



MAYAN WORLD: DIVING, NATURE AND ANCESTRAL CULTURE

BULL SHARK, CENOTES AND THE BLUE HOLE, THREE WORLDS IN ONE EXPEDITION

Duration:

11 or 17-day diving expedition across Mexico and Belize

1. The Mayan Legacy: Why is this trip unique?

The Mayan civilization is not a thing of the past; it is a living culture that has shaped the modern world. They were masters of astronomy, mathematics (inventors of zero) and sustainable architecture.

For a traveler from Asia, this trip represents a cultural mirror: they will see how an ancient civilization maintains a deep respect for ancestors and nature. To explore the Mayan region is to enter a jungle that is alive, sacred, and deeply inhabited.

The Mundo Maya experience begins in Cancun, a global gateway with direct international flights connecting travelers from all over Europe, Asia, and the Americas. This exceptional connectivity makes it an ideal starting point for an expedition that combines world-class diving with culture, history and extraordinary landscapes.

From Cancun, the journey continues south along the Caribbean coast to Playa del Carmen and Cozumel, internationally recognized for their reefs, constant currents, and exceptional visibility. Diving in Cozumel offers dynamic drift dives, rich marine life and coral formations that have positioned the island as a benchmark for Caribbean diving.

The experience then moves inland to explore cenotes and caverns of the Yucatan Peninsula. These dives take place in ancient underground river systems, where fresh water flows through sculpted limestone formations under the jungle. The natural light, geological structures, and scale of these submerged passages create a diving environment found nowhere else in the world.

The route stretches south to Belize, where the iconic Great Blue Hole is located. This legendary dive combines depth and geological structure, offering a remarkable descent into a perfectly formed marine sinkhole surrounded by Caribbean waters.

From the coast, the experience moves to the heart of the Yucatan Peninsula, arriving in Merida. Known for its vibrant cultural life, colonial architecture, and refined Yucatecan cuisine, Merida offers a rich blend of tradition and contemporary energy, serving as a gateway to the region's history and living heritage.

The route continues to Izamal, the iconic Yellow City, where pre-Hispanic roots, colonial convents and local crafts coexist in a uniquely preserved environment. The journey then leads to Chichen Itza, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, offering an essential encounter with the architectural and astronomical domain of the Mayan civilization.

2. The detailed itinerary

Stage 1: The Secrets of Water (Days 1 - 11)

We start in the Riviera Maya and Belize, focusing on the Great Mayan Reef, the second largest in the world.

- **Legend Diving:** In Playa del Carmen we will be able, if it is seasonal (November to February) with the bull shark (a majestic experience and of great respect) or we will dive in the reefs of the area and in Cozumel we will explore coral walls that descend to infinity.
- **Cenotes (Days 4-5):** You will enter the sacred "water holes". For the Maya, these were portals to the underworld. It is an experience of absolute peace in fresh and transparent waters.
- **Belize Adventure (Days 6-11):** We cross the border to San Pedro to visit the Blue Hole. You will be able to dive in its incredible reefs in the San Pedro area and in the Blue Hole area and then we will be able to see "deep blue eye" from a private flight.

Stage 2: The Heart of the Earth and the Mayan Train (Days 11 - 17)

We will use the Mayan Train, a work of modern engineering, to delve into history.

- **Valladolid:** Picturesque colonial city. The Cenote Zací and the Convent of San Bernardino are mandatory stops to understand the mixture of Mayan and Spanish faith.
- **Chichen Itza:** One of the 7 Wonders of the Modern World. The pyramid is a temple at the same time where each stone has an astronomical significance.
- **Izamal:** The "Yellow City". A magical place where life goes by calmly and history is felt in every corner.
- **Uxmal and Merida:** Uxmal offers the most elegant and detailed architecture (Puuc style), while Merida is the capital of culture and elegance in southeastern Mexico.

SUMMARY ITINERARY

(With this you can develop the graph of days and activities)

Day	Location / Main Activity	Experience Summary
1	Arrival in Cancun / Playa del Carmen	Start of the trip and transfer to the coast.
2	Diving: Bull Shark & Reef or 2 Reef Dives (Depends on the season)	Pure adrenaline with majestic marine life.
3	Buceo en Cozumel	Exploration of the famous coral "walls".
4	Buceo in Cenotes	Immersion in sacred fresh waters (caverns).
5	Buceo in Cenotes	Second day in the underground river system.
6	Transfer to San Pedro, Belize	International trip to the Belizean Caribbean.
7	Day & Night Diving	Exploration of biodiversity in San Pedro.
8	Blue Hole and Arrecife	Dive into the iconic giant sinkhole.
9	Day Diving	Continuation of exploration in Belize.
10	Flight over the Blue Hole	Aerial view of the great blue eye of the Caribbean.
11	Return to Mexico / Cancun	Transfer by Mayan Train to the Hotel Zone.
12	Valladolid	Colonial city, Cenote Zací and historic convent.
13	Chichen Itza / Izamal	Visit to the Wonder of the World and the "Yellow City".
14	Izamal / Mérida	Free morning, traditional lunch and Mayan Train to Merida.
15	Uxmal	Private excursion to the architectural jewel of the Puuc style.
16	Free Merida	Day to explore the "White City" at your own pace.
17	Return to Cancun	Final transfer by Mayan Train and end of the trip.

3. The Mayan Feast: Gastronomic Guide

Food in the Yucatan is not "generic Mexican food" (tacos and nachos); it is an ancient signature gastronomy recognized by UNESCO. For Asian palates, accustomed to the complexity of flavors, this will be a paradise.

The star dishes:

- **Cochinita Pibil:** The king dish. Pork marinated in achiote (a local red seed) and sour orange, wrapped in banana leaves and cooked in an underground oven called Pib. The result is meat so soft it falls apart.
- **Sopa de Lima:** A light but aromatic chicken broth thanks to Yucatecan lime and local spices. It's the perfect consolation after a hot day.
- **Panuchos and Salbutes:** Handmade tortillas with different textures, served with turkey, avocado and pickled red onion.
- **Papadzules:** Boiled egg tacos bathed in a pumpkin seed and epazote sauce. It is an ancestral recipe that surprises with its creaminess.
- **Queso Relleno:** A jewel of miscegenation. An Edam (Dutch) cheese filled with meat prepared with spices, capers and olives.
- **Key Ingredients to Know:**
 - **Annatto:** The basis of the red color and flavor of the region.
 - **The Habanero pepper:** One of the hottest in the world. Tip: If the waiter says that "it is a little bit", for someone from outside it is usually very spicy. It is recommended to use only drops.
 - **Agua de Chaya:** A spinach-like plant, very nutritious, served as agua fresca with pineapple or lemon. It's ultra refreshing.



WHAT'S INCLUDED AND WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

INCLUDES:

- Lodging (16 Nights), all in shared rooms and considering the complete plan:
 - Secrets of Water:
 - Playa del Carmen: 5 nights
 - San Pedro (Belize): 5 nights
 - Cancun: 1 night. Only if the traveler continues to the "Heart of the Earth" land tour
 - Valladolid: 1 night
 - Izamal: 1 night
 - Mérida: 3 nights
- All transfers from arrival at Cancun International Airport to return, in both plans, to Cancun International Airport. (This can be by bus, Mayan train, taxis, private transportation and for arrival in Belize, by Cessna type plane).
- Dives:
 - Tanks and weights
 - Water, snacks, fruit and soft drinks on the boats
 - Parks fees, conservation fees, and cenote entrance fees
 - 4 Day Dives in Playa del Carmen
 - 2 Day Dives in Cozumel
 - 4 dives in Cenotes
 - 3 Day Dives in Belize
 - 1 night dive in Belize
 - 1 dive in the Blue Hole
 - 2 dives in the Lighthouse reef
- Land:
 - Entrance to the archaeological sites with guide included
 - Continental Breakfast in Playa del Carmen, Cancun and Merida
- Dive into Mexico Travel Coordinator

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- Flights to and from Cancun
- Tuition fees
- Personal diving equipment (in all dive destinations, can be rented)
- Diving Insurance (Mandatory)
- Travel Insurance
- Meals not mentioned in the INCLUDES section
- Optional Activities
- Any other concept not specified in the INCLUDES section
- Visa processing

5. Tips for Visitors to Asia

- **Rituals of Politeness:** In small towns, greeting with a "Good morning" or "Good afternoon" is highly valued. The locals are extremely friendly and hospitable.
- **Climate:** Humidity is high. We recommend clothing made of natural fibers (linen or cotton) and plenty of hydration. Water should always be bottled.
- **Connectivity:** Although the Mayan Train has wifi in stations, in the jungle the signal can fail. It's the perfect time to disconnect and connect with your surroundings.
- **Money:** Although cards are accepted in hotels and the Train, in Valladolid and Izamal it is vital to carry Mexican pesos in cash for handicrafts and small fondas.
In Belize, the US dollar is accepted.

6. Pricing:

Pricing Stage 1: Ocean & Diving 5,350 USD

ADEX Special Offer 4,550 USD

Pricing Stage 2: Ocean, Diving, Land & Culture 7,500 USD

ADEX Special Offer 6,400 USD

Ask for custom-made experience

