

# Institute of Modern Spanish

SPANISH & CULTURE IN MERIDA, YUCATAN, MEXICO

## *Kings Day Cultural Program* Yucatán Spanish Immersion Program January 2010

### LEARN SPANISH, EXPERIENCE THE CULTURE AND EXPLORE THE YUCATAN

The Institute of Modern Spanish has designed a program for adults and retired seniors, where students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Mexican culture and learn Spanish as spoken today in Latin America.

Students will have four hours of classes per day from Monday through Friday and we will use the afternoon hours for cultural activities and trips to the nearby wonders of the Yucatan.

During the weekends we will expand our horizons and visit amazing archeological sites, wonderful natural reserves and spectacular underground caves and sink holes.



We will visit Izamal a magic city in Yucatán, Chichen Itza (one of the modern world wonders), Uxmal, Loltun, Dzibilchaltún and the beaches of Progreso and Celestun.

### *Program Itinerary*

#### **Saturday January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Airport Pick Up and Welcome. Meet with host families.

#### **Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

City Tour, Visit Merida historical center and enjoy “Mérida en Domingo”, an open market with vendors and music.

#### **Monday January 4<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Grammar Class,

10:50 AM-11:10 Break

11:10 AM-1:00PM Conversational Spanish

1:00 PM-2:30 PM Lunch with Host Family

7:00 PM “La Vaqueria” Regional show in Down Town

#### **Tuesday January 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Grammar Class,

10:50 AM-11:10 Break

11:10 AM-1:00PM Conversational Spanish

1:00 PM-5:30 PM Visit to Izamal Magic Town

#### **Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup> KINGS DAY**

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Grammar Class,

10:50AM-11:10 Break

11:10AM-1:00PM Culture Class “Kings Day”

1:00 PM Cooking class “Sopa de Lima”

Desert: Traditional Kings Day Bread

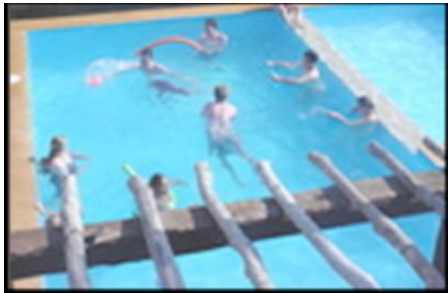


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## *Program Itinerary*



### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**DATES:** January 2<sup>nd</sup>- Jan 16<sup>th</sup>

**LOCATION:** MERIDA,  
YUCATAN, MEXICO!

**CLASSES:** Spanish Language  
and Mexican Culture

**SCHEDULE:** Classes 9am 1pm

**EXCURSIONS:** after classes  
and weekends

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Mexican  
Host families.

Three daily meals

### **Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Grammar Class,

10:50 AM-11:10 Break

11:10 AM-1:00PM Conversational Spanish

1:00 PM-5:30 PM Visit to Dzibilchaltun – Progreso

*Optional night outing to “La Serenata”*

### **Friday January 8<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Grammar Class,

10:50 AM-11:10 Break

11:10 AM-1:00PM Conversational Spanish

FREE AFERNOON *Optional Salsa Class*

### **Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM Departure for Chichen Itza one of the new 7 wonders  
of the modern world

### **Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM Departure for Celestún Natural Reserve, boat ride in  
to the mangrove jungle, visit the flamingos and spend  
afternoon at leisure at the beach.

### **Monday January 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Grammar Class,

10:50 AM-11:10 Break

11:10 AM-1:00PM Conversational Spanish

FREE AFTERNOON *Optional Salsa Class*

### **Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Grammar Class,

10:50 AM-11:10 Break

11:10 AM-1:00PM Conversational Spanish

1:00 PM-5:30PM Visit to Uxmal and the Light and Sound Show

### **Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Grammar Class,

10:50 AM-11:10 Break

11:10 AM-1:00PM Conversational Spanish

1:00 PM-5:30 PM *Tixcocab Hammock Village*

### **Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM Grammar Class,

10:50 AM-11:10 Break

11:10 AM-1:00PM Conversational Spanish

1:00 PM-3:00 PM Lunch with Host Families

*FREE AFTERNOON Optional Cooking Class*

### **Friday January 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Sotuta de Peon Live Hacienda, Cultural  
activity and History Class.

12:30 PM Closing Ceremony, Diplomas.

1:30 PM-FAREWEL Lunch at Sotuta de Peon Restaurant.

**Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup> Airport Drop Off, Optional Sunday  
departure. FAREWELL**

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## *Trips and Cultural Excursions*

1. **Chichén Itzá** The most famous of the Mayan ruin sites in the Yucatán. is major archeological site East of Mérida. Famous for "El Castillo" ruin, pictured in most Spanish textbooks.

Recommended for either a Saturday or a Sunday. Full day excursion with 9:00AM departure and evening return (5:30PM). Includes transportation in air-conditioned motor coach, bilingual guide, visits to the major Mayan ruin site of "Chichén Itzá," and lunch at hotel with time for swimming if desired.



2. **Izamal Holy City:** The First Named "Magical Cities" of México is the small town of Izamal. Late morning arrival in time for exploration before a nice lunch in the most authentic Yucatecan restaurant. Students explore the Mayan ruins located within the town either before or after lunch.

Included with a walking tour is to visit the monastery and church made famous during the colonial times as the head of the Catholic church in Yucatan. The Pope visited this city in 1986 and attracted hundreds of thousands of people. The entire city of Izamal is painted egg-yolk yellow—the holy color for the Mayan people. Includes transportation and bilingual guide.



Castle of the Magician  
Uxmal, Yucatán

3. **Uxmal** is major archeological site South of The State of Yucatán in the *Puuc* region. Recommended for a weekday afternoon--students leave classes a few minutes early for a prompt 1:00PM departure from Merida.

Arrival at the Uxmal Mayan ruin site is at 3:00PM. Students have two hours to explore the ruins which close for the day at 5:00PM. Students enjoy a buffet dinner at a near-by hotel (with optional Swimming in hotel's pool) and return to the ruin site in the late evening for the Light & Sound show which covers a Mayan Legend as well as historical information. Return to Merida is around 10:00PM. Tour includes transportation in air-conditioned motor coach, bilingual guide, buffet dinner, and Light & Sound show.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Miguel Cerón**  
Administrative Director  
**Janese Off-Ceron**  
Academic Director

Institute's Address  
Calle 15 500B x 18  
Col. Maya  
Merida, Yucatan  
Mexico

Direct Phone:  
**011529999110790**  
Toll Free **18774MERIDA**

USA Mailing Address  
4124 NE Hillcrest Ct.  
Ankeny, IA 50021 USA  
FAX  
(877) 463-7432

SKYPE:  
MODERNSPANISH  
E-Mail:  
**students@modernspanish.com**

**4merida@modernspanish.com**

FACEBOOK GROUP  
INSTITUTO DE  
ESPAÑOL MODERNO

4. **Celestún Beach and Wildlife Reserve** Full day trip recommended for Saturday or Sunday. 8:45AM departure Westward from Mérida toward the gulf beach shore town of Celestún. Upon arrival to Celestún, students take a boating tour to bird sanctuary and flamingos and cruise through natural mangroves where they will see a fresh water spring amidst brackish saltwater. Lunch at the beach and time for swimming in the refreshing waters of the Gulf of Mexico follows.

Tour includes transportation in air conditioned motor coach or van, bilingual guide, boat ride through wildlife reserve, and lunch at the beach. 5:30PM return to Merida.

### 6. **Tixcocab Hammock Tour**

Students depart from the Institute of Modern Spanish at 1:00PM. Upon arrival to Tixcocab, the students are invited into the home of a local family where the family explains how hammocks are made. Students learn how the economy of the family and village are maintained through this industry. The students help the family prepare an evening meal of "Salbutes"--typical Yucatecan tacos.



7. **Dzibilchaltún** an archeological site and **Museum of the Mayan Pueblo** are located just North of Mérida.

Tour includes optional swimming in a *cenote*. **Progreso** is a small, but extremely diverse Gulf port town just North of Mérida. It is a major trans-Gulf port for commercial trade with the USA. The tour includes time for lunch and swimming in the Gulf of Mexico.

8. **Sotuta de Peón** This living hacienda takes our students back in time to a period of great wealth and abundance in the Yucatán. We will learn about the architecture of these magnificent houses and about the Henequen industry, which once was the main pillar of the Mexican Economy.