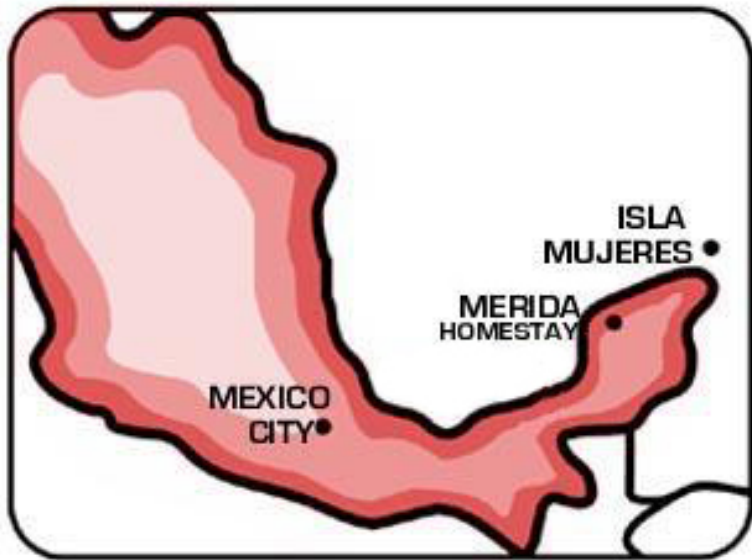


MI CAS

Merida Hotel or Homestay



Effective for travel 2020-2024

DAY ONE - Mexico City

You come to see the sights of this modern world capital and discover the heart and soul of the ancient Aztec empire. Practicalities walk: Zocalo, Diego Rivera murals, Cathedral, Aztec ruins. Conclude with a visit to La Ideal, the "Disney" of cake decorating.

DAY TWO - Museums & Markets

Panoramic sightseeing includes Bellas Artes, Alameda Park, Reforma Boulevard, Angel of Independence, and a drive through Las Lomas, an exclusive upscale neighborhood. Tour Chapultepec Castle. Then, stroll through the park and past the lakes on your way to the Museum of Anthropology. Later, bargain with the vendors in the popular Ciudadela Craft Market or the legendary San Juan.

DAY THREE - Teotihuacan/Merida

Today's touring includes the Plaza of Three Cultures, Shrine of Guadalupe, and Teotihuacan. Explore this mammoth site before having lunch where you'll witness a maguey and onyx demonstration. Later, fly to Merida. Transfer to your hotel or greeting by your homestay director and your host families in the airport lobby.

HOMESTAY GROUPS: Host families are interviewed, selected and monitored by the Institute of Modern Spanish, founded in 1995. The school serves as the central meeting point. On the initial excursion, a member of the host family accompanies the students to the meeting point. Most families are within walking distance while a few might prefer public transportation or safe, private taxis. Host families live in middle to upper middle-class northern suburbs of Merida.

DAY FOUR - Uxmal / Choco-Story *InterAction*

Uxmal has a magical feel and deep spirit not found at other Yucatan sites. This archeological site is a wonderful balance of jungle, wide open spaces, and few visitors as you marvel over the classic Puuc architecture of the Maya. Following lunch, explore Choco-Story Uxmal, where you'll travel back in time to an era of splendor in a Maya pueblo setting. Learn about daily life, enter their homes, cornfields, and gardens, and learn how cacao is transformed into chocolate. Sample a natural cacao beverage, watch the live crafting of hand-made ceramics by regional artisans, and witness a Maya ceremony.

DAY FIVE - Caminata & Compras

Guided walking tour of Merida's Centro Historico from Santa Lucia Park to the Plaza Grande. In lieu of the traditional guided tour, teachers can elect Interact's original Caminata del Centro & Sabores *InterAction*: exclusive student maps - with bilingual historical explanations of each landmark - permit each group to explore at their own pace and to purchase and sample popular regional snacks and refreshments during their exploration.

DAY SIX - SOMOS / *InterAction*

Start your day with SOMOS humanitarian *interAction*. After arrival, you'll receive a list of the most needed items and stop at a major mall, where you can purchase those items. Please budget a minimum of \$15. Continue to a local orphanage or school to engage in your assigned volunteer project. Afterwards, you'll have an opportunity to gather at the language school for a relaxing swim in their private pool.

DAY SEVEN - Chichen & Cenote /Isla Mujeres

Your first stop is Chichen Itza, recently named as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Following your exploration in the coolness of the jungle morning, swim in a cenote, a pristine subterranean lake. Continue to Puerto Juarez for your rapid boat transfer to Isla Mujeres: idyllic beaches, quaint shops, affordable restaurants, and friendly natives.

DAY EIGHT - ¡Viva Isla!

Relax in your hotel pool, browse the souvenir markets or arrange an optional activity such as a snorkeling tour (approximately \$50 with lunch), or Dolphin Discovery (book online and pay direct; fees vary).

DAY NINE – Return to United States



MIDWEEK DEPARTURES

9 days/8 nights



NIGHTS

Mexico City	2
Merida Hotel or Homestay	4
Isla Mujeres	2



MEALS

Daily breakfast & lunch or dinner.
Host families provide all meals.