

# MEXICO - MAYAN EXPRESS TOUR



<b>TRIP CODE</b>
MXTSMAE
<b>DURATION</b>
5 Days
<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Mexico
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## INTRODUCTION

Explore some of Mexico's best spots with this 5-day tour. Experience first hand the White City, UNESCO heritage listed Mayan architecture, culture and cuisine before making your way to Cancun on the beautiful Caribbean Coast where you can enjoy a beach holiday.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: Merida Transfer - Airport to Hotel

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office.



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## DAY 1: Merida

Merida was founded in 1542, built on the site of the ancient Maya city T'ho, meaning “city of five hills” in reference to its pyramids. After the arrival of the Spanish, the ancient city’s five main pyramids were destroyed and the carved stones were used widely in the construction of Merida’s cathedral and other colonial buildings. Merida was built as a walled city and several of the old Spanish city gates remain. The city boasts the second-largest historic centre in Mexico, Mexico City’s being larger and it gets its nickname, La Ciudad Blanca (The White City), from the predominance of white limestone that was used as a building material. It is the capital and largest city of the Mexican state of Yucatán as well as the largest city of the Yucatán Peninsula.



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## DAY 2: Uxmal and Kabah & the Puuc route

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to visit the archaeological site of Uxmal, a World Heritage Site, and located 80 km south of Merida. Its architecture is characterized by low horizontal palaces set around courtyards, decorated with a profusion of symbolic motifs and sculptures depicting the long-nosed rain god Chaac. We will explore the magnificent buildings, including the House of the Magician - which dominates the site, the Nunnery, and the House of Turtles. We continue to Kabah, with its amazing Palace of the Masks, covered in nearly 300 masks of Chaac. We continue driving along the Puuc Route, a road that wind past the Mayan ruins of Labna, Xlapak and Sayil. These sites give us a great insight into the Puuc (Mayan name for ‘hills’) civilization. Our first stop is Labna, once a city inhabited by some 3000 Mayas. To support such numbers in these arid hills, water was collected in ‘chultunes’ (water cisterns), some of the original 60 chultunes still visible. We then drive to Xlapak. This site of 14 structures and 3 pyramids is less restored, so we can see what the sites looked like when they were first discovered. Our last stop is Sayil, home to the beautiful El Palacio, a huge three-tiered building which is a splendid example of the rich Puuc style of intricate stone mosaics. Enjoy lunch before returning to Merida. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a private tour.



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## DAY 3: Merida to Cancun via Chichen Itza

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for your onward road journey to Cancun with a visit enroute to the archaeological site of Chichen Itza, located 120km east of Merida. Chichen Itza - one of the New 7 Wonders of the World - is the best restored of Yucatan's Mayan sites. Explore the magnificent ruins set in a dense jungle, including the Pyramid of Kukulcan, its height and striking geometric design dominating the whole site, the Great Ball Court, the largest and most impressive in Mesoamerica, the Sacred Cenote, a natural well used for human sacrifice, and many other beautiful temples. After lunch, continue the road journey to the white sandy beaches of Cancun. This journey will take approximately 2 and half hours. On arrival in Cancun, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



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## DAY 4: Cancun Free Day

Today is a free day for you to enjoy the white sand beaches and pristine waters of Cancun. Cancun was once a small and remote fishing village and part of the ancient Mayan civilization. With its strategic location, it is a major gateway to the Mayan World and the Caribbean. With its miles of pristine white sand beaches and crystal clear turquoise waters and its proximity to legendary archaeological sites such as Tulum and Chichen Itza, Cancun is unequalled in its ability to offer cultural gems, natural beauty and infinite activities.



## DAY 5: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



# INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

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<b>Accommodation</b>	Hotel
<b>Inclusions</b>	Guided tours and excursions Accommodation Ground transfers Transport Breakfasts Other meals where specified
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	1 (easy)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	FROM US\$445 - subject to season and availability, contact us for more details.
<b>Notes</b>	Contact us for more details
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Season and availability

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## SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structured to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.