Mexico Mayan Explorer

Trip Code: MME

Version:

CULTURE	GUIDED GROUP	LEISURELY
		3



HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit iconic Mayan sites of Teotihuacan, Uxmal, Palenque and Chichen Itza
- See the best of Mexico City, Puebla, and Oaxaca as well as sightseeing in San Cristobal, Campeche and Merida
- Hike in La Malinche National Park, rural Oaxaca and Cascada El Chiflon in Chiapas
- Experience the Pueblos Mancomunados ecotourism project in the Sierra Norte Mountains

- Explore the magnificent Sumidero Canyon by boat and on foot

AT A GLANCE

- 3 days walking
- 11 days sightseeing
- Cookery Class
- Max altitude 3690m
- Join at Mexico, Ends Cancun

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Step into the heart of Mexico on an unforgettable journey through its most iconic cities, ancient ruins, lush landscapes, and vibrant cultures. From the bustling energy of Mexico City to the mystical ruins of Chichén Itzá, this curated itinerary offers a seamless blend of history, nature, and authentic local experiences.

Explore the architectural wonders of colonial towns like Puebla and Oaxaca, hike through Zapotec highlands and jungle waterfalls, stand in awe before the mighty pyramids of Teotihuacán and Palenque, all whilst immersing in the colourful traditions of indigenous communities. Along the way, savour traditional flavours at historic restaurants, witness sacred rituals, and walk in the footsteps of ancient civilizations.

Whether you're gazing up at volcanic peaks, wandering centuries-old streets, or cooling off in hidden cenotes, every moment of this trip reveals a different layer of Mexico's extraordinary heritage. Our extraordinary journey ends on the Caribbean coast in Cancún, with the option to extend your stay and unwind by the sea.

Culture, cuisine, and natural beauty—this is Mexico like you've never experienced it before.

NEW FOR 2026 - 17 day Itinerary

Our standard departures include an additional day and night in Oaxaca to experience an authentic Mexican Cookery Class and hike to the waterfalls at Hierve el Agua, one of Oaxaca's geological wonders.

On our October Special departure clients will experience the Day of the Dead festivities, with a full day in Oaxaca to join the festivities and learn about the traditions of the 'Dia de Los Muertos'. View Day of the Dead Special departure.

Is this holiday for you?

Whilst this holiday is not overly demanding from a hiking or trekking perspective it is a fast-paced and adventure packed itinerary, making the most of our time in Mexico. Inevitably when covering this distance there will be some longer driving days as we move from one region to another, these are

undertaken in a comfortable, air-conditioned modern vehicle. The accommodation level on this holiday is of a good standard, all in close proximity to the sites we are visiting and many of the hotels also having swimming pools.

There are 3 specific walking days, undertaken at moderate and high altitudes of up to 3,300m which requires a good level of fitness. The focus of these days are the sights, views and communities we travel through . The design of the itinerary allows these walks to be opted out of if required. We also have guided walking tours of the many sites and cities visited on this itinerary, so expect plenty of time on your feet! Many of the archeological sites have uneven terrain, steep stairs and unpaved pathways.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- A single timed airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- All activities/excursions/entrance fees mentioned unless specified as ‘optional’

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Departure Taxes (if applicable)
- Airport transfers other than group transfers
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Tips
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Mexico City. A single timed group transfer is provided on day 1 of the Land Only itinerary.

On the last day of the Land Only itinerary, there will be a single timed group transfer to Cancun Airport.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available.

The full meeting arrangements, hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All breakfasts and 2 dinners are included in the holiday price. For meals not included you will have opportunity to select from local restaurants or eat in your hotel. You should budget US$10 - $30 per meal for these non-included meals.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Drinking Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. If you are on a trekking or cycling holiday, water is supplied to fill up your individual bottles. This will be boiled, filtered or provided in large jerry cans or 5 litre bottles. Additionally you should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water when in towns or where water is not supplied. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Mexican food is a cuisine that is beloved worldwide for its bold and complex flavours, vibrant colours, and diverse range of dishes. Some of the most popular Mexican dishes include tacos, burritos, enchiladas, and tamales, which are all made with a variety of fresh and spicy ingredients such as chilies, tomatoes, coriander, and cumin. Mexican food also heavily features staples like rice, beans, and tortillas, which are often used as a base for many of the dishes. Whether you're looking for something savoury, spicy, or sweet, Mexican Cuisine has something to offer for every palate.

Such an important part of Mexican Culture, our itinerary explores the history and tastes of Mexican food with included meals in hand-picked traditional restaurants in Mexico City, Puebla and Merida. As well as this, there are numerous other opportunities to immerse yourself in the cuisine as we travel through regions famed for local delicacies and fresh, local produce.

Accommodation

All nights on this holiday are in good quality hotels, 6 of which have swimming pools. The hotels have been selected for their central locations when in cities - usually situated in the historic centres. When visiting the archeological sites such as Palenque, Uxmal and Chichen Itza we stay in selected hotels in close proximity to the sites, often allowing early access to the sites before most visitors arrive from the larger cities and touristic areas.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single rooms are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be accompanied by a professional and qualified tour leader.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 3500 metres. This is not something that you should worry about; the human body is quite capable of adapting to a very wide range of altitudes, but it is important that we follow some simple rules in order to acclimatise successfully. Before coming on this holiday you should read the advice on trekking at high altitude. You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

In addition to your budget allowance for non-included meals, we estimate that US$150-300 will be sufficient to cover your requirements including incidental expenses such as tips for drivers, local guides and helpers. There is no need to purchase local currency (Pesos) prior to travelling. It is possible to withdraw your money in local currency from ATMs in Mexico City and all major towns and most restaurants in Mexico City will accept credit cards. If you are bringing your travel money with you we recommend you bring it in the form of US dollars in cash as this provides for the easiest exchange.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying ‘thank you’ to your tour leader and local team. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We advise you to tip as a group. For full groups we advise around $40-50 per person total and have a available some smaller denomination pesos to tip for meals and other services.

Beat the Jet Lag

Our holidays are normally designed with minimal 'down time' at the start of the trip, but having a day or two at the beginning will have the additional benefit of allowing you time to get over the stress of a long journey or travelling across time zones, leaving you refreshed and ready for your holiday. We can easily arrange for you to have additional nights and airport transfers.

Baggage Allowance

There is no restriction on the weight of your luggage other than that imposed by your airline. A soft bag with wheels or a trek bag is ideal for this holiday, in additional to a small day pack for the walks where you will need to carry personal items such as clothing, food and water.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRANSITING THROUGH THE USA

If your flights pass through the USA, even if only in transit, you will require either a visa or an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation). Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can apply for an ESTA under certain conditions*. This must be done online via https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov, no later than 72 hours prior to travel and applies whether entering the country by sea or by air. You will need to have a biometric passport to apply for an ESTA. The fee is currently US$40 *(as of 30/09/25).* Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding.

*If you have visited Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen since 2011 or have dual nationality with any of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA. You will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate instead. Additionally, if you have travelled to or have been in Cuba since the 12th of January 2021, you will not be eligible for an ESTA visa waiver and will need to apply for a US visa. You should consult the US State Department website to determine which you will need.

When completing the ESTA application form you will be asked to enter your 'Point of Contact' information. This is not required if you are only transiting through the USA.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THOSE TRANSITING THROUGH CANADA

UK citizens will require an ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation), and you must get this before boarding any Canada-bound aircraft or ship, or entering on a land border. The fee is CAD$7 and you should apply for it at http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office

Entry requirements can change regularly so please ensure you have the most up to date information before travelling by checking visa entry requirements at the relevant embassy in your country of residence: (US Embassy in London: http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html)

Visa Mexico

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in Mexico is the Peso.

Preparing for your Holiday

It makes a lot of sense to spend some time before coming on an adventure holiday by getting some additional exercise. The fitter you are, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. Regular hiking in hill country is the best preparation but running, cycling and swimming are also good.

Climate

The climate in southern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula is predominantly tropical, with high temperatures and humidity year-round. Mexico City, Puebla, and Oaxaca experience a subtropical highland climate, which means they have mild temperatures with dry and sunny winters, and rainy summers. Chiapas, on the other hand, has a tropical climate with high humidity and frequent rain, particularly from May to October. The Yucatan Peninsula has a hot and humid tropical climate, with high temperatures all year round and a distinct rainy season from June to October.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- "The Maya" by Michael D. Coe - This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the history and culture of the Maya civilization, one of the most fascinating and influential civilizations of ancient Mesoamerica. The author, a renowned Maya scholar, offers a vivid and accessible account of the Maya's social, political, and religious life, as well as their art, architecture, and science.
- "The People's Guide to Mexico" by Carl Franz, Lorena Havens, and Steve Rogers - This classic guidebook is a must-read for anyone interested in traveling to Mexico, offering practical advice and insider tips on everything from navigating public transportation to sampling local cuisine. The book covers a wide range of destinations, including the Yucatan Peninsula, and provides insights into the country's history, culture, and people.
- "Mexican Mosaic: A Brief History of Mexico" by John W. Sherman - This book provides a concise and engaging overview of Mexican history, from pre-Columbian times to the present day. The author examines key events and trends that have shaped Mexico's development, including the rise and fall of the Aztec and Maya empires, the Spanish conquest, the Mexican Revolution, and the country's ongoing struggles with poverty, inequality, and corruption.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

YOU SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Hiking boots
- Socks & underwear
- Trekking trousers
- Shorts
- Shirts / T-shirts / Tops
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Lightweight waterproof overtrousers
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack
- Dry bags
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 Litre x2(we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Insect repellent (DEET)
- Small travel towel
- Small padlock (to lock your bag)
- Basic First Aid Kit, including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OPTIONAL:

- Travel clothes
- Sandals for casual wear and evenings
- Swimwear (for Hotel pools and beach)
- Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining at the hotel in Mexico City. A transfer is included from Mexico City Airport. The holidays ends in Cancun. A transfers from Chichen Itza to Cancun Airport is included.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Mexico City. Outbound flights will usually depart from the UK in the morning arriving mid-afternoon on the same day (Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart Cancun in the afternoon of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK the following morning.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

On this unique adventure holiday we discover the best of Mexico's Southern States and Yucatan Peninsula, exploring a mix of Mayan Wonders, heritage towns and the country's famous cuisine. In a KE twist on a classic journey we also hike into the hills for stunning volcanic vistas, lush natural landscapes and visit sustainable community tourism projects.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change