

CENTRAL AMERICA MULTI COUNTRY - MEXICO & HAVANA EXPERIENCE



TRIP CODE

MCTSHMHS

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Mexico, Cuba



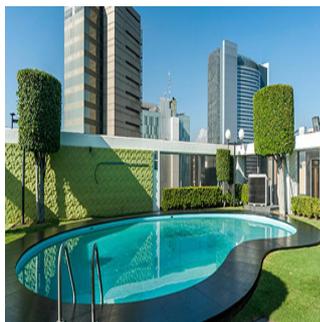
INTRODUCTION

Experience the best of Mexico and Cuba on an unforgettable adventure trip through its highlights. Explore the legendary Mayan ruins set in dense rainforests, gorgeous Spanish colonial architecture and splendid white-sand beaches. Be amazed by hand-rolled cigars, vintage cars, world famous Mojitos and dance the night away in the best salsa clubs!

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Mexico City - Arrive & Transfer to Hotel

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel.



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DAY 1: Mexico City

Mexico City lies in the heart of Central Mexico and is the capital of Mexico and the oldest capital city in the Americas. It is one of the largest cities in the world with over 20 million inhabitants (in the greater metropolitan area) and has a rich history and colourful culture.



DAY 2: Mexico City - Half Day City Tour

This morning we will explore the magnificent Mexico City, built on top of the ruins of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan. You will be collected from your hotel at 8.40am approximately. *PLEASE NOTE: This tour only operates Tuesday to Sunday. The tour begins at 9.15am and our first stop is the Zocalo (main square), one of the biggest public squares in the world. We will visit the Catedral Metropolitana - the biggest church in Latin America, and the Palacio Nacional - which hosts Diego Rivera's murals depicting the history of Mexico. We then drive along the famous boulevard Paseo de la Reforma, built during the short-lived reign of Emperor Maximilian to connect the main square and his castle in Chapultepec.



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DAY 3: Teotihuacan Pyramids and Guadalupe Shrine

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to visit the impressive archaeological site of Teotihuacan, located 50km northeast of Mexico City. On the way, stop at the “Plaza de las Tres Culturas”, where three cultures converge: Aztec, Spanish, and contemporary Mexican. Continue to the Shrine de Guadalupe, Latin America’s most revered religious shrine. It is here where the Virgin of Guadalupe is said to have appeared before an Indian named Juan Diego in 1531, and an image of her was miraculously emblazoned on his cloak. There is time to explore the New Basilica de Guadalupe (the Old Basilica, built in 1700, is slowly sinking) and to see Juan Diego’s cloak. Drive for another hour to Teotihuacan, one of the most impressive cities of the ancient world, held sacred by the Aztecs. Explore its temples, palaces and pyramids, including the Quetzalpapalotl Palace, the Pyramid of the Moon, and the immense Pyramid of the Sun, ranked among the biggest in the world. On completion of your tour, return to Mexico City and you will be taken to your hotel. This is a small group tour. Please note: Shrine of Guadalupe is not available to visit on March 21st or December 11th and 12th.



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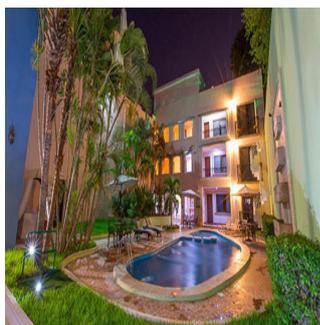
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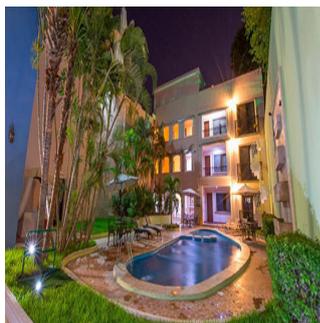
DAY 4: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



DAY 4: Merida Transfer - Airport to Hotel

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office.



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DAY 4: Merida

Merida was founded in 1542, built on the site of the ancient Maya city T'ho, meaning “city of five hills” in reference to its pyramids. After the arrival of the Spanish, the ancient city’s five main pyramids were destroyed and the carved stones were used widely in the construction of Merida’s cathedral and other colonial buildings. Merida was built as a walled city and several of the old Spanish city gates remain. The city boasts the second-largest historic centre in Mexico, Mexico City’s being larger and it gets its nickname, La Ciudad Blanca (The White City), from the predominance of white limestone that was used as a building material. It is the capital and largest city of the Mexican state of Yucatán as well as the largest city of the Yucatán Peninsula.



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DAY 5: Uxmal and Kabah & the Puuc route

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to visit the archaeological site of Uxmal, a World Heritage Site, and located 80 km south of Merida. Its architecture is characterized by low horizontal palaces set around courtyards, decorated with a profusion of symbolic motifs and sculptures depicting the long-nosed rain god Chaac. We will explore the magnificent buildings, including the House of the Magician - which dominates the site, the Nunnery, and the House of Turtles. We continue to Kabah, with its amazing Palace of the Masks, covered in nearly 300 masks of Chaac. We continue driving along the Puuc Route, a road that wind past the Mayan ruins of Labna, Xlapak and Sayil. These sites give us a great insight into the Puuc (Mayan name for ‘hills’) civilization. Our first stop is Labna, once a city inhabited by some 3000 Mayas. To support such numbers in these arid hills, water was collected in ‘chultunes’ (water cisterns), some of the original 60 chultunes still visible. We then drive to Xlapak. This site of 14 structures and 3 pyramids is less restored, so we can see what the sites looked like when they were first discovered. Our last stop is Sayil, home to the beautiful El Palacio, a huge three-tiered building which is a splendid example of the rich Puuc style of intricate stone mosaics. Enjoy lunch before returning to Merida. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a private tour.



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DAY 6: Merida to Cancun via Chichen Itza

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for your onward road journey to Cancun with a visit enroute to the archaeological site of Chichen Itza, located 120km east of Merida. Chichen Itza - one of the New 7 Wonders of the World - is the best restored of Yucatan's Mayan sites. Explore the magnificent ruins set in a dense jungle, including the Pyramid of Kukulcan, its height and striking geometric design dominating the whole site, the Great Ball Court, the largest and most impressive in Mesoamerica, the Sacred Cenote, a natural well used for human sacrifice, and many other beautiful temples. After lunch, continue the road journey to the white sandy beaches of Cancun. This journey will take approximately 2 and half hours. On arrival in Cancun, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



DAY 7: Cancun Free Day

Today is a free day for you to enjoy the white sand beaches and pristine waters of Cancun. You may wish to visit the nearby archaeological sites such as Tulum and Chichen Itza or swim in the stunning cenotes nearby. There are a range of water based activities such as snorkelling, island visits and boat trips and a range of adventure activities. You may also like to just relax at the beach or at one of the many spas.



DAY 8: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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DAY 8: Havana

Cuba's capital Havana is a vibrant city teeming with beautiful if sometimes shabby colonial buildings, once the most heavily fortified city in the Americas. The city was founded by the Spanish in the 16th century and it is now a diverse and fascinating mix of castles, fortresses and Spanish colonial buildings intermingled with modern high rises. The Old City (Habana Vieja), with its narrow streets and overhanging balconies is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the centre of the original city. Soak up the atmosphere as you sip on a Mojito, a refreshing blend of rum, lime, sugar, mint leaves, soda water and ice or maybe sample a Cuba Libre, made with rum, coke and lime.



NO IMAGE AVAILABLE

DAY 8: Arrive in Havana

Today you will be met and assisted in Havana International Airport. After a brief orientation meeting, you will take a private transfer from the airport to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Havana.



NO IMAGE AVAILABLE

DAY 9: Havana Tour

After breakfast at the hotel, set out on a walking tour of Colonial Havana. Visit the four main squares of the Old Town before taking time to break for lunch (lunch not included). Today also includes a panoramic tour of the town in Classical American Cars. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure for you to relax.



NO IMAGE AVAILABLE

DAY 10: Havana - Vinales

Following breakfast at the hotel, take a private transfer from Havana to Viñales with comfort stops along the way. Visit Los Jazmines mirador area overlooking the Viñales valley as well as a tobacco plantation and a curing barn. Then visit the picturesque little town of Viñales, where you will have lunch. Afterwards, take a private transfer from Viñales back to Havana. Overnight at the hotel in Havana.



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DAY 11: Havana - Departure

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before checking out and taking a private transfer from the hotel to the airport for your outbound flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airport transfers Accommodation Tours in the itinerary Domestic flights Transport All breakfasts Other meals where stated
	<p>Exclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa fees (if applicable) Airport tax (if applicable) Personal expenses Optional activities not mentioned in itinerary Gratuities for staff/guides
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.

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2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.

3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.

4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.

5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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