally sensitive. It's essential to acknowledge that cultures differ in terms of the ways people communicate and interact with each other without placing any judgment.

It's important to note while Mérida is a touristic destination, the main tourism comes from Mexican Nationals. Spanish is the number one language followed by Yucatec Maya. Only 4% of Mexicans speak English. If you don't know any Spanish, use Google Translate. Don't expect a local to interpret your bad Spanish either.

There are different dialects of languages in all countries and you'll find the same here. Yucatecan Spanish is quite different than the rest of the country.

Cultural Customs: Social etiquette matters tremendously in Mérida. Be sure you respond kindly to greetings; always start a conversation or a message with a greeting. Please (por favor) and thank you (gracias) go a long way.

Greetings: It is normal for strangers on the street to tell you buenos dias (good morning), buenas tardes (good afternoon), or buenas noches (good evening). Etiquette is to respond in kind or to offer the greeting first. Always say goodbye to someone before leaving, especially at a gathering or dinner. Leaving without doing so can imply that you did not enjoy the gathering or their company.

Communication: It is polite to start with a greeting when sending messages. Most locals will wait for your response and then tell you what they want and vice versa.

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Be Specific: Be specific with what you need and make no assumptions. If you ask for a glass of water, ask for natural water with or without ice. This culture does not assume anything. Therefore, you are responsible for asking for exactly what you need down to the most minor details, to avoid frustration on both sides.

Restaurants: You have to ask for your check at a restaurant as Mexican servers think it rude to rush you or bring your check to you. Additionally, you can sit and enjoy your conversation and companionship as long as you like. Please tip your waiter/waitress accordingly.

Mañana: The word mañana means morning, tomorrow, and never. At times, mañana is a polite way of saying no. It is considered rude to tell someone no, thus saying mañana.

Elderly: Show heightened respect to those who are noticeably older. Let them pass when in public. Allow them to take your seat on buses if the others are full.

Eating: Be aware of the spiciness of the food. If you do not have a good tolerance for spicy food, tell your Mexican counterpart or restaurant server. Many meals have multiple components with different levels of spicy heat.

Meals: Meals can last quite a long time, especially if there are multiple dishes and servings. Mexicans prefer socializing over meals and do not like being rushed when eating. Here, dining is an experience. It's not just about eating and trying to be finished as fast as possible. It's meant to be slower and more pleasurable. Everything takes time, including service and receiving your bill.

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CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

Food Modifications: Requesting alterations to traditional dishes and local cooking styles is insensitive. The exception is if you request modifications due to an allergy or dietary restriction. Most regular restaurants cannot accommodate special dietary restrictions.

There are specialty restaurants, such as vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free, cater to dietary needs. The point is to find the restaurant that caters to your needs vs. asking a restaurant to change to your needs. Recently, I saw someone ask for a Thai restaurant to make a vegan dish by removing the fish sauce. Notably, this was impossible as the fish sauce was the prominent flavor of the dish.

Criticizing Food and/or Culture: Nothing positive comes from comparing everything you eat, see, and experience to how things are at home. Many comment that food, service, and other details are not up to their standards or not what they expected. Try to see this as a unique experience without judgment, expectations, or comparison.

Not Venturing Out of Centro: Centro is the comfort zone for many due to its familiarity. But seeing the other side of the coin is important, too. Witnessing how people live south of Centro and in The North is important. Don't limit your perspective to one area. Venture out to experience what the rest of the city is like and has to offer.

Hours of Operation: Hours of operation for merchants and restaurants are different here. Sometimes, you will find a shop closed when it is supposed to be open, and there is no explanation. Other times, restaurants stay open longer than posted hours. Be flexible in expectations as issues occur behind the scenes.

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TIPPING, ATM USAGE, MONEY EXCHANGE

- Restaurant Servers*: 15 - 20%
- Hotel Housekeepers: \$40 mxn (it is customary to tip in hotels)
- Airport Transportation: \$60 mxn
- Hotel Bellboy: \$40 mxn
- Tour Guide / Driver: \$100 mxn
- Grocery Stores: \$15 - \$20 mxn for baggers, \$5 - \$10 mxn for parking lot attendants or men to help load your groceries

*PLEASE DO NOT ask for separate checks. This is impossible for most servers to do on the system they use.

You'll find many banks along the Paseo de Montejo. When using an ATM, you'll be asked if you accept the bank's conversion rate. Always DECLINE this rate as it is lower than the normal conversion rate. You may also be asked if you want to insure your cash withdrawal. You can DECLINE this as well. These two items are just others ways for the bank to make a little more money.

While exchanging money at a bank will get you a slightly better exchange rate, it will take longer for the process - plan on 20 to 30 minutes AND you'll have a monthly limit per bank. It's better to go to a Casa de Cambio or Money Exchange. There's a great exchange location right next to La Tratto in Santa Lucia Park on Calle 60. It's easy and reputable. You'll be in and out in less than 5 minutes.

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COMMUNICATION & HELPFUL APPS

How to communicate is a critical part of your stay. Notably, the majority of people including some business owners DO NOT answer phone calls NOR do they use email or answer email inquiries. Even if a business such as a hotel has an email address, it is normal to send them a WhatsApp message to ask them to check their email. Therefore, using WhatsApp for everything is what we do here.

Contracts, information, photos, communication, and all other forms of getting in touch is via WhatsApp. If you don't have WhatsApp, then we recommend downloading it and becoming familiar with it before you arrive. Facebook Messenger would be an alternate way to communicate but it's not 100% reliable.

When adding a new contact for Mexico, you'll need to include the plus sign + and the country code of 52. A number can look like +52 999.000.0000

- WhatsApp - use for standard messaging
- Facebook Messenger - use for standard messaging
- Google Translate - helps with communication
- Uber, DiDi or InDriver - transportation (more info next)
- Rappi - delivery service (more info next)
- Duo Lingo - for conversational Spanish
- Google Maps- for directions, road closures and up to date traffic info. If you find a business, they may or may not have current/correct hours listed.
- Wise - check daily exchange rates (also good for transferring money between banks)

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RIDE PLATFORMS & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- **Uber:** The ride platform you are probably most familiar with.
- **DiDi:** Most similar to Uber, use a credit card or cash to pay. Note that many drivers, no matter what platform, don't carry much change.
- **InDrive:** This is a cash-only bid type of system for fares. Look on DiDi or Uber to determine a reasonable fare, then make the offer on the InDriver app.

Transportation from the airport:

There is a push right now for ride platforms to have access to pick up at the airport. However, it is not 100% approved at this time. There is an **Uber pickup** on the main avenue of the airport. You'll need to exit the airport and walk down the sidewalk. Be extra cautious as this can be a dangerous area due to traffic.

A variety of **airport taxi** kiosks can be found as you exit customs on the right hand side. These have a variety of pricing and sometimes there is a wait based on how many flights arrive at the same time. Rates change frequently so we won't list them here. Credit cards are accepted for fares. We recommend Lex's Tours below to ensure no wait times, comfort and reliability, and competitive rates.

Va-y-Ven Shuttle is available at the ADO Counter & has 5 drop-off locations in Centro costing \$45mxn. If you need pesos, there's a bank of ATMs at the airport on the ground floor. Va-y-Ven is also the public transportation system. Purchase a card at any Oxxo convenience store. More on Va-y-ven: <https://transporteyucatan.org.mx/>

More information in [THIS ARTICLE](#) from Yucatan Today



LEX'S TOURS

FULL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

AIRPORT TRANSFERS / PRIVATE DRIVERS
TOURISM / DAY TRIPS / BEACHES
LONG & SHORT TERM RENTALS
FLUENT ENGLISH

JENER DZUL, OWNER
WHATSAPP +52 999.221.8683



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GROCERY STORES & FOOD DELIVERY

In Centro, there are not many large grocery stores. This is a list of where we recommend shopping for food including food delivery services. If you'd like to try local home-cooked food from a cocina economica, try [Cocina y Mas](#)

For this list, map links are included:

- [Walmart Centro](#)
- [Chedraui Selecto Norte](#) - Many locals & expats shop here as it has a large variety of items.
- [Costco](#) - Everything you would expect including USDA choice & prime beef.
- [Slow Food Market](#) - Organic produce, pasta, cheeses, sauces, breads, sausage, & more. Every Saturday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
- [Ya'axtal Market](#) - Imported items, juice bar, supplements, organic produce, & products.
- [Chedraui Itzaes](#) - local grocery store chain.

Our favorite food delivery services include:

- [Por Vida](#) - Contact Emily Sant Amour to be added to the menu list & for pickup/delivery instructions WhatsApp +1 201.638.9425
- [Yummy Eats Merida](#) - WhatsApp +52 999.323.5029
- [Lavanda & Limón](#) - WhatsApp +52 999.251.3310
- [Pablo Ku Fresh Seafood](#) - WhatsApp +52 999.329.8710
- [Pao Segovia Reposteria](#) (cakes, cookies, brownies & all things delish) - WhatsApp +52 999.108.9355

And, of course, you have Uber Eats. You may also want to try Rappi. This app is a life-saver that delivers just about anything you need from restaurant food, groceries, pet supplies, office supplies, and much, much more. This is a great service if you don't have a car or during the summer months when it's too hot to get out in the middle of the day. Be sure to tip your Rappi driver appropriately, especially if it's raining.

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EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS & U.S. CONSULATE

- Emergencies: 911*
- Red Cross (Cruz Roja) Ambulance: +52 999.924.9813
- Ayuntamiento – Mérida Citizen’s Line: +52 999.924.4000 or 070
- Mérida Police Department (Centro): +52 999.942.0060
- Green Angels Roadside Assistance: +52 999.983.1184
- Consumer Protection Agency (PROFECO): +52 999.923.2323

*When calling 911, you can ask for someone who speaks English BUT there may be a lengthy delay.

[U.S. Consulate](#)

From Mexico: + 52 999.942.5700

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ConsuladoEstadosUnidosMerida/>

Website: <https://mx.usembassy.gov/visas/u-s-embassy-mexico-city/u-s-consulate-general-merida/>

FOR LOST PASSPORTS: [Emergency Passport Request Contact Form](#)

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DOCTORS & HOSPITALS

Dr. Jose Azcorra – General Practitioner – all ages including pediatric

WhatsApp: +52 999.297.4394 (Fluent English)

Makes house calls to your home, hotel, or Airbnb

Dr. Guillermo Trujillo – Whiteline – all dental needs including dental tourism.

Receive 25% off an exam and cleaning (first visit only) when you mention you saw the information here.

WhatsApp: +52 999.135.4778 (Fluent English)

Location: [Calle 17 #69 x 12 y 14, Col. México 97125](#)

Website: www.whiteline.com.mx

Hospital Christus Muguerza –Faro del Mayab (North)

Phone: +52 999.689.4500

Location: [Calle 24 s/n x 7 y 7A – Col. Santa Gertrudis Copó \(97115\)](#)

Website: www.hospitalfaro.com

State-of-the-art hospital focuses on medical tourism & assists in validating insurance policies & coverage of expats. Most similar to what we have in the U.S.

Local Tip: if you are ill, I recommend going to the emergency room & ask to speak to someone who speaks English. An emergency room visit will only cost \$35 – \$40 U.S. Hospital Faro offers a discount membership you can sign up for that is FREE. You'll receive a variety of discounts. Learn more and sign up via this link: <https://christusmuguerza.com.mx/socio-christus/>

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PHARMACIES & TRAVEL INSURANCE

Not all pharmacies are the same. Some pharmacies will carry your medication, others will not. You may find your medication at one pharmacy but the same brand pharmacy across town does not carry it.

There are times when I've not had my prescription but I did have the packaging or bottle the medication came in. This worked for a refill. This may work at some pharmacies but not others. If you don't have your prescription, some pharmacies have a walk-in clinic on-site that can write one for you. Be sure to tip the doctor on site - \$50 to \$100 mxn is appropriate.

You'll find several pharmacies around [Plaza Grande](#). There's a pharmacy at [Walmart](#) and also [Costco](#) in the North.

Expat Insurance is one of our trusted professional services. They offer competitive rates on Travel Insurance. It's a good thing to have a local agent for your travel insurance needs, especially one that speaks fluent English. You'll need to provide name, age, travel dates, etc. MUST be scheduled within 72 hours of your first day of travel.

View Details: <https://expatinsurance.mx/expat-travel-insurance-mexico/#>

REQUEST A QUOTE BY FILLING OUT THIS FORM:

<https://form.jotform.com/241906454284864>

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BUDGET-FRIENDLY HOTELS

When booking ANY of these hotels, we ask that you book directly with the hotel. This avoids any booking issues, reservations getting lost or cancelled, and other challenges that are currently happening. We encourage supporting local and by booking direct, you give more money to the hotel vs. a 3rd party booking site. We've provided each hotel's preferred booking link below. These are NOT in any order except where indicated. Please check the location – some of these are in quieter areas that would NOT be considered walking distance. Take into account that only 3–4 months out of the year are “walking friendly” due to the heat, rain, and humidity.

NAME & WEBSITE	MAP LINK
Hotel Marionetas	https://maps.app.goo.gl/uLRowReDGbSmxoxX6
Santa Ana Hotel	https://maps.app.goo.gl/uob4hwnN3abkPpqfw9
Casa Lool Beh	https://maps.app.goo.gl/iwLPN75DSYQjo1XQ8
Gamma Mérida El Castellano	https://maps.app.goo.gl/nbJLkH3ffA1wJGdbA
Casa Akbal	https://maps.app.goo.gl/wjDsZag6F2nWcj9U9
Hotel María del Carmen	https://maps.app.goo.gl/WbcgDT9wKgTdplok6

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BUDGET-FRIENDLY HOTELS

NAME & WEBSITE	MAP LINK
<u>Hotel Boutique Santa Helena</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/NGzKhTWeob2uxy1W9</u>
<u>Hotel La Piazzetta & Cafeteria</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/FPv49kcPa5AdbWQF8</u>
<u>Kuka y Naranja</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/SPAFJyKPGCV1DZuZ7</u>
<u>Kuka y Letras</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/52HPDuxGYNAaY7Z96</u>



A HUGE THANK YOU to our friend and award-winning photographer Rafael Bessanova. ALL the photos in this guide are the wonderful work of Rafa. As you can see, he has an exceptional eye for capturing the right composition. His work with our clients resulted in 100% satisfaction. They LOVE him (and we do too)!

We've known Rafa personally and professionally since 2022. We have several of his photos framed in our house. He and his team are available for any type of photography including personal photo shoots (weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, portraits around the city, etc.) For his portfolio, visit his Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ProduccionesBessanova>

For pricing and availability: WhatsApp +52 999.184.6046

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MID-RANGE HOTELS

We have a relationship with Merida Santiago Hotel Boutique and cannot say enough about their exceptional service, restaurant, owners, employees, chefs, and experiences. They are the total package when it comes to a boutique hotel experience! Located within a short walk walk to the Santiago Market, coffee shops, and more, you'll find this is an outstanding choice in Centro.


NAME & WEBSITE	MAP LINK
<u>Merida Santiago Hotel Boutique</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/7oMxUmap88Jn1ZM99</u>
<u>Acqua in Bocca</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/ek6tqFUi49BwjR156</u>
<u>Kuxtal Hotel</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/qxTJrWwdwyu88gqb6</u>
<u>Casa Dos Lirios</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/p7YRqnt32Jhy8SPQ9</u>
<u>Casa Continental</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/9jt5eLrd2UVj2z6N9</u>
<u>Hotel Boutique Casa Flor de Mayo</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/DFVMLKKRMvE8kvXT6</u>

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MID-RANGE HOTELS


NAME & WEBSITE	MAP LINK
<u>Historic House Hotel Boutique</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/dWKSBBgACiMpENz7Z7</u>
<u>Villa Orquidea</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/SqXEoAgEoXcYriTx5</u>
<u>Casa Don Alfredo</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/eSuNcpcvGodzhp899</u>
<u>Hotel Casona Origen Mérida</u>	<u>https://maps.app.goo.gl/HqhFJUN3HzrxdxNX9</u>



7-DAY ITINERARY

CURATED FOR THE CURIOUS EXPLORER

DAY TRIPS INCLUDING GASTRONOMY STOPS
CULTURAL IMMERSION
HACIENDAS / CHURCHES & CEMETARIES
MARKETS & TIANGUIS
OUR LIST OF "HIDDEN GEMS"



Whether you are a history enthusiast, a culture seeker, or simply curious, the blend of past and present will captivate your imagination and ignite your spirit of discovery with this carefully [curated 7-day itinerary](#). Each day will introduce new perspectives. From exploring awe-inspiring haciendas to wandering Mérida's pastel-hued streets to exploring outside the city, you'll taste different local dishes, witness traditional handcrafts, and connect with indigenous communities.

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LUXURY HOTELS

NAME & WEBSITE	MAP LINK
<u>Japoneza Retreat Mérida Centro</u>	https://maps.app.goo.gl/5CjThhgD9FmiZFAY9
<u>Antelar Casa Destino</u>	https://maps.app.goo.gl/Y6kRBbafvU2vVP65A
<u>Delfina Boutique Hotel</u>	https://maps.app.goo.gl/26EoLbTCpmmGAfJw7
<u>Künük Hotel Boutique</u>	https://maps.app.goo.gl/FCa15AySxGbrCKjr5
<u>Casa Loreto 1893</u>	https://maps.app.goo.gl/gpHyGtgCyx45XfW88
<u>Hotel Sevilla</u>	https://maps.app.goo.gl/V4k8Q8bqGnK2tk5H7
<u>Casa Olivia</u>	https://maps.app.goo.gl/oRXwUxf81Dt6thXX7
<u>Adoro Hotel Boutique</u>	https://maps.app.goo.gl/14JomjdLBXuzngsE9

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AIRBNB & BOOKING ADVICE

Casa Tho - A Tropical Oasis in the City: Casa Tho is a single story (no stairs!) 1,200 sq. ft. home with 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, full kitchen, and living room. Soak in the bathtub while you listen to the tropical birds. Tastefully decorated w/art and furnishings.

Casa Tho's Casita: The casita can be rented by itself or as a 3rd bedroom along with Casa Tho. The pool and beautiful gardens are the view from the patio doors. The covered patio is a great place to have a morning coffee.

Local Tip: Be sure to read all the recent reviews of the Airbnb you are considering. Don't get stuck somewhere that you are uncomfortable. Also, many people want to be withing walking distance of a local market or grocery store. Walking distance to a foreigner visiting Mérida is MUCH different than walking distance to a local, especially in the heat of the summer (April through October).

There are NOT as many markets here as people think. While there are a number of fruterias (fruit and vegetable stands), the number of markets is limited. When thinking about where you want to stay, look at the area on Google Maps first. For example, look for a "mercado" and then determine how far you are willing to walk to the mercado (market).

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TROTTER'S GROUP RESTAURANTS

One of our recommendations is to visit ALL the outstanding restaurants in Trotter's Group. My personal experience with La Tratto in Santa Lucia is quite memorable as this is where I met Angel (my waiter at the time) who later became my wonderful husband. For each restaurant in the group, I've shared our favorites at each location. Read about [Trotter's Group History](#).

<u>Restaurant</u>	<u>My Favorite Dishes</u>
<p>CENTRO: La Tratto Santa Lucia*</p> <p>THE NORTH: La Tratto Peninsula*</p>	<p>Starter: Tuna Tartar Salad: Caesar Salad w/Grilled Chicken Pizza: Margarita Blanca w/Burrata Pasta: Ricotta & Mozzarella Ravioli Grill & Specials: ALL OF THEM!</p>
<p>CENTRO: Pancho's Mexican Food</p>	<p>Starter: Chicken Fajitas Tacos: ALL OF THEM!</p>
<p>CENTRO: La Friteria</p>	<p>Starter: Mixed Snack Plate Chicken Tenders (Specialty for this location) All of the Burgers</p>
<p>THE NORTH: Luun Brunch & Coffee</p>	<p>Breakfast: Eggs Benedict Specials: Waffle Sandwich w/Grilled Chicken Specials: Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/Tomato Soup</p>

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<u>Restaurant</u>	<u>My Favorite Dishes</u>
<p>THE NORTH: Jerome Steak Bistro*</p>	<p>First Course: Escargot First Course: Beet Salad Steak Frites: MUST try ALL Specialties: French Dip Sandwich Specialties: Hamburger Jerome</p>
<p>THE NORTH: Bryan's</p>	<p>Starter: Tacos de Picaña Starter: 4 Cheese Flatbread Grill: Salmon Steak Burgers: ALL Specialties: Baby Back Ribs</p>
<p>PROGRESO BEACH: La Casa del Pastel</p>	<p>Breakfast: Poached Egg Soufflé Specialties: Croque Monsieur Most Popular: Raw Bar Starter: Octopus Tostada Starter: Beef Carpaccio Specialties: Limone Linguini Grill: U-10 Shrimp Grill: Fish of the Day / Robalo</p>

*Many people say that some of the best steaks in the city are found at La Tratto and Jerome and I agree. For an elegant, European-feel bistro restaurant visit Jerome. Bryan's is famous for their deliciously juicy hamburgers.

Learn a little of the history of La Casa del Pastel here:
<https://foodandpleasure.com/casa-del-pastel/>

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RESTAURANTS (OUR HIDDEN GEMS)

Our restaurant guide is different than other guides. The purpose of ours is to:

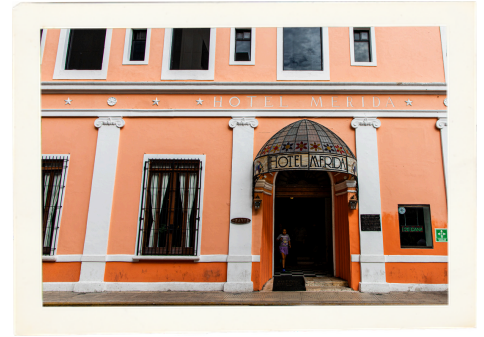
- get you out of the comfort zone of Centro – some of our recommendations are in Centro while the vast majority are not
- introduce you to different areas and parts of the city
- share our “hidden gems” that probably aren’t on any other list
- give you an idea of the different types of cuisines offered
- showcase some of the best restaurants we’ve found and that have been recommended to us by other locals

Did you know?

Mérida is a member of the Délice Network which is an international network of creative cities for gastronomy. Recognized as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, Mérida participates in events such as the network's Annual Assembly and promotes its rich culinary culture. The network seeks to connect cities to share knowledge and best practices in the gastronomic field.

There are 26 Food Capitals named by Délice Network – only 2 of which are in Mexico: Mérida and Puebla. These cities are committed to using food and gastronomy as powerful tools for economic and sustainable urban development, cultural identity, urban well-being, and city attractiveness.

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	<u>TACOS</u>	
<u>Jefe de Jefe</u>	<u>Taquería De La Unión</u>	<u>Desde Tixkokob</u>
<u>Taqueria Yucatan II</u>	<u>La Terraza Amarilla</u>	<u>Taquerías EL ÑERO Altabrisa</u>

	<u>AUTHENTIC YUCATECAN</u>	
<u>Hacienda Xcanatun</u>	<u>Manjar Blanco</u>	<u>Pueblo Pibil</u>
<u>Kiiwik</u>	<u>Pan y Pasteles Tala</u>	<u>Habaneros</u>

	<u>COMIDA MEXICANA</u>	
<u>Cafe Montejo</u>	<u>Vikings</u>	<u>Las Norteñas</u>

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	<u>ITALIAN</u>	
<u>Due Torri</u>	<u>Trattoria Di Alfredo</u>	<u>Villa Italia</u>
<u>Amore e Gusto</u>	<u>Antica Roma</u>	<u>Bologna</u>
	<u>PIZZA</u>	
<u>Piazzere PizzaBar</u>	<u>Venzzze</u>	<u>Barrio Napoli Pizzería</u>
<u>Nico's Pizza</u>	<u>Il Calabrese Pizzería</u>	<u>Florentina Pizzas Mérida</u>
	<u>TAP ROOM</u>	
<u>Beer4Now Taproom</u>	<u>Taproom Mastache</u>	<u>Hop 3 The Beer Experience</u>
<u>Apóstol Tap Room</u>	<u>Casa Patito</u>	<u>Cuerno de Toro Taproom</u>

Merida Visitors Guide



	<u>COFFEE SHOP & CAFE</u>	
<u>Relato</u>	<u>Tinoc Café</u>	<u>Cucu Bistro MID</u>
<u>Don Massu</u>	<u>Avelino & María</u>	<u>Flores Café</u>

	<u>PANADERIA & POSTRES</u>	
<u>Bachour Café</u>	<u>Esperanza</u>	<u>Agua de Menta</u>
<u>PANADERÍA EL DESPACHITO</u>	<u>Mercado de Pan</u>	<u>Catalina Bakery</u>
	<u>ICE CREAM</u>	
<u>Dulcería y Sorbetería Colón</u>	<u>Gelatería Sanguinetti</u>	<u>Helados la Principal</u>
<u>Pola Gelato Shop</u>	<u>Casa Pipí Cucú</u>	<u>Gelappy / Magic Gelato Lab</u>

Merida Visitors Guide



<u>BBQ</u>		
<u>Hogsons Steak & Smokehouse</u>	<u>El Tejano BBQ</u>	<u>Tacos Jhonson House BBQ</u>

<u>BURGERS</u>		
<u>Burger's 66</u>	<u>Truck Chef</u>	<u>Burguers Kong</u>
<u>Abricotier Hamburguesas</u>	<u>The Burger Haus</u>	<u>Hamburguesas El Cheffe</u>

<u>INTERNATIONAL</u>		
<u>Johannes</u>	<u>VANA</u>	<u>Gran Lumière</u>

<u>FRENCH</u>		
<u>PETIT DÉLICE</u>	<u>Astro Bistrospirits</u>	<u>Jerome Steak Bistro</u>

Merida Visitors Guide



<u>LEBANESE & MIDDLE EASTERN</u>		
<u>Habibi</u>	<u>Alibaba MID</u>	<u>Tarbush</u>
<u>Fattoush</u>	<u>Siqueff</u>	<u>Taco Arabe</u>

<u>ASIAN & SUSHI</u>		
<u>Tigre Blanco</u>	<u>Wah Bao®</u>	<u>ASAI Japanese</u>
<u>Thai Thai</u>	<u>Kōfuku</u>	<u>Tama Shokudo</u>
<u>Yisushi</u>	<u>Sushi Central Sky</u>	<u>Komorebi Café</u>

<u>VEGETARIAN</u>		
<u>Meriland Coffee</u>	<u>El Apapacho</u>	<u>Distrito Vegano</u>
<u>La Kombuchería</u>	<u>JAJAJANA</u>	<u>Muchas Vidas</u>

Mérida Visitors Guide



<u>STEAKS</u>		
<u>Cien Fuegos</u>	<u>La Rueda</u>	<u>ROCA Steakhouse</u>
<u>Sonora Grill Mérida</u>	<u>Salamanca Prime CASTILLO</u>	<u>El Tio Ricardo</u>

<u>SEAFOOD</u>		
<u>El Sazón De Calín</u>	<u>Fishería Fonda de Mar</u>	<u>Muelle 8</u>
<u>Los Mariscos de Chichí</u>	<u>Los Morros Montes de Amé</u>	<u>Restaurante y Coctelería la Conchita</u>

<u>OTHER</u>		
<u>Egypka Restaurant</u>	<u>Fusión Perú Cocina Peruana</u>	<u>MORA Hindu</u>

Mérida Visitors Guide



CULTURAL EVENTS

SUNDAY

Mérida BiciRuta – Paseo de Montejo: 8:00 am to 12:30 pm

Participate in or watch cyclists on the Paseo de Montejo (one side is closed off).
Bike rentals available at BiciMaya – Paseo de Montejo x 45 y 47.

Artists on the Paseo – Paseo de Montejo: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm / 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm – Local art, jewelry, sculpture, artisanal products, & more.

Mérida en Domingo – Plaza Grande: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Hand-crafts, street food, live music, traditional dance exhibitions, & assorted local vendors.

MONDAY

Vaqueria Dancing – Palacio Municipal: 9:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Ballet Folklorico performs this colorful dance in beautiful traditional costumes originating from the colonial days in Yucatan.

TUESDAY

Remembranzas Musicales – Santiago Park: 8:30 pm

Dance under the stars to the cha-cha, the mambo, salsa, & other Latin dances.

Trova Music – Centro Cultural Olimpo – Plaza Grande: 8:00 pm

Trova is a style of Cuban music originating in the 19th century which is also the traditional music of Yucatan.

Merida Visitors Guide



CULTURAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY

Romantic Night – Museo de la Cancion Yucateca, Calle 57 #464: 8:30 pm
Enjoy a variety of Trova music from local & national musicians.

Video Mapping – Casa Montejo – Plaza Grande: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm
High-tech, light, & sound show depicting the history & culture of the region.

THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

Video Mapping Projections / Interactive Park – Park La Paz (across from Centenario Zoo): 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
New interactive light show and park features family-oriented fund and activities.

Thursday

Yucatecan Serenade – Santa Lucia Park: 9:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Since 1965, this open-air event features live music & local history with traditional costumes & dancing from Ballet Folklorico.

FRIDAY

Video Mapping – Catedral de San Ildefonso – Plaza Grande: 8:00 pm
High-tech, light, & sound show depicting the region's history & culture.

Video Mapping – Monumento a la Patria: 8:00 pm
High-tech, light, & sound show depicting the region's history & culture – 360 degree views.

Mérida Visitors Guide



CULTURAL EVENTS

SATURDAY

Noches Mexicana – Remate: Time: 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Different states & regions of Mexico are represented through dance, music, & other art forms with food & handcraft vendors.

Fiesta Saturdays – Calle 59 x 60 – Parque Hidalgo: Around Dusk Daily
Vendors set up to sell handmade crafts, hammocks, jewelry, clothing, shoes, & more.

Pok Ta Pok Ball Game – Catedral de San Ildefonso – Plaza Grande: 8:00 pm
A kind of football, Pok Ta Pok, was played with great ceremony for centuries & is steeped in mysticism.

FIRST SATURDAYS

Mérida BiciRuta Nocturna – Paseo de Montejo: 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Participate in or watch cyclists on the Paseo de Montejo (one side is closed off). Bike rentals available at BiciMaya – Paseo de Montejo x 45 y 47.

FOR MORE INFORMATION INCLUDING CITY MAPS, VISIT [YUCATAN TODAY](#)

Yucatán Today, is a bilingual tourist information medium about destinations, culture, and everyday life in Yucatán with 36 years of history. You can find printed monthly publications in various locations around the city including hotels, coffee shops, restaurants, and other tourism locations.

Also visit [Yucatán Magazine](#), the most influential English-language cultural and lifestyle publication in the state. While it serves a broad audience, it is particularly significant because it acts as the primary "bridge" between the local Yucatecan community and the rapidly growing international expat and digital nomad population.

Merida Visitors Guide



MUSEUMS

Museum of the City of Merida – Admission: Free

Mayan pottery, tools, jewelry, & gifts as well as post-colonization paintings, altarpieces, clothing, & weapons.

Museo Casa Montejo – Admission: Free

Built in the 16th century by Don Francisco de Montejo, conqueror of the Yucatan Peninsula, the home exhibits intricate artistry in the Spanish Plateresque style.

Palacio de Gobierno del Estado de Yucatán – Admission: Free

Artwork by local artist Fernando Castro Pacheco depicts the history of the Maya, Jacinto Canek, & battles between the Maya & Spanish conquistadors. (be sure to visit his other museum on Paseo de Montejo – info below)

Quinta Montes Molina – Admission: \$

Admire European furniture, Carrara marble floors, Baccarat & Murano chandeliers, chime clocks, Art Deco pieces, & fine sculptures.

Museo Regional de Antropología, Palacio Cantón – Admission: \$

One of the rejuvenated palace-style mansions on Paseo de Montejo will also give you a peek into the lavishness prevalent during the henequen heyday.

Palacio de la Música – Admission: \$

All forms of music from folk, phonograph, concert, big band, cantina, & current music presented in interesting, interactive settings.

Merida Visitors Guide



MUSEUMS

[El Gran Museo del Mundo Maya](#) – Admission: \$

Extensive collection includes ancient engravings, books, historical documents, art, & religious works from the colonial era.

[Montejo 495 – Casas Gimelas](#): Admission: \$\$

Learn about the local culture & lifestyle of the elite class in this lavish house with rich exhibitions of artifacts from Europe & Asia.

[El Pinar](#) – Admission: \$\$

Built between 1898 and 1904, El Pinar is a living testament evoking the majesty of a European castle with its design and imported materials.

[Museo de los Ferrocarriles](#) (Railroad Museum) – Admission: \$

Museum highlights the significant impact of railroads on Yucatán's economy and its connections to Mexico during the 19th and 20th centuries.

[Museum of Yucateca Gastronomy](#) – Admission: Free

Located inside MUGY restaurant, there are a variety of displays about local Yucatecan ingredients. Be sure to go to the back to the small palapa huts to view, smell, and learn about spices.

[Museo de la Canción Yucateca](#) – Admission: \$

Museum dedicated to Yucatecan music, from ancient Mayan instruments to modern-day poets. Only museum in Mexico dedicated to Trova music.

[MUSEO CONMEMORATIVO DE LA INMIGRACIÓN COREANA](#) – Admission: \$

Small museum with photos, documents & artifacts related to Korean immigrant history in Yucatan.

Mérida Visitors Guide



MUSEUMS

[Museo Paranormal de Jorge Moreno](#) – Admission: \$

Founded in 2013, this unique museum in Latin America exhibits over 650 objects associated with paranormal phenomena and witchcraft, brought from 21 countries around the world. It is suitable for the whole family.

[Museo de la Luz Mérida UNAM](#) – Admission: \$

The Mérida Museum of Light offers interactive experiences, workshops, and exhibitions designed to make science more accessible, engaging, and meaningful.

[Casa Manzanero](#) – Admission: \$

Armando Manzanero (1935–2020) was a legendary Mexican singer, composer, and pianist, widely celebrated as one of the most important romantic composers in Latin American history. Often referred to as the "Maestro of Romance," his career spanned seven decades and produced over 400 songs.

[Centro Cultural Fernando Castro Pacheco](#) – Admission: Free

This distinguished Mexican painter, muralist, sculptor, and engraver, was born in Mérida, Yucatán. Widely regarded as one of the most influential artists from the Yucatán Peninsula, he was a significant figure in the Mexican Realism movement. He is most celebrated for his massive mural works that depict the history, myths, and social struggles of the Maya and Mexican people.

[Museo del Meteorito](#): Admission: \$\$ (Progreso)

The museum, equipped with virtual and augmented reality technology, allows visitors to experience prehistoric episodes such as the meteorite that caused the extinction of the dinosaurs 66 million years ago which created thousands of cenotes found in the Yucatan Peninsula.

Mérida Visitors Guide



NIGHTLIFE & CANTINAS

Dzalbay Cantina: THE House of Jazz in Mérida with craft beers, mezcal, signature cocktails, & the best live music in the city.

Address: [Calle 64 x 53, Centro](#)

Bird: Taproom & concept bar by the owners of Dzalbay.

Address: [Calle 56 #463 x 55 y 53, Centro](#)

Murciégalo Mezcaleria: The first mezcalería in Mérida dedicated exclusively to the rescue & promotion of Mezcal in the region.

Address: [Calle 57 x 58 y 60, Centro](#)

Hennessy's Irish Pub: A local & expat favorite with traditional pub fare, draft beer, sports matches on big screen TVs, & live music.

Address: [Paseo de Montejo #482 x 43 y 41, Centro](#)

Mayan Pub: Outdoor garden & ice cold beer, this pub is a service industry favorite with a variety of music including rock, salsa, cumbia, ska, & reggae.

Address: [Calle 62 #473 x 55 y 57, Centro](#)

La Bierhaus: An authentic German-style pub, experience typical food & a wide selection of imported beers.

Address: [Calle 62 #487 x 57 y 59, Centro](#)

Mercado 60: A variety of different restaurants, live music daily, street art, pop up stores, live shows, performances, & more.

Address: [Calle 60 #461 x 53 y 51, Centro](#)

Merida Visitors Guide



NIGHTLIFE & CANTINAS

El Cardenal: A true cantina with cold beer, bar food, & music – a local & traveler favorite.

Address: Calle 63 #527 x 70 y 72, Centro

Tropico56: Fun place for food, drinks, live music, & dancing including dance lessons.

Address: Calle 56a #425a (Remate), Centro

La Bianca Tropical: Something fun every night including live music, salsa lessons, & much more.

Address: Calle 55 #497B x 58 y 60, Centro

Bar Latino: The most elegant and well-stocked bar in the Mejorada neighborhood, with a tradition dating back to 1907.

Address: Calle 59 #461 x 52 y 54, Centro

El Lucero: Contemporary Yucatecan Cantina – live music on a regular basis. This place fills up quickly so go early if this place is on your list (& it should be)!

Location: Calle 47 x 56, Centro

El Lagarto de Oro: Cool, unique setting with an atmosphere somewhere between dive bar and a cozy neighborhood eatery.

Location: Calle 50 x 55, Centro

Mérida Visitors Guide



BEACHES

Not only is Mérida near the beach but beaches in the Yucatan Peninsula are some of the most unspoiled and beautiful beaches in Mexico. Actually, there are quite a few beaches to visit within a short drive from Mérida. Some of these beaches are also known by locals and tourists alike. Others are best-kept secrets by the locals to ensure the pristine nature of the sand, the water, and the experience.

Progreso: The most popular beach destination among locals and tourists alike is Progreso. Only 27 miles from Mérida, Progreso is the number one choice for a quick and easy day trip. Progreso is accessible by bus, Uber, taxi or car. If you want to take the bus, look for the AutoProgreso bus stop. We recommend checking the [cruise ship schedule](#) to avoid lots and lots of crowds:

More information in [THIS ARTICLE](#) from Yucatan Today

Chelem: A little diamond in the rough, Chelem will give you local flavor while helping you feel at ease with the Mexican culture. Many expats frequent Chelem for the sand, the sun, the quaint local restaurants, and easy access. Chelem truly provides the feel of a beach town with small markets for fruits, vegetables, bread, staples, and, of course, tortillas.

Chuburna: A popular location for locals who escape the heat of Mérida in the summer. Chuburna has many choices of restaurants with fresh fish as the main course. Like Chelem, you will also find small markets for fruits, vegetables, bread, etc.

Between Chicxulub and Dzilam de Bravo, you'll find a variety of little beach areas. These areas have a great selection of beach clubs including our favorite in San Bruno - [Kokomo Beach Club](#).

Merida Visitors Guide



BEACHES

Chicxulub: Famous for being the epicenter of the crater is due to a meteorite resulting in many cenotes in the area. In 1663, Chicxulub Puerto defended the north coast from the incursion of pirates.

Celestun: Celestun is located in a biosphere reserve and is most familiar for the flamingos that inhabit its clear waters and mangroves. The best times to see these intriguing birds are between November to March. From April to October, the flamingos migrate to **Rio Lagartos** on the other side of the coast.

Sisal: One of the most historically significant towns in Yucatán, having served as the state's main window to the world for centuries. It was once the epicenter of the global fiber trade known as sisal. It is also one of the seven Pueblo Magicos (Magic Towns) in Yucatan.



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GO EXPERIENCE MEXICO

This project by William Eakins contains an extensive list of beaches, ruins, cenotes, and Pueblos Magicos across Mexico that is updated frequently.

Merida Visitors Guide



BEACH CLUBS

These are not ALL the beach clubs - just some of the more popular ones on the northern coast.

San Crisanto

- Komunah Beach Club

Telchac Puerto

- PlayaViva - Living Beach Club
- Amaite Beach Club

San Bruno

- Hotel Reef Yucatan
- Kokomo Beach Club

San Benito

- Silcer Club De Playa San Benito

Progreso

- Marymar Beach Club
- El Haguay Marea Bar

Chelem

- Playa Bonita
- Coccoloba Beach Club
- The Deco Beach Club

Mérida Visitors Guide



KIDS' ACTIVITIES - INDOOR

Mérida English Library Story Time (event calendar): With a wide selection of books for children, the library hosts many adult events too. Check out their website for a list of what is going on.

Address: Calle 53 #524 x 66 y 68, Centro

Website: meridaenglishlibrary.com

El Gran Museo del Mundo Maya (Mayan World Museum): This is a wonderful museum for kids and adults alike. The museum's design is based on Maya cosmogony and is structured on three levels: the sky, the earth, and the underworld. From textiles to religious objects to pre-Hispanic stelae to bas-reliefs, the museum is one of our favorites in the city. Entrance fees vary – plan on 2 to 3 hours)

Address: Calle 60 #299E, Unidad Revolucion 97110

La Isla Mall: The newest mall in Mérida, La Isla, has it all. From restaurants to shopping to kid's activities to a large man-made lake, you'll be entertained at the largest mall in Southeast Mexico. La Isla has a small train to take kids around the mall, an arcade, and a play area inside and outside. Near the lake, find an area with fair-type rides, bounce houses, and other activities.

Address: Calle 24 #608, Santa Gertrudis Copo 97305

Ice skating at Galerías Mall: There is nothing better to cool off during hot days than ice skating. This is our favorite mall to visit during Christmastime because they go all out on decorating for the holiday.

Address: Calle 3 #300 x 24 y 60, Zona Industrial 97110

Flip Out Mérida Plaza Akropolis: Because this place is so popular, it can be very crowded on Saturdays. Recommended days to go are Monday through Friday to enjoy trampolines and simple obstacle courses.

Address: Calle 61 #400, Fracc. Las Americas 97302

Mérida Visitors Guide



KIDS' ACTIVITIES - INDOOR

Recorcholis Altabrisa: Recorcholis is an arcade similar to Dave & Buster's in the U.S. Located inside Altabrisa Mall.

Address: Calle 7 #222, Col. Altabrisa 97133

GoKartMania Mérida Altabrisa: Indoor gokart track inside Altabrisa mall shopping area. There's also a virtual reality close to the track.

Address: Calle 7 #452, Col. Altabrisa 97133

KID'S ACTIVITIES - OUTDOOR

Paseo de Montejo: With ice cream shops, restaurants, shopping, museums, and more, this is an excellent place to people-watch. Horse-drawn or electric carriage rides are available for approximately \$500+ pesos, a great way to see part of the city. Vendors set up evenings and weekends to sell a variety of handmade items, art, and jewelry.

Parque Zoológico del Centenario: A popular attraction, the zoo was built in 1910 to commemorate the centennial of Mexico's independence. Ride the cute little train around the zoo for only \$1 peso per person. Entrance is free.

Location: Av. Itzaes S/N x 59, Centro

Garcia Rejon Market: Our favorite market is where you'll find local products from guayaberas to huipils to jipijapa hats to shoes. There's something for everyone in this quaint market just one block from Plaza Grande. If you're looking for some touristy-type gifts, especially for kids, this is a great spot!

Location: Calle 60 #501A y 65, Centro 97000

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KIDS' ACTIVITIES - OUTDOOR

Parque de Las Americas: This park has four parts: Kukulcan Fountain, Library, Kid's Area, & Amphitheater. The kid's area is great because it is completely fenced off. It has a play area, slides, & seasonal activities. This is a great place to visit during the day or the evenings.

Location: [Av. Colón x Calle 20 y 23, Garcia Gineres 97070](#)

Parque Aleman: This neighborhood is very family-centric, characterized by a large area with a plethora of activities for kids of all ages.

Location: [Calle 21 #281F, Miguel Aleman 97148](#)

Parque Kalia: This park has trees, grassy green spaces, & playground equipment across the street from Starbucks, Super Chedraui Selecto, & Sonora Grill.

Location: [Calle 22 #280B, Monterreal 97133](#)

Parque Tabentha: This is an incredible park with areas for dogs, exercise, & children. At night, it's well-lit for playing soccer or basketball.

Location: [Av. Camara de Comercio, Residencial Montecristo 97130](#)

Area de Juegos: Extending for approximately 20 blocks, this park is the perfect place to ride bikes, roller skate, walk, or enjoy a variety of playground equipment. This is also called "Paseo Verde."

Location: [Calle 60 x 45A, Francisco de Montejo II 97203](#)

Parque de Deportes Extremos (our favorite): Entrance is free. You'll need to bring a government issued ID (passport, residency card, driver's license, etc) and sign a liability/responsibility waiver.

Location: [Calle 132 #349, Bosques del Poniente 97246](#)

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KIDS' ACTIVITIES – OUTSIDE THE CITY

Parque Zoológico Animaya: In association with El Centenario Zoo, Animaya is a safari park. Located in the suburban city of Cauce, it is a 15-minute drive from Centenario.

Location: Calle 60 #866, Cauce 97314

Hacienda Sotuta de Peon & Cenote Tour: Learn how a traditional hacienda operated back in the 1800's. The Hacienda Sotuta De Peon tour includes a cart ride pulled by mules & a visit to the cenotes on the property.

Location: Carretera Federal 261, Calle 21 #500-Kilómetro 220, Yaxcopoil 97396

Mucuyche Hacienda & Cenotes: The guided tour includes visiting the remains of the 1700s hacienda and plantation. Experience beautiful vegetation & three different kinds of cenotes—a great place to eat lunch. Don't forget to stop by the gift shop, with an interesting selection of artisanal products.

Location: Mucuyche 97825

Progreso Malecon: Take a walk down the Malecon & find attractions great for everyone, typical of what you'd expect to find on other Malecons. Eat at Eladio's, famous for free botanas, live music, great atmosphere (aka people watching), & an extensive menu.

Museo del Meteorito: Journey through 14 billion years of the planet's history to learn about the Chicxulub Meteorite. This impact caused the extinction of the dinosaurs, among other catastrophic planetary events, 66 million years ago. The museum also has a large section dedicated to dinosaurs.

Location: Calle 19 #142, Boulevard Turistico Malecon, Progreso 97320

Merida Visitors Guide



KID'S ACTIVITIES – OUTSIDE THE CITY

Reserva Ecológica El Corchito: Known for the plethora of critters such as raccoons, coatis, & freshwater turtles, the entrance fee includes cenotes & a boat ride. Be sure to bring plenty of eco-friendly mosquito spray and sunscreen.

Location: Libramiento S/N, Progreso

Sendero Jurasico: This one-kilometer path lined with large dinosaur figures is in Chicxulub Puerto – see below.

Location: 79 QW + 8M, Chicxulub Puerto 97326

Choco-Story Museum: This museum is located next to Uxmal & contains historical information about how the Maya discovered cocoa. An eco-park also takes you into the jungle, where you'll see open-air huts connected by trails. Wander outside the grounds of the Uxmal site, as there are some fantastic displays.

Location: Uxmal 97899

Xcambo: Located on the coast near the salt flats, it's no surprise that Xcambo exported salt. Translating as "Celestial Crocodile" or "Place Where Barter is Carried Out," these quiet ruins still offer the chance to climb & explore. There's a little hut to pay your entry fee, purchase cold water, or buy simple souvenirs.

El Mirador de Muna: On the way to Uxmal via the toll road, stop at this eco-adventure park with different activities for children & adults. The Grotto of the Alux is quite charming. The Mirador overlooks Ruta Puuc & gives a sense of what the Maya saw as they traveled the area.

Location: Hopelchen-Uman 760, Abala 97840

Merida Visitors Guide



HACIENDAS & CENOTES

Hacienda Yaxcopoil – Admission: \$\$

Experience the splendor and grandeur of one of the most important and authentic haciendas during its time. This hacienda is also the location for many movie sets.

Hacienda Sotuta de Peon & Cenotes: – Admission: \$\$\$

One of the last few working haciendas in the area. Restaurant on-site, guest rooms, cenote, spa, & gift shop. A highly recommended tour.

Stop by their **office close to Parque Santa Lucia** for more information, pricing, and to make reservations.

Cenotes Hacienda Mucuyche – Admission: \$\$\$

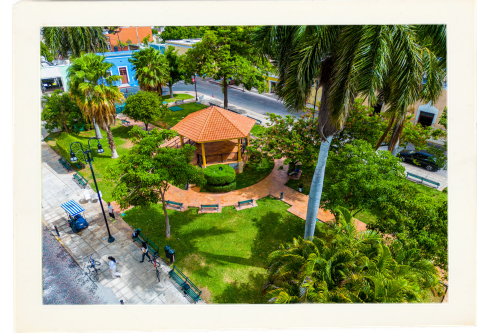
Dating to the XVIIth Century, the hacienda has been preserved almost in its original state, with very few restorations. Wonderful day trip to experience cenotes, an authentic hacienda, lunch, & more.

Reservations in advance are recommended – be sure to ask what time tours in English are offered: **<https://www.cenoteshaciendamucuyche.com/en>**

A cenote (pronounced seh-NO-tay) is a natural, fresh water sinkhole. Most famous and abundant, the Yucatán Peninsula is home to an estimated 6,000 to 10,000 of them. 66 million years ago, the Chicxulub asteroid (the one that ended the dinosaurs) struck the northern coast of the peninsula and shattered the deep limestone layers. This created a circular path of least resistance for groundwater, resulting in a perfect semicircle of cenotes that outlines the edge of the ancient impact crater.

For a complete list of popular cenotes, Google “Cenotes Homun” and “Cenotes Santa Barbara.”

Merida Visitors Guide



7 PUEBLOS MAGICOS / MAGIC TOWNS

- [Izamal](#) – The "Yellow City" and its massive 16th-century Franciscan convent. Be sure to go through [Kimbila](#) on your way to Izamal. Famously known as the "Embroidery Capital" of Yucatán. It has a massive reputation for producing the highest quality traditional Yucatecan textiles.
- [Valladolid](#) – Colonial charm, world-class cenotes, and its proximity to Chichén Itzá. Visit Casa de los Venados museum. On your way to Valladolid, take a quick detour to [Uyama](#) to see the magnificent church there. The church features a vibrant, kaleidoscope-like facade.
- [Sisal](#) – The only coastal Pueblo Mágico, famous for its history and emerald waters.
- [Maní](#) – Exceptional Yucatecan gastronomy (Poc Chuc) and the "Melipona" stingless bee honey.
- [Espita](#) – The "Athena (Greece) of Yucatan" vibe, Espita has rich traditions, and beautiful architecture.
- [Motul](#) – The birthplace of Huevos Motuleños and Felipe Carrillo Puerto (ex-governor of Yucatan) and home to the Sambulá cenote.
- [Tekax](#) – Adventure tourism, featuring underground caves (grutas) and hiking.
- [MORE ABOUT](#) Pueblos Magicos from Yucatan Today – Wondering where to eat in the Pueblos Magicos? Read [THIS ARTICLE](#) for tips!

Merida Visitors Guide



DAY TRIPS

Izamal - One of the Pueblos Magicos (Magic Towns) noted for its yellow buildings and 16th century convent. Explore Kinich Kakmó, Taller Maya, and Kinich restaurant.

Valladolid - Another Pueblo Magico noted for its colonial buildings, 16th-century convent & Cenote Zací. Visit Casa de los Venados with Mexican folk art & furnishings.

Uxmal - Uxmal, the ancient Maya city of the classical period, is considered one of the most important archaeological sites of Maya culture.

Chichén Itzá - Chichén Itzá is a complex of Mayan ruins. A massive step pyramid, known as El Castillo or Temple of Kukulcan, dominates the ancient city, which thrived from around 600 A.D. to the 1200s. We HIGHLY recommend going to the light show. Yucatan Today has additional [**information and booking links.**](#)

Mani - In Mayan, Mani means "The place where everything happened." It was a pivotal site of the Spanish Conquest where the burning of all Mayan books, pottery, and items by Friar Diego de Landa occurred. It is renowned for its skilled artisans who specialize in X'manikté, one of the oldest and most traditional embroidery techniques in Yucatán.

The Ex-Convento de San Miguel Arcángel, built in 1549, features one of the largest and most impressive open chapels in Latin America. It is also a Pueblo Mágico - Magic City as well as a center for the preservation of the Melipona bee, a stingless bee sacred to the ancient Maya.

Mérida Visitors Guide



DAY TRIPS

Dzibilchaltun – Dzibilchaltun is the nearest Mayan ruin to Mérida and can easily be visited within a half day. Dzibilchaltun is most famous for the sunrise during the equinox (March 21 or September 22).

Santa Elena – Santa Elena, the headquarters of Uxmal, is one of the largest and most important Maya sites in the Yucatan Peninsula and has one of the highest points on the peninsula.

Muna – One of our favorite stops in Muna is the gift shop at **Chun Yaax-Che** restaurant. Seeing replicas of the Maya Codices is quite impactful along with artisanal products.

Uman – Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís is the town's most iconic landmark. Built in the 18th century, the church massive, fortress-like stone walls and tall belfries. The interior is known for its beautiful neo-Gothic elements.

Motul – Another Magic Town famous as the origin of Huevos Motuleños. We recommend eating at the main market on the second floor at Doña Evelia. It is also the hometown of Felipe Carrillo Puerto (1874–1924), a revolutionary governor who fought for the rights of the Maya people, promoted women's suffrage, and established the University of Yucatán. You can also visit **Cenote Sambula**.



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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

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.