



GROUP TRAVEL
CAE 2439

MEXICO & GUATEMALA

17 nights / 16 days

Mexico and Guatemala have one issue in common: Die Maya culture. Mexico shows the splendor of this pre-hispanic culture and Guatemala shows a lively Mayan culture. Both countries also show the influence of the Spanish "conquistadores" in colorful colonial cities. On this trip, we will help you to discover the mysterious Mayan civilization, one of the most dominant Indigenous societies of Mesoamerica (a term used to describe Mexico and Central America before the 16th century Spanish conquest).

The Maya were centered in one geographical block covering all of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize and the western part of Honduras and El Salvador. Within that expanse, the Maya lived in three separate sub-areas with distinct environmental and cultural differences: the northern Maya lowlands on the Yucatan Peninsula; the southern lowlands in the Peten district of northern Guatemala and adjacent portions of Mexico, Belize and western Honduras; and the southern Maya highlands, in the mountainous region of southern Guatemala.

The Mayas were an agricultural culture, cropping corn (maize), beans, squash and cassava (manioc) and very religious and cultural. They have developed a number system, their famous calendar Round, based on 365 days, and later, the Long Count Calendar, designed to last over 5,000 years. Architecture was overwhelming and we can see it in superb pyramids, plazas, palaces and temples as well as courts for playing the famous Maya ball game "ulama". Most of these buildings were dedicated to worship various gods related to nature, including the gods of the sun, the moon, rain and corn. Guided by their religious ritual, the Maya also made significant advances in mathematics and astronomy, including the use of the zero and the development of complex calendars.

Join us in this magnificent tour in the Maya World, visiting the Museum of Anthropology and History in Mexico City and some of the most important cities unearthed up to date: Tikal, Palenque, Chichen Itzá. Step into the UNESCO-listed colonial city of Antigua. Experience Mayan traditions at Chichicastenango. Explore the Mayan dwelling in Santiago Atitlan. Marvel at some of the most important Mayan archaeological sites in Mexico: Yaxchilan, Bonampak, Palenque, Uxmal, and Chichen Itza. Enjoy guided tours in Mexico City, San Cristobal de las Casas, San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan, Campeche, Merida and end your trip enjoying the magnificent turquoise waters of the Caribbean in Cancún. Come with us and live your Mayan adventure!

DAY 1 (Thursday) DEPARTURE TO MEXICO

Arrival at the International Airport of Mexico City and transfer to your hotel. Registration.

DAY 2 (Friday) MEXICO CITY

After breakfast, guided sightseeing tour. Among other things, you will see the Plaza de la Constitución (the Constitutional Square) called Zócalo, surrounded by beautiful Baroque buildings such as the Cathedral (the largest religious monument in the country), the National Palace (seat of the presidency of the Republic), with wall paintings from the well known artist Diego Rivera and the Templo Mayor, the great temple of the Aztec capital. You will also see the "Paseo de la Reforma", the "Monumento a la Revolución" and the center of town. After a short break, we continue to have lunch, drive to Teotihuacan, known by the Aztecs as "the place where the gods are born." The complex consists of three main buildings: "The Road of the Dead", "The pyramids of the Sun and the Moon" and the "Citadel". Back to Mexico City to the hotel. Welcome dinner at the hotel. **(B) (L) (D)**

**PRICE PER PERSON
EN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

EUR 2.490-

**Surplus single room
EUR 694.-**

**GROUP DEPARTURES
2024**

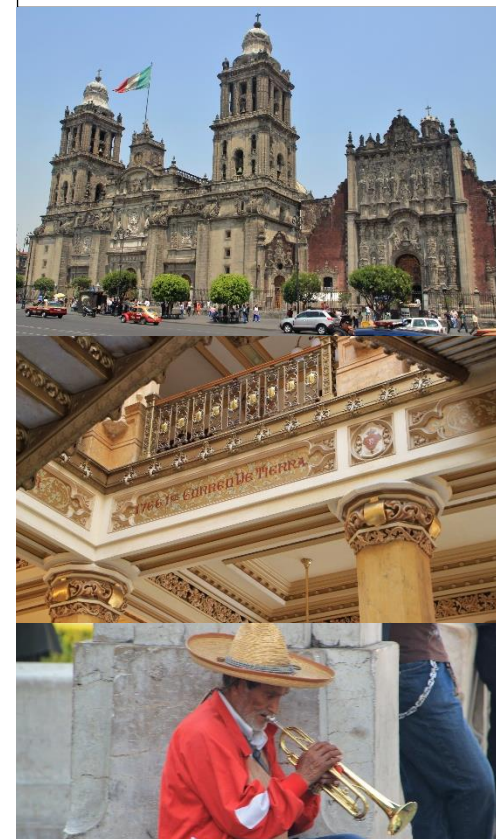
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|---------------|---------------|
| 25 Apr | 16 May |
| 06 Jun | 18 Jul |
| 01 Aug | 29 Aug |
| 12 Sep | 26 Sep |
| 10 Oct | 28 Nov |

INCLUSIONS

- ✚ Transfer from/to the Hotel in all airports
- ✚ 17 Nights in 4**** Hotels
- ✚ 17 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners
- ✚ All excursions and services as described in the program. Highlights :
 - Guided Tours in Mexico City, San Cristobal de las Casas, San Juan Chamula, Campeche, Merida
 - Bonampak, Yaxchilan, Palenque, Uxmal and Chichen Itzá archeological sites
 - Boat trip on the Cañón del Sumidero
- ✚ Local english-speaking guide in all services
- ✚ All entrance fees to national parks, museums and excursions.
- ✚ 24 h. support via Whatsapp.

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Meals and drinks and other services not mentioned in the program.
- Tips for tour guides, drivers and porters.
- Personal expenses





DAY 3 (Saturday) MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit the Museum of Anthropology and History in the famous Chapultepec Park, which is considered one of the best-known museums of its kind in the world. The most important collections of pre-Hispanic culture of the country are exhibited in special chambers. Afternoon at leisure. You can visit on your own the Chapultepec Park, including the famous Chapultepec Castle, built in 1784 as a summer residence by the Viceroy Bernardo de Galvez y Madrid. In 1864, Emperor Maximilian rebuilt the castle to the imperial residence. Today it houses the "Museo Nacional de Historia", the National History Museum. **(B)**

DAY 4 (Sunday) MEXICO CITY - GUATEMALA

Breakfast at the hotel. Throughout the day, transfer to the airport for your flight to Guatemala. After landing, reception by our partners in Guatemala and transfer to the hotel. Registration. **(B)**

DAY 5 (Monday) GUATEMALA

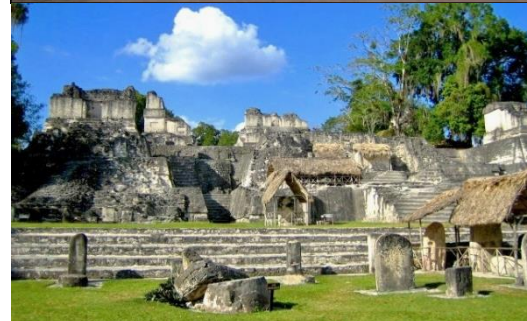
Very early in the morning, around 05:00 am, we will take you to the airport for the flight to Flores (not included on the package, however we can be helpful to get your tickets). Arrival at the International Airport Tikal and transfer to the Tikal archaeological site for a visit. Tikal is the ruin of an ancient city and one of the largest archeological sites and urban centers of the pre-Columbian Maya civilization. It is located in the archeological region of the Petén Basin in what is now northern Guatemala. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. Tikal was the capital of a conquest state that became one of the most powerful kingdoms of the ancient Maya. Though monumental architecture at the site dates back as far as the 4th century BC, Tikal reached its apogee during the Classic Period, c. 200 to 900. During this time, the city dominated much of the Maya region politically, economically, and militarily, while interacting with areas throughout Mesoamerica such as the great metropolis of Teotihuacan in the distant Valley of Mexico. After the visit, lunch and transfer to the airport for your return flight to Guatemala City. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel. **(L)**

DAY 6 (Tuesday) GUATEMALA - ANTIGUA

Breakfast at the hotel. Then depart for Antigua, colonial monument of the Americas and the capital of Guatemala until 1773. Antigua has Spanish architectural gems such as the Palace of the General Captains and the town hall. Sightseeing. Visit the Plaza de Armas (Main Square) and the Government Palace, the ruins of several monasteries and churches like La Merced and the Capuchins. Registration at the hotel and overnight. **(B)**

DAY 7 (Wednesday) ANTIGUA - CHICHICASTENANGO - ATITLAN

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Chichicastenango and visit the church of St. Thomas and the Indio market, the most famous of the entire country, where mingle both Mayan and Spanish traditions. On market days on Thursdays and Sundays, it transforms into a craft bazaar, where you can buy textiles, wood and ceramics. To the Church of St. Thomas, which is located on the main square, come the leaders of the "Cofradías" (associations or brotherhoods), dedicated to the worship and care of various saints. As well, the Indians come to church, to burn incense to their gods and to pray. In the afternoon, you will proceed to Lake Atitlan, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, surrounded by three volcanoes. On its shores live various indigenous ethnic groups. Arrival in Panajachel, the largest city on the lakeshore. Accommodation. **(B)**





DAY 8 (Thursday) ATITLAN

You will take part in a morning boat trip on the lake and visit the city of Santiago de Atitlan, one of the most typical and most colourful cities in the surrounding area. The afternoon is at leisure for personal activities. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 9 (Friday) ATITLAN - SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

In the morning, drive to La Mesilla on the border with Mexico, about two and a half hours. After customs formalities you change your transportation and guide. Continue in Mexico to San Cristobal de las Casas (about 3 hours). Transit and now on the Mexican side, you can visit the most beautiful archaeological sites of Yaxchilan and Bonampak. Arrival and accommodation in hotel. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 10 (Saturday) SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

After breakfast, you will visit the local market, the most typical of the region, where hundreds of indigenous people gather daily to sell their products. Visit to the church of Santo Domingo, founded in 1547 in Baroque style. We then go to the nearby town of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan. The municipality of San Juan Chamula is something special, because you can see in its church the influence of pagan ceremonies, which again differs significantly from the second town where the Zinacanteco Indians are tied to the Catholic faith. Back to San Cristobal. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 11 (Sunday) SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS - PALENQUE

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Palenque. On the way, we make a short stop at the cascades of Agua Azul "Blue Water", a natural wonder, surrounded by tropical vegetation, which you should not miss. During the five-hour drive over the mountain road, you can admire the amazing changes of the lush vegetation of the area in Chiapas. Arrival in Palenque. Accommodation. **(B)**

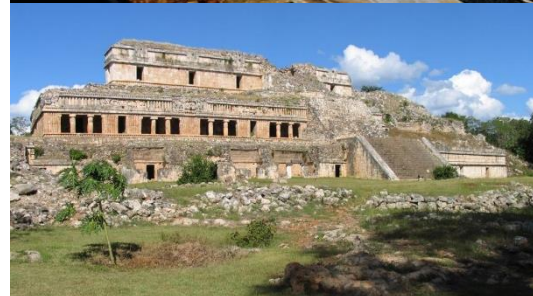
DAY 12 (Monday) PALENQUE / CAMPECHE

Today you will visit the archaeological site of Palenque. The area offers beautiful embodiments of the Mayan stone and plaster. This site is one of the most beautiful in Mexico, as the ruins in the jungle of Chiapas are. From all the temples discovered is the so-called Temple of the Inscriptions the most important, where the grave of Pakal was found with its famous jade mask. Lunch. Continue to Campeche, the capital of the federal state. Short visit to the old colonial town, built with walls and towers and secured to protect them from pirates. Within the city, you can still feel a colonial atmosphere with beautiful houses and strict churches. After the visit, we continue to the Hotel. Accommodation. **(B)**

DAY 13 (Tuesday) CAMPECHE - MERIDA

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Mérida. Enroute visit the archaeological site of Uxmal. The site, whose name means "built in three stages," is a typical example of classical and post-classical eras of the Mayas. The main buildings of Uxmal are the Pyramid of the Magician, the Palace of the governors and the Cuadrilátero de las Monjas (The Nuns Quadrangle). Continue to Merida, which is also known as the "White City". The mansions have their origin in the colonial period, and express French, Italian and Arabic styles from the days of the turn of the century showing the rich culture of the past. Visit the Zocalo (Main Square) of Merida, where you can admire the most important monuments: the Cathedral, the Government Palace, the City Hall and the House of Montejo. Registration at the hotel. Overnight. **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel. The day is at leisure. Either bathing day at the beach, shopping or optional excursion... the choice is yours. We are happy to book you a prolongation of your tour in the Caribbean. **(B)**





DAY 14 (Wednesday) MERIDA - CANCUN

After breakfast, depart for Cancun. En route visit the archaeological site of Chichen Itza, Mayan capital of Yucatan, which flourished between the 5th and 10 Century AD. Visit of the imposing buildings of the northern and central archaeological sites: the Temple of Kukulcan, the Ball Court, the Observatory, the Temple of the Warriors, the convent of the nuns and the cenote. Cenote comes from the Maya word "ts'onot" and means "sacred spring". Cenotes are shaft-like sinkholes of the limestone ceiling on the Yucatán Peninsula. Through this collapse, the water flowing underground streams are accessible. Lunch at Chichen Itza. In the afternoon, we continue to Cancun. Arrival at the hotel. Registration. **(F) (L)**

DAY 15 (Thursday) CANCUN

You deserve it! The entire day is at leisure. Do you want to go to sand and beach? Or another cultural excursion? Then go! Swim, dive, relax ... Or go with an optional tour to Tulum, the most visited Mayan site in Mexico. Dinner. **(F) (A)**

DAY 16 (Friday) CANCUN

Breakfast at the hotel. The day is at leisure. Either bathing day at the beach, shopping or optional excursion... the choice is yours. We are happy to book you a prolongation of your tour in the Caribbean. **(B)**

DAY 17 (Saturday) CANCUN - MEXICO DF AIRPORT

Afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight from Cancun to Mexico City and connecting flight back home. End of our services **(B)**

(B) Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner **(AI)** All inclusive

