

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), Calle 62 x 63

Time: The first note of “Aires Yucatecos” begins at 9:00 PM **Admission:** Free

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 1940s, 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*, Calle 72 x 59

Time: 8:30 PM

Admission: Free

WEDNESDAY: IN CONCERT



Description: 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

Time: 21:00 Hrs

THURSDAY: YUCATECAN SERENADE



This is the defining serenade of Merida and has been performed every Thursday night for over 40 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*, Calle 60 x 55

Time: 9:00 PM

Admission: Free

THURSDAY: TO REMEMBER IS TO LIVE



This is a dance that begins early and ends at a reasonable hour. Music is provided by the Jaranera Orchestra, with their signature Big Band sound. It was originally intended as an entertainment venue for older dancers, but lots of other folks use it as yet another opportunity to perfect their dance steps.

Location: Parque Zoologico del Centenario (The Zoo), Calle 59 x Avenida Itzaes

Time: 4:00 PM

Admission: Free

FRIDAY: POK TA POK MAYA 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, historians say, was the death for the losing team. Come relive this old event and enjoy the historic center converted into a field for the ancestral Maya ball game, "pok ta pok". Enjoy this event every Friday at 8:00 p.m.

Calle 60 entre 61 y 63 Historical Center in front of Cathedral **Admission:** Free

SATURDAY: NOCHE MEXICANA



Each 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 handicrafts 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: 8:00 PM **Admission:** Free

SÁBADO: 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: *Plaza Grande*, Calle 61 at Calle 60

Time: Saturday nights, from 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM **Admission:** Free

SUNDAY: MÉRIDA EN DOMINGO



Sunday downtown is a spectacular tradition in Merida. Start at the center of the city, where booths are set up all over the *Plaza Grande*. Inside the *plaza*, you can find *huipiles*, *guayaberas*, honey, dolls, bags, tee-shirts and more. Everything is made for sale by the local people of Yucatan. The outer ring of booths sell food, such as *marquesitas*, *tacos*, *cochinita*, ice cream (try the coconut), fruit, drinks, etc. If the crowd starts to get to you, wander up Calle 60 to Santa Lucia Park (at Calle 55, where you can also find antiques, old books and other curiosities. At that lovely park, there is also

live music, lots of dancing, and more great food.

Location: in the Centro Historico: Plaza Grande, Parque Santa Lucia (*Cale 60 x 55*) and MACAY Museum (*Calle 60 x 61 y 63*).

Time: 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Admission: Free

SUNDAY: BICIRUTA



The *Bici-Ruta* begins early, at 8:00 AM, though we see them setting up as early as 7:00 AM. It ends at 12:30 PM. The route usually begins at *Ermita de Santa Isabel*, with stops at *Monumento a la patria*, *Paseo de Montejo x 33 y Ave. Cupules*, *Paseo de Montejo x 29*, *Paseo de Montejo x Ave. del deportista*, and *Paseo de Montejo x 42*. Along the way, participants 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 AM.

Location: *Begins at Parque de la Ermita, runs through the Plaza Grande and ends at the glorieta On Prolongacion Paseo de Montejo (by Burger King)*

Time: *8:00 AM to 12:30 PM*

Admission: *Free*