



CAE 2414

# PREHISPANIC MEXICO

## 8 days / 7 nights

*Since 1521 Spanish settlers and clergymen started to arrive in the present-day territory of Mexico. These conquistadores wrote their experiences and they also wrote history. Many indigenous chroniclers wrote also their stories and with all these information archeologists and epigraphers made the pre-columbian history known.*

*Human presence in the Mexican region was once thought to date back 40,000 years but recent studies and research settled the earliest human remains in Mexico back to 21,000 years. Between 1800 and 300 BC, complex cultures began to form. Many matured into advanced pre-Columbian Mesoamerican civilizations such as the: Olmec, Izapa, Teotihuacan, Maya, Zapotec, Mixtec, Huastec, Purépecha, Totonac, Toltec, and Aztec, which flourished for nearly 4,000 years before the first contact with Europeans.*

*And our first contact with pre-hispanic history will be in Mexico City where our guide will explain to you about the Aztecs and its relationship with Tenochtitlan, a Mexican city-state (or polities) in what is now the historic center of Mexico City. The exact date of the founding of the city built on an island is unclear and it was the capital of the expanding Aztec Empire in the 15th century until it was captured by the Spanish in 1521.*

*40 Km. northeast from Mexico city is located Teotihuacan, an ancient Mesoamerican city located in the Valley of Mexico, known today as the site of many of the most architecturally significant Mesoamerican pyramids built in the pre-Columbian Americas, namely Pyramid of the Sun and Pyramid of the Moon. Our next pre-columbian visit is Palenque, a Maya city state in southern Mexico that perished in the 8th century. The Palenque ruins date from ca. 226 BC to ca. 799 AD. After its decline, it was overgrown by the jungle of cedar, mahogany, and sapodilla trees, but has since been excavated and restored. Palenque contains some of the finest architecture, sculpture, roof comb and bas-relief carvings that the Mayas produced. And finally, we will go to one of the most visited archeological sites in Mexico, Chichen Itzá, a large pre-Columbian city built by the Maya people of the Terminal Classic period. The site exhibits a multitude of architectural styles, reminiscent of styles seen in central Mexico and of the Puuc and Chenes styles of the Northern Maya lowlands. Enjoy this intensive trip to the past and enjoy also the present-day cities that you will visit, the gastronomy, the traditions, the colonial influence.*

### DAY 1 DEPARTURE TO MEXICO

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

### DAY 2 MEXICO CITY Guadalupe and Teotihuacan

Breakfast at the hotel. Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the BASILICA DE GUADALUPE, religious complex in honour of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of Mexico. Located on the Cerro del Tepeyac, indicates the approximate place of the apparitions of the Virgin to the Indian San Juan Diego. After this visit, we will continue to TEOTIHUACAN, archaeological site and UNESCO's World Heritage site since 1987. Among its important constructions are the Pyramid of the Sun, the Pyramid of the Moon, the Palaces of the Jaguars and the Plumed Snail and Quetzalpapálotl, the latter having preserved remains of mural painting. It seems to have been occupied by Toltecs at a time after the XVII century, testimony of which is the Great Pyramid of Quetzalcoatl. It is believed that it was the Aztecs who called the main street Calzada de los Muertos (Street of the dead). Back to the city of Mexico, we will have a guided tour visiting the main attractions of the capital of Mexico: The Cathedral built on top of an Aztec temple by the Spaniards, the Government Palace with its famous frescoes by Diego Rivera, one of Mexico's most famous artists. Continue through El Paseo de la Reforma, the most important street in Mexico City and its main artery in east-west

### PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

**EUR 1.596.-**

Surplus single room	+ EUR 671.-
DISCOUNT Triple room	- EUR 107.-
CHILD 2-11 years old	EUR 829.-

### DAILY DEPARTURES

**Jan 08 – Dec 15, 2024**

**PRIVATE SERVICES upon request**

### INCLUSIONS

- ✚ Private transfers airport and sightseeing tours
- ✚ Public transportation for connections.
- ✚ 7 nights in selected 4\*\*\*\* hotels
- ✚ 7 breakfasts and 2 lunches included
- ✚ All excursions and transfers mentioned in the program.
  - City tour in Mexico City
  - Teotihuacán and Guadalupe Shrine
  - Palenque, Chichen Itzá
- ✚ 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





direction. The road was built at the behest of Emperor Maximilian, because he wanted a direct connection between the Castillo de Chapultepec, occupied by him and his office at the Zócalo. Consequently, the road was first called Calzada del Emperador (road of the Emperor). After he was deposed, it was renamed in view of their statues located in it as Paseo de los Hombres Ilustres (promenade of famous men) before finally adopted in 1861 its present name in honour of President Benito Juárez's reform legislation. You will pass close to the Palacio de Bellas Artes, the Palace of Fine Arts and the Monumento a la Revolución. Finally you can see the Castle of Chapultepec and panoramic visit of the residential neighbourhood of Polanco as well as the famous Masaryk Street. Back to the hotel. Overnight. **(B)**

#### **DAY 3 MEXICO CITY - VILLAHERMONA** Domestic flight

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Villahermosa (ticket not included). Upon arrival in Villahermosa, transfer to your hotel, check in and time at leisure to explore the city on your own. Villahermosa is the capital and largest city of the Mexican state of Tabasco and serves as the municipal seat (governing county) of the state. Located in Southeast Mexico, Villahermosa is an important city because of its cultural history, natural resources, commercial development, and modern industrialization. **(B)**

#### **DAY 4 VILLAHERMOSA – PALENQUE - MERIDA**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will visit the archaeological zone of Palenque one of the most important sites of the Mayan world in the rainforest. Inside the pyramid was found, among many other inscriptions, the sarcophagus of King Pakal embossed in high relief with a gravestone. You will also visit the Temple of the Cross, the Temple of the Sun and the palace. After the visit, we will come back to Villahermosa, directly to the airport for your flight to Mérida after 6:00 p.m. (not included). Upon arrival in Mérida, transfer to your hotel and time at leisure. Overnight. **(B) (L)**

#### **DAY 5 MERIDA**

Breakfast at the hotel. You will have the day at leisure for private activities. We suggest to visit the archaeological zone of Uxmal, visit the natural area of Celestun or participate on the route of the Haciendas. Uxmal is the finest example of the Puuc style where you can see the Pyramid of the FortUNETeller, nUNSSquare, the ball game, the House of Turtles and the gouveURneurs Palace. The Ría Celestún Biosphere Reserve is a wetland reserve that is the winter home to vast flocks of flamingos, as well as many herons and other bird species. Celestun's ecosystem is unique because of a combination of freshwater from the century estuary and saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico. The reserve also has two types of pelicans - large white Canadian and smaller gray Mexican ones. Overnight. **(B)**

#### **DAY 6 MERIDA - CANCUN** Chichen Itzá

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Chichen Itza, the Maya city of great fame in Mexico. It is the archaeological and worship place with advanced knowledge of astronomy. Visit the pyramid temple of Kukulcan, the ball court, the platform of the skull, the Temple of the Jaguars, the Observatory, the place of a thousand columns and the holly cenote. Continue to the majestic Cenote IK-IL where you can swim. Break for lunch. Continue to Cancun. Overnight **(B) (L)**

#### **DAY 7 CANCUN**

Breakfast at the hotel. The day is at leisure for private activities. Our suggestions: Enjoy the white sandy beaches and the sea with the turquoise waters of the Caribbean. Ready for optional tours or adventures? You have enough to do in Cancún and the surroundings. Highlight is, however one of the most exciting theme parks in the Riviera Maya and Mexico, Xcaret. Visit the giant aquarium, where you can see marine life creatures. Take a walk through the park, to observe endangered animals such as the black puma or manatees. The highlight of the day is the show MEXICO MARAVILLOSO (Wonderful Mexico), where you will experience a breath-taking spectacle in the culture and traditions of Mexico. **(B)**

#### **DAY 8 CANCUN – RETURN HOME**

After breakfast, free time to enjoy the last moments of this heavenly place. On-time transfer to the airport in Cancun for your connecting flight home. End of our services. **(B)**



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