

#### INDEPENDENT TRIPS

# Little Mexico, Guatemala & Belize Adventure 14D/13N

Nature & Adventure
14 Days / 4 Countries
Mexico , Guatemala , Belize & Mexico
Departure city: Cancun, Mexico
End city: Cancun, Mexico



#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- See 8 impressive Maya archaeological sites
- Swim in the Agua Azul & Misol-Ha Waterfalls
- Snorkel in Belize's Barrier Reef & relax on superb beaches

See the highlights of Mexico, Guatemala and Belize on this amazing 14-day trip! This trip is perfect for those who are on a tight schedule. Visit the famous Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Palenque, and Tikal archaeological sites. Experience the lush jungle and stunning white-sand beaches of the region.

#### MAP



## What is included

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#### **Independent Trips**

Include all of your accommodation, transport and experiences on a pre-set trip that you can customize to perfectly suit your travel needs.

#### Accommodation: 12

• 2 Tulum Double room

2 Merida Junior suite

• 2 Caye Caulker Junior suite

1 Playa del Carmen Junior suite

• 2 Flores Junior suite

1 Cancun Junior suite

• 1 Palenque Junior suite

#### Included in Bonampak & Yaxchilan 2D/1N (to Flores)

• 1 night private accommodation in rustic jungle

jungle cabins

#### Transport: 9

• Tulum to Cancun Airport Transfer

Merida to Palenque

• Chetumal to Tulum

Playa del Carmen to Merida

• Caye Caulker to Chetumal via San Pedro

Cancun to Playa del Carmen

• Belize City to Caye Caulker

Cancun Airport Transfer (Shared)

Flores to Belize City

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#### Meals: 10

• 8 Breakfast(s), 1 Lunch(es), 1 Dinner(s),

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#### Experiences: 5

Tikal Early Morning Day Tour

Uxmal & Cenotes Day Tour

• Bonampak & Yaxchilan 2D/1N (to Flores)

Chichen Itza Day Trip (roundtrip from

Merida)

 Palenque Ruins, Agua Azul & Misol-Ha Waterfalls (from/to Palenque)

# What is not included

Guide throughout the trip

Personal Expenses

Stations

• Meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Accommodation pick-up drop-off from Bus

• Travel Insurance

• Tin

\*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**

#### **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 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 do not want to miss!

- Transportation
- Hostel pick-up & drop-
- English speaking-guide
- Optional visit to Cenote

#### NOT INCLUDED

- Buffet lunch (\$150 pesos)
- Government tax to entry Chichen Itza (\$23 USD)
- Entrance fee to optional activity Cenote Ik Kil (\$80 pesos)
- Extra fees

#### **Uxmal & Cenotes Day Tour**



Come and experience a beautiful eco-architectural and historical combination. Discover the Spanish architecture by visiting the beautiful Hacienda Yaxcopoil, swim in the crystal clear waters of the spectacular cenotes (sinkholes), and follow the sacred paths of the Mayas.

- Transportation in 15passenger van (hostel pick-up and drop-off)
- English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees

#### NOT INCLUDED

- Meals/drinks
- Tips for guide
- Personal expenses

#### 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

- Palengue accommodation pick-up & city centre drop-off
- All transportation
- Entrance fees to Palenque ruins, Agua Azul & Misol-Ha

#### NOT INCLUDED

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

- Travel insurance

#### Bonampak & Yaxchilan 2D/1N



Explore the remote and mystical archaeological sites of Bonampak and Yaxchilan hidden deep in the Lacandon Jungle near the Guatemalan border in Southern Chiapas. Learn the local Mayan way of life by visiting an indigenous community and experiencing the traditions and customs first-hand.

#### **INCLUDED**

- 1 night private accommodation in rustic jungle cabins
- Accommodation pickup, Van, Boat
- Accommodation pick-
- Van and boat transfer to Yaxchilan and Bonampak ruins
- Transfer to Flores
- -2B/1L/1D
- Archaeological tours
- Bonampak ruins visit
- Yaxchilan ruin visit

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

- Other meals / drinks
- Local Spanish speaking guide for archaeological sites (available to hire around 100 pesos p/p locally. No English speaking guides available)
- Personal expenses
- Tips
- Travel insurance

#### **Tikal Early Morning Day Tour**



#### INCLUDED

- Transportation
- English-speaking guide

# **Itinerary**

#### Day 1: Cancun, Mexico



#### Cancun Airport Transfer (Shared)

Type: Transfer

DepartureTimes: 00:00, 06:00, 08:00, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00

Duration: 0.5 hrs.



Check-In Selina Hostel Cancun

## Day 2: Cancun - Playa del Carmen, Mexico



#### Cancun to Playa del Carmen

Type: Transfer

DepartureTimes: 6:30, 7.00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:0, 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 Duration: 1.5 hrs.



Check-In Selina Hostel Playa del Carmen

#### Day 3: Playa del Carmen - Merida, Mexico



#### Playa del Carmen to Merida

Type: Transfer

Departure Times: 01:30, 04:00, 06:00, 07:30, 08:30, 10:30, 12:30, 13:30, 15:30, 15:45, 17:30, 18:30, 20:00, 20:30,

**22:30, 23:45**Duration: **5 hrs.** 



Check-In Nomadas Hostel

#### Day 4: Merida, Mexico



#### Chichen Itza Day Trip (roundtrip from Merida)

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

Duration: 9.5 hrs.

Upon arrival to Chichen Itza, a specialised guide will give you a detailed tour of the site, enjoying the quiet of the morning visit before the crowds. Throughout the tour, your guide will provide archaeological essential background to better understand the history of Chichen Itza.

Discover how this large pre-Columbian city played an important role in the Mayan civilization around 600 AD to 1200, and remained a center of worship and pilgrimage until the arrival of the Spaniards. Even today, it is still considered sacred by the Maya people of Yucatán Peninsula site. Like many of the cities of ancient Mexico, the site was abandoned, and its ruins were hidden by jungle. Hear how the site was discovered and excavated by archaeologists, earning the protection of UNESCO and today considered one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. They will explain the philosophy, cosmology and mythology behind this ancient place, such as the meaning of the stone carvings, pyramids,

platforms, ball games. Visit the Temple of the Jaguars, the Temple of the Warriors and of course the famous pyramid, also known as the Temple of Kukulkan. Hear how a serpent of light seems going up the stairs of this temple in the spring and fall equinoxes (around March 21st & September 21st).



#### **Nomadas Hostel**

#### Day 5: Merida - Palenque, Mexico



#### **Uxmal & Cenotes Day Tour**

DepartureTimes: 08:40

Duration: 8 hrs.

Pick-up will be around 8:40am from your Merida accommodation. On this exciting tour you will explore unique cenotes (sinkholes) and several Spanish-style estates known as "Haciendas" that are representative of the "Henequen Golden Age".

We will first make a stop at Hacienda Yaxcopoil. The name of this hacienda means in the Mayan language "the place of the green Alamo tree" and dates back to the XVII century. There we are going to learn about three main pages of our history; pre-Colombian, Spanish colony and the splendor of the sisal fiber industry during the XIX and the early XX century. The walking tour consists in visiting the main house with its high ceilings and large windows and other rooms where there are Mayan artifacts found in the surroundings.

Afterwards, see the Adivino pyramid, The Nunnery Quadrangle, and The Governor's Palace.

Next, continue to the municipality of Peba, located only 15 minutes from Yaxcopoil Hacienda, where there is a Cenote surrounded by a wide variety of flora and fauna still used for the Mayan traditional medicine. The shallow and transparent water of this cenote is great for kids and adults.

Once today's adventures have concluded, you'll return to the white city of Merida.

(Note: We suggest passengers to bring a bathing suit, towel and money for snacks or a box lunch).



#### Merida to Palenque

Type: **Transfer** 

DepartureTimes: 22:00 23:45

Duration: 8 hrs.

#### Day 6: Palenque, Mexico



#### Palenque Ruins, Agua Azul & Misol-Ha Waterfalls (from/to Palenque)

DepartureTimes: **08:00** Duration: **11 hrs.** 

You will be picked up early in the morning and transferred to the Palenque ruins. You will have 2 hours to visit these beautiful ruins hidden in the jungle on your own. Then you will be transferred to Misol-ha where you will spend 30 minutes. The last stop will be at Agua Azul where you will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to freely explore this beautiful area. After seeing these 3 beautiful attractions, you will be taken back to Palenque and dropped off at the city centre.

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)



Check-In Casa Janaab Palenque

#### Day 7: Yaxchilan, Mexico



#### Bonampak & Yaxchilan 2D/1N (to Flores)

DepartureTimes: 06:00

Depart Palenque (Mexico), Bonampak and Yaxchilan Ruins Visit (B/L/D)

You will be picked up from your accommodation in Palenque early in the morning and be able to stop for breakfast along the way. Enjoy the scenic 2-hour drive to the Bonampak Ruins where you will have the chance to explore the magical archaeological site and see ancient frescoes firsthand. Here you will have lunch and then continue on for a 20-minute drive to the Yaxchilan Archaeological Site buried deep in the Lacandon Jungle. Here you will have a few hours to discover this secluded site with plenty of time to take photos and relax listening to the sounds of nature. From Yaxchilan you will be taken to rustic jungle cabins where you will have dinner and spend the night.

#### Day 8: Flores, Guatemala



#### Bonampak & Yaxchilan 2D/1N (to Flores)

DepartureTimes: 06:00

Transfer to Flores (Guatemala) (B)

After having breakfast on the second day, you will be taken to the border for your transfer to Flores, Guatemala. You will take a boat to cross the border and then change vans for the ride to Flores. In Flores you will be dropped off at the city center. Please take a taxi to the accommodation of your choice



Check-In Los Amigos Hostel

#### Day 9: Flores, Guatemala



#### Tikal Early Morning Day Tour

DepartureTimes: 03:00, 04:30, 08:00

Duration: 8.5 hrs.

Depart Flores at 4:30 am this morning for your early morning experience to Tikal archaeological site. Walk among giant pyramids towering over 200 feet at dawn to feel the magical vibration of Tikal and its historic splendor. Listen to the jungle sounds of exotic birds, monkeys and small mammals and feel the humid jungle air on your skin as the Maya inhabitants of this site felt it 2000 years ago. Immerse yourself in the jungle at dawn for an early morning tour through the archaeological site to experience the jungle come alive as it wakes up at sunrise, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get in touch with nature and marvel at the majestic pyramids hidden away in the jungle.

This magical ancient city is teeming with native flora and fauna. If you are lucky you may be able to spot a jaguar walking leisurely through the park, although large numbers of visitors have caused the wildlife to move further into the jungle away from the noise. Howler monkeys here are famous for their loud growling sounds which may surprise you from a tree top overhead. Keep an eye out for colorful birds throughout the park such as toucan, parrots, eagles and quetzals.

Tucked away in the vast Peten Region that covers 222 square miles of lush jungle in the northwest corner of Guatemala lie the ruins of the most magnificent archaeological site and important Maya citadel in Mesoamerica. Tikal National Park, declared as a UN World Heritage Site in 1979, is the largest excavated archaeological site on the American continents and is one of the most important natural reserves of Central America.

It is known that Tikal, meaning "Place of Voices" in Maya, was one of the most powerful cities of their era covering more than 16 square kilometers and dominating other tribes in the surrounding region as well as interacting with neighboring cultures as far as Teotihuacan in the Valle de Mexico. The site was estimated to house between 10,000 -90,000 inhabitants before being abruptly abandoned over 1000 years ago.

It is necessary to purchase your entrance fee at any Banrural bank in Flores the day before the tour. The ticket booths will not be open at the time you arrive to take part in the sunrise tour.



Los Amigos Hostel

#### Day 10: Flores - Caye Caulker, Belize



#### (S) Flores to Belize City

Type: Transfer DepartureTimes: 07:00

Duration: 5 hrs.



#### Belize City to Caye Caulker

Type: Transfer

DepartureTimes: 08:00, 09:00, 10:30, 12:00, 13:30, 15:00, 16:30, 17:30

Duration: 1.5 hrs.



Check-In Yuma's House

## Day 11: Caye Caulker, Belize

#### Free Day

Explore on your own, or add an optional extra experience



Yuma's House

#### Day 12: Chetumal - Tulum, Mexico



#### Chetumal to Tulum

Type: **Transfer** 

DepartureTimes: 05:10 08:30 12:25

Duration: 3.5 hrs.



Caye Caulker to Chetumal via San Pedro

Type: **Transfer** 

DepartureTimes: 07:00

Duration: 3 hrs.



Check-In Amorcito Corazon Hostel

#### Day 13: Tulum, Mexico

Free Day

Explore on your own, or add an optional extra experience



Amorcito Corazon Hostel

#### Day 14: Cancun, Mexico



Tulum to Cancun Airport Transfer

Type: **Transfer** 

DepartureTimes: 000:00, 06:00, 08:00, 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00

Duration: 1 hrs.

