



**Educational
Tours**

Mexico's Mayan Heritage

5 or 7 days | Mexico

Tulum



Top things to see on tour:



Chichén Itzá



Tulum



Cenote X-Keken



Cobá



Cozumel



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

Mexico's Mayan Heritage

5 or 7 days | Mexico

Dating back to 2000 BC, the Maya civilization is known for its sophisticated mathematical and astronomical systems, not to mention its incredible art and architecture. On this enlightening five-day tour, see the El Castillo pyramid in Chichén Itzá and the Temple of the Frescoes in Tulum before unwinding in Playa del Carmen.

Everything you get:

- Round-trip flights
- Full-time Tour Director
- Comfortable motorcoach
- 4 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (6 with extension)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 1 sightseeing tour led by a licensed local guide (2 with extension)

Entrance to: Chichén Itzá; Cenote X-Keken; Tulum (With extension: Cobá; Spider Monkey Sanctuary)

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

Day 1: Fly to Mexico

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Cancún

Day 2: Chichén Itzá | Cancún

- Take a guided tour of Chichén Itzá: El Castillo Pyramid
- Visit Cenote X-Keken

Day 3: Tulum | Playa del Carmen

- Visit Akumal
- Visit Tulum: Temple of the Frescoes; Ruins of El Castillo
- Travel to Playa del Carmen

Day 4: Playa del Carmen

- Enjoy a free day in Playa del Carmen
- *Optional: Cozumel*

Day 5: Depart for home

2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 5: Cobá

- Travel to Cobá
- Take a guided tour of Cobá: Nohoch Mul pyramid; Sacbeobs
- Continue on to Punta Laguna
- Visit the Spider Monkey Sanctuary
- Return to Playa del Carmen

Day 6: Playa del Carmen

- Enjoy a free day in Playa del Carmen

Day 7: Depart for home

Tulum

Protected by steep sea cliffs on one side and an imposing 16-foot-high wall around the rest of it, this ancient Mayan city managed to fend off attacks by the Spaniards until the 16th century. Within Tulum, you'll find fascinating ruins in a spectacular setting overlooking the Caribbean Sea. A temple as well as a fortress, Tulum honors del Dios Descendente, the god who descends from the heavens. See his upside-down image carved in stone on the impressive El Castillo (the castle). Can you see the carved remnants of the rain god Chac on the cornice of the Temple of the Frescoes?



Ruins of Tulum
Tulum, 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.

Optional excursion to Cozumel

On this add-on excursion, board a ferry 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 during your included visit to this beautiful national park. On land, see stunning rock formations and lush tropical foliage. Then, discover the exquisite underwater world of animal and plant life below the waves. There will also be free time to enjoy Cozumel's renowned white-sand beaches and clear waters. At the end of the day, ferry back to Playa del Carmen.



Chankanaab National Park
Cozumel, Mexico

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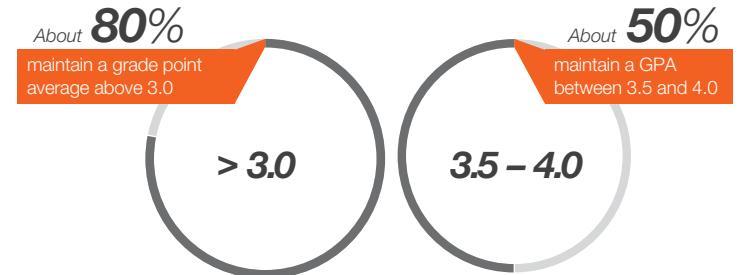
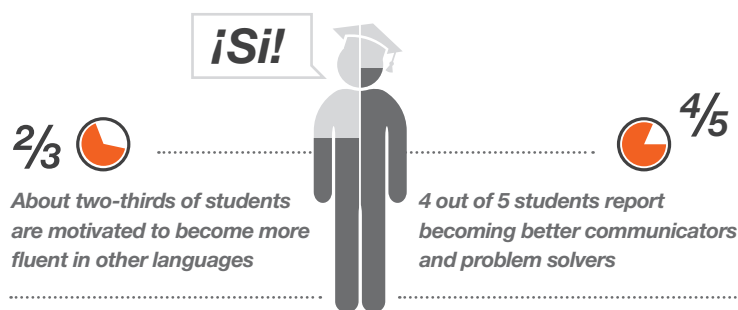
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