



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 HIGHLIGHTS is a Meaningful Mayan World Tour.

· YUCATAN HIGHLIGHTS ·

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN CANCÚN

DAY 2 CANCÚN - TULUM - COBÁ – VALLADOLID

On the second day, we start your expedition to The Mayan World, with a scarcely 2 hours drive 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 rising 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. We then continue one hour Transit to Reach Coba, a large group of sites built around shallow lakes in northern Quintana Roo and connected by masonry ceremonial walkways (sacbe), one of which reaches 100 km long, all the way to Yaxuna, 12km from Chichén Itzá. Related to the Sun god, the site has several large structures up to 42 meters in height, bearing witness to the presence of a large population at the time of splendor. After Coba, just an other hour transit to reach the Colonial City of Valladolid for overnight.

DAY 3 VALLADOLID – CELESTÚN- MERIDA

Departure to Celestun's national park for a boat tour through the nature reserve to watch the pink Flamingoes habitat. The lagoon is home to the largest Flamingo colony in the north of Yucatán and many other beautiful amphibious birds. In the afternoon you will continue to the Capital of the State of Yucatan: Merida. 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.

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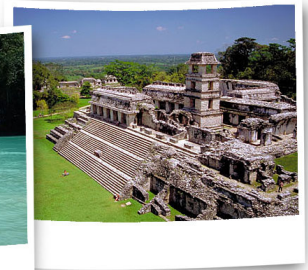
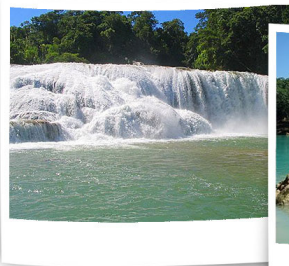
DAY 4

MERIDA – LOLTUN

UXMAL - MERIDA

In the morning you will visit the Loltun caves in the Classic period, the river that runs along the cave was used to provide fresh water and so you find ceramic pitchers and buckets. At the entrance of the Caves

there is a carving of the Loltun Warrior with a date establishing the year 500 BC. Next is a stairway down to the cave and the water of the underground river. You get rays of light from openings in the top of the cave. We will then continue to UXMAL which name 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. You will be able to view the Pyramid of the Magician, the Nuns’ Quarters, the Governor’s Palace and the Main Pyramid. 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. Overnight in Merida.



DAY 5

MERIDA – IZAMAL

CHICHEN ITZA CANCUN

On the 5TH day, we will transit just over 1 hour to Izamal founded by the Itzaes, owing its name to “Itzamná or Zamná” “God of the Sky”, dignitary of singular wisdom and mythical origin, understood as instructor and teacher of the Mayan

people. The Spaniard conquerors established the first Monastery on the Continent to counteract the image of Itzamna. We will continue 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. Chichen Itza means “ 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 Kukulkan. 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.





CONNEX CARIBE MEXICO

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY

· YUCATAN HIGHLIGHTS ·

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
- » Daily breakfast
- » Visits mentioned in the itinerary, including entrances fees to the archaeological sites
- » 1 lunch during the Chichen Itza tour. Fixed menu in restaurant (No drinks included)
- » Government taxes and gratuities in hotels (bell boys and maids)
- » 1 night accommodation in Cancun on arrival date (hotel located in downtown)
- » Transfer Hotel in Cancun – Cancun Airport on departure date.

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- » Airport taxes and personal expenses
- » Meals not previously mentioned
- » Tips during the excursions (for the guide and the bus driver)
- » Hotel in Cancun for extended stay.

HOTELS

- » Cancún: Hotel Oasis América 4*, Radisson Hacienda Cancún 5* or similar
- » Valladolid: Ecotel Quinta Regia 4* or similar
- » Mérida: Hotel Residencial 4*, El Conquistador 5* or similar

