



CAE 2419

MEXICO COMPLETE

10 days / 09 nights

Several ancient populations occupied the Mexican territory, from Mayas and Aztecs being the most important, up to 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 Plaza Florencia 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 Plaza Florencia Hotel or similar. **(B)**

PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

EUR 1.918.-

Surplus single room	+ EUR 373.-
DISCOUNT triple room	- EUR 66.-
Child 2-11 years old	EUR 1.056.-

DEPARTURES on Sunday – Tuesday - Thursday

Jan 08 – Dec 15, 2024

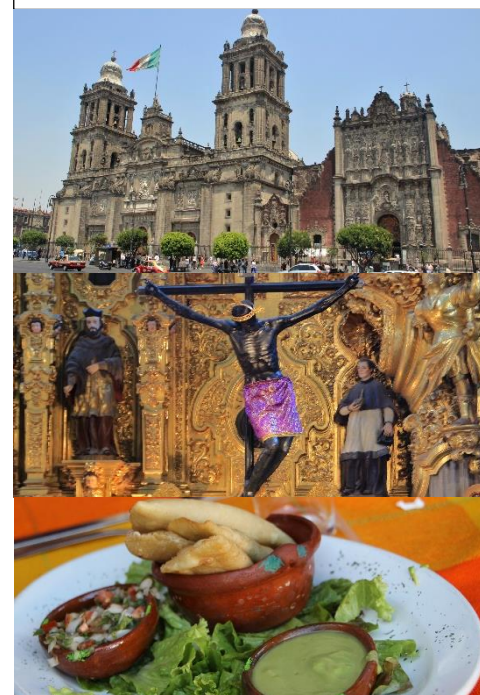
PRIVATE SERVICES upon request

INCLUSIONS

- ✚ Private transfers airport and sightseeing tours
- ✚ Public transportation for connections.
- ✚ 09 nights in selected 4****
- ✚ 09 breakfasts and 3 lunches
- ✚ All excursions and transfers mentioned in the program.
 - City tour in Mexico City, Oaxaca, San Cristobal
 - Guided tour to Cholula, Monte Albán, Palenque and Chichen Itzá.
 - Excursion to Guadalupe and Teotihuacan
 - Excursion to Sumidero Canyon and Agua Azul
- ✚ Local english-speaking guide in all excursions
- ✚ All entrance fees to national parks, museums and excursions
- ✚ 24 h. support (Hotline)

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. Our first stop will be Cholula, with an ancient history that is inscribed into archaeological sites and cultural relics. The Great Pyramid of Cholula is the largest archaeological site of a pyramid (temple) in the New World, as well as the largest pyramid by volume known to exist in the world today. The pyramid is a temple that traditionally has been viewed as having been dedicated to the god Quetzalcoatl with religious and mythical importance. After the visit, we continue to Puebla for a guided visit where you will see the Chapel of the Rosary, the Cathedral, the Plaza Mayor and the Historic Center. In the afternoon, we will bring you to the bus station for your ride to Oaxaca. Arrival and private transfer to the hotel. Accommodation at the Casa Conzatti Hotel or similar. **(B) (L)**

DAY 4 OAXACA Monte Albán

Breakfast at the hotel. Today 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.

In the afternoon 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. Back to the hotel in Oaxaca. Overnight at the Oaxaca Real Hotel or similar. **(B)**

DAY 5 OAXACA – TUXTLA GUTIERREZ – SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Tuxtla Gutierrez (flight ticket not included, arrival before 1:00 p.m.) 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 to admire the canyon. Transfer to San Cristobal de las Casas. Overnight at the Plaza Magnolias Hotel or similar. **(B)**

DAY 6 SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Breakfast at the hotel. We will start the day visiting San Cristobal. Your guide will give information about the historical places, amongst other things; Santo Domingo church, the San Cristóbal cathedral, cultural centre el Carmen, el Cerrillo, the principal market, Guadalupe church and Cerrito de San Cristóbal. The day continues to the indigenous Mayan communities of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán. The community of San Juan Chamula is particularly linked to the Church of San Juan Bautista where ceremonies were held that had a great influence of paganism (photos are strictly forbidden in the church). The indigenous population of Zinacantan is different in the fact that it is very loyal to the Catholic faith. You will be able to admire how women weave the waist loom, as well as surprise you with their multi-colored embroidery. Return to San Cristobal and accommodation at the Plaza Magnolias Hotel or similar. **(B)**





DAY 7 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 8 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. After a delicious lunch, transfer to the Airport in Villahermosa for your flight to Merida (flight ticket not included, departure after 06:00 pm.). Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel and check in. Overnight at the El Conquistador Hotel or similar. **(B) (L)**

DAY 9 MERIDA

Breakfast at the hotel. The day is at leisure for private activities. We suggest to visit 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. Overnight at the El Conquistador Hotel or similar. **(B)**

DAY 10 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 archaeo-astronomical 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. After lunch which is included, you will visit the Ikil Cenote. Continue to Cancun or Playa del Carmen to the resort of your choice. Accommodation is not included this day. **(B) (L)**

DAY X CANCUN

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