

VIVA MEXICO



Hola and welcome to Mexico! A massive, diverse and colourful country, there's something for everyone in this lively destination. From the streets of Mexico City to ancient Mayan ruins and the beaches of Playa Del Carmen, Viva Mexico will have your exploring all of the highlights on an unforgettable 14 day adventure. With an awesome group leader, an instant new group of friends, activities and accommodation included, and help with all your onward travel, get ready for a fiesta!

MEXICO CITY -> PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Transport:

Minivan, Plane

Meals:

10B, 1D

Group size:

4 - 16

Age Range:

18 - 40's

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the lively capital of Mexico City
- Tantalise your taste buds at an authentic mezcal distillery
- Visit the Indigenous communities of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan
- Explore the mystical Mayan ruins of Chichén Itzá
- Dive into the tropical paradise of Isla Holbox on an exciting boat tour, where you might just encounter some wild pink flamingos (seasonal)
- Unwind on blissful white beaches and swim in the secret subterranean worlds of the Yucatán Peninsula



INCLUSIONS

- ✓ Airport Pickup to Our Accom 24/7
- *From Mexico City Airport (MEX) only*
- √ 13 Nights Accommodation
- ✓ 11 Meals
- ✓ All Transport Including the Internal Flight
- ✓ Awesome Group Leader
- ✓ Orientation Tours of Mexico City, Oaxaca & San Cristobal de las Casas
- √ Mezcal Distillery Experience
- √ Boat Tour of Sumidero Canyon
- ✓ Indigenous Community Visit
- √ Island Boat Tour of Isla Holbox
- ✓ Natural Pools
- ✓ Pink Flamingos (seasonal)
- √ Sandbank Sunrise
- √ Chichén Itzá
- ✓ Underground Cenote
- √ Tulum Day Trip
- ✓ Help with Onward Travel

NOT INCLUDED:

International flights, travel insurance, visas & some meals







ITINERARY & IMPORTANT INFO

DAY 1 - WELCOME TO MEXICO!

• MEXICO CITY Hola! Once you arrive in Mexico City we'll take you to straight to our hotel. You'll have plenty of time to recover from your flight before meeting up with everyone in the group and getting excited for what's to come.

DAY 2 - DISCOVER MEXICO CITY

• MEXICO CITY What a place to begin our adventure! Known for mountainous surrounds, rich history and incredible buildings, we'll kick things off with an orientation around the historical centre. Wandering bustling streets, we'll learn about the Aztec Empire and history of Spanish Conquest as well as check out icons like Cathedral Metropolitan and Zocalo. The afternoon is yours to explore, opt to check out a museum or listen to a mariachi song. Tonight we'll refuel with a traditional Mexican dinner and show!

DAY 3 - PUEBLA & OAXACA

• OAXACA Saying adios to the city, today we'll depart for Puebla also known as 'Magic Town', a beautiful colonial town flanked by volcanoes. Here we'll learn about the history of the area - such as, this town is where Cinco de Mayo originates from! After lunch we'll continue our journey to Oaxaca, where we will check in to our accommodation. We'll then head out and experience the streets by moonlight, hitting up the bars and restaurants!

DAY 4 - EXPLORE OAXACA

• OAXACA Today, we explore the vibrant charm of Oaxaca. We'll wander through the lively, colorful markets, admire the stunning cathedrals, and soak in the authentic local vibe. After a day of discovery, the evening awaits with a chance to try more of Oaxaca's delicious eats!

DAY 5 - EXPLORE OAXACA

• TEHUANTEPEC Enjoy a chill morning before we head into the valleys to visit a local family to learn how hand-made textiles are produced. After that, we will pop over to a visit a traditional mezcal distillery. We'll learn all about this energizing spirit before continuing our journey down to Tehuantepec for our overnight stop.

DAY 6 - CANYONS & MOUNTAINS

• SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS Jumping on a boat, today we'll discover some of Mexico's natural beauty. Cruising through the Canyon of Sumidero we'll see incredible scenery, rich jungle, and cross our fingers in the hopes of spotting some monkeys and lurking crocodiles. Later we're heading up into the mountains for our next stop, the delightful colonial town of San Cristobal de las Casas. We will walk you around the charming town of San Cristobal with an optional pottery class for those wanting to show their artistic flare.

DAY 7 - ANCIENT CULTURE

• SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS We'll visit a local family in the charming town of Zinacantán before heading to San Juan Chamula to explore and visit its unique church. Back in San Cristóbal de las Casas, you'll have time to wander the city, savor Chiapas' famous coffee, and try Pox - a traditional regional drink, before enjoying a delicious dinner.

DAY 8 - FLY TO CANCUN

• CANCUN Leaving beautiful San Cristobal, today we hop on an included flight across Mexico and land in the wonderful hustle and bustle of Cancun, for a short overnight stay.

DAY 9 - PARADISE AWAITS

• ISLA HOLBOX This morning, we're catching a ferry to Isla Holbox, aka paradise! Imagine sunny beaches, clear waters, and laid-back villages. We'll soak up the island vibe, eat some local food, watch the sunset, and groove to tropical tunes at a beach bar under the stars.

DAY 10 - ISLA HOLBOX BOAT TOUR

• ISLA HOLBOX Today, we're diving (literally) into the wonders of Isla Holbox with a boat tour. On the lookout for those Instagram-worthy pink flamingos (seasonal), we'll visit secret island hideaways and explore a local cenote. The afternoon is yours to snag a hammock, perhaps finally read that book you've been lugging around. Tonight, we'll enjoy a BBQ dinner on the beach.

DAY 11 - PLAYA DEL CARMEN

• PLAYA DEL CARMEN Today our Mexican escapade takes us back into the Yucatán. We'll settle into our last hotel in Playa del Carmen with ample time to soak up all the beaches, bars, and tacos this renowned hotspot has to offer. Anyone up for souvenir hunting?

DAY 12 - CHICHÉN ITZÁ & CENOTES

• PLAYA DEL CARMEN Today, we're off to check out one of the New 7 Wonders of the World - Chichén Itzá. With a local guide leading the way, we'll uncover the cool myths and awesome sights of these ancient ruins, like the iconic Temple of Kukulkan (or 'El Castillo'), the spooky Platform of the Skulls, and the huge Plaza of a Thousand Columns. Then, get ready to dive into the crystal-clear waters of a stunning cenote, a super cool natural swimming spot hidden in an underground world.

*You'll likely join forces with our Central America group from today onwards for the rest of your Viva Mexico tour.

DAY 13 - TULUM RUINS & BEACHES

• PLAYA DEL CARMEN Heading out this morning, we're on our way to Tulum. We'll have the choice between checking out the archaeological Tulum Ruins, or hitting the crystal-clear waters of Tulum beach. Back in Playa, it's time for our final group dinner and drinks. Let's dig into some avocado, knock back a tequila shot (or two), and have a blast with our new friends.

DAY 14 - DEPART PLAYA DEL CARMEN OR EXTEND YOUR STAY

 PLAYA DEL CARMEN Time to say adios as our Mexican adventure comes to an end. You can check out to head back home, stay on in Playa Del Carmen or continue your travels. We'll be on hand to help with planning any onwards travel.

FLIGHTS AND ARRIVAL INFORMATION

It's best to arrive on the actual start date, as that's when most people get in. While there are no activities on the first day, the group usually meets up for dinner around 7pm. If you do arrive early, we'll still pick you up from the airport (pick up from Mexico City Airport MEX only) if you're staying at our accommodation. You can book and pay for extra nights accommodation with your agent or in the Manage My Booking area.

AFTER VIVA MEXICO

Viva Mexico finishes in Playa Del Carmen. The closest airport from Playa Del Carmen is Cancun International, which takes approx. 1 hour by taxi or bus. If you plan to leave straight after the trip we'd recommend flying out of Cancun (so fly into Mexico City and out of Cancun if possible for this tour). If you need to return to Mexico City straight after the trip, please be aware you will still have to fly from Cancun International to get back to Mexico City. The flight is approx. 2.5 hours, so we would recommend booking any return flights out of Mexico City after 3:00pm on day 14 at the earliest.

Your group leader can help with any other onward travel options within Mexico.

VISAS

If you are a permanent resident of the United States, Canada, United Kingdom or Japan you do not need a visitor visa to enter as a tourist. Although you don't need a visa from any of those countries, you can be given anywhere between 10-180 days on arrival. Make sure to ask for the correct number of days from the agent and double-check the stamp in your passport for the departure date to make sure it aligns with your travel plans. We recommend checking visa requirements before you travel.

TRAVEL INSURANCE



ACCOMMODATION GUIDE

MEXICO CITY - HOTEL BENEDICTA

2 NIGHTS

Situated in the historic district of Mexico City.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi & Laundry

Restaurant & Bar

OAXACA - PARADOR DEL DOMINICO HOTEL

2 NIGHTS

Perfect location in the heart of the city.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi & Air Con

Restaurant

TEHUANTEPEC - HOTEL CALLI

1 NIGHT

Experience the magical town of Tehuantepec.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con & Laundry

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS - GRAN BARRIO

HOTEL

2 NIGHTS

A pink-lovers dream, boasting with bright colours in the centre of the city.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi

Outdoor Terrace Area



CANCUN - AMBIANCE SUITES

1 NIGHT

Smart centrally located hotel.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con & Laundry

ISLA HOLBOX - COCONUT BY ÓOL HOTELS

2 NIGHTS

A beautiful hotel by the beach.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi & Air Con

Swimming Pool

PLAYA DEL CARMEN - HOTEL RIVIERA

CARIBE MAYA

3 NIGHTS

A perfect end to your trip.

Twin/Double Rooms

Ensuite

WiFi, Air Con & Laundry

Swimming Pool & Bar

IMPORTANT NOTE



The accommodation featured in this document is our usual properties. At certain locations we use alternative accommodation (of equal standard) when needed.



#SMALLCHANGE

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL





PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



CULTURAL EXCHANGE & EDUCATION



ANIMAL WELFARE

Making a positive difference to the amazing destinations we travel is at the core of what we do, and we are proud to say that every INTRO tour is 100% carbon neutral.

Small Change is our socially conscious initiative aimed at travelling responsibly and changing the world for the better!

Find out more.





DO MANY PEOPLE TRAVEL ALONE?

Yes. Lots of people on our trips are travelling solo. But by doing our trip you'll instantly be part of a group, so it's a great way to meet others and make friends! Most of our accommodation is twin or triple share, so we will put you in a room with someone of the same gender.



CAN I CHAT TO MY GROUP BEFORE I LEAVE?

You can start chatting to people in your group and other travellers before you leave. Just go to our Facebook page, click on 'Groups' and choose <u>Mexico</u>.



CAN I CHANGE MY START DATE?

Enjoy ultimate peace of mind and flexibility with INTRO. Should your travel plans change or be disrupted you can change your start date or tour for free up to 30 days before your start date.

Or simply transfer your booking to 100% travel credit that will never expire and can be used on any tour with us at any time in the future.



WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT MEXICO?

Between December and April it's the dry season and there's virtually no rain, and the coolest months are between December and February. Rainy season is June/ July to November. It can get cold in Mexico City, Oaxaca, and San Cristobal at night during the winter (October-April) so bring a jacket to keep warm. Palenque to Playa del Carmen are typically warm year-round.



IS MEXICO SAFE TO TRAVEL?

While there are certain areas within Mexico known for crime, these are limited and nowhere near where INTRO goes. Mexico is a very popular tourist destination and safe to travel to, with only the need for the usual commonsense precautions we recommend for all our destinations.

At INTRO we have not only chosen the most beautiful and fascinating areas of Mexico but also places we know to be safe. Another benefit of travelling Mexico as part of a guided group tour.



HOW WILL I ACCESS MY MONEY WHILE I'M AWAY?

We recommend getting a travel currency card through <u>Wise</u>. You can use the Wise card almost everywhere and withdraw cash and use it with Google or Apple Pay. If you transfer your money into the local currency, you can avoid paying foreign exchange fees when you use the card. There are ATM's available throughout Mexico and some places only accept cash.



IS TIPPING EXPECTED ON THIS TRIP?

There is no requirement to tip on any INTRO trip. However there is a big tipping culture in Mexico, and it is customary and expected that you tip a small amount in most places including bars and restaurants. While we cover all of our local suppliers wages and expenses it is customary for group members to offer a tip to drivers and local guides on Viva Mexico, if you feel you've had good service. Your group leader can provide more detail on how you can contribute and suggested tip amounts whilst on tour. You can find more info on money in the INTRO Travel App.



WILL THERE BE WI-FI ON THE TRIP?

All accommodations we stay at have free Wi-Fi available. Mexico's network quality is often lower than you're used to but you can generally connect and do basic stuff.



TERMS & CONDITIONS

For the full set of terms & conditions for our tours including your responsibilities as a traveller with us, please see the Terms & Conditions section of our website.

That's about it for now!

Once you've booked you'll get access to Manage My Booking and the INTRO Travel App, which will give you all the information you'll need on Mexico and Viva Mexico, so you can just relax and enjoy the experience.

Of course if you have any more questions just contact us. We're happy to help!