



Air & Sea Travel Center

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MEXICO & CUBA TOUR

Cities Covered: Mexico City, Puebla, Merida, Kabah, Uxmal, Chichen Itza, Cancun, Havana, Varadero & Cienfuegos

Tour Package Includes

- * **2** Countries: Mexico & Cuba
- * International Flight from **Los Angeles** on Aeromexico Airlines
- * Deluxe Hotel Accommodations (Based on Double Occupancy)
- * Admissions and **31** Meals as Stated
- * Mayan Culture Spots: Merida, Uxmal, Kabah & Chichén Itzá
- * Yucatan Peninsula Paradise: Cancun
- * **4** UNESCO World Heritage Sites
 - Chichén Itzá (One of The New Seven Wonders)
 - Puebla & Uxmal
 - Urban Historic Center of Cienfuegos
 - Old Havana and its Fortification System
- * Cuban Cigar Factory
- * Local Specialty Meals
- * Departure from Honolulu is available

FREE
Use of
Wireless
Tour Guide System



Traveling Dates:

**Nov 4 – 15, 2017
(12 Days)**

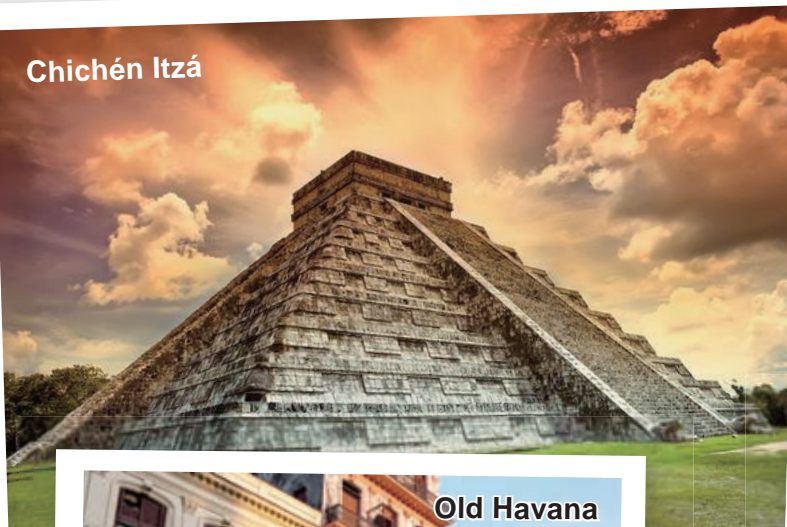
Price per person:

\$ 5,688

Incl: Tax & Fuel Charge

Single Supp: \$ 2,100

Chichén Itzá



Urban Historic
Center of
Cienfuegos



Old Havana



Puebla & Uxmal



Mexico is a federal republic in the southern half of North America. Mexican culture reflects the complexity of the country's history through the blending of indigenous cultures and the culture of Spain, imparted during Spain's 300-year colonization of Mexico. This huge country encompasses epic landscapes: from northern deserts and snowy peaks of the central sierra, to the jungle highlands of southern Chiapas and the beaches of the Yucatán Peninsula. Pre-Colombian civilizations made their mark with the vast pyramids of Teotihuacán, stunning temples of Chichén Itzá and countless other archaeological wonders.

What draws people to the Caribbean island of Cuba is much more than beaches and sun, though there are plenty of both. Soothing timba beats, Ché Guevara posters and 1950s-era Chevrolets pervade the crumbling capital of Havana, where life happens outside in the streets. Juggle the Communist country's two different currencies while haggling for tropical fruit at street-corner markets. Pastel-colored buildings line cobbled streets, where cigar-smoking locals draw you into conversations about economics or turn up the music and invite you to dance.

(Optional) ** Nov 03 Honolulu – Los Angeles →

We begin our journey by boarding a domestic flight to Los Angeles. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

Day 1 ** Nov 04 Los Angeles – Mexico City → (D)

After our arrival at Los Angeles, we will connect to an international flight to Mexico City, the capital city of Mexico and the largest city in North America by population. Upon arrival, an Air & Sea Travel representative will greet and escort us to our hotel.

Day 2 ** Nov 05 Mexico City (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we will visit Teotihuacan Pyramids. Our tour starts at the majestic Pyramid of the Sun, the highest structure in the complex. After climbing 243 steps to the top, you will be in perfect synchronization with the axis where the sun sets every evening and your body can get charged with energy. The 2.5 mile Avenue of the Dead is the city's broad central avenue that connects the Pyramid of the Moon to the Pyramid of the Sun and provides access to all the temples in the archaeological zone. The Pyramid of the Moon rises 135 feet above the ground. In front, a staggered four-body construction with sloping walls stands out from the rest of the mound. In addition to the importance of this pyramid, human remains and offerings of jewelry, jade, obsidian, shells and pottery, as well as human burials are worthy of our attention. Our next stop is The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Roman Catholic church, basilica and National shrine of Mexico in northern Mexico City. The shrine was built near the hill of Tepeyac where Our Lady of Guadalupe is believed to have appeared to Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin. This site is also known as La Villa de Guadalupe or simply La Villa, as it has several churches and related buildings.

Day 3 ** Nov 06 Puebla Excursion (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we head towards Cholula. It is built at the foot of the largest pyramid in Mesoamerica (65 meters high and 405 meters in each side). Our next stop is Santa Maria Tonantzintla, a temple beautifully decorated by indigenous hands. The roof and the ceiling of the church are impressive because they are crowded with faces, figures, masks, flowers, fruits, and birds alongside more abstract decorative design features. We continue to Puebla de Los Angeles, founded in 1531. The cathedral is a mixture of Renaissance and Baroque architecture and is the second largest in Mexico. We will also visit The Baroque Church of Santo Domingo and a beautiful Chapel of the Rosary, one of the most decorated in the country, covered in sacred gold altarpieces. We will have free time to walk through the historical center, lined with churches and ancient buildings, and visit The Craft Market Parian.

Day 4 ** Nov 07 Mexico City – Merida → (B, L, D)

In the morning, we will start our City Tour. We will see the "Zócalo" or Main Square, The Cathedral, The Government Palace with Diego Rivera's murals, where we can find five centuries of Mexican history. We will have panoramic views of some beautiful buildings such as: Mining Palace, National Art Museum, Post

Office and Alameda Central Park, where the Fine Arts Palace is located. Then we will head to Reforma Avenue and the Chapultepec area to visit the National Museum of Anthropology. It is the largest and most visited museum in Mexico and contains significant archaeological and anthropological artifacts from Mexico's pre-Columbian heritage, such as the Stone of the Sun (or the Aztec calendar stone) and the Aztec Xochipilli Statue. In the afternoon, we will transfer to the airport for a domestic flight to Merida, the capital and largest city in Yucatan state and the cultural and financial capital of the region. Upon arrival, we will transfer to our hotel.

Day 5 ** Nov 08 **Merida – Kabah – Uxmal Excursion** **(B, L, D)**

This morning we will visit Kabah, an archeological site inhabited from 300 BC to 1200 AD and the second largest religious center of Puuc architectural style. Admire Kabah's picturesque Palace, marvel at the impressive façade of the Palace of the Masks, famed for its 250 depictions of the rain god, and gaze at magnificent, intricate stone carvings of prominent Mayan figures. Later, we will go to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Uxmal. Note the prominence of the Mayan deity Chac, god of rain, through the countless masks and sculptures that decorate Uxmal's sacred structures. Visit the Nunnery Quadrangle to learn the meaning behind serpentine symbols and absorb the ethereal atmosphere at the Pyramid of the Magician as our guide unravels a complex and captivating history. On the facade of the Governor's Palace, observe more than 100 images of Chac and appreciate the astronomical precision of the central doorway. Other buildings at Uxmal include the House of Turtles, decorated with turtle sculptures associated at that time with rain, the Dovecote, a building with many separate chambers, the House of the Old Woman, and more. Uxmal also has a large ball court, enclosing a playing field that is 110 feet long and 32 feet wide.

Day 6 ** Nov 09 **Chichen Itza – Cancun** **(B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we will drive 1 ½ hours to Chichen Itza, one of Mexico's most visited tourist destinations, to explore the pre-Columbian Maya civilization. The Maya communities nearby have developed many wonderful sites for travelers to appreciate their Maya Cultural heritage. It was granted UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 1988 and was recently selected as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. We will see important buildings such as: the Kukulcan Temple or "the Castle", the Ballgame Court, the Skull Temple, the Jaguar's Temple, the Observatory, the One Thousand Columns, and the Sacred Well. After such an amazing Mayan visit, we continue to Cancun. The city of Cancun is young, as are most of its permanent and temporary inhabitants. It was just a small sand barrier 35 years ago when plans to develop it into a vacation haven of the 21st century began. Today, Cancun consists of a medium-sized coastal city and a long, thin island connected to the mainland by bridges at its north and south ends. It features world-class resorts, hotels, clubs, and malls and offers something for everyone, from an all-day fun party beach to an isolated, tranquil island.

Day 7 ** Nov 10 **Cancun – Havana – Varadero** → **(B, D)**

After enjoying breakfast, we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Havana, Cuba. The name Cuba comes from the Taíno language. The exact meaning is unclear but it may be translated either as 'where fertile land is abundant' or 'great place'. Historians who believe Christopher Columbus was Portuguese state that he named Cuba for the town of Cuba in the district of Beja in Portugal. It is one of the world's last planned economies dominated by the exports of sugar, tobacco, coffee and skilled labor. According to the Human Development Index, Cuba is described as a country with high human development and is ranked the eighth highest in North America. It also ranks highly in some metrics of national performance, including health care and education. Upon arrival, transfer to Varadero, a renowned tourist resort town, boasting more than 20 km of white sandy beaches. Check into our hotel and enjoy free and leisure time before dinner.

Day 8 ** Nov 11 **Cienfuegos Excursion** **(B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we have a full day excursion to Cienfuegos. First, we will visit the Bay of Pigs (Playa Giron), the site of the infamous failed American invasion of Cuba on April 17, 1961. The brutal history is nowhere to be seen, and it is now an area of profound natural beauty. Next, we will tour the Urban Historic Center of Cienfuegos designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005. There is no other place in the Caribbean

which contains such a remarkable cluster of Neoclassical structures. Cienfuegos is an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble representing the new ideas of modernity, hygiene and order in urban planning as developed in Latin America from the 19th century. Visit the Marti Park, center of the City and the beautiful Terry Theater, the Alameda, the historical European style mansions built by the founders of French descendant. Return to Varadero in the evening.

Day 9 ** Nov 12 **Varadero – Havana** **(B, L, D)**

Free and Leisure time in the morning. We can relax in the hotel or enjoy the white sand beaches. In the afternoon, we transfer to Havana, the capital and largest city, major port, and leading commercial centre of Cuba. In May 2015, Havana was officially recognized as one of the New Seven Wonders Cities together with Vigan, Doha, La Paz, Durban, Beirut, and Kuala Lumpur. After dinner, we will enjoy a Cuban Folk Music and Dance Performance Show.

Day 10 ** Nov 13 **Havana** **(B, L, D)**

Today's tour of Havana includes Morro Fortress, built in 1589 to guard the entrance to Havana Bay in response to raids on the harbor and panoramic National Capitol Building, or El Capitolio. Capitol Building was the seat of government in Cuba until the Cuban Revolution in 1959, and is now home to the Cuban Academy of Sciences. We will visit Revolution Square, the 31st largest city square in the world, measuring 72,000 square meters. Pope John Paul II in 1998 (first visit to Cuba by a Pope) and Pope Francis in 2015 held large Masses in the square during their papal visits to Cuba. Our next stop is Hemingway Residence where the author lived from mid 1939 to 1960 and wrote For Whom the Bell Tolls. Our last stop for the day is the University of Havana, the oldest university in Cuba founded on January 5, 1728.

Day 11 ** Nov 14 **Havana** **(B, L, D)**

We have another full day tour to explore Havana. We begin with a walking tour of Old Havana, visiting its main squares, streets, and Old Havana and its Fortification System, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Havana was founded in 1519 by the Spanish and by the 17th century, it had become one of the Caribbean's main centers for ship-building. Although it is a sprawling metropolis of 2 million inhabitants today, its old center retains an interesting mix of Baroque and neoclassical monuments, and a homogeneous ensemble of private houses with arcades, balconies, wrought-iron gates and internal courtyards. In Old Havana, the past is evident. Rumba tunes can be heard in the quaint cobbled squares; vintage cars fill the streets; and historic forts, museums, and beautifully restored architectural gems share the stories that shaped this grand city. We will walk through the Plaza de Armas and other Squares of Old Havana: San Francisco de Asís Square, Old Square, and Cathedral Square and see monuments, the Palacio del Segundo Cabo, and the Cathedral. Take a leisurely stroll through Havana's Old Town, pausing for coffee (and Cuban coffee is among the best in the world), or a magical mojito. Then ride Bicycle Taxis down narrow alleyways among old colonial homes in residential neighborhoods. In the afternoon, we will tour a Cigar Factory to watch workers roll cigars, learn about their quality-control methods, and forever remember the pungent aroma. Our next stop is Havana Club Rum Museum, where we will learn the fascinating 400-year history and production of Cuban rum.

Day 12 ** Nov 15 **Havana – Los Angeles** → **(B)**

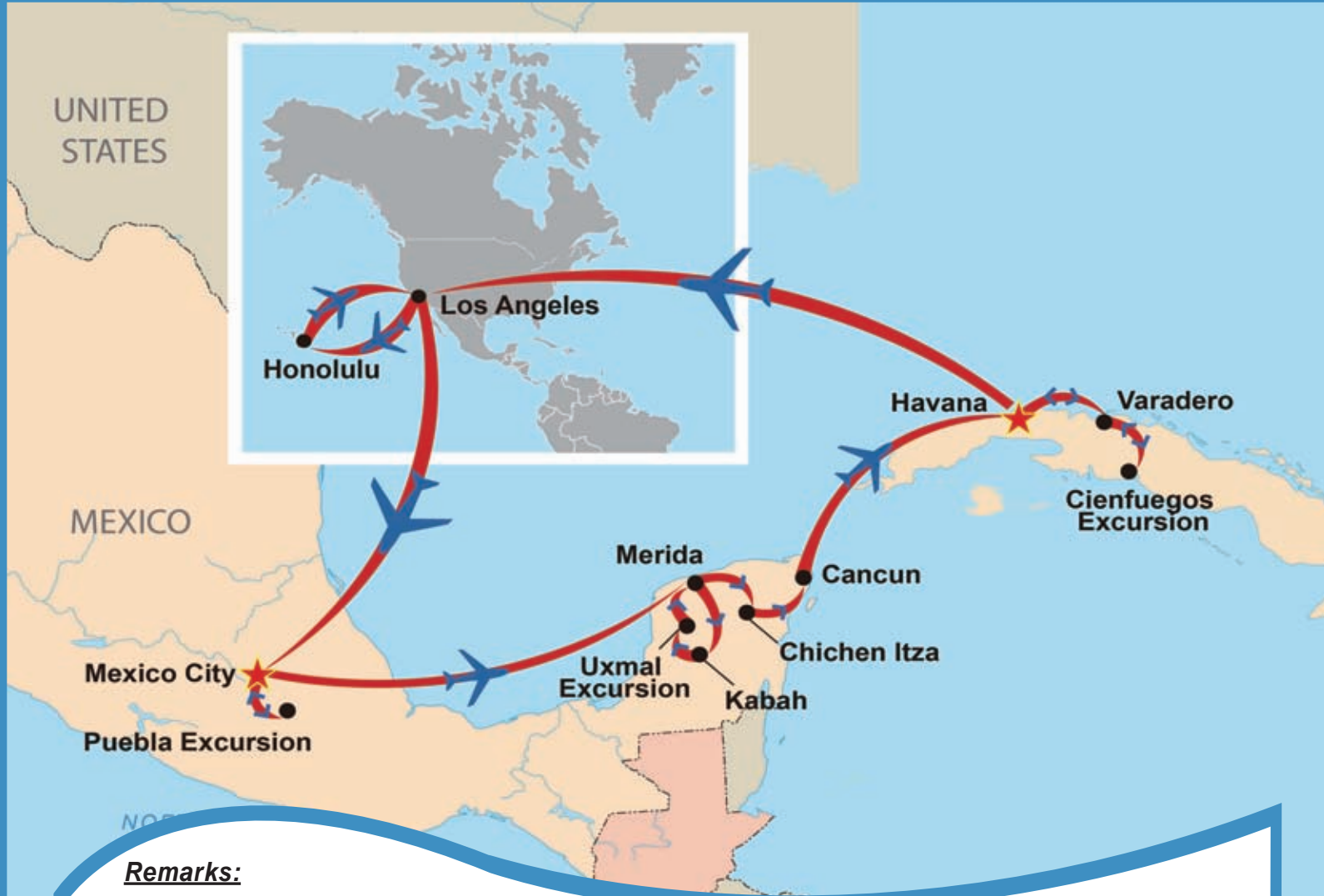
Today, we will transfer to the airport and board our flight back to Los Angeles. Upon arrival, proceed to immigration and customs. Some of us will ride the shuttle bus to our overnight hotel while others will continue to their next adventure.

(Optional) ** Nov 16 **Los Angeles – Honolulu** →

We will take a flight back to Honolulu, taking home lasting memories of a magnificent adventure.

We wish you a safe journey and take home many wonderful memories to share with family and friends! ☺

B: Breakfast | L: Lunch | D: Dinner



Remarks:

- ✦ International airfares from [Los Angeles](#)
- ✦ \$800 additional if departing from and returning to Honolulu (Fee incl. Honolulu – Los Angeles round-trip airfare & 1 night LA hotel accommodations with Twin-sharing room)
- ✦ Fares are per person, USD based on double occupancy and include all airline taxes and fees
- ✦ Business class is available, please call your agent for price
- ✦ Escorted tour with a minimum of 20 passengers
- ✦ Local English speaking tour guide service
- ✦ All Meals & Admissions as Stated
- ✦ All transfers and sightseeing by air conditioned coach
- ✦ Refer to “General Condition of Air & Sea”
- ✦ We reserve the right to modify the itinerary to ensure smooth operation
- ✦ Tips and gratuities are not included
- ✦ **Cuba visa (Tourist Card) is NOT included; available at airline check in counter, estimated at about US \$25.**
- ✦ Tour price is subject to change depending on any airfare increase, increase in government taxes, additional fuel charges and fluctuation of the rate of exchange between U.S. and foreign currency
- ✦ Tour price includes fuel surcharge & government taxes and fees. The tour price shown is current at time of listing and pricing on **Mar. 01, 2017**

Payment Policy:

CHECK OR CASH PAYMENT ONLY. A deposit of **\$1,500** per person is required at the time of application. The balance of payment is due Aug. 1, 2017. In case the balance of payment is not made within the required time period, Air and Sea Travel Center reserves the right to cancel reservations and charge a service fee for cancellation.

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Written notice is required for any cancellation:

After July 1, 2017 to departure, the cancellation fee will be as follow:

**July 1 to 31, 2017, \$1,500 deposit per person is non-refundable;

**Aug 1 to 31, 2017: 50% of total price plus any other service fee caused from the cancellation;

**From Sep 1, 2017 to departure or withdrawal during the tour shall be regarded as willingly giving up all rights concerned, 100% of the total price, and the request for other service as substitute shall not be accepted.

****We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance when you make your reservation.****