



ULTIMATE CENTRAL AMERICAN OVERLAND, (CMP)

Panama City to Mexico City 55 Days, departing 2nd April 2022



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding

Route: Panama City to Mexico City

Duration: 55 Days

Transport: US Style School Bus, Flight, Boat

Accommodation: Comfortable Hotel 27 nights
Camping 11 nights
Multishare Hostel 6 nights
Basic Hotel 10 nights

Meals: Breakfasts x 13, Lunches x 13, Dinners x 13

Physical Challenge: ● ● ○ ○ ○

Your itinerary may include easy-paced day walks, bike rides, and other activities that are not too strenuous.

Lifestyle Challenge: ● ● ● ○ ○

This trip has a bit of everything. Some areas that you travel through may be physically challenging; for example you may be at altitude some of the time and you may be camping for several nights. The pace of the trip can be tiring at times and some facilities will be basic. However there will also be plenty of time to relax and some comfortable accommodation.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Panama City (2nd April 2022)

Border information: if you are starting in Panama City, you will most likely enter Panama at Panama City Tocumen International Airport (IATA code: PTY).

There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

Until the meeting, the day is free to explore the bustling Panamanian capital. Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Panama City before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Panama City.

If you are continuing on from Cartagena today then your leader in Colombia will assist you with transport to the airport for your included flight to arrive in Panama in time for the joining meeting.

Accommodation: Hotel Centroamericano

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit Panama City's Museum of Contemporary Art, one of the best collections of works by local artists in Panama

Entrance: 5 USD

See the Panama Canal Museum in the city centre, featuring excellent exhibits about the famous waterway

Entrance and Audio tour: 10 USD

Visit the phenomenal Biodiversity Museum in Panama City, a striking and iconic building containing a wonderful celebration of the flora and fauna of Panama

Entrance: 22 USD

Day 2 - Camino Real (3rd April 2022)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive to the Miraflores Visitor Centre at the world-famous Panama Canal, learning about its incredible role in shaping trade and world politics in the 20th century.

We will then continue to Chagres National Park and explore the Grandfather of the Panama Canal: the Camino Real, a cobblestoned road from the Caribbean to the Pacific through the rain forests of Panama, established as the transport route of gold and silver by Spanish conquistadors in the 16th Century. The Camino Real was rediscovered only recently, and we will visit and stay overnight at a community, which worked together with researcher Christian Strassnig to identify the original route of the Camino Real in the jungle.

At Alajuela Lake we take a dugout boat to observe the remains of the Camino Real at the lakeshore, before heading to our Community stay to enjoy a typical Panamanian lunch and see then a presentation of authentic folklore. We will then hike some of the Camino Real, see the original cobblestone and be fascinated by stories of the mule trains, gold and pirates.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the world-famous Panama Canal at the Miraflores Visitors' Centre, and learn all about the fascinating history of this controversial structure

Included

Explore El Camino Real, the original route connecting the Pacific with the Caribbean

Included

Day 3 - Boquete (4th April 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

After early morning coffee we can go for an optional birdwatching hike on a trail with plenty of tropical birds, followed by a hearty breakfast. Afterwards we will drive up into the Chiriqui highlands, arriving at the town of Boquete.

Day 4 - Boquete (5th April 2022)

Today we will have a free day to take part in some of the many optional outdoor activities which the town is famous for, including the opportunity to take the strenuous trek to the 3,478m summit of Volcán Barú, the highest point in Panama.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head out on a tour of some of the fascinating coffee plantations around the Chiriqui Highlands near Boquete

Coffee Tour: 30 USD

Take a dip in the excellent Caldera hot springs near Boquete

Entrance: 3 USD

Freely explore the beautiful gardens and parks around Boquete and its surroundings

Entrance: Free

Trek up to the summit of Volcán Barú at 3478m the highest point in Panama - please note this is a strenuous trek and usually takes approximately 8-12 hours so you will need to be in decent physical condition to participate

Guided trek: 80 USD

Head on an excellent 12-line zip-lining course through the cloud forests near Boquete

Zip line: 65 USD

Explore the spectacular Caldera Highlands around Boquete on horseback riding through rainforests and local farms and coffee plantations

Riding: 35 USD

Trek the famous Quetzal Trail through the cloud forests of the Chiriqui Highlands, or trek to various waterfalls in the rainforest

Quetzal Trek: 90 USD

Head out on an exhilarating white-water rafting expedition on the Chiriqui Viejo river near Boquete, one of the world's best rafting areas with 35 world-class runs to choose from

Rafting: 65 USD

Enjoy a fantastic short canyoning trip through the gorges of Gualaca near Boquete

Canyoning: 25 USD

Take a fascinating bird-watching trip into the Chiriqui Highlands one of the most abundant areas of birdlife in the Americas

Bird watching: 50 USD

Go on a half-day rock climbing trip to the basalt cliffs near Boquete one of Panama's best climbing destinations

Climbing: 45 USD

Head out on a quad bike tour of the mountains, forests and coffee plantations near Boquete (driver's licence required)

Quad bike tour: 55 USD

Take a day trip out to Boca Brava on the Pacific coast where you can swim kayak snorkel and relax on some of the stunning beaches there

Day tour: 75 USD

Day 5 - Manuel Antonio NP (6th April 2022)

Border information: Exit Panama at Paso Canoas, enter Costa Rica at Paso Canoas

Today we will drive across the border into Costa Rica, and arrive at the spectacular beaches of Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific coast.

Day 6 - Manuel Antonio NP (7th April 2022)

Today we will have an included guided walk through some of the beautiful trails within park, learning all about its flora and fauna and immersing ourselves in the idyllic landscape. We will have free time in the afternoon to take part in some optional activities or relax on the wonderful beaches.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided walk through the stunning trails of Manuel Antonio National Park finishing at the world-class tropical beaches where you can swim and relax

Included

Optional Activities

Head out on a wonderful quad biking trip through the tropical countryside of Manuel Antonio and Quepos

Quad bike tour: 40 USD

Take an exhilarating trip to the rainforests near Quepos to enjoy an incredible zip lining course

Zip line: 40 USD

Explore the ocean on a catamaran sailing trip heading out in search of dolphins tropical fish and turtles and witnessing an unforgettable offshore sunset

Catamaran: 40 USD

Explore the mangroves of Manuel Antonio by boat or by kayak in search of rainbow boas crocodiles and various water birds

Boat trip: 20 USD

Explore the stunning cattle ranches fruit plantations and palm trees of the countryside near Manuel Antonio on a horse riding trip

Horse riding: 30 USD

Head on an exhilarating guided jet ski trip on the Pacific Ocean near Manuel Antonio

Jet ski: 40 USD

Go on an incredible white-water rafting trip on the Naranjo and Savegre rivers near Manuel Antonio National Park

Rafting: 40 USD

Take a paddle-boarding lesson to explore the secluded beaches of Manuel Antonio National Park

Paddle boarding: 20 USD

Explore the rainforest canopy and its incredible wildlife and landscapes on a wonderful canopy bridge course near Manuel Antonio

Canopy: 30 USD

Join a scuba diving trip to explore the reefs and underwater volcanic rock formations in the oceans near Manuel Antonio

Diving: 50 USD

Try your hand at surfing on a short lesson in Manuel Antonio National Park

Surfing: 10 USD

Day 7 - Monteverde (8th April 2022)

Today we will drive to the town of Tilarán, where we will leave our overland vehicle behind and transfer by taxi to the dense cloud forests and coffee plantations of Monteverde, a stunning area offering an incredible diversity of flora and fauna.

Day 8 - Monteverde (9th April 2022)

Today we will have an included guided walk on the trails of the Monteverde Cloud Forest National Reserve, followed by a free afternoon to visit some of the town's highlights or enjoy some adventurous activities such as canyoning or horse riding.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided trek to explore the stunning forest trails of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve learning all about the fascinating and beautiful ecosystem there

Included

Optional Activities

Explore the incredible cloud forests of Monteverde at the tree-top level on a 3km canopy bridge circuit

Bridge course: 30 USD

Fly above the cloud forests and valleys of Monteverde on an exhilarating zip-lining course

Zip line: 50 USD

Take an exhilarating off-road quad biking trip around the stunning countryside of Monteverde (driving licence required)

Quad bike tour: 70 USD

Head out to the cloud forests of the Santamarias Reserve to explore the area by night when much of the elusive local wildlife comes out

Walk: 23 USD

Take a spectacular canyoning tour near Monteverde including abseiling down 6 different waterfalls!

Entrance: 50 USD

Explore the stunning forests and banana plantations of Monteverde on a horse riding trip

Riding: 35 USD

Learn all about the cultivation and processing of the world-renowned coffee of Costa Rica at one of the many incredible coffee plantations near Monteverde

Coffe tour: 35 USD

Visit the fantastic Butterfly Gardens of Monteverde and learn all about the abundant bug-life of Costa Rica's cloud forests

Entrance: 10 USD

Learn about Costa Rica's spectacular amphibians at the Monteverde Frog Pond

Entrance: 13 USD

Visit the Bat Jungle exhibition in Monteverde learning all about the various bat species of the area from an expert guide

Entrance: 10 USD

Explore the magnificent Monteverde Orchid Gardens home to over 400 species of orchids found in the region

Entrance: 10 USD

Day 9 - La Fortuna (10th April 2022)

Today we will continue by taxi and boat to La Fortuna, a stunning town under the shadow of the mighty Arenal volcano.

Day 10 - La Fortuna (11th April 2022)

Today we will have a free day to take optional treks through the incredible surrounding volcanic landscapes or forest canopies, or get involved in many different adventure activities such as zip-lining, white-water rafting, and canyoning. La Fortuna is also famous for its outstanding hot springs, which we will have the opportunity to visit.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a fantastic white-water rafting trip on the Balsa or Sarapiquí rivers near La Fortuna some of the best rafting areas in Costa Rica

Raft: 89 USD

Take a kayaking trip on Lake Arenal giving you the best views of the behemoth volcano of Arenal and an opportunity to spot many species of birds

Kayak: 65 USD

Head out for an evening at the spectacular volcanic hot springs complex of Baldi near La Fortuna

Springs: 34 USD

Explore the breathtaking forests and volcanic landscapes of La Fortuna on several mountain biking trails in the area

Biking: 75 USD

Take a intense canyoning trip into the rugged gorges of the jungles near Arenal including several waterfall abseils

Lost Canyon: 100 USD

Learn all about the intricacies of Costa Rican cuisine on a cooking class in La Fortuna

Class: 45 USD

Learn all about the plants animals traditions and agriculture of Costa Rica on a visit to the El Bosque Eco-Farm near La Fortuna

Farm: 45 USD

Explore the stunning countryside and lush forests of the Arenal region by foot where there many excellent guided trekking options

Trek : 85 USD

Visit the hanging bridge courses through the rainforest canopies near La Fortuna

Bridges: 67 USD

Explore the magnificent countryside and waterfalls around the Arenal volcano by horseback

Ride: 65 USD

Head out on an incredible zip lining course in the rainforests surrounding La Fortuna

Zip Line: 55 USD

Day 11 - Isla de Ometepe (12th April 2022)

Border information: Exit Costa Rica at Peñas Blancas, enter Nicaragua at Peñas Blancas

This morning we drive across the Nicaraguan border and to the small town of San Jorge on the shores of Lake Nicaragua, Central America's largest lake. Here we will board a ferry to the stunning volcanic island of Ometepe, where we base ourselves in the port village of Moyogalpa and enjoy free time to explore on arrival.

Day 12 - Isla de Ometepe (13th April 2022)

Today we will have free time to explore and take part in optional activities such as the challenging trek to the summit of the Concepción volcano that dominates the island, or seeing some of the mysterious ancient petroglyphs that are dotted through the landscape.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Trek to the summit of the iconic Concepción volcano that dominates over the island of Ometepe (please note that this is a very strenuous trek that will only be possible for those with a high level of fitness and in good shape - the trek is over 1000m of ascent and descent on rugged terrain and will take between 9-12 hours).

Trek: 40 USD

Climb to the summit of the Madera volcano on Ometepe Island (please note that although this is an easier trek than up Concepción volcano it is still a very strenuous hike and you need to have a high level of fitness to complete it - the trek usually takes between 7-9 hours)

Trek: 42 USD

Head on a guided walk around Ometepe and see some of the natural springs beaches and small villages on the island

Walks: 30 USD

Trek up to the stunning San Ramón waterfall in the forests near Madera volcano

Guided walk: 40 USD

Learn about the fascinating history and geology of the island at the Ometepe Museum in Altagracia village

Entrance: 3 USD

Visit the mystical and serene emerald-green lagoon of Charco Verde

Price: 20 USD

Day 13 - Granada (14th April 2022)

Today we will take the ferry back to San Jorge to rejoin our overland vehicle and take a short drive to Nicaragua's oldest city of Granada, a beautiful town which oozes with colonial charm! We will have free time to explore the city upon arrival.

Day 14 - Granada (15th April 2022)

Today we will have free time to explore the historic streets of Granada's old town, or take part in some of the myriad of optional activities that are available here.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the incredible San Francisco Convent and Museum in Granada, the oldest building in Central America dating from 1585

Entrance: 2 USD

Take a city tour around the spectacular buildings and atmospheric streets of the old colonial city of Granada

City Tour: 20 USD

Trek up the beautiful dormant volcano of Mombacho near to Granada exploring its rugged terrain and dwarf forests

Trek and Zip line: 55 USD

Learn about the cultivation of cocoa and its manufacture into chocolate at the Choco Museo in Granada

Chocolate workshop: 19 USD

Take a boat or kayak trip around the beautiful Isletas de Granada in search of the local birdlife and the magnificent views of the surrounding volcanoes

Short kayak trip: 25 USD

Day 15 - Leon (16th April 2022)

Today we drive to the university town of León. En route we will have an included visit to the traditional markets in the small town of Masaya, and witness the incredible active caldera of the nearby Masaya volcano (if its volcanic activity isn't too high).

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the dramatic crater rim of the active Masaya volcano between León and Granada

Included

Explore the traditional markets in Masaya village, famous for its local handicrafts

Included

See a fascinating workshop in the village of San Juan de Oriente demonstrating various local pottery-making techniques

Included

Day 16 - Leon (17th April 2022)

Today we will have free time to explore the town's wonderful colonial architecture or to take part in the many optional activities available here.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Enjoy a fun and unique trip out to sand board down the ash slopes of the Cerro Negro volcano

Boarding: 30 USD

Visit León's many museums and galleries such as the world-class Ortiz-Gurdián art museum the Gallery of Heros and Martyrs and the Museum of Legends and Traditions

Entrance: 20 NIO

Trek up the impressive active Telica volcano near León (please note that this is a fairly strenuous trek and you will need to be in good physical shape to participate - the trek usually takes about 6-7 hours)

Tour: 50 USD

See the bizarre volcanic mud pools of San Jacinto near León

Trip: 18 USD

Head to the fantastic modern visitor centre at the world-famous Flor de Caña rum factory

Visit: 35 USD

Visit the ancient ruins of León Viejo the original settlement built by the Spanish before the town was moved in 1610

Tour: 35 USD

Explore the stunning mangroves and wild sandy beaches of the Juan Venado Natural Reserve on a kayaking trip out of León

Trip: 35 USD

Head out on a horse riding trip in the stunning countryside near León including views of the impossibly-circular crater of El Hoyo volcano and the beautiful Asososca lagoon

Ride: 40 USD

Day 17 - Somoto (18th April 2022)

This morning we will drive to the Somoto Canyon, where we will have an included Canyon tour, or village tour if you prefer.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a half day tour of the Somoto Canyon, which includes walking, sightseeing, rock scrambling, wading, floating, swimming, boating, and jumping!

Included

Day 18 - Lake Yojoa (19th April 2022)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Nicaragua at Las Manos, enter Honduras at Las Manos.

Today we will have a full day's drive across the border into Honduras and to the beautiful countryside of Lake Yojoa.

Day 19 - Roatan (20th April 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will take a short drive to the town of San Pedro Sula and board a short local flight to Roatán, the largest of the famous tropical Bay Islands. On arrival we will transfer to the area of the West End Bay, where we base ourselves for our stay.

Day 20 - Roatan (21st April 2022)

Today we will enjoy some free time to take part in the wealth of optional activities available on Roatán, and of course to relax and swim on the stunning Caribbean beaches here!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head out scuba diving to the beautiful coral reefs off the coast of Roatán

Fun Dive: 50 USD

Go on a spectacular snorkelling trip around the highlights of Roatán such as the Blue Channel and St. Anthony's Key

Blue Channel: 30 USD

Head on an epic underwater expedition in a unique private submarine exploring the dark depths hundreds of metres under the surface of the ocean

300m dive: 500 USD

Head out on a guided tour of Roatán seeing some of the most beautiful spots on the island and learning all about its history

Tour: 65 USD

Go out horse riding across the stunning island of Roatán through its wonderful eco-system of cacti palms and orchids

Horse ride: 40 USD

Take an exciting zip lining course on Roatán island

Tour: 45 USD

Sail out on a deep sea fishing trip in the Caribbean waters near Roatán (price for the entire boat with a maximum occupancy of 4 passengers)

Fishing per boat: 90 USD

Day 21 - Roatan (22nd April 2022)

Relax on the beach or head out on some activities on our second full day on Roatan.

Day 22 - Copan (23rd April 2022)

Today we will start early to transfer back to Roatán's airport and catch our flight back to the mainland, rejoining our overland bus! We will then continue our journey west through Honduras, arriving at the small village of Copán.

Day 23 - Copan (24th April 2022)

Today we will have an included guided visit to the spectacular Mayan ruins of Copán, followed by a free afternoon to explore some of the other highlights in the area.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Enjoy a guided tour of the magnificent ancient Mayan ruins of Copán

Included

Optional Activities

Visit the Macaw Mountain Bird Sanctuary in Copán home to many rescued birds such as macaws toucans and kingfishers

Entrance: 200 HNL

Visit the beautiful old Mayan stone carvings of Los Sapos with fantastic views over the town of Copán

Entrance: 30 HNL

Visit the Copán Butterfly Gardens a serene garden bursting with tropical plants and dozens of moths and butterflies flitting about!

Entrance: 115 HNL

Day 24 - Suchitoto (25th April 2022)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Honduras at El Florido, enter Guatemala at El Florido. Exit Guatemala at Anguiatú, enter El Salvador at Anguiatú.

Today we will have a full day drive into Guatemala and then through to El Salvador, arriving at the beautiful town of Suchitoto.

In Suchitoto we will stay in dormitory rooms at the Centro Arte Para La Paz community centre, which runs many programs for the local communities to build cultural identity, unity, teaching skills, self-sufficiency, environmental equality and a culture of peace.

Day 25 - Suchitoto (26th April 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have the chance to explore the town with its cobbled streets and whitewashed houses.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend the night at the wonderful community centre of Centro Arte Para La Paz in Suchitoto which runs many workshops and projects for the locals in the area

Included

Optional Activities

Take a sunset boat trip in Suchitoto

Boat: 10 USD

Enjoy a walking tour of Suchitoto town

Tour: 10 USD

Day 26 - Cerro Verde NP (27th April 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive to the stunning Cerro Verde National Park, where we will be surrounded by awe-inspiring volcanoes and countryside. In the afternoon we will take a guided hike up the Santa Ana Volcano.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Trek up to the summit of Santa Ana El Salvador's highest volcano in the heart of Cerro Verde National Park

Included

Visit the spectacular volcanic landscape of Cerro Verde National Park one of El Salvador's gems

Included

Day 27 - Antigua (28th April 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Border information: Exit El Salvador at La Hachadura, enter Guatemala at Ciudad Pedro de Alvarado.

Today we will cross the Guatemalan border to arrive in the stunning colonial city of Antigua. The rest of the day is free to explore the beautiful colonial city and its dramatic surroundings.

Day 28 - Antigua (29th April 2022)

Border information: if joining in Antigua, you will most likely enter Guatemala at Guatemala City La Aurora International Airport (IATA code: GUA).

There will be an important group meeting at 18:00 at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

The rest of the day is free to explore the beautiful colonial city and its dramatic surroundings, and to take part in some optional activities. Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Antigua before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Antigua.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the Choco Museum of Antigua learning all about the history of the culinary use of cocoa ever since the Mayan period

Entrance: 120 USD

Visit a traditional coffee plantation in the cool hills surrounding Antigua

Tour: 200 GTQ

Participate in a local handicrafts workshop in a village near Antigua learning traditional weaving cooking or woodworking skills

Visit: 200 GTQ

Learn all about the culture and history of Antigua at some of its museums such as the Museum of Ancient Books and the Museum of Colonial Art

Visit: 30 GTQ

Take a trek up to the famous active volcano of Pacaya near Antigua

Day trek: 59 USD

Visit the old Jesuit church of Santo Domingo an iconic building in Antigua and home to six fascinating museums

Visit: 48 GTQ

Head on a challenging trek up the Fuego or Acatenango volcanoes near Antigua (please note that both these treks are very strenuous and only those in excellent physical shape will be able to participate)

Fuego day trek: 65 USD

Day 29 - Panajachel (30th April 2022)

Today we will head to Panajachel, situated on the shores of the beautiful Lake Atitlan.

Day 30 - Panajachel (1st May 2022)

Today we will have free time to enjoy some optional activities such as a boat on the lake out to some of the small local villages along the shoreline.

If possible, we will include a visit to the famous Chichicastenango Market during these days, depending on the weekday. *(Please note that the market is only open on Thursdays and Sundays so you may not be able to visit during your trip).*

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the bewildering Mayan markets at Chichicastenango taking in the incredible sights smells and atmosphere (provided it is running while we are in the area)

Visit: Free

Head out on a boat trip to visit the traditional Mayan villages dotted along the coast of Lake Atitlan

Private boat trip: 30 USD

Take a tour through the spectacular highlands surrounding Lake Atitlan and Panajachel visiting picturesque villages and hot springs

Tour: 45 USD

Day 31 - San Andres Itzapa (2nd May 2022)

Today we will drive day to San Andres Itzapa, a small village located in the mountains around Antigua. We will spend one night at the community centre of Manos Amigas, run by the Italian NGO 'Mani Amiche' in support of local women who have been abandoned and abused, and who are staying in the centre with their children.

In San Andres Itzapa we will stay in dormitories at the community centre (please note that there is no option to upgrade to private accommodation here).

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend a night at the Manos Amigas community project a centre which has been set up to support local women and their children

Included

Day 32 - Rio Dulce (3rd May 2022)

Today we will drive north to Rio Dulce in Guatemala's beautiful central region.

Day 33 - Rio Dulce (4th May 2022)

Today we will have an included boat trip to the village of Livingston on the Caribbean coast.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Enjoy a beautiful boat ride down the Rio Dulce to the Caribbean town of Livingston

Included

Optional Activities

Take a kayak out to explore the beautiful waters around Rio Dulce at sunrise

Kayak rental: 125 GTQ

Explore deep into the Guatemalan rainforest on foot and trek on the canopy bridges near Rio Dulce

Rainforest trail: 125 GTQ

Day 34 - Poptun (5th May 2022)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a free morning to enjoy some optional activities in Rio Dulce, before heading on a short drive to our eco-lodge near Poptún.

Day 35 - Poptun (6th May 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have free time to take part in the many optional activities offered at our eco lodge.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Trek out to the incredible River Cave near Poptún walking through the stunning Guatemalan rural landscape and exploring the underground rivers by candlelight

River Cave: 115 GTQ

Take a day tour out to the nearby Mayan ruins of Ixcun the comprehensive museum of Dolores and the beautiful waterfall of Mopan

Tour: 150 GTQ

Explore the incredible caves of Naj Tunich boasting the largest and most exceptional amount of Mayan cave inscriptions paintings and hieroglyphs in the world

Walks: 150 GTQ

Head out on a self-guided walk around our eco-lodge taking in fantastic views of the surrounding rural landscape

Walks: Free

Day 36 - Tikal (7th May 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a short drive to the phenomenal Mayan ruins of Tikal, where we have an included guided tour. We will likely stop briefly in the colonial town of Flores en route.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Enjoy a guided tour of the phenomenal Mayan ruins of Tikal one of the greatest ancient sites in the world

Included

Day 37 - San Ignacio (8th May 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Border information: Exit Guatemala at Melchor de Mencos, enter Belize at Benque Viejo del Carmen.

Today we have a short drive in local transport across the border into Belize and on to the village of San Ignacio, home to the country's best archaeological sites and adventure activities!

Please note that in Belize we will travel in local transport, as we are not permitted to use a foreign vehicle. The bus will follow us to our destination.

Day 38 - San Ignacio (9th May 2022)

We will have two full days to take part in the many optional activities available in San Ignacio, including trekking, caving, biking, and exploring the excellent Mayan ruins in the area.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Rent mountain bikes and explore the area around San Ignacio

6hr bike ride: 20 USD

Visit the stunning ruins of Cahal Pech atop a hill overlooking the southern outskirts of San Ignacio

Entrance: 30 BZD

Take a full day tour to the remote ruins of the ancient Mayan capital of Caracol once twice the size of the modern Belize City

Entrance: 110 USD

Visit the Actun Tunichil Mukwal Cave a Mayan archaeological site that includes ceramics stoneware and skeletal remains such as the famous 'Crystal Maiden'

Entrance: 95 USD

Learn about local herbs and plants on a medicinal jungle trail en route to a release program for Green Iguanas near San Ignacio

Entrance: 12 BZD

Explore the ancient ruins of Xunantunich Belize's most-visited Mayan site and home to the mighty El Castillo pyramid

Entrance: 10 BZD

Day 39 - San Ignacio (10th May 2022)

Today we enjoy a second free day for activities in and around San Ignacio.

Day 40 - Caye Caulker (11th May 2022)

Today we will travel north to Belize City, where we board a speed boat to the island paradise of Caye Caulker.

Day 41 - Caye Caulker (12th May 2022)

We will have two full days of free time to explore and enjoy the many optional activities available here, such as snorkelling, diving or taking a scenic flight over the phenomenal Great Blue Hole.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head out on a fantastic scuba diving trip through the colossal coral reefs off the Caribbean island of Caye Caulker (there are many different options and sites available)

Marine reserve dive: 110 USD

Go on a half-day fishing trip in the idyllic blue ocean near Caye Caulker

Half day: 250 USD

Take a scenic flight over the phenomenal natural Great Blue Hole off Caye Caulker

Flight: 260 USD

Hire sea kayaks to explore the deserted mangroves of Caye Caulker's North Island

Hire: 20 USD

Head out to the stunning coral reefs off Caye Caulker on a snorkelling trip

Price: 75 USD

Day 42 - Caye Caulker (13th May 2022)

Relax on the beach or head out for an activity on our second free day on Caye Caulker.

Day 43 - Tulum (14th May 2022)

Meals: Dinner

Border information: Exit Belize at Santa Elena, enter Mexico at Subteniente López.

Today we will head back to the mainland, Before continuing our drive to the stunning coastal village of Tulum.

Day 44 - Tulum (15th May 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we visit the Tulum ruins, one of the last cities built by the Maya and one of the best preserved coastal Maya sites. We will have a free afternoon to explore the beaches or take part in some optional activities.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the phenomenal cliff-top Maya-Toltec ruins at Tulum wonderfully located right on the Caribbean coast

Included

Optional Activities

Head out to explore some of the incredible cenotes (natural water-filled sinkholes) near Tulum

Entrance: 150 MXN

Go on a scuba diving trip through the ocean reefs near Tulum or to some of the area's natural cenotes

Diving: 100 USD

Take an introductory course in the exhilarating sport of kite surfing from the stunning beaches of Tulum

Course: 180 USD

Hire snorkel gear on the beautiful beaches of Tulum

Snorkel Hire: 10 USD

Day 45 - Merida (16th May 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have an early start to drive to the world-famous Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World - we have an included guided tour around this spectacular site before continuing our drive to the beautiful and artistic colonial town of Mérida, the capital of the Yucatan state.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the spectacular Chichen Itza Mayan ruins on a guided tour one of the New Seven Wonders of the World centred around the world-famous pyramid of El Castillo

Included

Optional Activities

Take a swim in the stunning natural cenote of Ik Kil near the ruins of Chichen Itza

Entrance: 6 USD

Day 46 - Palenque (17th May 2022)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a full day drive to the village of Palenque.

Day 47 - Palenque (18th May 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have an included guided visit to the incredible Mayan ruins of Palenque, which rise out of the thick jungle surrounding them. In the afternoon we will have free time to go on a jungle tour, visit the on site museum, or travel to the nearby waterfall of Misol Ha.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a fascinating guided tour around the magnificent ruined city of Palenque deep in the Mexican jungle including time to freely explore the excellent on-site museum

Included

Optional Activities

Take a trip out to the beautiful waterfall of Misol Ha near Palenque (if time allows)

Entrance: 35 MXN

Day 48 - Frontera Corozal (19th May 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a drive to the remote town of Frontera Corozal, on the Guatemalan border. In the afternoon we will have an included guided visit to the remote ancient Mayan city of Yaxchilán, which is only accessible via a boat trip down the river.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a boat trip out for a guided tour of the stunning and remote Mayan ruins at Yaxchilán

Included

Day 49 - San Cristobal de las Casas (20th May 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a full day drive to the stunning old colonial town of San Cristóbal de las Casas, one of Mexico's most beautiful towns. and well known as the heart of the indigenous Tzotzil Maya culture. En route, we may have time for an optional stop at the stunning waterfalls of Agua Azul.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the spectacular stepped waterfalls of Agua Azul between San Cristobal de las Casas and Palenque (if time allows)

Waterfalls & Entrance: 25 MXN

Day 50 - San Cristobal de las Casas (21st May 2022)

Today we will have a free day for exploration and to take part in some optional activities such as taking a tour to the fascinating Maya village of San Juan Chamula, or exploring the nearby Lagunas de Montebello National Park.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head out on a mountain biking tour through the cloud forests and highlands surrounding San Cristóbal de las Casas

Entrance: 380 MXN

Explore the wonderful botanical gardens of Orchideas Moxviquil and discover its collection of over 400 species of native plants and orchids

Entrance: 30 MXN

Learn all about the traditional medicines of the Mayan people at the award-winning Mayan Medicine Museum

Entrance: 20 MXN

Take a day trip to explore the idyllic national park of Lagunas de Montebello home to pine forests Mayan ruins and many beautiful lakes

Entrance: 250 MXN

Visit the fantastic cultural centre of Na Bolom, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the protection of the Lacandon Maya culture and the preservation of the Chiapas rain forest

Entrance: 40 MXN

Visit the atmospheric Tzotzil Mayan villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan

Entrance: 200 MXN

See the incredible showcase of handwoven fabrics from throughout Central America at the Mayan World Textiles Centre

Entrance: 52 MXN

Walking tour of San Cristobal de las Casas

Entrance: 10 MXN

Day 51 - San Cristobal de las Casas (22nd May 2022)

Today we will have an included boat trip down the phenomenal Sumidero Canyon, viewing its colossal cliffs from the base and searching for the resident wildlife.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head on a boat trip along the breathtaking Sumidero Canyon

Included

Day 52 - Oaxaca (23rd May 2022)

Today we have a full day drive to the wonderful laid-back colonial town of Oaxaca, famous for its cuisine and indigenous cultures.

Day 53 - Oaxaca (24th May 2022)

Today we will have an included guided visit of the ruined Zapotec city of Monte Alban, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the afternoon we will have free time to further explore the area's highlights.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided tour around the ruined Zapotec capital of Monte Alban near Oaxaca

Included

Optional Activities

Visit the remarkably well-preserved Zapotec ruins of Mitla near to Oaxaca

Entrance: 64 MXN

Learn all about the history and cultures of Oaxaca at the incredible Museum of Cultures one of the best regional museums in Mexico

Entrance: 64 MXN

Visit the splendid Baroque Dominican church of Santo Domingo in Oaxaca's colonial centre

Entrance: 50 MXN

See the incredible Tree of Tule which with a circumference of 42 metres has the widest trunk in the world

Entrance: Free

Day 54 - Mexico City (25th May 2022)

Today we will have a full day drive to Mexico's incredible bustling capital of Mexico City.

Day 55 - Mexico City (26th May 2022)

Border information: if leaving in Mexico City, you will most likely exit Mexico at Mexico City Benito Juárez International Airport (IATA code: MEX).

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Mexico City. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact your sales agent if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation in order to fully explore and take part in some of the optional activities listed below.

Accommodation:

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the beautiful Palacio de Bellas Artes and see its immense murals by world-famous Mexican artists such as Diego Rivera

Entrance: 70 MXN

Freely explore the colossal Chapultepec Park one of the world's largest urban green spaces and a cultural hotspot where you can often see the pole-swinging 'Volador' dancers

Entrance: Free

See Mexico City's famous traditional mariachi bands in the evening around Garibaldi Square

Entrance: 150 MXN

Visit some of Mexico City's most important museums and galleries such as the old house of the iconic artist Frida Kahlo the former home of revolutionary Leon Trotsky and the Museo Dolores Olmedo art gallery

Entrance: 75 MXN

Get an unrivalled view over the centre of Mexico City from the observation deck of the stunning Revolution Monument

Entrance: Free

Explore the magnificent ancient Mesoamerican ruins of Teotihuacan near Mexico City

Entrance: 75 MXN

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors.

Accommodation and Meals Included

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. It is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. The prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564

A FEW RULES

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

ISSUES ON THE TRIP

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk.

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTES

OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out! For more details of how an overlanding trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

SAFETY STANDARDS

We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, if you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

PANAMA NOTES

GUATEMALA NOTES

COSTA RICA NOTES

NICARAGUA NOTES

HONDURAS NOTES

EL SALVADOR NOTES

MEXICO NOTES

BELIZE NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 6th March 2021**