

MEXICO

# YUCATÁN

MUNDO MAYA



ENGLISH VERSION

 CONACULTA



Instituto Nacional  
de Antropología  
e Historia

## Mérida



Besides being the capital city of Yucatán, it is the economic and cultural center of the Southeastern part of Mexico. Founded by Francisco de Montejo, "el Mozo", in 1542, has a rectangular urbanization with wide streets from North to South and from West to East, characteristic of the colonial cities. Due to the typical white clothes of its inhabitants, for the proverbial cleanliness of its streets and the whitewashed painting of the first buildings, Mérida is known as the "white city". The city has an important historical center with many colonial and XIX century buildings among which we can notice the **Cathedral**, one of the oldest of Mexico, the **Palacio de Gobierno** and the **Casa Montejo**, which is a spectacular house owned by the lineage of the city's founder. Mérida has also museums which portray the Mayan cultural development and the history of the city.



Casa Montejo, Mérida.

PHOTO: COURTESY FOMENTO CULTURAL BANAMEX A.C.

## Progreso



Founded in 1840 as a fishermen's village, nowadays is the main port of Yucatán. It has safe and peaceful beaches ideal for swimming or fishing. Do not miss a walk along the splendid and long waterfront promenade and lighthouse built between 1885 and 1891 with 40m high.



PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

Progreso.



PHOTO: CLAUDIO CONTRERAS KOOB

Pink flamingoes. Ría Celestún.

## Ría Celestún



Biosphere reserve which constitutes the habitat of the pink flamingo and other variety of natural resources: mangroves, lowland jungles, peten and marshes seasonally flooded and plant communities slightly altered throughout the time which protect and feed a diverse fauna.

## Uxmal



This city was the most important of the Puuc region. In the Late Classic Period (600 – 900 AD) it covered an area of more than 12 km<sup>2</sup> and housed a population of over 20 000 inhabitants. In its center are large sets of buildings, some of them having the most outstanding beauty of the Mayan area and maybe of the prehispanic Mexico.

## El Puuc

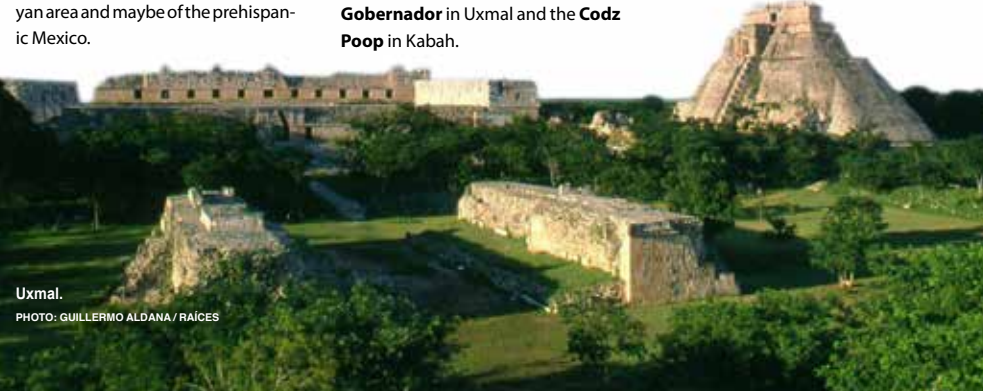


This cultural region had big settlements as the one of **Labná**, **Oxkin-tok**, **Kabah** and **Sayil**. Touring this area means to find buildings which have been acknowledged for their beauty and harmony as some of the best examples in ancient Mexico architecture, such as the **Palacio del Gobernador** in Uxmal and the **Codz Poop** in Kabah.

## Maní



In this village is located one of the most important convents of Yucatán. **The Convent of Saint Michael Archangel** built in 1549 which was the third one to be built in the region. Its enormous open chapel is one of the most ancient chapels of the area.



Uxmal.

PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAÍCES



# YUCATÁN



Gulf of Mexico



- TOURIST ATTRACTIONS**
- ★ CAPITAL CITY
  - POPULATION
  - 🏛️ ARCHEOLOGICAL ZONE
  - 🌿 NATURAL AREA
  - 🏖️ BEACH
- DIVIDED HIGHWAY  
— TOLL MOTORWAY  
— SECONDARY HIGHWAY  
— ROAD

- PLACE OF INTEREST**
- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 🏛️ HERITAGE OF HUMANITY  | 🏰 LIGHTHOUSE    |
| 🏡 MAGICAL TOWN           | 🏛️ MUSEUM       |
| 🏠 CIVIL ARCHITECTURE     | 🗿 MONUMENT      |
| 🏪 RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE | 👤 NATIVE PEOPLE |
| 🏰 MILITARY ARCHITECTURE  | 🏺 HANDICRAFTS   |
| 🏠 SQUARE                 | 🍴 GASTRONOMY    |
| 🏠 ESTATE                 | 🎉 FESTIVITY     |
|                          | 🛣️ ROUTE        |
- Note: These symbols refer to places described in this guide.

## Ría Lagartos



This biosphere reserve is one of the most important wetland systems all over the world. It has an extraordinary biodiversity which includes 333 species of birds, plus mammals and a great diversity of reptiles, amphibious and fish.

## Tizimín



It is one of the most important cities of Yucatán. Its church and convent were built around the year 1563. It is located in a region where there is a rich habitat of precious woods as the cedar.

## Valladolid



It is a picturesque village with a colonial flavor. Its most outstanding church is the **Convent of Saint Bernadine**. It has also two cenotes: the **Zací**, some blocks away from the main square, and the **Dzitnup**, 4 km away from town.

## Ek' Balam



Great Mayan City of the Late Classic Period (600-900 AD). At its central point



Acropolis, Ek' Balam.  
PHOTO: SERGIO AUTREY / RAICES



PHOTO: CLAUDIO CONTRERAS KOOB

Valladolid.



Chichén Itzá.  
PHOTO: SECTUR

there is one of the most astonishing concentrations of monuments of Yucatán. The fortified enclosure contains several squares or "plazas", temples, palaces, a steam bath, shrines, prayer rooms and stelas. In recent years were found well preserved elements, as façades and murals and hieroglyph texts, which have enabled us to know more about their history.

## Chichén Itzá



Chichén Itzá is undoubtedly one of the most important archaeological sites not only of the Mayan world but of the Prehispanic Mexico. It was the capital city of a large region in the Early Post Classic Period (900 – 1200 AD). It contains one of the most interesting Mayan developments of buildings built in a special Mayan-Toltec style, as the famous **Castle**, the **Group of One Thousand Columns**, the **Ballgame** – the largest of the Mayan area – and the **Caracol**, among many others. In the so called Sacred Cenote it has been rescued one priceless collection of objects thrown in the deep water pit (cenote) as an offering during the prehispanic period.



Hacienda Temozón.  
PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

## Henequen Haciendas



The henequen exploitation – from which they got the fibers to export in great amounts –, was the most important activity of Yucatán at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th. Linked to it emerged several "haciendas" as the one of **Chunka-nán**, **Santa Rosa de Lima**, **Teya**, **Yaxcopoil**, **San Antonio Cucul** and **Temozón Sur**.



## Izamal



Magictown that preserves numerous colonial buildings, as for instance the most beautiful convent built by the Franciscan Order settled in Yucatán. Among its prehispanic monuments outstands Kinich Kak Moo, the largest of Yucatán.

Former Convent of San Antonio de Padua, Izamal. PHOTO: SERGIO AUTREY / RAICES



Cochinita pibil.

## GASTRONOMY



Yucatán's cuisine is one of the most famous at national level. It results from the combination of the Mayan and Spanish cuisines. Local gastronomy has a remarkable variety of dishes to which spices as the calabash seed, annatto, and the habanero hot pepper, give a particular taste. One can mention the **cochinita** or the **pibil chicken** as some of the dishes to which the annatto is added to give a unique flavor; the **lime soup**, the **panuchos**, **papadzules**, the **stuffed cheese**, the **motuleños eggs** and the **poc chuc**. Among the drinks we can find the **xtabentún**, a spirit made from honey and anise.

## HANDICRAFTS



Yucatán produces traditional crafts which combine elements from the prehispanic tradition one the ones introduced by the Spanish conquest. Among the most outstanding traditional handicrafts are the clothes – as the **hipil** (women's tunic) and the **guayabera** (men's shirt) and the **embroideries**. The **hammocks** are a typical product of the region and are manufactured in places as Tixkokob. Other regional crafts are the jewelry made from gold and silver as well as from coral, cocoyol and henequen spines, the **wood and stone carved crafts** and the **pottery** are elaborated in towns as Ticul.



Craftswoman.

PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

## YOU MUST...!

- Take a tour through Merida's down town
- Enjoy Uxmal and the Puuc's route
- Admire Chichén Itzá
- Cruise along Ría Lagartos
- Go to Celestún
- Visit Ek' Balam
- Walk by Izamal
- Visit the henequén estates or haciendas
- Eat lime soup, cochinita pibil, panuchos and stuffed cheese
- Buy the traditional shirts "guayaberas", "hipiles" and the hammocks

### Tourist Information

*Information booth at the Airport Manuel Crescencio Rejón (Mérida)*, inside the International Airport of Mérida, Yucatán.

*Information Booth at the Palacio de Gobierno or the State House Offices*, 61 and 60 street, inside the Palacio de Gobierno, Downtown, CP 97000, Mérida, Yucatán, +52 999 930 3101 ext. 10001.

*Information Booth at the Theater José Peón Contreras*, 57 and 60 street, inside the Theater Peón Contreras, Downtown, CP 97000, Mérida, Yucatán, +52 999 924 9290

*Yucatán Office of Conventions and Exhibitions*, 60 North Street. No. 299-E former building of Cordemex, Neighborhood of Revolución, CP 97118 Mérida, Yucatán, +52 999 942 1953/54/55, [www.yucatan.travel](http://www.yucatan.travel)

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