



# Mayan Splendor

in Mexico's Yucatán

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT  
for Solo  
Travelers

OFFERED WITH

Bucknell University  
Alumni Association  
February 27 – March 5, 2024  
Other dates available upon request



# A World of Discovery



Embark on a wonderful journey to Mexico's captivating state of Yucatán that abounds with remarkable history and culture! The heartland of the ancient Maya, it's graced with glorious remnants of bygone cities that attest to their brilliant civilization. And the delightful scenery, saturated with color, is a visual treat, from the vivid shades that enliven Mérida and Izamal's streets to the swaths of pink along the coast where elegant flamingos gather!

*Top: Temple of Kukulcan, Chichén Itzá*

*Cover: Cultural performance, Mérida*

*Mail panel: Monument to the Fatherland, Mérida | Convento de San Antonio de Padua, Izamal*

## Inspiring Moments



- Enjoy time to explore and savor the **charming colonial city of Mérida**, buzzing with dynamic culture, top-notch food and warm hospitality.
- Marvel at the monumental ancient **Mayan cities of Uxmal and Chichén Itzá**, and learn about their extraordinary civilization.
- Soak up the radiant, golden architecture of **Izamal**, an under-the-radar gem.
- Admire coral-pink flamingos on a cruise through the **tranquil Celestún Estuary**.
- Meet **local craftspeople** and discover the artistry behind their endeavors.
- Choose a **fun Mérida tour** that speaks to you, focused on street food, honey bees or a historic mansion.
- Visit two **UNESCO World Heritage sites** and a **Biosphere Reserve**.

ALUMNI CAMPUS  
ABROAD®



# Bucknell

## Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends:

Join us for an enriching cultural exploration in Mexico! The Yucatán's Mayan riches and historic grandeur take center stage on this seven-night, first-class journey based in Mérida, a colonial-era beauty and cultural hub.

Be awed by the impressive Mayan cities of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal, both UNESCO World Heritage sites. On guided tours, delight in the heritage and personality along the colorful streets of Mérida and Izamal and inside a unique cemetery. Connect with the Yucatán's natural beauty on a cruise that reveals flocks of flamingos and a visit to an underground cenote. You'll also meet artisans, soak in the live music and fun vibes at two cultural performances, plus feast on incredible cuisine!

This well-rounded program features the camaraderie and security of group travel and the services of a professional Travel Director. What makes it even more special is our commitment to education. Throughout your travels, expert guides and lecturers provide meaningful context to enhance your experience. All these elements make for an unbeatable travel value that will generate lots of interest, so guarantee your place by reserving today. We hope to see you soon in the Yucatán!

Sincerely,



Kristin Stetler  
Executive Director  
Center for Alumni & Family Engagement

Bucknell University is pleased to offer information regarding this travel opportunity. Bucknell is not the trip provider, however, and is not responsible or liable for any aspect of the trip planning or delivery. Individuals with questions or concerns regarding the trip should contact the travel program vendor directly.

### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Pre-Hispanic Town of Uxmal
2. Pre-Hispanic City of Chichén Itzá

### UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

Ria Celestún  
Biosphere Reserve



Reddish egret, Celestún



Pyramid of the Magician, Uxmal



Cathedral and Plaza Grande, Mérida

Day 1 | In Transit | Mérida, Mexico

Depart for Mérida, Mexico. 🌐  
Arrive and transfer 🚗 to the Villa Mercedes Merida, Curio Collection by Hilton.

Day 2 | Mérida

**Grand Maya World Museum.** Get great insights on ancient and contemporary Mayan culture at this modern museum filled with unique artifacts and engaging exhibits.

**Mérida City Tour.** Stroll with your guide through this lively city founded in 1542 by Spanish conquistador Francisco de Montejo and his son on the site of the ancient Mayan city of T'hó. Admire stately buildings like the 16th-century Cathedral de San Ildefonso in Plaza Grande, and go inside the Palacio del Gobierno de Yucatán to view dramatic murals by Mexican painter Fernando Castro Pacheco. Savor delicious Yucatecan specialties at lunch.

**Enrichment: History of the Yucatán Peninsula.** This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at a restaurant.

Day 3 | Uxmal | Muna | Peba

**Uxmal.** Regarded as some of the finest examples of Mayan architecture, Uxmal's stunning ruins reveal meticulous designs and elaborate stone carvings. On your guided tour, note the recurring decorative motif of rain god Chac, an important deity in a region with little rainfall. Learn how the ancient Maya's beliefs about life and death influenced their civilization as you see the Pyramid of the Magician, the House of the Governor and other monuments. Chat about your visit over a tasty lunch nearby.

🌐 **AHI Connects | Ceramic Workshop.** Visit an artisan in Muna who employs ancient methods to create exquisite reproductions of Mayan ceramics.

**Cenote Sambula.** Beneath the Yucatán lie thousands of cenotes, caverns formed by sinkholes in the limestone bedrock that contain natural freshwater wells. In a region with no rivers or lakes, these sources of fresh water were vital to the earliest inhabitants, and some cenotes became sacred sites for the ancient Maya. Venture down to see a beautiful cenote tended by a group of families in Peba.

**Enrichment: Contemporary Mexico.** **Yucatecan Serenade.** In one of Mérida's inviting plazas tonight, delight in the romantic melodies of this celebrated tribute to women and their beauty.

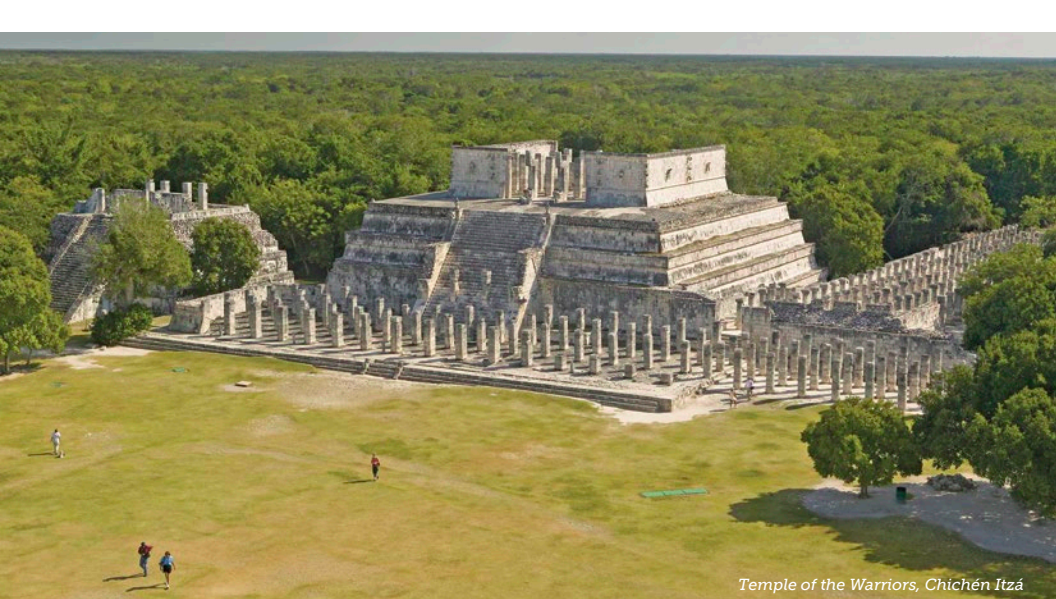
Day 4 | Sihunchen Park | Celestún Estuary

**Celestún Estuary.** As you travel to the coast today, stop at Sihunchen Park, an ecotourism



Yucatecan cuisine





Temple of the Warriors, Chichén Itzá

site, for an interesting talk on Mayan astronomy and myths. Next, head to the Celestún Estuary, a special gem for nature lovers. This serene wetland is a favorite destination for migrating birds. Breathtaking flocks of graceful, pink American flamingos are the stars here, wading together and flying overhead. Take in this spectacular show and spot other bird species on a cruise through the lush mangrove and petrified forest.

Relax over lunch at a restaurant by the beach, then return to Mérida for tonight's activities.

#### **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

- **Street Food & Photography Walk.** Capture the historic grandeur of Paseo de Montejo and indulge in must-try, sweet and savory treats in Plaza Santa Ana.
- **Honey Tasting & Stingless Bees.** The Maya valued native Melipona bees for the medicinal properties of their honey. Sample varieties of honey and delve into beekeeping practices.
- **Las Casas Cámara.** Tour a palatial French-style mansion on Paseo de Montejo built in 1911 with splendid decorative details.

### Day 5 | Chichén Itzá

**Chichén Itzá.** This magnificent Mayan city flourished as a hub of military and religious power from the eighth to the 13th centuries. On a guided tour, marvel at the majestic pyramid dedicated to Kukulcan, the feathered serpent god; the imposing Temple of the Warriors; the Caracol; the vast field of the Great Ballcourt; and more.

Break for lunch before your return to Mérida.

**Noche Mexicana.** Feel uplifted by Mariachi music and swirling dancers at a joyful cultural event that's a Mérida tradition.

### Day 6 | Hoctún | Izamal

**Izamal.** Stop in Hoctún to visit its colorful cemetery that exemplifies the spirit of the Yucatán's relationship with death. Discover brightly painted tombs, which family members have elaborately adorned with flowers, religious images and touching sculptures. Learn about the traditions of Hanal Pixán, the celebration honoring the dead. Then, revel in Izamal, known as Yucatán's Yellow City, lined with



Celestún Estuary



colonial-era buildings painted in a striking golden hue. Take a guided tour through the Convento de San Antonio de Padua, erected in 1561 on top of a former Mayan pyramid.

**AHI Connects | Meet the People.** Master craftsman Estaban Abán Montejo shows you how he creates fine jewelry from seeds and thorns and throws in a song or two in Maya! Relish lunch later at a restaurant in Izamal, then return to Mérida for some free time.

**Enrichment: The Mayan Civilization's Golden Age.**

Dine with your group at a restaurant in town.

#### Day 7 | Mérida

**Market Visit.** Sample indigenous fruits and vegetables in the bustling Mercado Central, and learn about the history of the Yucatán diet from your guide. Later, at the Museo de la Gastronomía Yucateca, enjoy a lunch that showcases traditional ingredients.

**Free Time:** The afternoon is yours to plan!

Gather with your fellow travelers this evening for a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

#### Day 8 | In Transit

Transfer ➡ to the airport for the return flight ✈ to your gateway city.

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈ Flights and ➡ transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

🌟 PYJ experiences are included.

#### Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

**Excursions on this itinerary require:**

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

## Included Features

**Accommodations** (with baggage handling)

- **7 nights** in Mérida, Mexico, at the first-class Villa Mercedes Merida, Curio Collection by Hilton.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 3 dinners; including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **AHI Travel Assurance plan** covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **🌟 Personalize Your Journey | PYJ |** A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- **🌱 AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **🌍 AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



Master craftsman Estaban Abán Montejo creating fine jewelry from seeds and thorns



## Accommodations



### Villa Mercedes Merida | Mérida



Our travel experts have carefully selected this first-class, contemporary hotel for its convenient location in the heart of Mérida, making it easy for you to immerse yourself in the city's scenic streets and cultural happenings. It's also an ideal base from which to explore the Yucatán's acclaimed ruins, treasured towns and natural beauty. Look forward to a friendly welcome from the attentive and professional staff. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of this property's services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.



Murals, Palacio del Gobierno de Yucatán, Mérida

# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **800-323-7373** or  
visit **[www.bucknell.edu/alumni](http://www.bucknell.edu/alumni)**.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates ✈

**February 27 – March 5, 2024**

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**February 27 – March 5, 2024**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Land Program

Full Price	\$3,545
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Special Savings	\$250
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Special Price*	\$3,295
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\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.  
VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

**Single supplement waived for solo travelers!** This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://bucknell.ahitravel.com/destinations/1827A?schoolId=333>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

## AHI FlexAir

### Let us arrange your flights

***Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:***

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays





Architecture along Paseo de Montejo, Mérida

## AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Passenger Service Representative** offers personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Cathedral, Mérida

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Lewisburg, PA 17837

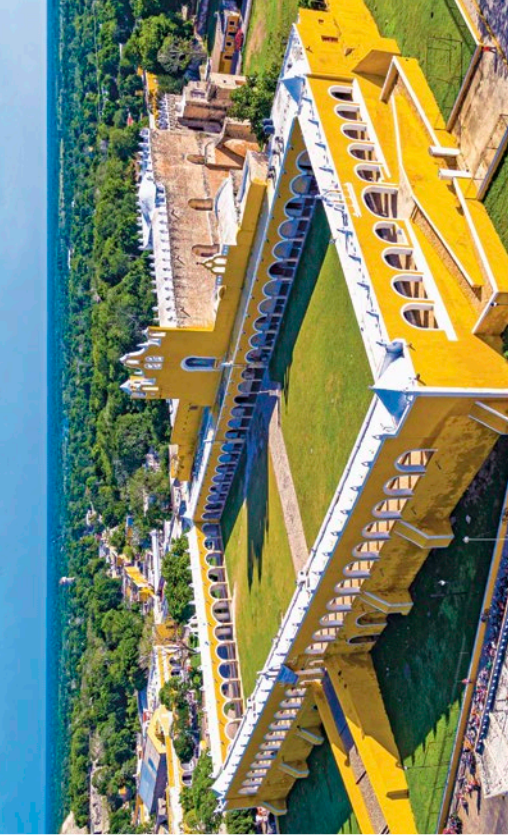
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**SMALL  
GROUP**

Maximum of  
28 Travelers



**Dive into an adventure in Mexico's vibrant Yucatán!**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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