

## WELCOME TO THE **MERIDA** INSIDER COLLECTION

Truly memorable meetings and events with authentic local flavor – that is the inspiration behind the InterContinental Insider Collection.

Our network of hotels and resorts is global; our knowledge and expertise local, giving planners guaranteed choice, range and depth to add to any meeting or conference. Each hotel offers its own bespoke selection of services which are firmly rooted in their location and are responsibly guided by our partnership with National Geographic's Center for Sustainable Destinations.

The options are limitless, the local knowledge rich, the service professional and faultless, the delegate experience enriching and rewarding every time.

Sample for yourself some of our wonderful Merida experiences.

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## INSIDER LOCATIONS

Choose an InterContinental venue for your event and a world of possibilities opens up. As locals, your hotel team hold the key to a side of your locality tourists never see. What and who they know gives you an exclusive mix of authentic venues and experiences to play with.

## INSIDER SPEAKERS

Bring your event to life with an inspirational speaker – someone who can really strike a chord with your delegates and enrich their experience beyond measure. Fascinating and engaging, motivating Insider Speakers range from celebrities and cultural experts to sporting heroes. Whatever their passion, they all have a local connection and you will discover that their unique insights and local know-how make your event one to remember.

## INSIDER COMMUNITY

There's nothing quite like immersing yourself in the community to gain an added depth and understanding to your experience in a new destination. Insider Community has been designed to benefit local people and create truly memorable and meaningful experiences for your delegates too.

## INSIDER INTERACTIONS

This team-building experience will help your delegates connect with each other as never before. Using the unique character, heritage or geography of your destination to inspire interaction, each experience, whether based on or off-site offers an original way to engage delegates and motivate them to build effective working relationships.

## INSIDER BREAKS

With Insider Collection even your breaks are fulfilling experiences. From serving up a delicious lunch of provincial dishes for a taste of regional cuisine to spending some quality time with your Concierge team to get their best insider tips, a few minutes out of your busy schedule becomes a whole experience in itself.

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## ENRICHING EXPERIENCES FOR OUR GUESTS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

We believe that a responsible meeting is not only what you experience in the meeting room but also knowing that your hotel respects the destination around it.

We're proud to partner the leaders in geotourism, the National Geographic Center for Sustainable Destinations. Our ambition is that guests enjoy enriching experiences that reveal what makes a place truly special – its heritage, culture and tradition – and the importance of protecting it.

At InterContinental we use a holistic approach to being a responsible business: to work from the grass roots up, recognizing each individual hotel team as the experts best placed to use their local knowledge for developing community and environmental initiatives that meet the specific needs of the destination. This Insider Collection gives delegates access to some of these unique experiences, and for those meetings that stay in the meeting room, you can be assured our hotel is working behind the scenes to protect what is special about the place for fellow travelers.

[Contact us](#) for pricing specific to your group.



## HOST A GALA DINNER AT THE MACAY

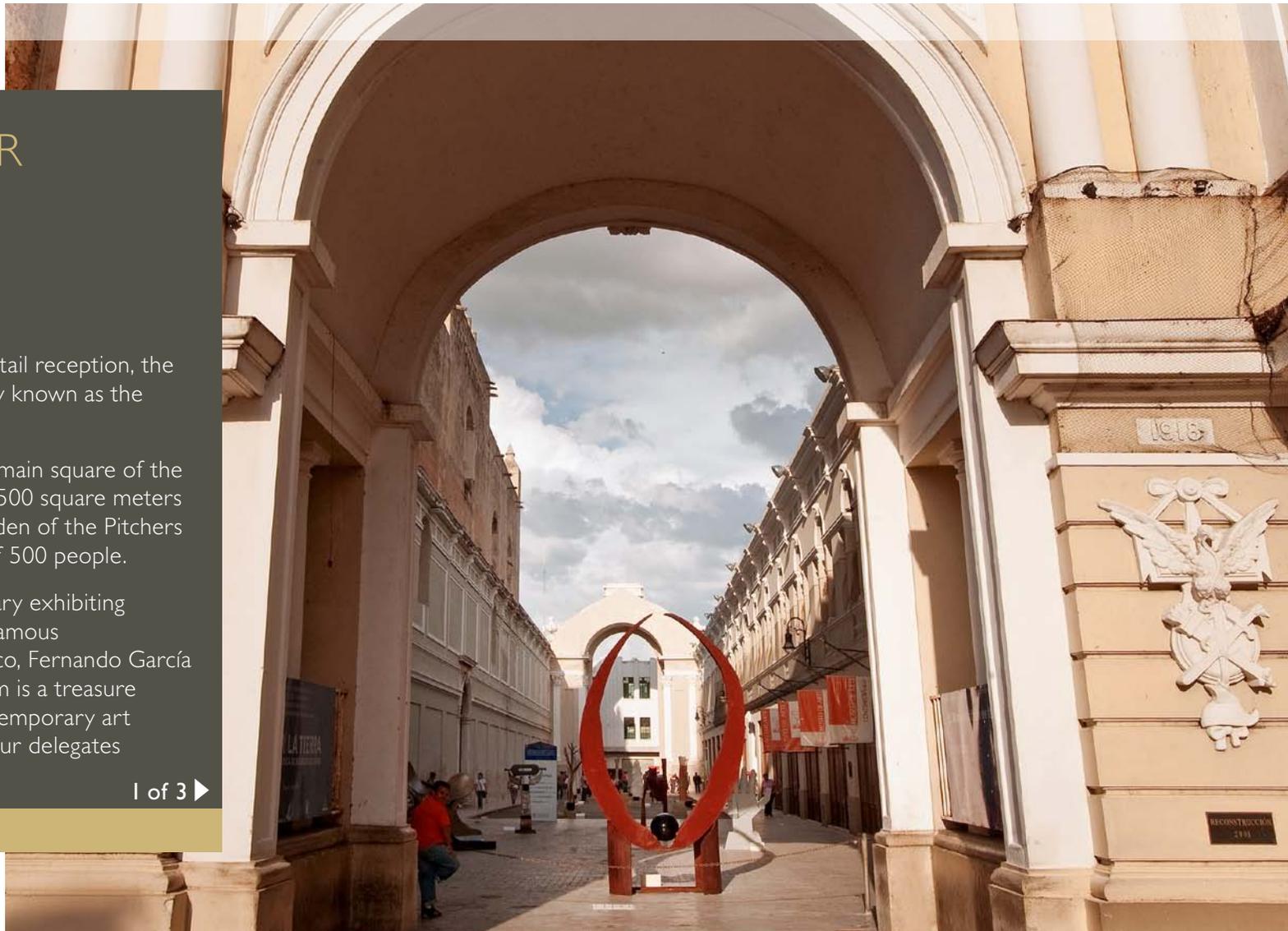
Perfect for a gala dinner, private lunch or cocktail reception, the Contemporary Art Museum of Yucatán, locally known as the Macay, promises to deliver.

This splendid historical building located in the main square of the city next to the Cathedral of Merida, covers 3500 square meters and boasts two open interior spaces: The Garden of the Pitchers and the Expo Forum, with a seating capacity of 500 people.

With nearly 45 annual exhibitions, 15 temporary exhibiting rooms and areas dedicated to Mexico's most famous contemporary artists: Fernando Castro Pacheco, Fernando García Ponce and Gabriel Ramírez Aznar, this museum is a treasure trove of the most exciting and innovative contemporary art to be found anywhere in southeast Mexico. Your delegates will be impressed.

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CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM OF YUCATÁN

Presidente InterContinental Merida  
Av. Colon : 500, Colonia Centro | Merida 97000 | Mexico  
Go to [www.intercontinental.com/meetings](http://www.intercontinental.com/meetings) or [click here](#) to contact us

## STEP BACK IN TIME AT THE HACIENDA SAN JOSÉ CUCHÉ

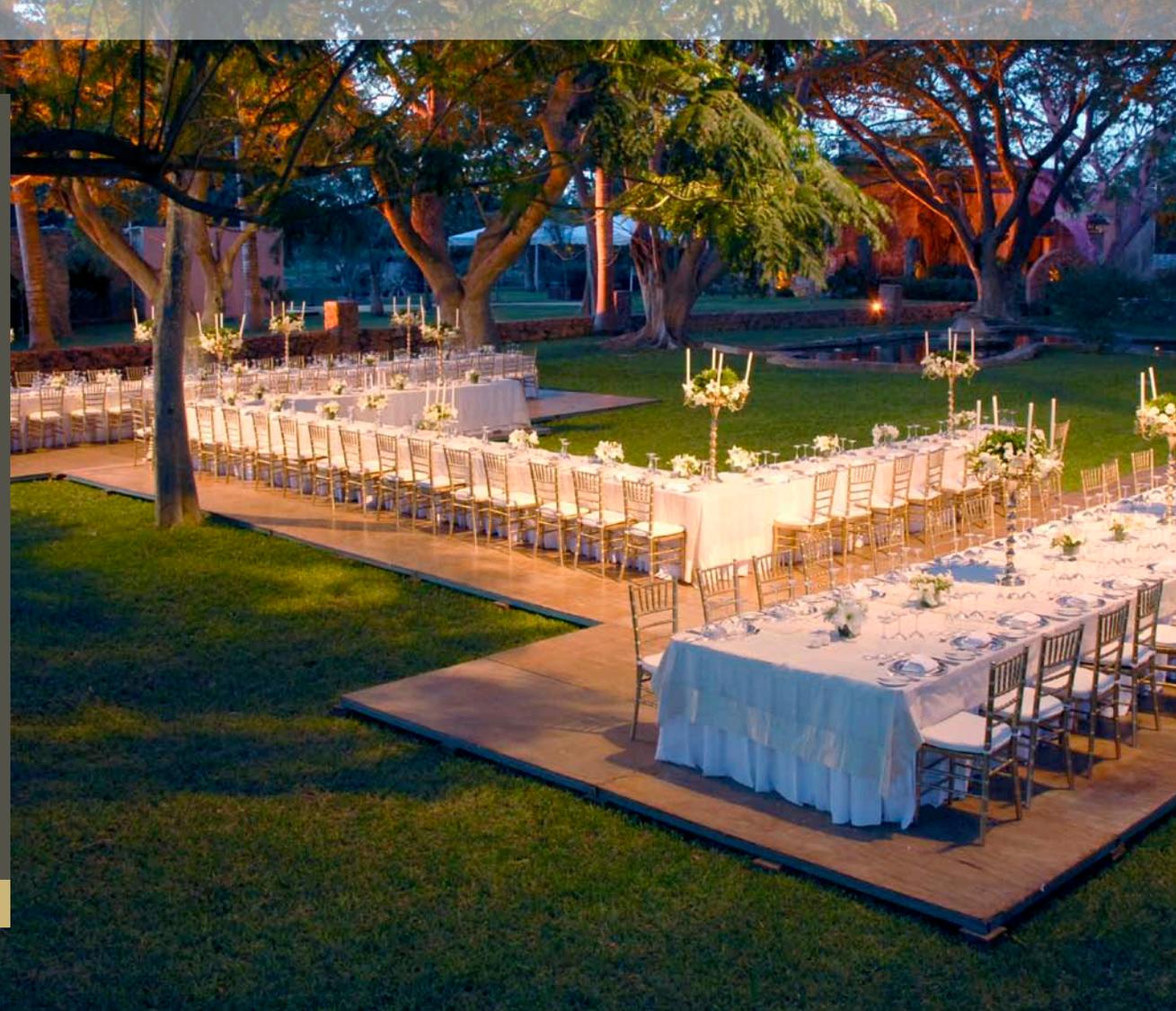
Located 15 km north of Merida, this 19th century hacienda is the perfect place to celebrate an exclusive and glamorous dinner served by Catering's Best from InterContinental. You can also hold part of your meeting here too.

Once one of the biggest estates to cultivate Sisal fiber in the Yucatán, this beautiful and historic plantation house is a stunning setting in which to discover more about this important time in our country's history: the 'green gold era'.

Experience all the drama and excitement of the past with the luxurious comfort of the present. Please ask your conference manager for more information.

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## HOLD PART OF YOUR MEETING AT YUCATÁN UNIVERSITY

Located just 10 minutes from the hotel in the historical downtown of Merida, is Yucatán University. This historical building was founded in 1618 as the San Francisco de Javier Institute and represents a stunning example of colonial architecture. This historic place offers the perfect setting for a delightful cocktail reception or dinner for up to 120 people.

The University's stunning central courtyard is not to be missed and is the venue every Friday evening for the wonderful University Ballet Folklorico and the traditional Serenata Universitaria.

Your delegates will relish this opportunity to spend time in one of Mexico's finest educational institutions, whilst taking in the marvelous setting and the fascinating story it has to tell.

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## DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE MAYAN WITH MR. ALBERTO HAGAR

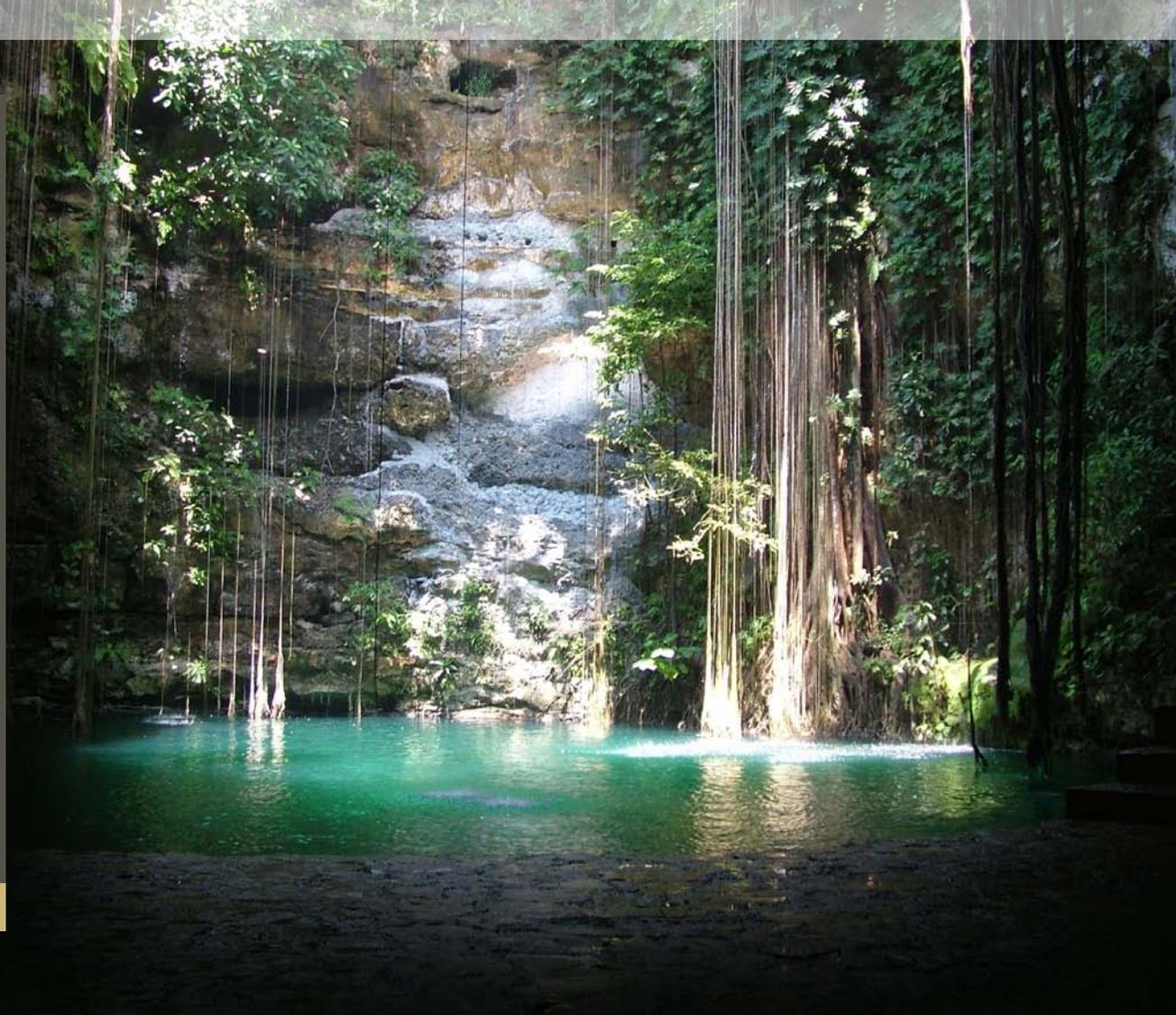
For a genuine insider's view of the fascinating Mayan culture, archaeologist and astronomer, and acknowledged expert on the 'science' of the Mayan, Alberto Hagar is the perfect person.

Drawing from his years of studying the Mayan culture, Don Alberto will entrance your delegates with stories of the mysteries and marvels of this fascinating people.

With a particular focus on the most important Mayan buildings in Yucatán and their relationship to the stars, Don Alberto, author of three novels and lecturer for NASA, will share his unique knowledge and research with you in a session that will have delegates on the edge of their seats.

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## ENTER INTO THE MAYAN WORLD WITH MR. HUMBERTO GOMEZ

When it comes to discovering the secrets of Mayan civilization, we have the perfect guide for you! Archaeologist and certified tour guide with the Smithsonian for the Mayan world, Don Beto Gomez has spent more than 50 years studying the sites of the Mayan world.

Your delegates are in for a treat with the man credited with being the first in modern times to set eyes on hidden treasures left by the Maya at their ceremonial site – the famous Balankanchen Caves.

Don Beto's unique experience makes him the perfect speaker to introduce your delegates to an authentic insider's view of the Maya and the rich and vibrant colonial era of Yucatán.

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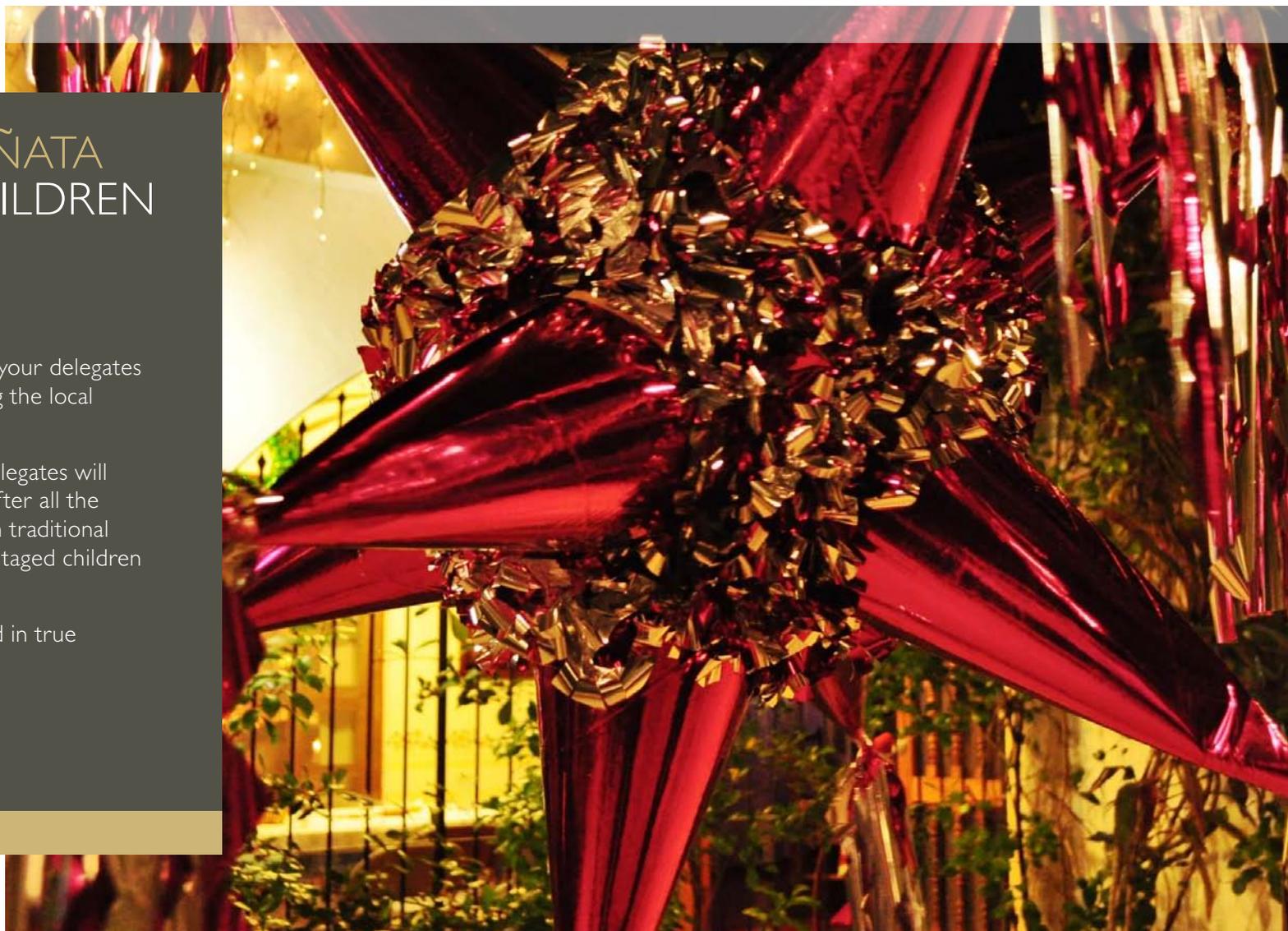
## BUILD YOUR OWN PIÑATA AND HELP LOCAL CHILDREN

This great teambuilding exercise will immerse your delegates in the local culture and inspire them by helping the local community too.

For this fantastic Mexican fiesta experience delegates will split into teams to make a traditional piñata. After all the excitement, delegates will fill their piñatas with traditional Mexican candies and share them with disadvantaged children from the neighborhood.

A fun and rewarding experience to be enjoyed in true Mexican style.

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## GO ON A BIRD WATCHING MARATHON

In the Mayan language, 'xoc ch'ich' means bird count and that is exactly what delegates will be challenged to do in this different and exciting interaction.

Splitting into teams of 5 or 6 people their task is to find 445 registered bird species of Yucatán taking different routes around the area in a bird watchers' 'marathon'.

This experience will get you closer to nature and our rich biosphere, whilst helping to protect pristine areas, such as our famous cenotes – caves linked to underground rivers and our beaches. A fantastic outdoors experience for all.

Contact us for pricing specific to your group.



## THE CORN CULTURE BREAK

For this break, our chef will teach your delegates to prepare a traditional 'esquite' by mixing corn, cream, cheese, lime juice and red chilli. Share it with your family and friends when you get back home.

Choose from:

**Corn bread** – a local sweet corn roll • **Arepas** – a local sweet corn tortilla • **Esquites** – a snack served with lime juice, cream and cheese with the option of red chilli pepper • **Cheese turnovers** – served with traditional salsas • **Poblano corn chips** – peppers with corn and cream • **Tamarind** – a local cold beverage • **Horchata** – refreshing rice and cinnamon drink • Coffee, tea, milk and soft drinks • Mineral water.

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## AVOCADO BREAK

In this fun break, our Chef will show you how easy it is to prepare a fresh Guacamole with your own selection of ingredients.

Our menu selection includes:

**Cuellos** – a local sweet roll • **Hojaldras** – a traditional sweet pastry stuffed with ham and cheese • **Guacamole** – a Mexican avocado dip with corn chips • **Avocado Canoes** – avocado slices with crab salad • **Fried Taquitos** – small rolled-up tortillas stuffed with chicken • **Jamaica** – a Mexican flower infusion, served cold • **Horchata** – a refreshing rice and cinnamon local beverage • Coffee, tea, milk and soft drinks • Mineral water.

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## LA PEPITA DE CALABAZA

La Pepita de Calabaza, or pumpkin seed has been used in Mexico since the time of our Mayan ancestors. Delegates will get to learn to make their own Dzikilpak – an authentic Mayan dip – with our Chef. This is bound to be a firm favorite for parties back home.

Delegates can choose from:

- **Tutis** – a local sweet roll stuffed with ham and cheese
- **Zaramullos** – a traditional sweet roll served in local communities
- **Dzotobichay** – a Mayan name for a local tamal made with Chaya, corn dough, pumpkin seeds, hard boiled egg and tomato sauce
- **Polcanes** – local turnover, made with corn dough stuffed with white beans and pumpkin seed
- **Chaya** – a local herb infusion, served cold
- **Barley** – a refreshing local beverage
- Coffee, tea, milk and soft drinks
- Mineral water.

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## THANK YOU

Contact us to learn more about the Merida Insider Collection and how we can help you create a truly memorable experience with authentic local flavor.

Whichever Insider Collection experience is right for you, you can be assured that it reflects the best principles of Responsible Business, a commitment demonstrated by our partnership with the National Geographic Center for Sustainable Destinations.

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