



YUCATÁN[®]

NATURE AND ADVENTURE

Juntos transformamos
Yucatán
GOBIERNO DEL ESTADO

SEFOTUR
SECRETARÍA DE FOMENTO
TURÍSTICO

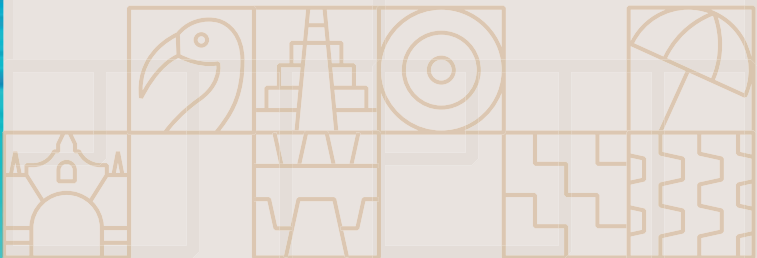
México

#TheColorsOfYucatan



NATURE AND ADVENTURE

If you are the kind of people that **enjoys living nature, green rainforests, fascinating fauna, dream beaches and sea...Yucatán is your destination.** You will be mesmerized by the warm weather, perfect for adventures, challenges, and many other thrilling activities. There is no need to go far and get lost in the rainforest, nature lives in Yucatán, and you can see it in many places.



Beaches

Yucatán has more than 230 miles of coasts, turquoise waters, warm temperature, and soft white sand. Besides, Yucatecan beaches are surrounded by marvelous coastal ecosystems, ideal for spending memorable and fun moments.





Cenotes

The word cenote comes from the Mayan word “*dzonot*” or “*ts'onot*”, which means watering hole. They are classified in open, semi-open, and cave-like or grotto. They are fed by **underground rivers of crystalline waters and are beautiful millenary formations found in very few places in the world.** Yucatán has lots of these formations because of the kind of subsoil and the origin of the peninsula when the meteorite impacted the Earth and provoked the dinosaurs' extinction 66 million years ago. They were important and sacred places for the Mayan people, as they represented the source of fresh water and the entrance to the underworld. Sheltered by the rainforest, swimming in cenotes is an adventure that you must experience.

Other activities you can enjoy in some cenotes are zip-lining, rappelling, diving, or even practicing freediving to explore many of them, but we recommend that you do it with an expert guide, for your security.



San Lorenzo Oxmán Cenote 
Mayan World Capital Region



Grottoes and Caves

Geological nature in the Yucatán Peninsula is karstic, which has contributed to the formation of caves that once were used as shelter by Mayan ancestors and today **leave us evidence of their historic step.**



Fauna watching

In its rainforests, mangroves, and **4 natural reserves**, diverse bird, mammal, reptile, and fish species live together in harmony, being birds the most numerous. One of the most popular species is the pink flamingo. There is an important population of this beautiful bird in the state; they practically live here all year long, but from December to February you can **watch the largest amount** of them, as they migrate to the warm coasts of Yucatán.



Estuaries and Mangroves

There are no rivers in Yucatán, but **you will find the so-called rías (estuaries), saltwater formations emanated from the sea**, which mix with fresh water from the mangroves and coast hammocks.





Different places offer

EXPERIENCES

combining extreme sports, beautiful
natural landscapes, thrill, and above all,

UNIQUE MOMENTS.

INTERESTING FACTS



There are **456 bird species** in Yucatán, including 14 endemic species, which represents 43%



Approximately **230 miles of coasts**

and a summer-like weather all year long, inviting you to have a good time, practice water sports and many other activities.



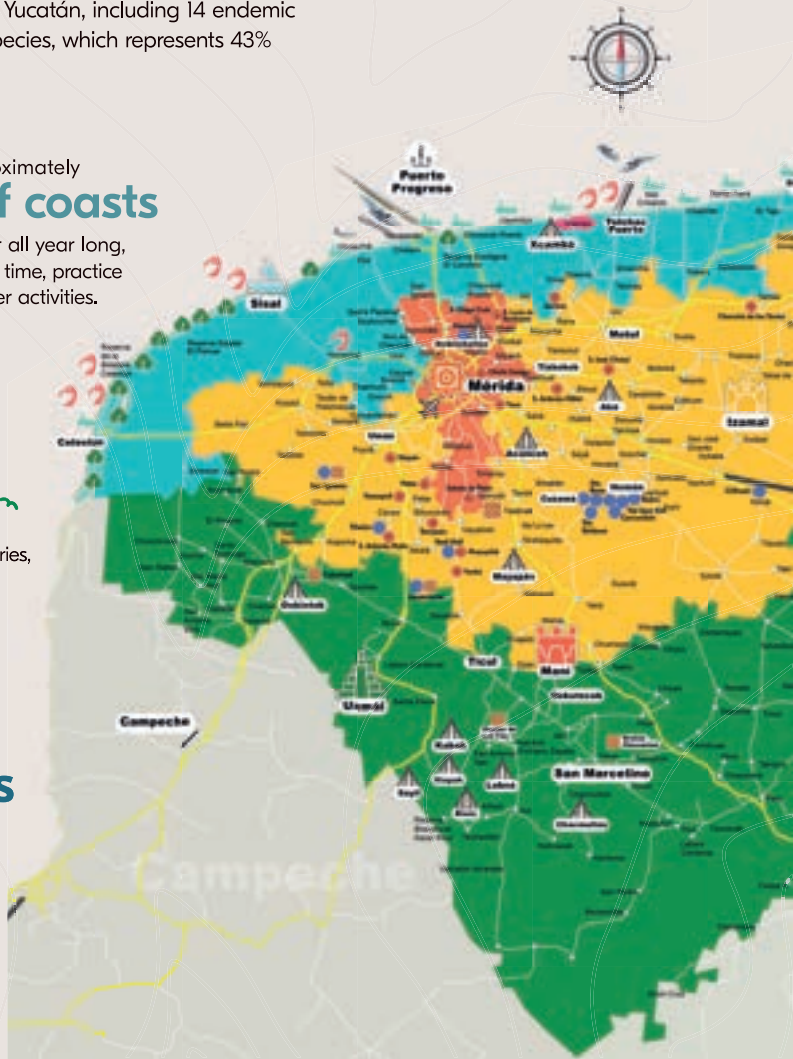
4 incredible natural reserves,

you cannot miss these living sanctuaries, any nature lover must visit them.



Yucatán has more than **3 thousand cenotes**

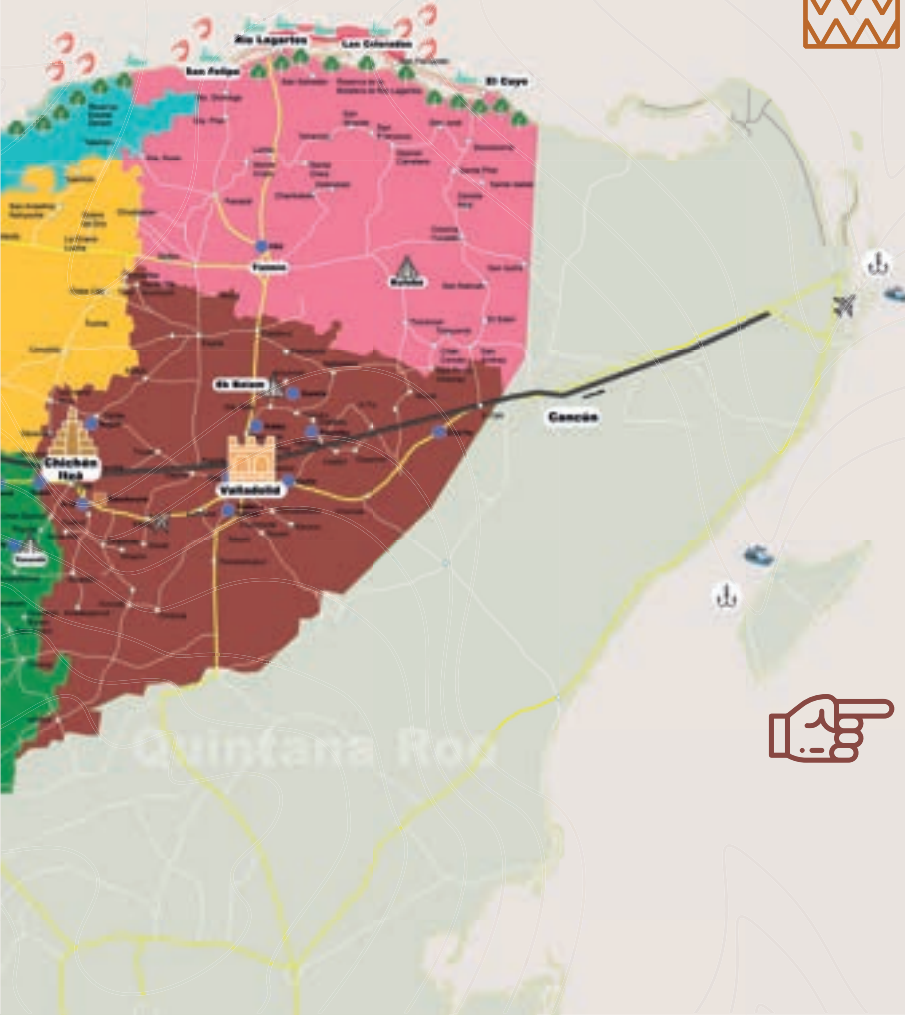
registered, but it is estimated that there are approximately 6 thousand all over the peninsula.










 The
Camino del Mayab
network is 62 miles long, with beautiful roads
of historic and natural value for its preservation.

 The most outstanding
grottoes and caves
are Loltún grotto, Calcehtok, Balankanché,
Tzabnah and the San Ignacio grotto and cenote.



HIGHWAYS AND URBAN AREAS

-  Urban Areas
-  Federal Highway (Toll)
-  Federal Freeway
-  State Freeway
-  Unpaved road



**It is recommended to wear a hat or cap, comfortable clothes, swimming suit, photo camera with protection against water, insect repellent, and biodegradable sunscreen.*



Traveling times:

- From Mérida to El Palmar State Reserve: 1 hour.
- From Mérida to Progreso: 20 minutes.
- From Mérida to Ría Celestún: 1.5 hours

YUCATÁN RIVIERA

In this region you will be able to perform many **water activities**, primarily at the sea, but also in a spring, estuary, or mangrove. The Yucatán Riviera comprises most of the coastline of the state, with options like *Celestún*, *Sisal*, *Chuburná*, *Chelem*, *Progreso*, *Uaymitún*, *Telchac*, *Dzilam de Bravo*, among others. You will find different **accommodation options for all tastes**, from ecotourist hotels to boutique hotels. There are also plenty of options regarding restaurants, guides, boats, and equipment rental for diverse water activities of all sorts.

What to do?

- ① **Kayaking** among mangroves and estuaries.
- ② Bird, crocodile, and particular vegetation **watching**.
- ③ Visiting the **Special Biosphere Reserve Ría Celestún**, which is the estuary of the main feeding center of the pink flamingo and home to 95 species of resident birds and 75 migratory birds. During the months in which the agglomeration is larger, you will be able to see up to 50 thousand flamingos. A memorable scene!

- ④ Visiting **El Palmar State Reserve** for a promenade in a boat, a stroll, or a ride on a bike to enjoy the natural attractions and bird watching.
- ⑤ **Laguna Rosada at Xtampú salt flat.** Salt ponds located near Telchac. It is a group of beautiful pink ponds located near Mérida and the archeological site *X'cambó*, as well as to the beach.
- ⑥ **El Corchito Ecological Reserve.** Located only 22.3 miles from the city of Mérida, you will find this reserve with an important variety of flora and fauna, which also has three cenotes and two shallow springs, ideal for little kids...**Racoons are the main attraction of the place!**
- ⑦ **X'cambó Archeological Site.** Admire the *Templo de la Cruz*, a great staired base with a cross on top, the *Templo de los Sacrificios*, and the *Virgin's Chapel*.
- ⑧ **Arrecife Alacranes National Park.** Located 87 miles from Progreso Port, 5 islands form the **only coral bank in Yucatán and the biggest in the Gulf of Mexico.** Ideal place for snorkeling, diving, and flora and fauna watching.

Tip

The best moment to watch flamingos is when the tide is low, generally early in the morning. If it rains, the tide rises, and the flamingos shelter at the mangroves.



MAYAN PORT

Puerto Maya region is located northeast of the state, where you can find destinations like *Río Lagartos*, *San Felipe*, *Las Coloradas*, and *Tizimin*. The coast of this region **brings a unique natural scene** and has a cuisine based mainly in fish and seafood, Delicious! We recommend that your starting point be Valladolid, as it will help to optimize traveling times when going to interesting sites, and you will have **different accommodation options**.

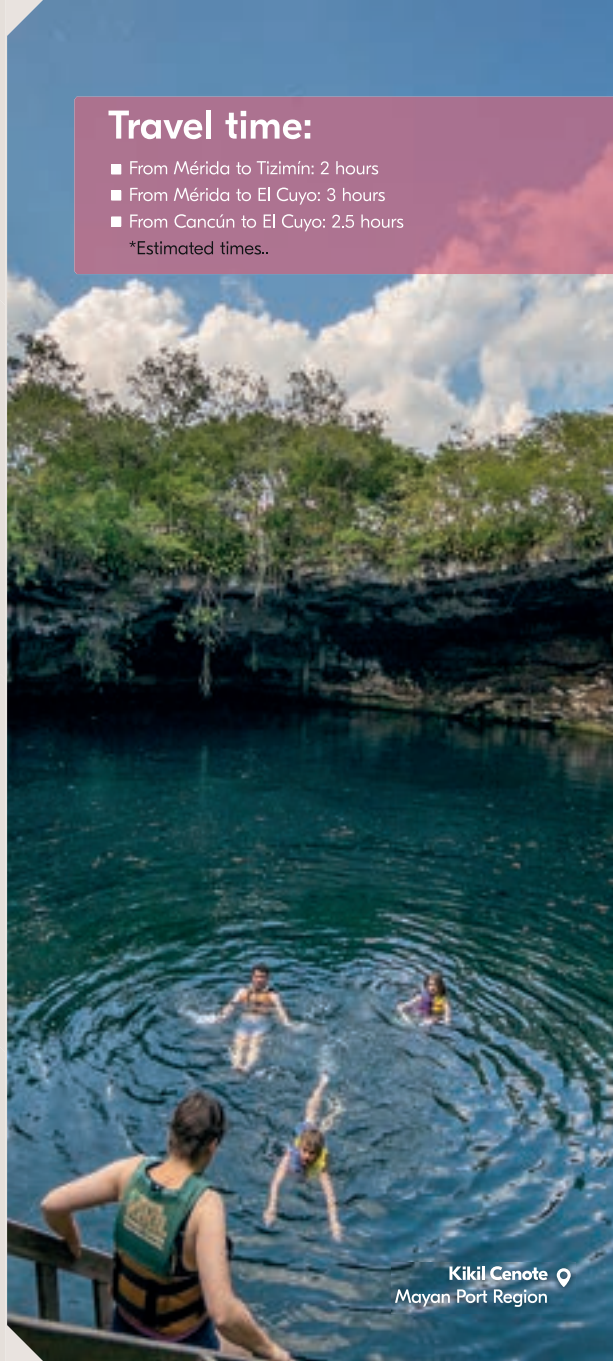
What to do?

- ① **El Cuyo** has the last beaches located at the Gulf of Mexico. It is a fishing port offering serenity, **beautiful beaches for relaxing or kitesurfing and paddle-boarding**, besides having an exquisite local cuisine.
- ② **Hiking and bird watching at El Cuyo.** There are around 400 bird species, some of them emblematic like the American flamingo, the Yucatecan matraca, the Yucatecan perlita, among others.



Travel time:

- From Mérida to Tizimin: 2 hours
 - From Mérida to El Cuyo: 3 hours
 - From Cancún to El Cuyo: 2.5 hours
- *Estimated times..





- ③ Visit the **Kulubá Archeological Site**, the outstanding buildings are: Templo de los Mascarones and Palacio de los Chenes.
- ④ Swim at **Kikil Cenote**, located outside Tizimín.
- ⑤ **The Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve** is flamingos' paradise, and it has the most extensive mangrove area in the state. It is home to diverse bird, crocodile, and fish species, among others. **The best season to watch flamingos here** is from March to mid-August. Birds nest in the reserve and it is when **up to 40,000 specimens gather here**. Observation sites can be San Felipe, Río Lagartos and Las Coloradas. It is in August when bird banding activities take place to follow-up on them and for their correct preservation.
- ⑥ **Las Coloradas, one of the most instagrammable places in the world!** You cannot miss having your own picture surrounded by pink waters.
- ⑦ Allis shad **sport fishing** in San Felipe.

Tip

Las Coloradas is not a place for swimming, it is just for admiring and enjoying. The best time to visit is between May and June at noon. As it is a private property, there is controlled access.

MAYAN WORLD CAPITAL

It is located east of the state, it may be the most known area as **it is there where the Chichén Itzá archeological site and the Magic Town of Valladolid are located**, apart of being the Yucatecan region nearest to the Riviera Maya and Cancún.

Most of the accommodation and restaurant options are located in Valladolid which more and more becomes more diverse in all sorts. The region has tour operators and **activities to experience many adventures and interact with nature**. Here you will find all-inclusive theme parks where you can perform adventure activities.

What to do?

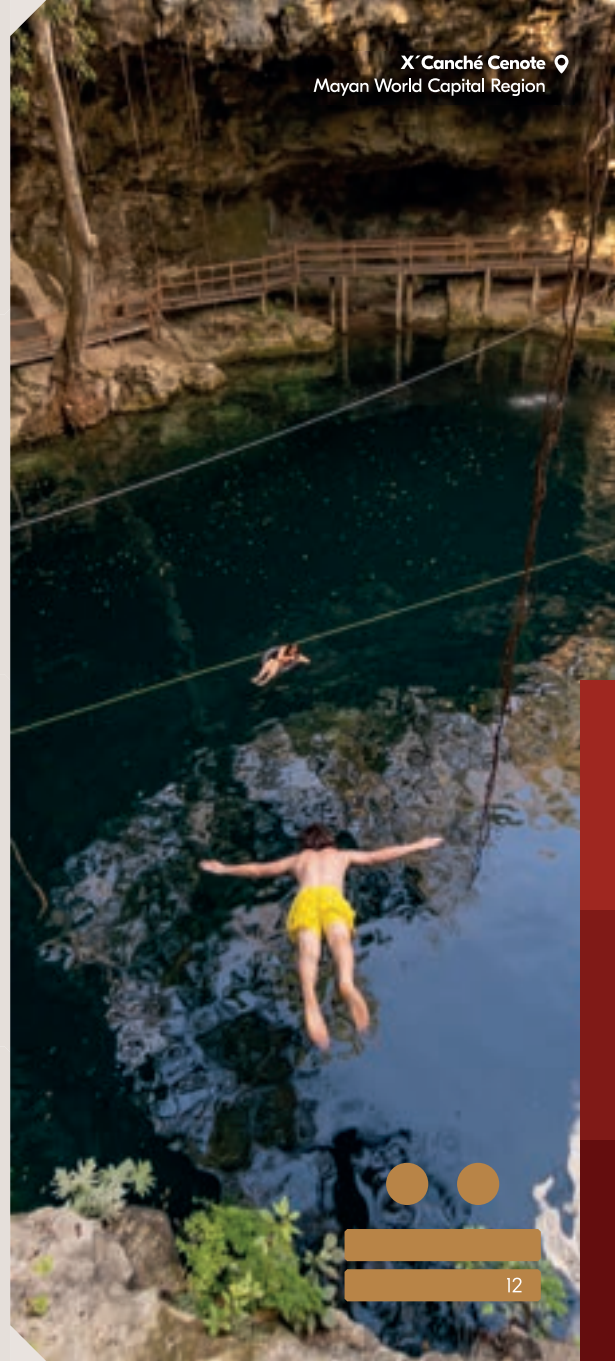
- ① **Chichén Itzá**, the most famous city and the largest Mayan city, appointed as Human Heritage by UNESCO.
- ② Walk around the main buildings and admire *El Castillo* or *Kukulcán Pyramid*, the Gran Juego de Pelota, the largest playing field of ancient Mexico, and El Caracol or Observatory.

Traveling times:

- From Mérida to Valladolid: 1 hour and 40 minutes.
- From Cancún to Valladolid: 1 hour and 40 minutes.

*Estimated times.

- ③ Explore **Ek Balam**, which has majestic buildings, a different site with an exceptional charm, a place full of energy where you can climb the pyramids.
- ④ If your goal is to be in a **great variety of cenotes**, in this region you can find many of them which are beautiful to have a good time: *Ikkil, Zaci, Xkekén and Samulá in Dzinup, Oxmán, Suytún, Yokdzonot, X'Canché, Sac Aua, Xcanahaltún, Agua Dulce, Palomitas, Kikil, Hubikú, Xcajum*, among many others. All of them have food service and restrooms, they are monitored, and above all, Mayan communities work to preserve these sacred places and they live from the tourism visiting these cenotes.
- ⑤ At **Aktún Taman in Santa Rita and Balankanché** grottoes you will learn more about life of ancient Mayan people when descending to earth's depths, always with experienced guides.
- ⑥ **Experiencing first-hand Mayan culture is an adventure** that will leave a mark on you, get close to rural communities offering accommodation services, the Mayan style. You can camp at *Xocén and Santa Rita*; there are Mayan huts for lodging in *Yaxunáh and Ek Balam*



- 7 **Visit Maya Park Cenote** and take the plunge into the depths of the Mayan rainforests to **Visit Maya Park Cenote** and take the plunge into the depths of the Mayan rainforests to find out this astonishing cenote of 196.8 ft of diameter to perform extreme activities, such as rappel, diving, and swaying in a liana. It also has real Mayan communities, handcrafts, and organic gardens.
- 8 **Connect to the Tsukán Sanctuary and find out its Mayan house**, enjoy a traditional Mayan breakfast, experience its spectacular cenote, walk around its natural richness on a charming tour, and learn about the Mayan legend of the snake Tsukán.
- 9 **Enjoy a day full of adventure in Valladolid town**, start by visiting *Zací cenote*, which has all services to spend an awesome day, explore the natural places that offer experiences related to the fascinating world of bees and beekeeping. End your day with the video mapping “Nights of Heroic Valladolid”, *projected at the San Bernardino de Siena Convent*.





Traveling times:

- From Mérida to Uxmal: 1 hour.
 - From Cancún to Uxmal: 4 hours.
- *Estimated times.

PUUC ROUTE & MAYAN VILLAGE

In the south of Yucatán, an archeological expedition is waiting for you to discover Mayan treasures in the Puuc Route & Mayan Village region. It is ideal to tour around by car so you can stop on every village to buy handcrafts, find out fruits from the region like the not-to-be-missed oranges from *Oxkutzcab*, try the traditional cuisine, take pictures of clean landscapes without urban pollution, and above all, **to discover secrets from the ancient Mayan culture, which is still alive.**

What to do?

- ① **Admire the Puuc Route**, architecture of this area is considered the most beautiful of the Mayan culture. **This tour includes archeological sites** such as *Uxmal, Kabah, Sayil, Xlapak, Labná, Oxkintok, Calcehtok grotto and Loltún grotto.*





② **Walk around Loltún grotto**, they are the largest and most famous caves in the south of Yucatán. They have been prepared so that people can tour safely approximately 0.6 miles long inside, with lights and guides.

③ **Explore Calcehtok grotto** to learn about the Mayan culture in the depths of the earth. There are three levels of exploration: familiar, mild, and extreme. It is recommended to wear comfortable clothes that can get muddy, anti-slip shoes, bring a bottle of water and a towel for after the tour.



📍 **Chocantes grotto at Tekax**
Puuc Route & Mayan Village Region

- ④ **4 Meet the *Kaxil Kiuc Biocultural Reserve***, it is the first private reserve of this kind in Yucatán. It is located 62 miles away from Mérida, near Yaxhachén community. It is a place that looks to preserve and explore the historic cultural identity richness of the Mayan communities in the region.
- ⑤ ***ATV's in Tekax:*** The adventure experience, an ATV's tour, will let you enjoy the view of archeological sites, colonial buildings, flora, fauna, caves, Mayan villages, and the flavors of the wide variety of the Yucatecan cuisine.
- ⑥ ***Grutas Chocantes at Tekax,*** they are considered the longest in the state, you will be impressed by the crystal grotto. There are ecotourist parks nearby, where you can practice rappel, zip-lining, climbing, camping, and hiking.
- ⑦ Enjoy an **expedition tour riding a classic Land Rover** through plantations, haciendas, and many other private places with landscapes of special beauty. Do not forget to bring binoculars and combine the tour with a visit to the Uxmal archeological site for a more profound travel experience.

Interesting fact

The word puuc means low mountain range in Maya, and this is indeed the highest place in Yucatán, approximately 656 ft over the sea level.



CENOTES & HACIENDAS

Adventure does not stop in this region, **there are plenty of cenotes to discover and historic haciendas to enjoy**, apart from learning about the part of Yucatán history that today has turned into luxury and comfortable hotels, museums, and restaurants; listen to many legends that will charm you. **You could find out around 300 haciendas** distributed among the municipalities of *Cuzamá, Chocholá, Hocabá, Homún, Izamal, Motul, Sotuta, Tecoh, Tixkokob, Umán*, among others.

What to do?

- ① **Cenotes:** In this region you can pinpoint a **great number of cenotes around Cuzamá, Homún, and Mucuyché**. Among the most recommended are *Santa Bárbara, Chak-zinik-ché, Bolom-chojol*, and the cenotes of *Mucuyché Hacienda*.

Traveling times:

- From Mérida to Izamal: 1 hour.
 - From Cancún to Izamal: 3 hours.
- *Estimated times.





- ② Find out the beautiful cenotes of *San Antonio Mulix*, natural wonders located less than one hour away from Mérida.
- ③ Swimming in the crystal-clear waters of cenotes is thrilling, but you can also practice snorkeling, cave diving, zip-lining, cycling, rappelling, horse riding, diving, and bird watching. There are private cenotes and cenotes operated by local cooperatives. *Kankirixché* cenote in *Abalá* is one of the best places for practicing cave diving.
- ④ Haciendas in Yucatán: the sisal history and the “Green Gold” era. In the modern times many haciendas have been recovered and have been restored to become elegant boutique hotels, spas, restaurants, and museums that “tell” the stories of “those times”. Many haciendas have cenotes within the property’s lands and offer unique experiences either as spa or as a celebration venue.
- ⑤ The Eco Archeological Park *Sihunchén* near *Abalá*, is located 25 minutes away from Mérida. It is a great option for bird watching and photo shooting them, or for practicing activities in the Yucatecan rainforest, it has accommodation and all services.





⑥ **Meet the Yaax Tekit Cooperative**, it is a community known for tailoring traditional costumes and it also offers activities as tours on the surrounding areas, accommodation in houses of the community, traditional cuisine, among others.

⑦ **Bee-related tourism at Sinanché** is an activity that involves the visitor in the whole process of honey production, from learning about the different kinds of bees and their production, caring, preservation, and the importance of protecting this activity. It is worth to mention that **Yucatán is one of the main exporters of honey to the world.**

⑧ **ATV tour in Izamal**, it is a thrilling way to know the **First Magic Town in México** and wander through its yellow streets that show the ancient treasures of the city.

⑨ **Travel through the El Camino del Mayab or Mayab Road**, either walking or biking, there are 80.7 miles full of history, flora, fauna, Mayan communities, and cuisine; find out places like the Mayapan Archeological Site, cenotes, haciendas and many more.

Interesting fact

Izamal is known as the city of the three cultures.



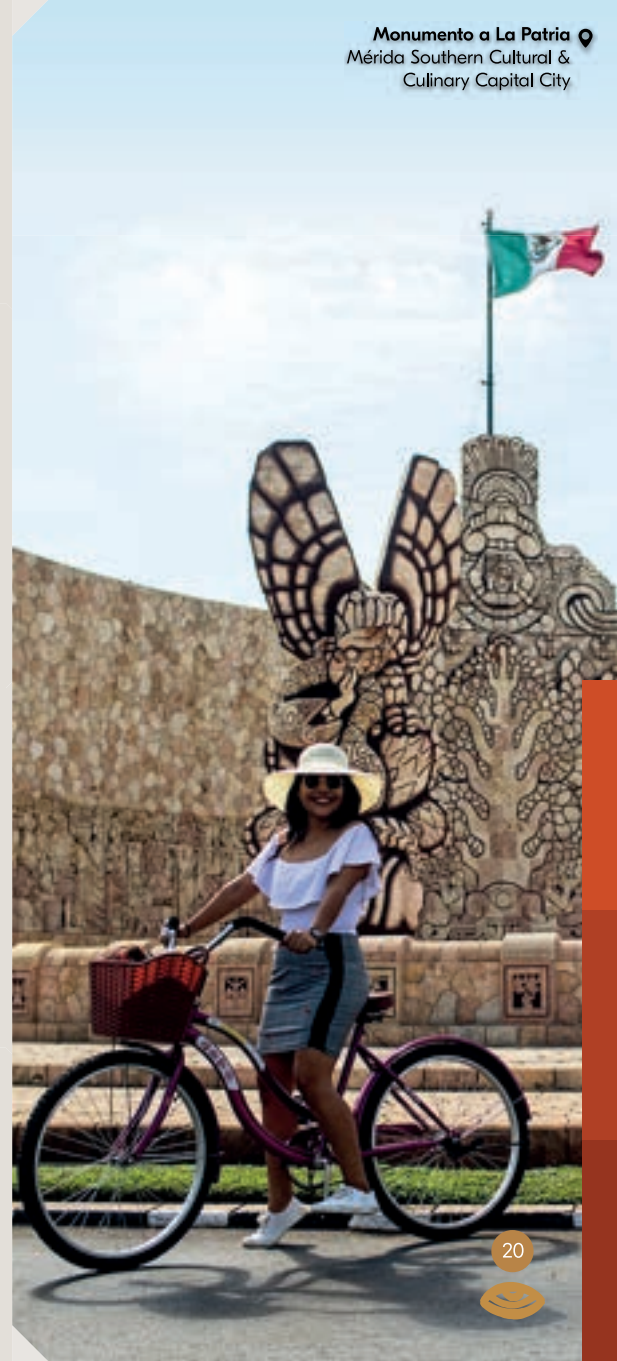
MÉRIDA, SOUTHERN CULTURAL & CULINARY CAPITAL CITY

Mérida is the capital city of the state and the starting point to travel through thrilling roads all over Yucatán. Cosmopolitan city that has all services required to make of this city the hub to move to different places.

The gastronomic and tourist offer is in general for all budgets and preferences, **hosting is our specialty.**

What to do?

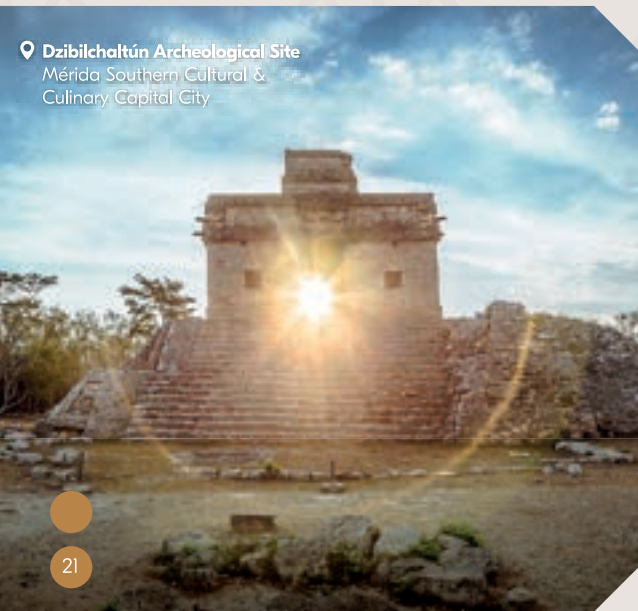
- 1 **You can tour along the “Biciruta”, a bike road open on Sundays’** mornings that goes by Paseo Montejo Avenue and through the main streets downtown. There is a night tour the first Saturday of each month. You can rent a bike on different places throughout the road, we suggest that you start at the *Monumento a la Patria*.



② **Visit *Dzibilchaltún Archeological Site***, you can find out the Templo de las Siete Muñecas (Seven Dolls Temple), a museum, an open cenote called Xlacah, where you can swim or soak your feet for a “pedicure” done by blind fishes, and you can also watch birds.

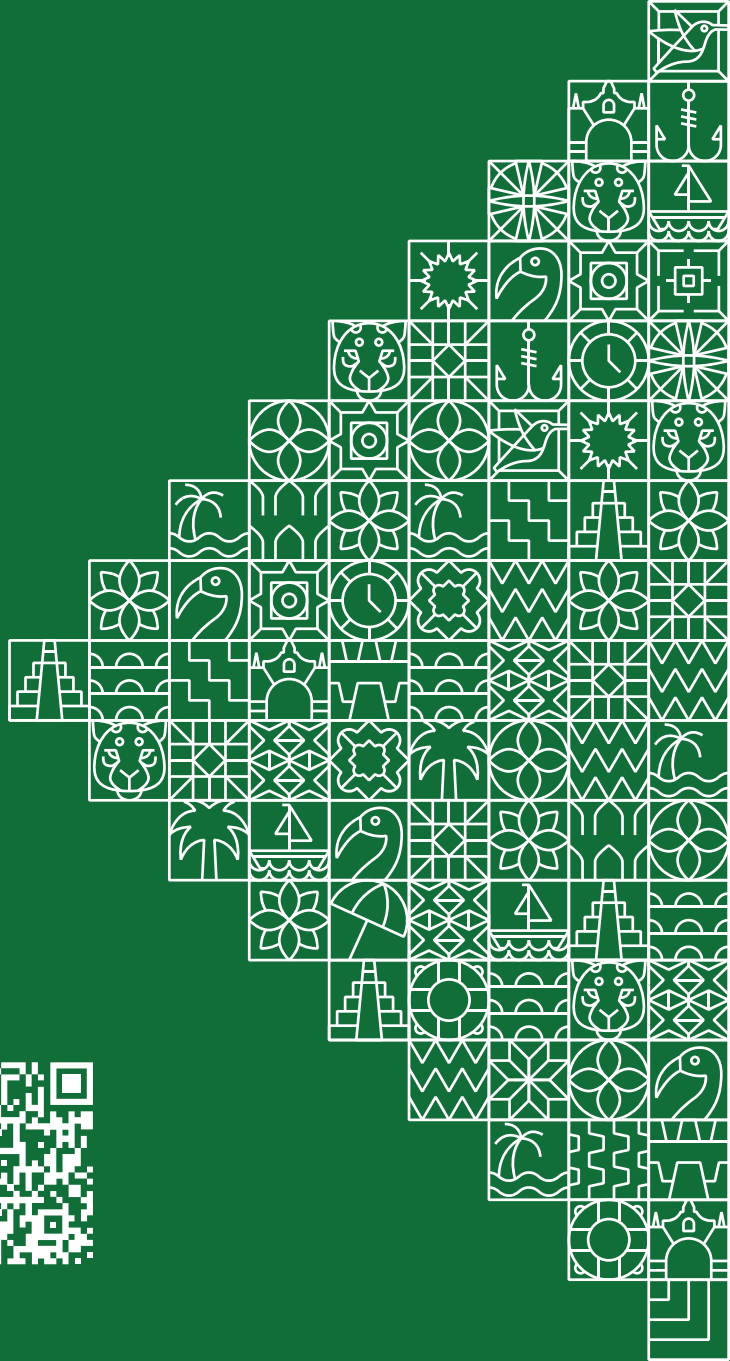
③ ***Cuxtal Ecological Reserve*** is an excellent option to spend time as a family and interact with nature. It is located at the Dzoyaxché Hacienda, precinct south of the city of Mérida.

📍 **Dzibilchaltún Archeological Site**
Mérida Southern Cultural & Culinary Capital City





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