

MEXICO, GUATEMALA AND BELIZE

16 days / 15 nights

If you are planning a trip to Central America and the Maya World, this is the best option for you. Experience a mixture of indigenous culture and exotic natural environment. Included are the most relevant Maya Cities and Temples. Anthropologists and archaeologists thought Maya culture originated in the northern reaches of what is now Guatemala about 600 B.C.E., and migrated north to the Yucatan Peninsula of present-day Mexico beginning around 700 C.E. Meet also authentic maya people and learn about their traditions and way of life in the present days since descendants of the Maya still live in Central America in modern-day Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and parts of Mexico. The majority of modern-day Maya live in Guatemala, which is home to Tikal National Park, the site of the ruins of the ancient city of Tikal.

*You will start your visit in Mexico with the city and Teotihuacan, where there was a strong Maya presence. Then. Fly to Tuxtla and start having real contact with the mayas. Visit the Cañon del Sumidero, an impressive gorge with altitudes up to 1000 meters. Also cruise the "most beautiful lake of the world", **Lake Atitlan** surrounded by three gorgeous volcanoes, San Pedro, Tolima and Atitlán. Visit the vibrant cultural monument of **Antigua**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with stunning monuments from the colonial architecture in the Americas. Learn about Mayan traditions while visiting Lake Atitlán, and deepen your knowledge of the Mayan World in **Tikal** with its monumental architecture. Next stop will be San Ignacio, the capital city of Belize. With a ferry you will reach Cayo ambergiris to experience a few days of adventure and also to relax. You can enjoy the tranquility of the Caribbean and be active with snorkeling, hiking, trekking, horse riding and many other activities. Finally, come back to Mexico visiting Tulum before you continue to Cancún airport for your flight back home.*

DAY 1 (Friday) DEPARTURE TO GUATEMALA

Arrival at the international airport in Mexico City. Reception by our partner, and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day free for private activities or to relax after your long flight.

DAY 2 (Saturday) MEXICO CITY Guapalupe Shrine - Teotihuacan

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to the Sanctuary of the Basilica of Guadalupe, where we will see the original image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Continue to the archaeological site of Teotihuacan where we can admire the impressive Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon among others. Demonstration of the agave plant and the obsidian volcanic stone. We return to the city to visit the Zocalo and the National Palace, the Metropolitan Cathedral. We continue to the historic Chapultepec Forest and panoramic visit of the residential area of Polanco, the famous Masaryk Street. Return to the hotel (approx. 10 hrs.) **(B)**

DAY 3 (Sunday) MEXICO CITY – TUXTLA – SUMIDERO CANYON – SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure transfer to the airport. Flight to Tuxtla Gutierrez (airfare not included). Arrival in Tuxtla Gutierrez and transfer to the imposing Sumidero Canyon, a deep natural canyon located just north of the city of Chiapa de Corzo in the state of Chiapas, in southern Mexico. The canyon's creation began around the same time as the Grand Canyon in the U.S. state of Arizona, by a crack in the area's crust and subsequent erosion by the Grijalva River, which still runs through it. Sumidero Canyon has vertical walls which reach as high as 1,000 metres (3,300 ft), with the river turning up to 90 degrees during the 13-kilometre (8 mi) length of the narrow passage. There we will take a boat tour for about an hour crossing part of the canyon and enjoying this amazing wonder of the nature. After a short break, we will continue to San Cristóbal de las Casas. **(B)**

**PRICE PER PERSON
EN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

EUR 4.669.-

Surplus single room

EUR 1.684.-

**DEPARTURES EVERY
FRIDAY**

Jan 08 – Dec 15, 2024

**PRIVATE SERVICES
upon request**

INCLUSIONS

- ✈ Transfer from/to the Hotel in all airports
- 🏨 15 Nights in 4**** Hotels with breakfast
- 🗺 All excursions and services as described in the program. Highlights :
 - Guided Tours in Mexico City. San Cristobal de las Casas, Antigua, Chichicastenango, Atitlán.
 - Teotihuacan
 - Tikal archaeological site
- 🗺 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 4 (Monday) SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning visit to one of the most typical local markets where hundreds of Indigenous people sell their hand-made products every day; the tour continues to the Baroque Santo Domingo Church founded in 1547. Then visitors will meet the Indigenous communities of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán. The San Juan Chamula community is particularly linked to this church where ceremonies were celebrated that had a great influence of paganism (Strictly forbidden photos in the church). The Indigenous population of Zinacantan, is different in that it is very loyal to the Catholic faith. Return to San Cristóbal and overnight. **(B) (L)**

DAY 5 (Tuesday) SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS – PANAJACHEL (Guatemala)

Breakfast at the hotel. Private transfer from San Cristóbal to La Mesilla, border with Guatemala. We change vehicles to continue to Panajachel, a town in the Guatemalan Highlands, west of Guatemala City. It is on the north shore of Lake Atitlán. Surrounding the lake are the San Pedro, Tolimán and Atitlán volcanoes. Cafes, bars and stalls selling handicrafts and textiles line Calle Santander, the main street. In the old town is the colonial San Francisco Church, with a stone facade. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 6 (Wednesday) PANAJACHEL

Breakfast at the hotel. An interesting geological formation, Atitlán is a lake of volcanic origin, located 1,500 meters above sea level and surrounded by 3 imposing volcanoes and in the heart of the living Mayan culture. This morning we will take a boat trip to visit Santiago Atitlan, a city located below the San Pedro volcano that is famous for its naïve paintings and wood carvings. Back to Panajachel and free afternoon. Overnight at the Camino Real Antigua Hotel or similar. **(B)**

DAY 7 (Thursday) PANAJACHEL – CHICHICASTENANGO - ANTIGUA

Breakfast at the hotel. Early departure to Chichicastenango, one of the most important towns in Guatemala since it treasures a lot of Mayan culture, history and traditions. It is the home of the Quiché civilization (largest group of Mayan population). Chichicastenango is one of the most traditional places in Guatemala. The town was able to conserve its indigenous authenticity and this will give you the opportunity to experience its religious rituals, practiced almost on a daily basis. Upon arrival, you will visit the market, one of the biggest in Central America. You will find yourself surrounded by every type of handicrafts, fruits and vegetables, flowers and many other goods. You will also visit Iglesia de Santo Tomas, a 400 year old church with colonial architecture. The 18 steps that lead you up to the entrance, stands for each month of the year of the Mayan calendar. After the visit, we will continue to Antigua at the shores of Lake Atitlán. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 8 (Friday) ATITLAN – CIUDAD GUATEMALA

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will invite you to a guided city tour in Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site founded in the early 16th century. Built 1,500 m above sea-level, in an earthquake-prone region, it was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1773 but its principal monuments are still preserved as ruins. In the space of under three centuries the city, which was built on a grid pattern inspired by the Italian Renaissance, acquired a number of superb monuments. Most of the surviving civil, religious, and civic buildings date from the 17th and 18th centuries and constitute magnificent examples of colonial architecture in the Americas. These buildings reflect a regional stylistic variation known as Barroco antiguo. Among other significant historical buildings, we will visit the Palace of the Captains General, the Casa de la Moneda, the Cathedral, the Universidad de San Carlos, Las Capuchinas, La Merced and Santa Clara. At a given time, you will return to Atitlan and further to Ciudad de Guatemala. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 9 (Saturday) GUATEMALA – TIKAL - GUATEMALA

A very early transfer to Guatemala City airport for a 45-minute flight to Flores followed by a transfer to Tikal National Park. Tikal is one of the most impressive cities built by the ancient Mayans and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. We will explore the park in great detail as well as giving you free time to navigate through the many corridors. We will spend the night in a lodge located next to the ruins of Tikal, which will give you the opportunity to explore the site after other tourists have left and the wildlife is the most active. (FLIGHT TICKET NOT INCLUDED), **(B)**

DAY 10 (Sunday) TIKAL

Breakfast at the hotel. You will have the day at leisure for private activities. Overnight. **(B)**





DAY 11 (Monday) GUATEMALA – SAN IGNACIO

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure towards Melchor de Mencos, the Border with Belize. After clearing migration and customs procedures, transfer to the city of San Ignacio, the capital of Belice. Check in at the hotel and short break. Then, visit the mayan ruins of Xunantunich, an Ancient Maya archaeological site in western Belize, about 70 miles (110 km) west of Belize City, in the Cayo District. Xunantunich is located atop a ridge above the Mopan River, well within sight of the Guatemala border – which is 0.6 miles (1 km) to the west. It served as a Maya civic ceremonial centre to the Belize Valley region in the Late and Terminal Classic periods. At that time, when the region was at its peak, nearly 200,000 people lived in the Belize Valley. Back to the hotel and overnight. **(B)**

DAY 12 (Tuesday) SAN IGNACIO – BELICE – CAYO SAN PEDRO

Breakfast at the hotel. We leave San Ignacio towards Belice City to catch the ferry that will bring us to Cayo Ambergris and our resort for the next days. Ramon's Village Resort is the host hotel for government dignitaries, entertainment personalities, entrepreneurs, authors, songwriters, artists, dive professionals, amateur dive enthusiasts, photographers, fishermen, beauty queens, fashion models, vacationers and the person who just wants to get away for a few days. It combines the lush vegetation, Mayan influence, Tahitian elements, delicious food, wonderful people, excellent service, great amenities, comfortable accommodations, superb location and the wide variety of entertainment options, and it's no wonder Ramon's Village Resort in San Pedro on the island of Ambergris Caye has been the first choice of travelers to Belize since 1987. Styled after the Tahitian cottages on the Polynesian island of Bora Bora, the cabanas are built from native materials by craftsmen utilizing the same skill and techniques the islanders used in the days of the great sailing ships. Ramon's Village is a sanctuary nestled in a tropical garden of Royal Palms, bougainvillea, lilies, hibiscus and dozens of other types of tropical flora. Surrounded by the plant life are Mayan sculptures that provide a glimpse of the civilization that preceded us in this Caribbean paradise. Once inside our enchanted village, you'll be in a world of your own choosing. Therefore, enjoy your stay at this beautiful spot in Belize. **(B)**

DAY 13 (Wednesday) CAYO SAN PEDRO

Breakfast at the hotel. You have the day at leisure to enjoy the tranquility of the island, to make a hike or to join some of the activities the resort has to offer, like snorkeling, yatching, fishing and many others. You can of course just enjoy the wonderful waters of the Caribbean or swim in the pool. **(B)**

DAY 14 (Friday) CAYO SAN PEDRO – TULUM

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the pier to catch the ferry back to Belize City, where upon arrival our driver will meet you and transfer you to Chetumal on the Mexican border. Vehicle change. Our Mexican driver will transfer you privately to Tulum, the site of a pre-Columbian Mayan walled city which served as a major port for Coba, in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo. Arrival at the hotel and check-in. Free time and overnight in Tulum. **(B)**

DAY 15 (Saturday) TULUM

Breakfast at the hotel. The day is at leisure for private activities. You can visit the archaeological site of Tulum if you want to deepen your knowledge in the Mayan Culture (not included). The ruins are situated on 12-meter-tall (39 ft) cliffs along the east coast of the Yucatán Peninsula on the Caribbean Sea. Tulum was one of the last cities built and inhabited by the Maya and achieved its greatest prominence between the 13th and 15th centuries. Maya continued to occupy Tulum for about 70 years after the Spanish began occupying Mexico, but the city was abandoned by the end of the 16th century. Tulum is one of the best-preserved coastal Maya sites, and today a popular site for tourists. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 15 (Sunday) TULUM – CANCUN - RETURN HOME

After breakfast, free time to enjoy the last moments at the Maya Land or just to relax at the hotel. On-time transfer to the Cancun International Airport for your flight home or extension of your stay in Belize or Central America. End of our services. **(B)**



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