CENTRAL AMERICA - CHIAPAS EXTENSION



TRIP CODE
MXCVCE
DEPARTURE
Daily
DURATION
6 Days
LOCATIONS
Mexico

INTRODUCTION

Adventure through Mexico's east with this in depth Chimu Adventures extension travelling from Tuxtla in the state of Chiapas to the town of Merida on the Yucatan Peninsula. Along the way you will learn about the culture of the ancient Maya people by meeting their descendants in San Juan Camula and Zinacantan before visiting some of the Mayas most sacred sites at Palenque, Yaxchilan, Uxmal and Kabah. You will also enjoy some of the regions most spectacular natural scenery with a motorboat ride through the Sumidero Canyon and a visit to the waterfalls of Agua Azul.

On this all-encompassing personalised itinerary, Chimu will provide travel logistics for your travel party for the duration of your journey, plus expert guides for all the major sightseeing as per itinerary. Each night you will stay in superior accommodation, handpicked by our experienced team for their creature comforts, convenient locations, and impeccable service.

Please note: This itinerary is designed to fit into the middle of our Signature Mexico package. Instead of flying from Mexico City to Merida on day 5 of this itinerary you would fly to Tuxtla and travel by land to Merida, seeing the best of the Chiapas region. From Merida you would resume the Signature Mexico package from day 6.

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Tuxtla to San Cristobal via Sumidero National Park



On arrival at Tuxtla airport you will be whisked away and welcomed to the area with a thrilling motorboat ride on the Grijalva River through the Sumidero Canyon. Enroute you will visit the colonial town of Chiapas de Corzo. There you will discover the temple ruins of the Olmecs, the oldest known civilisation of Mesoamerica. The town's main square, complete with a sacred Pochota tree, and the local markets are more sights to explore. You will continue to San Cristobal de las Casas for two nights. This colonial town has cobblestone streets and buildings with red roofs and stucco walls.

DAY 2: San Cristobal City & Tzotzil Indian Village Tour



Today you will explore the town centre of San Cristobal de las Casas. Highlights include the main plaza, the Cathedral de San Cristobal, the Templo de Santo Domingo Church and the Mercardo de Dulces y Artesanias Ambar. Next you will head to the Chiapas highlands to visit two Tzotzil Indian Villages, San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan. During your visit you will uncover the unique customs and beliefs of the people of these villages who are descendants of the ancient Maya. A visit to the San Juan Chamula Church, complete with its striking white façade, chanting worshippers, candles and incense smoke, will leave an impression. In Zinacantan explore the local handicraft market and it's two churches, the Iglesia de San Lorenzo and the Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia De Zinacantan.

DAY 3: San Cristobal - Agua Azul - Palenque



From San Cristobal de las Casas you will drive to Agua Azul, a series of five hundred blue waterfalls located on the Xanil River. Surrounded by rainforest, the turquoise waters of Agua Azul cascade into pools where you can take a swim whilst enjoying nature at its finest. Continuing from Agua Azul you will travel to the town of Palenque, the gateway to the Maya temples which share the town's name.

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DAY 4: Bonampak & Yaxchilan tour

Today you will visit the archaeological site of Bonampak. Set within the dense jungle, the ruins of this ancient Maya city lay hidden until 1946. Known for its colourful murals depicting Mayan life and mythology, with its frescos completed in 790 AD. From Bonampak you will head to the border town of Frontera Corozal and board a boat to travel along the Usumacinta River which separates Mexico and Guatemala.Arriving in Yaxchilan you will visit the ruins of this significant Maya site. There are three main complexes, the Great Plaza, the Grand Acropolis and the Small Acropolis, with around 120 structures in total to explore.



DAY 5: Campeche via Palenque Ruins

From Yaxchilan we'll head to the UNESCO World Heritage listed ruins of Palenque. The site consists of around five hundred buildings set within the natural surroundings of the Tumbala Mountains and amongst the cedar, mahogany and sapodilla trees of the jungle. This environment also provides a habitat for the local toucans and howler monkeys. Highlights of the ruins include the Temple of Inscriptions, or El Palacio, and the Temple of the Crosses. From Palenque, we'll continue to the walled port city of Campeche for the night.



DAY 6: Campeche to Merida via Uxmal & Kabah

Departing Campeche, you will travel to the UNESCO World Heritage site in Uxmal. This ancient Maya city is considered one of the best preserved ruins with highlights including the Great Pyramid, The Pyramid of the Magician, the Quadrangle of the Birds and the Quadrangle of the Nuns. From Uxmal you will visit Kabah, the second largest ruin in the Puuc region. Here, a guide will take you to Codz-Pop, the most preserved and restored building at this site. In the afternoon you will arrive in Merida, the vibrant capital of the state of Yucatan. Merida is a foodie haven and there are several attractions to visit from its grand museum, main plaza and cathedrals to its nearby underwater cenotes.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel
Inclusions	**Inclusions** Private airport transfers Accommodation with breakfast daily 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 Adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. Designed to enhance your Signature Mexico experience.
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality and availability at time of booking.

SUSTAINABILITY

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