

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Highlights of Mexico: Oaxaca to Mexico City With Optional 4-Night Yucatan Extension

9 DAYS: Saturday, December 7-Sunday, December 15, 2019

\$2,539 per person double occupancy; \$2,939 for single reservations*

***Prices include round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required.**

HERE ARE A FEW REASONS TO CONSIDER A HOLIDAY IN MEXICO: the cuisine is amazing, the people are welcoming and friendly, it's a pretty affordable destination and its history and culture are endlessly fascinating! We'll start in Oaxaca—this UNESCO World Heritage site is easygoing and vibrant, with southern Mexican charm and unique cultural attractions. Next is Puebla with its delicious culinary heritage and breathtaking colonial architecture. We'll complete our trip with three nights in Mexico City—once the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan—and now a lively, cosmopolitan city with world-class museums, historic preservation and an exploding culinary scene.

Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels, 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 4 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Benito Juárez Market, Tasting mole and chocolate, Puebla Cathedral, Basilica de Santa María de Guadalupe, El Zócalo, Templo Mayor,

Tour pace

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

ACCOMMODATIONS

- DAY 1 Flight from Boston
- DAYS 1-3 Hotel Victoria, Oaxaca
- DAYS 4-5 San Pedro Hotel, Puebla
- DAYS 6-8 Hotel Galeria Plaza, Mexico City
- DAY 9 Return flight to Boston
or similar hotel accommodations



Oaxaca

Day 1: Arrival in Oaxaca

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

Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Oaxaca

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

Day 3: Free day in Oaxaca

Included meals: Breakfast

Spend a free day in Oaxaca or add excursions.

Optional Excursion

Oaxacan Cooking Class & Dinner +\$99/pp

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. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$109)

Optional Excursion

Ancient Mexico: Monte Albán & Mitla Ruins +\$65/pp

Today, follow in the footsteps of Mexico's ancient Zapotec people during visits to two of the country's UNESCO-recognized archaeological sites. Your first stop is at Monte Albán. 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. Then, make a stop at the impressive Tree of Tule, a Montezuma cypress with the stoutest trunk in the world. Continue on to Mitla to discover the series of elaborate mosaics that make this site truly unique. Then, head to the nearby town of San Pablo Villa de Mitla for an included lunch and Mezcal tasting. Enjoy free time to peruse the local market before returning to Oaxaca. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$75)

Puebla

Day 4: Puebla via Tehuacán

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Transfer to Puebla today, stopping on the way in the city of Tehuacán for lunch. This evening, arrive in time for dinner where you'll try the chocolatey *mole poblano*, a regional specialty.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Puebla

Included meals: Breakfast

Get to know the UNESCO-protected "City of Angels" today on a sightseeing tour led by a local guide. • Step inside the opulent Rosary Chapel and 16th-century Puebla Cathedral • Pass through the Main Square, recently remodeled in the Old Spanish style • Make your way to a local Talavera workshop to see how the iconic pottery is made and decorated This afternoon, spend free time in Puebla or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Historic Cholula

+\$39/pp

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. Wend 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. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$49)

Mexico City

Day 6: Mexico City via Basilica de Santa María de Guadalupe

Included meals: Breakfast

Make your way to Mexico City today, stopping en route to explore the Basilica de Santa María de Guadalupe. Built on the site where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared in 1531, the basilica is now the largest pilgrimage site in the western hemisphere. • Enter both the old and new basilicas • Enjoy free time to explore the adjoining museum on your own

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 Later, enjoy a free afternoon in the Mexican capital or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Coyoacán & Frida Kahlo Museum

+\$39/pp

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. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$49)

Day 8: Free day in Mexico City

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Spend a full 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.

Optional Excursion

Ancient Mexico: Teotihuacán

+\$59/pp

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. Explore the city's expansive ruins on a guided tour, getting up close to the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon, Temple of Quetzalcoatl and the Avenue of the Dead. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$69)

Day 9: Departure

Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Add an extension to Yucatán from \$999 4 nights

Mérida

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Mérida

Included meals: Breakfast

This morning, board your flight to Mérida, a picturesque Spanish Colonial city located in the heart of the Yucatán Peninsula. Then, set out on a sightseeing tour of the city with a local guide leading the way. • Pass through the main square, viewing San Ildefonso Cathedral, Government Palace and Municipal Palace • Stroll down Paseo de Montejo, Mérida's tree-lined main boulevard • See the home of Francisco de Montejo, a Spanish conquistador and the founder of the city

Day 10: Free day in Mérida

Included meals: Breakfast

Spend a free day exploring Mérida on your own or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Mayan Mexico: Uxmal & Hacienda Lunch

+\$59/pp

Delve into Mayan history as you explore Uxmal, a UNESCO World Heritage site. As you make your way through this ancient complex, you'll catch glimpses of what life was like here for the Maya—the Quadrangle of the Nuns, the Governor's Palace, and the Great Pyramid all provide some clues about the city during its heyday. On your way back to Mérida, stop at a local hacienda for a traditional Yucatán lunch. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$69)

Playa del Carmen

Day 11: Playa del Carmen via Chichén Itzá & Valladolid

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Transfer to beachside Playa del Carmen today, making two stops along the way. The first is at Chichén Itzá, a UNESCO-recognized complex of ancient Mayan ruins. • View Kukulcan Temple, a tribute to the Maya snake deity, and witness the "chirping" acoustic phenomenon when you clap your hands at its base • Stand in the Great Ball Court, where athletes would compete for eternal glory • View the observatory and the Temple of the Warriors Then, make your way to the city of Valladolid for free time before continuing on to Playa del Carmen.

Day 12: Free day in Playa del Carmen**Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

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

Optional Excursion Tulum & Dos Ojos Cenotes +\$39/pp

With a clifftop location that overlooks the Caribbean Sea, the walled Mayan city of Tulum is one of Mexico's most scenic archaeological sites. You'll take in both spectacular views and fascinating history during a visit. See the 13th-century Pyramid El Castillo and the Temple of the Frescoes, home to a Mixteca-Puebla-style mural that can still be seen today. Then, make your way to Dos Ojos Cenote, a picturesque network of flooded caves. Enjoy free time to explore, swim, or snorkel in the pool's crystal clear waters before returning to Playa del Carmen. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$49)

Day 13: Departure Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Cancún airport for your flight home.