

# THE GUUYED





# INTRODUCTION

Living in Mérida has been amazing. I was born and raised here, and it's been incredible to watch the city evolve over the years. It has become a perfect mix of colonial charm and modern vibes, with new people, flavors, and activities popping up everywhere. Whether it's exploring crystal-clear cenotes, hanging out on stunning beaches, or taking a quick trip to ancient ruins like Uxmal, Mérida has a bit of everything.

Food has always been a big part of my life, not just because I love to eat, but because it's in my blood. My dad's side of the family has been in the restaurant business, and my mom's side in the hotel business. Growing up surrounded by good food and hospitality taught me to appreciate how they come together to create great experiences. Over time, I've developed an instinct for finding the best spots in town. Here's a list of my favorite places in Mérida—I hope you enjoy them as much as I do!

Atte.  
*Man Marcos*

# STAY



# STAY

## CASA LECANDA

This beautifully restored colonial mansion in the heart of Mérida blends old-world charm with modern touches. The lush courtyards make you forget you're in the city. Plus, it's located on the gastronomic street, so amazing restaurants are just steps away. Perfect for a relaxed and refined escape.

## COQUI COQUI

Originally known for its iconic perfumery, Coqui Coqui has expanded into a beautifully restored colonial space. It combines Mayan roots with European elegance, creating an unforgettable experience. The air is filled with signature scents made from local ingredients, making every moment feel special.

## CASA OLIVA

Tucked in the Santiago neighborhood, this cozy spot blends modern vibes with colonial architecture. Whether you want to relax by the pool or explore the city, it's the perfect place. Bonus: it's right next to La Lupita Taquería, so amazing tacos are always within reach.

## ROSAS & XOCOLATE

A boutique hotel that instantly captivates with its signature pink tones and stunning architecture. The warm, vibrant atmosphere makes it an ideal place to disconnect and chill. Private outdoor jacuzzis add a touch of luxury, and being on Paseo de Montejo means you're steps away from the best of Mérida.



EAT





# EAT

## TRENDY

### CATRÍN

A fantastic place to dive into Mexican food and mixology. They serve dishes from different regions of Mexico, each with a unique twist. The muslitos fuego and tacos de lechón negro are a must-try, especially when paired with their house beer made in collaboration with La Ceiba. The vibrant decor and friendly atmosphere make it a great spot to enjoy with friends.

### RAMIRO

At 95 years old, Ramiro shares his treasured recipes and heartfelt anecdotes through his dishes. Eating here feels like a family meal, blending past, present, and future in every bite. It's more than just food—it's a celebration of life and cherished moments. The homely atmosphere adds to the charm of this local favorite.

### OLIVA

This Italian spot is perfect for a romantic dinner. The handmade pasta diavola and rich risotto with shrimp and octopus showcase their fantastic menu. The ambiance makes time slow down, especially with a glass of wine in hand. Every bite is an experience, and the attentive service makes it even more special.

### BARRA DEL HUNIIK

With only 16 seats, this place offers an intimate experience. Sitting at the bar, you get to watch Chef Roberto create each dish with precision and creativity. The six-course maize tasting menu is unforgettable, with each dish more impressive than the last. The cozy setting makes it feel like a private dining experience.



# EAT

## APOALA

A fusion of Oaxacan and Yucatecan flavors, Apoala is the perfect spot to enjoy a delicious meal at Santa Lucía Park. From tlayudas to unique cocktails, every dish feels like a perfect blend of tradition and creativity. The outdoor seating provides a lovely ambiance for an evening out.

## ARIADNA

A beautiful mix of modern and colonial design, with amazing food and a relaxed atmosphere. The perfect place to enjoy a laid-back meal with friends and family. The decor and ambiance make it a pleasant place to unwind and savor delicious dishes.

## CONCHITAS OYSTER BAR

An oyster lover's paradise located in the heart of Santa Lucía Park. They offer a variety of fresh oysters and seafood dishes in a laid-back yet sophisticated atmosphere. It's the perfect spot to enjoy great food and company, with flavors that transport you to the coast.

## MARGO AMALIA VENIUE

Inspired by the chef's grandmothers, this spot feels like stepping into a family kitchen. Every detail is a tribute to tradition, and the comforting flavors reflect generations of love and care. The breakfast and brunch options are simply delightful, with homemade touches that make every bite feel special.

BREAKFAST/  
BRUNCH



# EAT

## VOLTA CAFE

A cozy café with a great selection of breakfast dishes and coffee. The green chilaquiles are a must-try, and their Horchata Espresso is the perfect drink to kickstart your day. The casual atmosphere makes it an inviting place to relax and enjoy a good meal.

## MARÍA & MONTEJO

This charming café offers some of the best coffee and breakfast in Mérida. The cozy atmosphere and beautifully designed interior make it an ideal spot to relax. Their double espresso and pastries are a must-try, perfect for starting your day.

## SOCO CENTRO

Located in Santa Lucía, Soco Centro is a haven for sourdough lovers. The smell of freshly baked bread fills the air, and their pistachio and almond croissants are simply irresistible. The industrial yet cozy ambiance makes it a unique spot to enjoy a good pastry and coffee.

## TRADITIONAL

### MUGY (*MUSEO DE LA GASTRONOMÍA YUCATECA*)

A must-visit for traditional Yucatecan cuisine. The daily descentierro of cochinita pibil is an incredible experience, and the fresh tortillas made by local mestizas complete the perfect meal. It's a place that captures the heart of Yucatán's food culture.

### LA PIGUA

A seafood staple in Mérida, offering delicious coconut shrimp and crab claws in a relaxed setting. The combination of fresh ingredients and friendly service makes it a top choice for seafood lovers.

# EAT

## TACOS

### LONCHERIA “LA LUPITA”

Located in Parque de Santiago, this spot serves delicious panuchos and tortas packed with flavor. A great place for a quick breakfast before exploring the city. The market vibe adds to the authenticity of this local gem.

### WAYAN´E

Known for its amazing guisado tacos, Wayan’e is a must-visit. The castakan torta with cheese and an agua de chaya are highly recommended. Arriving early is key, as the most popular dishes tend to sell out quickly.

### SAN FERNANDO

A nostalgic spot that’s been serving cochinita tortas for generations. The bread soaked in broth and the comforting flavors make it a timeless favorite. It’s a must-visit for anyone wanting to experience a piece of Mérida's culinary history.

### COCHINITA Y LECHON ITZIMA

Some of the best cochinita and lechón in Mérida, served from a humble street tent with a long-standing reputation for excellence. The flavors are rich and authentic, making it a local favorite.



# DRINKS

*Pico de Orizaba Cantina Pico de Orizaba*

CALLE 43

  
**Corona**

NUEVA ADMINISTRACION

*Cantina  
Pico de Orizaba*

*Cantina  
Pico de Orizaba*





# DRINKS

## TRENDY

### CATRÍN

I've been to Catrín many times with friends and family, and it's always a great experience. Sitting on the terrace, enjoying the video mapping of the mural by ROA, creates an amazing vibe. The bar sits right under the mural, making every drink order part of the experience. Their mixology is top-notch—my favorite is the mezcalita with hibiscus, and their clamato preparado is a must-try.

### ANIMA (EL VIENTO)

Hidden inside Anima, Viento is a hi-fi bar that plays only vinyl records, creating an amazing atmosphere. The sound quality is top-notch, and the vibe is perfect for a casual night out with friends or a date. The mixology is creative, and the ambiance feels unique and intimate.

### ACERVO MEZCALERO

If you're into mezcal, this is the place to be. They have an extensive selection of mezcals from different regions of Mexico. The knowledgeable staff helps guide you through the options, making it a great place to learn and enjoy.

### PATIO PETANCA

A cozy spot where you can enjoy great cocktails and tasty snacks like grasshopper-filled dishes. It has a relaxed atmosphere with games like pétanque to keep you entertained while you sip on one of their signature drinks.



# DRINKS

## BAR DE BARRIO

Located inside a charming hostel, Bar de Barrio has a friendly, laid-back vibe. It's the perfect place to enjoy a casual drink, meet new people, and relax. The affordable prices and welcoming ambiance make it a local favorite.

## CANTINAS

### FUNDACIÓN LA MEZCA

A favorite among tourists and locals, this place offers live music, refreshing drinks, and a lively crowd. Whether you're looking to dance or just enjoy the ambiance, it's a fun spot to let loose and have a great time.

### LA NEGRITA

A classic cantina with over a century of history, La Negrita offers a tropical patio, cold beers, and great music. It's always bustling with locals and tourists enjoying the laid-back atmosphere. Perfect for an afternoon drink or a fun night out.

### LAGARTO DE ORO

A lively bar with soft lighting and great music that instantly draws you in. Weekends feature DJs and live performances, making it a great place to unwind with friends over craft beers and mezcal. The friendly staff and relaxed setting make it a go-to spot.

### EL CARDENAL CANTINA

A colorful and lively cantina where live music and a friendly crowd create a great atmosphere. Their craft beer selection is excellent, and the staff makes you feel at home. It's a great place to soak in Mérida's nightlife.

# DRINKS

## DZALBAY

This bar is known for its retro vibe and amazing live music, featuring jazz and blues bands almost every night. The relaxed yet vibrant atmosphere makes it a great place to kick back and enjoy quality drinks while listening to great tunes.



# SHOP





# SHOP

## MERCADO LUCAS DE GALVEZ

This bustling market is the perfect place to experience Mérida's local culture. You'll find everything from fresh produce to handmade crafts and textiles. Walking through the colorful stalls, you can taste delicious Yucatecan snacks and discover unique souvenirs. It's a lively spot where locals and tourists come together, making it a must-visit for an authentic shopping experience.

## CASA THÓ

A beautifully restored mansion on Paseo de Montejo, Casa Thó offers a curated selection of local design, art, and fashion. Each room showcases unique pieces that blend contemporary style with Yucatecan tradition. Whether you're looking for home décor, clothing, or accessories, you'll find something special here. The cozy café inside is perfect for a relaxing break after

## TALLER MAYA

A shop that supports local artisans by offering handcrafted products that reflect Yucatán's rich cultural heritage. From textiles to ceramics, every piece tells a story of tradition and craftsmanship. The shop focuses on fair trade and sustainability, making it a great place to find meaningful souvenirs while supporting the local community. It's an ideal spot to pick up gifts or something special for yourself.



SEE





# SEE

## CHICHEN ÍTZA

One of the New Seven Wonders of the World, Chichén Itzá is a must-see. The iconic Kukulkán Pyramid, the ancient observatory, and the sacred cenote make this site truly special. Walking through its vast ruins, you can feel the deep history and culture of the Maya civilization. Arriving early to avoid crowds is a great idea, and don't forget to bring water and comfortable shoes.

## UXMAL

Known for its impressive Puuc-style architecture, Uxmal is one of the most beautiful archaeological sites in Yucatán. The Pyramid of the Magician and the Governor's Palace are breathtaking examples of ancient Mayan craftsmanship. The site's layout and intricate stone carvings make it a fascinating place to explore, and it's less crowded than Chichén Itzá, making it a peaceful experience.

## CENOTE IK KIL

Just a short drive from Chichén Itzá, this cenote is a stunning natural wonder. The crystal-clear waters are surrounded by lush vegetation and hanging vines, creating a magical atmosphere. It's the perfect place to cool off after exploring the ruins. There are facilities like lockers and changing rooms, making it an easy and enjoyable stop for swimmers and sightseers alike.

# SEE

## CENOTE CUZAMA

A unique adventure awaits at Cenote Cuzamá, where visitors ride on horse-drawn carts along old henequen tracks to access three breathtaking cenotes. Each cenote offers a different experience, from swimming in clear blue water to marveling at stalactites and roots hanging from above. It's a fun and memorable way to experience Yucatán's underground beauty.

## GRUTAS DE CALCEHTOK

These caves are perfect for adventure lovers. You can explore deep underground passages, crawl through narrow tunnels, and discover fascinating rock formations. There are easy and extreme routes, so it's a great option for different skill levels. Be prepared to get a little dirty, but the experience is worth it. A guide is highly recommended to make the most of your visit.

## PASEO DE MONTEJO

This iconic avenue is perfect for a relaxing stroll, featuring grand colonial mansions, charming cafés, and boutique shops. It's right next to the **gastronomic street**, making it easy to enjoy some of Mérida's best dining options. It's a great spot to soak in the city's history and enjoy local treats like marquesitas and helados. Whether you're walking during the day or enjoying the nightlife, Paseo de Montejo captures the elegance and charm of Mérida

# ESCAPE





# ESCAPE

## PROGRESO

### MALECON DE PROGRESO

Just a short drive from Mérida, Progreso is the perfect beach escape. Its long malecón is great for a leisurely stroll, with plenty of restaurants serving fresh seafood and refreshing drinks. The calm waters are ideal for swimming, and the laid-back vibe makes it a great spot to relax. Whether you're sunbathing, enjoying local flavors, or taking in the sunset, Progreso is a must-visit.

## CELESTÚN

### LAS PAMPANOS

If you're looking for a peaceful getaway, Celestún is the place to be. Known for its stunning pink flamingos, this biosphere reserve offers boat tours through mangroves and beautiful beaches to unwind. The seafood is as fresh as it gets, and the quiet atmosphere makes it perfect for a relaxing day trip. Don't forget your camera—the views are incredible.

## SISAL

### PALMAR BEACH CLUB

A hidden gem on the Yucatán coast, Sisal offers a tranquil beach experience with crystal-clear waters and soft sand. It's perfect for those looking to escape the crowds and enjoy nature. The town has a relaxed atmosphere, with a few cozy seafood spots where you can enjoy fresh ceviche. Whether you want to lounge by the beach or explore local wildlife, Sisal is a wonderful retreat.

# ESCAPE

## IZAMAL

### KINICH

Also known as the "Yellow City," Izamal is a charming town full of history and culture. The entire town is painted warm yellow, creating a unique and inviting atmosphere. You can explore ancient pyramids, colonial architecture, and quaint artisan shops. The local cuisine is a highlight, with traditional Yucatecan dishes full of flavor. Izamal is a great spot for a peaceful escape.

## VALLADOLID

### DOWNTOWN VALLADOLID

Valladolid is a colorful town that perfectly blends tradition with modernity. Its charming colonial architecture and vibrant streets make it a fantastic destination to explore. The main square is a great spot to take in the beauty of the town, while the local cuisine, especially the famous longaniza, is something you can't miss. Spend a day wandering through the colorful streets, visiting the cenotes, and enjoying the laid-back vibe.



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