

Our Personal Suggestions

Taxi Service

We only know this man by his first name: Irvin. He and his taxi are based in Santa Ana Park (just a few blocks away). His cel phone number is 999-169-5701. He speaks a little bit of English and can pick you up at the house. If you want, he will act as your personal driver for a short dash across town or an entire day's excursion. Establish a price upfront if you plan to be out for more than an hour. Short trips of less than an hour should cost no more than \$100 pesos.

Car Rental

Montejo Car Rental is located on Paseo de Montejo #486 between Calle 41 and Calle 43. Their phone is 923-9316. You should probably go there (it is within walking distance) to set up your account. Ask for Julio Ceballo. Tell them you are staying at Casa del Panadero for a special rate. They will deliver and pickup the rental car at the house.

Spa Services

Akasha Spa is run by sisters Gisela and Cynthia Gomez Baeza. They offer in-home deluxe spa services. They speak English and will bring everything they need to give you a great massage. You can reach them at their phone 176-3399 or on their cel phone 999-991-4312.

Convenience Store

The local Mexican-style convenience store, called a tendejon, is at the corner of Calle 49 and Calle 62, called El Motor Electrico (after the name of the corner, as evidenced on the corner plaque on the wall). There you can purchase light snacks, Amigo cel phone cards and replenish the drinking water. They do not speak English. Gather your purchases together and bring them to the counter. They will tally the total on a handheld computer (!) and tell you your total in pesos. Don't bring big bills (over \$200 pesos) because they may not have change.

The closest chain convenience store is an Extra, at the Pemex gas station on the corner of Calle 47 and Calle 58. They have cigarettes there, as well as all the usual suspects from a chain store.

Local Restaurants

Hotel Casa San Angel Restaurant

This restaurant is owned by a lovely woman named Homa. The food is delicious at a good price, and you can eat indoors or outside on the sidewalk café. Also, in the hotel is a branch of the fine art Mexican craft store, Fonatur. On Saturday nights, reserve a table here to watch Noche Mexicana and try their delicious fajitas. The hotel and restaurant is located at the corner of Calle 49 and Paseo de Montejo (just turn left out the front door and walk down Calle 49 for 2.5 blocks til you see it). Phone: 999-928-1800

Raffaello's Pizza

Out the front door to the left, at the corner of Calle 49 and Calle 60, you'll find this little pizza restaurant. Great pizza and salads. We recommend the Mexican Pizza. Phone: 924-9943

Bakery El Torno

Out the front door, take a left on Calle 49, a left on Calle 60 and a right on Calle 47. In the middle of the block, El Torno Bakery serves fresh pastries every morning. If you need other basics, you'll pass the ISSTEY grocery store (a government run grocery store) where you can buy canned goods, milk, meat and other packaged goods but no fresh fruits or vegetables.

Colon Ice Cream

On Paseo de Montejo and on the Plaza Grande are sit-down ice cream shops with locally made ice cream. The flavors range from the prosaic (vanilla, chocolate) to the exotic (mango, tamarindo, etc.). We recommend the coconut ice cream.

Café Santa Lucia

Located on Santa Lucia Park (Calle 60 at Calle 55). The café is directly across from the park on Calle 60. Get a window seat to watch the world go by, and order a Yucatecan salad with chicken and a glass of wine. A great place for a light dinner. The art on the walls is part of the owner's collection and is as good as any gallery in town.

Teddy's Café

On the corner of Calle 62 and Calle 43, Texas chef Teddy prepares "gourmet" *cocina economica* plates for breakfast and lunch. He also has a fax and copier service if you need it. Phone: 928-6809

More Restaurant Suggestions

For more restaurant suggestions, you can read a long list of local restaurants with phone numbers, addresses, hours and directions on YucatanLiving.com in the section entitled "Merida Restaurants".

Money Exchange

There are two money exchange stores at the Fiesta Americana and there is one on Calle 60 past Santa Lucia Park (going towards the Plaza Grande) in the Payless Car Rental Office. There is also one on Calle 62 just this side of the Plaza Grande, and one on Calle 59 in the middle of the block. Be sure to bring unblemished new bills to exchange. They will not accept any bills that have writing on them or that are torn or otherwise damaged.