Trekonda



Yucatán · Mundo maya · Mexico

Mérida · Yucatán

Traveler's guide

Colonial capital of Yucatán and a base for Uxmal and the Puuc Route, swimming in the Cuzamá cenotes, flamingos at Celestún and day trips to Chichén Itzá.

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Nature

Mérida, capital of Yucatán state, was founded in 1542 on the ancient Maya city of T'hó. Its centre keeps the Cathedral of San Ildefonso, built between 1561 and 1599, and the mansions of Paseo de Montejo, paid for by the henequen boom. Around it lies a limestone plain covered in low tropical forest, with no rivers on the surface: water flows underground and emerges in thousands of cenotes. To the west, the Ría Celestún Biosphere Reserve protects mangroves where thousands of American flamingos feed and more than 300 bird species live.



Activities

- Uxmal, a World Heritage Site since 1996, about 80 km south: the Pyramid of the Magician and the Nunnery Quadrangle in Puuc style, with a light and sound show at dusk; combine it with Kabah, Sayil, Xlapak, Labná and the Loltún caves on the Puuc Route
- Cuzamá cenotes, about 45 km southeast: a ride of about 7 km in a truk, a horse-drawn cart running on the rails of an old henequen hacienda, to swim in three cenotes
- Celestún, about 90 km west: boat trip through the estuary among flamingos, mangroves and a freshwater spring, best from December to March
- Day trip to Chichén Itzá, about 120 km east, with El Castillo and the Great Ball Court; often combined with a cenote and Izamal
- The centre on foot: Plaza Grande, the cathedral and Paseo de Montejo; on Sundays from 8 am to noon the Biciruta closes Paseo de Montejo and Calle 60 to traffic

When to go

From November to March the heat is more bearable and there is little rain: the best time to combine the city, archaeological sites and Celestún, where flamingos are most numerous from December to March. April and May are the hottest months. From June to October afternoon rains arrive, and June to November is hurricane season. At the ruins, arrive first thing, before the heat and the tour groups.

How to get there

Mérida International Airport (MID) is about 8 km southwest of Plaza Grande, with direct flights from Mexico City. From Cancún (CUN) it is about 4 h by direct bus or about 3 h by car on toll highway 180D. The Tren Maya stops at Teya-Mérida station, about 7 km from the centre, with departures towards Cancún, Campeche and Palenque. Regional buses reach Uxmal, Cuzamá and Celestún, but a car or a tour saves time.

Activities in this destination

Hiking & trekking · Volcano · Rafting & hydrospeed · Boat trips, canoe & kayak · Hot springs · Zipline & tree climbing · Canyoning & rappelling · Paragliding · Horseback riding · Snow & snowshoeing · Local & indigenous culture · Nature & photography · Stargazing · Full-day excursions · Food & wine · Family & inclusive · Surfing & bodyboard · Sandboarding & dunes · Cycling & MTB · Climbing & mountaineering · Ice & glaciers · Kitesurfing & windsurfing · Diving & snorkelling · Wildlife & whale watching · City & walking tours · Birdwatching · Fly & sport fishing · Archaeology & ruins · Wine & wineries · Coffee & cocoa · 4x4 safari & overland

Experiences

No experiences published in Mérida · Yucatán yet Are you a guide here? Create your free profile and be the first to appear.

Guides

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Photo gallery



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Cenote en Cuzamá · Just Booked A Trip · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons



Flamenco americano alzando el vuelo, Reserva de la Biosfera Ría Celestún · Bernard

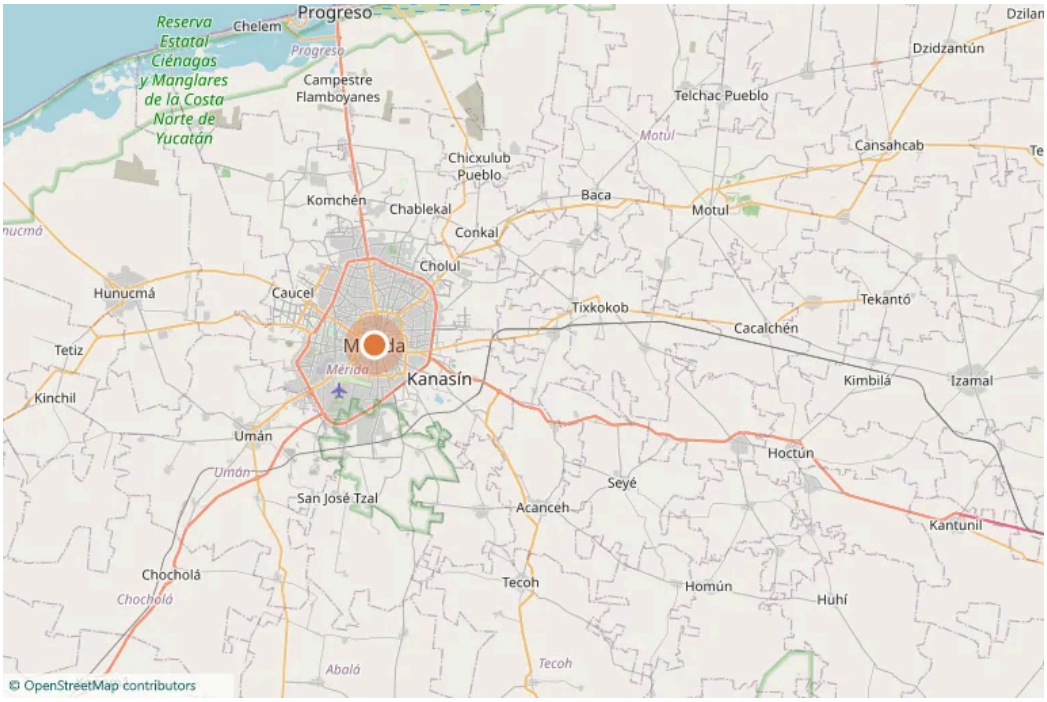


Truks tirados por caballos hacia los cenotes de Cuzamá · Gildardo Sánchez · CC BY

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Map · Mérida · Yucatán



20.9672, -89.6236 · Directions in Google Maps

How to book with a local guide

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