

A Fascinating Adventure to the Yucatan

Jan 3rd - 11th, 2023

Visit Mystical Mayan Ruins, Sacred Cenotes & Stunning beaches

www.tourbsierra.com



A Fascinating Adventure over the course of 8 days we will be visiting the jewels of the Yucatan Peninsula.

The Yucatan, one of the most fascinating states in Mexico, is located between the Gulf of Mexico & the Caribbean Sea. It is also an easy location to travel to and one of the safest in Mexico.

We fly into Cancun and private transportation takes us 20 minutes south to Puerto Morelos, known for its pristine waters of the Caribbean Sea. We have two nights at Hotel Ojo de Agua, right on the beach. If anyone would prefer to come early to spend more time on the beach, be sure to book the hotel early as it fills up quickly.

The next day, a half day trip to Tulum, as a holy city, originally meant "City of the Dawn," as it sits 39 ft above the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea. It is the only Mayan archeological site located on the Sea, serving as a trading port since 564 A.D. through the 15th century when the Spaniards arrived. It is believed to be one of the last Mayan cities built & inhabited.



Thursday we drive towards the Gulf, stopping at Ek Balam and my favorite, Sacred Blue Cenote, with a winding staircase. Ek Balam, one of the most astonishing recent discoveries hidden in a jungle setting, was inhabited as early as 400 B.C. Through Colonial times. Its main pyramid is taller than the touristy



Chichen Itza and you can climb to the top. The name means, "black or star jaguar" and exquisitely carved jaguars surround the opening of the temple, leading to the tombs. This site remains my favorite and I have seen many Mayan Ruins throughout Mexico, Guatemala, & Honduras.



After lunch we drive for nearly 3 hours to the Pickled Onion at Santa Elena, 10 minutes from Uxmal. This is a magical lodging in lovely designed Mayan Huts. I urge you to check out Valerie's website, www.thepickledonionyucatan.com. You won't want to leave. We have three nights & a guided tour of Uxmal & Sayil.

Uxmal, meaning "thrice occupied" is three hours away towards the Gulf and lies among rolling hills. Another archeological jewel, it was once a major regional capital of the Mayan world and now a World Heritage Site. The many large structures with the Puuc style of decorative elements including feathered serpents, birds, jaguars & Mayan houses.



Sayil, a few miles from Uxmal is also a World Heritage Site & our last, is well known for its Palace and buried hieroglyphs but also its peaceful walkways. It was inhabited from 600-900 A.D.

While in this area, we will also visit the Chocolate Museum, an immersion in history & present-time. Cocoa is a fundamental ingredient of Mexico's history as it was used as a currency, offering to the Gods, exquisite drink of high privilege and in rituals & ceremonies. We will of course enjoy samples!



Our last stay is three nights in the enchanting & festive Colonial Capital, Merida at Hotel Merida, a block from Plaza Grande. Our guided walking tour will inform us of the history of the rich architectural treasures. A food tour will stimulate our palates for the uniquely delicious dishes of the Yucatan.

From Merida, we experience a day trip to explore the cenotes, enjoying a refreshing swim in these mystical caves. Swimming in a Cenote is one of those memorable experiences I shall never forget, the beauty of the stalactites, the purity & clearness of the water & incredible mystical feeling.

One of the Mexican natural wonders & a main attraction are the 6,000 cenotes around the Yucatan Peninsula which date back to the ice eras. These



underground caves are an awe-inspiring wonder and were sacred to the Mayans, the term in Mayan meaning, “well with water”.

Wednesday, January 11, depart from Merida International Airport.

Tour Details: 10 Travelers Max

Travel Insurance: As always, it is up to you if you choose to purchase.. There are some recommendations on our website on the drop down menu.

Airlines: The fee does not include airfare. I will be very glad to help with flights as I always do a lot of research for best prices. We will be flying into Cancun International & out of Merida unless you have made extended plans.

Tour Fee: \$980/double occupancy; \$1330/single occupancy. Deposit: \$200.
Balance due: Nov 1. No refunds beyond that date.

Includes: 8 nights lodging, 6 breakfasts, private transportation, 4 guided tours and all entrance fees. Does not include tips for guides or rooms.

Contact: Joyce Sierra, 520-404-2254. backroadsjoy@gmail.com.
www.toursbysierra.com

Payment Methods: Checks: Tours by Sierra, P.O. Box 912, Green Valley, Az 85622.

Or Zelle or Credit Cards(add 3%)

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