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Depart Australia - Arrive Mexico City

Welcome to Mexico City, the economic, industrial and cultural centre of Mexico! Sprawling across a valley, encircled by volcanoes and mountains and atop an ancient Aztec civilisation, Mexico City is North America's highest city and one of the world's most densely populated. With a long and fascinating history that runs from ancient native civilisations through to the invasion of the Conquistadors and subsequent colonial rule, Mexico City boasts an array of fascinating sights and attractions.

2

Mexico City

Please meet your tour guide and other members of your group in the hotel lobby at 8.15am.

We begin the day with a tour of bustling Mexico City. Our sightseeing will include the main city square – Plaza de la Constitución or the Zócalo. The plaza is constructed from the stones of ancient palaces and temples and is said to be the second largest in the world after Moscow's Red Square. The Zócalo is bordered by the Cathedral to the north and the National Palace to the east. In the centre of the plaza is an enormous Mexican Flag which is ceremoniously raised and lowered each day and carried into the National Palace.

This afternoon we visit Xochimilco, a borough famous for its canals and hundreds of colourfully decorated boats - trajineras. Here, we'll experience the last remnants of a vast water transport system built by the Aztecs.



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

Board an authentic Mexican trajinera for a traditional lunch and cruise through the waters of Xochimilco.

Afterwards we'll stop to explore a colourful arts and crafts market before we return to our hotel.

In the evening, we'll meet for a group welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

 B  L  D

3

Mexico City – Teotihuacan - Mexico City

After breakfast we travel to the nearby site of Teotihuacán, considered to be one of the most impressive and mysterious archaeological sites in Mexico. The city was established in 100BC and the name Teotihuacán roughly translates as 'Birthplace of the Gods'.

Here we'll marvel at the magnificent structures built in the pre-Columbian Americas, including the Temples of the Sun and the Moon. These are the largest buildings within Teotihuacán, with the Temple of the Sun rising 66 metres above ground level and the Temple of the Moon rising 43 metres.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, or 'Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe'. This Roman Catholic Church and shrine, arguably the most important Christian site in Latin America, was built near the location where Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego. It also houses the original apron of Juan Diego that shows the icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which we'll be able to view.



CHALLENGING DAY

Today is a particularly challenging day, where there will be extended periods of walking time, often across uneven ground and in areas of high altitude or heat and humidity.

 B  L

4

Mexico City - Puebla - Oaxaca

This morning we say farewell to Mexico City and travel to Puebla, the main colonial city of Mexico. Also known as 'City of Angels' and 'City of Tiles', Puebla is famous for its Baroque-style churches, local ceramics and delectable dishes, including the spicy Mole Poblano sauce. The historic downtown area remains a Spanish colonial treasure, filled with 17th and 18th century European architecture with beautiful tiles adorning the many churches and buildings.

We'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant here, before we continue to Oaxaca.

This evening, we'll visit a local graveyard to partake in festivities for the famous Day of the Dead festival. It is believed that during this festival, the border between the spirit world and real world dissolves and deceased loved ones return to feast, drink and dance with the living. The celebration features bright flowers, decorated sugar skulls and energetic parades.

 B  L

5

Oaxaca

Today we discover magical Oaxaca (pronounced wah-hah-kah). With a vibrant and colourful arts scene, unique cuisine and a colonial city centre, this town is definitely a highlight of our journey across Mexico.

Highlights of our walking city tour include the Church of Santo Domingo, Oaxaca's pedestrian street and the Cathedral. We'll also view the mesmerising exteriors of the Theatre Macedonio Alcalá and the House of Cortés. The last leg of our city tour will include a visit to the Temple of San Juan de Dios, the Government Palace with its impressive murals, the local markets and El Mayordomo chocolate store.

Later we tour the scenic region surrounding Oaxaca and visit the large pre-Columbian archaeological site of Monte Alban. Situated on a mountain 400 metres above the Oaxaca Valley, Monte Alban was once the spiritual capital of more than 30,000 Zapotecs. The ruins extend over the peaks of three mountain ranges that converge in Oaxaca's central valley at an altitude of 1,600 metres above sea level. These mountain ranges are some of the most spectacular natural wonders in all of Mexico.

This afternoon we travel to the nearby town of Etla to watch another impressive parade for the Day of the Dead. We return to Oaxaca in the evening and continue to enjoy the celebrations.

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6

Oaxaca - Mitla - Tehuantepec

This morning we travel southeast to Mitla, one of the most important archaeological sites in the Oaxaca region. It is home to textile merchants and a great number of mezcal producers and vendors.

Along the way we visit the 'Árbol del Tule' - an enormous tree with a circumference of over 48 metres at its base. The tree is between 1,500 and 3,000 years old and considered to be the oldest tree in the world. We also stop at a mezcal factory after seeing Teotitlan del Valle, a famous weaving village with a tradition that dates back to pre-Hispanic times. Once we arrive in Mitla we'll stroll through the quaint, narrow and colourful streets for lunch.

This afternoon, sit back and soak up the picturesque scenery as we continue our journey to Tehuantepec.

 B  L

7

Tehuantepec - San Cristóbal

Awaken early this morning in the city of Tehuantepec, famous for its beautiful embroidered traditional dress - a style adopted by the artist Frida Kahlo. We'll take a scenic drive to the Sumidero Canyon near Chiapa de Corzo and explore this impressive canyon by boat. Marvel at the sheer cliffs that soar up to a kilometre high at certain points.

After enjoying lunch, we continue to the charming town of San Cristóbal de las Casas.

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San Cristóbal



San Cristóbal is a colonial village characterised by its white stucco walls and red tiled roofs, cobblestone streets, narrow sidewalks, elegant arcades and open plazas. Surrounding the town are many smaller villages of Mayan-speaking Indians. There's great variety and diversity in their language, dress and customs, making this area one of the most fascinating in Mexico.



SPECIAL EXPERIENCE

In the mountains surrounding San Cristóbal, we visit the indigenous villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan to learn about the Mayan culture and traditions, which are still alive today.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll return to San Cristóbal and learn more about the town on a tour.

 B  L

9

San Cristóbal - Palenque

Enjoy the scenic drive through the lush green valley's today as we head back down the mountain to Palenque. Along the way we stop to admire and enjoy lunch at the beautiful Agua Azul waterfalls, a series of cascading waterfalls with stunning blue water.

We'll then continue our journey to the gorgeous city of Palenque.

 B  L

10

Palenque - Campeche

We begin our day in the ancient Mayan city of Palenque. With its superb jungle setting and exquisite architecture, it is one of the marvels of Mexico. Palenque was first occupied around 100 BC, before flourishing between 600 to 700 AD.

Our morning is dedicated to exploring this archaeological city, which boasts several magnificent pyramids and the well-preserved tower. The pyramid structures feature intricately carved bas reliefs, depicting mythical and historical events relating to the reign of the Mayan ruler, Lord Pacal, and his descendants. Palenque's 500 buildings are spread over 15 square kilometres, but only a few have been excavated.

This afternoon we travel to the beautiful Spanish colonial city of Campeche. Founded in 1540, the city retains some of the walls which once protected it from pirates and buccaneers.



CHALLENGING DAY

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11

Campeche - Uxmal - Merida

An incredible morning awaits with a visit to the Mayan site of Uxmal, considered the most important of all Mayan sites. The complex of ruins here represents the pinnacle of late Mayan art and architecture of the Puuc region, believed to have been built between 700 and 1,000 AD.

After lunch at a traditional Mayan restaurant, we make our way to historic Merida, the cultural capital of the Yucatán State. Merida is a cosmopolitan town nicknamed the 'White City', that still conserves its provincial, colonial atmosphere with its narrow streets and broad central plazas. We stop at the Zócalo and see the external views of the Cathedral and the Town Hall, as well as a walk through of the Government Palace and the House of Montejo, before checking in to our hotel.



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Merida

Today we visit the UNESCO listed Celestún Biosphere Reserve. Spanning more than 146,000 acres across the north-western tip of the Yucatán Peninsula, the reserve is home to mangrove forests, crocodiles and more than 300 species of wild birds! We enjoy a guided boat tour here, allowing us to admire the abundant birdlife and search for its famous flamingos.

After a delicious lunch we'll return to Merida and enjoy the remainder of our day at leisure.



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Merida - Chichén Itzá - Playa de Carmen

This morning we visit Chichén Itzá, the famous Mayan archaeological site, home to the enormous pyramid of Kukulcan. This 27-metre-tall pyramid was built from the 8th to 12th centuries directly upon the foundations of previous temples. The architecture of the pyramid encodes precise information regarding the Mayan calendar.

In the afternoon, we travel to the resort town of Playa del Carmen and check into our hotel.



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Playa del Carmen

Playa del Carmen is one of the Yucatán Peninsula's hotspots. It offers amazing reefs that are excellent for diving and snorkelling, and is home to rays, moray eels, sea turtles and a huge variety of corals. Quinta Avenida (5th Avenue) is the main pedestrian thoroughfare and is full of restaurants, bars, cafes and shops.

Today is at leisure to explore this city or relax and unwind.

This evening we'll enjoy a group farewell dinner at La Parrilla, a traditional Mexican grill.



OPTIONAL EXCURSION

Experience the wonders of the ancient city of Tulum with our knowledgeable guides who, through colourful stories, will help you feel as if you are standing in Tulum in the 13th century. Our small group format and attention to detail will make your day memorable and educational as you walk through the Mayan's most well-preserved and majestic ruins. During this half-day tour, you will have time to learn about the rich history and culture of the Mayan civilization yet still have time to return to your resort and enjoy the rest of your day by the pool or on the beach. Includes round trip A/C transportation, a certified guide, bottled water, a light snack and guided entrance to Tulum site. 4 hours – from \$75pp US

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OPTIONAL EXCURSION

A Magical River found deep below Quintana Roo - Take our unbelievable underground river tour. In this surreal locale near Playa del Carmen you can observe natural history dating back millions of years, as you hike and swim through a route of about 1 km full of beautiful stalactites and stalagmites. Go deep inside an underground cave, where you'll experience true silence among some of the most dramatic mineral formations in the world. Includes access to the Nature Reserve, specialised guides, lockers, wetsuit, life jacket, helmet with lamp, towels, regional buffet, non-alcoholic drinks and transportation. 4 hours – from \$120pp US

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Depart Playa del Carmen

Our tour concludes after breakfast this morning. We hope you leave with fantastic memories!

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In Transit

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Arrive Australia

Inclusions



Sightseeing

Experience the Mexican zest for life

- Tour bustling Mexico City
- Experience an authentic trajinera ride through the waterways of Xochimilco
- View the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City
- Marvel at the archaeological site of Teotihuacán
- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed town of Puebla
- Experience the Day of the Dead Festival
- Take a walking tour of the colonial town of Oaxaca
- Admire the view of the Oaxaca Valley while exploring the pyramids and tombs at Monte Alban
- Travel to Tehuantepec via the town of Mitla
- Tour the spectacular Sumidero Canyon by boat
- Enjoy the scenic drive into the Chiapas Mountains, home to numerous indigenous villages
- Spend two nights in the colourful town of San Cristóbal de las Casas
- Discover the indigenous Mayan communities of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan
- Admire the turquoise colours of the Agua Azul waterfalls
- Explore the ancient Mayan site of Palenque
- Spend a night in the colonial city of Campeche
- Visit Uxmal, one of the most important sites of the ancient Mayan civilisation
- Tour the "White City" of Merida
- Take a guided boat tour in the Celestún Biosphere Reserve and Bird Sanctuary to see the variety of coastal birds
- Visit the great pyramid of Kukulcan at Chichén Itzá, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World
- Relax on the beautiful beaches of Playa del Carmen



Travel

- Return economy-class flights from Australia to Mexico. Taxes included
- Airport transfers on the first and last day of tour
- All touring in air-conditioned vehicles



Accommodation

- 14 nights in 3-4 star hotels

Properties include:

- Hotel Galeria Plaza Reforma, Mexico City
- Hotel Mision de Los Angeles, Oaxaca
- Hotel Calli, Tehuantepec
- Hotel Sombra del Agua, San Cristobal
- Hotel Mision Palenque, Palenque
- Gamma Campeche Malecon, Campeche
- Holiday Inn Express Merida Centro, Merida
- Hotel Riviera Caribe Maya, Playa del Carmen

Hotels listed are an indication and are subject to change without notice.



Meals

- 14 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 2 dinners, including group welcome and farewell dinners



Tour Guides

- English-speaking locally based guides



Some things to note

- Mexico City is a fascinating place and many world class museums can be found here including the Anthropological Museum, Frida Kahlo Museum, Templo Mayor Museum, Bellas Artes Museum and Leon Trotsky's house to name a few. Our sightseeing program in Mexico City is quite full so if you have an interest in visiting any of these museums, we would recommend booking at least 2 nights pre tour accommodation to give you time to see those places that may be of particular interest to you.

Optional Excursions:

All optional excursions are based on minimum participants and are subject to availability. The length of optional excursions advised is an approximate only. Optional excursions can be booked on tour directly with your Tour Director or guide. We recommend arranging the booking at the beginning of the tour to avoid disappointment. Please note some optional excursions may also be available on multiple or alternate days. Prices are a guide only and are subject to change without prior notice. Payment by cash is preferred as there are no guarantees that credit card facilities will be available. Please check with your Tour Director or guide locally for information relating to this. Credit card fees and exchange rates are at the discretion of your bank.

STARTS

28 Oct 25

ENDS

13 Nov 25

TOUR PRICE**\$12,795****STATUS**

Guaranteed Departure

RESERVE

Additional Information

Seasonal Departures

28 October 2025 - Participate in the festivities of Mexico's famous Day of the Dead festival. Although the name may sound grim, this festival is actually a colourful celebration where the Mexican people remember and honour their deceased loved ones. We'll watch the comparsas (parades) and experience the unique graveyard celebrations.

Valid from

Sydney

Other departure cities

Please contact our office for applicable pricing.

Booking Deposit

\$1,000 per person

Tipping

Total cost includes - Tipping Made Easy, from \$200pp pre-paid

Single Supplement

From \$1,875

Visa Information

You may need to obtain visas for this tour. Please check with your travel agent for further details. For Australian passport holders you may wish to visit our Passports and Visas page [here](#) for indicative information on what may be required.

Terms & Conditions

All prices shown are per person based on twin share. Prices and itineraries correct at current time but are subject to change. Please call for more details. View our full terms & conditions [here](#).

Taxes

Total cost includes air taxes