



# Highlights of Mexico: Oaxaca to Mexico City

9 days | 12 days with Yucatán extension

Start in mountainside Oaxaca, making your way through vibrant cities and picturesque countryside to Mexico City, the bustling capital. As you go, you'll see the impact of ancient empires, immerse yourself in the local culture, and taste mouthwatering regional dishes. On this small group Adventure Tour through Mexico, discover a country of strong traditions, rich history, and memorable flavors.



## Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels
- 8 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 2 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 cooking demonstration
- 1 liquor tasting
- 3 tastings
- 7 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Tasting chocolate & mole
- Benito Juárez Market
- San Bartolo cooking demonstration
- Teotitlan del Valle textile workshop
- Organic mezcal distillery
- Mercado Carmen Serdán
- Trajinera ride on Lake Xochimilco
- El Zócalo
- Templo Mayor

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 3 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

## Group size

12-22

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## Oaxaca → 3 nights

### Day 1: Arrival in Oaxaca

Welcome to Mexico! Arrive in Oaxaca late this evening and transfer to your hotel.

### Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Oaxaca & San Bartolo cooking demonstration

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, welcome lunch*

Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Madre, Oaxaca is one of Mexico's most beautiful cities. Today, discover this UNESCO-recognized urban center on a sightseeing tour.

- Make your way around Plaza de la Constitución, viewing the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption as you go
- See the Church of Santo Domingo, a former Dominican monastery
- Stroll along Calle Macedonio Alcalá, a pedestrian street named for the talented Mexican musician
- Learn how chocolate is made at a local factory and enjoy a tasting
- Browse the stalls of Benito Juárez Market and 20 de Noviembre Market

Travel to the town of San Bartolo for a cooking demonstration and welcome lunch at a local family's home.

- Meet the family, learn about the dishes you'll be eating, and opt to help cook
- Enjoy a welcome drink of mezcal, tequila, or beer with some antojitos, light snacks from Oaxaca
- Sit down to enjoy multi-course welcome lunch

Later, head to a pottery workshop to learn about the town's famous black clay pottery and watch a demonstration to see how it's made.

### Day 3: Teotitlan del Valle textile workshop & mezcal tasting

*Included meals: breakfast, liquor tasting*

Spend a free morning in Oaxaca or add an excursion.

This afternoon, visit a textile workshop in Teotitlan del Valle, a village famous for producing traditional Zapotec wares.

- Learn how the artisans use natural dyes and wool to create rugs, sarape shawls, and clothing

- Watch the family members demonstrate how to use a loom and learn different weaving techniques

Then, continue on to an organic mezcal distillery.

- Join a local guide on a tour of the agave farm
- Hear how artisanal Mezcal is produced, from cooking and crushing the agave piñas to distilling the liquor
- Discover the smoky flavor mezcal is known for as you sample three different varieties

Spend a free evening in Oaxaca or add an excursion.

+ Oaxacan Cooking Class & Dinner

+ Ancient Mexico: Monte Albán

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## Puebla → 2 nights

### Day 4: Transfer to Puebla & walking tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel to Puebla and explore the city on a short walk with your Tour Director.

- Pass through the Main Square, which reflects the Old Spanish style
- Walk through tree-filled plazas and past fountains
- See the Municipal Hall of Puebla and the city's cathedral
- Arrive at a local restaurant where you'll try the chocolatey *mole poblano*, a regional specialty, during an included dinner

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Puebla

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Get to know the UNESCO-protected City of Angels on a food-themed walking tour led by a local guide.

- Enter Mercado Carmen Serdán, one of Puebla's traditional food markets
- Step inside several local eateries to try local food like chalupas, quesadillas, tacos, enmoladas, and sopes
- Learn about the region's culinary traditions along the way

Spend free time in Puebla or add an excursion.

+ Historic Cholula

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## Mexico City → 3 nights

### Day 6: Transfer to Mexico City & Lake Xochimilco boat ride

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Travel to Mexico City and explore the waterways in the Xochimilco neighborhood.

- Board a vividly-colored, open-air boat known as a trajinera
- Float through the canals along Lake Xochimilco, which are the last remaining remnants of the water network built and used by the ancient Aztecs
- Enjoy Mexican street snacks, as well as a beer or glass of wine, aboard the ship
- Listen to mariachi bands play songs as they pass by on their own boat

Spend a free evening in Mexico City or add an excursion.

+ Mexico City Home-Hosted Dinner

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Mexico City

*Included meals: breakfast*

This morning, set out to explore Mexico City's UNESCO-protected city center on a guided tour.

- Pass by Alameda Central park and the Art Nouveau Palacio de Bellas Artes, the city's cultural hub
- Walk through Plaza de la Constitución, colloquially known as "El Zócalo"
- Enter Palacio Nacional, home to the Federal Treasury and National Archives, to view Diego Rivera's famous murals depicting events from Mexican history
- Pay visits to the Metropolitan Cathedral and Templo Mayor, an archaeological site and museum

Spend free time in the Mexican capital or add an excursion.

+ Coyoacán & Frida Kahlo Museum

### Day 8: Free day in Mexico City

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Enjoy a free day in Mexico City or add an excursion.

Later this evening, join your group to raise a toast to your trip at a farewell dinner.

+ Teotihuacán Archaeological Site & Guadalupe Shrine

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## Flight Home

### Day 9: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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### + Yucatán extension

Fly to the Yucatán Peninsula, famous for its Mayan ruins and fabulous beaches, to continue your adventure. You'll take a sightseeing tour of Merida, then dip your toes in ancient history (and some sparkling Gulf waters) in Playa del Carmen.

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## Playa del Carmen → 3 nights

### Day 9: Flight to Cancún & transfer to Playa del Carmen

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Fly to Cancún and continue on to your hotel in beachside Playa del Carmen, which is located on Riviera Maya. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Coba Mayan ruins & Punta Laguna Nature Reserve

*Included meals: breakfast*

Discover the Coba Mayan ruins with a local guide this morning.

- Learn about the ancient Mayan city and civilization as you explore the archaeological site
- Walk along a network of stone causeways through the jungled ruins to Nohoch Mul pyramid, the tallest Mayan pyramid on the Yucatán Peninsula
- Opt to hike up a steep set of stairs to the top of the pyramid for views overlooking the jungle and Yucatán Peninsula
- Enjoy free time for lunch in the town of Coba

This afternoon, join a local Mayan guide for a walk through the Punta Laguna Nature Reserve.

- Learn about the flora and fauna, as well as the local efforts to maintain native species
- Walk along the jungle paths and try to spot spider monkeys, howler monkeys, lizards, birds, and grasshoppers
- Hop aboard a canoe and paddle across the lagoon
- Enjoy an opportunity to swim in a cenote, or flooded cave

### Day 11: Free day in Playa del Carmen

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Enjoy a free day in Playa del Carmen or add an excursion.

Celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.

+ Cenotes Sac Actún & Akumal Bay Snorkeling

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## Flight Home

### Day 12: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the Cancún airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/MAP](https://goaheadtours.ca/MAP) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Oaxacan Cooking Class & Dinner

\$189CAD/\$199CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

During tonight's cooking class, learn the secrets of traditional Oaxacan cuisine, known for its flavorful mole sauces, chocolate, and tamales. Prep regional recipes under the guidance of local chefs, then enjoy the dishes you've prepared at an included dinner.

## Day 3: Ancient Mexico: Monte Albán

\$89CAD/\$99CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the morning)

Today, follow in the footsteps of Mexico's ancient Zapotec people during a visit to Monte Albán. This is one of the country's UNESCO-recognized archaeological sites. Here you'll explore the ruins of a city that was once a thriving economic and political center, and is thought to be one of the earliest in Mesoamerica. Your guided tour takes you past towering pyramids, ceremonial rock carvings, a large ball court, and tombs that all give insight into the culture of this ancient civilization.

## Day 5: Historic Cholula

\$85CAD/\$95CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Discover where civilizations intersect on today's tour of Cholula. Start by entering the Great Pyramid of Cholula, an Aztec temple dedicated to the god Quetzalcoatl. Wind your way through its tunnels and climb up to the top to take in the spectacular views of the surrounding scenery and volcanoes in the distance. See Our Lady of Remedies, the Spanish church that sits on top of the same hill that the pyramid is built into. Afterward, make your way into the nearby city of San Andrés Cholula for visits to the Baroque San Francisco Acatepec and Santa María Tonanzintla churches. Cap off your tour with a walk through the city's main square, passing by the Royal Chapel, San Gabriel Convent and Plaza de la Concordia as you go.

## Day 6: Mexico City Home-Hosted Dinner

\$149CAD/\$159CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Head to Mexico City's trendy La Condesa neighborhood, which is known for its beautiful avenues and historic architecture. Join a local at their home in the neighborhood to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Mexican. You'll sit under a Jacaranda tree on the rooftop and sip artisanal mezcal or tequila. Then, enjoy salad, salsa, meat, poultry, and seafood dishes during a multi-course meal served with beer or wine. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Mexican culture and traditions from a new perspective.

## Day 7: Coyoacán & Frida Kahlo Museum

\$95CAD/\$105CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Known for its tree-lined cobblestone streets, colonial estates and artisanal markets, Mexico City's Coyoacán neighborhood is not to be missed. Set out to explore this charming corner of the city on a guided tour, taking in Plaza Hidalgo and the iconic Centenario Garden. This artsy area was once home to celebrated painter, Frida Kahlo. Learn about her life and view personal items and selections of her work at the Frida Kahlo Museum, housed in the artist's lifelong home. After your visit, enjoy free time to peruse the Coyoacán Market and Mercado de Antojitos.

## Day 8: Teotihuacán Archaeological Site & Guadalupe Shrine

\$129CAD/\$139CAD\* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Set out into the Mexican countryside to explore the UNESCO-protected Teotihuacán. An ancient city with unknown origins, this once-great metropolis lay abandoned for years before the Aztec discovered and eventually named it. The mystery of its original inhabitants remains unsolved, but at its peak it was the largest city in pre-Colombian America. Explore the city's expansive ruins on a guided tour. Walk along the the Avenue of the Dead, once the main street, to view the many different sites flanking this road. You'll see the most notable pyramids including the Pyramid of the Moon and the Pyramid of the Sun, which is the third-largest in the world. You can opt to climb to the top of the Sun and Moon pyramids for incredible views of the region. Your tour also takes you past the Temple of the Feathered Serpent and the Citadel. Enjoy free time for lunch before heading back to Mexico City to enter the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This Roman Catholic church is a national shrine and the western hemisphere's most-visited pilgrimage site. The basilica is built on the site where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared in 1531. It also houses the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the cloak Saint Juan Diego wore during the five Marian apparitions. You'll visit both the old and new basilicas during your visit and have time to visit the museum at your leisure.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 11: Cenotes Sac Actún & Akumal Bay Snorkeling

\$219CAD/\$229CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the morning)

Cenotes are picturesque networks of flooded caves and today you'll visit one of the region's largest and most beautiful—Cenotes Sac Actún. Snorkel in the pool's crystal clear water with a local guide before enjoying free time to explore, swim, and discover more of the stunning underground cave system. Then, travel to Akumal Bay and eat lunch at your leisure. This bay is located along Riviera Maya on the Caribbean Sea and is famous for its rays, nurse sharks, barracudas, and lobsters. Take a snorkeling tour of Akumal Bay to view the variety of colorful fish and coral reefs. You'll also

want to keep your eyes peeled for green sea turtles that frequently visit and nest in the bay. After spending your day snorkeling in both the unique cenote jungle caves and at a Caribbean coral reef, travel back to Playa del Carmen. Please note: Snorkeling gear and changing rooms are provided on-site. We recommend bringing a bathing suit, towel, and change of clothes.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)