



CAE 2417

# OVERLAND ADVENTURE FROM MEXICO TO CANCUN

## 13 days / 12 nights

*Several ancient populations occupied the Mexican territory, from Mayas and Aztecs being the most important through Zapotecs, Toltecs, Mixtecs, Teotihuacans and other cultures. The largest groups established their territory in the southeast as well as on the Sierra around the present-day Mexico City.*

*This trip is aimed to show you the most relevant cultures from Mexico City through Cancún in the Yucatan Peninsula. We will start visiting **Teotihuacan**, that began as a religious center in the Mexican Highlands around the first century AD; it became the largest and most populated center in the pre-Columbian Americas. **Monte Alban** was a civic ceremonial center situated atop an artificially leveled ridge. Besides being one of the earliest cities of Mesoamerica, Monte Albán was important for nearly one thousand years as the pre-eminent Zapotec socio-political and economic center. Then, we will see **Mitla**, is the most important site of the Zapotec culture that became the main religious one in a later period as the area became dominated by the Mixtec. It follows **Palenque**, a Maya city state in southern Mexico that perished in the 8th century, is a medium-sized site that contains some of the finest architecture, sculpture, roof comb and bas-relief carvings that the Mayas produced. Next is **Uxmal**, considered one of the most important archaeological sites of Maya culture. It is located in the Puuc region of the eastern Yucatán Peninsula, and it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its significance. Finally, you will have the opportunity to visit **Chichen Itzá**, a large pre-Columbian city built by the Maya people of the Terminal Classic period.*

*We will also show you many important cities on the way to Cancún, cities that were founded by the Spanish conquerors and left a very significant sample of their culture. Nevertheless, the native traditions never disappear and merge with the other creating a newly mestizo culture.*

### DAY 1 DEPARTURE TO MEXICO

Arrival at the international airport in Mexico City. Reception by our partner, and transfer to the hotel in the city center. You will have the rest of the day at leisure for private activities. Overnight at the Regente Hotel or similar.

### DAY 2 MEXICO CITY Guadalupe and Teotihuacan

Breakfast at the hotel. We will start the long day visiting first the Pyramids of Teotihuacan. On the way, we will pass through the Plaza de las 3 Culturas, historical site where the last struggle between Aztecs and Spaniards was fought and which symbolizes the fusion of indigenous and Spanish cultures to begin with the current mestizo culture; this fusion is represented by the archaeological zone, the church of Tlaltelolco and the housing unit Tlaltelolco. We continue to the most important Sanctuary in Mexico: The Basilica of Guadalupe, where we will see the original image of the Virgin of Guadalupe; you will know the history of how it was embodied in the mantle of the indigenous Juan Diego and you will also see the old Basilica at the foot of the hill of Tepeyac. By the highway to Pachuca, we will arrive at the archaeological zone of Teotihuacán, the city of the gods, about 50 kms northeast of the capital and where we can admire the impressive Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, walk along the Avenue of the Dead, know the Palace of the Butterflies and the Temple of the Feathered Serpent, Quetzalcoatl. We return to the city to visit the Zocalo and the National Palace with its murals by Diego Rivera, in which the most relevant historical events were captured. We will see the archaeological zone of the Templo Mayor de los Mexicas and the Metropolitan Cathedral. We continue to the historic Bosque de Chapultepec, surrounded by residential areas such as Las Lomas. Return to the hotel (10 hrs.) Overnight at the Regente Hotel or similar. (B)

### PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

**EUR 2.544.-**

Surplus single room + EUR 560.-  
DISCOUNT Triple room - EUR 107.-

### DEPARTURES Sundays – Tuesdays - Thursdays

**Jan 08 – Dec 15, 2024**

### PRIVATE SERVICES

### INCLUSIONS

- Private transfers airport and sightseeing tours
- Public transportation for connections.
- 12 nights in selected 4\*\*\*\* hotels
- 12 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- All excursions and transfers mentioned in the program.
  - City tour in Mexico City, Puebla, Oaxaca, Campeche and Merida.
  - Teotihuacán and Guadalupe Shrine
  - Monte Alban, Mitla, Palenque, Uxmal and Chichen Itzá archaeological sites
  - Cañon del Sumidero and Agua Azus Waterfalls
- Local english-speaking guide in all excursions
- All entrance fees to national parks, museums and excursions

### NOT INCLUDED

- ✓ **International and domestic flights**
- ✓ Local airport taxes
- ✓ Tips for Guides, drivers and Porters
- ✓ Personal expenses
- ✓ Optional tours
- ✓ Other services not mentioned in the program





### DAY 3 MEXICO CITY – PUEBLA - OAXACA

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Puebla de los Ángeles, to visit Santa María Tonantzintla, a temple beautifully decorated by indigenous hands. When arriving in Puebla we will show you the city in a guided tour, the Chapel of the Rosary, the Cathedral, the Plaza Mayor and the Historic Center. Lunch included. Departure to Oaxaca. Arrival and accommodation at the Oaxaca Real Hotel or similar. **(B) (L)**

### DAY 4 OAXACA Mitla and Tule

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will visit the archaeological zone of **Monte Albán**. The site was founded approximately in 800 AD and is one of the oldest cities in Mesoamerica. In the third century of our era, Monte Albán reached its maximum splendor within an area of almost 7 square kilometers and a population close to 25,000 inhabitants. From this incredible place, on the top of a mountain, the Zapotecs had control of the Central Valleys region. Its culture achieved remarkable advances in sciences and arts such as architecture, astronomy, medicine and engineering. During the visit we will see the Astronomical Observatory, the Ball Court, the Palace and the sculpted stelae of the Dancers. We will then continue to the next archaeological site. **Mitla**, called the city of the dead and characterized by its beautiful decoration based on symbolic frets, was the most important Oaxacan settlement of the Postclassic Period. Its constructions are proof of the sophistication and technological levels of the Mixtecs. After the visit, we will visit the Tule Tree, an impressive ahuehuete or juniper of approx. 2000 years old, whose height is 42 meters and its perimeter of almost 58 meters; He is considered the most voluminous living being in the world.

Back to Oaxaca, we will visit the city which was founded in the heart of a wide valley at 1500 meters above sea level. The Church and Ex-Convent of Santo Domingo are exquisite examples of the Baroque style. The former convent attached to the church today houses the Museum of Cultures, with notable collections of pieces from the Zapotec and Mixtec Cultures, including the famous Treasure of Tomb 7 of Monte Albán. The solid construction of the cathedral is an example that buildings in Oaxaca had to be built to withstand the centuries. We will visit the Benito Juárez market, showcase of Oaxacan cuisine: its exceptional variety of products create an exquisite mixture of colors and aromas. Beautiful ceramic and leather products are some of the many handicraft items that we can also find in this market. Back to the hotel and free time. Overnight at the Oaxaca Real Hotel: **(B)**

### DAY 5 OAXACA – TEHUANTEPEC

After breakfast, we will visit the archaeological zone of Monte Albán that was founded approximately in 800 AD and is one of the oldest cities in Mesoamerica. In the third century of our era, Monte Albán reached its maximum splendor within an area of almost 7 square kilometers and a population close to 25,000 inhabitants. From this incredible place, on the top of a mountain, the Zapotecs had control of the Central Valleys region. Its culture achieved remarkable advances in sciences and arts such as architecture, astronomy, medicine and engineering. During the visit we will see the Astronomical Observatory, the Ball Court, the Palace, the sculpted stelae of the Dancers. After the visit transfer to the bus station. Bus to Tehuantepec. Arrival and transfer on your own to the hotel. Overnight at the Calli Hotel or similar. **(B)**

### DAY 6 TEHUANTEPEC – TUXTLA GUTIERREZ – SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the bus station on your own. Departure to Tuxtla Gutierrez. Upon arrival in Tuxtla Gutierrez, a private vehicle will be waiting for you to take you to the Sumidero Canyon. The imposing Canyon is about a thousand meters high at its maximum point, which we will have the possibility to see in detail while we take a boat trip through the canyon. Then we will take a walk and admire the canyon from above. Transfer to San Cristobal de las Casas. Overnight at the Plaza Magnolias Hotel or similar. **(B)**





#### DAY 7 SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán, native indigenous populations, who preserved their traditions, language, religious beliefs and social organization. The Church, housing and clothing are worthy of appreciation. Free afternoon. We suggest walking through this beautiful city and visiting the typical Market, Santo Domingo, the Cathedral, the Museum of Herbalist and the Jade Museum, where there is a replica of the Tomb of King Pakal. Overnight at the Plaza Magnolias Hotel or similar. **(B)**

#### DAY 8 SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS - PALENQUE

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning we will proceed to the Agua Azul Waterfalls, with beautiful turquoise tones, a natural wonder. If the weather permits, you will have the chance to swim. Later on, we will continue to Palenque. Upon arrival, check in and time at leisure for private activities. Overnight at the Misión Palenque Hotel or similar. **(B)**

#### DAY 9 PALENQUE - CAMPECHE

Desayuno. In the morning, we will drive to the archaeological Zone of Palenque, one of the most important cities of the Classic Mayan Period, notable for its beautiful sculptural art and its impressive architecture in the middle of the greenery of the jungle. It is the only city whose foundations were tombs. We will have the opportunity to know the Temple of the Inscriptions, inside which the sarcophagus of King Pakal was found, and the Temple No. XIII, where in the 90s of the XX-century archaeologists discovered the tomb of the Red Queen. We will also admire the Palace, which was the main residence of its rulers, with its observatory tower. Then your guide will show you the Conjunto de la Cruz and its crests, as well as the Temple of the Sun. Continuation to Campeche. Upon arrival, we will do a guided tour to show you the best of Campeche as well as the fortress. Transfer to the hotel and check in. Overnight at the Gamma Campeche Hotel or similar. **(B)**

#### DAY 10 CAMPECHE - MERIDA

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Uxmal. It is considered without a doubt as one of the most beautiful archaeological sites of pre-Hispanic times. The size of its structures and the fine carving of its facades are remarkable. The Temple of the Magician, which according to legend, was built in a single night by a dwarf, is its most imposing pyramid. A characteristic of Uxmal is that it was built in Puuc Style, a totally Mayan architectural style, without Toltec influences as in Chichén Itzá. The date of its foundation is unknown, but it is estimated that it occurred between the fifth and sixth centuries AD. Continuation to Merida. Upon arrival, we will offer you a panoramic visit including the the cathedral, the Governor's palace, the City Hall and House Montejo. Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the Residencial Hotel. **(B)**

#### DAY 11 MERIDA - CANCUN

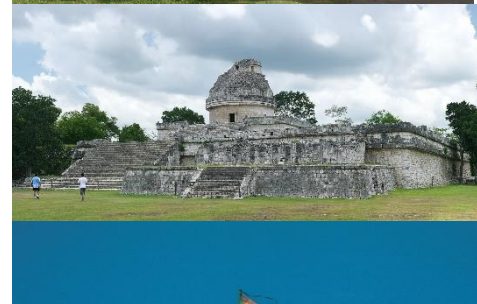
Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Chichen Itza, the most renowned Mayan city in Mexico, dating from the sixth century and said to have been founded by Itzamná, Lord of the Skies, creator God, first priest and inventor of Mayan writing; this site captures advanced archaeological knowledge of the Mayan culture. We will visit the area with its majestic buildings such as El Castillo or Pyramid of Kukulcan, 30 m. high, as well as the Observatory or Caracol, the Temple of the Jaguars, the Sacred Cenote, the Ball Court, the Platform of the Skulls and the Plaza of the 1000 Columns, among others. Lunch included. Continue to Cancun. Overnight at the Krystal Cancún Hotel **(B) (L)**

#### DAY 12 CANCUN

Breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure for private activities. If you have any plans or want to take part on an optional tour, just let us know and we will help you to plan it. Overnight at the Krystal Cancún Hotel **(B)**

#### DAY 13 CANCUN – RETURN HOME

After breakfast, free time to enjoy the last moments in this wonderful city and the beach. On-time transfer to the airport in Cancun for your connecting flight home or the bus station if you continue with your journeys in Mexico or Latin America. End of our services. **(B)**



**(B)** Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner

**EUROLATINO** Tour Operators  
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