



**Educational
Tours**

Mexico's Yucatan

8 or 10 days | Mexico

El Castillo Pyramid



Top things to see on tour:



Government Palace



Uxmal



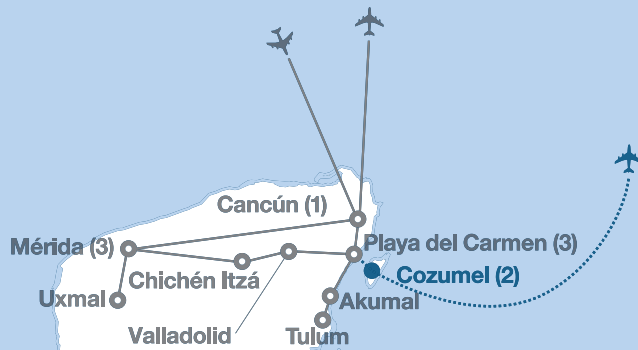
Cenote X-Keken



Chichén Itzá



Tulum



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

Mexico's Yucatan

8 or 10 days | Mexico

The Yucatan Peninsula may be known as a popular spring break destination, but students will get an education in the area's rich history and cultural significance during this eye-opening tour. From a Spider Monkey Sanctuary in Cancún to a full-day excursion to Celestún Natural Reserve, you will never look at the Yucatan the same.

Everything you get:

- Round-trip flights
- Full-time Tour Director
- Comfortable motorcoach; Ferry with extension
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (9 with extension)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 3 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides; 1 walking tour
- Entrance to:** Spider Monkey Sanctuary; Uxmal; Celestún Natural Reserve; Boat ride; Chichén Itzá; Cenote X-Keken; Tulum (With extension: Chankanaab)

Day 1: Fly to Mexico

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Cancún

Day 2: Cancún | Mérida

- Travel to Punta Laguna
- Visit a Spider Monkey Sanctuary
- Travel to Mérida

Day 3: Mérida | Uxmal

- Take a guided tour of Mérida: Government Palace; St. Ildefonso Cathedral
- Take a guided tour of Uxmal: Magician's Pyramid; Governor's Palace

Day 4: Mérida | Celestún

- Take a full-day excursion to Celestún Natural Reserve
- Take a boat ride: View flamingos

Day 5: Chichén Itzá | Valladolid | Playa del Carmen

- Travel to Chichén Itzá
- Take a guided tour of Chichén Itzá: El Castillo Pyramid
- Visit Cenote X-Keken
- Take a walking tour of Valladolid
- Travel to Playa del Carmen

Day 6: Playa del Carmen

- Take an excursion to Akumal
- Visit Tulum: Temple of the Frescoes; Ruins of El Castillo

Day 7: Playa del Carmen

- Enjoy free time in Playa del Carmen

Day 8: Depart for home

2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 8: Cozumel

- Board a ferry to Cozumel

Day 9: Cozumel

- Take an excursion to Chankanaab

Day 10: 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's cathedral, built partially from the stones of Mayan temples destroyed by the conquistadores. Then, travel to the ancient Mayan city of Uxmal (pronounced "ooshmahl"). 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.

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 Chaac on the cornice of the Temple of the Frescoes?



Ruins of Tulum
Tulum, Mexico

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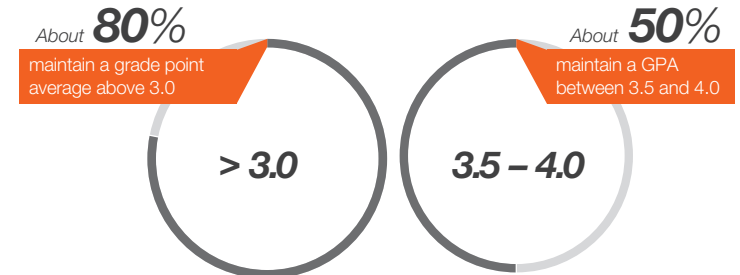
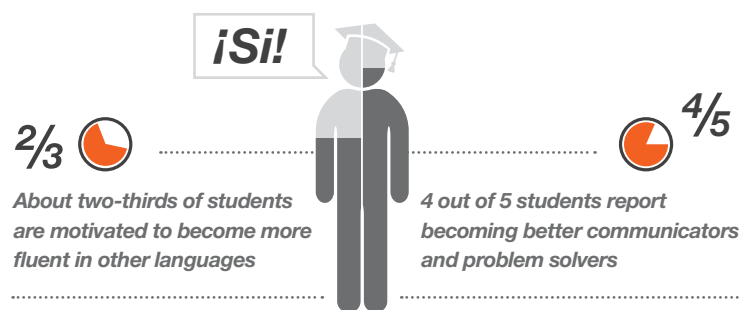
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