



Final Information on Mérida and the SfAA Annual Meeting

1. Navigating the Airports at Cancun or Merida

Below is some information to assist your transit from the airports to the meeting hotel (the Hyatt-Regency, Merida).

Cancun

President Allan Burns has provided detailed information on moving seamlessly through the Cancun Airport and to the transportation that will take you to the Cancun Bus Station where you can purchase a ticket to Merida. That information can be found in the last issue of *SfAA News*:

<http://www.sfaa.net/newsletter/feb10nl.pdf>

Merida

The Airport in Merida is smaller and easier to navigate. As you proceed through Mexican Customs, you will note that the Officer has returned to you (with your Passport) a portion of the Mexican Customs Form. You must retain this and give it to Customs when you exit the country. It is also important when you check into the hotel (see below).

You will retrieve your luggage and allow officials to pass it through an x-ray machine. You will then press “the red button” which randomly decides which luggage gets searched. Look around at this point for others who might be coming to the meeting. There is comfort in larger numbers when in a strange venue.

You will then walk outdoors and at the curb turn left and go about 30 steps to the taxi booth; taxis will be lined up at the curb. The booth is where you will purchase a ticket for the taxi. Tell the person in the booth where you are going and how many people are in the cab.

A taxi can carry up to four people (but three with luggage is comfortable). Look around and see if others want to share the taxi BEFORE your purchase the ticket.

NOTE: The taxi booth will not take credit cards. They will take U.S. currency, but they will offer a very poor exchange rate. Exercise care in dealing with the booth, particularly if you

pay in U.S. currency; they may try to show you a number on their calculator which is inflated.

The fare to the Hyatt-Regency should approximate 160 Pesos (one person in the cab). After you have obtained the ticket, you will stand at the curb and wait for the next cab. The trip from the Airport to the Hotel should take about 15 minutes.

2. Checking into the Hotel

There is a 16% value added tax (VAT) on the guest charges for your hotel room. This tax will be waived if you provide certain documents when checking into the Hotel. First, you must show a passport from a country other than Mexico (such as the U.S.). Second, you must plan to charge the room on a credit card, which is issued outside of Mexico. Third, you must show the clerk who checks you in the portion of the Mexican Tourist Form that you received back from the Customs officer.

Most hotels (including the Hyatt-Regency) will add to your room bill a one-time charge for bellman gratuities (at the Hyatt, it will be U.S. \$3.00). In addition, there will be a gratuity for maid service (U.S. \$2.50/day). We have been assured in writing that these funds indeed do go to the bell staff and the maid staff. As a consequence, you should not feel compelled to provide the customary tip unless you elect to do so

3. Getting Around Merida

Before departing for Mexico, you may wish to explore some of the web sites, which provide tourist-pertinent information about Merida and Yucatan. You will find maps, restaurant guides, regional food specialties, bus schedules, etc.

We will have available at the Registration Desk one copy for each registrant of the current issue of "Yucatan Today". This is an excellent source of useful information. We have also requested that the Office of Tourism assign a staff person to a desk in the Registration Area at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel.

4. Tours and Workshops

There is still space available on all of the tours and workshops that are planned. For descriptions of the tours and workshops, go to the annual meeting web site at:

<http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2010.html>

In addition to descriptions for the tours and workshops, you also can print out the registration forms. Bring those forms with you to the SfAA registration desk in Merida, and we will provide you with tickets onsite.

5. Meeting Registration

Pre-registration for the meeting is no longer available online. However, we will open the Registration Desk at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel on Tuesday, March 23rd, at 1:00 p.m. so you can register onsite. If you have pre-registered, you may pick up your Program at that time.

See you in Merida!