

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, jarana, claves, 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.

One of the most important festivities is the one dedicated to death, known as **Hanal Pixán** "Food for the souls". It takes places on November 1st and 2nd, when you can admire the colorful tradition.

Food is one of the reasons for the enthusiasm of people visiting Yucatán. The wide variety, the history of the dishes, and the endemic ingredients make the Yucatecan cuisine an important element for any visitor. The **cochinita pibil**, **salbutes**, **panuchos**, **papadzules**, **sopa de lima**, **pavo en relleno negro** or **chilmole** and **queso relleno**, as well as **poc-chuc** are some of the regional traditional dishes that you cannot miss, even though contemporary food is currently booming for its diversity and mix of ingredients and flavors.



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 **Th'o**. 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 "pok 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)

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.



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 Kantonya
- H. Sotuta de Peón
- H. Temozón
- H. Teya
- H. Xtepén
- H. Yunkú
- H. Zamná

PUEBLOS MÁGICOS

Located very close to the city of Mérida, just 40 minutes away, you must visit "Motul de Carrillo Puerto," one of the municipalities with great historical richness and significance. It invites you to uncover the past and enjoy nature, as well as the emblematic gastronomic wealth of the place: "Huevos Motuleños," immersing yourself in a unique experience. It's a must-visit destination to discover the heart of Yucatecan identity.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- Sambulá Cenote
- Motuleño Eggs
- Motul Historical Museum
- Sisalina
- Felipe Carrillo Puerto Museum

Huevos motuleños at Municipal Market.

ESPIITA

Located 165 km from the Yucatan capital and very close to Valladolid (49 km), Espita is known as the "Athens of Yucatan" due to the cultural splendour manifested in its architecturally rich and historically significant buildings. The natural beauty of Espita is framed by its jungle and the various routes leading to the hamlets, where regional wildlife, traditional cuisine, and ecotourism accommodations can be found to stay in touch with nature.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- San José Church
- Melchor Ocampo Park
- Obelisk
- Dzonotoch Cenote
- Gastronomic Market
- Hacienda Santa Cruz Regadío



TEKAX

Tekax de Álvaro Obregón, known as "The Sultan of the Sierra." Located in the southern part of the Puuc region in the state, 126 km from Mérida, Tekax offers caves, colonial buildings, Mayan pyramids, among many other ecotourism attractions. Without a doubt, it is a place to discover, be amazed, and have countless nature-based adventures. Its various activities will allow you to experience an enigmatic world of magic, mystery, and depth.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- San Diego de Alcalá Hermitage
- Chocantes Caves
- Las Sartenejas II Caves
- Kaalmankal Ecotourism Park
- Alley of Murals
- Chacmultún Archaeological Zone
- Eco Accommodation San Agustín



IZAMAL

Located 75 km from the city of Mérida, we find the magical town of Izamal, whose name means "Dew that Descends from the Sky." Known as the City of Three Cultures, it brings together three historical periods: pre-Hispanic, colonial, and contemporary, all in a harmonious visual rhythm of a single colour: Yellow.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- San Antonio de Padua Convent
- Kinich Kakmó Pyramid
- Túul Pyramid
- Itzamatul Pyramid
- Izamal Cultural and Craft Center



VALLADOLID

A colonial city located between the city of Mérida and the city of Cancún, and only 40 km from the majestic Chichen Itza. It boasts significant ensembles of civil and religious architecture, including its fortified San Bernardino de Siena Convent and its San Servacio church, among other monuments. In the vicinity of Valladolid, you will find spectacular cenotes to enjoy nature, complete with all the services.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- Ex-Convent of San Bernardino de Siena
- Calzada de los Frailes
- Zaci Cenote
- Zaci Craft Center
- Nights of Valladolid



MANÍ

Maní is located 100 km southeast of Mérida. It's a place where visitors feel as if time has stopped. It is known for its architecture reflected in the church and ancient convent of San Miguel Arcángel, dating back to the 16th century. Local artisans specialise in making and embroidering blouses, hupiles, and ternos, as well as in gastronomy, with "Poc Chuc" being an emblematic dish.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- Convent of San Miguel Arcángel
- Traditional Cuisine
- Meliponary Route
- Mayan Solar

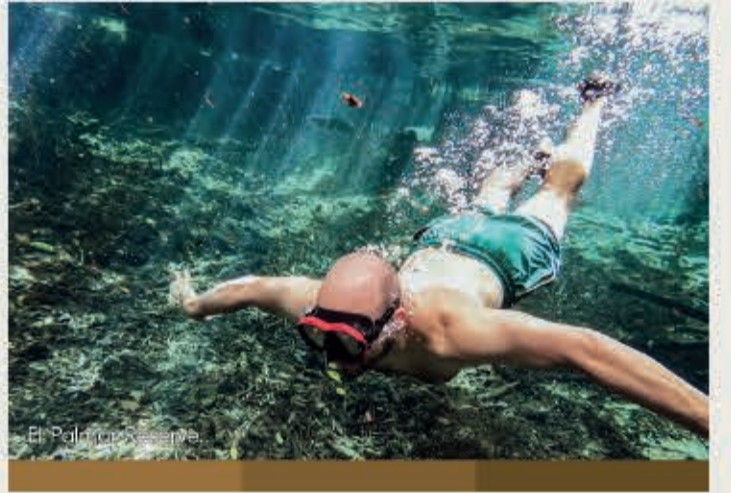


SISAL

Located 56 km from Mérida, this fishing village on the Yucatán Riviera is a hidden gem. It was the first port of the entire peninsula and the main export point for henequen during its heyday. Its primary activity is fishing, and its delicious cuisine is based on seafood. Sisal has a lagoon parallel to its tranquil beach, ranging from turquoise blue to emerald green. You'll find a lot of wildlife such as crocodiles, crabs, herons, ducks, flamingos, and more. Near the town is the "El Palmar" ecological reserve.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- Former Maritime Customs House
- Santiago Fort
- Empress Carlota's House
- "La Carbonera" (The Charcoal Maker's Place)
- El Palmar Reserve



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.

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.

Visit our Yucatecan coasts where you will find white sandy beaches, green waters, exquisite cuisine, **ecotourism activities**, hand-made-crafts, and tours, as well as water sports like **snorkeling** and **paddle boarding**.

For **bird** lovers, Yucatán has a diversity of species including migratory birds, 14 of which are endemic. You cannot miss to seeing the **Toh** bird, a beautiful specimen that will captivate you for its colors and pendulum-like tail.

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.



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
- Chihuán
- 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
- Xlocab
- Zaci



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.

Of all the American cultures that have existed, the Mayan culture was the largest in time, long-standing due to their advanced knowledge in different sciences, and the only culture capable of developing a writing system based in glyphs. Some of their most interesting contributions are:

- Great mathematicians who invented the zero and had a vigesimal numbering.
- They invented the only complete hieroglyphic writing system in the pre-Columbian Americas.
- They developed a self-knowledge in arts, architecture, astronomy, and medicine.
- They made the most exact calendar, which is considered one of their greatest contributions to humanity.



#VisitYucatán

YUCATÁN

SEFOTUR

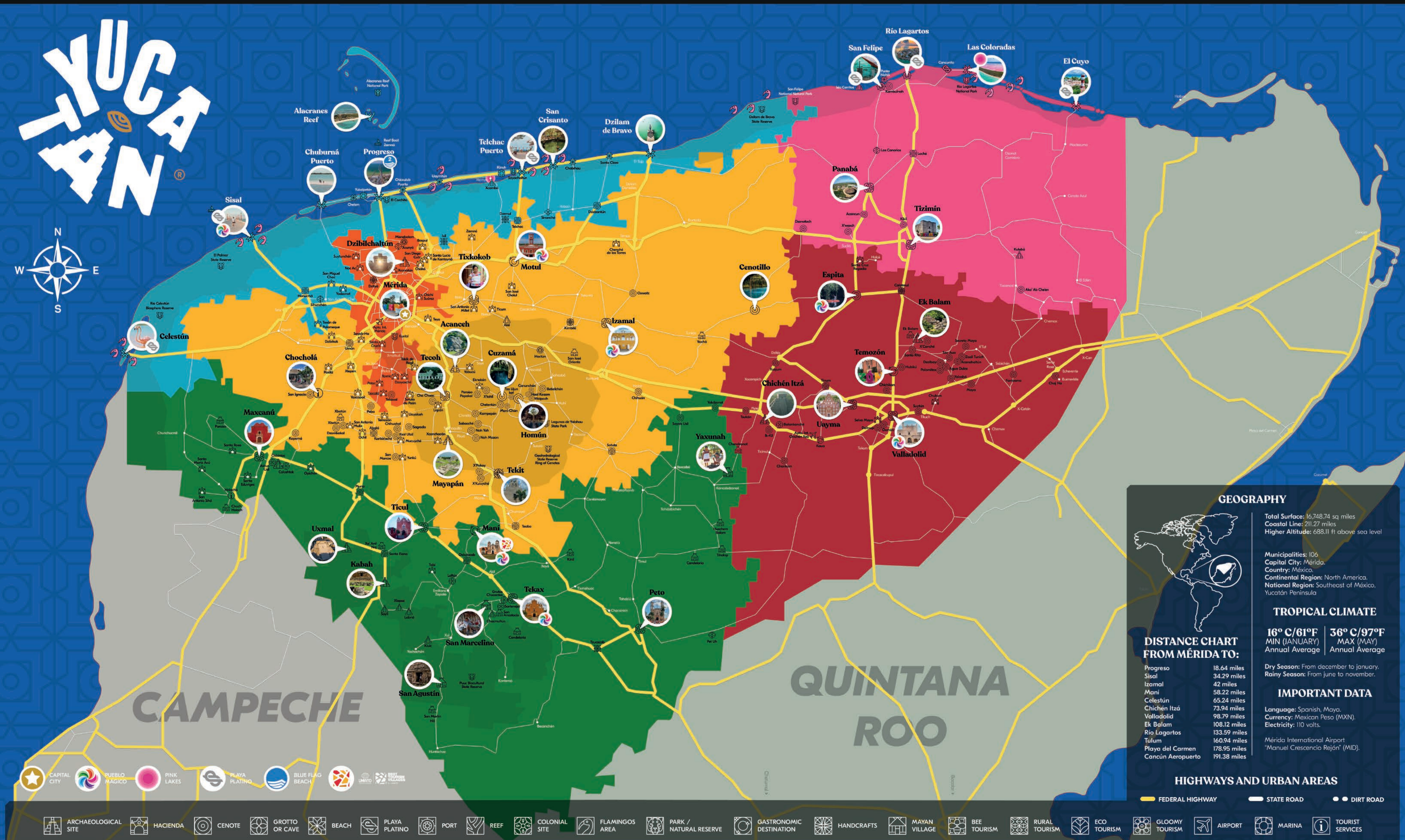
MÉXICO

YUCATÁN

REGIONS OF YUCATÁN:



YUCATÁN



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: México.
 Continental Region: North America.
 National Region: Southeast of México, Yucatán 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 MÉRIDA TO:

Progreso	18.64 miles
Sisal	34.29 miles
Izamal	42 miles
Mani	58.22 miles
Celestún	65.24 miles
Chichén Itzá	73.94 miles
Valladolid	98.79 miles
Ek Balam	108.12 miles
Río Lagartos	133.59 miles
Tulum	160.94 miles
Playa del Carmen	178.95 miles
Cancún Aeropuerto	191.38 miles

HIGHWAYS AND URBAN AREAS

— FEDERAL HIGHWAY — STATE ROAD ••• DIRT ROAD

- CAPITAL CITY
- PUEBLO MÁGICO
- PINK LAKES
- PLAYA PLATINO
- BLUE FLAG BEACH
- UNWTO
- MAYAN VILLAGES
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
- HACIENDA
- CENOTE
- GROTTO OR CAVE
- BEACH
- PLAYA PLATINO
- PORT
- REEF
- COLONIAL SITE
- FLAMINGOS AREA
- PARK / NATURAL RESERVE
- GASTRONOMIC DESTINATION
- HANDCRAFTS
- MAYAN VILLAGE
- BEE TOURISM
- RURAL TOURISM
- ECO TOURISM
- GLOOMY TOURISM
- AIRPORT
- MARINA
- TOURIST SERVICES