# Tour "El Mariachi"

# **Departures Friday**



#### 1st day. Mexico City

Arrival at Mexico City airport. Meeting with our driver and transfer and accommodation in the hotel. Overnight stay.

#### 2nd day. Mexico City

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit to the Zocalo of Mexico City (one of the largest squares in the world), particularly the Cathedral (the largest church in the Americas) and the Government Palace which houses Diego Rivera's murals dedicated to the history of Mexico. Continuation to Teotihuacán (literally the "place where men become Gods"), a sacred city of the Aztecs.

Arrival and visit to the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon and the Temple of Quetzalcoatl. Lunch at a restaurant (with buffet service). At the end, return to the hotel with a stop along the way to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Overnight stay.



#### 3rd day. Mexico City/Oaxaca

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, visit to the Anthropology Museum, which houses artifacts and artworks from the various pre-Columbian civilizations that succeeded one another in Mexico. At the end, continue to visit the neighborhood of Coyoacan, one of the 16 delegations of the Federal District. Once a small village outside the city, with the development of Mexico City, it has transformed into an urban neighborhood, maintaining its charm with cobblestone streets, squares, gardens, museums, and magnificent colonial-style residences. We will visit the Frida Kahlo House-Museum located within the "Casa Azul" where the painter lived during her youth and where some of the artist's lesser-known works are displayed. Return to the area of Paseo de la Reforma. Lunch at a restaurant. At the end, transfer to the airport and departure for Oaxaca. Arrival, meeting with our representative at the airport, transfer, and accommodation in the hotel. Overnight stay.

# 4th day. Oaxaca

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit to the site of Monte Albán, the ancient Zapotec capital whose name means "white mountain." Visit to the ancient acropolis considered the "home of the gods," located on the flat-topped summit of a mountain overlooking the Oaxaca Valley. At the end, a visit to the city, the capital of the homonymous State. The historic center, with its colonial imprint, is characterized by straight streets, rich in beautiful stone buildings. Lunch at a restaurant located in the main square of the city. At the end, return to the hotel and overnight stay.

### 5th day. Oaxaca/Teotitlan del Valle/Mitla/Tehuantepec

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, departure for the visit to the indigenous village of Teotitlan del Valle, famous for its weaving of textiles and rugs. Continuation to visit the archaeological site of Mitla, characterized by the extraordinary stone decorations of its palaces. Lunch at a restaurant. At the end, transfer to Tehuantepec, arrival and accommodation in the hotel. Overnight stay.

#### 6th day. Tehuantepec/Cañon del Sumidero/San Cristóbal de las Casas

Breakfast at the hotel. Early in the morning, transfer to Cahuaré located 320 km away. from Tehuantepec. Cahuaré is the meeting point and departure point for the boat tour in the Sumidero Canyon where, according to legend, around the mid-16th century, after putting up a fierce resistance, hundreds of indigenous people preferred to throw themselves down the steep walls of the canyon rather than surrender to the Spaniards. Lunch at a typical restaurant (with buffet service). At the end, transfer to San Cristóbal de las Casas, a city founded by the Spaniards in 1528. In this location, the renowned Zapatista uprising began in 1994. Arrival and hotel check-in. Overnight stay

#### 7th 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.

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Here, one can come into contact with the Christian and pre-Columbian traditions of the Tzotzil-speaking inhabitants. The city will also be visited, immersed in a tranquil atmosphere of colonial charm. 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. At the end, return to the hotel and lunch at the restaurant. The rest of the afternoon is free for individual activities. Overnight stay.

#### 8th day. San Cristóbal de las Casas/Palenque

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.

#### 9th day. Palengue/Campeche

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, visit to the archaeological site 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 was carried out by 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 building for 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.

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10th day. Campeche/Mérida Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for Uxmal and visit to the archaeological site considered one of 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 a nearly 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, lined with trees and featuring a gazebo in the middle for the Sunday afternoon band concerts. 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.

## 11th day. Mérida/Riviera Maya

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for Chichén-Itzá and visit to the largest archaeological area of 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, which is the sacred well where human sacrifices took place. The majesty and grandeur of Chichén-Itzá are unforgettable. A place that exudes the allure 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.

#### 12th Day. Riviera Maya/Cancun

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Cancun airport.