

OSEA Headquarters in Mérida

Calle 25 #105 entre 14 and 16
Fraccionamiento Jardines de Miraflores
Mérida, Yucatán, México 97168
011-52-999-929-8874 . cell phone 044-999-737-0311

To get to OSEA headquarters

1. Standing in the zocalo, facing the big cathedral church on Calle 60, turn to the right (south) and walk (against traffic) to the next cross street.
 2. This is Calle 63. Make a left on 63. Walk EAST (direction of traffic) 2 ½ blocks until you get to the Department Store called Gran Chapur between Calles 56 and 54 (on calle 63).
 3. Take any bus called Vergel or a Fidel Bus.
 4. FROM LUZ EN Yucatán: exit Luz and make a left. Turn right onto 58. Walk with traffic (south) until you get to 63. Turn left (west) and walk to the Gran Chapur betw. 56 & 54.
- The sidewalk in front of Grand Chapur is a stop point for several bus routes.
 - You can take any Vergel Bus or Fidel bus. Vergel buses are parked almost at the corner with Calle 54. One leaves every 10 minutes.
 - The Vergel or Fidel bus goes straight down Calle 63 for about 1-2 miles.
 - Then it makes a right turn and a quick left again at the Disneyland Park (yes, that's right).
 - This is Calle 27 in Frac. Jardines de Miraflores.
 - The bus goes straight for another set of 8 blocks or so and makes a left onto Calle 14.
 - When the bus makes this turn, get ready to get out of the bus at corner with next street.
 - This first street is Calle 25.
 - When you descend the bus you will see a house with a statue of a sleeping Mexican with Sombrero on the Roof of the House on the corner of Calle 25 and Calle 14 Frac. Miraflores
 - Walk down Calle 25. OSEA is the third house on the right (north) side of the street.
 - It is Aqua-Sky Blue with a White Metal Fence & has two stories with a carport.
 - Come to the door and knock (gringo style) or stand at the white gate and shout repeatedly, "Buenos dias/tardes" until someone answers (Yucatec style).



FROM MIRAFLORES TO DOWNTOWN:

Exit the house, turning left to Calle 14. Make a right. Go to the end of the block. Go through the pedestrian walk way to get to the other side. The street you meet is Calle 65. Stand here or somewhere in the shade and flag any bus to get to the center.

If you want to go to the Mercado flag a bus that says MERCADO. If you want to get closer to the zocalo or Luz flag a bus that says GRAN CHAPUR

Caveat: house is #105, but number is not displayed on gate or house

Bus fares are 4.5 pesos a trip (sometimes less). No transfers. Bring change or a 20 peso bill. OSEA provides you with a 120 pesos bus fund for 12 days in Mérida

TELEPHONES

Telephone numbers for OSEA are 929-8874 (residence) and 044-999-737-0311 (cell)

- ❑ When dialing from Mérida phone just dial the number
- ❑ When dialing from Cancun, dial 9 for long distance and 999 for area code
- ❑ When dialing from USA, dial 011 for international, 52 for México, 999 for area code.
- ❑ To call a cell phone from a local residence or pay phone, you dial 044-999 then #.
- ❑ To call a cell phone from a cell phone just dial the 7-digit number.



Pay Phones

- ❑ The pay phones use prepaid calling cards.
- ❑ Buy a TELMEX card, which can be used on payphones throughout México.
- ❑ There is one prepaid card that is valid only for payphone located in the Cancun Airport; my suggestion is to avoid buying this card.
- ❑ Pisté has many Telmex payphones for use with the prepaid card.
- ❑ Once in Pisté, telephone casetas are also available for making and receiving calls to any destination. A good caseta is located on 62 across the street from the Italian Café (near Fridas)
- ❑ Telmex cards can be bought in any corner store that sells cigs, soda, chips, lottery; at a pharmacies; and almost any place else when in town or airports; stores often have a TELMEX sign in front. Cards are sold in 30, 50, 100 peso sizes.
- ❑ For local calling during your one month stay, a 30 peso card would be good to start. Calls to phones are cheap if local. Calls to cell phones are outrageously priced at 5pesos a minute (50¢ a min.). Long distance calls are expensive as well. Use one 100 peso card for about 5 minutes of direct dialed; this price makes it only viable for emergencies.
- ❑ Note also that you can use calling card from the USA such as IDT, Sprint, ATT, MCI, etc. from the Telmex pay phones HOWEVER you must insert a valid calling card into the machine. No charges will be made on the card. You must also call your USA based company in advance to get the 800# that you must call while IN México. Make sure they understand you want to call the USA FROM México to get rates and the correct #800 to call.



cell phones

- ❑ Your service provider may offer service in Yucatán. Please contact your company.
- ❑ Another option is ask your service provider for a one month suspension on your contract.
- ❑ Once in Mérida you can re-format a cell phone for use based on pre-paid cards called AMIGO. Re-servicing cost can vary, from 250 pesos (\$25) on specials to 600 pesos. Cell Phones are not so expensive to make calls. Incoming calls are free but the person CALLING a cell phone pays for the call. If it is local call then it is 50¢ a minute. International calls are extremely expensive to make and to receive, but this can work as a safety/security for emergency situations. Although other people have said that they have received international long distance calls on their cell phone, I have neither received or called internationally from my cell phone. I am not sure what the correct codes are to call from USA to México Cell phone, but this is something we can check once in Mérida.

Telephone service in Pisté

The main road in Pisté is supplied with about 20 payphones that you can use at any time of the day or night. You will need to have a telmex or calling card to use.

Pisté also has one very efficient caseta where you can make collect calls and receive calls at appointed times. You will be charged a minimal fee to receive a call there.

You can only receive an emergency phone call at the Posada Olalde. The telephone is 011-52-985-85-100-86

Telephone service in Playa del Carmen

There are plenty of casetas for tourist and others to make long distance and international calls. The rates are decent so long as you are not constantly on the phone. There is one location very close to the Hotel Casa Tucan that has internet and telephone. This is very convenient and reasonably priced. Its got a nice environment – each computer is named after a rock star and they play alternative electronic stuff. In Playa you will not have any problems finding truly high speed internet 24 hours a day at cheap prices.

Internet Service in Mérida and Pisté

Mérida has relatively inferior speeds and machines. But the price is good about 10 pesos an hour. These can be found anywhere and you can find many locations with video and audio chatting capabilities (as in Playa). In Pisté, the prices are the same but the technology is woefully painful at times.

ATM and Banking.

Mérida and Playa del Carmen have all the Mexican brand-name banks. These are located throughout. The banking district of Mérida is located on called 65 between 58 and 66. Your own bank poses a limit on how much you can withdraw. Each ATM also imposes a limit. In my experience Banamex provides you with the highest possible amount to withdraw. Up to US \$650 or about 7500-8000 pesos. This bank charges a \$5 or \$7 dollar fee for using ATM. Other banks are roughly the same fee. You get the best exchange rates on the ATM. This fee reduces the rate of exchange – thus the more you withdraw the better the rate. The dollar tends to drop in value from the beginning of the summer toward the end of the summer. The tourism season strengthens the pesos. We are now in the middle of the summer season, but the tourist season has actually not yet begun in full force. Thus it is always better to get MORE pesos NOW versus getting pesos later – better in terms of the exchange rate.

In playa you will never have any inconvenience finding a bank or ATM. In Pisté there is one ATM machine located in the Parador of Chichén Itzá. For Cash exchange Pisté rates are the worst for the dollar. Playa may have a slightly better exchange rate for cash than Mérida, but it is essentially the same.

Bus Travel to Playa from Mérida and to Pisté from QRoo Coast

When we relocate to Playa and from Playa to Pisté, you will take the ADO bus. OSEA covers your bus fare. Cesar will purchase your tickets. You will be provided instructions on how to get to the terminal in Mérida and what to do on arrival in Playa and in Pisté. OSEA will provide you with the amount of the fare from Playa to Pisté, however this follows the long weekend during which you may decide to visit Tulum, Isla Mujeres, or some other place along the QRoo coast. Thus you will need to arrange for your travel ticket, times, departure location to get from the coast to Pisté by Aug. 1.