

SUMMER IMMERSION SUMMER 2009 ITINERARY

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH

ALL DAY: WELCOME TO MÉRIDA!

Arrive and meet your host family.

SUNDAY, JULY 5TH

10:00AM – 4:00PM: EXPERIENCE THE CITY OF MÉRIDA.

With a population of over 750,000 inhabitants, the “White City” was founded in 1542 by Francisco de Montejo "El Joven". It is a cosmopolitan city that still conserves its colonial atmosphere and the majesty of its constructions. During a guided tour of the city, we will visit the Market in the historic downtown center, watch Latin dancing with a live band, and see murals painted by Fernando Castro Pacheco.

7:00PM – 11:00PM: OPENING FIESTA

Celebrate your arrival in style! Enjoy an evening with a Mariachi band and traditional Yucatecan food beginning at 7:00pm. Meet at the Habla center.

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 6TH

10:00AM: CLASSES BEGIN

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 9TH

2:00PM– 7:00PM: DAY AT THE BEACH, PROGRESO (OPTIONAL).

Only 30 minutes from Mérida’s center, Progreso is one of the finest beaches on the Gulf Coast of the Yucatan peninsula. The sandy white beach is lined by local fish restaurants in the charming city with a small-town feel.

SATURDAY ALL DAY, JULY 11TH

8:00AM – 6:00PM: SEE THE FLAMINGOES AND SPEND THE DAY BY THE OCEAN IN CELESTÚN.

Only 60 miles from Merida, the Celestún National Park is a wild animal refuge where the beautiful pink flamingo can be seen in its natural habitat. Try the seafood delicacies prepared here and visit the beautiful beaches, mangrove forests and the petrified wood of Tampeten. See the pink flamingo colonies and the beautiful landscapes of this bird and mammal sanctuary on an included boat tour.

SATURDAY ALL DAY, JULY 18TH

9:00AM – 5:00PM: VISIT THE MAYAN RUINS AT UXMAL.

Visit one of the most well known Mayan cities in the world. Uxmal is famous for the purity and delicacy of its architecture and decorative art. It reached its maximum splendor between 600 and 900 AD, but remains a compelling destination for visitors interested in an alternative experience of ancient Mayan culture.

SATURDAY ALL DAY, JULY 25TH

9:00AM – 2:00PM: OUTING TO CHICHEN ITZÁ (OPTIONAL)

Perhaps the most famous Mayan archeological zone in the world, the grandeur and beauty of Chichen Itzá is breathtaking. Climb to the top of the Pyramid of Kukulkan, the giant calendar whose phenomenon of light and shadow every equinox attracts tourists and scientists from all over the world. Admire the Observatory, the Temple of the Thousand Columns, the Ball Court, the Sacred Cenote, and other magnificent constructions on the grounds.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 30TH

7:00 PM – 10:00 PM: PERFORMANCES, EXHIBIT, AND RECEPTION

We will share the work we created throughout the summer in an informal exhibit and performance at Habla. The evening's celebration will be followed by a reception at Habla for all the summer participants.

SATURDAY ALL DAY AND NIGHT, AUGUST 1ST

2:00PM – 11:00PM: CLOSING FIESTA

For our closing celebration we will gather at the same place we kicked off the summer to spend the day swimming, eating tacos, and participating in our traditional closing events.

