Yucatán México THE GREAT MAYAN ECLIPSE 2023

October 6-15, 2023
Cancún • Chichén-Itzá • Ek Balam • Mérida • Uxmal • Campeche

On October 14, 2023, a ‘ring of fire’ Annular Solar Eclipse will rip across the western U.S. and parts of the Yucatán in Mexico as well as Central and South America. Take an opportunity to see a spectacular annular eclipse among the ruins of the mighty Maya civilization. Meet in Cancún before heading off to Cobá, Chichén Itzá, Ek Balam, Uxmal, Mérida, and Campeche. The ring of fire will reign for 4 minutes and 31 seconds while very high in the darkened sky.

Highlights
- Swim in a cenote or sinkhole formed million years ago from a colossal asteroid impact to the region.
- Stay at a luxury hacienda.
- Visit the UNESCO Heritage Sites of Chichén Itzá one of the “New 7 Wonders of the World.”
- Witness the ring of fire of an Annular Eclipse near the Maya ruins.

Itinerary 2023

Oct 06: U.S. / Cancún
Fly to Cancún. Transfer to hotel near the airport. Meet in the early evening at the reception area for a briefing of tomorrow’s departure. Courtyard Marriott

Oct 07: Cancún / Cobá / Chichén Itzá
Depart after breakfast to visit the archaeological site of Cobá. Continue to Chichén Itzá, one of the finest Maya archaeological sites in the northern Yucatan Peninsula often called one of the “seven wonders” of the world. Welcome dinner with cocktails. Hotel Mayaland. (3 Nights) B,L,D

Oct 08: Chichén Itzá
Private sunrise tour of Chichén Itzá before it opens to the public. The site contains massive structures including the immense El Castillo pyramid, feather-serpent balustrades, and columns, and ominous skull racks. Built sometime in the 7th century El Castillo, actually had an astronomical purpose! In fact, it’s actually a solar calendar. Chichén Itzá has another astronomical structure – El Caracol, also known as the Observatory. The windows and doors in the El Caracol Observatory are specifically aligned with the movements of the Sun, stars, and planets, particularly Venus. B,L,D

Oct 09: Ek Balam / Cenote Maya
This morning we’ll visit the Late Classical period Maya ruins of Ek Balam which means black jaguar. What makes this site unique is the shape of the main pyramid and the fact you can climb to the top. In the afternoon we’ll enjoy a swim in a nearby cenote or...
sinkhole. A ring of cenotes was formed in the Yucatan Peninsula 66 million years ago from a colossal asteroid impact that brought about climate change at the time of the dinosaurs. B,L,D

**Oct 10: Chichén Itzá / Mérida**
This morning we’ll travel to Mérida, Yucatan’s largest city. Enjoy a tour of the city’s beautiful government buildings, monuments, and shady tree-lined plazas. Visit Gran Museo del Mundo Maya for a lecture regarding the Chicxulub impact crater left by the asteroid that created a million-megaton blast that devastated the Gulf of Mexico region 66 million years ago. Settle in your hotel centrally located in Mérida close to shops, plazas, restaurants and other attractions. *Hotel Fiesta Americana (2 Nights)* B,L,D

**Oct 11: Mérida / Uxmal / Kabah**
Travel to Uxmal arguably the most elegant Maya site. Uxmal is considered the finest and most extensively excavated example of Puuc architecture, which embraces such details as ornate stone mosaics and friezes on the upper walls, intricate cornices, rows of columns, and soaring vaulted arches. This afternoon, we’ll head south to Kabah the second largest Maya ruin in the Puuc region before returning to Mérida. B,L

**Oct 12: Mérida / Campeche**
This morning depart for the town of Campeche, a UNESCO world heritage site outlined by the remains of a fortified wall built in the 17th century to combat pirates and buccaneers. The meticulously restored historic center of Campeche is a colonial time warp. Enjoy a tour of the Fortress of San Miguel Museum and learn about the city’s fascinating history. *Hacienda Puerta Campeche. (3 Nights)* B,L,D

**Oct 13: Campeche / Edzná Site**
Today we’ll travel to the Maya site of Edzná with its smorgasbord of Mayan architectural styles. Later enjoy some time at leisure to explore coastal Campeche on your own. B,L

**Oct 14: Campeche Eclipse Day**
Gather at our annular eclipse site in Campeche where sea-breeze winds give a sunnier climate than elsewhere over the peninsula. Known as an annular solar eclipse, see a smaller-than-usual moon fit across 95% of the sun to leave a ring—or annulus—around it. Hence the name “ring of fire.” The “ring of fire” will reign for 4 minutes 31 seconds while very high in the sky at 61°. The maximum annular eclipse will occur at approximately 12:22 pm. Enjoy a picnic lunch at our eclipse-watching site. After the end of the eclipse, gather for a celebratory farewell dinner. B,L,D

**Oct 15: Campeche / U.S.**
Transfer to the Campeche or Mérida airport for flights to the U.S. and connecting flights home. B