



MÉRIDA, SOUTHERN CULTURAL AND CULINARY CAPITAL CITY

The capital city of Yucatán is the starting point for travel around the State. It was founded in 1542 and built on the ancient Mayan city of **Tha**. It stands out because of its wide variety of cultural and artistic attractions, its colonial historic downtown with architectural European influence, highlighted by the French-style manor houses located in Paseo de Montejo, the most important avenue in the city.



Discover its churches, like the **San Ildefonso Cathedral**, one of the most ancient in Latin America. The History, tradition, cuisine and squares, where you will feel like a local.

Awarded as the **"Best Small City in the World"** by Condé Nast Traveller Magazine in 2019, it is included in the best 20 destinations to travel to in 2021 by Forbes Magazine.

Mérida has a wide variety of cuisines and free daily cultural and artistic activities, such as:

- **Vaquería Yucateca**
- **Serenade in Santa Lucía**
- **Mayan ball game "p'ok ta pok"**

Must-visit places

- **Peón Contreras Theatre**
- **San Ildefonso Cathedral**
- **Gran Museo del Mundo Maya** (Mayan World Great Museum)
- **Museo Regional de Antropología e Historia de Yucatán en el Palacio Cantón** (Yucatan Anthropology and History Regional Museum at Cantón Palace)
- **Palacio de la Música** (Music Palace)
- **Museo de la Canción Yucateca** (Yucatecan Song Museum)
- **Casa Montejo** (Montejo Manor)
- **Iglesia de la Tercera Orden** (Church of the Third Order)
- **Museo Casa Manzanera** (Manzanera Manor Museum)
- **Montejo 495 Casa Museo** (Montejo 495 Museum Manor)

CULTURE AND CUISINE

The **geography** and **history** of the Yucatán Peninsula kept it isolated from events in the rest of Mexico; thus, its cultural expressions evolved independently, influenced in many cases by the commercial contact with European countries, North America, and The Caribbean.

The **Yucatecan Trova** highlights musical rhythms such as bambuco, bolero, jorano, doves, joropo among others.

Traditional clothes are used for galas in festivities. Dresses embroidered by hand, shine in the **vaquería** dances and in social parties, in more elegant and stylish models, complemented with gold jewelry in filigree and shawls.



ADVENTURE AND NATURE



If you enjoy nature, green rainforests, fascinating fauna, and dreamlike beaches and seas... Yucatán is your ideal destination. You will be charmed by the warm weather, perfect for adventures, challenges, and many activities full of emotions. There is no need to go far or get lost in the rainforest, nature lives in Yucatán and you can see it in many places. Yucatán has **rainforests, coasts, cenotes, grottos, mangroves, and rivers** that will make you forget the sound of big cities.

Travel along any of the 3 biosphere reserves: **Celestún, Río Lagartos, and Petenes**, where you can participate in activities such as flora and fauna sighting, kayaking, among others.

Must-visit places

- **Kayaking in mangroves and rivers.**
- **Flamingo sighting in Celestún and Río Lagartos.**
- **Swimming and diving in cenotes.**
- **Water activities like sport fishing, kitesurf, paddle board, among others.**
- **Photo tour with flora and fauna sighting.**
- **Las Coloradas tour.**
- **Hiking or biking among local communities.**
- **Exploration and descent in grottos and a myriad of unique experiences.**

Yucatán has approximately 234.8 miles of coasts and summer-like climate all year long, inviting people to have a good time, practice water sports, and many other activities.



ARCHEOLOGY

Yucatán has an enormous historical legacy comparable to many other territories in the world, rich in culture and traditions. In its territory you can find magnificent cities and ceremonial centers with buildings made from carved stone, and a detailed and perfect architecture.

In its 18 archeological sites, built in different periods and under diverse architectural styles, you will learn about the heritage of one of the greatest civilizations in the world, the great Mayan Culture.

Unique Experiences

- In the **spring and autumn equinoxes**, March 21st and between September 21st and 23rd, respectively, you can witness two projection phenomena through the Seven Dolls Temple in Dzibilchaltún and over the Kukulcan Castle in Chichén Itzá.
- **Noches de Kukulcan** in Chichén Itzá and the light and sound show in Uxmal.

Must-visit places

- **Chichén Itzá**, declared World Human Heritage by UNESCO in 1988 and one of the New 7 World Wonders since 2007, has the most impressive creation of all: Kukulcan Castle.
- **Uxmal**, known as "the Three Times Built", declared as World Human Heritage by UNESCO in 1996.
- In the **Puc Route** you can visit 6 archeological sites and 2 grottos: Uxmal, Kabah, Sayil, X-Lapak, Labná, Oxkintok, Calcehtok Grotto and Loltún Grotto.
- The archeological sites of **Dzibilchaltún** and **Xcambé**, located near the city of Mérida are perfect for a quick day out.



HACIENDAS

During 19th Century, most of the haciendas in Yucatán were devoted to the sisal production, known in those times as green gold, which was exported as rope, string, or chord. Sisal was processed in the machine house and the hacienda usually had a chapel, the steward house, and many other small properties for storage.

The trip into Yucatán would be incomplete if no Haciendas are visited. Most of them have been turned into beautiful luxury hotels, museums that provide a glance to the colonial times. Many others have not been refurbished, creating special landscapes for picture lovers, or for people looking for different places for their weddings or events.



CENOTES

From the maya **dzonoot**, which means "hole with water", cenotes are proof of the fascinating nature in Yucatán. A cenote is a natural pit of crystal-clear waters, sacred for the Mayan people, as they represented the door to the underworld or "Xibalbá". In Yucatán, there are more than 3 thousand cenotes, but only around 100 can be visited by tourists.

There are cenotes for all preferences, options go from those administered by cooperatives and communities to those which are private and combine the experience with activities such as flora and fauna sighting, free swimming, snorkeling, rappel, zipline, cave diving, and kayak. Some cenotes preserve archeological remains as they were Mayan ceremonial centers.

There are different kinds of cenotes: open, enclosed, semi-enclosed or with caves; some of the most visited are:

Enclosed cenotes

- **Balmi**
- **Canunchén**
- **Chihúán**
- **Sambulá**
- **Samulá**
- **San Ignacio**
- **Santa Rosa**
- **Suytún**
- **Tsukán**
- **Tza Ujun Kat**
- **Xkekén**
- **Yaal Utzil**

Open cenotes

- **Ik Kil**
- **Kikil**
- **Lol Há**
- **Sta. Bárbara**
- **X'batún**
- **X'Canché**
- **Xcajum**
- **Xlacah**
- **Zaci**

In the last decade of the 19th Century, the haciendas recovered their boom and glory, now as perfect places for resting and meditating in harmony, but mainly to offer visitors unparalleled experiences in accommodation, cuisine, leisure, and all kind of events.

Must-visit Haciendas

- **H. Chaká**
- **H. Chenché de las Torres**
- **H. Mucuyché**
- **H. Museo Yaxcopoil**
- **H. San Diego Cutz**
- **H. San Antonio Millet**
- **H. San Pedro Ochil**
- **H. San José Cholul**
- **H. Santa Lucía Kantoria**
- **H. Sotuta de Peón**
- **H. Temozón**
- **H. Teya**
- **H. Xtepán**
- **H. Yunkú**
- **H. Zamná**

PUEBLOS MÁGICOS

Valladolid

It is a colonial city located between Mérida and Cancun, only 24.8 miles from Chichén Itzá. It has important properties of civil and religious architecture, among which the fortified San Bernardino de Siena Convent or its San Servacio Church stand out from other monuments. Near Valladolid you will find spectacular cenotes to enjoy nature with all services.

Must-see places

- **Cenotes like: Agua Dulce, Hubiku, Saamal, Samulá, Suytún, X'kekén, Zaci and many others.**
- **La Frailes Road.**
- **San Bernardino de Siena Convent.**
- **Regarding cuisine: Lamitos and longaniza.**
- **Videomapping "Nights of the Heroic Valladolid".**



Izamal

Forty-six miles away from Mérida, you will find the magic town of Izamal, which means "dew descending from the sky". Known as the city of the Three Cultures, because three historical periods converge together: prehispanic, colonial and the present, all of them in one color: yellow.

Must-see places

- **San Antonio de Padua Franciscan monastery, with the second largest enclosed atrium in the world.**
- **The videomapping show "Light trails", projected over manors and the monastery.**
- **Its archeological site and the "Kinich Kak Moo" pyramid.**
- **Recommended traditional dish: Deer Tzic.**



Maní

Maní is located 62.1 miles southeast of Mérida. It is a place where visitors feel as if time had come to a halt, and it is known for the architecture of the church and ancient San Miguel Arcángel monastery, built in the 16th Century. Local craftsmen are devoted to the manufacture and embroidering of blouses, hupiles (traditional blouses or dresses), and ternos (suits).

Poc Chuc is the emblematic traditional dish.

Must-see places

- **San Miguel Arcángel Church and Monastery, with a spectacular open chapel.**
- **Embroidered handicrafts**
- **Recommended traditional dish: Poc Chuc.**



Sisal

Located 34.7 miles from Mérida, this fishing village in the Yucatecan Riviera is a hidden jewel. It was the first port for all the peninsula and the place where sisal was exported during its boom. The main activity is fishing; thus, their delicious cuisine is based on sea products. It has a lagoon parallel to the quiet beach with waters which range from blue to emerald green. You will find a lot of wild animals like crocodiles, crabs, herons, ducks, flamingos, among many others. Near the village, you will find the ecological reserve "El Palmar".

Must-see places

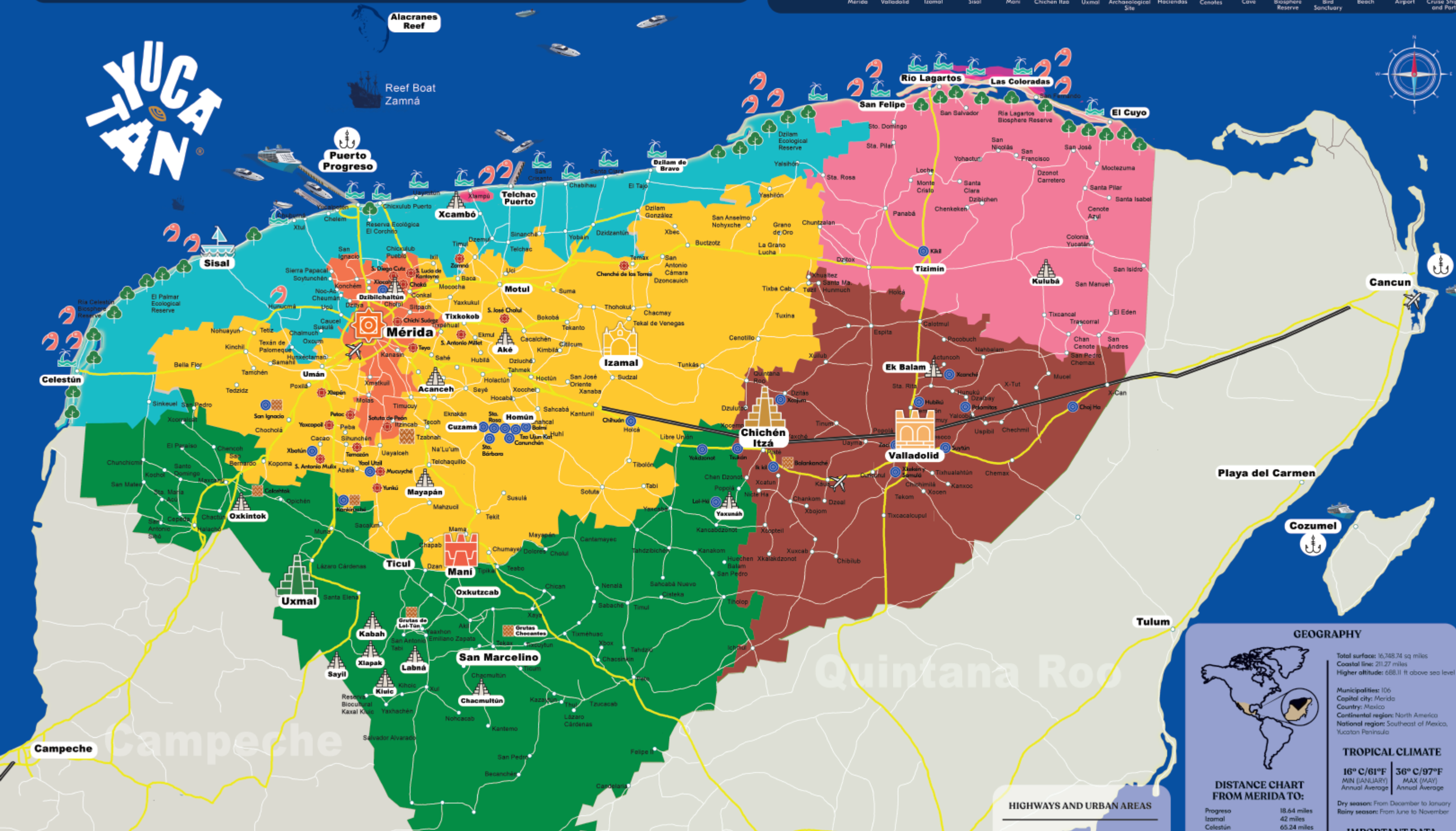
- **A fortress of the colonial period, with a lighthouse.**
- **The ancient customs office.**
- **A walk through the pier with its "Confidente" chairs.**
- **Fishing, diving, snorkeling and flora and fauna.**



REGIONS OF YUCATÁN

Yucatan Riviera Mérida: Cultural Capital and Southern Gastronomy Yucatán Cenotes and Haciendas Puuc Route and Mayan Villages Mayan World Capital Puerto Maya

ICONOGRAPHY



GEOGRAPHY



Total surface: 16,748.74 sq miles
Coastal line: 211.27 miles
Higher altitude: 688.11 ft above sea level
Municipalities: 106
Capital city: Mérida
Country: Mexico
Continental region: North America
National region: Southeast of Mexico, Yucatan Peninsula

TROPICAL CLIMATE

16° C/61°F MIN (JANUARY) 36° C/97°F MAX (MAY)
Annual Average Annual Average

Dry season: From December to January
Rainy season: From June to November

IMPORTANT DATA

Language: Spanish, Maya
Currency: Mexican Peso (MXN)
Electricity: 110 Volts
Mérida International Airport
"Manuel Crescencio Rejón" (MID)

DISTANCE CHART FROM MERIDA TO:

Progreso	18.64 miles
Izamal	42 miles
Celestún	65.24 miles
Chichén Itzá	73.94 miles
Valladolid	98.79 miles
Ek Balam	108.12 miles
Rio Lagartos	133.59 miles
Tulum	160.94 miles
Playa del Carmen	178.95 miles
Cancun Airport	191.38 miles

HIGHWAYS AND URBAN AREAS

— Federal Highway with toll
— Federal Highway toll-free
— State Road toll-free