



## MEXICO - 11N/12D



### ITINERARY

1st day - Friday Mexico City

Arrival at Mexico City International Airport and transfer to hotel.

Day 2 - Mexico City

American breakfast in hotel and city tour that includes: Plaza de la Constitución (The Constitution Plaza) known as Zócalo, surrounded by beautiful baroque buildings, among which is the Cathedral (the country's largest religious monument built over the great Aztec temple). The Palacio Nacional (National Palace), headquarter of the Presidency of Mexico, where visitors can admire murals painted by Diego Rivera. One of the main and most recently discovered attractions is the Templo Mayor, the great temple of the Aztec capital. Brief stop at the Guadalupe Shrine.



The tour continues to Teotihuacán, named by the Aztecs as "the place where the Gods are born". This location includes three great constructions: The Pyramid of the Sun, Pyramid of the Moon and the Citadel; all of them were built over the so called "Calzada de los Muertos" (Road of the Dead).

Lunch in restaurant. Return to Mexico City.

Day 3 - Mexico City / Puebla / Oaxaca

Departure in autobus to the beautiful and colonial city of Puebla; visit of the Santo Domingo church, where it is possible to visit the Rosario Chapel, one of the biggest works of the mexican baroque art. Lunch in restaurant. In the afternoon the tour proceeds to Oaxaca by bus. Back to the hotel.

Day 4 - Oaxaca

Day dedicated to the city and Monte Alban.

In the morning visit of the city known as the "Patriots Cradle" that includes the Zocalo, where the Cathedral and the Santo Domingo Church are ubicated; then continue to the old Santa Catalina from Siena friary and to the local market, one of the most typical of the region. Lunch in restaurant.

In the afternoon visit of the famous archeological site of Monte Alban, ceremonial center built on a hill and rich in pyramids, tombs and sunken reliefs. Return to the hotel.

Day 5 - Oaxaca / Tuxtla Gutiérrez

In the morning departure to Mitla, ancient Mixtec center. Visit of the archeological site, place founded by Zapotec and also used by Mixtecan for their ceremonies in which visitors can see geometrical decorations with abstract drawings; In the tour continue to Tehuantepec (4 hours). Lunch In the afternoon the tour proceeds to Tuxtla Gutiérrez, capital of the State of Chiapas (5 hours). Return to the hotel.

Day 6 - Tuxtla Gutiérrez / San Cristóbal de las Casas

Transfer to the Cahuaré wharf to enjoy a launch boat trip through the Cañón del Sumidero (Sumidero Canyon) ; the altitude and the beauty of the place will make the experience unforgettable. Lunch in restaurant. After that the tour continues to San Cristóbal de las Casas. Arrival and accommodation at the hotel. Afternoon free.

7th day - Thursday San Cristóbal de las Casas

In the morning visit to one of the most typical local markets where hundreds of Indigenous people sell their hand-made products every day; the tour continues to the Baroque Santo Domingo Church founded in 1547. Then visitors will meet the Indigenous communities of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán; the San Juan Chamula community is particularly linked to this church where ceremonies were celebrated that had a great influence of paganism. The Indigenous population of Zinacantan, is different in that it is very loyal to the Catholic faith. Return to San Cristóbal overnight stay in hotel.

#### Day 8 - San Cristóbal de las Casas / Palenque

Departure to Palenque with a stop at the Agua Azul (Blue Water) waterfalls; the trip will last approximately 5 hours on a mountain road and on the road the visitors can enjoy the abundant vegetation of this Chiapanecan (from the State of Chiapas) zone. Lunch in a rustic restaurant or box lunch. Arrival at Palenque and check-in to the hotel.

#### Day 9 - Palenque/ Campeche

Visit of the Palenque archaeological site. The area displays beautiful Mayan work made in stone and stucco; this area is frequently recognized as one of Mexico's most beautiful places due to its ruins enclosed in the Chiapanecan jungle. Its most important temple is called Templo de las Inscripciones (Temple of the Inscriptions), and here the explorers discovered Pakal's tomb with his famous jade mask. Lunch in restaurant.

In the afternoon the tour will continue to Campeche, which is the capital of the Campeche State. This tour includes a short visit to the ancient town, surrounded by fort walls and towers built to protect this city from the pirates. Campeche keeps a Colonial mood thanks to its gorgeous houses and austere churches. After visiting the city, tourists will check-in at the hotel. Return to the hotel.

#### Day 10 - Campeche/ Mérida

Departure to Mérida and during the trip visit to the Uxmal archaeological site. Uxmal means "built in three stages" and it is a typical example of the classic and post-classic Mayan period; its main constructions are: Pirámide del Adivino (The Fortune teller's Pyramid), Palacio de los Gobernadores (Governor's Palace) and the Cuadrángulo de las Monjas (Quadrangle of the Nuns). Lunch in restaurant in Uxmal. The tour continues heading to Mérida, also known as the "White City", which has Colonial houses as well as houses that date from the beginning of the century in the Arabic, French and Italian styles.

Those houses have witnessed all the old wealth that was generated thanks to the sisal culture. Stop at Mérida's Zócalo, where visitors can admire the city's main monuments: the Cathedral, the Government's Palace, the Municipal Palace and the Francisco Montejo's House. Check-in to the hotel.

#### Day 11 - Mérida/ Riviera Maya

Departure to visit Chichén Itzá archaeological site. Chichén Itzá was the Mayan capital of Yucatán and flourished between the 5th and 10th centuries AD. Visitors can admire the impressive buildings of the northern and central archaeological sites, such as: the Kukulcán Temple, the Ball Game, the Observatory, the Warrior's Temple, the Convent of the Nuns and the Sacred Cenote. Lunch at Chichén Itzá in restaurant. The trip to Riviera Maya continues in the afternoon. Arrival and check in to the hotel.

#### Day 12 -

Transfer to the Cancun International airport.