

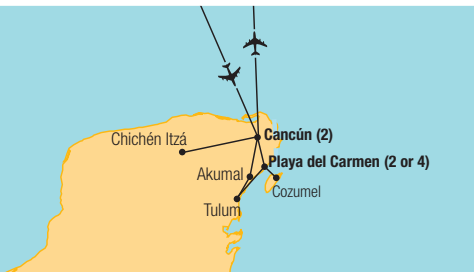


MEXICO'S MAYAN HERITAGE



*Educational
Tours*

→ **Discover the Global Classroom**



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 4 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (6 with extension)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Chichén Itzá
- 3 visits to special attractions: Cenote X-Keken • Chichén Itzá • Tulum

OPTIONAL:

Cozumel

WITH EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide: Cobá
- 1 visit to a special attraction: Cobá

Day 1 Cancún

Flight to Mexico • Relax as you jet south to the ancient Yucatán.

Arrival in Cancún • After clearing customs in Cancún, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay. Aided by computer technology, the Mexican government actually selected Cancún as the perfect spot for a resort in 1967. Building began in Cancún in 1970—and the rest is history.

Day 2 Cancún

Guided sightseeing of Chichén Itzá • Journey through the Yucatán to the sacred Mayan city of Chichén Itzá, mysteriously abandoned in the 7th century. One of antiquity's most spectacular ceremonial centers was built here, dedicated to Chac, god of rain. Gaze up at the 365 steps of the mighty pyramid of El Castillo, which once served as a giant calendar. On your guided tour, also learn about a perilous ballcourt game the Maya played here—players could not touch the ball with their hands because all round objects were considered holy.

Visit to Cenote X-Keken • You'll also stop at Cenote X-Keken, a natural well found deep inside a subterranean cave (many rivers in the Yucatán flow underground).

Day 3 Cancún • Playa del Carmen

Full-day excursion to Akumal and Tulum • Enjoy your daylong excursion to Akumal and Tulum. The seaside community of Akumal, whose name means "place of many turtles" in the Mayan language, offers ample opportunity to explore the white sand beaches and the Yalku Lagoon, a popular snorkeling spot for viewing tropical fish. Then continue on to Tulum, a walled Mayan city that managed to fend off attacks by the Spaniards until the 16th century. Within the city walls, you'll find a host of Mayan ruins looming above the Caribbean Sea, including the Temple of the Frescoes and El Castillo.

Transfer to Playa del Carmen • Continue to Playa del Carmen, a seaside town dotted with palm trees, thatched houses and unique shops.

Day 4 Playa del Carmen

Optional excursion to Cozumel • Today, opt to participate in a full-day excursion to the Caribbean island of Cozumel, a former Mayan trading center and ceremonial site. Among the many deities the Maya worshiped on this island was the Ixchel, Goddess of Fertility. You'll have the chance to take in the natural splendor of Chankanaab on your included visit to this beautiful national park. Upon arrival to the island by ferry you will see stunning rock formations and lush tropical foliage. Then discover the exquisite underwater world of animal and plant life below the waves. During your free time, you may wish to enjoy the island's famed white-sand beaches and clear waters. Alternatively, you might choose to rent snorkel equipment for an ideal view of the park's marine ecosystem.

Day 5 Home

Return home • Travel back to Cancún. Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 5 Playa del Carmen

Guided sightseeing of Cobá • One of the oldest Mayan settlements on the Yucatán peninsula, Cobá, whose name means "ruffled waters," is less famous than her siblings Chichén Itzá and Tulum and, therefore, remains largely unspoiled. Surrounded by five lakes, this city was thriving with 50,000 inhabitants by 600 A.D. Two of the main attractions are a 136-foot high pyramid, Nohoch Mul, and the convergence of nearly 40 *sacbeobs* (Mayan stone roads). Bring a hat and a good pair of walking shoes to explore the ruins among the birds and butterflies.

Day 6 Playa del Carmen

Free time in Playa del Carmen • The day is yours to spend how you wish. Relax along sandy beaches, take a snooze in a hammock under the warm sun or people-watch near the ocean. Of course, for the more adventurous, this area offers snorkeling, scuba diving and cavern exploration.

Day 7 Home

Return home • Transfer back to Cancún for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

Enroll at effours.com/student
or call 1-800-665-5364



Educational Tours



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