



JOURNEY MEXICO

**Riviera Maya Familiarization Trip
September 28-30, 2012**



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Chichen Itza

Overview of Riviera Maya Familiarization Trip

Mexico offers the inquisitive and sophisticated traveler the opportunity of authentic experiences with world class cultural, wildlife, natural, active and luxury travel experiences. From North to South and East to West, Mexico's cuisine, dialects, history, and customs are as varied as its deserts, mountains, volcanoes and coastlines.

The Riviera Maya is the corridor that runs from South Cancun to Tulum, Mexico, in front of the Great Maya Reef; the second largest barrier reef in the world. Along its 160km, the stunning warm turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea, soak gently the white ribbons of beach that are framed by the lush green jungle, which is home of abundant wildlife. The Riviera Maya is not only the most recent and modern tourist Resort in the Caribbean, but also the entrance to the wonders of the mysterious Mayan world.

The Maya civilization was developed over three thousand year on the 500 thousand square kilometers (300 square miles) now occupied by the Mexican States of Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan and Quintana Roo, as well as the Central American countries: Honduras, Guatemala, Belize and El Salvador. This region, known as the Mundo Maya, (Mayan World), encompasses many attractions like archeological sites, colonial cities, native communities, ecological reserves and a diverse scenery. In the Riviera Maya you can admire the relatively close sites of Tulum, Coba, Chichen Itza, Ek Balam Kohunlich among many other. During this 3 day exploration, you begin with short and comfortable transfer from the Cancun Airport to the exclusive gated community of Mayakoba. Surrounded by the emerald embrace of the jungle and caressed by the warm Caribbean breezes you will be welcomed at your luxury Resort where you will be treated to a nice Dinner. Early morning on the next day Journey Mexico invites you on an exclusive, unique, and expertly guided exploration of Chichén Itzá by privately chartered plane; Chichén Itzá was chosen in 2007 as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World.

You will be picked up in your hotel lobby by your expert guide and privately transferred in a deluxe vehicle to the Playa del Carmen or Cancun private airport, where you will have a speedy check in for your unforgettable flight. You will fly in your privately chartered plane to the Kahua airport (35 – 40 minutes); you gain an unusual and unique perspective of the flat but lush topography as well as dozens of “Cenotes” or Wells of the Yucatan Peninsula. Upon arrival to Kahua your deluxe vehicle awaits to transfer you privately to the famed archeological site of Chichén Itzá (20 minutes).

Upon arrival you will enter the site and enjoy a privately guided visit to the areas of most interest; depending on interest, hunger, and day light, you may choose the length of your time inside the site. In Maya Chichen Itza means “mouth of the well of the Itzaes”, reference to the great Cenote, a natural well that exists in the Chichen complex and was used by the Itzae, the indigenous Maya people who inhabited the area, for ceremonies in honor of the rain god Chaac. The magnificent restored temples of Chichen Itza rise majestically from their surrounding, offering a splendid glimpse into the great prehispanic Mayan Culture.

Leaving the site, you will be treated to a three course lunch at the Hacienda Chichén Itza before returning to the Kahua airport for your return flight to Playa del Carmen and where you will be transferred to Esencia Hotel. At Esencia you will be able to enjoy the calm waters and pristine beach before you inspect the ground followed by a special prepared dinner. On the following day and thru Journey Mexico’s strong relationship with the INAH (Institut of National Anthropology and History of Mexico) you will be having the rare opportunity of enjoying a private exclusive visit of Tulum by Sunrise! Tulum’s pre-Hispanic name was Zama, which means “dawn”; and given its proximity to the sea and its geographic location, which every day allows for a full appreciation of the sunrise you will be able to qualify if ancient Mayans were correct. Tulum is an impressive walled city and dates from the Post-Classic period (A.D. 900 – 1500). The most noteworthy structures in Tulum are el Castillo built on 12m/36ft tall cliff facing the sea; the Temple of the Descending God, with a bas-relief carving on the façade; and the Temple of the Frescoes,

elaborately painted on the inside. Bring your Swimming suit along as you can enjoy a morning swim in the Caribbean. After the visit you will return to the Hotel Esencia for Breakfast before heading south to the “Hotel Zone of Tulum” where you will be inspecting two Hotels; Ana y Jose and BE Tulum. Following the inspection you will be driven into the Biosphere of Sian Kaan where lunch is waiting at one of the most exclusive Villas you will find in this area. After lunch you may enjoy relaxing on the beach before returning back north to your Hotel for the ILTM event.

Throughout this Familiarization trip, we make our best efforts to expose you the myriad of people, places, and experiences of this very special destination with a keen focus on private custom travel for sophisticated and discerning travelers. We are hopeful and confident this will be productive and unforgettable - a rare moment when work and play come together in the Journey!

Accommodation: Banyan Tree Mayakoba and Esencia Hotel.
Trip Length: 3 Days
of participants: 10 + 1 Journey Mexico Staff + 1 Driver + Local Guides

HIGHLIGHTS

- Private Chartered Cessna Grand Caravan
- Chichen Itza
- Off-hour Private Exclusive visit of Tulum by Sunrise
- Deluxe Hotel accommodations
- Lunch at Sian Kaan Biosphere Villa Ikkal

Yucatán Península:



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Trip Day	Day / Date	Description	Overnight / Contact (Tel / Fax)	Meals Included	Miles / Kilometers
Day 1	Friday, Sept 28 th	Home / Cancun Airport / Meet and Greet and transfer to Banyan Tree Mayakoba	Hotel Banyan Tree +52 (984) 877 3689	D	From Airport to Mayakoba 41 / 68
Day 2	Saturday Sept 29 th	Mayakoba / Playa del Carmen FBO / Chichen Itza /Playa del Carmen / Esencia	Hotel Esencia +52 (984)873 4835	B,L, D	170 / 283.5
Day 3	Sunday Sept 30 th	Tulum /Site Inspections Hotels Sian Kaan /Riviera Maya ILTM Hotel		B,L	50 / 85

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

<p>Journey Mexico Cancún Office: Cancún, Quintana Roo Av. Kabah, Centro Canaima Local 102, SM 57 CP 77515 Cancún +52 (998) 889 9341 info@journeymexico.com</p>	<p>Journey Mexico Head Office: Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco Francisco Medina Asencio #2039 Interior #205 Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco CP 48333 México +52 (322) 225 9821 info@journeymexico.com 24 hr. Emergency # outside of business</p>
<p>Matteo Luthi, Director of Operations Mexico Cellular Phone: 045-998-147-0490</p>	<p>24 hr. Emergency # outside of business +52 (322) 225 9821 Mexico Toll-free Number: 01800 839 1866</p>

DETAILED ITINERARY

Friday, September 28th: Arrival Day: We will be waiting for you in the airport according to your flight schedule with a sign you're your name on it. You will be transferred to Mayakoba (:40 mins) and stay at one of the most iconic and luxurious Hotel; The Banyan Tree Mayakoba. There will be a Site Inspection and we are delighted to offer you a complimentary welcome dinner in conjunction with you host Hotel at one of their renowned restaurants. **Overnight: Hotel Banyan Tree 1 nt. D** (<http://www.banyantree.com>)



“Dinner at Mayakoba”

Saturday, September 29th: Mayakoba / Playa del Carmen FBO / Kahua Airport / Chichen Itza / Playa del Carmen / Esencia Hotel. Today you will be having the opportunity to an exclusive and unique Expedition to Chichen Itza on a private chartered Cessna Grand Caravan Aircraft. Under the guidance of your expert guide you will be able to discover the magnificent restored temples of Chichen Itza that rise majestically from their jungle surroundings, offering a splendid glimpse into the great pre Hispanic Maya culture. After the visit you will be treated to for lunch at the nearby Hacienda Chichen before flying back to Playa del Carmen. Upon arrival in Playa del Carmen you will be transferred to the Hotel Esencia (:30 mins), the former residence of the Italian Duchess of Ferrara. **Overnight Hotel Esencia: (<http://www.hotelesencia.com>) 1 nt. B,L,D**



Hotel Esencia

Sunday September 30th: Today we will wake up very early to enjoy a unique, private and exclusive visit of the archeological site of Tulum. After the visit you will be treated to a delicious Breakfast and on the way to Sian Kaan we will inspect Ana y Jose and BE Tulum Hotel prior to arrive to the private secluded Villa of Ikkal where you will be treated for lunch. In the afternoon we will transfer you back to your ILTM Hotel at the Riviera Maya. **B,L,**



“Tulum”

End of Services

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

In Preparation: Mexico is a beautiful, wild and unpredictable part of our planet. For lovers of culture, nature, and the outdoors that are used to coping with the challenges of traveling in off the beaten path areas (and who have a keen sense of adventure and a flexible attitude) the rewards are plentiful and memorable.

An expert Journey Mexico leader will serve as companion and guide accompanied by local guides, and assistants. The leader will ensure the trip runs smoothly and that your enjoyment, personal safety and scenic rewards are the tops!

Arriving: For this familiarization trip, you will be picked up at the Cancun Airport on the day of arrival. Please look for the Journey Mexico representative with a sign with the name, "Journey Mexico".

Climate:

This trip covers great differences in altitude and thus climate. You can expect temperatures to soar to over 100°F (38°C). Nights drop down to 75° – 85° F (24° - 29° C). We are traveling during the hottest time of the year so come prepared with light weight clothing, sun block, sun hats, and scarves / bandanas to keep the sun off! While not the rainy season, you should be prepared for an unexpected light rain and/or sporadic shower.

There is no shortage of sunshine in Mexico so it is advisable to bring a strong sunscreen or suntan lotion to avoid sunburn. Remember to bring a strong insect repellent (23 to 28 percent DEET) from your home country, as it is not always available in Mexico.

Pace: This Educational Trip is purposely designed with a brisk pace. We endeavor to make your travel experience as productive as possible, while still allowing you time to enjoy the amazing people, places, experiences and properties that you will visit. If at any time, you wish to "opt out" of activities or take some time to yourself away from the group, please advise your leader or a member of the Journey Mexico staff - we will do our best to accommodate you!

Water: Purified bottled water is always available at hotels and towns for purchase.

Packing List & Baggage Allowances: A full packing list is attached. Please note you are limited to one checked bag weighing no more than 15 KG (33 LBS) and one carry on item with a maximum weight of 5 KG (11 LBS).

Transfer Times: Please note, transfer times are included on the detailed itinerary and are approximate and are subject to unforeseen circumstances including but not limited to traffic, road work and other unknowns. Mexico is a wild and exciting destination; you will get the most out of your journey by accepting that the unexpected can lead to memorable and rich experiences. Slow down, relax and enjoy!

Tips/Gratuities: Tipping is a personal matter and completely at your discretion. The following are guidelines in case you decide that the service you receive meets and/or exceeds your expectations and you wish to tip: maids US \$1.00-\$2.00/night/room; porters US \$1.00/bag/movement; wait staff

10%-15% of the total check for (non-included meals). For local guides, US \$3.00-\$5.00/ person / half day tour, US \$5.00-\$10.00/person /full day tour. Taxi drivers expect no tips unless they have gone out of their way to help you (IE: long wait time or helping you with luggage); for private drivers \$1.00-\$2.00 / person / day is customary.

Price Includes:

CPR, First Aid Certified, bi-lingual Journey Mexico leader throughout; all accommodation starting with Day 1 and ending with Day 3; group airport transfers on arrival and departure days; all transportation throughout in private air-conditioned vehicles; internal flight from Playa del Carmen to Chichen Itza in 13 seat Cessna Caravan (See baggage allowance above); all meals as indicated in the detailed itinerary (B,L,D); local guides; entrance fees to archeological sites, parks and reserves; local gratuities to wait-staff for included meals. For non included meals you may wish to consider \$10-\$25 USD / lunch / dinner.

Price Doesn't Include:

International flights; airport taxes, gratuities to maids, wait staff (for non-included meals), porters, local guides, drivers.

Please contact us with questions or for further information at info@journeymexico.com or by phone at our head office in Puerto Vallarta at: +52-322-225-9821.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodations

Hotel Banyan Tree Mayakoba +52- 984-875-3688 (<http://www.banyantree.com>)

A harmonious blend of nature and luxury, Banyan Tree Mayakoba, on Mexico's famous Riviera Maya coast, takes the Caribbean lifestyle to new heights. Situated within the integrated resort area of Makakoba, guests will experience Banyan Tree's "romance of travel", a unique sense of tranquil and private space immersed in untouched nature, complemented by touches of our signature Asian hospitality and warmth.

Hotel Esencia (+52 (984) 873 4835 <http://www.hotelesencia.com>)

Esencia introduces the Mayan world and its deep connection to the earth, to the spirit of nature and the luxury of simplicity. Esencia is a 50-acre private estate, with an awe-inspiring beachfront, two swimming pools, day spa, gourmet restaurant, and an indulgent atmosphere fitting of royalty. In fact, the property and many of the buildings once served as the exclusive beach-side retreat of an actual Italian duchess. Though friendly, warm and generous, the duchess demands the very best and Esencia still benefits from her superior taste, her impeccable style and her zest for life.

Rooms: 29. Low Season Rates Single/Double from \$491USD.

Meals

Meals are varied and wholesome and include fresh beef, pork and local fish, chicken, and local regional specialties. Southern Mexico has its own regional dishes; we believe that an important aspect of appreciating the region is experiencing its food! There are always options for vegetarians and other dietary restrictions so please be sure to let us know so that we can arrange in advance.

Meals are included as per the detailed itinerary **B,L,D excluding alcoholic beverages**. For non included meals, you may wish to consider between \$10-\$25 USD / lunch / dinner.

RECOMMENDED PACKING LIST

Please find below a recommended clothing list for your Familiarization trip to Southern Mexico. From our experience, this list will provide you with adequate guidance for your clothing needs for this unique journey.

Essential items:

- 1-2 Pairs long pants preferably light weight, loose fitting. Skirts and light dresses are appropriate too.
- T-shirts and long sleeved tops (4-6 short sleeve, 2-3 light long sleeve)

*Please note, while the locals accept the use of shorts for visitors, typically, pants and more conservative dress is customary, especially when visiting religious sites.

- Casual wear for evening dinners and nightlife – remember we are staying in the top luxury hotels in Mexico, especially throughout the Yucatan and Riviera Maya portion
- Underwear, socks and personal items for 3 days
- 1 Bandana to keep the sun off your neck
- Comfortable lightweight walking shoes
- Light Water/wind-proof / water resistant jacket
- Wide brimmed sun hat or visor(essential)
- Camera with spare battery and any needed converters
- Waterproof camera bag (or bring plastic bags to cover when day packs i.e. Ziplocks)
- Sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, and moisturizing cream
- Insect repellent
- Personal Toiletries
- Swimsuit
- Personal medication
- Daypack or bag to carry water, camera, swimsuit, rain jacket.
- Passport
- Credit card/ ATM
- Extra cash for, souvenirs, spending money, tips.

Useful items

- Spanish phrasebook or dictionary
- 'Wet wipes' or similar travel wipes / hand sanitizer
- Tissues
- Reading material

SUGGESTED READING

Suggested Reading: Yucatan Peninsula:

Moon Handbook Yucatan Peninsula • Chicki Mallan
GUIDEBOOK • 2002 • PAPER • 391 PAGES

A compact, comprehensive travel guide with an excellent overview of the natural history and culture of the region. It includes detailed information on hotels, restaurants and attractions. With good site diagrams and sketch maps throughout.

Lost Cities of the Maya • Claude Baudez • Sydney Picasso
ARCHAEOLOGY • 1992 • PAPER • 175 PAGES

A pocket guide to Maya archaeology. This lavishly illustrated small book features hundreds of color photographs and illustrations -- along with excerpts from key works and a brief guide to Maya arithmetic, their calendar, and inscriptions.

Incidents of Travel in Yucatan • John Lloyd Stephens • Karl Ackerman • ARCHAEOLOGY • Stephens chronicles in rich detail his rediscovery of 44 Maya sites in the Yucatan, among them Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Kabah and Tulum. This new one-volume edition, organized geographically, is especially abridged for the visitor.

Animals and Plants of the Ancient Maya, A Guide • Victoria Schlesinger • FIELD GUIDE • A comprehensive guide to the natural and cultural history of 100 plants and animals of the Maya world, primarily those from the lowland tropical forest of Central America but also including savanna, mangrove and coral reef habitats.

Additional Questions?

Please call +52-322-225-9821 or Toll Free from the USA and Canada 1 (800) 513-1587
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Central Time
Or email: info@journeymexico.com

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