

## Sample CSR programme in MEXICO

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### SUGGESTED ITINERARY

#### Merida

Merida was founded on the site of the ancient Mayan city of T'Ho and dates back to 1542. Today Merida is a city of wide tree-lined boulevards and historic mansions. IT is also the bustling capital of the State of Yucatan and its largest city. It has been known as the "Paris of the West" because of the many products once imported from France by Merida's wealthy citizens.

At one time it was also known as the "White City", in part because at that time most people dressed in white and because of the white stone (limestone) that was used to build so many of the buildings. Merida is the centre of many Mayan ruins, colonial cities and nature attractions.



## **Day 1 – Merida**

Transfer from Merida airport to Hotel El Castellano for 01 night with breakfast

### **Hotel El Castellano (4\*)**

Situated two blocks from the Cathedral, Casa Montejo and City Hall, and within easy walking distance of the Paseo de Montejo and all other major sites and 15 minutes from the airport. The hotel offers 175 guest rooms with central air conditioning, cable TV, electronic safety deposit box and min-bar.

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



Dinner at your hotel.

## **Day 2 – Merida – Ek Mul – Izamal – Valladolid**

Start the day with a brief orientation tour of Merida before continuing into the countryside for a full day working on a community project in the small Mayan villages in the Yucatan peninsula. The Yucatan Peninsula is where Mayan culture flourished for centuries prior to the Spaniards' arrival in 1519. Over 1200 archaeological sites are scattered within a few hour's drive from Cancún. Many sites have been wonderfully restored, while others are still shrouded by tangled jungle vegetation. Suggested projects would be:

- help to paint and/or clean a primary school
- paint and/or clean a small hospital
- aid food supply
- assist in a shelter for the poor

For all these projects, the idea would be to exchange the physical help provided by the Vodafone team with an insight into life in the UK for the villagers. In the village we would have a small “fiesta” with local, traditional food, music and dancing. Recent projects have included assisting a women’s organisation who prepare and cook meals for local children. In this instance, funds were raised to provide an oven and one year’s supply of gas. There are many possibilities to create a lasting and emotional visit to this region.

Lunch will be at Kinich Kakmo restaurant serving traditional Yucatan cuisine in Izamal. At the end of the day, we will continue by road to Hacienda Chichen for 01 overnight with breakfast. The hacienda will be exclusively for the group for this night. A Mayan ritual dinner will be hosted in the hacienda’s gardens.

### Hacienda Chichen

This is one of the oldest haciendas in the Yucatan now converted into a hotel with a nice pool and terrace offering ample shade. [www.haciendachichen.com](http://www.haciendachichen.com)



### Day 3 – Chichen Itza – Valladolid - Puerto Morelos

Chichen Itza, 126 miles from Cancun, is one of the most captivating of Mexico's archaeological treasures and possibly the most famous Mayan site in the world and played an important role during the Mayan post-classical period (1200 - 1400 AD). The Toltecs invaded Chichen Itza during the 10th century and the new concepts and techniques they brought with them contributed to the transformation and enrichment of the existing Mayan culture. You can climb "El Castillo", a nine-tier pyramid, 24 metres high, dedicated to the feathered serpent god, Kukulcan. It is here at the pyramid where the famous Chacmol sculpture is located. An experienced guide will explain the fascinating history of the ruins and point out the most interesting features – for example the "Observatory", a cylindrical building where astronomy was studied. The calculations made by these astronomers of the lunar, solar and Venuntian cycles were amazingly accurate. Chichen Itza is also famous for "The Ball Court" where the winners' prize was death - considered the greatest honour!



Lunch will be taken at Hacienda Chichen before we make the journey to the town of Valladolid where there is time to enjoy the spectacle of the market and the typical "Zocalo" to have a brief glimpse of daily life in Mexico.

Continue to Puerto Morelos and check-in at Ceiba del Mar for 02 nights with breakfast and dinner included.

### **Ceiba del Mar**

Located 20 minutes south of Cancun airport at the edge of Puerto Morelos, Ceiba del Mar Spa Resort offers 45 comfortable guest rooms and junior suites, 36 master suites and 7 one-bedroom penhouse suites. Hotel facilities include two restaurants, spa, two outdoor swimming pools, one outdoor Jacuzzi, tennis courts and bicycles for guests' use. [www.ceibadelmar.com](http://www.ceibadelmar.com)



### **Day 4 – Ceiba del Mar, Puerto Morelos**

Day at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities and spa. Caribbean Night party with dinner on the beach.

### **Day 5 – Farewell to Mexico**

Transfer to Cancun airport for onward flights to Europe.