

# Mérida

Yucatán · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic




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## Overview

Mérida is the capital of Yucatán and the cultural centre of the peninsula. It has white-stone colonial buildings, leafy plazas and wide boulevards with mansions from the henequen boom. Maya culture is part of daily life, in food, language and festivals.

It is a good base for three to four nights. From here you can reach the Maya sites of Uxmal and Chichén Itzá, the pink lagoons and flamingos on the coast, and many cenotes. It is also one of Mexico's calmer and safer big cities.

## When to visit

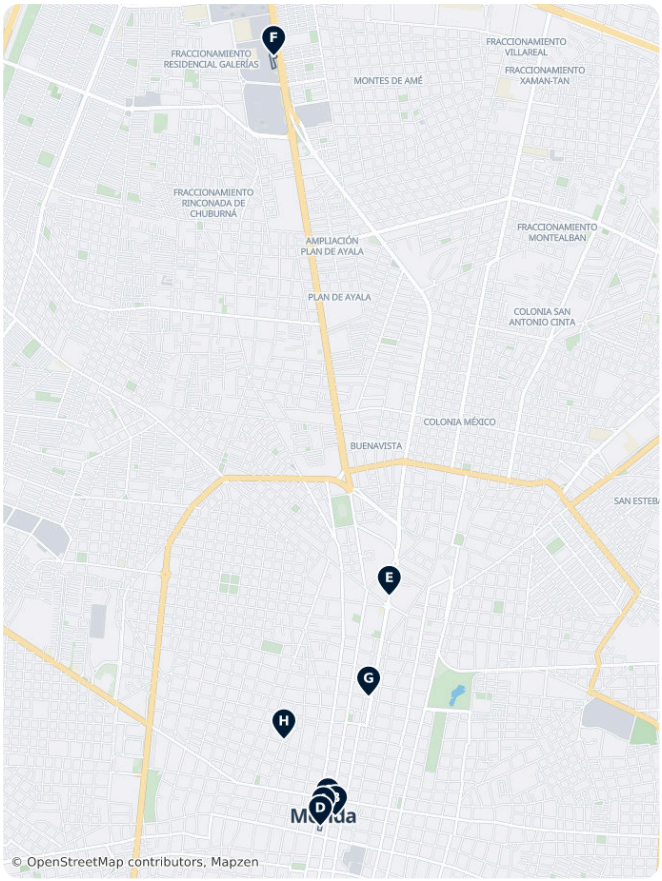
November to February is the most comfortable time. Days are warm and dry. March to October is very hot, and the rainy season runs from June to October.

Many visitors plan around the Day of the Dead in early November, when the city holds events and altars. Every Sunday, streets in the centre close to cars for markets, music and bike rides.

| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Great<br>Great for wildlife watching | 29° / 34° | 19° / 14° | Humid air · Calm winds |
| February | Great<br>Great for wildlife watching | 32° / 36° | 20° / 15° | Humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high) |
| March | Fair<br>Fair for wildlife watching | 34° / 38° | 21° / 16° | Humid air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 13 days above 35° |
| April | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 36° / 40° | 23° / 19° | Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 21 days above 35° |
| May | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 36° / 40°<br>Feels like 39° | 24° / 21° | Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 22 days above 35° |
| June | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 33° / 38°<br>Feels like 38° | 24° / 23° | 19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 9 days above 35° |
| July | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 32° / 36°<br>Feels like 37° | 24° / 23° | 22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme) · Up to 5 days above 35° |
| August | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 32° / 36°<br>Feels like 37° | 24° / 23° | 23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme) |
| September | Poor<br>Poor for wildlife watching | 31° / 35°<br>Feels like 37° | 24° / 23° | 23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) |
| October | Fair<br>Fair for wildlife watching | 30° / 34°<br>Feels like 34° | 23° / 19° | 17 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) |
| November | Great<br>Great for wildlife watching | 30° / 34° | 21° / 17° | Muggy, humid air · Calm winds |
| December | Great<br>Great for wildlife watching | 30° / 33° | 20° / 15° | Muggy, humid air · Calm winds |

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

## Top sights




- A Plaza de la Independencia is the main square, with laurel trees, benches and weekend events.
- B Catedral de San Ildefonso is a 16th-century cathedral built with stones from a Maya temple. It is one of the oldest on the American mainland.
- C Palacio de Gobernio faces the square and has large murals on Maya and Mexican history. Entry is free.
- D Casa de Montejo is a mansion from 1549 with a carved stone facade. It is now a museum.
- E El Paseo Montejo is a wide boulevard with mansions, monuments and cafés. It is good for an evening walk.
- F Gran Museo del Mundo Maya is a modern museum of Maya culture, north of the centre.
- G Museo Regional de Arquaeología de Yucatán shows Maya objects in a former mansion on Paseo de Montejo.
- H Barrio de Santiago is a quiet old district with a small church and a park, in the west of the centre.

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## What to experience

- Join the Sunday street closures for markets, live music, dance and bike rides in the centre.
- Watch a free evening show on the main square, such as folk dance or music.
- Float in a cenote in the countryside to cool off.
- Take a cooking class that focuses on Yucatán dishes.
- Visit a Maya village to see traditional crafts.

## Day trips

- Zona Arqueológica de Dzibilchaltún: about 25 minutes by car or bus. A Maya city with a small museum and a swimming cenote.
- Progreso: about 40 minutes by bus. A beach town with a long pier.
- Izamal: about 1 hour by car. A town painted yellow, with a large convent and a Maya pyramid.
- Uxmal: about 1 hour 15 minutes by car. A Maya city with a pyramid and a ball court.
- A Celestún: about 1.5 hours by car. A coastal lagoon with flamingos, best from November to March.
- Chichén Itzá: about 1.5 to 2 hours by car. The most visited Maya site in Mexico. Arrive at opening.
- B Valladolid: about 2 hours by car. A colonial town with cenotes nearby.




## Where to explore

- Celestún for flamingos and a quiet beach town.
- Río Lagartos for pink lagoons and birdwatching on the north coast.
- Valladolid for a colonial town near Chichén Itzá.

## Getting there

- **By air**: Mérida airport (MID) is about 15 minutes from the centre by taxi. It has flights from Mexico City, other Mexican cities and some international routes.
- **By train**: The Tren Maya connects Mérida with Cancún and other cities in the region.
- **By bus**: ADO and other coaches link Mérida with Cancún (about 4 to 5 hours), Valladolid, Campeche and Playa del Carmen. The main long-distance station is in the centre.

## Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is flat and walkable, but the sun is strong. Walk early or late in the day.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are cheap and common. Agree the fare first.
- **Bus**: City buses run along main roads. Tourist buses connect the centre to Paseo de Montejo and the museums.
- **Calesas**: Horse-drawn carriages offer short tours of the centre.

## Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

### Moderate

The centre is flat and walkable. Heat and distances make taxis useful elsewhere.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

### Moderate

Streets are flat. Heat and traffic make cycling hard in the middle of the day. Sunday closures are best.

# Food & drink

Yucatán cooking is different from the rest of Mexico. Try cochinita pibil (slow-cooked pork), sopa de lima (lime soup), panuchos and salbutes (fried tortillas with toppings) and poc chuc (grilled pork).

The streets around the main square and the covered market have many small places. Lunch counters outside the centre are cheaper. Several restaurants on Paseo de Montejo and in restored mansions serve modern Yucatán food.

## What to eat & drink

### LUNCH

**Cochinita Pibil**
Slow-roasted, citrus- and achiote-marinated pork, a Yucatán specialty traditionally cooked in an underground pit.

### DINNER

**Mole**
A complex sauce, often built from chiles, spices, and sometimes chocolate; mole poblano and Oaxaca's several moles are the best known versions.

**Chiles en Nogada**
A Puebla dish of stuffed poblano chiles topped with a walnut cream sauce and pomegranate seeds, in the colors of the Mexican flag.

**Pozole**
A hominy stew with pork or chicken, topped with shredded cabbage, radish, and chile, traditionally eaten on special occasions.

### SNACKS & STREET FOOD

**Tacos**
Corn or flour tortillas filled with meat, fish, or vegetables, with endless regional and stall-to-stall variation.

**Tamales**
Corn dough filled with meat, cheese, or vegetables, wrapped in a corn husk or banana leaf and steamed.

**Elote/Esquites · Elote / Esquites**
Grilled or boiled corn on the cob (elote) or served off the cob in a cup (esquites), topped with mayonnaise, cheese, chile, and lime.

### DRINKS

**Mezcal**
A smoky agave spirit from Oaxaca and several other states, distinct from tequila, traditionally sipped neat.

**Tequila**
An agave spirit from the region around the town of Tequila in Jalisco, Mexico's best-known export spirit.

**Horchata**
A sweet, cinnamon-spiced rice-based drink, popular as a non-alcoholic accompaniment to spicy food.

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## Safety & health

Mérida is one of the safer large cities in Mexico. Take normal care at night and with bags in crowds.

- Heat is the biggest risk. Drink water and use sunscreen.
- Use licensed taxis and agree the fare first.
- Drink bottled or purified water.
- Mosquitoes are active in the rainy season.

## History

The Spanish founded Mérida in 1542 on the site of a Maya city called T'ho. They used stones from the Maya temples to build the cathedral and other buildings.

Fortunes grew in the 19th century from henequen, a fibre used for rope. The boom paid for the mansions on Paseo de Montejo. Casa de Montejo was built for the Montejo family, who led the conquest of Yucatán.

## Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
**MXN $**

EMERGENCY
**911**

ELECTRICITY



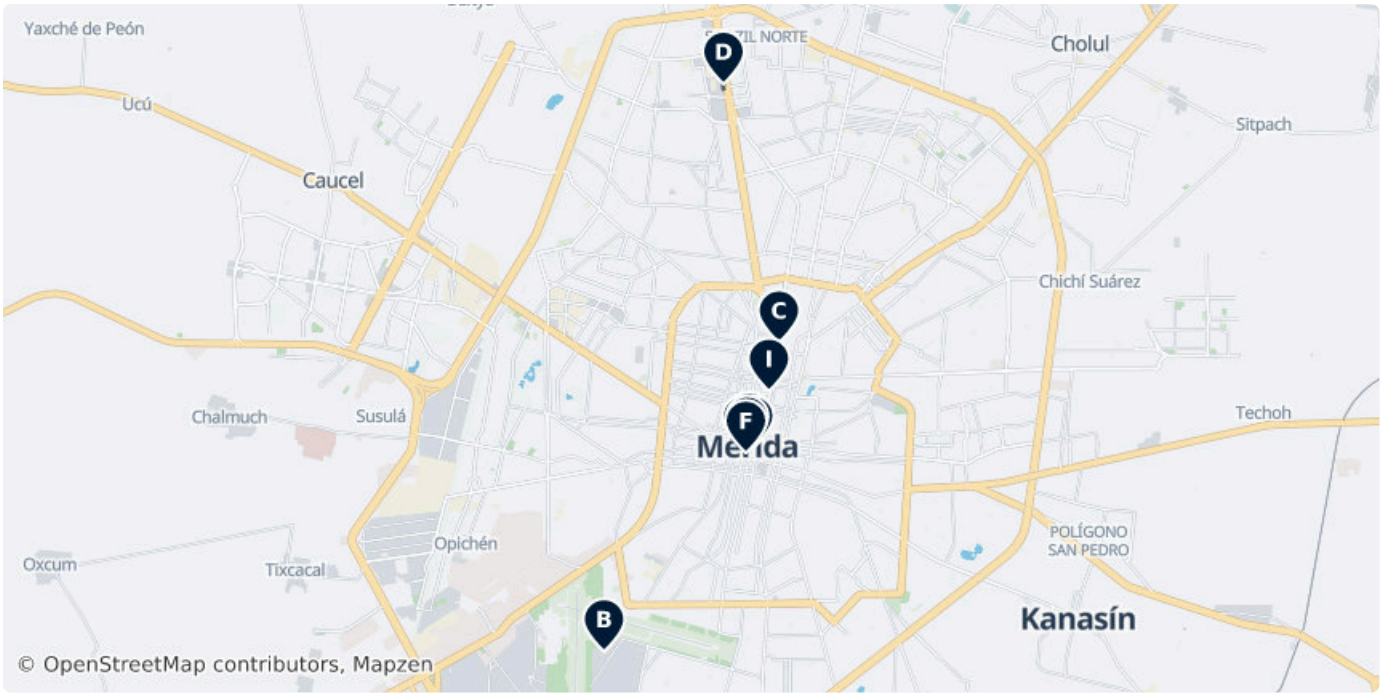
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LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
**Not safe to drink**

# Mérida Must-Sees

Mérida's historic center is anchored by the Plaza de la Independencia, surrounded by landmarks like the 16th-century Mérida Cathedral and the Casa de Montejo, both constructed using stones from former Mayan structures. The Palacio de Gobierno displays murals detailing Yucatecan history, while the Paseo de Montejo showcases the city's 19th-century wealth through its ornate mansions and the Regional Archaeology Museum. For a deeper look at regional heritage, the Gran Museo del Mundo Maya houses extensive pre-Columbian artifacts within a hyper-modern architectural landmark.






## A Mérida Cathedral

The oldest Mexican cathedral was built on ruins of a Mayan temple. Very impressive structure with richly decorated exterior.

Calle de la Revolucion 60, Centro, 97000 Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico (20.96713, -89.62255)

merida.gob.mx/historia/lugares_cated... , +52 999 255 8622



## B Manuel Crescencio Rejón International Airport

Mérida International Airport; officially Aeropuerto Internacional Manuel Crescencio Rejón is an international airport located in the...

Calle 100-A, Mérida 97297, Mexico (20.92925, -89.65231)

asur.com.mx/es/aeropuertos/merida/pasajeros-merida.h...



## C Montejo Avenue

Paseo de Montejo is a notable avenue of Mérida, México. It is named after Francisco de Montejo, the Spanish conquistador who founded the...

445 Paseo Montejo, Mérida 97000, Mexico (20.98676, -89.61741)



## D Museum of the Mayan World

Housed in a brand-new hyper-modern building, this museum presents the history of the Maya civilization in a very intriguing way. Must-see!

Calle 60 Norte Ex Cordemex, 97000 Mérida, Mexico (21.03494, -89.62845)

Mo–Su 08:00–17:00

granmuseodelmundomaya.com.mx, +52 999 341 0435



## E Square of Independence

Nicknamed "el Zocalo", this charming square is the true heart of the city. Come to relax in the shade of the tall pine trees.

Calles 60, 61, 62 y 63, 9700 Mérida, Mexico (20.96702, -89.62370)

merida.gob.mx/historia/lugares_plazagrande.html



## F House of Montejo

Quite an extraordinary example of the Spanish plateresque style. Join the guided tour to see how life was like in the 19th century.

Calle 63, 97000 Mérida (20.96623, -89.62399)



## G City Hall

The municipal palace is a representation of the current order: it was built on the site of Mayan pyramid.

Calle 63 501, Centro, 97000 Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico
(20.96711, -89.62453)



## H Governor's Palace

Enter the courtyard to marvel at the large murals depicting the history of Yucatan, including the pre-Colonial one.

61 503, Centro, 97000 Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico
(20.96781, -89.62327)



## I Regional Archaeology Museum

Housed in an ornate palace, this museum is a must see for the history buffs. Intriguing collection of archaeological finds on display.

Paseo de Montejo y Calle 43, 97000 Mérida, Mexico
(20.97778, -89.61938)

# Historic Churches and Religious Sites

Mérida's religious landscape is anchored by the 16th-century San Ildefonso Cathedral, one of the oldest in the Americas, constructed using stones from the Mayan temple of T'ho. Beyond the central plaza, the city features diverse architecture ranging from the 18th-century neoclassical Iglesia de San Cristóbal to modern neighborhood parishes. These sites reflect the city's colonial history, the blending of indigenous and Spanish influences, and the growth of various denominations including Catholic, Presbyterian, and Baptist communities throughout the Yucatán capital.






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The oldest Mexican cathedral was built on ruins of a Mayan temple. Very impressive structure with richly decorated exterior.

Calle de la Revolucion 60, Centro, 97000 Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico (20.96713, -89.62255)

merida.gob.mx/historia/lugares_cated... , +52 999 255 8622

## B Iglesia de los Testigos de Jehová

Modern place of worship for the local Jehovah's Witness community.

99E Calle 19, Caucel 97314, Mexico (21.01715, -89.70590)

## C Iglesia de San Cristobal

An 18th-century neoclassical church and the last major temple built during Mérida's colonial era. It is a significant site for the annual pilgrimage dedicated to the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Calle 69, 97180 Mérida, YUC, Mexico (20.96118, -89.61743)

## D Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Belén

Local Catholic parish serving the northwestern neighborhoods of the city.

87D Calle 18, Caucel 97314, Mexico (21.01610, -89.70537)

## E Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

Large-scale assembly facility used for regional gatherings and religious conventions.

(21.00695, -89.55792)

## F La Ascensión del Señor

Modern Catholic place of worship located in the western residential districts.

514 Calle 11, Mérida 97217, Mexico (20.99787, -89.65550)

## G Capilla San Juan Bautista

Small Catholic chapel located in the southern part of the city.

1117 Calle 79-A2, Mérida 97249, Mexico (20.94987, -89.67904)

## H Iglesia catolica "Vergel IV"

Neighborhood Catholic church serving the Vergel residential area.

317 Calle 25-A, Mérida 97173, Mexico (20.94968, -89.57218)

## I Capilla Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre

Catholic chapel dedicated to the patroness of Cuba, serving the local community.

301 Calle 71-A, Mérida 97195, Mexico (20.94266, -89.58257)

## J Iglesia CatóLica La Purísima Concepción

Local Catholic church dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

Calle 35, Chichí Suárez 97306, Mexico (20.99861, -89.55568)

## K Templo "La Hermosa"

Local Christian place of worship.

814 Calle 104, Mérida 97246, Mexico (20.95975, -89.65220)

## L Templo Bautista "Emmanuel"

Baptist place of worship offering community services and religious study.

820 Calle 67-D, Mérida 97249, Mexico (20.95858, -89.65138)

## M Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana "Moriah"

Presbyterian church representing the long-standing Protestant presence in the Yucatán region.

590 Calle 104, Mérida 97249, Mexico (20.96033, -89.65213)

## N Parroquia El Buen Pastor

Catholic parish church located in the northeastern sector of the city.

244 Calle 31, Mérida 97138, Mexico (21.00101, -89.56753)

### O Santa Teresa de Calcuta

Modern Catholic church dedicated to Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

(20.99700, -89.69770)

### P Iglesia Beato Juan Pablo II

Catholic church named in honor of Pope John Paul II, located in the northern outskirts.

828 Calle 57-D, Mérida 97302, Mexico (21.06955, -89.65687)

### Q iglesia prebiteriana reformada de mexico "emanuel"

Reformed Presbyterian church part of the city's diverse Protestant community.

(21.02177, -89.70726)

### R Iglesia

Local Roman Catholic place of worship.

(Unnamed Road), Tixcuytún, Mexico (21.06616, -89.57006)

# Mayan Archaeological Wonders

Mérida and its surroundings are built upon a foundation of ancient Mayan civilization, featuring sites that range from the Middle Preclassic period to the Postclassic era. This collection includes major astronomical landmarks like the Temple of the 7 Dolls at Dzibilchaltún, known for its solar alignments, and urban archaeological parks like Xoclan. Many of these ruins are uniquely situated within the grounds of colonial-era henequen haciendas, such as San Pedro Cholul and Chichí Suárez, showcasing the layered historical landscape of the Yucatán Peninsula.






## A Komchén

A significant Preclassic Mayan site dating back to 1500 BC, featuring large stone platforms and evidence of an early salt trade center.

Mexico (21.11430, -89.64480)

## B Xoclan

An archaeological park within Mérida's city limits containing several pre-Hispanic mounds and structures integrated into a public green space.

319 Calle 67-F, Mérida 97246, Mexico (20.97792, -89.66567)

### C Temple of the 7 Dolls

The central structure of Dzibilchaltún, named for seven clay figures found inside. It is famous for a solar phenomenon during the spring and autumn equinoxes.

Mexico (21.09107, -89.59039)

### D Estuctura maya en la exhacienda San Pedro Cholul

Remnants of a Mayan structure located within the historical grounds of the San Pedro Cholul henequen estate.

(21.02954, -89.55669)

### E Sitio arqueológico Xamán Susulá

Archaeological remains of a Mayan settlement located in the western sector of Mérida.

(20.98433, -89.69769)

### F Xamán-Susulá

Small pre-Hispanic ruins situated in the Xamán-Susulá area.

(20.98436, -89.69704)

### G Xamán-Susulá

Archaeological site featuring the remains of ancient Mayan dwellings.

(20.98444, -89.69804)

### H Hoboyná

The site of a former Mayan settlement characterized by several unexcavated mounds.

(21.08955, -89.75031)

### I Dzonot Xanilá

Mayan ruins located near a natural sinkhole or cenote in the northern Mérida region.

(21.01302, -89.72251)

### J Dzonot Xanilá

Ancient Mayan architectural remains situated near the Dzonot Xanilá area.

(21.01205, -89.72311)

### K Dzonot Xanilá

Small archaeological site featuring pre-Hispanic stone structures.

(21.01315, -89.71924)

### L Dzonot Xanilá

Remnants of ancient Mayan buildings located near local water sources.

(21.01324, -89.71953)

### M Xcatmil

Archaeological site containing the ruins of a small pre-Hispanic settlement.

(20.89395, -89.61761)

### N Xcatmil

Mayan ruins featuring stone platforms and residential remains.

(20.89335, -89.61724)

## O Xcatmil

Ancient structures located in the Xcatmil region south of Mérida.

(20.89367, -89.61800)

## P Estuctura maya en la exhacienda Chichí Suárez

A pre-Hispanic structure preserved on the grounds of one of the region's oldest haciendas, dating back to the 16th century.

(20.98984, -89.53126)

## Q Kintunich

Small archaeological site featuring remnants of Mayan architecture.

(20.99604, -89.75885)

## R Exhacienda San Pedro Cholul

Historical ruins of Mayan origin located on the San Pedro Cholul estate.

(21.03015, -89.55029)

## S Exhacienda San Pedro Cholul

Ancient stone structures integrated into the landscape of a former henequen plantation.

(21.03056, -89.55019)

## T Estuctura maya en la exhacienda San Pedro Cholul

Mayan archaeological remains found within the San Pedro Cholul hacienda grounds.

(21.02870, -89.55823)

## U Komchén

An important early Mayan settlement featuring massive stone platforms that represent some of the earliest monumental architecture in the region.

Mexico (21.11412, -89.64562)

## V Sabakalal

An archaeological site located north of Mérida containing several pre-Hispanic structures.

(21.08677, -89.77513)

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