



**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT for Solo Travelers**

# Mayan Splendor in Mexico's Yucatán

## Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Enjoy time to explore and savor the **charming colonial city of Mérida**, buzzing with dynamic culture, top-notch food and warm hospitality.
- ▶ Marvel at the monumental ancient **Mayan cities of Uxmal and Chichén Itzá**, and learn about their extraordinary civilization.
- ▶ Soak up the radiant, golden architecture of **Izamal**, an under-the-radar gem.
- ▶ Admire coral-pink flamingos on a cruise through the **tranquil Celestún Estuary**.
- ▶ Meet **local craftspeople** for a fascinating look at the artistry behind their impressive endeavors.
- ▶ Choose a **fun Mérida tour** that speaks to you, focused on street food, honey bees or a historic mansion.
- ▶ Experience two **UNESCO World Heritage sites** and a **Biosphere Reserve**.



Mayan woman

Dive into a wonderful, seven-night adventure in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula packed with color, colonial charm and dazzling Mayan heritage! Be awed by the grandeur of the great cities of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal as you appreciate the brilliance of the ancient Maya, who made remarkable advances in architecture, astronomy, mathematics, agriculture and language. You'll also soak up the vivid hues of Yucatán's Yellow City and graceful, pink flamingos on a cruise! Get set for a bevy of enriching and entertaining experiences that introduce you to the history, culture and vitality of the captivating Yucatán Peninsula.

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

### Day 1 | In Transit | Mérida, Mexico

Depart for Mérida, Mexico. 🌐 Arrive and transfer ➡ to the Villa Mercedes Merida, Curio Collection by Hilton.

### Day 2 | Mérida

**Enrichment: History of the Yucatán Peninsula.**

**Discovery: Mérida City Tour.** Stroll with your guide through this vibrant city founded in 1542 by Spanish conquistador Francisco de Montejo and his son on the site of the ancient Mayan city of T'hó. In Plaza Grande, take in the stately buildings, including the 16th-century Cathedral de San Ildefonso, the Palacio Municipal and the Casa de Montejo. Then step inside the Palacio del Gobierno de Yucatán to view dramatic murals by Mexican painter Fernando Castro Pacheco.

After your walk, enjoy lunch at a popular restaurant.

**Discovery: Grand Maya World Museum.** Get great background details on Mayan culture at this modern museum with unique artifacts and engaging exhibits. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at a restaurant near the hotel.

### Day 3 | Uxmal | Muna | Peba

**Discovery: Uxmal.** Regarded as some of the finest examples of Mayan architecture, Uxmal's breathtaking ruins reveal meticulous design principles and ornate stone carvings. On your guided tour, note the recurring decorative motif of rain god Chac, an important deity in a region with little rainfall. See the Pyramid of the Magician, the Governor's Palace and much more in this city which thrived from the sixth to the 10th centuries. Chat about your visit to Uxmal during lunch in the area.

🌐 **AHI Connects: Ceramic Workshop.** Patricia Martín Morales employs ancient methods to create exquisite Mayan reproductions. Discover the process and admire expertly crafted ceramic pieces in her Muna workshop.

**Discovery: Cenote Sambula.** Underneath the Yucatán landscape lie cavernous cenotes, natural freshwater



wells formed by sinkholes in the limestone bedrock. On your way back to Mérida, go down into a beautiful cenote maintained by a group of families in Peba.

**Enrichment: The Mayan Civilization's Golden Age.**

**Discovery: Yucatecan Serenade.** Tonight in Mérida, delight in this lovely custom, a romantic musical tribute to women and their beauty performed by guitar trios.

**Day 4 | Sihunchen Park | Celestún Estuary**

**Discovery: Celestún Estuary.** Begin with a stop at Sihunchen Park, an ecotourism site created by Alberto Mezquita, who will share interesting insights on Mayan astronomy and myths. Afterward, cruise through the lush mangrove and petrified forest of the Celestún Estuary. View flocks of American flamingos and other wildlife in this serene wetland on the Gulf of Mexico.

Relax over lunch at a beachside restaurant before returning to Mérida for this evening's activities.

**🌐PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:**

•**Street Food & Photography Walk.** Snap amazing photos along the elegant Paseo Montejo and indulge in delectable sweet and savory treats in Plaza Santa Ana.

•**Honey Tasting & Stingless Bees.** Learn about native, stingless Melipona bees, valued by the Mayans for their medicinal properties, and try different honey varieties.

•**Las Casas Cámara.** Take a guided tour of a palacial French-style mansion filled with fine furnishings and art.

**Day 5 | Chichén Itzá**

**Discovery: Chichén Itzá.** This magnificent Mayan city flourished as a hub of military and religious power from the eighth to the 13th centuries. As your guide offers intriguing commentary, explore the imposing Pyramid of Kukulcan, precisely constructed with 365 steps; the Caracol, used as an astronomical observatory; the Great Ballcourt; and grand temples.

Break for a tasty lunch before your return to Mérida.

**Discovery: Noche Mexicana.** Feel uplifted by joyful Mariachi music and swirling dancers tonight in Mérida.

**Day 6 | Hoctún | Izamal**

**Discovery: Izamal.** Travel first to Hoctún to visit this small town's cemetery, a colorful hidden gem adorned



with elaborately painted and decorated tombs, and learn about the Hanal Pixán celebration honoring the dead. Head next to Izamal, Yucatán's Yellow City, lined with cheerful, saffron-colored buildings, and tour the 16th-century Convento de San Antonio de Padua.

**🌐AHI Connects: Meet the People.** Master craftsman Estaban Abán Montejo demonstrates how he creates stunning jewelry from cocoyol seeds and henequén thorns, along with a song or two in Maya for you!

Relish a delicious lunch of Yucatecan cuisine in Izamal. Back in Mérida, spend some time at leisure, then meet your group for dinner in town.

**Day 7 | Mérida**

**Enrichment: Contemporary Mexico.**

**Discovery: Market Visit.** Delve into the history of the Yucatán diet with your guide as you explore the bustling Mercado Central and try indigenous foods. Afterward, enjoy lunch at the Museo de la Gastronomía Yucateca.

**Free Time:** Mérida is yours to explore this afternoon! Gather for this evening's Farewell Reception and Dinner.

**Day 8 | In Transit**

Transfer🚗 to the airport for the return flight✈️ to your gateway city.

**Included Features**

**Accommodations** {with baggage handling}

- **7 nights** in Mérida, Mexico, at the first-class Villa Mercedes Merida, Curio Collection by Hilton.

**Extensive Meal Program**

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 3 dinners; including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic, local cuisine.

**Your One-of-a-Kind Journey**

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 24 guests.
- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **🌐PYJ | Personalize Your Journey**  
A choice of excursions in select locales.
- **🌱AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **🌐AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



**2023 Departures & Pricing**

**February 28 – March 7, 2023**

Full Price	\$3,445
Special Savings	\$250
<b>Special Price</b>	<b>\$3,195*</b>

\*Special price available for a limited time. Call for details.

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

**Single supplement waived for solo travelers!** This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://umich.ahitravel.com/destinations/1746A?schoollid=95>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

**Note:** Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Walking is required on many excursions.

Flights🛩️ and transfers🚗 provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

🌐 Electives available at an additional cost.

Above: Pyramid of Kukulcan, Chichén Itzá | Above right: Convento de San Antonio de Padua, Izamal