



WHC-96/CONF.201/INF.2

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**Twentieth session
Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico**

2 - 7 December 1996

GENERAL INFORMATION

20 DEC. 1996

GENERAL INFORMATION

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I. PLACE OF MEETING

The 20th session of the World Heritage Committee shall take place in the city of Mérida, capital of the state of Yucatán located Northwest of the Yucatán Peninsula, 37 kms. from the port and beaches of Progreso.

Yucatán limits on the North with the Gulf of Mexico, East and Southeast with the state of Quintana Roo and West with the state of Campeche. With a population of 1,362,940 inhabitants, its surface covers 43,379 square kilometers.

Some of the places of interest in the State are: Chichén Itzá, Dzibilchaltún, Izamal, Uxmal and Valladolid. Cancun, an international tourist site, is located in the neighbouring state of Quintana Roo, at a distance of 319 kms. It can be reached by air transportation, flight time 20-25 minutes or by road in 3 hours.

Mérida, known as the "White City" has one of the most extended historic centers in Mexico, with important civil and religious monuments dating from the XVI to the XXth Century, such as the Cathedral, various Convents, the Montejo House, the Cantón Palace, the Peón Contreras Theater and many others. It has 16 squares (plazas) and gardens such as the famous Santa Lucia where you can listen to traditional regional music during the evenings.

With a population of 700,000 inhabitants, Mérida is an international tourist site. The local restaurants offer a variety of Yucatán, Mexican and International foods.

II. HOW TO GET TO MERIDA

2. There are 3 options to travel to Mérida from abroad:

2.1. Directly to Mérida from Miami, Guatemala and Havana.

2.2. There are 15 Mexican, US and European airlines that fly via Cancun.

The following table details Cancun-Mérida flight frequency (AM = Aeroméxico, MX = Mexicana)

Departure/ Arrival	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7.50-8.30 hrs.		AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX
	Aerocaribe	Aerocaribe	Aerocaribe	Aerocaribe	Aerocaribe	Aerocaribe	Aerocaribe
8.00-8.40		AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
		MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX
9.50-10.40	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
18.20-19.20				AM	AM		
				MX	MX		
19.35-20.15					MX		

MERIDA - CANCUN FLIGHTS

Departure/ Arrival	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9.25-10.25hrs.	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX
18.15-19.00.	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX

2.3 Via Mexico City by most of the main airlines of Mexico, America, Asia and Europe.

MEXICO CITY - MERIDA FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Departure/ Arrival	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7.20-9.00 hrs.			AM			AM	
8.20 - 9.55	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX
11.15 - 12.55	TAESA	TAESA	TAESA	TAESA	TAESA	TAESA	TAESA
12.25 - 14.05	AM	AM		AM	AM		AM
14.15 - 15.50	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX
16.00 - 17.40	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
17.25 - 19.05	AM	AM		AM	AM		AM
20.30 - 22.05	MX	MX	MX	MX		MX	
20.50 - 22.30.	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM

MERIDA - MEXICO CITY FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Departure/ Arrival	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7.00-8.45 hrs.	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX
10.45 - 12.30	MX	MX	MX	MX		MX	MX
11.10 - 12.55	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	AM
11.30 - 13.15					MX		
15.30 - 17.15			AM			AM	
16.20 - 18.05	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX		MX
18.05 - 19.50	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX	MX
19.25 - 21.10.						MX	

* Schedules subject to change.

3. The organisers shall provide transportation from the airport to the city of Mérida. In order to be received upon arrival, we request you to clearly indicate the following information on the registration form included : date, airline and flight n°, arrival time, proceeding from, as well as the name of the preferred hotel from those indicated under item 18.

III. VENUE OF THE MEETING

4. The 20th session of the World Heritage Committee will take place in Mérida Yucatán, December 2- 7, 1996. Preceding the session, an extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee will be held November 29-30, 1996.

Both sessions will be held at:

HOTEL FIESTA AMERICANA MERIDA

Av. Colón 451, esquina Paseo Montejo

Mérida, Yucatán

92127 México

Tel. (52-99) 421111

Fax (52-99) 421112

5. The office of the secretariat of the World Heritage Committee will function at the venue as of November 27, 1996, thus, all correspondence thereof should be sent to :

Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee

Secretaría del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial

Hotel Fiesta Americana Mérida

Av. Colón 451, esquina Paseo Montejo

Mérida, Yucatán

92127 México

Tel. (52-99) 421111

Fax (52-99) 421112

6. Before the above-mentioned date, all communication, except hotel reservations, should be sent to:

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

7, Place de Fontenoy

75007 Paris, France

Tel . (33.01) 45 68 15 71 or 45 68 18 76

Telex : 20 44 61 and 27 06 02 Paris

Fax (33.1) 40 56 95 70

New fax: (33-01) 45 68 55 70 (after 18 October 1996)

7. During the meeting participants may receive correspondence at the Reception Service of the Hotel Fiesta Americana Mérida.

IV. PARTICIPANTS' REGISTRATION

8 Each participant should send **directly** to the Mexican National Commission for UNESCO (CONALMEX) in advance of attendance, the meeting *Registration form*, confirming your duration of stay, itinerary of arrival to and departure from Mérida, to the following address:

CONALMEX
Av. Presidente Mazaryk No. 525, 1er piso
Colonia Polanco
11 50 México, D.F. México
Tel. (52-5) 230 78 07; 230 76 09; or 230 76 13
Fax (52-5) 280 74 74

9. All participants must register at the Reception Desk at the place of the meeting, Hotel Fiesta Americana Mérida, December 1st from 18:00 to 21:00 hrs or on the 2nd of December from 8:00 am to 09: 30 am. Upon registration, participants will receive the working documents, identification tag, and other materials. To facilitate identification, all delegates should wear their identification tag during the meetings.

V. INAUGURAL SESSION

10. The inaugural session will take place on December 2nd, at 10:00 am at the Salón Yucatán of the Hotel Fiesta Americana Mérida.

VI. MEETING SCHEDULE

11. 09:00 - 13:00 hrs.
15:00 - 18:00 hrs.

The Programme for the sessions will be available daily. Possible changes will be announced at the end of each working session.

VII. WORKING DOCUMENTS

12. Delegates will receive a set of working documents before the Meeting.

Additional copies will be available at the site of the Meeting. All working documents as well as those prepared during the Meeting, including the Preliminary Report of the Meeting, will be distributed in English and French.

13. Participants are reminded that the Secretariat does not have the capacity to transcribe or reproduce any document that is not directly related to the work of the Committee.

VIII. WORKING LANGUAGES

14. English and French will be the working languages at the Meeting. Simultaneous translation in the working languages will be available for all participants during the meetings.

15. There will be simultaneous translation for Spanish.

IX. MEDIA FACILITIES

16. Facilities and space will be available for use by journalists who wish to cover the proceedings or to interview delegates.

17. Mexico will provide media relations support in cooperation with the Secretariat to assist journalists. Statements, new releases, media advisories, etc. will be provided by the Secretariat.

X. ACCOMMODATION

18. Arrangements have been made for accommodation in hotels in Mérida. It is important to include in the enclosed registration and hotel reservation form, the name of the hotel in which you will stay and the exact dates of arrival and departure from the hotel. You are kindly requested to make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel.

The venue hotel : The hotel has 350 rooms with modern services, five restaurants, shopping centre, pool, tennis court, gym, sauna and other services.

FIESTA AMERICANA MÉRIDA (Grand Tourism category)
Tel : (52 99) 421111 (international); (91) 99 421111 (national long distance)
Fax: (52 99)- 4211 12 (international), dial 91 for national long distance

Single room: US\$ 70.00
Double room: US\$ 75.00

Other options

HOTEL HOLIDAY INN (Grand Tourism)
Tel. (52-99) 250110 international call
(91-99) 2501 10 national long distance call

Single/Double room: US\$ 65.00

EL CONQUISTADOR (4 star)
Tel. (52-99) 262155 international call
(91-99) 262155 national call

Single room: US\$ 44.00

XI. CURRENCY REGULATIONS

19. Average rate of exchange : 7.70 Mexican Pesos = US\$ 1

XII. CLIMATE IN MERIDA DURING DECEMBER

20. Pleasant warm weather. Temperature range is between 19 and 25 degrees Celsius. Altitude 9 meters above sea level.

XIII. ELECTRICITY

21. The electrical current in Mexico is 110 volts. The plugs have flat 2-pins.

XIV. ENTRANCE FORMALITIES (Customs, Visa requirements, etc.)

22. All participants require a valid passport and visa.

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

20th session

Mérida Yucatán, México

December 2-7, 1996

XV. REGISTRATION AND HOTEL RESERVATION FORM *(Please send the meeting Registration form to the Mexican National Commission for UNESCO (CONALMEX).)*

FIESTA AMERICANA MÉRIDA (Grand Tourism category)

Tel.:(52 99) 421111 (international); (91) 99 .421111 (national long distance)

Fax: (52 99)- 421112 (international), dial 91 for national long distance

Single room: US\$ 70.00

Double room: US\$ 75.00

HOTEL HOLIDAY INN (Grand Tourism)

Tel. (52-99) 250110 international call

(91-99) 2501 10 national long distance call

Single/Double room: US\$ 65.00

EL CONQUISTADOR (4 star)

Tel. (52-99) 262155 international call

(91-99) 262155 national call

Single room: US\$ 44.00

Payment should be made directly to the hotel

LAST NAME/FAMILY NAME : _____

FIRST NAME/GIVEN NAME : _____

PASSPORT N°/COUNTRY : _____

ADDRESS : _____

CITY : _____ COUNTRY: _____

TELEPHONE : _____ FAX: _____ TELEX : _____

ARRIVAL DATE : _____ TIME : _____ AIRLINE/FLIGHT: _____ FROM: _____

DEPARTURE DATE: _____ TIME : _____ AIRLINE/FLIGHT: _____ TO: _____

TYPE OF ROOM / N° OF PERSONS : _____

SIGNATURE : _____ DATE : _____

All reservations should be sent directly to the hotel.