# Tour "Chiapas & Yucatan"

# **Departures Tuesday**



#### 1st day. Mexico City

Arrival at Mexico City airport, transfer, and hotel check-in. Overnight stay.

#### 2nd day. Mexico City/San Cristóbal de las Casas

Breakfast at the hotel or packed based on the flight departure time. Transfer to the airport and departure for Tuxtla Gutiérrez, the capital of the State of Chiapas. Arrival and departure for Chiapa de Corzo, from where the boat excursion in the Sumidero Canyon takes place, where, according to legend, around the mid-16th century, after putting up a fierce resistance, hundreds of Indians preferred to throw themselves down the steep walls of the canyon rather than surrender to the Spaniards. Lunch in a typical restaurant. At the end, transfer to San Cristóbal de las Casas, a city founded by the Spaniards in 1528. In this town, the renowned Zapatista uprising began in 1994. Arrival and check-in at the hotel. Overnight stay.



# 3rd day. San Cristóbal de las Casas

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning dedicated to visiting the indigenous communities of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán. In the village of San Juan Chamula lives the largest group of "Tzotzil" indigenous people and it is the center of some unique religious practices. Here you can come into contact with the Christian and pre-Columbian traditions of the Tzotzil-speaking inhabitants. The city, immersed in a tranquil atmosphere of colonial charm, will also be visited. The main square of the city, Plaza 31 de Marzo, is dominated by the Municipal Palace and the Cathedral, which began construction in the 16th century. It is one of the most beautiful cities in Mexico for its harmonious urban composition, with imposing religious buildings. Return to the hotel and lunch at the restaurant. The rest of the afternoon is free for individual activities. Overnight stay.

#### 4th day. San Cristóbal de las Casas/Palenque

Very early in the morning, departure for the Agua Azul Waterfalls. Along the way, there will be a brief stop and breakfast at the town of Ocosingo in a countryside restaurant with a magnificent view of the surrounding valleys. Continuation to Agua Azul and visit to the marvelous waterfalls. The stop offers the opportunity to admire the splendid waterfalls surrounded by tropical plants and lush vegetation. Possibility to swim in the natural pools at the base of the waterfalls. At the end, transfer to Palenque. Arrival and hotel check-in. Overnight stay.

## 5th day. Palenque/Campeche

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, visit to the archaeological zone of Palenque, the great ceremonial center of the Maya classic period, unique in its beauty and the technical perfection of its architecture and sculptural decorations. Palenque is one of the most spectacular archaeological sites due to its location in the middle of the jungle. Of all the Maya sites, it is the one discovered the earliest; the construction of the beautiful royal tomb involved the most famous and creative architects of the Maya civilization. Visit the Temple of Inscriptions, the main building of the area. Inside, it houses the tomb of the great Maya King Pakal. In front of the temple stands the Royal Palace, a majestic construction due to its architectural features. Departure for Campeche, an ancient colonial port, with a stop along the way for lunch at a restaurant where you can taste excellent regional meat. Arrival and check-in at the hotel. Overnight stay.

#### 6th day. Campeche/Mérida

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for Uxmal and visit to the archaeological site considered among the most beautiful in Mexico. The charm of Uxmal is enhanced by its location in the Puuc hilly region, which means "hills," the only elevations in an almost completely flat peninsula. Of particular interest are the Nunnery Quadrangle, the Governor's Palace, and the Pyramid of the Magician. Lunch at a restaurant. In the afternoon, continuation to Mérida and a brief visit to the city, a grid of streets, perpendicular to each other, constitutes the oldest part of the city. In the center is the Zócalo or Plaza Mayor, shaded and with a gazebo in the middle for the band concerts on Sunday afternoons. On the square face the Government Palace, the Cathedral, the Municipal Palace, and the Casa Montejo. At the end, accommodation in a hotel. Overnight stay.

#### 7th day. Mérida/Riviera Maya

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for Chichén-Itzá and visit to the largest archaeological area in the Yucatán belonging to the Maya-Toltec culture. This center was the most important city in the Yucatán from the 11th to the 13th century. The most important buildings are El Castillo, the Ball Court, the Temple of the Warriors, and the cenote, that is, the sacred well where human sacrifices took place. The majesty and grandeur of Chichén-Itzá are unforgettable. Place that exudes the charm of the bloody Maya history, from the temple steps, a place of death for sacrificial victims, to the sumptuous, almost obsessive beauty of the smaller buildings. In the afternoon, continue to the Riviera Maya and check into the hotel. Dinner at the hotel and overnight stay.

## 8th Day Riviera Maya/Cancun

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Cancun airport.