

MAYAN EXPERIENCE

ITINERARY NIGHTS: Merida (4), Cancun (3)

HIGHLIGHTS: Merida City Tour • Park of Americas • Zocalo • Celestun • Ruins of Chichen-Itza • Cenote • Cancun

OPTIONS: Uxmal Ruins with Sound and Light Show • Tulum/Xel-ha



DAY 1 MERIDA Welcome to México! Begin your Mayan Experience with a brief orientation meeting to acquaint you with Mérida, capital of the Yucatan state.

DAY 2 MERIDA Today, experience Mérida, "gateway to the Yucatan." Founded in 1542, this city is an exciting fusion of Mayan and European influences, with much to offer travelers. On your **Mérida City Tour**, you'll see the unique Park of the Americas, the Monument of the Father and the painted murals in the Government Palace. This evening, experience a night of live entertainment at the Zócalo.

DAY 3 MERIDA Today is free to explore at your leisure. **Option:** Journey into the jungle to the Uxmal Ruins, the fascinating and most complete pre-Columbian, Mayan architecture in México. Explore this fabulous archaeological site. See the Pyramid of the Magician, the Nunnery of Quadrangle, the Arch of Kabah, which begins the Mayan Highway, and the

spiritless faces carved on the Palace of Masks. Tonight, see an amazing Sound and Light Show.

DAY 4 MERIDA

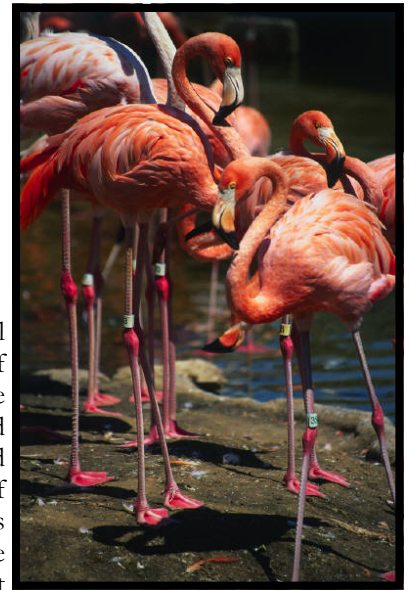
Travel through the Yucatan jungle to **Celestun**, a small Mayan village on the Gulf of México. Board boats and sail through the reeds to observe the only sanctuary for the North American Flamingo. It is here that the flamingo changes color from white to pink because of a diet rich in shrimp. Time for a swim, then visit a local factory that processes hemp into rope and hammocks.

DAY 5 CANCUN En route to Cancún, stop at **Chichén-**

Itzá. Climb to the top of El Castillo to see the Temple of Kukulcan. Then see the Temple of the Warriors and the Group of the Thousand Columns. At the Well of Sacrifice, see where humans and precious objects were sacrificed. Explore the Great Ball Court where ritual games were played in honor of the gods. In the afternoon swim in a Cenote, swimming hole of the gods.



DAY 6 CANCUN The resort of Cancún on the Mexican Caribbean features turquoise



water, white sand beaches and excellent shopping. Soak up the sun, swim, snorkel, pick up a few souvenirs or practice your Spanish in the markets.

DAY 7 CANCUN

Today, discover on your own or take advantage of the **optional** excursion to the Tulum Pyramid, a walled city atop a small cliff. Continue to Xel-há and swim in the world's largest natural aquarium. If you have chosen the Meal Plan, you'll dine at lively Planet Hollywood.

DAY 8 DEPART Say "Adios" to México. Pack your souvenirs and head home with special memories of your Mexican Experience!



For more information, please contact: