



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Mexico - Mérida

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Mexico City
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish + 68 indigenous (like Nahuatl / Yucatec Maya / Mixtec)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 777,615
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 858,41
- ✓ **Currency:** Mexican Pesos (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +52
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 066
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Rabies / Dengue / Malaria prevention (+ anti-mosquito).



History Recap Over 1 Drink

AD 250-900: Mayas→mysterious collapse→10th-16th centuries: Revitalized Maya civilization in Yucatan (Chichen Itza/Uxmal). 1428-1521: Aztec Empire: Central Mex.'19: Start Spanish conquest. 1521-1820: Mex Spanish. 1810-21: War of Independence→ creation Mex Empire. '24: Federal republic→ formation of Guat/Honduras/ES/Nica/CR. '36: Texas secedes after war (US). '46-48: Mex-American War ends→ Mex forced to sell modern-day California/Nevada/New Mex/Arizona/Utah. '76-191: Dictatorship Diaz ("Porfiriato")→ '10-'20: Mex Revolution: Constitutional republic.'20: Pres Carranza murdered→Civil War.'42: Mex declares war on Japan&Germany '50s-60s: Tortures& killings of hundreds political activists by security forces. '68: Student demonstration in Tlatelolco→Killed too. '70s-'80s: Left-wing activists disappear. '85: Earthquake DF kills thousands.'93: Nafta (free trade) with Canada & US. '94: Guerrilla rebellion Chiapas (Zapatista/EZLN): Oppose Nafta, pro Indian rights. '95: Government&EZLN agreement on greater autonomy Mayas.'96: Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR) attacks government troops. '97: 45 Indians killed by paramilitary gunmen (Chiapas). '01: "Zapatour". '05: Gang violence in prisons.'06: Pres Calderon: "War on Drugs". '08/'09: Drug-related killings rise (Juarez)→'06-'12: 50,000+ people died. '14: Disappearance of 43 trainee teachers in Guerrero. '15: Druglord El Chapo prison escape.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry (cooler)												
Wet (hot)							Trop	ical	Storms			
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 11m. Climate: Semi-arid steppe / Tropical wet and dry savanna.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Free museums & galleries: Casa Montejo, Museo de Arte Popular, Macay, [Nahualli Casa de los Artistas](#), [Soho](#), [La Sala](#), [Tataya](#), [La Eskalera](#), [Galeria Merida](#), [Fundacion de Artistas](#), [Museo de la Ciudad](#).
- ☺ Sights: Paseo de Montejo, Catedral, Plaza Grande, Palacio Municipal, Palacio del Gobernador, Parque Hildago / Santa Ana / Santiago, [Teatro Peon Contreras](#), Iglesia Ermita de Santa Isabel, Cementario General, Monumento a la Patria.
- ☺ Free walking tour: Weekdays 9:30 (Tourism office in Municipal building, Calle 62 between 61 & 63).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Paid museums: [Palacio Canton](#), [Casa Museo Montes Molina](#), [Gran Museo del Mundo Maya](#), Museo de la Cancion Yucateca, [Casa Catherwood](#), [Museo de los Ferrocarriles de Yucatan](#).
- 👍 Cenotes: X Batun, Tulipanes, San Ignacio, Dzibilchaltún, Xlakah, Nayah, Tza-Ujun-Kat, Kankirixche, [Hacienda Sotuta de Peon](#). Cave diving possible! Nature: [Acuaparque](#).
- 👍 Maya: Uxmal, Ruta Puuc, Mayapan, Dzibilchaltun.

Festivals

- ☼ Carnaval: Feb.
- ☼ Semana Santa: Religious, Mar-Apr.
- ☼ Free weekly events: La Vaquería (Mon 9PM, Palacio Municipal), Yucatecan serenade (Thu 9PM, Parque Santa Lucia), University Serenade (Fri 9PM, Main University building), Noche Mexicana (Sat 8PM, Paseo de Montejo), Merida en Domingo (Sun 9AM-9PM, centre), Sunday Bicycle Route (Sun 8AM-12:30PM, La Ermita de Santa Isabel).

Budget Bites

⌘ Market: Mercado Lucas de Galvez (Calle 65ª), Mercado de Santiago (Calle 57), Mercado Garcia Rejon (Calle 60 x 65)

⌘ Cheap supermarket: Bodega Aurrera, Soriana, Mega, Walmart, Super Akí, Superama, Sam's Club, Chedraui, Comercial Mexicana... Some have dirt cheap on-site restaurants.

⌘ Mexico's options for streetfood & cheap *comedores* are endless: Guacamole, Tacos, Tamales, Marquesitas, Mollete, Churros, Cochinita Pibil, Camote, Flautas, Tostadas, Nachos, Fajitas, Volcancitos, Panuchos, Gringas, Gorditas, Tampiquenas, Salbutes, Empanadas, Quesedillas, Sincronizadas, Enchilladas, Burritos, Enfrijoladas, Empalmes, Chalupas / Huaraches / Tlacoyos, Elote, Esquites, Tortas / Cemitas / Molotes / Pambazos, fruit with chili, Carnita & MUCH more!

Next?

- ➔ In Mexico: Valladolid, Cancún, Tulum, Cozumel, Campeche.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Belize, Guatemala, US.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ [Nomadas Hostel](#), +529999245223, Calle 62 #433 (corner Calle 51).
- ❖ [Hostal Zocalo](#), +529999309562, Calle 63 entre 60 y 62 #508 Planta Alta.
- ❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting!](#) Also check [WorkAway](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ El Harem, Calle 56 entre Calle 37 y 35.
- ◆ Tequila Rock, Prolongacion Montejo #250, esquina 1-C Col.
- ◆ Vatzya, Avenida Colon y Calle 60 (Plaza Comercial del Hotel Fiesta Americana)

...Seated Down

- ◆ [Teatro Peon Contreras](#), Calle 60 #490.
- ◆ [Tapanco Teatro](#), Calle 47 x 68.
- ◆ [Centro Cultura Olimpo](#), Calle 62 x 61.

Free-Riding?

- Within the centre of Merida most is walkable.
- Taxi's are relatively cheap, but Merida can charge you tourist prices. Negotiate prices up front.
- There's not really a clear system with city buses. They're privately owned and destinations are displayed on the front window and so is the price (cheap!). It works in your advantage if you speak Spanish. To get out of Merida: Terminal de Autobuses 2a (Calle 69 #554, entre calle 78 y 70)... first class buses, like ADO, leave from CAME (Calle 70 #555, entre calle 69 y 71).
- Hitch-hiking is common and doable, but there's always a risk. In order to pre-arrange a ride & share gas costs, try [BlaBlaCar](#). Also check the 'Comparte Tu Auto' Facebook-page.

Tip: Download the Triposo Mexico app for offline maps, landmark descriptions & more, or load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

Mama Said

- ☠ Don't provoke roadblocks.
- ☠ Avoid walking around alone at night. Buy a lock for your bag.
- ☠ Drug trafficking is big in Mexico and most violence is related to this. Don't get involved.