



Mexico has extended excursions, with 21 First Century Facilities and Amenities, which take you through time and history. There are several astonishing journeys where you encounter the possibility of other ways and means to a natural well being and a different way of life. Mexico was blessed through nature. Mexico is a land of all climates where the Flora and the animal World seem to have concentrated all species on the face of the Earth. When people think of the American Continent, three major Cultures will be in their minds, The Inca, The Aztec and The Mayan Empires. History of World Civilization changed its pace with the discovery of the American Continent. and its contribution to the Middle Age Society and Economy of the XVI and XVII Century. Mayas proved people could evolve, create and produce, with different ways of life.

The Mayan Culture reigned on the Yucatan Peninsula, on the Southeastern side of Mexico, enclosed by the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. It was in this area, where the Mayans reached their Superior degree of development. Nonetheless Mayan Civilization covered a vast extension, from Mexico's Southern Pacific Coast, way in to Central America. Traces of Maya nomad settlements go back to 1500 BC. We distinguish mainly 3 Mayan periods of Social and Urban development: Nomad, Mayan Pre Classical and Mayan Classical. These Periods are relatively evident in their building techniques, their carved inscriptions on their Pyramids, buildings and temples. Mayans developed a structure of writing, using hieroglyphs; and so kept record of Mayan findings in mathematics, Architecture and Astronomy. Yucatan Classic is a very interesting Mayan World Tour.

· YUCATAN CLASSIC ·

DAY 1 CANCÚN - RIVIERA MAYA - TULUM - CHETUMAL

On our first day, we start your expedition to The Mayan World, driving to reach the Magic archeological Site of Tulum, a walled sacred City of the Mayan Post Classic Period. Tulum stands on a Cliff facing the raising sun, with outstanding views of the Caribbean. With over 20 Buildings, you will be able to observe the Stalls on the



monuments, with the graphic legacy of the stage of the Mayan Culture in that Period; you will also see the First Castle on your Route dedicated to Kukulcan, the God of Gods of the Mayas. Tulum was a major link in the Maya extensive trade network, both maritime and land routes converged here. Tulum will be your first Caribbean Beach to enjoy the white sand and the crystal clear water of the Ocean. During the afternoon, another two hour transit through the Tropical Vegetation, to reach your overnight destination. Chetumal, with a large Bay, is the outlet of the Hondo River, the natural frontier between Mexico and Belize. Chetumal is a fairly large and modern city, the capital of the State of Quintana Roo. Overnight in Chetumal.

DAY 2 CHETUMAL - KOHUNLICH - PALENQUE

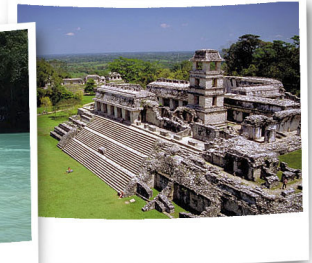
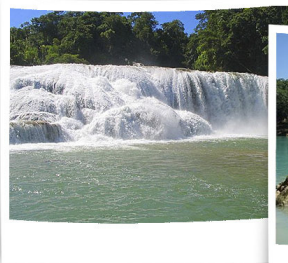
Departure to Kohunlich which is renowned for its Temple of the Masks. Kohunlich has an Early Classic pyramid which central stairway is flanked by large stucco masks. The temple was built around 500 A.D. Later around 700 A.D., the temple was over covered with a Terminal Classic construction, which protected the masks



and accounts for their excellent preservation today. The giant masks represent the Sun God “Kinich Ahau” however they differ in appearance so it is thought that they also represent the various rulers of Kohunlich. The name Kohunlich comes from two English words “ Cohune” (a palm tree native to Belize) and “ Ridge “ for “ Cohune Ridge “ or “ The ridge where the cohune palm grows “. This archaeological site is surrounded by huge trees. The main buildings you will see on this site are The Acropolis, Temple of the King, The Stands, Temple of the Stalls and Temple of The Twin Columns, Building of The Eleven Doors, The Ball Court and The Pyramid of the Masks. In the afternoon, we will continue towards our overnight stop at Palenque. with red tile roofs, and its impressive Santa Prisca cathedral all combine to make Taxco a lovely and picturesque town. Those interested in purchasing silver will find the greatest selection here. Overnight in Taxco.

DAY 3 PALENQUE – AGUA AZUL - PALENQUE

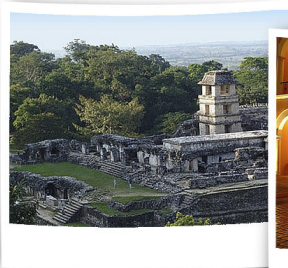
In the morning of day 3 we visit the archaeological site of Palenque. This ancient Mayan City reached its peak from the sixth to the eighth centuries A.D. Palenque, is a more rigidly conservative architecture compared to other Classic Maya sites. Still Palenque is one of the most enigmatical Sites and has held its secrets for over twelve



hundred years. The setting is nestled against the mountain wall, surrounded by flourishing vegetation deep in the rain forest. You will see endless levels of Maya man-made terraces, bearing uncounted structures, most of which appear to have been mausoleums. You will find a marked contrast between Palenque and other Classic Maya sites. The most outstanding buildings are: The Temple of the Inscriptions, a majestic pyramid with a secret crypt; The Fabulous Royal Pakal Tomb; with an exquisitely engraved monolithic sarcophagus; The Palace with a four story high square tower, probably used as an astronomical observatory; The Temples of the Cross, The Temples of The Jaguar and The Temple of The Sun. Palenque added additional roof toppings to its buildings producing an extra height, compared to other Classic Buildings. Continue to Agua Azul. The Water Falls of Agua Azul are situated among lush vegetation where the water descends through hills, in a rapid succession of falls and pools of deep blue turquoise water. After the visit we will return to Palenque.

DAY 4 PALENQUE - CAMPECHE

Departure to Campeche. We will undertake a Transit through the Tropical Forest until we reach the Fisherman Village of Champoton and then continue along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico as we re take the Yucatan Peninsula.



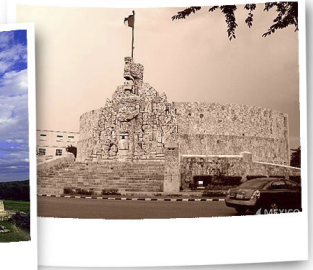
Campeche used to be the main town of the Mayan province of Ah Kim Pech, which means “Serpent Tick” and was founded around the 3rd century AD. The City of Campeche was one of the Head Quarters of the Spanish Conquerors that established their reign over the big Mayan Civilization settled all along the Yucatan Peninsula and way down it to Central America. The First Spaniard soldiers got to Campeche in the year 1517 and although were defeated on the first intent, stayed anyway and took over this Mayan Provincial Capital, proceeding with its colonization. In the Mid 16th Century, Campeche had become an important port with an already established wall around the City in order to prevent a further defeat. Later it prevented attacks from Pirates that would move in from the Caribbean. UNESCO has awarded recognition to The City of Campeche for its beautiful colonial architecture and restoration of its facades. Overnight in Campeche.

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DAY 5

CAMPECHE – KABAH UXMAL – MERIDA

Departure to Kabah. Kabah is known as the second largest religious center in The Puuc Route Area, which flourished around the year 800 AD. It is connected with Uxmal by a sacbe which begins right in the Arch, a kind of main door to the city. Kabah has



Classic Style Architecture and its main attractions are the Palace of the masks with over 300 representations, mainly dedicated to Chaac, God of the Rain and the “Pirámide de los Mascarones” also including masks and Stalls. We then continue to Uxmal which means “Three times constructed”; the architecture of Uxmal is among the most majestic in Yucatan. Its beauty is characterized by low and horizontal palaces placed around patios and quadrants richly decorated with detailed sculptures. Uxmal, enveloped by legends and myths is situated within a series of hills known as the Pucc or the mountainous area of the Yucatan. Continue to Merida the Capital of the State of Yucatan. Merida has preserved its Colonial Heritage in the Historic District of the Town. It is the Center of the State and all the roads converge at the State Capital. Merida’s Central Square or “Plaza Grande” is surrounded by ancient buildings that form the Historic District such as The San Idelfonso Cathedral of Merida, the most antique church of the American Continent, built in the second half of the XVIth Century. Merida’s Cathedral has one of the biggest interior Statues of Christ in the World. Merida was founded on January 6, 1542 on the indigenous trace of Ichcaanzihó’s City, called also T’hó. Overnight in Merida.

DAY 6

MÉRIDA – CELESTUN MERIDA

City tour in Merida, economic and cultural center of Mexico’s South-East, it is a tourist destination of first order. “The White City” of the 20th century, to which poets and troubadours have song. Was founded on January 6, 1542 on the indigenous trace



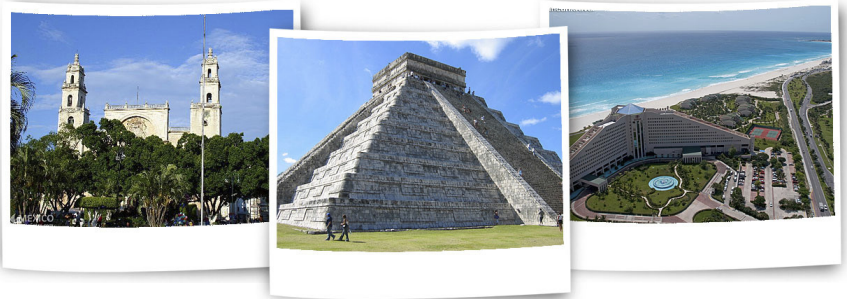
of Ichcaanzihó’s City, called also T’hó. Merida oozes colonial charm with its narrow streets and romantic horse-drawn cabs. The city is full of Spanish and French influences. You would visit the Governor’s Palace, the oldest Cathedral in Mexico, the Montejo Palace and the large fruit and vegetable market. Continue to Celestun. Celestun is typical fishing village considered an ecotourism paradise, famous for its ria, beautiful flamingo colonies, freshwater springs and beaches. The exceptional landscape of the Celestun Estuary, located on the West Coast of Yucatan, is part of the World patrimony, of the Biosphere Reserve by the same name, in 1979, and it has been officially declared fauna shelter. Among its main attractions we will visit by boat tour, the quiet Flamingoes Lagoon, known as “The Drum”.

The Caribbean Flamingoes, also called Pink Flamingoes, that live in the Estuary, represent the main attraction of the region and form the only flamingo settlement known in North America. From the boat tour you will be able to observe the flamingoes in their natural ecosystem. After the tour you can enjoy a delicious meal in one of the many seafood restaurants along the beach of Celestun. Return to Merida and Overnight.

· YUCATAN CLASSIC ·

DAY 7 MÉRIDA – CHICHEN ITZA – CANCUN

On the 7th day, we will transit just over 2 hours to Chichen Itza the Mayan Post Classic Sacred City, which represents the most intact and impressive of the Ruins of the Mayan Civilization that the modern world preserves. “ The Mouth of the Well “. Chichen Itza has a huge “Cenote” a big pond nourished by underground rivers



which supplied clean water to the complex. Chichen Itza, as other Mayan Centers was originally a ceremonial and spiritual site, instead of a commercial area. Has maybe the most impressive Pyramid of all the Maya World. The Castle with 4 staircases (One for each season of the Year) with 91 steps each, totaling 365 with the top platform. The orientation of the pyramid is such that for about an hour around 4 o'clock during the spring and fall equinoxes (March 21 & September 21), the shadow of north-west edge of the pyramid on the side of the north stairway, draws seven triangles of light that imitates a serpent creeping downwards until it joins the huge serpent's head at the bottom of the stairway. This was a Religious message telling the people its time to seed the land or it is time to harvest with the Blessing of Kukulcan. At Chichen Itza, you will see an Astrological Observatory with a Design similar to others built in the Modern Age. There are many more Buildings such as The Temple of the Warriors, part of the “Thousand Columns Complex”, the Temple of the Jaguars, the Ball Court, the biggest in Mezzo America. Chichen Itza was voted One of the Modern Seven Wonders of the World. After a visit of almost 2 hours, we will take another 2 and a half hour transit to Cancun. Drop off at the hotel in Cancun or Riviera Maya.

Cancun and Riviera Maya are located on the Eastern side of the Yucatan Peninsula on the South East part of Mexico. They are on the Caribbean shoreline that extends over 500 kms and offers all sorts of leisure interests and the most modern hotel and service infrastructure. You find here, the second largest Reef Barrier in the World, in parallel to the Mexico Caribbean Coast. The “Palancares Reef” extends way South in to Central America. Cancun is an Island, part of this outstanding reef and is connected to the mainland by bridges. Relatively close by you have other Islands such as Isla Mujeres, Contoy, Holbox and Cozumel. Cancun and Riviera Maya are nestled in the most pure manifestation of Nature with the close By Jungle and the Tropical Forest.

INCLUDED SERVICES

- » Welcome meeting at the airport in Cancun by our representatives
- » Transportation in air conditioned vehicles
- » German/ English speaking guide during the days of the tour
- » Accommodation in Hotels mentioned below or similar with Daily breakfast
- » Visits mentioned in the itinerary, including entrances fees to the archaeological sites
- » Government taxes & Gratuities in hotels (bell boys and maids)

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- » Airport taxes and personal expenses
- » Meals not previously mentioned
- » Tips during the excursions (for Tour Guide and bus driver)
- » Hotel in Cancun or Riviera Maya for extended stays

HOTELS

- » Chetumal: Hotel Los Cocos 4*, Holiday Inn Chetumal 5* or similar
- » Palenque: Misión Palenque 5 *, Villa Mercedes Palenque 5* or similar
- » Campeche: Hotel Baluartes 4*, Hotel Plaza Campeche 4*, Hotel Plaza Colonial 4*, or similar
- » Merida: Hotel Residencial 4*, El Conquistador 5*, El Castellano 5* or similar