

## **9 Days MEXICO CITY AND THE MAYAN CULTURE 2019**

**departures between 12 December 2018 - 04 December 2019 every from 2 pax**

*Travel through history and spectacular scenery. Discover the best of Mexico. Start your journey at the Zocalo, the heart of Mexico's capital, one of the world's largest and most fascinating cities. Then explore the highlights of the South, many of them recognized as World Heritage. Go from Aztecs to Maya, from semi-desert to jungle, and from colonial gems to mystical archaeological sites. Follow the Mayan Route through Chiapas and Yucatan, and finish your adventure at paradisiacal Caribbean beaches. Be surprised by the colorful traditions you come across along the journey.*

### **Day 01: Monday/ Welcome in Mexico City**

You will be amazed by the size of the city from the moment you arrive. Meet and greet with a local representative and transfer to your hotel. As the country's capital, the "Distrito Federal" is a mosaic of contrasts but most of all an experience in which all of Mexico comes together. It's the perfect place to start your trip in Mexico.

**Included:** Airport Transfers, Overnight Hotel in Mexico City

### **Day 02: Tuesday /Historic Center and Anthropology Museum**

Get to know one of the world's biggest and most exciting cities! Enjoy a guided visit in the historical center, listed by UNESCO as World Heritage. This interesting tour will include "The Zocalo", the heart of the city, where you will visit the Metropolitan Cathedral, one of the oldest and largest of the Americas, and (if open) the National Palace, home of the famous murals of Diego Rivera. You will also see the ruins of the Templo Mayor, one of the most important temples of the Aztecs in their ancient capital city of Tenochtitlan. Next, we drive down the beautiful Paseo de la Reforma Avenue to arrive at Chapultepec Park, to visit the Museum of Anthropology. This museum is considered to be among the world's finest of its kind. Here you will admire, among many other interesting treasures, the famous Aztec calendar stone.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided Walking Tour in English, Entry to Museum of Anthropology, Overnight Hotel in Mexico City

### **Day 03: Wednesday /Pyramids of Teotihuacan and the Shrine of Guadalupe**

Discover Teotihuacán, 'the place where gods were created'. Teotihuacan is one of the most impressive archaeological sites of the country. It is assumed that the city may have counted 200,000 inhabitants during its period of prosperity. In those years, Teotihuacán was the biggest city of the American continent and one of the biggest of the world. Until its inhabitants abandoned the city around the 8th century, Teotihuacan was probably the most significant and civilized cultural center of ancient Mexico. During this guided excursion you see (and climb?) the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, walk down the Avenue of the Dead, visit the Temple of Quetzalcoatl with its unique stone sculptures of plumed serpents, the Temple of the Butterflies, and the Fortresses. Before arriving back at your hotel, we make a stop at the Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a pilgrimage place for millions of Mexicans and people from all around the world.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided Walking Tour in English, Entry to Archeological Site of Teotihuacan, Overnight Hotel in Mexico City

#### **Day 04: Friday/ Fly to Chiapas**

In the early morning, we will depart to the beautiful state of Chiapas. Transfer to Mexico City Airport for a flight to Tuxtla Gutierrez. Upon arrival, pickup for a transfer to your hotel in San Cristobal de Las Casas. On the way, we will stop for a boat ride through the Sumidero Canyon, which measures a thousand meters at its highest point. Admire the beautiful rock formations and enjoy the abundant wildlife that lives on the shores of the Grijalva river (crocodiles, spider monkeys, and many different species of birds). Afterward, before arriving in San Cristobal de Las Casas, you will also pass through the historically important town Chiapa de Corzo.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Airport Transfer in Mexico City, Transportation in Chiapas, Boat Ride in Sumidero Canyon, Overnight Hotel in San Cristobal de las Casas

#### **Day 05: Saturday/ San Cristobal De Las Casas and Indigenous Communities**

Scheduled for today is an excursion to the indigenous villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan, located in the highlands of Chiapas. In both Tzotzil Maya communities, the complex ethnic composition of Chiapas is well reflected and they still demonstrate a rich variety of customs and beliefs expressed in traditions of both pagan and Christian origin. Interestingly, San Juan Chamula enjoys a unique autonomous status within Mexico, which has kept the village authentic. We also recommend you to explore more of the beautiful city of San Cristobal de Las Casas with, amongst its many attractions, a colorful market, the cathedral, and the Jade museum.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, English-speaking Guide for all excursions, Overnight Hotel in San Cristobal de las Casas

#### **Day 06: Sunday/ Waterfalls and Palenque**

On the way to Palenque, we will visit the waterfalls of Agua Azul. The turquoise color, which makes these waterfalls so unique, comes from the high level of mineral content of the water. Also, visit the waterfalls of Misol Ha. Enjoy the surrounding jungle environment and go for a swim (if time permits it). Afterward, we will continue our way through the lush jungle with Palenque as today's final destination.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, English-speaking Guide, Entry to Waterfalls of Agua Azul, Overnight Hotel in Palenque

#### **Day 07: Monday /Palenque Ruins - Campeche**

Visit the archaeological zone of Palenque, one of the most important sites of the Mayan World. Lakamha, as the city was known among the ancient Maya, flourished in the 7th century. It rose to prominence under the reign of legendary King Pakal, whose tomb was found in one of Palenque's most iconic landmarks, the Temple of the Inscriptions. This ruined city is home to some of the finest architecture, exquisite sculptures, and carvings produced by the ancient Maya. Enjoy a guided visit and admire the impressive structures as well as the breathtaking natural environment of

this World Heritage Site. After this visit, we head to Campeche, a captivating town full of naval history, baroque Spanish architecture, and aging beauty. The city has spent the past few years restoring hundreds of downtown historic buildings, making it one of the most photogenic colonial cities in all of Mexico. Upon arrival, you will enjoy a panoramic tour through the city. In the evening, dinner included.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided visit of Archeological Site of Palenque in English, Entry to Archeological Site of Palenque, Lunch in local restaurant, Panoramic Tour of Campeche, Overnight Hotel in Campeche

#### **Day 08: Tuesday/ Campeche - Uxmal - Merida**

On the way to Merida, we will visit Uxmal (meaning "built three times"), located in the Puuc region. Uxmal, also listed as World Heritage, is considered one of the Maya cities that is most representative of the Puuc style, the region's dominant architectural style. Explore the Magician Pyramid, the Quadrangle of the Nuns, the Governor's Palace and the ball game court. After lunch, you will proceed to Merida, "The White City", to enjoy a panoramic tour, including Montejo Avenue, the monument to Motherland, the main square, the cathedral and government palace.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided visit of Archeological Site of Uxmal in English, Entry to Archeological Site of Uxmal, Lunch at Site of Uxmal, Panoramic Tour in Merida, Overnight Hotel in Merida

#### **Day 09: Wednesday/ Merida - Chichen Tza – Cancun**

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 on the Yucatan peninsula, and it was recently declared one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Various different architectural styles are seen in Chichen Itza. 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. Before we continue to Cancun, enjoy a lunch and take a refreshing swim at the cenote of Ik Kil. Drop off at your hotel in Cancun

**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

<b>Nights</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Hotels 4*</b>
<b>03n</b>	<b>Mexico City</b>	<b>Casa Blanca</b>
<b>02n</b>	<b>San Cristobal de las Casas</b>	<b>Diego de Mazariegos</b>
<b>01n</b>	<b>Palenque</b>	<b>Ciudad Real</b>
<b>01n</b>	<b>Campeche</b>	<b>Del Mar</b>
<b>01n</b>	<b>Merida</b>	<b>El Conquistador</b>

