



## **Mexico Coast-to-Coast: Puerto Vallarta to the Mayan Riviera**

22 days, Puerto Vallarta to Playa del Carmen

Trip code CMVP

## What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Alebrijes Artisan Community Workshop, Oaxaca
- Your G for Good Moment: Oaxaca Cuisine Tasting Experience, Oaxaca
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Guanajuato City and Street Food Tour, Guanajuato
- Your Discover Moment: Mérida
- Your Discover Moment: Playa del Carmen
- Guided tour of Teotihuacan
- Orientation walk in Puebla
- Orientation walk and market visit in Oaxaca
- Guided tour of Palenque ruins site
- Campeche visit
- Orientation walk in Mérida
- Guided tour of Chichén Itzá
- Tequila distillery visit and tasting
- City tour of Guadalajara
- Orientation walk in San Miguel de Allende
- City tour of San Miguel de Allende
- Alebrijes Artisan Community Visit
- Cooking demonstration with local expert in Oaxaca
- Free time in Puebla, Oaxaca Puerto Vallarta, Playa del Carmen, Guadalajara, San Miguel de Allende, and Mexico City
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing September 8th, 2022 and onwards

# Itinerary

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**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## Puerto Vallarta

Arrive at any time. Attend the welcome meeting in the evening and then opt to grab dinner with the group.



### Accommodation

Hotel Puerto de Luna (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

#### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

## Puerto Vallarta

Get ready for a full free day in Puerto Vallarta for optional activities. Your CEO will help arrange and give you some insider recommendations, but you could spend some time on the beach, go whale watching (seasonal, Dec-Mar), a day trip with snorkelling to Isla Marietas or find a nice place to grab some food and people watch. In the evening meet with the group to trade stories and go out to search for some delicious local street food.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Hotel Puerto de Luna (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Free Time

Puerto Vallarta

Enjoy a full free day for optional activities in Puerto Vallarta, like whale watching (seasonal, Dec-Mar), beach hanging, or a day trip with some snorkelling at nearby Isla Marietas. Spend the evening in search of the most delicious local food you can find.

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### Optional Activities - Day 2

Whale Watching - Puerto Vallarta

Puerto Vallarta

Take to the open seas in search of migrating humpback whales. Observe local marine life and enjoy this unforgettable half-day adventure with commentary from a marine biologist. Have those cameras at the ready should you see any action. Please note that this tour is seasonal and only available (Dec-Mar).

Beach Time

Puerto Vallarta

Explore the beautiful beaches of Puerto Vallarta. Sparkling blue waters, pristine sandy beaches, and gorgeous sun-kissed weather make a beach trip the perfect relaxing activity. Opt to lounge or swim in the water until your heart is content.

Sunset Sailing Tour

Puerto Vallarta

Set sail and awaken your senses to the stunning sights in Banderas Bay on a sunset cruise. Relax with some music, a drink, and some snacks as you watch the sun sink below the horizon casting impressive colors across the bay. A great way to cap off a day in paradise.

Marietas Island Snorkel Tour

Puerto Vallarta

Looking for the perfect active day in Puerto Vallarta? Head out on this snorkeling tour to the Marietas Islands. Hop on a boat and cross the calm waters in search of dolphins, turtles, manta rays, and whales along the way. Then, get underwater for a look at the colourful array of tropical fish just below the surface.

Food & Drink Tour Puerto Vallarta

Puerto Vallarta

Set out with a food guide through the streets of Puerto Vallarta on a food and cocktail tour. Learn about the cultural roots of mezcal, tequila, and raicilla. Taste michelad, Mexico's signature beer cocktail and stop at some popular local spots for food tastings of some pretty delicious tacos.

Day 3

## Puerto Vallarta/Guadalajara

Travel inland to Guadalajara this morning. Make a stop along the way near the town of Tequila to visit a distillery to learn about how tequila is traditionally made with a tasting included and lunch. Continue on arriving in Guadalajara in the early evening for a CEO-led orientation walk.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### Accommodation

Hotel Laffayette (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Puerto Vallarta - Guadalajara

5h-6h

333km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Tequila Distillery Visit & Tasting

Tequila

Mexico is the birthplace of tequila, and there is nowhere better to learn about the iconic drink. Visit a distillery in a town between Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara to learn about the history of tequila and the production process, before the main highlight – a tasting session with lunch. Sip, don't shoot!

Guadalajara Orientation Walk

Guadalajara

Set off on foot to get to know this city in western Mexico. Known for tequila and mariachi music Guadalajara packs a lively atmosphere appealing to any traveller. Wander the colonial plazas and spot landmarks like the Teatro Degollado and the Palacio del Gobierno houses.

Day 4

## Guadalajara

Enjoy a free morning today to discover Guadalajara's charm. In the afternoon, set off on a city tour including the nearby vibrant city of Tlaquepaque. Think mariachis, historical centres, and loads of fun and street food. The rest of the evening is open to do as you please. Maybe go for another walk through the main square and find a cool tavern to grab a drink with the group.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Hotel Laffayette (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Free Time

Guadalajara

Spend some time shopping, eating, and relaxing in Guadalajara for your last night in the area.

City Tour of Guadalajara and Tlaquepaque

Guadalajara

See more of Guadalajara on this in-depth city tour including some free time to explore the gastronomy hub of Tlaquepaque. See the work of Mexican muralist Jose Clemente Orozco and discover the best views in the city.

Day 5

## Guadalajara/Guanajuato

Travel by public bus to Guanajuato today. Enjoy an afternoon walking tour to discover the city's beautiful architecture, tunnels, cultural history, and of course, street food.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Santa Regina (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

#### ACTIVITY

Gain a deeper understanding into this town located in a valley surrounded by mountains. Filled with brilliantly coloured buildings around a central park and loads of great places to try some local eats. Make a stop to a local bakery, head to a stall for some fresh squeezed juices, then try some tlacoyos, a sort of folded taco, stuffed with cheese and chicken. Next, head underground to see the labyrinth of tunnels below the city. And spend the remainder of the tour learning about the history and culture of this place while eating different kinds of street food from tamales to sopes, you'll taste vibrant flavours.

Local Bus

Guadalajara - Guanajuato

3h-4h

275km

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Day 6

## Guanajuato/San Miguel de Allende

Wander through Guanajuato during your free morning. Grab a bite to eat on your own before the bus ride to San Miguel de Allende. Here the group will go on a CEO-led orientation walk before time to have dinner on your own.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Hacienda Monteverde (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Guanajuato

Free morning to grab a pastry on your own and walk through the main square one last time before moving on. Plenty of time for a quiet morning coffee and some people watching.

Local Bus

Guanajuato – San Miguel de Allende

1h30m-2h

80km

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Orientation walk of San Miguel de Allende

San Miguel de Allende

Your CEO will lead you on an orientation walk of San Miguel de Allende. This colonial-era city is located in Mexico's central highlands and is home to a budding art scene and many cultural festivals. Wander the cobblestoned streets and learn the history and stories of this place while in the shadow of the pink towers rising above the El Jardín main plaza.

Day 7

## San Miguel de Allende

Start off with a half-day city tour of San Miguel de Allende. See various historical sites like the Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, Iglesia de San Francisco, and Templo del Oratorio de San Felipe Neri. Learn the cultural significance of various places and admire the architecture of this place before a free afternoon for various optional activities.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Hotel Hacienda Monteverde (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

San Miguel de Allende City Tour

San Miguel de Allende

Get to know the historical and cultural significance of local landmarks in San Miguel de Allende on a half-day city tour. Visit important sites like, Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, Iglesia de San Francisco, and Templo del Oratorio de San Felipe Neri.

Free Time

San Miguel de Allende

Enjoy some free time for optional activities in the area like, horseback riding, a cooking class, tequila tasting, or a visit to some nearby hot springs. Your CEO can help you organize whichever you choose.

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### Optional Activities - Day 7

Cooking Class - San Miguel de Allende

San Miguel de Allende

Opt to reserve a private cooking class to test your culinary skills and learn how to make some traditional regional cuisine. The teacher will teach the class to create authentic dishes that can be replicated at home, when you're finished dig in and enjoy your dish!

Throw on some long pants, grab the reins and hop up on a well-trained horse. Ride through the colonial town of San Miguel de Allende on this leisurely 2-hour horseback riding tour admiring the scenery. Trot through Benito Juárez Park, toast your evening in a Mexican 'cantina'; and listen to a moving serenade performed by 'mariachis' before a candlelit dinner inspired by Mexican culinary classics.

Day 8

## San Miguel de Allende/Mexico City

Hop on the local bus to Mexico City this morning and arrive around midday. Enjoy a free afternoon and opt for an evening out on the town.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel PF Suites (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Local Bus

San Miguel de Allende – Mexico City

3h-4h

265km

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.



### Optional Activities - Day 8

National Museum of Anthropology

Mexico City

210MXN

The National Museum of Anthropology houses the largest collection of Mexican art in the world. It's a must see if you're interested in the past or present-day history of Mexico. On the top of the highlights, see the Sun Stone (also known as the Aztec Calendar) an important piece in Aztec culture and mythology that illustrates the history of the universe. With over 20 exhibit halls, you may not be able to see the whole museum in just one day so grab a map and pick and choose what you're most interested in.

All You Can Eat Taco Tour

Mexico City

Set out on a famous all-you-can-eat taco tour through Roma and Condesa, sampling your way across seven authentic taquerías while discovering the history, regional styles, and secrets behind Mexico's most iconic dish. Along the way, visit a local market to craft your own salsa, watch the tortilla-making process up close, and even try your hand at making tacos yourself.

District of Coyoacán Visit

Mexico City

50-75USD

Coyoacán is a quiet but vibrant Mexican neighbourhood, most notably known for the Museo Casa Azul, Frida Kahlo's home turned museum after her death. The quaint tree-lined streets of this district will enchant you and give you a window into real Mexican living. With a good street food scene, spend some time walking around and find stalls or restaurants on the hunt for the neighbourhoods best tostadas, a corn tortilla topped with all sorts of things from shrimp, chicken, beef, and other proteins and beans, cheese, corn, sour cream, and avocado.

Day 9

## Mexico City

Take a free day to discover the bustling and vibrant megalopolis of Mexico City. With so much to see, do, and eat in this vibrant city, be sure to get recommendations from your CEO about the best things to experience on any particular day. Maybe grab some street tacos and people watch in the main square.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel PF Suites (or similar)

Hotel



### Optional Activities - Day 9

National Museum of Anthropology

Mexico City

210MXN

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Museum of Frida Kahlo (Casa Azul)

Mexico City

320MXN

Visit the famed "Blue House" where Frida Kahlo was born, lived and died. Her lifelong home is open to those looking to learn more about or see what life was like for the celebrated artist. The museum consists of ten rooms throughout the home, each filled with original furniture from when she lived there with her husband Diego Rivera, and personal items of Frida's from letters, art materials, original works of art, to handcrafted kitchenwares. Tickets can be limited so we recommend booking in advance online: <https://www.museofridakahlo.org.mx/?lang=en>

Taco Street Food Crawl

Mexico City

Is it possible to find the perfect taco? Hit the streets of Mexico City to find out! One of Mexico's most famous (and delicious) dishes is known across the globe – but to find the best you need to go straight to its origins. Prepare for a feast that you won't soon forget.

District of Coyoacán Visit

Mexico City

50-75USD

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Day 10

## Mexico City

Take advantage of a day get to know Mexico City. Opt to check out the sprawling zócalo (main square), visit the Frida Kahlo museum in vibrant Coyoacán, or view impressive Mayan and Aztec artifacts at the National Anthropology Museum.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel PF Suites (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Mexico City

Take advantage of free time to get out and explore this amazing city and its surroundings. Opt to visit the Frida Kahlo Museum, visit the Juarez neighbourhood, an area teeming with restaurants, bars, parks, and boutique shops. Maybe make a stop at the Palacio Nacional to see Diego Rivera's famous mural, "The History of Mexico". Or eat like a local and join a food tour and get a sense of the vast culinary scene here.



### Optional Activities - Day 10

Museum of Frida Kahlo (Casa Azul)

Mexico City

320MXN

Visit the famed "Blue House" where Frida Kahlo was born, lived and died. Her lifelong home is open to those looking to learn more about or see what life was like for the celebrated artist. The museum consists of ten rooms throughout the home, each filled with original furniture from when she lived there with her husband Diego Rivera, and personal items of Frida's from letters, art materials, original works of art, to handcrafted kitchenwares. Tickets can be limited so we recommend booking in advance online: <https://www.museofridakahlo.org.mx/?lang=en>

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Day 11

## Mexico City/Puebla

Rise early and explore the ancient city of Teotihuacan on a guided tour. Stand in awe of the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon, stroll down the Avenue of the Dead and learn all about the site's importance to Mexico's ancient cultures for thousands of years, at one point being the largest city in the entire Americas. Continue to Puebla and enjoy an orientation walk downtown.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Gilfer (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Orientation Walk

Puebla

The route will vary for each tour, allowing our CEOs to share their personal favourites. You can expect to see the zócalo, artisans' market and visit the historic buildings within centre of this World Heritage city.

Teotihuacán Pyramids Visit

Teotihuacán

Visit the ruins of Teotihuacán northeast of Mexico City. This ruin site dates back to 100BC and has the impressive Avenue of the Dead, Pyramid of the Sun and Pyramid of the Moon. Bring water, wear a hat and solid walking shoes to learn all about this pre-Columbian Mesoamerican city that at its peak was once the largest city in all of the Americas.

Private Vehicle

Mexico City - Teotihuacán

1h-2h

50km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private Vehicle

Teotihuacán - Puebla

2h-3h

145km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 12

## Puebla

Enjoy a free day to explore the city. Opt to visit a ceramics workshop, check out the pyramid of nearby Cholula, sample delicious local specialties, or watch a lucha libre wrestling match at night.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Gilfer (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Puebla

Take advantage of free time to get out and explore this amazing city and its surroundings.



### Optional Activities - Day 12

Cholula Ruins Visit

Cholula

85MXN

2h-3h

1-2km

Also known as Tlachihualtepetl, Cholula is a massive archaeological site west of Puebla. Dating from at least 100AD, it's the oldest continuously occupied ceremonial centre in the western hemisphere. Most impressive is the Great Pyramid of Cholula - a tall grass-covered structure which is actually at least four successive pyramids built one on top of the other. The Spanish built a church at the very top in 1594. Visit the museum to learn about the history, explore tunnels, and climb to the top for breathtaking views of nearby volcanoes.

Journey south to beautiful Oaxaca, and get a feel for the city on an orientation walk, stopping to visit one of its sprawling markets. After, visit the Alebrijes Artisan Community for your G for Good moment. Meet a local artisan, speak with them, ask any questions the group may have, and learn more about how the Alebrijes are crafted.



## Meals included

Breakfast



## Accommodation

Hotel Oaxaca Real (or similar)

Hotel



## Today's Activities

Orientation Walk

Oaxaca

All walks will be slightly different, allowing your CEO to show off their favourite spots. You can expect to see the Santo Domingo Cultural Centre, walk through the zocalo and the famous 20th of November market. Opt to sample some delicious Oaxacan foods along the way such as mole, tlayudas or chapulines.

### ACTIVITY

Alebrijes were created by a Mexican artisan named Pedro Linares who was known for making piñatas and carnival masks. After falling ill and hallucinating crazy figures and creatures inside his mind, the artist decided to bring what he saw to life by creating the small figurines we know as Alebrijes. Often made of a mash-up between animals, these figurines are now made by Oaxacan artisans out of wood and then painted with vibrant pigments and lots of patterns. Learn more about how these figurines integrated themselves into Oaxacan/Mexican folklore and how the craft expanded from originally being made from cardboard to now being carved from Copal wood. Meet a local artisan and speak with them, ask any questions the group may have and to learn more about how the Alebrijes are crafted.

Private Vehicle

Puebla - Oaxaca

5h-6h

340km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 14

## Oaxaca

Take advantage of free time, and opt to learn how to make mole in a cooking class, shop at nearby artisan villages, Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mitla, or sample some mezcal at a local distillery - look out for the worm! In the evening enjoy a guided tasting of local favorites.

You can pre-book the Hierve el Agua Day Trip during check-out and pay a visit to a petrified waterfall outside of Oaxaca.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Oaxaca Real (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Oaxaca

Take advantage of free time to get out and explore this amazing city and its surroundings.

#### ACTIVITY

Attend a cuisine tasting in Oaxaca with a local expert who will share a variety of authentic regional specialties. You'll learn how to prepare a handmade tortilla and enjoy a guided tasting of local favorites. Please note that this will not be a full meal.



### Optional Activities - Day 14

Mezcal Factory Tour

Oaxaca

The Valley of Oaxaca is renowned as the birthplace of mezcal. Not to be confused with tequila, this distilled liquor is made in small batches from a variety of species of agave (spiky green plants that look

like the tops of pineapples). Sample different types, including white unaged mezcal (often sold with an agave larva inside), along with “reposado” and “añejo” (aged) batches. Grab a slice of orange that's coated in salt and mixed with chili and ground worms. Now, it's time to sip and enjoy.

#### Monte Albán Tour

Monte Albán - Oaxaca

950MXN

1h-3h

1-2km

The Zapotec site of Monte Albán dates back to 500 BC and features platforms, pyramids, plazas, and a ball court sitting on a leveled mountaintop some 10km (5 mi) from Oaxaca. Enjoy the 360-degree views, see Olmec carvings, and be sure to visit the museum to see artifacts and stele excavated in the early 20th century.

#### Hierve el Agua Day Trip

Oaxaca

Begin this activity in the morning with included transport to Hierve el Agua. This stunning natural formation consists of a series of mineral pools near the edge of a cliff. Over thousands of years, the heavily calcified water has flowed over the cliff, leaving mineral deposits as it goes. The result is known as a "petrified waterfall" - nearly white rock formations that resemble a cascading fall. Upon arrival, enjoy a few hours of free time to explore the area and perhaps go for a swim in one of the mineral pools. Then, travel to a Mezcalería for a tour of the distillery which includes an explanation of the production process of mezcal and a tasting. The group will return to Oaxaca in the late afternoon.

Please note these approximate travel times below:

Oaxaca to Hierve el Agua - Between 1 hour and 45 minutes to 2 hours

Hierve el Agua to Mezcalería- 1 hour

Mezcalería to Oaxaca - 45 minutes.

#### Valley of Mitla Ruins Visit

San Pablo Villa de Mitla

210MXN

The UNESCO World Heritage site of Mitla is 38km (24 mi) from Oaxaca. Its name derives from the Nahuatl language, meaning “Place of the Dead”. Occupied from 900 BC by the Zapotecs and then the Mixtecs, the ruin features five groups of structures on either side of the Mitla River. Look for ancient cut-stone mosaics and intricate stone carvings throughout.

The region is also famous for its hand-dyed, foot-loomed woven rugs.

#### Mole Cooking Class

Oaxaca

1200MXN

Take a cooking class and learn that there's more to mole than meets the eye (and mouth). In fact, in Oaxaca, there are at least seven different versions of this popular made-in-Mexico sauce cooked with ground chili, chocolate, and sesame seeds. Black, red, yellow, green - the list is endless. Take a guided trip to the local market and let your senses get lost in the spices, colours, and smells. Following your cooking class, sample your tasty creation.

Day 15

## Oaxaca/Palenque

Travel in style and fly to Villahermosa, then transfer to Palenque by land.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Hotel Maya Tulipanes (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Villahermosa - Palenque

2h-3h

145km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Plane

Oaxaca - Villahermosa

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Day 16

## Palenque

Enjoy a guided tour of the Mayan ruins of Palenque, set in the jungle of Chiapas. Opt for a jungle walk in the afternoon.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Maya Tulipanes (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Palenque

Take advantage of free time and do as much or as little as you would like.

Palenque Ruins Guided Tour

Palenque

2h-3h

Experience the elegant jungle site of Palenque on a guided tour. See the highlights -- the Temple of the Cross Group, Temple of Inscriptions and the Grand Palace. Howler monkeys sound in the distance as the fog rolls in and out of this mystical site, one of the most important centres for trade and culture during the end of the Classic Maya period.



### Optional Activities - Day 16

Jungle Trail Hike

Palenque

25USD

2h-2h30m

4km

Only two percent of the ruins in the Mayan capital of Palenque are out in the open. Follow a local guide into the jungle along a trail, visit ruins that are now overgrown with moss and vines. Learn about the wildlife and different medicinal trees and plants that grow in and around the Usumancinta River of this mountainous forest area of Chiapas.

Roberto Barrios Waterfalls

Palenque

54USD

Visit the Zapatista community of Roberto Barrios and swim in stunning turquoise cascade waterfalls. Then, join an agroecological experience at the Pej'Pem Center you will support local entrepreneurship and the sustainable transformation of communities in Chiapas.

Day 17

## Palenque/Mérida

Travel to the Yucatán Peninsula, stopping off in the seaside historic city of Campeche. Upon arrival in Mérida, enjoy an orientation walk to get to know the city's layout and attractions.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Santa Lucia by Kavia (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Private Vehicle

Campeche - Mérida

2h30m-3h

185km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private Vehicle

Palenque - Campeche

5h-6h

370km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 18

## Mérida

Enjoy a free day to explore Mérida and surroundings. Opt to visit the Mayan ruins of Uxmal or explore the main square and historic buildings of Mérida.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Santa Lucia by Kavia (or similar)

Hotel



### Optional Activities - Day 18

Anthropology Museum Visit

Mérida

55MXN

Installed on two floors of a refurbished mansion, this museum is considered to be one of the most important collections of Pre-Columbian Mayan culture in the Yucatán Peninsula. Learn everything there is to know about Mayan society, from war to writing, art to architecture, calendars, customs and offerings to the dead.

Cenote Visit

Mérida

60-70USD

5h-7h

48km

Swim in crystal-blue mineral underground swimming holes that are formed as sinkholes when porous limestone bedrock collapses. Come prepared with your swimsuit so you can dive in and enjoy. The clarity of the water and depth of cenotes makes swimming a unique experience.

Uxmal Ruins Visit

Uxmal Ruins

70-110USD

8h-9h

200km

Founded in 700 AD, magical Uxmal was once home to as many as 25,000 Mayans. Located 62km (38 mi) south of Merida, in Yucatán's Puuc ("hill" or "chain of low mountains") region, this UNESCO World Heritage Centre represents the pinnacle of late Maya art and architecture. Wander the site, see the Pyramid of the Magician, and visit nearby Kabah, one of three neighbouring sites.

Day 19

## Mérida/Valladolid

Explore the ancient Mayan City of Chichén Itzá with a guided tour, then continue on to the quaint city of Valladolid. Opt to cool off with a swim in a nearby cenote, a natural water-filled sinkhole.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Fundadores (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Chichen Itzá Guided Tour

Chichén-Itzá - Chichen Itza

2h

Join up with a local expert and learn about the history of Chichén Itzá and the beliefs and rituals that defined this ancient Mayan civilization. This dramatic site includes a 30m (98 ft) high temple, known as the Pyramid of Kukulcan, famous for its balustrade of 91 stairs up each of the four sides, a ball court with a grandstand, and towering walls. Visit the highlights of the site including the famous Castillo, the ball court, the cenote, and the Nunnery.

Private Vehicle

Mérida - Chichén-Itzá

1h30m-2h

120km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private Vehicle

Chichén-Itzá - Valladolid

45m-1h

45km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 20

## Valladolid/Playa del Carmen

Travel to Playa del Carmen to lounge on Mayan Riviera beaches.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Hotel Casa de las Flores (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Free Time

Valladolid

Enjoy the morning to explore this beautiful colonial city.

Private Vehicle

Valladolid - Playa del Carmen

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Opt to explore the Mayan ruins of Tulum or just play in the waves and enjoy the beach!



## Meals included

Breakfast



## Accommodation

Hotel Casa de las Flores (or similar)

Hotel



## Optional Activities - Day 21

Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve Canal Float

Tulum

135USD

Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve is one of Mexico's most important protected areas due to its diversity in bird and animal species. The Reserve uses ecologically responsible technologies, including systems for wetland waste management, rainwater collection, and solar and wind energy generation to protect the environment.

Visit the reserve and take a boat ride across the lagoon before hopping into the crystal clear water of one of the canals. Next, enjoy nature's lazy river as you float past Mayan ruins and mangrove forests, letting the current slowly bring you down stream. It's just you, the sound of chirping birds, and the fish swimming around your feet - pure paradise!

Cenote Visit

Playa del Carmen

40-60USD

1h-4h

30-60km

Pack your swimsuit, hail a shared van (colectivo) and ask for directions to one of Yucatan's many cenotes. These natural swimming holes were formed thousands of years ago, when the peninsula's porous limestone collapsed to reveal fresh water pools fed by underground systems of canals and rivers. Dive into the turquoise waters surrounded by cave walls or tropical foliage, watch fish dart in and out of the shafts of sunlight and realize why the Maya called cenotes "sacred wells".

Cozumel Diving (Certified Divers)

Cozumel

85-140USD

5h-8h

32km

Take the ferry to Cozumel Island and discover one of the world's top scuba diving destinations. See schools of tropical fish (over 250 species) swimming in and amongst colourful coral, look for sponges

and other aquatic marine life. Two main coral reefs provide plateaus beginning in less than 9m (30 ft) of water. All this, plus clear, warm water. Every diver's dream!

Tulum Ruins Visit

Tulum

1h-4h

The Maya built the ancient seaport of Tulum in the late 13th century. Located some 130 km (80 mi) south of Cancun, this picturesque site features a number of limestone structures protected on three sides by a 7m (23 ft) thick wall. Visit "El Castillo" (the castle), overlooking the Caribbean coast, and the Temple of Frescoes, then head down to the beach. Dive into the warm aquamarine waters and imagine spotting ancient vessels laden with turquoise and jade.

Tequila Tasting

Playa del Carmen

850-1100MXN

Mexico is the birthplace of tequila, and there is nowhere better to learn about the iconic drink. Join a certified sommelier to learn about the history of tequila and the production process, before the main highlight - a tasting session. Sip, don't shoot!

Day 22

## Playa del Carmen

Depart at any time.

The Cancún airport is approximately 1 hour from Playa del Carmen. There are frequent public buses and shuttles from Playa del Carmen to the airport throughout the day.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

## What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Alebrijes Artisan Community Workshop, Oaxaca
- Your G for Good Moment: Oaxaca Cuisine Tasting Experience, Oaxaca
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Guanajuato City and Street Food Tour, Guanajuato
- Your Discover Moment: Mérida
- Your Discover Moment: Playa del Carmen
- Guided tour of Teotihuacan
- Orientation walk in Puebla
- Orientation walk and market visit in Oaxaca
- Guided tour of Palenque ruins site
- Campeche visit
- Orientation walk in Mérida
- Guided tour of Chichén Itzá
- Tequila distillery visit and tasting
- City tour of Guadalajara
- Orientation walk in San Miguel de Allende
- City tour of San Miguel de Allende
- Alebrijes Artisan Community Visit
- Cooking demonstration with local expert in Oaxaca
- Free time in Puebla, Oaxaca Puerto Vallarta, Playa del Carmen, Guadalajara, San Miguel de Allende, and Mexico City
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Listen to mariachi bands and sample tequila at a tavern in Guadalajara, Soak up history in the colonial towns of Guanajuato and San Miguel de Allende, Climb the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan, Explore the ruins at Palanque

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## **Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?**

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## **Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## **What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?**

### **ACCOMMODATION NOTE:**

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

### **QUINTANA ROO TOURIST TAX**

Please note there may be an approximately \$45 USD tourist tax at Cancún International Airport, however it is usually included in international tickets. Please verify with your airline if the departure tax is included in your airfare.

## **What is the role of the group leader during this trip?**

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our group leaders, a G Adventures representative, or an expedition team. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

## **How large will the group be?**

Max 16, avg 12.

## **What meals are included in this trip?**

21 breakfasts, 1 lunch

## **What are the meals like on this trip?**

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. The above information applies to G Adventures group trips. Please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

## **What are the modes of transportation on my trip?**

Public air-conditioned bus, taxi, private vehicle, plane, walking.

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hotels (21 nts).

## **Will I get my own room?**

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

## **What are the joining instructions?**

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

If you would like to book an airport Arrival transfer for your tour, please contact our Sales Team or your Travel Agent in advance of travel.

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

## **What happens if I experience problems when arriving?**

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## **What information should I be aware of as the itinerary draws to a close?**

If you would like to book an airport Departure transfer for your tour, please contact our Sales Team or your Travel Agent in advance of travel.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

## Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

### **Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

## **When can I do my laundry on this trip?**

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

## **What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?**

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

## **What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?**

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## **What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?**

It is uncommon to pay for optional activities, souvenirs and meals on credit card in the areas this trip visits, so be prepared with a combination of USD cash and local currency to pay for these on-trip costs.

That said, credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances. Visa cards are the most widely accepted cards. While ATMs are widely available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work in Latin America. Check with your bank prior to travelling. ATMs generally only dispense local currency, not USD. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of US dollars cash and cards is best. Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

You will be able to exchange USD to local currency along the way , but please be advised that slightly torn notes and notes that have been heavily marked or are faded may be difficult to exchange. It is best to bring notes in fairly good condition, in denominations lower than 50USD (or equivalent). Learn about local exchange rates at [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

## **How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?**

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

# What activities are optional on this trip?

## Puerto Vallarta

- Whale Watching - Puerto Vallarta
- Beach Time
- Sunset Sailing Tour
- Marietas Island Snorkel Tour
- Food & Drink Tour Puerto Vallarta

## San Miguel de Allende

- Cooking Class - San Miguel de Allende
- Horseback Riding in San Miguel de Allende

## Mexico City

- National Museum of Anthropology (210MXN per person)
- All You Can Eat Taco Tour
- District of Coyoacán Visit (50-75USD per group)
- Museum of Frida Kahlo (Casa Azul) (320MXN per person)
- Taco Street Food Crawl

## Cholula

- Cholula Ruins Visit (85MXN per person)

## Oaxaca

- Mezcal Factory Tour
- Hierve el Agua Day Trip
- Mole Cooking Class (1200MXN per person)

## Monte Albán

- Monte Albán Tour (950MXN per person)

## San Pablo Villa de Mitla

- Valley of Mitla Ruins Visit (210MXN per person)

## **Palenque**

- Jungle Trail Hike (25USD per person)
- Roberto Barrios Waterfalls (54USD per person)

## **Mérida**

- Anthropology Museum Visit (55MXN per person)
- Cenote Visit (60-70USD per person)

## **Uxmal Ruins**

- Uxmal Ruins Visit (70-110USD per person)

## **Tulum**

- Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve Canal Float (135USD per person)
- Tulum Ruins Visit

## **Playa del Carmen**

- Cenote Visit (40-60USD per person)
- Tequila Tasting (850-1100MXN per person)

## **Cozumel**

- Cozumel Diving (Certified Divers) (85-140USD per person)

## Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves

## What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)\*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

## Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

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