



CARIBBEAN  
HOTEL & TOURISM  
ASSOCIATION  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Yucatán Holidays  
Land of Wonders



## **2010 INTERNS INFO-SHEET December 2009**

*All information contained here is for guidance only -  
be sure you check your travel visa & medical status personally.*

If you need further guidance BEFORE completing your application form, please contact [janet.foundation@caribbeanhotelandtourism.com](mailto:janet.foundation@caribbeanhotelandtourism.com) or Monday to Friday, 9am to noon, you may call +1 305 767 4211 (we don't work afternoons or week-ends!)

### **VISAS**

CHTAEF will provide you with a letter explaining the purpose of your visit to submit with your application and a contribution towards the Mexican visa & courier costs of US\$100.00. We cannot assist in obtaining visas, nor can we guarantee you will be granted a visa.

You will travel through the **USA** - if you need a United States Visa please visit the US website to obtain current information. Please allow at least 3-months for visa appointment & processing. [http://barbados.usembassy.gov/visas\\_to\\_us.html](http://barbados.usembassy.gov/visas_to_us.html)

**Mexico** requires that you have a valid Mexican visa - this can be done by FedEx for stays of under 30-days - which you will be.

Sr. Arturo Soriano, Mexican Consul for the Eastern Caribbean advises as follows:

- 1) Letter of invitation (this will be given by CHTAEF & Yucatan Holidays)
- 2) Letter indicating who will be covering expenses incurred (Included in CHTAEF/Yucatan Holidays letter)
- 3) 2 passport sized photos with a blue background
- 4) Valid passport
- 5) Airline ticket &/or **itinerary**
- 6) Completed visa application form (*available from email below*)

The documents above (1-6) should be faxed in advance to the Embassy to confirm that the documents are complete. In the case of the passport, a photocopy of the page with the bio-data **and US visa** should be faxed if traveling via the US. The applicant will be contacted shortly via telephone to indicate if everything is in order.

Then, the original documents (1-6) will be sent to the Embassy, and a bank draft for the sum of E.C.\$97.56 via courier with a returned airway bill to send back the documents (passport with visa & receipt).

In case you have any queries Mrs. Djerel can be contacted +1 758 451 4254/57 or by email [mexicanembassy@candw.lc](mailto:mexicanembassy@candw.lc)

### **MEDICAL**

Please visit your doctor to verify if you need any vaccinations before you fly. Be sure to do this a month in advance.

### **INSURANCE**

It is your responsibility & choice to have travel & medical insurance - as you will be taking a laptop and a digital camera be sure they are covered by your travel insurance if you choose to be insured. *CHTAEF strongly recommends you insure yourself.* Yucatan Holidays - Hacienda Tres Rios has public liability insurance for any personal accidents that may happen on-property (which we hope will not!!)

## **Flights**

Will be from your island to Cancun International airport – usually on American Airlines.

## **Internship Venue:**

### **Hacienda Tres Rios**

Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, México

[www.haciendatresrios.com](http://www.haciendatresrios.com) &

[http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=es&u=http://www.kanche.org/&ei=tRogS43TE8-](http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=es&u=http://www.kanche.org/&ei=tRogS43TE8-inQfX5KzWDO&sa=X&oi=translate&ct=result&resnum=7&ved=0CB4Q7gEwBg&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dkanche%2BRivera%2BMaya%26hl%3Den%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox%26rlz%3D117SKPB_en)

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## **ACCOMMODATION:**

You will be housed in the staff house 40-minutes from the property, close to Cancun.

You will use the staff transportation to get to the hotel everyday.

To get to the bus pick-up point you need to take a taxi from & to the staff house.

Yucatan Holidays will provide you with a daily allowance (cost of the taxi).

Once a week, the house will be cleaned by a maid.

Cable TV is may not be provided, depending on housing allocation.

## **MEALS / BEVERAGES**

You will eat lunch at the Staff Dining Area.

You will be given an allowance to purchase groceries so you can prepare your own breakfast & supper in the staff housing. You need to give your tutor the receipts for food & non-alcoholic beverages.

Be advised that ANY food & drink you consume outside the staff dining area while on property will be charged to you and you will have to pay for it.

## **INTERNET ACCESS**

Please bring a lap-top. There is wi-fi on property.

Please ensure your internet address is working & the inbox is cleared.

Before you go, please confirm to Janet your working & correct email address.

## **TELEPHONE CALLS**

You will receive one complimentary 3-minute call on arrival to allow you to call home and advise of your safe arrival.

Any further telephone calls while on property must be paid for by you.

We advise you to carry your personal cell phone and set-up Skype on your laptop.

[www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)

## **DRESS CODE**

Please bring jeans, long shorts, chinos or similar long pants, & women if you prefer a cotton skirt, to wear with the Hacienda Tres Rios polo shirts that you will be supplied with as uniform.

Please bring your name-badge. *(if you don't have one, get one made at your local sign-shop)*

In addition you will need bathing suits, beach attire, shorts, T shirts and sneakers for the 9-day activities segment of the internship.

In addition to casual clothing for your off-days it might be wise to bring one 'formal attire' just in case (men: jacket & pants or suit / women: smart dress or suit)

***Remember a hat, sneakers, shorts & t shirts + comfortable shoes/sandals***

+ 'OFF', anti-histamine cream, basic medications to include headache & stomach upset meds. It would be advisable to pack a simple English-Spanish dictionary / phrase book!

**You will need a laptop and a digital camera – it is your responsibility to provide these. *(if you do not have you could ask your property for assistance).***

## SIDE-TRIPS

The following side-trips can be arranged with the Tres Rios Concierge at a staff cost and CHTAEF encourage you to make at least one visit to an historic site.

Below is a listing but they are timed from Cancun - Tres Rios is located 45-minutes SOUTH of Cancun.

*(Louise highly recommends **Chichén Itzá** )*

## Great Side Trips

You must remember you are in the land of the Maya and also the Caribbean. There are other very interesting and incredibly beautiful places to visit, just a short distance away from Tres Rios. All of the places listed on this page can be visited in a day. A new four lane highway now stretches almost all the way from Cancun to Tulum, making for easy day trips to Playa del Carmen, Xcaret, Xel Ha, Tulum and even Coba. Cozumel can be reached by way of ferry from Playa del Carmen or plane from Cancun. Isla Mujeres is just a short boat ride from Cancun. Plan some time to visit one or more of the ruins or beautiful islands or parks. Chichen Itza is a little further away (2 hours by car)

[Isla Mujeres](#)

[Xel Ha](#)

[Coba](#)

[Playa del Carmen](#)

[Xcaret](#)

[Map of Yucatan](#)

[Cozumel](#)

[Tulum](#)

[Chichén Itzá](#)

### Isla Mujeres

Isla Mujeres is one of those great places that defy description, the name means "Island of Women". A small island, just a 45 minute ferry voyage from Cancun. Isla Mujeres is always blessed with cooling breezes. This is a great place to kick back and forget everything but the urge to relax. Or...rent a motor scooter and tour the island, have a massage, dive or snorkel in the national park, take in a Dolphin show or even swim with them, visit the turtle park. Or just relax on a beach and read a book. The small town can get a little crowded when all of the tour boats arrive, but you can always get away. The beaches on the north end of the island are very calm and vendors will pass by and offer you coconuts and tropical fruits. There are a some charming restaurants right on the beach. A few hotels and condos offer more than adequate accommodations, nothing quite as fancy as offered in Cancun.

### Playa del Carmen

Playa del Carmen, a 45 minute drive from Cancun is a pleasant beach town and the home base to the ferries that cross to Cozumel, Mexico's largest island. The town center is situated so that you are never very far from the beach. Shopping here offers incredible variety with many quaint shops. The town square is right on the main beach and is a great place to just relax and watch the world go by. Beachfront restaurants and hotels offer an alternative to the much busier Cancun. Playa del Carmen is growing at an incredible pace, but somehow manages to retain the small town atmosphere that has made it a long time favorite for many. Playacar, an adjoining planned development with an 18 hole golf course, is more modern and seems to cater to a different crowd.

### Cozumel

Mexico's largest island is also the scuba diving and snorkeling paradise of Mexico. This kicked back island could be the perfect South Seas retreat, except that it is just 12 miles off the coast of the Yucatan peninsula. If your a diver, this is where you will want to go. But the island offers much more to the tourist than just being a divers paradise. Great shops, selling almost everything, are everywhere. There are many open air bars offering up relaxing tropical drinks, Mayan ruins and endless miles of deserted beaches that all play a part in the mystique that is Isla Cozumel. Many sportfishing charter operators are located in the small marina located just north of town. Accommodations range from very luxurious to very basic with a little of everything else thrown in. All accommodations are located within a short distance of, or in San Miguel, the only town on the island. The good beaches are just a short taxi ride from San Miguel, so it is easy to plan your time on this island. The best reef diving is along the coast just south of town, with many reefs for different diving skills. Rent a buggy, car or motorcycle and drive around the island to discover what this island is all about. Be careful, you may not want to leave Cozumel once you have discovered it's charm.

## Xel Ha

Xel Ha (pronounced Shell-Haw) national park seems like the largest aquarium in the world, only you are in a natural environment and it is a park, with many other attractions. Swimming and snorkeling in the warm protected lagoons and canals offer even the novice a chance to enjoy thousands of brightly colored tropical fish. This can be combined with walking trails and even a small museum. There are parrots, dolphin shows, hammocks and music, ice cream vendors and of course - rolling beer bars. Everything you need can be rented, there is even an all inclusive entry package that includes meals and drinks along with your snorkeling gear. Xel Ha is a really great place to spend the afternoon after a early morning trip to see the ruins at Tulum. Great relaxing fun for the whole family.

## Xcaret

Xcaret, 50 miles south of Cancun, is an all day family adventure located around natural grottos, fresh and saltwater pools and underground rivers that run to the sea. A tropical "island like" ecological amusement park with snorkeling sites, an exotic tropical rainforest where endangered species are protected, and a few archeological sites thrown in for good measure. You can walk around on the bottom of a Caribbean lagoon with a dive helmet or glide down a jungle river, both above and below ground. There are turtles, monkeys, dolphin encounters, snack bars and palapa restaurants with roving regional musical groups. A spectacular evening Mexican themed light and sound show starts at dusk with a demonstration of the pre-Hispanic Ball Game. Daily tours depart from Cancun starting at 8 AM with return trips running all day until after dark.

## Tulum

Tulum is the only oceanfront city the Maya ever built, also the only one that is walled. Located on incredibly beautiful Caribbean beach, whoever it was that picked this site had some real estate experience. Tulum is small, it can be toured in about two hours, but offers some incredible insight into the life of the Maya. Tulum may lack some of the grandeur of Chichén Itzá, it contains 60 buildings, which are thought to be about 10 percent of the original city. Its stylized designs and the incredible setting more than make up for the lack of major pyramids. Up until the 1960s the only way to get to Tulum was by boat. Now it is one of the Maya world's most visited sites, visit early if possible, to avoid the crowds. A small admission fee is charged. Multilingual guides are available. An early trip to Tulum, combined with lunch in Playa del Carmen, and an afternoon spent at Xel Ha makes for an great full day trip from Cancun.

## Coba

Coba is the largest of Yucatan's archeological sites, it is also the least excavated of all the major sites on the Yucatan peninsula. Coba is none-the less important, to many Coba is simply put, AWESOME. Containing 20,000 structures, Coba once was home to as many as 40,000 Mayans. Coba, which means "Ruffled Water", was built along the shores of five shallow lakes. Coba is a striking site with magnificent pyramids and incredibly detailed stelae. The Nohoch Mul pyramid, the tallest on the peninsula, reaches 140 feet into the sky. Many experts say that the pyramids here rival those of Tikal in Guatemala. Multilingual guides are usually available, a good investment, considering the size of this site. Leave early, as this is an all day trip from Cancun. These ruins are considered a favorite stop for the more adventurous traveler. In the summer the heat and humidity here can be overwhelming.

## Chichén Itzá

Chichén Itzá is undoubtedly one of the wonders of the archaeological world. Founded in 495 AD, Chichén Itzá has been meticulously restored and this incredible site, with its columned structures and warrior images, is reminiscent of ancient Rome. The entrance to Chichén Itzá features a large visitors center and museum where you will find many of the best preserved sculptures and artifacts, on display. The ruins at Chichen Itzá are well grouped and although very large, it is fairly easy to get around and to see the most spectacular attractions. On the other hand, you could easily spend a week in Chichén Itzá and not have seen everything there is to see. For that very reason it might be best to take a tour to visit Chichén Itzá. Many tours leave daily from Cancun. Another idea is to plan ahead, rent a car and spend one night in Mérida, a charming city about an hour and a half drive west of Chichén Itzá. You could then return the next morning, on your way back to Cancun. The archaeological zone itself is approximately a two and a half hour drive from Cancun. There are several "more than adequate" accommodations and restaurants close by.