

## BEAUTIFUL PLACES TO VISIT



**Chichen Itza (Mayan Ruins)**

The most famous of the Mayan ruin sites in the Yucatán. Recommended for either a Saturday or a Sunday because it is a full-day excursion with a 9:00 AM departure and an evening return (5:30 PM). However, this excursion is offered daily. The excursion includes transportation in air-conditioned motor coach, bilingual guide, visit to the major Mayan ruin site of "Chichén Itzá," and lunch at a near-by hotel (beverages not included) with time for swimming if desired. Entrance fee paid at ruin site are not included and are approximately US\$15.00.



**Uxmal Light & Sound**

Recommended for a weekday afternoon—as the departure time is 1:00 PM. However, this trip operates every day. Arrival at the Uxmal Mayan ruin site is around 3:00 PM. Volunteers have two hours to explore the ruins which close for the day at 5:00 PM. Volunteers enjoy a buffet dinner at a near-by hotel (with optional swimming) and return to the ruin site in the late evening for the Light & Sound show. Return to Merida is around 10:00 PM. Excursion includes transportation in air-conditioned motor coach, bilingual guide, buffet dinner (beverages not included), and Light & Sound show. Entrance fees paid at ruin site are approximately US\$15.00.



**Uxmal and Kabah (Mayan Ruins)**

If you would like to spend more time at the Uxmal Mayan Ruin site, you should consider this full day trip with a 9:00 AM departure and an evening return (5:30 PM). This excursion is available daily. In addition to visiting the Uxmal Mayan ruin site, there is also time to visit a smaller Mayan ruin site known as "Kabah"—believed to mean royal snake in the hand. Excursion includes transportation in air-conditioned motor coach, bilingual guide, and lunch (beverages not included). Entrance fees paid at ruin site are approximately US\$19.00 total.



**Ruta Puuc (Mayan Ruins)  
and Loltún Caves**

Ruta Puuc, which means route through an area of small rolling hills, is available Sundays only. The excursion has an early 8:30 AM departure and visits the Mayan ruin sites of Sayhil and Labná before arriving at the underground caverns of Loltún. There is a short, guided hike through the caves that are illuminated by electric lights. Transportation is in air-conditioned motor coach or van and bilingual guide. Highly recommended excursion! There is a minimum number of participants for this excursion and therefore may not be available every Sunday of the year. Entrance fees paid at ruin sites are approximately US\$12.00 (total) and US\$8.50 for Loltún caves.



**Celestún Beach and Wild life  
Reserve**

Full-day excursion recommended for Saturday or Sunday but available every day. This excursion starts with an early 8:45 AM departure westward from Mérida toward the gulf beach shore town of Celestún. Upon arrival to Celestún, volunteers take a boat excursion of a wild life reserve that includes flamingos and 100s of other species. The excursion includes a visit to a fresh water spring and through a mangrove tunnel. Swimming at the fresh water spring is possible should participants want. Excursion includes transportation in air conditioned motor coach or van, bilingual guide, boat ride through wildlife reserve, and time for lunch at the beach. 5:30PM return arrival to Merida. Beverages not included.



**Dzibilchaltún (Maya Ruins)  
& Lunch at the Beach**

Departure time varies for this excursion to the Mayan ruin site of Dzibilchaltún which is only about 15 minutes from the Institute. Explore the ruins, swim in the Xlakah ground level cenote (sink hole), and visit the Museum of the Mayan Pueblo. After visiting the Mayan ruins, the excursion goes on to view flamingos (number of flamingos depend on time of the year) at Uaymitún. Next, it's on to a beach-side restaurant in the quaint port town of Progreso for relaxation and a nice seafood meal. The excursion includes transportation and bilingual guide. Additional Expenses: Entrance fee to Dzibilchaltún is US\$10.00. Afternoon meal with beverage cost approximately US\$9.00 to US\$12.00.



Izamal Holy City

Departure time varies for this excursion to the small town of Izamal. However, students can plan to have one meal while in Izamal. The meal (not included) is at the most authentic Yucatecan restaurant—famous for Puc Chuuc, Sopa de Lima, and handmade tortillas. Volunteers have a chance to explore the Mayan ruins located within the town. There is a walking excursion is to visit the monastery and church made famous during the colonial times as the head of the Catholic church in Yucatan. The Pope visited this city in 1986. His visit attracted hundreds of thousands of people. The entire city of Izamal is painted egg-yolk yellow—the holy color for the Mayan people. Included in this excursion: bilingual guide and horse drawn buggy ride. Approximate cost of afternoon meal with beverage US\$9.00 to US\$12.00. When available, there is the option of taking a later tour in order to see the Light and Sound show—US\$7.00 extra for show.



Cuzamá: Three Cenotes

**IMPORTANT: Cenotes (natural sink holes) are very deep—swim at your own risk.**

This adventure excursion normally departs in the early morning for Cuzamá in order to take full advantage of the cooler morning weather. Along the way to Cuzamá, there are several photo opportunities as we pass through small villages with haciendas houses (plantations) and churches. Upon arrival to the remote village of Cuzamá, students take a seven-kilometer rail journey into the jungle via horse-drawn platform buggies. There are stops at three cenotes: Chelentun (Laying Doan Rock), Chansinic'che (tree with small ants), and Bolonchoojol (nine drops of water). This excursion is rather “rustic” with limited availability for changing clothes—please leave for the excursion prepared to swim. Included in this excursion are the transportation, “truck” ride, and bilingual guide. Approximate cost of meal with beverage —at a restored hacienda-- US\$10.00 to US\$15.00.