

## 5 Days YUCATAN DISCOVERY 2019

Travel Period : 16 Dec 18 - 15 Dec19

*Find out why Cancun has become one of the world's most popular holiday destinations. Not only does it offer the most incredible beaches, entertainment, dining options, and shopping facilities, it is also the gateway to discover the mysterious Mayan World. Follow the world famous Mayan Riviera, get to know the legends of ancient civilizations, visit some of the most impressive Mayan ruins, discover one of the Seven New World Wonders, travel through colonial history in Merida and learn about the traditional henequen industry in an authentic hacienda. Explore the wetlands of Celestun and watch flamingos in their natural habitat. Finish your adventurous journey where you started it; At the paradisiacal Caribbean beaches of Cancun. And all this while enjoying the hospitality of the Maya people who still inhabit the region. The Mayan World hasn't ended, it's alive and you're in it!*

### **Day 01: Welcome In Cancun!**

From the sky, you will enjoy the first views of the turquoise colors of the Caribbean Sea. Upon arrival at Cancun International Airport, meet and greet with a representative and transfer to your hotel.

**Included:** Airport transfers, Overnight Hotel in Cancun

### **Day 02: Cancun - Tulum – Coba - Merida**

Tulum is the only place where you can find beachfront Mayan ruins. It was one of the last cities inhabited and built by the ancient Maya and it even managed to survive for another 70 years after the Spanish began occupying Mexico. Due to its location on the cliffs of the Caribbean Coast, it used to be an important commercial and political center. Today it is one of the most popular Mayan sites to visit, certainly also because of its magnificent white-sandy beaches with the sublimely turquoise waters, rivaling the best of the Caribbean. At the archaeological site, don't miss the "castle", "the temple of the frescoes", and "the house of the columns". After this, we will have a short visit to Coba, one of the most important and oldest Mayan treasures in the region. Climb the Nohoch Muul Pyramid (the tallest in the region) from the top of which you can enjoy a wonderful view of the amazing sub-tropical jungle that surrounds Coba. We then travel to Merida, also known as "The White City". Merida was founded in 1542, by the Spaniard Francisco de Montejo. Nowadays, Merida is the capital city of the Mexican state of Yucatan, with still a strong influence of Mayan cultural heritage. It features a fascinating combination of art, history and culture, with cobbled streets, stunning architecture, lovely parks, and delicious gastronomy.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided visit to the archeological sites Tulum and Coba in English, Entry to the archeological sites Tulum and Coba, Overnight Hotel in Merida

### **Day 03: City Tour Merida And Uxmal**

Discover the "White City" in a panoramic city tour and enjoy the most important places of this beautiful multicultural city. Discover colonial Merida with its mansions

and historical buildings from the XVI century; its monuments such as Government Palace, House of Montejo, the Cathedral and the José Peon Contreras Theatre. In the afternoon you will visit Uxmal, one of the greatest ceremonial centers of the ancient Maya. Uxmal is the most prominent archaeological site of the Puuc Route, a series of ancient Mayan cities that share the same architectural patterns. Uxmal is considered one of the most beautiful pre-Hispanic archaeological sites on the American continent, thanks to its majestic constructions decorated with fine reliefs. Their precision and elegance will astonish you. Admire the "Pyramid of the Magician", the "Quadrangle of the Nuns", and the "Governor's Palace", amongst many other structures. After visiting the ruins, before returning to Merida, you will have the opportunity to attend the interesting light and sound show in Uxmal, to discover more mysterious Mayan legends.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, panoramic city tour in English, Transportation, Guided visit to the archeological site in Uxmal, Entry to archeological site in Uxmal, Sound & Light Show Uxmal, Overnight Hotel in Merida

#### **Day 04: Yucatec Beauties: Celestun or Hacienda Sotuta De Peon**

For today you can choose between 2-day trips. The first option is to visit Celestun, located 96 km west from Merida. Celestun is a tranquil fishing town with some nice pristine beaches. But the main reason for visiting Celestun is the biosphere reserve Rha Celestun. It's an important wildlife sanctuary with white-tailed deer, armadillos, crocodiles, ocelots, bush turkeys, ducks and many birds. The greatest attraction in this ecological reserve is, without doubt, the flamingo colony, a unique natural spectacle. During this tour, you will explore the wetlands of Celestun by boat. You will be amazed by the local flora and fauna in this tropical paradise, with the unique opportunity to observe the superb pink flamingo in its natural habitat, an unforgettable experience! The best season to see flamingos is from 1 November until 31 March. Alternatively, you can make a trip into the past and visit the Hacienda Sotuta de Peon. This tour gives you a true glimpse of what was once a fully operational henequen hacienda, in the grand style and tradition of the nineteenth century. A unique experience! Travel to the ecological reserve of Cuxtal, where the Hacienda Sotuta de Peon is located, about 25 km south of Merida. Start the visit with one of the hacienda's most important attractions: the machine house, where the henequen shredder was used to generate fibers (Sisal) from the henequen plant. Continue with the sisal factory, where the plant was converted into distinct strands of what would become twine, rope or burlap bags. We will then ride a wagon, pulled by mules on narrow tracks, through the henequen plantation to a Mayan house, where you can experience how the local Mayan people used to live. Refresh at the cenote (sinkhole) Zhul-Ha, where you can swim in the clear waters. Towels, goggles, and safety jackets are provided. Finally, return to the Hacienda where you have the chance to taste some delicious Yucatec specialties.

**Included in both options:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, English-speaking Guide for all transfers and excursions, Overnight Hotel in Merida

Additionally included in Option 1: Boat Tour in Celestun

Additionally included in Option 2: Guided tour on the Hacienda in English, Entry to Cenote Zhul-Ha, Towels, goggles and safety jackets for swimming, tasting of Yucatec cuisine

### **Day 05: Merida - Chichen Itza - Cancun**

Its extraordinary beauty and convenient geographic location make Chichen Itza one of the most visited archaeological sites on the Yucatan Peninsula. At the end of the Early Classic Period, around the year 600 AD, Chichen Itza was one of the largest and most prominent Maya cities. Nowadays, Chichen Itza is undoubtedly the best-preserved Maya site in the region. It is not only recognized as UNESCO World Heritage; it was also recently declared one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. It's definitely one of the most iconic places in the country, a site that can't be missed on a trip to Mexico. Most famous landmarks are the Temple of Kukulcan ("El Castillo"), the Ballgame Court, the Platform of the Skulls, the Temple of the Jaguar, the Observatory, the One Thousand Columns, and the Sacred Cenote. After this guided visit, continue to Cancun. Drop-off at the hotel.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided visit to Archeological Site of Chichen Itza in English, Lunch at Archeological Site of Chichen Itza, Entry to Archeological Site of Chichen Itza and Cenote Ik-Kil, Drop-off at Hotel in Cancun or Playa del Carmen

Nights	City	Hotels 4*
01n	Cancun	Beachscape Kin
03n	Merida	El Castellano

### **The price of the program is per person in US dollars:**

DBL	SGL	TPL *	CHILD (4-11 years)**	SGL spl
USD \$ 953	USD \$ 1,219	USD \$ 905	USD \$ 555	USD \$ 580

### **Please note:**

- Prices are subject to availability and change without prior notice.
- Supplements for holiday periods apply, all prices are based in the regular season, please ask your executive for High season rates, availability, and supplements.
- (\*) Triple rooms include two double beds only. Three beds are not guaranteed.
- (\*\*) Rate for children applies if children share a room with their parents (not including food and drinks).

### **The cost of the program includes:**

- 04 nights' accommodation in standard room at the hotels above mentioned or similar
- Daily breakfast, as mentioned in the program
- All transfers and excursions as mentioned in the program, operated in seat in basis
- Entrances to sites mentioned in the program
- Bilingual (English-Spanish speaking) guide for excursions
- Staff assistance for transfers
- Service charge on included meals
- Taxes (VAT and hotel taxes)

**The cost of the program does not include:**

- Airlines (domestic and international)
- All services, meals, or items not mentioned in the program
- Personal expenses, such as: phone calls, laundry, beverages, etc.
- Tips to bellboys, room-maids, drivers, and guides

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