

TRAVEL PASSES

## Orale Bamba Express Ways (from Mexico City)

Backpacking

11 Days / 1 Country

Mexico

Departure city: **Mexico city, Mexico**

End city: **Cancun, Mexico**



### HIGHLIGHTS

- See the ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza
- Marvel at the rock formations at Hierve El Agua
- Dine with a local family at Teotihuacan

Explore Southern Mexico as you travel from Cancun to Mexico City. Make stops an ancient ruins and stunning waterfalls.

### MAP



## What is included



### Travel Passes

Include all of your transport and experiences while giving you full flexibility to change the dates and pick your accommodation on the go.



### Transport: 6

- Playa del Carmen to Cancun
- Tulum to Playa del Carmen
- Palenque to Merida
- Oaxaca to San Cristobal
- Puebla to Oaxaca
- Mexico City to Puebla



### Meals: 1

- 1 Dinner(s),



### Experiences: 4

- Chichen Itza Day Trip (from Merida to Tulum)
- Palenque Ruins, Agua Azul & Misol-Ha Waterfalls (San Cristobal to Palenque)
- Hierva El Agua, Mitla & Tule Day Trip
- Hidden Teotihuacan & Dinner

## What is not included

- Guide throughout the trip
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel Insurance
- Tips
- Personal Expenses
- Accommodation pick-up drop-off from Bus Stations

\*Prices for optional activities are subject to change at any time without prior notice. Please confirm these prices before departing on your trip.

# Experiences Included

## Hidden Teotihuacan & Dinner



Experience Teotihuacan like you have never done before! Experience the local culture surrounding the amazing pyramids, go on top of the pyramids when most people are not there, and have dinner with a local Teotihuacan family!

### INCLUDED

- English-speaking local guide
- Public transportation
- Entrance fee to the museum & archeological site
- Samples of cactus products
- Dinner with the local family
- Small group experience, max 12 people

### NOT INCLUDED

- Lunch and drinks
- Personal expenses
- Tips

## Hierve El Agua, Mitla & Tule Day Trip



Explore the amazing petrified waterfalls of Hierve el Agua and go for a swim in the natural pools. Visit a gigantic 2,000 year-old tree in Tule and then gaze at beautiful carved stone structures in the Zapotec ruins of Mitla. Learn the process of making woolen rugs by hand in a local village and sip Mezcal, a popular Mexican liquor, at a local factory.,

### INCLUDED

- Transportation
- Accommodation pick-up & drop-off
- Certified English speaking guide
- Visits and entrance fees to Teotitlan del Valle, Tule, Mitla, Mezcal Factory, Hierve el Agua petrified waterfalls

### NOT INCLUDED

- Buffet lunch (150 pesos)

## Palenque Ruins, Agua Azul & Misol-Ha Waterfalls



Swim in the refreshing waters of the multi-tiered limestone waterfalls in Agua Azul and take a walk in nature. At Misol-Ha, the river plunges 40 meters over the edge of a cliff offering you the chance to walk in the caves behind the stream. Explore the ancient Maya city of Palenque and climb the pyramids to look out over the lush green jungle setting.,

### INCLUDED

- San Cristobal accommodation pick-up
- Palenque accommodation drop-off
- All transportation as per itinerary
- Entrance fees (Palenque Ruins, Agua Azul, Misol-Ha)

### NOT INCLUDED

- English-speaking guide
- Other meals/drinks
- Personal expenses
- Tips
- Travel insurance

## Chichen Itza Day Trip



Learn about the ancient ways of life in this well-preserved Mayan citadel with an English speaking guide. Ponder the disappearance of this archaeological site's former inhabitants while you walk around these pre-Hispanic ruins. Recently added to the list of the 7 World Wonders, this is a site you don't want to miss!,

### INCLUDED

- Transportation
- Hostel pick-up & city center drop-off
- English speaking-guide
- Entrance fee to Chichen Itza archaeological site

### NOT INCLUDED

- Optional buffet lunch (\$120 pesos)
- Extra fees

# Recommended Itinerary

This is a recommendation for your trip, but travel passes are flexible and you can decide how long to stay in each destination.

## Day 1: Mexico City, Mexico



### Hidden Teotihuacan & Dinner

DepartureTimes: 12:45

Duration: 9 hrs.

Ancient pyramids, town, local businesses, and a welcoming dinner...sounds like a recipe for an amazing day outside Mexico City!

Head out of Mexico City by public transit (depending on the size of the group), experiencing how locals move about this crowded city. Hop off at the archaeological area of the Teotihuacan pyramids, where you'll learn about the people who once lived here and all the mysteries that still surround this site. As you tour the grounds, you'll see the Moon Pyramid, the Calzada de los Muertos (Dead Pass), and the Sun Pyramid, which is the tallest and most spectacular in the area, it's 63 metres to the top! (and yes, we're going up).

After exploring the pyramids, we'll continue the afternoon walking through the streets of a nearby town. Our first stop will take us into a family-run business where you will learn about 'obsidian', the material that the Teotihuacan people use as the main element to make their tools, idols, and decorations. As well, you'll get to sip an ancient sacred drink called 'pulque,' which is extracted from the heart of the maguey (another kind of cactus) considered by some to be the great-grandfather of tequila.

Next up on this Mexico tour, pay a visit to the cactus product factory, where you'll find jams, candies, spicy lollies, alcoholic creams, and more products made by the local people from the endemic vegetation such as nopal, xoconostle, and a cactus fruit called tuna. Not only will you be able to see all the cactus varieties at this family-run factory, but you'll also get to try some samples and, if you like them, you can pick up some of these exotic products as a souvenir.

To finish our journey, we'll visit a local family for dinner. Their business is catering, so you'll be in good hands to try some traditional dishes. Their menu is always changing based on whatever they've cooked for the day, but there's always delicious options for every palate. You'll be welcomed into their home and experience traditional dinner customs. Plus, you'll be able to practise all those Spanish words you've learned along your trip as you enjoy some real local flavours of typical Mexican kitchens. Delicious! After dinner, we'll head back to Mexico City, happy, full, and relaxed.

## Day 2: Puebla, Mexico



### Mexico City to Puebla

Type: Transfer

DepartureTimes: 10:00, 01:30, 05:00, 06:00, 06:30, 07:00, 07:30, 08:00, 08:30, 09:00, 09:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 13:00, 13:30, 14:00, 14:30, 15:00, 15:30, 16:00, 16:30, 17:00, 17:30, 18:00, 18:30, 19:00, 19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00, 21:30, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00, 23:30

Duration: 2 hrs.

## Day 3: Oaxaca, Mexico



### Puebla to Oaxaca

Type: Transfer

DepartureTimes: 07:25, 11:45, 14:45, 23:50

Duration: 5 hrs.

## Day 4: Oaxaca, Mexico



### Hierve El Agua, Mitla & Tule Day Trip

Departure Times: **09:45**

Duration: **9 hrs.**

Take this amazing tour and explore the petrified waterfall of Hierve el Agua and the majestic nature surrounding it (closed in rainy season). Also, see a gigantic 2,000 year-old tree in Tule and then gaze at the beautiful stone carvings at the Zapotec ruins of Mitla. Visit a local village to learn the process of making woolen rugs from hand. Round off the tour visiting a Mezcal factory and learn how this popular Mexican drink is made.

Hierve el Agua

Due to the variety and high concentrations of mineral salts, a pre hispanic irrigation system and various waterfalls are now petrified. A series of small natural pools have been excavated to form an esplanade called "the amphitheater", from which you can admire the amazing scenery. There are two distinct levels: in the lower level there are springs and the irrigation system, and in the upper level there are facilities for visitors.

Mitla

Its name in Nahuatl means "Place of the Dead", while the Zapotecs called it Iyobaa, meaning "Place of burials" Mitla was a place of residence for the Zapotec priestly class. It was inhabited from the classic period of Monte Albán (100 to 650 AD), and reached its peak in the post-classical period (750 to 1521 AD). The layout of the city was probably planned with structures grouped in five sets, currently called the Columns, the Church, the Stream, the Adobes and the South.

Santa María El Tule

Among the natural beauties of this town is the huge, ahuehuete cypress called "El Árbol del Tule". The tree is a wonderful example of Oaxacan flora, 40 meters high with a diameter of 52.58 meters, it weighs around 509 tons and is approximately 2000 years old. We suggest you visit the handcraft market of the community and to sample the wide variety of local foods.

Teotitlán del Valle

This town is where woolen rugs are made on domestic looms. The artisans here use natural dyes such as indigo, moss and grana cochinilla. We will take you to an artisan house to see the process of making a rug.

Mezcal Factory

Perhaps the most famous drink to come out of Mexico is one made from the agave plant: tequila. But there's another drink derived from the agave, one less known but just as potent: Mezcal. And lately, it is moving on up among the hip and the chic, not only in Mexico but also abroad. The New York Times recently published an article about this spirit beverage newfound fame in New York and beyond. We will take you down to a mezcal distillery where you will be able to discover all about Mezcal. You've gotta try it, Mezcal is the new tequila! As the old saying goes: "Para todo mal, mezcal, y para todo bien, también" (for any harm, mezcal, for every charm, as well).

## Day 5: Oaxaca, Mexico



### Oaxaca to San Cristobal

Type: **Transfer**

Departure Times: **19:00, 21:00, 22:30**

Duration: **11 hrs.**

## Day 6: San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico

### ● Free Day

Explore on your own, or add an optional extra experience

## Day 7: San Cristobal de las Casas - Merida, Mexico



### Palenque Ruins, Agua Azul & Misol-Ha Waterfalls (San Cristobal to Palenque)

DepartureTimes: **04:00**

Duration: **11 hrs.**

You will be picked up early in the morning and transferred to Agua Azul where you will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to freely explore this beautiful area. Then you will be transferred to Misol-ha where you will spend 30 minutes. The last stop will be at Palenque ruins. You will have 2 hours to visit these beautiful ruins hidden in the jungle on your own. After visiting Palenque, you will be taken to Palenque and dropped off at the City Center.

Palenque Ruins

The ancient Mayan city of Palenque is one of Mexico's most breath-taking archaeological parks surrounded by lush tropical forest and jungle. This site has a serene, mystical atmosphere. From the moment you enter, you feel engulfed by a sense of history, timelessness and awe. Explore the site on foot and climb up the pyramids for great views of the ancient city and the jungle. (approx. 2 hours)

Agua Azul Waterfalls:

Rio Xumul-Ha (meaning River of Blue Water, or in Spanish, Agua Azul) features a series of torrential cascades and fast flowing waters rolling down a limestone ridge to form pools and small streams. Take a one-hour walk next to the falls in the breath-taking green valley and swim in one of the calm parts of the refreshing blue river. (approx. 60 - 90 minutes)

Misol-Ha Waterfall:

River Misol-Ha (meaning "Streaming Water"), in the "Chol Maya" tribe area of Chiapas, creates one of the state's most wonderful natural sights as the river glides off the edge of a cliff and 40 meters down into a deep pool of water surrounded by lush vegetation. Swim in the deliciously refreshing water and be impressed by the sight of the fall from below. A small walkway will take you behind the water curtain created by the waterfall where you can walk inside the caves. (approx. 30 - 45 minutes)



### Palenque to Merida

Type: **Transfer**

DepartureTimes: **08:00**

Duration: **8 hrs.**

## Day 8: Merida, Mexico

### ● Free Day

Explore on your own, or add an optional extra experience

## Day 9: Merida, Mexico



### Chichen Itza Day Trip (from Merida to Tulum)

DepartureTimes: **07:40 - 07:50 - 08:00 - 8:10**

Duration: **11.5 hrs.**

Chichen Itza is one of the most well-preserved Maya archaeological sites in the country and once stood as a mighty citadel of the Maya civilization in the 9th and 10th centuries A.D., serving as its political and economic center. One of its most legendary structures is the Kukulcan pyramid, also known as El Castillo, which is a giant Maya calendar with

exactly 365 steps divided among 4 staircases and the pyramid's highest platform. During both equinoxes (around March 21st; September 21st) the sun's shadow cast on this pyramid at a perfect angle creates the illusion of a serpent creeping its way along the structure's northern staircase.

Don't miss the Gran Juego de Pelota, in which ancient Maya warriors battled to the death in this ceremonial game. Check out the acoustics of the structure by holding a conversation with someone standing 135 meters away at the opposite end of the field and the stone carvings of players in action. Feel the spirit of the Maya world by standing here admiring this unique and majestic construction that was once of monumental importance to the former inhabitants here.

Other impressive structures you can't miss are the Plataforma de los Craneos (Skull Platform) and the Cenote Sagrado (Sacred Cave). Check out the impressive stone carvings on other pyramids and temples of jaguars, flowers, birds, trees, eagles and among the more gruesome, human sacrifices and human hearts in the clutches of bird claws. The observatory, El Caracol, named The Snail for its spiral staircase, was once an important point from which priests determined important dates for ceremonies and rituals.

## Day 10: Playa del Carmen, Mexico



### Tulum to Playa del Carmen

Type: Transfer

DepartureTimes: 01:15, 03:45, 04:15, 07:00, 09:00, 09:15, 11:00, 11:45, 12:30, 13:30, 14:45, 15:15, 16:00, 16:30, 16:45, 17:00, 17:30, 17:45, 19:00, 19:15, 21:45

Duration: 1 hrs.

## Day 11: Cancun, Mexico



### Playa del Carmen to Cancun

Type: Transfer

DepartureTimes: 00:15, 02:30, 03:45, 04:00, 05:00, 05:15, 06:30, 07:00, 07:15, 07:30, 07:45, 08:00, 08:15, 08:30, 08:45, 09:00, 09:15, 09:30, 09:45, 10:00, 10:15, 10:30, 10:45, 11:00, 11:15, 11:30, 11:45, 12:00, 12:15, 12:30, 12:45, 13:00, 13:15, 13:30, 13:45, 14:00, 14:15, 14:30, 14:45, 15:00, 15:15, 15:30, 15:45, 16:00, 16:15, 16:30, 16:45, 17:00, 17:15, 17:30, 17:45, 18:00, 18:15, 18:30, 18:45, 19:00, 19:15, 19:30, 19:45, 20:00, 20:15, 20:30, 20:45, 21:00, 21:15, 21:30, 21:45, 22:00, 22:15, 22:30, 23:00, 23:15, 23:30

Duration: 1 hrs.

