

January 15 – 21, 2019



Suggested flights:

1 15JAN DL8996 Atlanta to Merida 12:15P 2:10P *DL CODE SHARE-QUOTE OPERATED BY AEROLITORAL

2 21JAN DL8997 Merida to Atlanta 3:07P 6:47P OPERATED BY AEROLITORAL DBA AEROMEXICO CONNECT

Day 1 - January 15

Arrivals to Merida airport

Group transfer to Hacienda Itzincab Camara

Your driver will bring you to the lovely Hacienda Itzincab Cámara. Hacienda Itzincab Cámara was built on an ancient Maya site and has a large pyramid at its heart. Itzincab's lush gardens, featuring three swimming pools, surround the property and are home to abundant bird life. The surrounding town of Itzincab is one of the communities supported by the Fundación Haciendas del Mundo Maya, and boasts four artisans' workshops.

This evening we will enjoy a lecture with our guide to introduce us to the Maya civilization and the sites we will be visiting, followed by a welcome dinner. All dinners are included during the stay at Hacienda Itzincab Camara. http://privatehaciendas.com/itzincab.html

Day 2 - January 16

Uxmal, Kabah, and Hacienda Xocnaceh

Hotel: Hacienda Itzincab Camara

AM: After breakfast (which is included every day), we begin with a tour of Uxmal, the largest of the sites famed for their elaborate Puuc-style architecture. We will visit the Pyramid of the Magician and the Palace of the Governor as well as the Nunnery Quadrangle and the House of the Turtles.

We continue to Kabah, the second largest of the Puuc sites, home to unique and beautiful buildings. Marvel at the wall of masks overlooking the plaza on the *Codz-Poop* structure (or Palace of Masks).

LUNCH (included): We visit Hacienda Xocnaceh—a private property open only to us! At its zenith, Xocnaceh produced cattle and henequen (sisal), the "green gold" that brought tremendous wealth to the Yucatán in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A delicious lunch is served in the chapel ruins at Xocnaceh and after lunch, there's swimming in the water tank, converted into a pool, exploration of the archaeological site, or just plain relaxation.

Day 3 - January 17

History of the Haciendas

Hotel: Hacienda Itzincab Camara

AM: Visit Hacienda Sotuta de Peón, one of the last haciendas that still produces "green gold"—henequen. We explore its production, from planting to harvest, cleaning, drying and spinning. Don't forget to bring your swimsuit—there's a refreshing dip in the hacienda's cenote.

LUNCH (included): Hacienda Tekik de Regil. Tekik is an architectural gem from the Yucatecan Belle Époque, recently rescued and painstakingly restored. Your private visit takes you to the hacienda chapel, its machine house, and the breathtaking main house. Lunch will be served on the hacienda terrace

Day 4 - January 18

Merida City Tour

Hotel: Hacienda San Jose Cholul

AM: Today we explore Merida, a city that preserves its rich architectural heritage like no other. Travel its shady avenues, lined with exquisite mansions from the end of the 19th century, when henequen wealth reached its zenith and the fiber's producers sought to reaffirm their prestige and world-view in architecture. You will also visit the cathedral and famous restored buildings in the city center.

LUNCH (not included): Enjoy lunch in one of Merida's fine restaurants.

At the end of the day, your driver will bring you to magnificent Hacienda San José Cholul.

Hacienda San José Cholul is an impeccably restored hacienda dating to the seventeenth century, now a five-star hotel. Explore its tranquil gardens, swim its dramatic pool, and relax at the Maya spa. Dine on delicious local recipes in and out of doors, in high back- country style.

Day 5 - January 19

City tour Izamal

Hotel: Hacienda San Jose Cholul

AM: This morning is about incredible Izamal—where almost every structure is egg-yolk yellow! But Izamal is a living Maya town and art colony. Our expert guides lead you to all of Izamal's principal sites and explain its intriguing blend of Maya, Spanish and modern cultures. We will also visit Maya artisans' homes and workshops and witness the creation of their magnificent crafts.

LUNCH (not included): Lunch in a restaurant in Izamal.

Day 6 - January 20

Xocempich and Chichen Itza after closure with licensed guide **Hotel:** Hacienda San Jose Cholul

LUNCH (included): We head to Xocempich, a private cenote on the ruins of an historic ranch, a refreshing private treat. Swim or snorkel in the cenote's crystalline waters and relax for hours in total privacy. A delicious *fête champêtre*-style lunch is served beneath the magnificent old trees.

PM: Our journey continues to Chichen Itza, the world's most celebrated pre-Hispanic archaeological site. Originally built by the Maya, later conquered by Itzás, and Toltecs, and ultimately defeated by princes of Mayapán. You'll visit the world famous Castillo, a pyramid recently declared one of the Seven New Wonders of the World. We also visit the site's other principal constructions and then the Sacred Cenote, where sacrificial offerings have been found.

Day 7 - January 21

Departure to Merida airport

Your driver takes you to the Merida airport for your flight back home.

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TERM & CONDITIONS

PRICE:

Price per person double Occupancy: \$3000 Single Supplement: \$1976

Price is based on 20 people traveling

PLUS A \$400 PER PERSON DONATION TO THE GEORGIA TRUST

A deposit of 30% of the total must be received by April 30, 2018 to confirm your reservation. The balance must be paid by October 15, 2018.

Price includes

- Hotel based on double occupancy
- Private transportation as specified above with water and soft drinks in the vehicle
- Entrance fees
- Guide as specified above
- Meals as specified above and all breakfasts

Price does not include:

- Airplane tickets
- Meals not specified above
- Tips
- Personal expense

Participants are responsible for their air arrangements.

All services are subject to availability. Prices may change until the services are confirmed

Please send deposit check to: Georgia Schley Ritchie Travel Edge 3525 Piedmont Road Bldg 7, Ste 400 Atlanta, GA 30305

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Cancellation policy:

Written cancelation must be received by Florence Holmes (florence.holmes@traveledge.com) before October 15, 2018.

\$375 non-refundable administrative fee After October 15, 2018 – 30% of total amount of tour After November 15, 2018 - 50% of total amount of tour After December 15, 2018 – no refund

We strongly recommend travel insurance which we can help you to procure.