



CAVES, CENOTES, RUINS & COLONIAL CITIES

ITINERARY WITH DRIVER GUIDE



Tailor made trip

WE ADAPT TO YOUR JOURNEY AND GIVE YOU OUR ASSESMENT

Hotels with charm

WE CONSTANTLY CHECK THEM OUT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE ARE OFFERING YOU

Travel Experience

WE EXPLORE THE ITINERARIES IN ORDER TO OFFER YOU UNIQUE ENCLAVES

Travel Safe

24 HOUR ASSISTANCE.

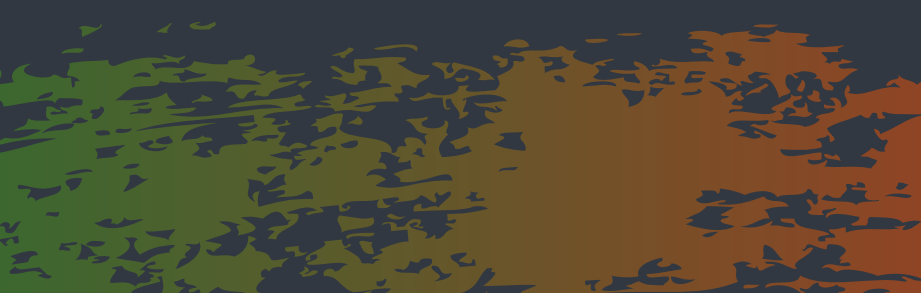
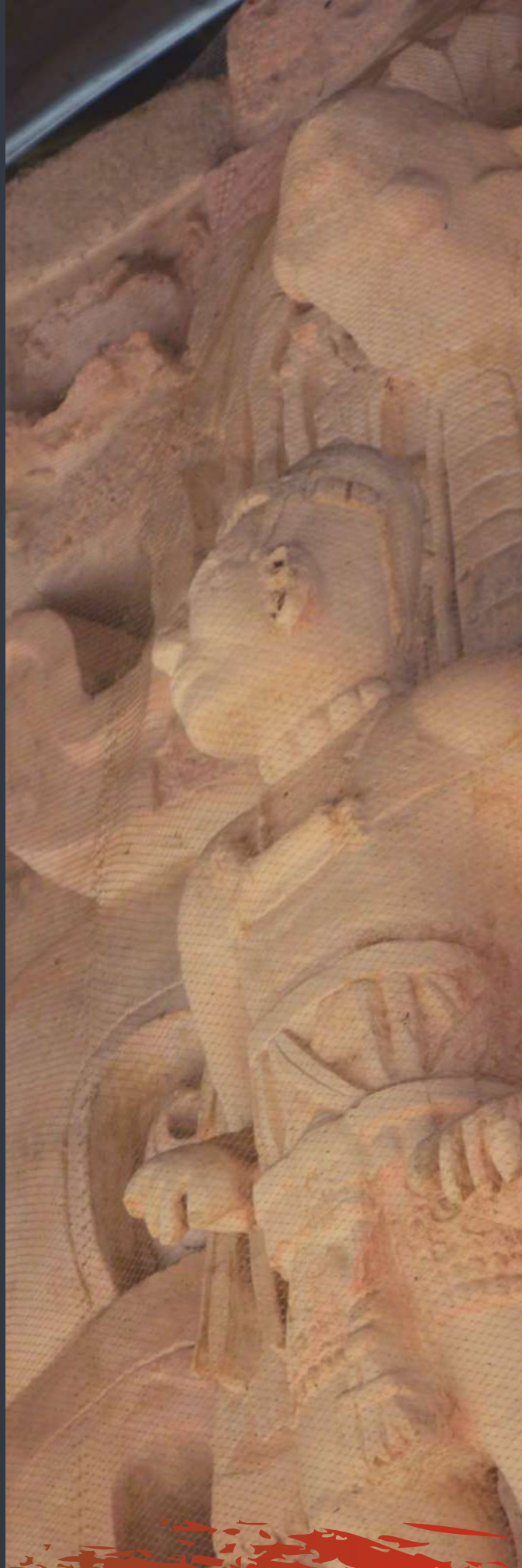
OUR TRIP

Tailor-made, according to
your likes and concerns

Exclusive accommodation

Vehicle with driver guide

Always in contact with client



OUTLINE

DAY BY DAY



- 1** ARRIVAL FLIGHT... NEARBY ACCOMMODATION
 - 2** RIO LAGARTOS, EK BALAM, VALLADOLID
 - 3** CHICHEN ITZA
 - 4** MAYAPÁN, HACIENDA SOTUTA DE PEÓN
 - 5** HACIENDA SOTUTA DE PEÓN, MÉRIDA
 - 6** EDZNÁ, CAMPECHE
 - 7** CAMPECHE
 - 8** RUTA PUUC: KABAH, SAYIL, X LAPAC, SABNA. UXMAL
 - 9** UXMAL
 - 10** TULUM, BEACH AT RIVIERA MAYA
 - 11** RIVIERA MAYA
 - 12** RIVIERA MAYA
 - 13** RIVIERA MAYA
 - 14** TO THE AIRPORT.... RETURN FLIGHT
-



This route combines visits to lesser-known cenotes, Mayan archaeological sites, an outstanding Hacienda, and several colonial cities.

Everything seems to indicate that, 65 million years ago, a large meteorite hit the northwest Yucatan and is thought to have originated the cenotes and caves that cover much of the Territory.

They are of enormous beauty, with crystal clear waters, opening in some places to the surface, which allows light to enter and to have tropical vegetation.

For the Maya, they had a sacred character, and their big cities in this area were established with the fresh water provided by the Cenotes.



THE ROUTE

DAY 1... WELCOME TO YUCATÁN

Upon your arrival, and after passing the customs controls, the driver guide we have selected for you will receive you and drive you to a nearby hotel for this first night. You will have time to adjust to the country's schedule and climate.

DAY 2... EN ROUTE... RIO LAGARTOS... EK BALAM RUINS... VALLADOLID

Early departure after breakfast. First contact with the roads of region. You will be surprised by their quality of the roads and the vegetation that borders them, that enliven our path.

We deviate from the toll road before arriving in Valladolid to head north.

Our first stop will be Rio Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, on the northern coast of the peninsula. On your arrival you take a guided tour by boat with a nature guide to see the colonies of flamingos, crocodiles, and hundreds of varieties of birds... as well as mangroves and salt flats.

On our way back, we will make another stop to introduce us to the Mayan culture and archeology: Ek Balam. 30 kilometers from Valladolid and a bit off the route of mass tourism we find, emerging of the jungle, the remains of a Mayan settlement that began in 300A. C. Its well-preserved remains allows us to climb to a Mayan pyramid and view the setting from its platform. Enjoy walking along this compound, with its ruins and its jungle. Before entering the ruins, it is possible to go to a nearby Mayan Community that administers a beautiful Cenote. They also have a very simple restaurant with Yucatecan specialties. It is an experience in time, culture and gastronomy. You can bathe in the clear waters of the cenote.

After the visit, your driver will take you to the colonial city of Valladolid.





La vibrante Valladolid

DAY 2... VALLADOLID

Upon arrival you will be able to feel what an inland Yucatan city is like, with strong reminiscent of its colonial past. Free time to taste lunch or dinner in some restaurant or at the Donato Bates market where fruit stalls and vegetables color to your visit.

It's possible also to buy souvenirs like Yucatecan blouses with embroidered flowers, and you can try to bargain the price! Valladolid invites us to walk along its cobbled streets. The main Square, with its fountain known as "La Mestiza", is a very lively place both during the day as at nighttime.

Next to the park is the Municipal Palace where we'll see, in the top gallery, paintings with the history of the city and with excellent views of the Plaza from their balconies.

Impressive are also the two towers of the Church of San Servasio with the shield of Philip V carved in the façade.

At night the city lights up and people go out to enjoy street food stalls. Try the churros and the famous marquesitas in some of them. Taking a walk you can approach the Franciscan convent of Saint Bernardino de Siena. It is a worthwhile visit. At night there is a light and sound spectacle on its facade where the history of the place is told.

DAY 2... ACCOMMODATION IN VALLADOLID

Accommodation in one of our selected boutique hotels in the colonial center of Valladolid. Your guide driver will indicate the schedule for the next day.



DAY 3... CHICHEN ITZA

After breakfast departure to Chichen Itza. Your driver will pick you up early to get ahead of the coaches that come daily from the Riviera Maya or from cruise ships that disembark in Puerto Progreso. We recommend you to be at opening time to be able to visit the archaeological area even with the sellers setting up their stalls and before the groups of visitors arrive.

The city of the Itzales is the best known and most visited of the Mayan archeological sites. Its majestic Temple of Kukulcán dominates the site. The limits are marked by the Sacred Cenoteto the north and the Observatory in the south. It's nice to walk around avoiding the sweltering esplanade while appreciating the Monuments.

When Francisco de Montejo fell in love with this complex, Mayan pilgrims still came to the temples, and called the complex: at the mouth of the well (Chichen) of the water sorcerers (Itza).

Three great buildings await you. The aforementioned Pyramid of Kukulcán, or The Castle, as it was called by the Spaniards. The Caracol (snail), building believed to have been used as an astronomical observatory. This building is more apart and next to it, scattered, are other buildings to visit.

The Temple of Warriors connects with the Temple of a Thousand Columns. A porticated square which served as a connection between the buildings and its market use is still being debated.

The ball game will be one of the largest you will see in the Mayan World, and you can check the acoustics of the enclosure for yourselves.

Enjoying the walk quietly touring the precinct will take a few hours.

To have lunch we recommend the porticated area of the village of Pisté where they cook wonderful local food.

After the visit and lunch, check in to the selected Mayaland Hotel & Bungalows. Free time to unwind in the pool and gardens, or to check some cenotes...



DAY 3...RELAX

Cenotes Yokdzonot , Ikil o Yaxunah

*In the afternoon, free time to rest
at the chosen hotel or, our suggestion:*

*Go for a swim swim in the
Cenote Yokdzonot. A suggestive experience!*



DAY 4... EN ROUTE... MAYAPAN RUINS... HACIENDA

After breakfast with our driver, we will leave Highway 180 to the south. Here we can divert east to the village of Yaxunah. We can see the remnants of Mayan ruins, as well as the cenote Lol'Ha. The fresh, clear water of Cenote Lol'Ha has created a beautiful refuge in the middle of Yaxunah. The black earth of cenotes bears a wide variety of plants that require a wetter environment and little light. For example, the "mata palo" often grows near the edge of the cenote with its long roots such as gphas reaching water level. A great variety birds like owls, swallows and the Tho bird live in the large trees nearby or in the cenote. In addition, we can find squirrels, coatís, armadillos and iguanas, which also inhabit the areas around cenotes.

Our next stop will be the interesting Mayan ruins of Mayapán, of the Postclassical Period. The walled city of Mayapán is considered to be the last great capital of Mayan culture in the Postclassic (1200-1450 AC). It has an extension of 4 km², in which there are approximately 4,000 structures and it is believed that the city at its maximum splendor, had a population of 12,000. You can observe Chichén Itzá's strong influence: an example of it is the main building or better known as Kukulcán Castle, which is the same as Chichén Itzá's, only smaller. In the Central Square are located civic, administrative and religious buildings as well like the ruling class residences.

These are buildings built on foundations that have corridors with columns, temples and oratorios with an altar in the background. Also representative are the round buildings, known as observatories and small separate shrine.

After visiting Mayapán we head to the Hacienda Viva Sotuta de Peón that will be our accommodation tonight and the main protagonist of the next day. Dinner and accommodation.



DAY 5...

HACIENDA VIVA SOTUTA DE PEÓN

Breakfast at the Hacienda. At 10:00, guided tour of this hacienda, which is one of the few that continues to produce Henequen fiber.

The henequen comes from an agave-like plant, and it was this fiber that gave wealth to this whole area of haciendas, in the last half of the nineteenth century.

The tour, with a guide of the estate, runs along the tracks, in a wagon pulled by a mule.

First you will visit the active parts where the fiber is processed.

The pleasant ride ends in a nice grotto cenote that is inside the estate, where you can have a nice relaxing swim.



DAY 5... MÉRIDA

In the afternoon, your driver will take you to the center of Mérida. Free time to discover the capital of the State of Yucatán.

Colonial city par excellence, its main monument is the impressive Cathedral of St Ildefonso that boasts be the oldest in the Americas. In its historic center it is advisable to visit the Banamex House of Culture, the craft fair, Paseo Montejo (the French style quarter), Casa Montejo, Municipal Palace (with interesting modern frescoes on the city's history and region), the Church of the Third Order of St. Francis, Church of St. John the Baptist... There are also beautiful theatres and the University with its impressive colonial building.

There are many restaurants, markets and shops. There are also product cooperatives of the region, with good quality and good prices. The streets are bustling and we recommend visiting the central market where you'll also have the possibility of eating at their stalls the best of the Yucatecan cuisine (panuchos, salbutes, lime soup, cochinita pibil among many other antojitos)

In the upper area we find Mayan remains and at the end of Paseo Montejo is the Monument to the Homeland with the history of the region told in its reliefs.

A great populous and picturesque city to enjoy day and night!

At the established hour, your driver will take you back to the Hacienda. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 6... EN ROUTE... EDZNA... CAMPECHE

After breakfast we start a route of interesting landscapes where for the first time in the tour, you will see some hills, always covered with jungle. We will also traverse multiple villages of this rural area. We will stop in the Archeological Zone of Edzná.

These important ruins are located 40 kms from Campeche. Its name means House of Itzaes, as it was the seat of the Itza Lineage, of Chontal origin. Founded in 400 B.C. and its heyday was in the Late Classic Period. Its architecture has traces of the Puuc culture and that of the Petén. The main square groups most of the 20 monumental buildings of the site. The archaeological site is densely forested and encompasses a large extension.

DAY 6... CAMPECHE

At noon you will head for the coast to reach the city of Campeche.

Before you arrive at your hotel your vehicle will take you to see the Malecón along the coastal gulf road, which is a bit far from the old center. Check in to the selected hotel in the colonial quarter of the city. Free time to enjoy the varied cuisine that this city has to offer.



DAY 7... CAMPECHE

Breakfast. Free day in this beautiful colonial city where we suggest a tour to get to know this beautiful Capital, declared a World Heritage Site by the Unesco.

It is one of the few walled cities in Mexico, because it was besieged by pirates for a long time, as it was a strategic port for the exchange between New Spain and the Old World.

It has beautiful sea views, and a historic center, with remains of the old wall, with its strongholds and fortified Gates.



We suggest to visit St. Francis Cathedral, in Baroque Virreinal style. Other temples are the Church of St. Roman or that of St. Juan de Dios. The main square, or Zocalo, is pleasant to walk, as well as the Markets.

There are multiple restaurants, with a wide range of local and international cuisine.

In the evening you can attend a performance at the wall that doesn't have a high cost and it's interesting, which is performed by a group of young local people.

Accommodation in the same hotel.



DÍA 8... RUTA PUUC... UXMAL

After breakfast we make an early departure, so that we can visit several archaeological sites that make up the so-called Puuc Route.

When you arrive in the area, you will visit various archaeological areas along about 100 kms. The tour is comfortable, as the Archaeological sites have abundant shade due to the vegetation.

You will be able to visit the most interesting sites, all far from the mass tourism, each with a special magic, surrounded by the Yucatecan forest. Highlights include Kabah, Sayil, Xlapac and Sabna. Some will take you just some minutes to visit them, but the quietness in others will invite us to contemplate them without haste. Taking brief walks between the ruins we will spend the morning.



DAY 8... UXMAL

After time for lunch, you will arrive in Uxmal where you will check-in at the hotel.

In the afternoon, we recommend visiting the caves of Xtacumbilxunna, Lol-tun Grottoes (one of the most notable in Mexico) and various cenotes. Another alternative is to go to the village of Muna with local atmosphere and gastronomy, or stay enjoying the hotel pool. In the evening, if you want, it is possible to visit the Light and Sound night in Uxmal.



DAY 9... UXMAL

We recommend an early start to be the first to enter into the Archeological site, thus avoiding the large busloads that arrive later on in the morning... Uxmal is one of the most important sites of Maya culture. It dates from the late classical period and is in the middle of the Architectonical zon of the Puuc Culture. It has been considered a Heritage Site of the Humanity by UNESCO.

Its buildings stand out for their size and decoration. Ancient paths, called sacbes, communicate them, as well as other Mayan cities, such as Chichen Itza, Caracol and Xunantunich (Belize) and Tikal in Guatemala. Smooth walls that open to friezes ornate with representations of traditional Mayan houses. Highlights include the Pyramid of the Wizard with 5 levels, the Convent (given this name by the Spaniards), all typical Puuc architecture, the Palacio del Gobernador (one of the best examples of this architecture), the House of The Turtles, and the Great Pyramid are their most significant.

Uxmal has a magical character lost in Chichen Itza...





DAY 9...RELAX.

Cenote X'batun

... Afternoon at leisure.

*If you like, you can go to the Cenote X'batun,
for a swim.*

*Managed by the local Mayan Community,
it has been filmed in several television series and
musical videoclips, due to its amazing beauty.*





DAY 10... RIVIERA MAYA

Breakfast and we prepare to undertake the longest leg of our journey, approximately 280-300 kilometers.

It can be done, either by retaking the toll road Merida - Valladolid, and diverting either to Playa del Carmen or the route via Coba to the south of the Riviera Maya. There is another less-traveled route that runs through Peto, Felipe Carrillo Puerto and Muyil, before reaching the coast in Tulum. The accommodations we like in this area are located about 15-20 kms south Tulum, in an area of very nice beaches. We also have a selection of boutique hotels or small all inclusive resorts in other points of the coast.

On any of the routes your driver will find tourist attractions where to stop us and always the road offers you some surprises that don't figure in the guides.

Upon your arrival at the hotel and after check-in you have time to enjoy the beach.

DAY 11 TO 13... RIVIERA MAYA

These days, and unless you require it, you don't have the vehicle or the driver; The excursions and visits we suggest can be in regular tours, but if you prefer, we can quote the price of private service:

The beautiful Mayan ruins of Tulum, which stun us by its location in front of the turquoise Caribbean waters; The ruins of Coba, increasingly incorporated into the sightseeing tours.

Or visit the biosphere reserve of Sian kaán. Several water parks, jungle parks, etc., also offer interesting alternatives, mostly if you plan to travel with kids.

We have the second largest coral reef of the world, aligned with the whole coast.

There are dozens of alternatives for divers and snorkelers.

DAY 14... RIVIERA MAYA... CANCÚN AIRPORT

At the agreed hour, the driver will pick you up in the hotel and transfer you to the airport for your return flight.

END OF OUR SERVICES





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INCLUSIONS

- 1** RENTAL CAR ACCORDING TO YOUR NEEDS, WITH UNLIMITED MILEAGE AND FULL INSURANCE WITH FRANCHISE CERO
- 2** 9 NIGHTS BREAKFAST & ACCOMMODATION DURING THE ROUTE
- 3** 4 NIGHTS IN THE COAST, IN THE SELECTED FOOD REGIME
- 4** DETAILED MAP OF THE ROUTE, WITH SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ACCOMMODATION

- 1** HOTEL NEAR THE AIRPORT OR IN DOWNTOWN CANCÚN
- 2** VALLADOLID HOTEL BOUTIQUE SAASTA OR SIMILAR
- 3** VILLAS ARQUEOLÓGICAS HOTEL & BUNGALOWS MAYALAND OR SIMILAR IN CHICHEN ITZA
- 4** HACIENDA VIVA SOTUTA DE PEON OR SIMILAR
- 5** CAMPECHE SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, DON GUSTAVO OR SIMILAR
- 6** HACIENDA UXMAL OR SIMILAR IN UXMAL
- 7** LA NUEVA VIDA DE RAMIRO, ZEBRA, DREAMS TULUM, ESENCIA, ÚNICO, BELMOND... IN THE CHOSEN POINT OF THE RIVIERA MAYA

NOTES

- 1** THIS ROUTE IS A SAMPLE AND CAN BE ADJUSTED TO YOUR PERSONAL CHOICE
- 2** THE ROADS ARE GENERALLY IN A VERY GOOD STATE, AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF GASOLINE STATIONS IN THE WHOLE ROUTE
- 3** THE COST OF THE ENTRANCE FEES TO MOST RUINS IS VERY REASONABLE, AS ARE THE TOLLS ON SOME ROADS



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YUCATAN

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