

MEXICO - SIGNATURE MEXICO



INTRODUCTION

Travel from the heart of Mexico and the country's capital, Mexico City to the Yucatan Peninsula on Chimu Adventures Signature Mexico tour. Explore the city sites of Mexico City including the Aztec Ruins of San Juan Teotihuacan both on foot and from the magnificent vantage point of a hot air balloon. Take a trajinera along the canals of Xochimilco before flying to the walled city of Merida, also nicknamed La Ciudad Blanca. From Merida you will visit Chichen Itza, Mexico's most famous and impressive Mayan ruins. Finally you will head to Playa del Carmen, where you will end your vacation in paradise lapping up the sunshine on its white sandy beaches with turquoise waters.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Mexico City

Welcome to Mexico City, Mexico's colourful capital. With more than twenty million inhabitants living in the greater metropolitan area, it's one of the largest and most populated cities in the world. From its Aztec temples, baroque and colonial architecture to its vibrant and flavoursome cantina's, Mexico City will awaken your senses. Today is an arrival day, with no activities planned, so explore at your leisure.



TRIP CODE

MXTSHIM

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

9 Days

LOCATIONS

Mexico



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DAY 2: Mexico City tour

Today you will explore Mexico City. Our first stop on tour is Plaza de la Constitucion, the city's main square which is also known as the Zocalo. Nearby the square you will see the Catedral Metropolitana de Mexico and the Palacio Nacional as well as Templo Mayor, a thirteen century Aztec Temple. We'll then drive along Paseo de la Reforma, the famous boulevard built during the reign of Emperor Maximilian to connect his castle in Chapultepec with the main square. Finally, discover treasures of the Aztecs with a visit to the Museum of Anthropology.



DAY 3: San Juan Teotihuacan tour

Waking early, you will enjoy a round trip excursion to the archaeological site of San Juan Teotihuacan. Known as the 'city of the gods,' Teotihuacan is one of the most important pre-Aztec civilisations. The origins of the city and what happened to the population who once lived here are somewhat of a mystery. The city consists of a number of structures including The Pyramid of the Moon, the Pyramid of the Sun, the Ciudadela and the Temple of Quetzalcoatl. Today's highlight is a hot air balloon ride over the palaces and pyramids with a champagne breakfast. Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to visit the site to explore the temples up close.



DAY 4: Coyoacan and Xochimilco tour

Today you will enjoy a private tour to Coyoacan and Xochimilco. Coyoacan is a neighbourhood of Mexico City's south known for its cobblestone streets, art galleries, colourful buildings and artisan markets. There you will visit the home and museum of Frida Kahlo, a painter known for her portraits and nature inspired artworks. The museum is a treasure trove of both Frida's and her husband Diego Rivera's paintings. In Xochimilco you will visit its floating gardens. The Aztec built this series of canals to form a causeway to connect the people who lived and farmed here on artificial islands called chinampas with the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City). Here you will travel along the canals onboard a traditional flower-decked punt called a trajinera.



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DAY 5: Mexico City to Merida

You will board a flight for the city of Merida, capital of the Mexican state of Yucatan. Merida was founded in 1542 and built on the site of a Mayan city called T'ho, which means 'city of five hills' in reference to five main pyramids that were later destroyed by the Spanish and used in the construction of the city's cathedral. Within the city walls you will discover Mexico's second largest city, complete with several white limestone buildings that have earned the city the nickname La Ciudad Blanca (the white city). There are no planned activities and today is free to explore after your arrival.



DAY 6: Merida street food tour

The city of Merida is considered somewhat of a gastronomical and foodie hub, so today you will embark on a guided street food tour. Your first stop is the central market, Lucas de Galves. Here you will learn about local produce and get the opportunity to taste some empanadas, polcanes, panuchos or salbutes and cochinita pibil tacos. Afterwards, we will take you to a local restaurant for a seafood taco feast before visiting a local ice creamery for dessert.



DAY 7: Merida, Chichen Itza and Playa del Carmen

Today you will travel via private service to Chichen Itza, passing Mayan villages and sisal plantations along the way. Chichen Itza is Mexico's most famous and impressive Mayan ruins and is considered one of the new seven wonders of the world. Highlights include the Pyramid of Kukulcan, the hall of 1,000 columns, the Maya ball court and the Cenote de los Sacrificios. From Chichen Itza you will continue to the Riviera Maya and the coastal resort town of Playa del Carmen.



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DAY 8: Playa del Carmen

Considered a vacationer's paradise thanks to its beautiful white sandy beaches, turquoise waters and laid back vibe, Playa del Carmen is the perfect place to relax. Today is a free day to explore to enjoy the beach or explore the town's sites.



DAY 9: Depart Playa del Carmen

You will be transported to the airport to fly to your next destination.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

Inclusions

Inclusions

Private airport transfers
Accommodation with breakfast daily
Domestic flight from Mexico City to Merida
Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide as detailed in itinerary
Other meals where stated

Exclusions

International flights
Visa & reciprocity fees
Travel insurance
Beverages
Personal expenses
Gratuities for tour guides & drivers
Any items not mentioned as included

Difficulty Rating

1 (easy)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request, contact us for more details.

Notes

Not Available

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Price Dependent upon Seasonality & availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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