

tour dossier for: Mexicana

13 nights / 14 days • Mexico



The Facts

Dossier Last Updated: 30-03-2008

Tour Code: DMC

Duration 13 nights / 14 days

Joining City: Mexico City

Departure City: Cancun

Nearest International Airport (joining / departing):

This dossier is designed for this particular tour and should be read in conjunction with the country dossier(s), regional pre-departure booklet and optional excursions guides relevant to your itinerary. You will also receive a joining letter in advance of your journey with further information, while last minute updates may be posted in the Latest News section of our website. Please see tucantravel.com for details.



What's Included

- Accommodation: 13 nights in hotels
- Meals: Some lunches
- Excursions: Teotihuacán, Monte Albán, Palenque, Uxmal & Chichén Itzá ruins; Sumidero Canyon, Agua Azul waterfalls
- Transport: Tucan vehicle, speedboat, on foot
- Group: Average 15 - 24; max 34
- Age: Recommended 18 - 55
- Staff: Tucan tour leader, Tucan driver, local guides

What's Excluded

- International flights & departure tax, tips on all excursions (see trip dossier), visas, travel insurance, personal items, other tips
- Pre & post tour hotels plus airport transfers
- Spending money, allow US\$25-30 per day to cover meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry and any extras
- Optional excursions - see Optional Excursions dossier

Brief Overview

A great trip across the heart of the ancient Aztec and Mayan empires from Mexico City to the popular international resort of Cancún. You'll be discovering all the major ruins along the way and have a chance to meet the friendly local people and, of course, view much of Mexico's best mountain and lowland scenery.

Itinerary

Day 1 to 4

Arrive Mexico City - Teotihuacán - Puebla - Oaxaca - Monte Albán

To the great ancient ruins of Teotihuacán dominated by a series of massive pyramids. We move on to the grand city of Puebla with a great plaza and red-roofed houses. We head to Oaxaca where there's an afternoon to explore the colourful markets and colonial buildings of this beautiful city. The nearby Zapotec ruins of Monte Albán are also visited and feature a market plaza and many tombs.

Day 5 to 7

Tehuantepec - Optional visit to Mitla Ruins - Sumidero Canyon - San Cristóbal de las Casas

We make our way via the ruins of Mitla (optional to visit), known as "The Place of the Dead" before arriving in the town of Tehuantepec for an overnight stop. We now enter the delightful Chiapas Highlands and stop for a speedboat trip up the Sumidero Canyon, over 1,000 metres deep. San Cristóbal is a beautiful colonial town with much to see and there are many attractive native Indian villages in the area to visit.

Day 8 to 10

Lancandon Cloud Forest - Agua Azul - Palenque - Campeche

A scenic drive down the twisting highway to the lowland plains where we stop for a refreshing swim at Agua Azul falls. Palenque is nearby and we have a free day to explore these magnificent Mayan ruins in a jungle setting. On the coast is Campeche, an old walled city where there may be a chance to see a sound and light show.

Day 11 to 12

Uxmal - Mérida

We travel to the Mayan ruins of Uxmal, famed for its worship of the rain god as it was the only city that relied purely on rainwater. To the magnificent colonial city of Mérida where the plaza is surrounded by archways, restaurants and great markets for souvenir shopping.

Day 13 to 14

Chichén Itzá - Cancún

The most famed Mayan site of all, Chichén Itzá, is a truly incredible complex with its ball court and massive temple pyramid. A last drive to Cancún, graced with beautiful beaches and great seafood restaurants to enjoy. Depart Cancún

Important note: The itinerary listed above is to be used as a guide only. Occasionally we may need to update this document and it may be different to the information printed in our current brochure. Tour leaders may need to make adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances during the tour. It is very important that you visit our website and review a copy of this dossier as close as possible to your

departure date in case of changes that may affect your plans. Any last minute changes may also be posted in the Latest News section of our website.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation

Very little time is spent in the starting and finishing cities and you will need to allow a few days at the beginning or end of your tour if you want to explore them further. For details of pre and post tour accommodation bookings (which should be made at the time of your tour booking) please refer to our current brochure or contact our reservations team.

About Discovery Tours

Our Discovery Tours are exciting, action packed private transport journeys for travellers who are young at heart and seeking a great value trip with a high quality of service. If you enjoy group travel with the added flexibility of being on a private vehicle and the comfort and assurance of competent personal guiding, then this style of trip is perfect for you!

Don't forget that Tucan Travel also offers four other tour styles: Adventure Tours, where we travel by public transport wherever possible and so have a high degree of interaction with the local people; Overland Expeditions (in South America only), which usually have a high percentage of camping, travel by overland truck and suit travellers who love the great outdoors; Budget Expeditions (great value tours for 18 to 35s) are flexible tours offering travellers optimum control over their budgets, travelling in our custom-built expedition vehicles, plus coaches and local transport, staying in pleasant hotels, hostels and campsites; Independent Travel offers personalised itineraries, stopovers and language schools with your choice of accommodation and flexible travel days.

Local Payment

The cost of all Tucan Travel tours includes a compulsory Local Payment which is in addition to the Tour Price paid to your booking agent. The Local Payment MUST be paid to your Tour Leader in full \$USD cash at the pre-departure meeting on the first day of your tour. The Local Payment is administered by Tour Leaders and no refunds can be made for any unused services or if you decide to leave the tour early.

Pre Departure Meeting

The address of your joining hotel can be found on your joining letter and tour voucher. On arrival you should look for a Tucan Travel information sheet on the hotel notice board where you will find details of the pre-departure meeting. The Tour Leader will normally hold the pre-departure meeting on the afternoon of Day 1 (assuming that all clients have arrived by then). Your Tour Leader will give a briefing about the tour, outline the plan for the next few days, answer any questions and collect your Local Payment in full in US\$ cash. Then there may be an option for everyone to go out for dinner and drinks to start to get to know one another.

Please note that you will need to bring the following important items to the pre departure meeting:

1. Passport (including any necessary visas) original document and a photocopy.
2. Vaccination certificates (e.g. Yellow Fever, if required)
3. Travel voucher
4. Travel insurance policy
5. Local Payment

Tour Personnel

Discovery Tours use a variety of different styles of leadership in order to maximize your enjoyment and experiences. On this tour you will have a combination of Tucan Travel Tour Leader, Tucan Travel driver, and local guides. The Tucan Travel Tour Leader accompanies your tour and Tucan Travel driver is responsible for transporting you safely and maintaining the vehicle. Local guides will lead your included and optional excursions.

Degree of Difficulty/ Fitness

Discovery Tours suit people who are relatively fit and healthy. Although no experience is required there is occasional moderate walking at medium altitude.

Pre Departure Information

Once you have booked the tour (paid your deposit), your travel agent will provide you with a detailed pre departure booklet, with in depth information to help you prepare. If you do not receive your pre departure information shortly after booking your tour please consult your travel agent. After you have paid for your tour in full you will also receive from your travel agent: a local map and joining letter for your arrival city, your tour voucher and transfer voucher (if applicable see below).

Country Dossiers

This Tour Dossier is designed to be read in conjunction with our relevant Country Dossiers which you can download from our website or obtain from your booking agent. The Country Dossiers contain essential information about visas, arrival transfers, spending money and costs, taxes and tips, climate, local food etc.

What you need to bring

A full list of suggested equipment can be found in the pre departure booklet. Large or rigid suitcases are totally unsuitable for these tours as they often cause problems in vehicle packing. Smaller cases with wheels and a vertical handle (the type which will fit into an overhead bin on an airline) are acceptable as your main luggage but do have a tendency to break easily. A backpack (or similar soft luggage) is highly recommended. You may wish to bring some kind of waterproof protection cover for your pack, as luggage may get dirty and/or wet.

Transfers

Please refer to your tour Joining Letter for detailed guidelines on reaching your Joining Hotel.

Accommodation

All hotels are chosen for their central locality, security, friendliness, cleanliness and ambiance. Although sometimes simple, you will find clean comfortable rooms with mostly en suite facilities (occasionally bathrooms may be shared but this is rare), and often a bar and restaurant are attached or close by. All rooms will be allocated on a share basis, usually in twins or triples (depending on the male/female ratio) and on rare occasions, multi share rooms

Transport

Transportation on this tour will either be a modern local coach, one of our more robust Mercedes' Benz trucks or a combination of both vehicles. Some privately hired vehicles may also be used in the Cuzco region. On all Tucan Travel vehicles you will find superior comfort, from our carpeted interiors with curtained and tinted windows, modern reclining coach seats, overhead storage shelves, writing tables, a small library (which you can use and add to!) and a stereo cassette player for the groups use. Most vehicles also have a refrigerator for cold drinks and food. There will also be plenty of storage space for your luggage and souvenirs as well as kitchen equipment, tables and camp stools for picnic lunches. Tucked away will be specialised equipment for the maintenance and upkeep of the vehicle. On rare occasions it may be necessary to utilise a privately hired vehicle for the duration of the tour. Although modern and comfortable, these vehicles may not include all the facilities and equipment listed above.

This tour also includes domestic flights and excursions may also include travel by local bus, mini bus, boats and trains.

Meals

Lunches are included on days travelling between hotels. More information will be supplied shortly.

Most meals, extra snacks and drinks on the tour are at your own expense (even on included excursions). Please see the relevant Country Dossier for more information about the local food.

Responsible Travel Tips

At Tucan Travel we are serious about our responsibility to care for the environment and people that we visit. Here are a few tips to help you to enjoy your tour while minimising your impact and enhancing your travelling experience. Learn more about our responsible travel policy at www.tucantravel.com.

1. Carbon offset your Tucan Travel tour and flights. Check out our website for details about how you can go about this www.tucantravel.com.
2. Bring your own metal water bottle. Fill up at restaurants or treat your own water on tour instead of buying lots of plastic bottles. Bear in mind that there may not be recycling facilities available at some destinations.
3. Cut out plastic - remove and recycle the packaging of new travel gear before you pack, and bring a light cotton or string bag for your shopping, so you can politely refuse plastic bags at shops and markets.
4. Bring a stack of pens and pencils and hand these out to children rather than offering sweets. Your alternative gifts will still be popular and the parents will thank you for saving their children's teeth - access to dental services may not be readily available there.
5. Learn a bit of the local language before you travel. Being able to say even a few words like hello, please and thank you will help you to connect with people in a positive way and really enhance your personal experience. Bring a phrase book on tour and keep practising to improve your confidence. You will also find some good language tips in the country dossier(s).

Feedback

At the end of your tour we would greatly appreciate it if you could take the time to complete a questionnaire about your experiences. The Tour Leader will give you a paper copy and an electronic version can be found on our website. We take feedback very seriously as it allows us to maintain and improve the very high standards we expect from our road crew, local operators, hoteliers, transportation and office staff, among others. We also use this information to improve our itineraries and optional excursions on offer. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Subscribe to our e-newsletter

If you're keen to keep up-to-date with the latest news, special offers, events and competitions, why not sign up to our newsletter? It's easy - just enter your details in the 'subscribe' section on our home page, and that's it. Don't worry, we won't spam you, or pass on your details to any third parties, and it's easy to unsubscribe if you decide later on that it's not for you.

Join our online communities

Make friends with fellow passengers in the Tucan Travel forums, and ask questions about any tour you like we've got the answers! See Share your tour photos and videos on Youtube and Flickr, and keep in touch with group members on Facebook, Bebo and Myspace. There are many Tucan Travel communities out there waiting to welcome you, just a few clicks away.

Write a travel diary and get published on our website

Share your experiences of life on tour and you may be rewarded! Get in touch with us for details through www.tucantravel.com.

We want your photos!

We've taken you to some of the most amazing places on earth why not share that with the world? Send us high resolution colour photos of your adventures, and you could be published on our website or our brochure. Contact us through www.tucantravel.com.
