Legacy Of The Maya
10 Days, 9 Nights  March 2nd - 11th or March 23rd - April 1st, 2020
Double: $2,045  Single: $2,711

The legacy of the maya in the southern region of Mexico has left an impression that can still be seen in the faces of the people and within the culture they maintain to this day. The region holds 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Join us as we take a step back in time to a period where the Maya civilization built the architectural wonders of Ek Balam, Chichen Itza, Uxmal and Edzna. We will explore modern cities with Colonial origins in Merida and Campeche plus small villages which have retained their strong Maya influence.

Tour Breakdown

Day 1 - Arrive Cancun - Monday
Bienvenidos! Welcome to Mexico. You will be met today at the airport by one of our local hosts transferred to your hotel for the evening. This afternoon enjoy a welcome drink and attend a briefing at the hotel conducted by your Tour Manager. Occidental Costa Cancun (D)

Day 2 - Cancun to Sotuta de Peon - Tuesday
Our journey of exploration begins as we depart for Ek Balam, the Mayan City of the Jaguar, once a thriving city and the most extensive Mayan site. From here, continue to Hacienda Selva Maya for lunch and the opportunity to see one of the many Cenotes (sink holes). Found throughout the lush jungle landscape of the Yucatan Peninsula Cenotes were more than just natural sources of groundwater, the Maya also believed them to be gateways to the afterlife. Late afternoon arrival at our hotel Hacienda Sotuta de Peon and time to relax before this evening’s dinner at the hotel. (B L D)

Day 3 - Sotuta de Peon to Campeche - Wednesday
Sotuta de Peon remains as one of the few continuously operating Haciendas in the region. This morning we will tour the Hacienda for a look back at the era of “Green Gold.” After lunch at the Hacienda, we will continue to the historic city of Campeche. The evening is yours to explore the vibrant port town, rich with culture and cuisine. Hotel Plaza Campeche (B L)

Day 4 - Campeche / Edzna - Thursday
This morning we continue on the Ruta Puuc as we depart for Edzna archaeological site. Edzna was already inhabited as early as 400 BC far pre-dating many other more notorious sites. The decline and eventual abandonment of Edzna remains a mystery. Return to Campeche in time for lunch. This afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of the “Historic Fortified City of Campeche,” founded in 1540 and recognized as a World Heritage Site. Campeche was under persistent pirate attacks and raids until it’s fortified walls were erected and are sustained to this day. Meander the narrow cobblestone streets from Puerta de Tierra to Puerta del Mar, once the two main entrances to the walled city. The evening is yours to continue exploring the city or enjoy one of the many distinctive, locally-owned restaurants and cafes. Hotel Plaza Campeche (B L)

Day 5 - Campeche to Uxmal - Friday
This morning we turn back to Uxmal. While the region has many archaeological sites, few are as impressive as Uxmal, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, whose pyramids and temples rise above the dense surrounding jungle. Lunch at the hotel and then visit the village of Santa Elena and the humble Mayan home of Don Herman and Doña Azaria to learn more about the Mayan traditions and way of living. This afternoon visit the nearby Chocolate Museum and discover the origins and history of this modern day indulgence. The evening is at your leisure. Hacienda Uxmal (B L)

Day 6 - Uxmal to Celestun / Merida - Saturday
An early departure this morning for Celestun. We will venture through the mangroves on small boats to experience the Biological Preserves diverse wildlife, highlighted by an abundance of flamingos. Lunch on your own today on the beaches of Celestun. Arrive this afternoon to Merida “The White City” and have the evening on your own to explore the cultural center of the Yucatan Peninsula. Hotel Casa Del Balam (B)

Day 7 - Merida - Sunday
Join your Tour Manager for a morning tour of the Colonial City of Merida. Explore some of the city’s most captivating neighborhoods, before arriving in the zocalo where Meridians meet, socialize and conduct business. Next will be a visit to the stately Casa de Montejo, the 16th-century home of the father and son who brought the peninsula under colonial control. Although it was converted to a bank some 25 years ago, its exquisite, French-style architectural details remain untouched. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to our hotel for an afternoon at your leisure to rest or continue exploring the city. Hotel Casa Del Balam (B L)

Day 8 - Merida to Izamal / Chichen Itza - Monday
Today we continue to the charming colonial town of Izamal one of Mexico’s “Pueblos Magicos.” With cobblestone streets and vibrant yellow Colonial buildings, Izamal is a jewel of the Yucatan. This afternoon we head to the famous Mayan-Toltec ruins of Chichen Itza, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At the foot of its stairs lurks a large, carved snakehead that during the spring and fall equinox, casts a shadow as if Kukulcan were slithering out of the temple and down the pyramid. You’ll also see the Sacred Well, Caracol Observatory, the Court of Columns and the impressive ball court which is the largest in Central America. Dinner at the hotel this evening. Mayaland Hotel (B L D)

Day 9 Chichen Itza - Cancun - Tuesday
Returning to Cancun today, travel through the charming colonial town of Valladolid, another of Mexico’s Pueblos magicos. After lunch, continue to Cancun where the afternoon is yours to relax. Farewell dinner this evening. Occidental Costa Cancun (B L D)

Day 10 Cancun - Return home - Wednesday
Say adios to Mexico and your fellow travelers today. All day transfers to Cancun Airport (CUU) (B)

Hotels and itinerary subject to change (of equal or greater value), not affecting cost of the tour. Airfare not included.