

# MEXICO - SIGNATURE MEXICO



## INTRODUCTION

Travel from the heart of Mexico and the country's capital, Mexico City to the Yukatan Peninsula on Chimu Adventures Signature Mexico tour. Explore the city sites of Mexico City including the Aztec Ruins of San Juan Teotihuacan both on foot and from the magnificent vantage point of a hot air balloon. Take a trajinera along the canals of Xochimilco before flying to the walled city of Merida, also nicknamed La Ciudad Blanca. From Merida you will visit Chichen Itza, Mexico's most famous and impressive Mayan ruins. Finally you will head to Playa del Carmen, where you will end your vacation in paradise lapping up the sunshine on its white sandy beaches with turquoise waters.

**On this all-encompassing personalised itinerary, Chimu will provide travel logistics for your travel party for the duration of your journey, plus expert guides for all the major sightseeing as per itinerary. Each night you will stay in superior accommodation, handpicked by our experienced team for their creature comforts, convenient locations, and impeccable service.**

## ITINERARY

DAY 1: Mexico City - Arrive & Transfer 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.



### TRIP CODE

MXTSHIM

### DEPARTURE

Daily

### DURATION

9 Days

### LOCATIONS

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## DAY 1: Mexico City

Mexico City lies in the heart of Central Mexico and is the capital of Mexico, as well as the oldest capital city in the Americas. It is one of the largest cities in the world, with over 20 million inhabitants in the greater metropolitan area, and it has a rich history and colorful culture.



## DAY 2: Mexico City Tour & Anthropology Museum


We will explore magnificent Mexico City, built on top of the ruins of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan. Our first stop is the Zocalo (main square), one of the biggest public squares in the world. We will visit the Metropolitan Cathedral, the biggest church in Latin America, and the Templo Mayor. We then drive along the famous boulevard Paseo de la Reforma, built during the short-lived reign of Emperor Maximilian to connect the main square and his castle in Chapultepec. Our last stop is the Museum of Anthropology, where we will have some time to explore the treasures of the Aztec culture. Visiting the Aztec Hall, which contains one of the biggest highlights of this museum: the Aztec Calendar. This 12-foot carved basalt slab was discovered buried beneath the Zocalo. Note: This private tour only operates Tuesday to Sunday. Templo Mayor and the Museum of Anthropology are closed on Monday's. Approximate duration: 4-5 hours. Rest of your day is at leisure.



## DAY 3: Return Trf Mex City Hotel - GLOBO near Teotihuacan

Roundtrip transfers from your hotel in Mexico City to Globoport near Teotihuacan, where your hot air balloon adventure commences. You will be collected early this morning (between 04:30am and 04:45am), arriving by 6am to globoport in time for your briefing. This is a private service which includes an English Speaking guide and entrance fees to the archaeological site after your hot air balloon ride.




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## DAY 3: Hot Air Balloon over Teotihuacan

On arrival there will be coffee and muffins available to enjoy while the instructor provides orientation and instructions, including demonstrations on how hot air is used to inflate the Hot Air Balloons. Finally it is time to climb into the basket and begin this incredible journey. Depending on the atmospheric and wind conditions, the duration ranges from 45 minutes to an hour. The Hot Air Balloon approaches Teotihuacan to glide over palaces and pyramids, including the Quetzalpapalotl Palace Complex, the Temple of the Feathered Conches, the Pyramid of the Moon, and the massive Pyramid of the Sun, which is ranked among the world's largest. It is important to note that this is also affected by wind velocity. While we fly, we will have a traditional toast with sparkling wine, giving you time to really appreciate your location. A buffet breakfast will be provided for you to enjoy after landing. Please note: The weather and wind speed will have an impact on this voyage; if none of these factors are ideal, the expedition may be canceled at any time. This service is operated on a shared basis and private hot air balloon rides are no longer available.



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## DAY 3: Teotihuacan Pyramids - After Hot Air Balloon Ride

Following your hot air balloon ride, we will travel a short distance to Teotihuacan, one of the most impressive cities of the ancient world, held sacred by the Aztecs. You will have the time to explore its temples, palaces and pyramids, including the Quetzalpapalotl Palace Complex, the Temple of the Feathered Conches, the Pyramid of the Moon, and the immense Pyramid of the Sun, ranked among the biggest in the world. Today is truly unique, giving you a once in a lifetime opportunity to witness this incredible archaeological site from above, as well as up close on the ground. You will be returned to your hotel in Mexico City in the early afternoon, the rest of your day is at leisure to explore or relax.



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### DAY 4: Coyoacan, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera Museum

We will visit Coyoacan, a former colonial village, located in the south of Mexico City. Coyoacan still has its own identity, with narrow colonial-era streets, plazas, cafes and a lively bohemian atmosphere. We will walk along Coyoacan's main plaza, churches and beautiful old buildings, including the house of conqueror Hernan Cortes. We will visit Frida Kahlo's home, where she was born, lived much of her life, and eventually died. The house is a treasure trove, not only of her paintings, but also of innumerable artifacts associated with her and her husband, famous muralist Diego Rivera. We then drive to visit the Casa Estudio Diego Rivera designed by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera's friend: architect and painter Juan O'Gorman. Note: This is a half day private tour with a duration of 4-5 hours. We recommend a starting time of around 9:30am. The tour is not available on Mondays.



### 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.



### DAY 5: Flight: Mexico City to Merida

Fly from Mexico City to Merida.



### DAY 5: Arrival transfer in Merida

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. This is a private transfer with an English speaking driver.



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### DAY 5: 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 widely used in the construction of Merida's cathedral and other colonial buildings. Merida was constructed as a walled city, and several of the old Spanish city gates still remain. The city boasts the second-largest historic center in Mexico, with Mexico City's being larger. It gets its nickname, La Ciudad Blanca (The White City), from the predominance of white limestone used as a building material. Merida is the capital and largest city of the Mexican state of Yucatán, as well as the largest city on the Yucatán Peninsula.



### DAY 6: Half Day Walking Street Food Tour

You will taste the most popular and representative dishes in Merida on this guided walking tour. You will be picked up from your hotel at 8:30am, travelling to the local central market, Lucas de Galvez, where we will first have an introduction to the local products and their use in traditional dishes. You will get to taste some empanadas, polcanes, panuchos or salbutes and cochinita pibil tacos. Afterwards we will continue walking, heading to a local restaurant where we will taste a variety of seafood tacos. Lastly we will venture to a local street ice creamery, where we get the opportunity to taste the traditional ice creams that are made with locally sourced fruits. Please note: This 4-hour private tour includes transfers and an English-speaking guide. Pick up/drop off is available only for downtown Merida hotels. Guests outside this area must arrange their own transport to the 9 am meeting point at Parque Hidalgo. Hotel reception can assist with taxi booking if needed.



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## DAY 7: Merida to Riviera Maya via Chichen Itza

You will be picked up from your hotel in Merida and travel to Cancun or the Riviera Maya region via the iconic archaeological wonder of Chichen Itza. Acclaimed as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World, this archaeological marvel stands out as the most meticulously restored among Yucatan's Mayan sites. Enjoy a guided tour of the enchanting ruins nestled within a lush jungle. Highlights include the Pyramid of Kukulcan, an imposing structure with remarkable height and geometric design that commands attention across the entire site. Witness the grandeur of the Great Ball Court, recognized as the largest and most impressive in Mesoamerica, and contemplate the significance of the Sacred Cenote—an ancient natural well utilized for ceremonial practices and human sacrifice. Explore a multitude of other captivating temples that grace this archaeological marvel. Note: This is a full-day private tour lasting approximately 10 hours. Pick-up at 8 am in Merida, and drop-off at 6 pm in Cancun or Riviera Maya. The tour includes transfers, guide, entrance fees and lunch at a local restaurant.



## DAY 8: Free Day in Playa del Carmen


Free day to enjoy the white sand beaches and pristine waters of Playa del Carmen and Riviera Maya. Here you can find the small coastal fishing village of Puerto Morelos with its attractive beaches and somewhat bohemian village life, and the nearby Palancar Aquarium. Explore the area at your leisure or sit back and relax on the beach, the choice is yours.



## DAY 9: Depart Playa del Carmen to Cancun Airport

At the appropriate time, you will be collected from your hotel in Playa del Carmen and transferred to Cancun Airport in time for your departure.




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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
<b>Accommodation</b>	Hotel

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<b>Inclusions</b>	<p><b>Inclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private airport transfers</li> <li>Accommodation with breakfast daily</li> <li>Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide as detailed in itinerary</li> <li>Other meals where stated</li> <li>Domestic flight from Mexico City to Merida</li> </ul> <p><b>Exclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International flights</li> <li>Visa &amp; reciprocity fees</li> <li>Travel insurance</li> <li>Beverages</li> <li>Personal expenses</li> <li>Gratuities for tour guides &amp; drivers</li> <li>Any items not mentioned as included</li> </ul>
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	1 (Easy Adventure)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please <a href="#">contact us</a> for more information.
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share.</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.</p>
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Seasonality and availability at time of booking.

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## SUSTAINABILITY