



Izamal



Palenque



Mexico

Mexico is a fascinating experience characterised by deep-rooted traditions, bustling colonial cities, sleepy villages and the stunning archaeological sites of the Maya and the Aztecs. Huge, historical, local, musical, overwhelming, intimate, Mexico is a land of spectacular contrasts. From ancient pyramids to modern skyscrapers, from sleepy pueblos to gargantuan cities, from 10,000 kms of coastline to jungles and waterfalls. Mexico is a world in itself.



At a glance

- Possible to visit all year round (July and August, mid-December - early January are high season), Easter and Day of the Dead (early November) are also busy
- Internal flights are required to maximise time
- Mexico city - a large metropolis founded by the Aztecs
- Stunning archaeological sites and pyramids
- Elegant, charming UNESCO World Heritage cities such as Oaxaca and Campeche
- Caribbean beaches - coral reefs, endless sand and turquoise water
- Copper Canyon - one of the world's greatest train journeys
- Vibrant arts, music and dance scene

Getting there

Direct flight from London Heathrow to Mexico city with British Airways. British Airways also offer a direct flight from London Gatwick to Cancun. Direct flight from London Heathrow to Mexico city with Aeromexico. There are flights from London Heathrow to Mexico with KLM (via Amsterdam), Air France (via Paris), Iberia (via Madrid) and Lufthansa (via Frankfurt). There are also flights from London Heathrow with United (via Houston) and American Airlines (via Miami). Several regional departures including London City, Manchester, Cardiff, Manchester, Edinburgh and Birmingham are available on request.

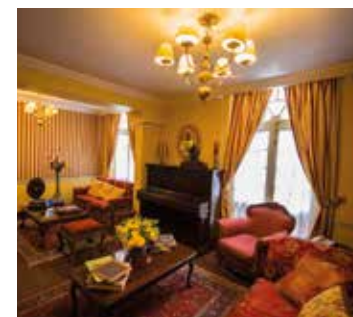
Prices from **£3,043 per person** (2 sharing) for a 11 night trip

Combinations

Mexico combines particularly well with Guatemala.

Mexico City

Mexico City is a capital of epic proportions and boasts a fascinating mix of interesting museums, excellent restaurants, delightful squares, lively music, street vendors, serene parks and vibrant street life. The historic heart of the city is the enormous Zocalo square - which is one of the largest plazas in the world. It is surrounded by the presidential palace and cathedral. The Condesa and Roma districts are firmly established as trendy nightlife zones. About 50 km north-east of Mexico city is the impressive archaeological site of Teotihuacan.



La Casona

Mexico city **BB**

La Casona is a small and modest hotel spread over two floors. It is conveniently located in the La Condesa district. The attractive public areas have dark wooden flooring, antiques, musical instruments and ornaments. Each of the 29 rooms have a TV, safe deposit box and air-conditioning. There is an interior courtyard area, gym, a small restaurant and bar.

Oaxaca

Oaxaca is a delightful colonial city sprinkled with old stone buildings, fabulous arts and crafts, interesting galleries, fine archaeological sites, forested mountains and bustling indigenous markets. The main traffic-free plaza is the hub of the city, brimming with interesting scenes and atmosphere. It is renowned for its culinary delights - try its tamales, corn-based wraps filled with meat, cheese and vegetables. Just west of Oaxaca is the superb hilltop ruins and tombs of Monte Alban with spectacular 360 degree views.



Casa Catrina

Oaxaca **BB**

A charming Oaxacan family home which has been converted into a lovely boutique hotel. The spacious 6 rooms offer air-conditioning, minibar, TV and a safe deposit box. Breakfast is served in the courtyard (no restaurant) and there is a bar in the basement. Abstract paintings, local textiles and brick flooring all add to the ambience.

OUR TOP TIPS

About 20 km south of Mexico city is Xochimilco - a network of canals lined by gardens - relax on board a trajineras (gondola) • Visit the Monarch butterfly biosphere reserve 60 miles northwest of Mexico city (between November and March) • Day of the Dead (early November) is an annual festival that celebrates departed loved ones with fancy dress, lively street parties and floral covered cemeteries.



Palenque



San Cristobal de las Casas



Playa del Carmen



Chichen Itza

Chiapas

The rural state of Chiapas is a real gem, located in the southernmost corner of Mexico. It is blessed with lush jungles that surround stunning Mayan ruins and waterfalls. The indigenous residents shun modern fashion in favour of ponchos and traditional dress. At the heart of Chiapas lies the beautiful colonial highland town of San Cristobal de las Casas. It is a pleasure to explore its cobbled streets and markets. The jungle-enshrouded site of Palenque is arguably the most romantic and impressive of all the ancient Mayan cities. The soaring but graceful pyramids are crowned with temples that glow in the tropical sun. The ruins and surrounding forest form a national park.



Casa Vieja

San Cristobal de las Casas **BB**

This rustic property is set in a 18th century house with lots of paintings and old-world ambience. The 40 en suite rooms situated around a courtyard feature beams, adobe walls and hand-painted bathroom tiles. There is a restaurant serving traditional Mexican dishes.



Quinta Chanabnal

Palenque **BB**

Set in tropical gardens approximately 3 miles from the ruins. It has 7 suites with terracotta stone floors, antique furniture, TV, air-conditioning, fan, Wifi, hairdryer, safe deposit box and a balcony. The restaurant offers an intimate and romantic setting for a candle-lit dinner. The beautiful grounds are abundant with wildlife such as iguanas and hummingbirds. There is a swimming pool and spa.

Yucatán Peninsula

Yucatán is a region which boasts a number of impressive archaeological sites including the soaring temples at Chichen Itza, Kabah, Uxmal and Coba. Campeche has wonderfully-restored colonial buildings and it is a real delight to wander around this UNESCO city. Merida is a charming city with artistic roots. It features a stunning cathedral, mansions and elegant properties dating from the 17th century. Celestun reserve is located 60 miles west of Merida - take a boat trip on the estuary and mangrove forests. The Riviera Maya is the coastline between Cancun and Tulum, with its white-sand beaches and turquoise waters. The commercial city of Playa Carmen offers a wide range of watersports as well as a selection of restaurants, cafes and bars.



Hacienda Puerta Campeche

Campeche **BB**

This delightful hotel is an oasis in the heart of Campeche. All rooms are elegantly decorated and they have a safe deposit box, TV and air-conditioning. The stylish restaurant offers both indoor and outdoor dining. A swimming pool snakes through the walls of the property. There are hammocks dotted around the gardens. There is a jacuzzi, spa and rooftop bar. A long-standing Sunvil favourite.

OUR TOP TIPS

The steep-walled Sumidero canyon (close to San Cristobal) is a haven for wildlife best explored by boat • The striking waterfalls of Agua Azul and Misol-Ha can be visited en route to Palenque • Other recommend sites in Chiapas are Yaxchilan, Bonampak and Tonina



For additional lodges, itineraries and general information on Mexico please visit www.sunvil.co.uk



Uxmal



Campeche



Suggested itineraries

Please find some suggested itineraries which can be tailored to suit individual requirements. They are simply examples of what is feasible within different timeframes. There are additional itineraries on our website or please speak to us for further guidance. They are aimed at individual travellers (NOT group escorted tours). Tours include an English speaking guide. Prices are a guideline only please contact us for an exact quote. Please note that we are able to quote for land only arrangements (no flights) but we require a minimum of 7 nights.

Guide prices include

- International economy return flights from the UK (see the itinerary for specific airline details)
- Accommodation - standard room unless stated otherwise
- Private transfers and tours (unless indicated otherwise)
- Internal flights (as featured in the itinerary)
- Meals (as outlined in the itinerary)

Board basis key

- BB** Bed and Breakfast
- HB** Half-Board
- FB** Full Board
- AI** All inclusive

Classic Mexico - 14 nights

Based on British Airways direct flight
Depart from London Heathrow (Mexico City)
and return to London Gatwick (Cancun)
Guide price per person (2 sharing) £3,825

- Mexico 2 nights **BB**
- Oaxaca 3 nights **BB**
- San Cristobal de las Casas 2 nights **BB**
- Palenque 2 nights **BB**
- Campeche 2 nights **BB**
- Mérida 3 nights **BB**

Day 1 Upon arrival in Mexico city transfer to Hotel La Casona for 2 nights. **BB**

Day 2 Half day guided city tour including the wonderful Museum of Anthropology.

Day 3 Transfer to airport. Fly to Oaxaca, transfer to hotel Casa Catrina for 3 nights. **BB**

Day 4 Half day guided tour to Monte Albán – a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day 5 Day at leisure.

Day 6 Transfer to Oaxaca airport. Fly to Tuxtla Gutierrez. Take a boat ride through the Sumidero Canyon. Continue to San Cristobal de las Casas. Casavieja for 2 nights. **BB**

Day 7 Guided tour of the colonial town centre and its nearby Indian villages.

Day 8 Transfer to Palenque visiting Agua Azul waterfalls en-route. Stay at the Quinta Chanabnal (junior suite) for 2 nights. **BB**

Day 9 Guided tour of Palenque, one of the most imposing Mayan sites set amid dense green jungle.

Day 10 Travel to historic Campeche –UNESCO World Heritage city. Stay at Puerta Campeche for 2 nights. **BB**

Day 11 Full day guided tour to Uxmal one of the most important sites of Mayan culture and Kabah with its amazing Palace of Masks.

Day 12 Continue to the charming city of Mérida, transfer to Hacienda Mérida for 3 nights. **BB**

Day 13 Take a guided tour of the ancient Mayan city including lunch – Chichen-Itza.

Day 14 Day at leisure to explore this interesting colonial city or visit the Celestun Biosphere Reserve.

Day 15 Transfer to Cancun airport (or alternatively fly from Merida to Mexico city) for your return flight back to the UK.

Yucatan Natural Wonders - 11 nights

Based on British Airways direct flight
Guide price per person (2 sharing) £3,043

- Mérida 3 nights **BB**
- Uxmal 2 nights **BB**
- Chichén Itza 2 nights **BB**
- Playa del Carmen 4 nights **BB**

Day 1 Fly to Cancun, on arrival transfer to Mérida. Hacienda Mérida 3 nights. **BB**

Day 2 Full day guided tour to Celestun – famed as one of the largest breeding grounds of pink flamingos.

Day 3 Day at leisure (to explore Mérida).

Day 4 Drive to the ancient city of Uxmal one of the most spectacular and important sites of Mayan culture. Continue to Kabah with its Palace of the Masks. Hacienda Uxmal 2 nights. **BB**

Day 5 Day at leisure.

Day 6 Transfer to Chichen Itza for a guided tour of this magnificent archaeological site. Hacienda Chichen 2 nights. **BB**

Day 7 Day at leisure.

Day 8 Transfer to the resort of Playa del Carmen. Hotel Mahekal Beach Resort for 4 nights (garden view room). **BB**

Day 9-11 Days at leisure to explore nearby Mayan ruins and cenotes.

Day 12 Transfer to Cancun airport for your return flight to the UK.



Hacienda Merida Merida **BB**

An elegant boutique hotel, located just a few blocks from the main square. The pool and attractive gardens provide a haven of peace and relaxation. There are 8 spacious and well-appointed en suite rooms with air-conditioning, fan and TV. There is a spa and small bar (no restaurant). They have a sister hotel VIP next door.



Mahekal Beach resort Playa del Carmen **HB**

This beachfront hotel is close to the heart of Playa del Carmen. It has 121 rooms in a range of categories spread throughout its grounds. All rooms have hammocks, terrace (or balcony) and air-conditioning. It has extensive facilities including two pools, games room, bar, 2 restaurants, spa, dive centre and shop. A comfortable resort style hotel that welcomes families.

OUR TOP TIPS

Arrive early at Chichen Itza to avoid the crowds and the heat • Visit the interesting colonial gem of Izamal • Isla Holbox is a sleepy island retreat just a 20 minute ferry ride (approximately 2 hours from Cancun to the port).