

## The Yucatan, land of the Mayans and Chocolate Dec 4-10 2025

**Land price \$\$2550**

**Deposit \$600**

**Single Supplement \$450**

Airfare, please ask us to assist in obtaining your airfare.

We meet in Cancun. Cancun has one of the best museums dedicated to pre Columbian civilizations so it is a perfect place to begin. On this trip, we visit uncrowded yet important and impressive areas including archaeological sites, Mayan villages, chocolate farms, bird sanctuaries and ancient haciendas. A la carte meals allow you to enjoy some of the best food in Mexico. Our hotels were enjoyed by prior groups.

### **Day 1 Dec 4 Cancún Beachscape Kin-Ha Villas & Suites**

After landing, please proceed to the baggage area of the airport. Take your luggage and leave the security area, our transfer is waiting for you - please look for a "Women's Travel Group sign. If you cannot meet our transfer at **1:30PM**, the airport offers official taxis with set prices in Pesos. The drive to our hotel is 37 minutes on a main road. Welcome dinner with a-la-Carte menu. Our guide will dine with us to help with menus.

### **Day 2 Dec 5 Cancún - Mérida Casa del Balam, an art deco gem with gardens, a pool, free wifi in public areas. The hotel is in the center of town.**

(Today's program includes breakfast and a la carte dinner.)

We visit the Museo Maya in Cancún. The Mayas developed one of the most important and fascinating Mesoamerican civilizations, which lasted for more than 3,000 years. The objectives of the museum include the preservation of Mayan artifacts as well as of Mayan cultural values, language and ways of thinking. During our tour, you experience the Mayan world and then proceed to visit the adjoining archaeological site of "San Miguelito".

Cancún - Chichén Itzá (Journey / 2 hrs 30 minutes.)

Visit to Chichén Itzá UNESCO HERITAGE SITE. To date, only about 30 of the many buildings buried and overgrown by the jungle have been uncovered and restored. "El Castillo," the most impressive building (30 m [98 ft.] high), rises far beyond the site. "El Caracol" reminds us of a snail shell. The observatory was used by the Maya, among other things, for observing Venus and its orbit.

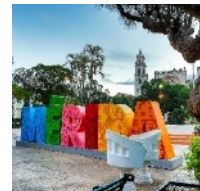
Chichén Itzá - Mérida (Journey / 2 hours ).



### **Day 3 Dec 6 Mérida UNESCO HERITAGE Casa del Balam**

(Today's program includes breakfast and a la carte dinner.)

Join us for a trip to the colonial capital of Yucatán – Mérida. Founded in 1542, Mérida is the economic and cultural capital of Yucatán. The town impresses the visitor with colonial charm, narrow streets, and romantic horse-drawn carriages. The influence of Spain and France is apparent. The Champs-Élysées, for example, became a model for the Paseo de Montejo. On our tour, we will see the cathedral, the Palacio Municipal, and the Casa de Montejo, the house where the founder of the city was born.



Market tour with local cook, tell, show and taste!

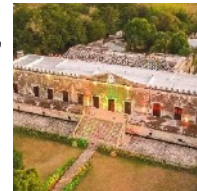
Mérida - Celestún (110 Min.)

From the small fishing village of Celestún, we take a boat tour to observe the colonies of pink flamingos in their natural habitat. Enjoy the impressive variety of birds in this sensitive ecosystem. The visit is a highlight of the Yucatan.



Celestún - Yaxcopoil (114 Min.)

The Yaxcopoil hacienda dates to the 17th century and tells the story of the three great epochs of Yucatán. Once one of the most important landed estates, Yaxcopoil, due to political, social and economic changes, now comprises less than 3% of its original area. On a tour through the ruins of the hacienda, we will feel the heyday of the hacienda to be revived.



Yaxcopoil - Mérida (Journey /50 Min.). The restaurant La Chaya Maya in the historic center of Mérida serves the best quality typical Yucatán cuisine in the ambience of colonial Mexico. Observe the cooks while they are preparing colorful delicacies and don't miss the fresh tortillas – they are simply delicious. The spinach-like Chaya leaves, which the Mayas appreciated centuries ago, are a special ingredient in some of the dishes and drinks.



#### **Day 4 Dec 7 Mérida Casa del Balam \*\*\* (\*\*\*\*)**

(Today's program includes breakfast and dinner.)

Mérida - Uxmal (Journey /87 Min.)

Immerse in the history of the late Classic Maya period. The name Uxmal means “built three times.” Built around 600 to 950 AD, the meaning of many buildings has not yet been fully unraveled. The site impresses the visitors with decorated façades, vast terraces, squares, columns, and archways. You will not see many tourists here and many state this is the most important site in the Yucatan, also UNESCO HERITAGE.

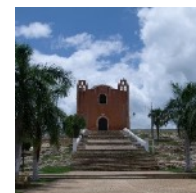


During the visit to the Ecomuseo del Cacao, you learn interesting facts about the history of cocoa and its mystical connection with Maya culture. Nestled in a beautiful garden site with plantations, numerous orchids as well as indigenous fauna, you find traditional Maya houses, with information on growing and cultivating cocoa plants and the production of chocolate. You can try the traditional Maya drink made from cocoa beans and spices and enjoy the sweet and spicy taste of the “black gold.”



Uxmal - Santa Elena (Journey /15 Min.)

Santa Elena is a small Mayan village with slightly more than 4,000 people. It once served the archaeologists John Lloyd Stephens and Frederick Catherwood as a basis for their visits of the surrounding ruined sites, where they made their famous drawings. During their stay, they also studied the traditions and way of living of the people – much has stayed as it was: the construction of Mayan houses, the traditional cuisine, and many rites and customs. Get some insight into the everyday life of the Mayan families in this village.



Santa Elena - Mérida (Journey /110 Min.)

Dinner tonight: One of Mexico's best seafood restaurants awaits you at la Pigua. A remote location, with an exterior setting, in a modern ambience, you can enjoy a fantastic Pulpo a las brasas, camarones pacotilla al Cayo Arcas,



mussels, Timbal de Jaiba and other delicacies from the Caribbean Sea. The grilled tuna is a true delicacy.

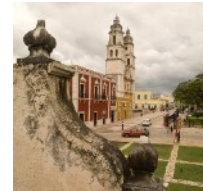
### **Day 5 Dec 8 Mérida Casa del Balam**

(Today's program includes breakfast and dinner a la carte.)

Mérida - Edzná (Journey /193 Min.)The ruins of Edzná are located in the northwest of the state of Campeche, about 60 km (37 mi.) from the capital Campeche. The early settlement began to spread at an explosive rate about 400 BC and became a center of power, which ruled large parts of Yucatán. The most beautiful building of Edzná is certainly the building "Edificio de los Cinco Pisos", one of the most interesting buildings in the entire Maya culture. Edzná - Campeche (Journey /75 Min.)



The city of Campeche is surrounded by a wall that was necessary to defend the rich city against pirates. On a tour you will visit the narrow streets of the major port city with its restored colonial buildings, the Zócalo and the Cathedral of La Concepción. Go back to the era of the Spanish conquistadores.



Campeche - Mérida (Journey /177 Min.)

Following the motto "Passion of Mexican Aromas", Sara Arnaud cooks with her brother in the restaurant Apoala. When they create their culinary delights, the two cooks are inspired by their native town of Oaxaca, but at the same time influenced by the produce of Yucatán. In a pleasurable ambience, the attentive and experienced team takes pains to fulfill all your wishes and serves, besides those delights, a selection of more than 30 mezcals as well as splendid wines from choice small vineyards.



### **Day 6 Dec 9 Mérida Casa del Balam**

Tuesday, 09. December 2025

(Today's program includes breakfast and dinner a la carte.)

The day is free to enjoy at leisure. Merida is a walkable town, with some of the best crafts in Mexico. Our hotel is in the center of town. We will make suggestions for this day.

### **Day 7 Dec 10 Mérida - Cancún**

(Today's program includes breakfast.)

Mérida - Cancún (Journey / 232 Min.)

Transfer to Cancún Airport (CUN). Do not book flights before 3:30PM. Or ask for an additional optional night at a nearby hotel.

#### **Included**

Hotels as Noted

Meals as noted with Bottled Water

One group transfer on arrival

One group transfer on departure

Services of an English speaking local guide

Air conditioned vehicle

Entrance fees to all sites on the itinerary

Tips to bellboys and maids

Porterage at the airport on arrival

#### **Not included;**

Airfare

Tips to driver and guide. We send you tip advice.

Meals not mentioned

Travel insurance