



**Educational
Tours**

Mexico's Gulf of Campeche

9 or 11 days | Mexico

Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe





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

Top things to see on tour:



Uxmal



Palacio Nacional



Templo Mayor



Chichén Itzá



Teotihuacan pyramids

Mexico's Gulf of Campeche

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Make your way along the Gulf of Campeche, the southern bight of the Gulf of Mexico, and discover all that the country has to offer. From the Templo Mayor Archaeological Site in Mexico City, to the Cholula Pyramid in Puebla, to Cenote X-Keken in Cancún, Mexico's rich history comes to life.

Everything you get:

- Round-trip flights
- Full-time Tour Director
- Comfortable motorcoach
- 8 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 7 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides; 1 walking tour
- Entrance to:** Templo Mayor Archaeological Site and Museum; Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe; Teotihuacán Pyramids; Cholula Pyramid; Palenque; Uxmal; Chichén Itzá; Cenote X-Keken

You can add optional activities to your tour. Additional costs apply.

Day 1: Fly to Mexico

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Mexico City
- Take a walking tour of Mexico City: Paseo de la Reforma

Day 2: Mexico City

- Take a guided tour of Mexico City: Zócalo; Palacio Nacional
- Visit Templo Mayor Archaeological Site and Museum
- Take a guided tour of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Teotihuacán Pyramids
- Stop at an obsidian shop

Day 3: Puebla

- See Tonantzintla Church
- Visit Cholula Pyramid
- Travel to Puebla
- Take a guided tour of Puebla

Day 4: Palenque

- Travel to Palenque

Day 5: Palenque | Campeche

- Take a guided tour of Palenque: Mayan ruins
- Travel to Campeche

Day 6: Uxmal | Mérida

- Travel to Uxmal
- Take a guided tour of Uxmal: Magician's Pyramid; Governor's Palace; Nunnery Quadrangle
- Continue on to Mérida
- Take a guided tour of Mérida: Government Palace; St. Ildefonso Cathedral

Day 7: Chichén Itzá | Cancún

- Travel to Chichén Itzá
- Take a guided tour of Chichén Itzá: El Castillo Pyramid
- Visit Cenote X'Keken
- Continue on to Cancún

Day 8: Cancún

- Enjoy a free day in Cancún
- *Optional: Xel-Ha and Tulum*

Day 9: Depart for home

2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Days 9-10: Cancún

- Enjoy two free days in Cancún

Day 11: Depart for home

Mérida

For centuries, Mérida was isolated from the rest of Mexico by the surrounding mountains and jungles. Today, you'll encounter a rich mix of cultural and architectural influences from Spain, France and even New Orleans. A local guide will take you to the lavish Government Palace. Inside, 27 murals by painter Fernanco Castro Pacheco bring to life the hard-fought history of the Yucatán. Adjacent to the palace, notice the lemon-colored St. Ildefonso Cathedral, built partially from the stones of Mayan temples destroyed by the conquistadores. Then, travel to the ancient Mayan city of Uxmal (pronounced "ooshmah!"). Although its name means "thrice built," Uxmal was actually rebuilt at least five times, with many parts dating from the 6th century.



Government Palace
Mérida, Mexico



El Castillo Pyramid
Chichén Itzá, Mexico

Chichén Itzá

Journey through the Yucatán to the sacred Mayan city of Chichén Itzá, mysteriously abandoned in the 7th century A.D. 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 more accurate than our own. On your guided tour, learn about a perilous ball court game (a possible forerunner to soccer) that the Maya played here. Players could not touch the ball with their hands because all round objects were considered holy. Some scientists believe this explains why the wheel was never developed in the area.

Mexico City

Step into Mexico City's main square, Zócalo, the heart of the Aztec empire before Cortés and his conquistadore leveled the area. Salvaging stones from the temples of Tenochtitlán and Montezuma's residence, the Spanish built the cathedral and royal palace here, dating to 1523. At the National Museum of Anthropology, look for the Aztec calendar stone and Montezuma's headdress. Tour the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. According to legend, a peasant had a vision of the Virgin on this very site, which spurred the construction of the shrine. Continue on to the pyramids at Teotihuacán, where you'll traverse the Avenue of the Dead and climb the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon.



Zócalo Square
Mexico City, Mexico

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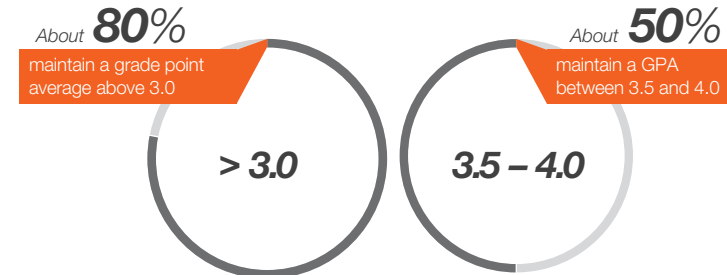
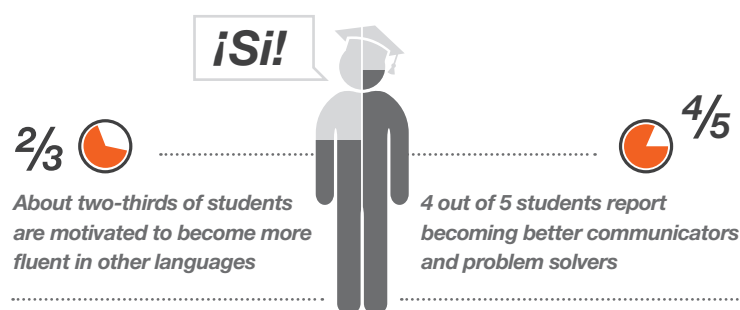
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