

DAILY CULTURAL EVENTS IN MERIDA, YUCATAN

Monday: Vaqueria



Performances by the Ballet Folklórico de Merida, accompanied by the Orchestra Jaranera. This celebration has its roots in the 18th century, when cattle ranching was the main source of wealth on the Yucatan Peninsula.

Ranchers held huge fiestas to show off their wealth during branding time. The dances were adapted by the wives of the cowboys and soon developed into the signature dances of Yucatan.

Location: In front of the Municipal Palace (the building with the clock), 62 x 63 streets.

Time: The first note of "Aires Yucatecos" begins at 21:00 hours. Free admission.

Tuesday: Musical Memories



This weekly dance has been held every Tuesday night since Valentine's Day 1984. Come out and enjoy the Big Band sounds of the 1940's, performed by members of the wonderful Jaranera Orchestra. Best of all, this is a great place to practice your chachacha and your mambo, or just sit and watch others enjoy dancing under the stars.

Location: Parque de Santiago, 72 x 59 streets.

Time: 20:30 hours. Free admission.

Wednesday: in Concert



Different free concerts are performed for the public to enjoy the vast and incomparable musical talent show of Yucatan.

Location: Auditorium of the Olimpo Cultural Center, 62 x 61 streets, Downtown.

Time: 21:00:00 hours. Free admission.

Thursday: Yucatecan Serenade



This is the defining serenade of Merida and has been performed every Thursday night for 50 years. Parque Santa Lucia, home to the Alter of the Trova is the center of Merida's romantic heart. If you are a visitor, make sure to see this particular serenade. It is well worth becoming a part of your first memory of Merida.

Location: Parque de Santa Lucia, 60 x 55 streets, Downtown.

Time: 21:00 hours. Free admission.

Thursday: Remember is Living



The Jaranera Orchestra, with their signature Big Band sound, provides music. It was originally intended as an entertainment venue for older dancers, but many other folks use it yet another opportunity to perfect their dance steps.

Encloses all that beautiful time of yesteryear with its splendor of rhythms such as danzon, mambo and cha-cha, among many others.

Location: Parque Zoologico del Centenario (The zoo). Itzaes Avenue x 59 street, Downtown.

Time: 16:00 hours. Free admission.

Friday: Pok ta pok – Mayan ball game.



The ball game had a lot of ritual among the ancient Maya, their importance was such that the warriors felt honored to participate in the game, but the end, and historians say was the dead for the losing team. Come relive this old event and enjoy the historic center converted into a field for the ancestral Mayan ball game called "Pok-ta-pok".

Location: 60 x 61 and 63 streets, Downtown. In front of the Cathedral.

Time: 20:00 to 21:00 hours. Free admission.

Saturday: Mexican Night



Every Saturday night, there is a performance on an outdoor stage at the beginning of Paseo de Montejo, often from a musical or dance group from another part of Mexico. Chairs are set up for the audience, but there is often standing room only. Booths selling food and handcrafts are set up in the park. The purpose of this performance is to bring all of Mexico to Merida and to our tourists from all over the world.

Location: At the beginning of Paseo de Montejo.

Time: 20:00 hours. Free admission.

Saturday: In the heart of Merida



Live music, including jazz, salsa and trova, held on various stages around the Plaza Grande. Many of the streets leading to the Plaza are closed to all but foot traffic, and the restaurants and bars put their chairs and tables outside in the streets. This is a night designed for that Saturday night date, but they've got all of the shops open for business too.

Location: Streets 60 and 62, Downtown.

Time: 21:00 to 2:00 hours. Free admission.

Sunday: Merida on Sunday



Merida on Sunday is a spectacular tradition in Merida. Start at the center of the city, where boots are set up all over the Plaza Grande. Inside you can find huipiles, guayaberas, honey, traditional toys, bags, t-shirts and more. Local people make everything; the outer ring of booths sell food, such as marquesitas, cochinita, ice cream, fruit, drinks, etc.

If the crowd starts to get to you wander up 60 street to Santa Lucia Park (at 55 street, where you can also find antiques, old books and other curiosities. At that lovely park, there is also live music, lots of dancing and delicious yucatecan food.

Location: at Downtown. Plaza Grande, Santa Lucia and Macay Museum (60 x 61 and 63 streets).

Time: 9:00 to 9:00 hours. Free admission.

Sunday: the Bicycle Route



Bici-ruta in Spanish begins early at 8:00 hours, though we see them setting up as early as 7:00 hours. It ends at 12:30 hours. The route usually begins at Ermita de Santa Isabel, with stops at Monumento a la Patria, Paseo de Montejo x 29, Paseo de Montejo x Avenida del Deportista and Paseo de Montejo x 42.

Along the way, you can participate in health education programs, music and dancing, art and sculpture classes, soccer games and more. If anyone wants to pick-up a chess game, one can be found on the sidewalk outside the Museum of Anthropology on Paseo de Montejo at 9:00 hours.

Location: Begins at Parque de la Ermita, runs through the Plaza Grande and ends at the Glorieta on Prolongación Paseo de Montejo (at Burger King).

Time: 8:00 to 12:30 hours. Free admission.