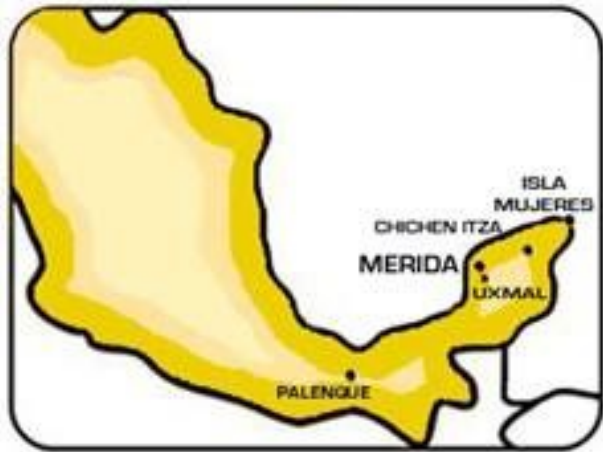


Sentinels of Silence



Effective for travel 2020-2024

DAY ONE – Arrival Merida / Uxmal

Most flights arrive in the evening. Interact's Foreign Representative greets you in the airport lobby. Enjoy your hour drive to your first sentinel of silence, Uxmal, the most famous Maya Puuc site. Since the Yucatan is relatively flat, this term was extended to encompass the large hills in the southern portion of the state, hence, the terms Puuc region or Puuc hills.

DAY TWO – Uxmal / Palenque

Explore Uxmal in the coolness of the jungle morning. Visit the Temple of the Magician, the Nunnery, and what many consider to be the finest example of Puuc architecture, the Governor's Palace. Learn about the fascinating chultunes, underground water storage systems. Then, relax as you skirt the coastal highway on your drive to Palenque, your second sentinel of silence.

DAY THREE - Jungle Gems

Palenque's majestic rainforest setting will transport you back to a mysterious bygone era. Howler monkeys serenade as the early morning mist wraps itself around the pyramids. Following your Palenque exploration, drive through lush jungle scenery on your way to the powerful waterfalls in Agua Azul National Park.

DAY FOUR – Merida Hotel

Lunch in Campeche. At one time, it was protected from pirates by eight bastions. Drive along the seaside promenade and enjoy spectacular views of the harbor and city.

Merida has been a major colonial city ever since its founding by the Spaniards in the late 1500s. Its people have a wonderfully relaxed attitude toward life. **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 FIVE- Conozca Merida & Markets

Start your morning with a guided walking tour of Merida's Centro Historico from Santa Lucia Park to the Plaza Grande, which is lined with some of Merida's finest architectural treasures. Explore the 16th century San Ildefonso Cathedral, built on the site of a former Maya temple, the Casa de Montejo and Palacio Municipal. Following lunch, browse the souvenir stores and practice your Spanish while you hone your bargaining skills in the traditional market, widely recognized as the Mecca of Markets in the Yucatan.

DAY SIX – SOMOS / *InterACTION*

Start your day with your exclusive 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 interact in your assigned volunteer project.

DAY SEVEN - Chichen & Cenotes/Isla Mujeres

Chichen Itza is a UNESCO World Heritage site and has been designated as one of the new 7 Wonders of the World. Following your exploration in the coolness of the jungle morning, you'll stop for lunch and have an opportunity for a refreshing swim in a cenote, a pristine subterranean lake. Continue your journey to Isla Mujeres, located a short ferry ride from the Cancun coast. This picturesque island is seven kilometers long and less than one kilometer wide, with lagoons, rocky coastline and wide sandy beaches. It is surrounded by the many stunning hues of blue of the gorgeous Caribbean Sea.

DAY EIGHT & NINE - Isla Mujeres

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 TEN - Return to United States



10 DAYS



9 NIGHTS

Uxmal	1
Palenque	2
Merida Hotel or Homestay	3
Isla Mujeres	3



MEALS

Hotels: Daily breakfast & Either lunch or dinner.
Homestay includes all meals.