

**Beaches, Castles and Caves of Mexico**  
**Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico**  
**February 10-16, 2008 (Sunday-Saturday)**

Explore Mayan ruins, Mexican culture, and abundant marine life! Although many people visit Cancun to lie on the beach, there is way more to see and do in this land that has been the home of the Mayan people for centuries. Evidence of their elaborate architecture and complex social structure are still apparent in the many ruins found on the Yucatan peninsula. The peninsula itself, a huge low lying limestone shelf that is quite isolated from the mainland, is also known for its plentiful and diverse flora and fauna, superb snorkeling, tropical jungles, and cenotes. If you want to combine lots of activity with fun, relaxation, and the opportunity to learn more about Mexico while spending time in a warm and beautiful place, this is the trip for you.

The trip officially starts on Sunday February 10 at 3 pm at the Cancun airport where we'll pick you up. We'll do introductions, pack up the van, and start our two hour drive along the "Mayan Riviera", the strip of land from Cancun to Tulum. We'll arrive there in time to get situated in our tent cabins and explore the area before gathering for dinner. (As is true on any adventure trip, our exact itinerary may change due to weather, energy levels etc. but we will include the following activities.) On Monday we start learning about the Sian Ka'an Reserve, a large protected area of diverse flora and fauna, with a morning kayak. In the afternoon we'll visit the Tulum Ruins, one of the best preserved Mayan coastal sites. Although the complex is much smaller than some, its location on a cliff overlooking the turquoise sea is truly spectacular. The next day we'll go snorkeling around the coral reef with its abundant and diverse marine life. Wednesday morning we'll go kayaking again, exploring a different aspect of the Sian Ka'an Reserve. We'll leave the afternoon open. If you think any vacation should include some unstructured downtime, this is the perfect time just to relax. If, on the other hand, you want to pack in as much as possible, then the guides will be happy to take you somewhere for additional snorkeling. Thursday we'll head for the Coba ruins, one of the most important archaeological sites in the area. We'll also visit a cenote, the underground limestone sinkholes that were sources of fresh water for the Maya and provide great swimming opportunities today. We'll spend our last full day here visiting the cave system, wild monkeys, and tropical rainforest of Aktun-Chen. Aktun-Chen, which is Mayan for "the cave with the cenote inside", is the only above-water-level grotto found in the eastern Yucatan. We'll finish the day with some additional snorkeling and a final farewell dinner at a local restaurant. We'll have you back to the Cancun airport by 12 pm on February 16.

Our accommodations for the week are CESiaK, a small ecotourism and education center that is located on a lovely isolated stretch of beach and serves as a model for sustainable development in sensitive tropical ecosystems. We will be staying in spacious tent cabins with private patios and spectacular views that are situated to take advantage of plenty of shade and cooling breezes. Shared bathrooms are always clean and also have stunning views over water. CESiaK is located right in the Sian Ka'an Reserve, an International Heritage site that is home to howler monkeys, anteaters, crocodiles, and hundreds of bird species.

This trip is designed for women who want an active warm weather vacation exploring the Yucatan. While none of the activities are strenuous, we'll be packing a lot in and women should be in sufficient condition to stay moderately active all day.

To reserve a place on this adventure, please send your deposit of \$300 or the full trip fee of \$1695 (deduct \$50 if you register by 10/10/07) to our office, or call to register by phone. The trip fee includes six nights lodging, meals from dinner on Sunday through breakfast the following Saturday, transportation in Mexico, all activities on the itinerary, including kayaking, visits to ruins, swimming in cenotes, and snorkeling. The trip fee doesn't include transportation to Cancun or alcoholic beverages. Three months prior to the trip, we'll send you a complete confirmation packet including a detailed packing list, conditioning suggestions, and bibliography. Please call us with any questions you might have; we'd be delighted to welcome you to the warmth of a winter in Mexico!

**A d v e n t u r e s   i n   G o o d   C o m p a n y**

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