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# Mayan Splendor

in Mexico's Yucatán

**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers

Sponsored By



**NC State  
Alumni Association  
March 7-14, 2023**



# A World of Discovery



Embark on a wonderful journey in Mexico's captivating state of Yucatán that abounds with remarkable history and culture! The heartland of the ancient Maya, it's graced with glorious remnants of bygone cities that attest to their brilliance in architecture, astronomy, math and language. And the scenery, saturated with color, is a visual treat, from the vivid shades that enliven Mérida and Izamal's streets to the swaths of pink along the coast where elegant flamingos gather. Mérida, its lovely cultural capital, boasts vibrant music and dance events as well as exceptional cuisine. Get set for a bevy of enriching experiences that introduce you to the treasures of Mexico's Yucatán!

*Above: Cathedral and Plaza Grande, Mérida  
Cover photo: Cultural performance, central square, Mérida*

## Inspiring Moments

- Enjoy time to explore and savor the **charming colonial city of Mérida**, buzzing with dynamic culture, top-notch food and warm hospitality.
- Marvel at the monumental ancient **Mayan cities of Uxmal and Chichén Itzá**, and learn about their extraordinary civilization.
- Soak up the radiant, golden architecture of **Izamal**, an under-the-radar gem.
- Admire coral-pink flamingos on a cruise through the **tranquil Celestún Estuary**.
- Meet **local craftspeople** and discover the artistry behind their endeavors.
- Choose a **fun Mérida tour** that speaks to you, focused on street food, honey bees or a historic mansion.
- Experience two **UNESCO World Heritage sites** and a **Biosphere Reserve**.

ALUMNI CAMPUS  
ABROAD®





## Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us on this enriching WolfTrekS journey in Mexico, named *Travel + Leisure's* 2022 Destination of the Year! The Yucatán's Mayan riches and historic grandeur take center stage on this seven-night, first-class journey based in Mérida, a colonial-era beauty and cultural hub.

Be awed by the impressive Mayan cities of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal, both UNESCO World Heritage sites. On guided tours, delight in the heritage and personality along the colorful streets of Mérida and Izamal and inside a unique cemetery. Connect with the Yucatán's natural beauty on a cruise that reveals flocks of flamingos and a visit to an underground cenote. You'll also meet artisans, soak in the live music and fun vibes at two cultural performances, plus feast on incredible cuisine!

This well-rounded program features the camaraderie and security of group travel and the services of a professional Travel Director. What makes it even more special is our commitment to education. Throughout your travels, expert guides and lecturers provide meaningful context to enhance your experience. All these elements make for an unbeatable travel value that will generate lots of interest, so guarantee your place by reserving today. We'll see you soon in the Yucatán!

Sincerely,

Kathy Hart  
WolfTrekS Travel Coordinator  
NC State Alumni Association

**919-515-0508**     **<http://www.alumni.ncsu.edu/engagement/wolftreks-travel>**



*Plaza Grande, Mérida*



Paseo de Montejo, Mérida

Day 1 | **In Transit | Mérida, Mexico**

Depart for Mérida, Mexico. 🌐

Arrive and transfer ➡ to the Villa Mercedes Merida, Curio Collection by Hilton.

Day 2 | **Mérida**

**Enrichment: History of the Yucatán Peninsula.**

**Discovery: Mérida City Tour.** Stroll with your guide through this lively city founded in 1542 by Spanish conquistador Francisco de Montejo and his son on the site of the ancient Mayan city of T'hó. Admire stately buildings like the 16th-century Cathedral de San Ildefonso in Plaza Grande, and go inside the Palacio del Gobierno de Yucatán to view dramatic murals by Mexican painter Fernando Castro Pacheco. Savor delicious Yucatecan specialties at lunch.

**Discovery: Grand Maya World Museum.** Get great insights on ancient and contemporary Mayan culture at this modern museum filled with unique artifacts and engaging exhibits. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at a restaurant.

Day 3 | **Uxmal | Muna | Pebá**

**Discovery: Uxmal.** Regarded as some of the finest examples of Mayan architecture, Uxmal's stunning ruins reveal meticulous designs and elaborate stone carvings. On your guided tour, note the recurring decorative motif of rain god Chac, an important deity in a region with little rainfall. Learn how the ancient Maya's beliefs about life and death influenced their civilization as you see the Pyramid of the Magician, the House of the Governor and other monuments. Chat about your visit over a tasty lunch nearby.

🌐 **AHI Connects: Ceramic Workshop.**

Visit an artisan in Muna who creates exquisitely crafted pieces using ancient techniques.

**Discovery: Cenote Sambula.** Beneath the Yucatán lie thousands of cenotes, caverns formed by sinkholes in the limestone bedrock that contain natural freshwater wells. In a region with no rivers or lakes, these sources of fresh water were vital to the earliest inhabitants, and some cenotes became sacred sites for the ancient Maya. Venture down to see a beautiful cenote tended by a group of families in Pebá.

**Enrichment: The Mayan Civilization's Golden Age.**

**Discovery: Yucatecan Serenade.** In one of Mérida's inviting plazas tonight, delight in the romantic melodies of this celebrated tribute to women and their beauty.

Day 4 | **Sihunchen Park | Celestún Estuary**

**Discovery: Celestún Estuary.** As you travel to the coast today, stop at Sihunchen Park,



Throne of the two-headed jaguar, Uxmal





Chichén Itzá

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### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Pre-Hispanic City of Chichén Itzá
2. Pre-Hispanic Town of Uxmal

### UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

Ria Celestún Biosphere Reserve

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an ecotourism site, for an interesting talk on Mayan astronomy and myths. Next, head to the Celestún Estuary, a special gem for nature lovers. This serene wetland is a favorite destination for migrating birds. Breathtaking flocks of graceful, pink American flamingos are the stars here, wading together and flying overhead. Take in this spectacular show and spot other bird species on a cruise through the lush mangrove and petrified forest.

Relax over lunch at a restaurant by the beach, then return to Mérida for tonight's activities.

#### **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

•**Street Food & Photography Walk.** Capture the historic grandeur of Paseo de Montejo and indulge in must-try treats in Plaza Santa Ana.

•**Honey Tasting & Stingless Bees.** The Maya valued native Melipona bees for the medicinal properties of their honey. Taste different honey varieties and delve into beekeeping practices.

•**Las Casas Cámara.** Tour a palatial French-style mansion on Paseo de Montejo built in 1911 with splendid decorative details.

#### Day 5 | **Chichén Itzá**

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**Discovery: Chichén Itzá.** This magnificent Mayan city flourished as a hub of military and religious power from the eighth to the 13th centuries. On a guided tour, marvel at the majestic pyramid dedicated to Kukulcan, the feathered serpent god; the imposing Temple of the Warriors; the Caracol, believed to have been used as an astronomical observatory; the vast field of the Great Ballcourt; and more. Break for lunch before your return to Mérida.

**Discovery: Noche Mexicana.** Feel uplifted by Mariachi music and swirling dancers at a joyful cultural event that's a Mérida tradition.

#### Day 6 | **Hoctún | Izamal**

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**Discovery: Izamal.** Stop in Hoctún to visit its colorful cemetery that exemplifies the spirit of the Yucatán's relationship with death. Beyond the gate, you'll discover a rainbow of brightly painted tombs, which family members have elaborately adorned with flowers, religious images and touching sculptures. While there, learn about the traditions of Hanal Pixán, the celebration honoring the dead. Then, revel in



Celestún Estuary



Izamal, known as Yucatán's Yellow City, lined with colonial-era buildings painted in a striking golden hue. Take a guided tour through the Convento de San Antonio de Padua, erected in 1561 on top of a former Mayan pyramid.

**AHI Connects: Meet the People.** Master craftsman Estaban Abán Montejo shows you how he creates fine jewelry from seeds and thorns and throws in a song or two in Maya! Relish lunch later at a restaurant in Izamal.

Back in Mérida, spend some time on your own, then rejoin your group for dinner in town.

Day 7 | Mérida

**Enrichment: Contemporary Mexico.**

**Discovery: Market Visit.** Sample indigenous fruits and vegetables in the bustling Mercado Central and find out more about the history of the Yucatán diet from your guide. Later, at the Museo de la Gastronomía Yucateca, enjoy a lunch that showcases traditional ingredients.

**Free Time:** The afternoon is yours to plan! Gather with your fellow travelers this evening for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 8 | In Transit

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

*Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.*

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

**Note About Activity Levels**

We have rated the activity levels of our excursions to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available. Please call or visit our website for more specific details.

**Excursions on this program require:**

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

**Included Features**

- Accommodations** {with baggage handling}
- **7 nights** in Mérida, Mexico, at the first-class Villa Mercedes Merida, Curio Collection by Hilton.
- Extensive Meal Program**
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 3 dinners; including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
  - Opportunities to sample authentic, local cuisine.
- Your One-of-a-Kind Journey**
- **Small group:** Sized just right at a maximum of 24 travelers.
  - **AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
  - **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
    - See top sites in Mérida's historic center.
    - Get prepped for your explorations at an informative museum on Mayan culture.
    - Explore the awe-inspiring archaeological ruins of Uxmal and Chichén Itzá.
    - Meet two talented artisans for a glimpse into their creative processes.
    - Go down into a picturesque cenote.
    - Revel in flocks of flamingos on a cruise.
    - Be charmed by Hoctún's cemetery and Izamal's eye-catching architecture.
    - Embrace Mérida's thriving, outdoor music and dance scene at two shows.
    - Dig into the flavors and staples of Yucatecan cuisine on a market tour.
  - Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
  - **PYJ | Personalize Your Journey** A choice of excursions in Mérida.
    - Street Food & Photography Walk | Honey Tasting & Stingless Bees | Las Casas Cámara
  - **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
  - **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
  - Free time to pursue your individual interests.
  - Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
  - A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
  - Tipping of guides and drivers.
  - Complimentary travel mementos.



## AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Passenger Service Representative** | After reserving your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who helps with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.

**Travel Information** | Before your journey, our team closely monitors travel conditions, shares pre-departure details and provides information and enrichment about your destination.

### *Once you arrive:*

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. Our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

**Travel Director** | Our multilingual Travel Director manages all the details so that you can simply relax and soak up the ambience. In the care of this seasoned travel professional who is attuned to your personal safety, you'll enjoy a seamless, unforgettable travel experience.

**Expert Guides** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed, enthusiastic local guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.

**Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our engaging local lecturers open your eyes to history, culture and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



## Villa Mercedes Merida | Mérida



Our travel experts have carefully selected this first-class, contemporary hotel for its convenient location in the heart of Mérida, making it easy for you to immerse yourself in the city's scenic streets and cultural happenings. It's also an ideal base from which to explore the Yucatán's acclaimed ruins, treasured towns and natural beauty. Look forward to a friendly welcome from the attentive and professional staff. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of this property's services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.

## Mayan Splendor in Mexico's Yucatan

Trip #:8-28048W

Contact Kathy Hart, WolfTreks Travel, at 919-515-0508 or hart@ncsu.edu with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation. For reservations, have the information outlined below ready to share with WolfTreks or provide it online at go.ncsu.edu/wolftreksreservation.

**If you prefer**, you may also complete the Reservation Request below and submit it to the Alumni Association. Once this request is received and transferred to AHI, an AHI Travel Expert will contact you within one business day to discuss deposit payment. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed.

**Send to** NC State Alumni Association  
Box 7503  
NC State University  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7503

**I/we would like to request \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).**

Deposit amount is \$600 per person.

**Full Legal Name** (exactly as it appears on passport)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Name you would like on your name badge

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Name you would like on your name badge

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Reservation Request sent separately)

### Single Accommodations

☐ I prefer single accommodations (supplement waived, limited availability).

### Flights

☐ Yes, I/we are requesting the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Mérida, Mexico, to depart from: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure City

I/we are interested in upgrading my/our international flight to the following:

☐ First Class ☐ Business Class ☐ Premium Economy

☐ No thanks! I/we will book my/our own air travel and transfers.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by **December 22, 2022** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

**Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://norcas.ahitravel.com/destinations/1746A?schoolid=115>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.**



## Program Dates

**Air Program dates:** March 7-14, 2023

**Land Program dates:** March 7-14, 2023

## Land Program

**Full Price**

**\$3,445**

**Special Savings**

**\$250**

**Special Price\***

**\$3,195**

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

**Let us arrange your flights**

**AHI FlexAir** 

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- ▶ **Price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- ▶ Arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- ▶ **Assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

*Murals, Palacio del Gobierno de Yucatán, Mérida*



## TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

For more than six decades, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

**To offer you added peace of mind, we've fine-tuned all facets of your travel experience:**



- **Included AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers travel- and health-related contingencies; available for U.S. residents only
- Increased booking **flexibility** and relaxed cancellation penalties
- **Home support staff and ground team** communicating 24/7 to ensure a seamless and safe journey
- **Travel Directors** specially trained to the highest standard in accordance with AHI's health and safety protocols
- A global network of partners rigorously following enhanced procedures and protocols
- Rigorous sanitization practices for river ships, hotels, trains and motor coaches
- Tour operations modified for smaller groups
- Hand sanitizer available for guest use

*Traditional Yucatecan food*





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Raleigh, NC 27695-7503  
MEXMER23 170

**919-515-0508**  
**<http://www.alumni.ncsu.edu/engagement/wolftreks-travel>**



House of the Governor, Uxmal

**SMALL  
GROUP**  
Maximum of  
24 Travelers



Convento de San Antonio de Padua, Ixmiquilpan

## Dive into an adventure packed with colonial charm and dazzling Mayan heritage!

**Please call or refer to our  
website for the most current  
rent  
program information,**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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