

Catherwood's Hacienda Grand Tour

Overview

- Magnificent 5-star accommodations at restored haciendas
- Ancient Maya ruins: Aké, Oxkintok
- Quaint towns and local handicrafts: Izamal, Temozón, Becal, Pomuch, Calkiní
- Celestún Bio-Reserve's natural splendors
- Charming, historic Campeche
- Famed local restaurants and Catherwood's signature picnics

Catherwood takes you off the beaten track like no other tour operator, to beautiful Yucatán gems only the luckiest travelers see, with its signature five-star comfort and style. All the while you learn about regional life, history and archaeology from Catherwood's expert guides. And don't worry—there's always plenty of time to relax and do nothing, too!

Catherwood's Yucatán Peninsula



Hda. San José Cholul

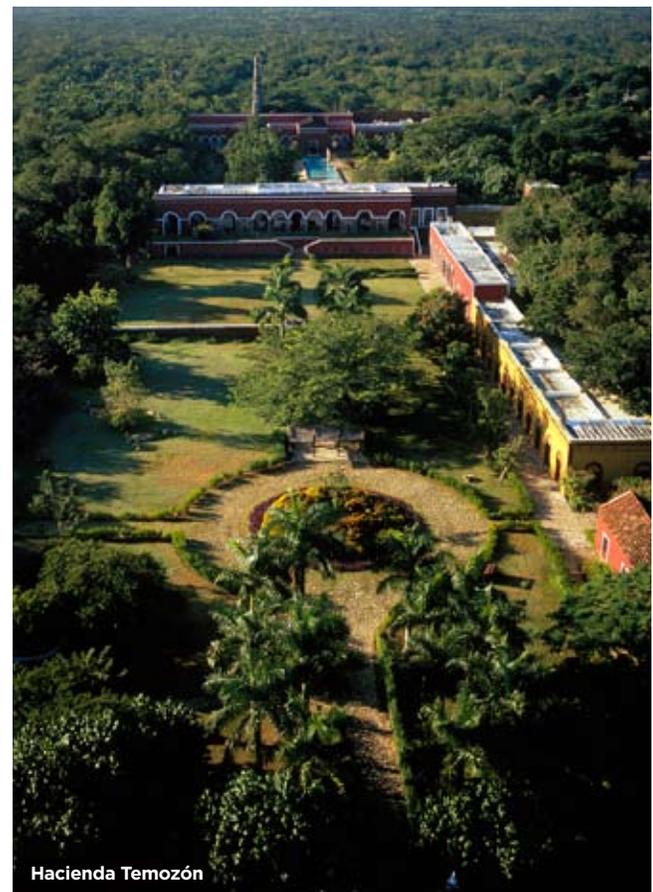
DAY 1: THE EASY CHARM OF HACIENDA LIFE

ALL DAY: Catherwood drivers bring you to magnificent Hacienda San José Cholul, an impeccably restored hacienda dating to the seventeenth century, now a five-star hotel.

Explore its tranquil gardens, swim its dramatic pool and breathtaking cenote, relax at the Maya spa. Dine on delicious local recipes in and out of doors, in high back-country style.



Campeche



Hacienda Temozón

DAY 2: INCREDIBLE IZAMAL

AM: Day 2 is about incredible Izamal, the UNESCO world heritage site—where almost every structure is egg-yolk yellow! But Izamal is no mere tourist trap—it's a living Maya town and art colony. Catherwood's expert guides lead you to all of Izamal's principal sites and explain its intriguing blend of Maya, Spanish and modern cultures.

LUNCHTIME: Lunch is at Kinich, Izamal's internationally famous Yucatecan restaurant.

PM: Catherwood gives you exclusive access to the city's most important artisans—taking you behind the scenes at workshops where you'll see the inspiration and artistry behind their crafts. Wind up the day relaxing by the pool at Hacienda San José Cholul.



Izamal



DAY 3: CHILL AT SAN JOSÉ CHOLUL

ALL DAY: Take all day exploring magnificent Hacienda San José Cholul. Relax by its amazing pool, dine on delicious regional fare, explore its exuberant gardens, or simply take it all in from your hammock. Doing nothing was never so interesting.

DAY 4: GREEN GOLD AND MODERN MAYA LIFE

AM: Saying farewell to Hacienda San José Cholul, you journey to nearby Hacienda Aké, a still-functioning hacienda that produces henequen, once the source of the Yucatán's tremendous wealth. Enjoy an exclusive tour of the hacienda property and learn how henequen fiber is produced. After the hacienda tour, you will walk to the adjacent Aké archaeological site. Your Catherwood expert makes exploring this lesser-known site a truly one-of-a-kind experience.

LUNCHTIME/PM: The morning ends with your arrival at Hacienda Temozón, one of the grandest haciendas in all Mexico. After enjoying a splendid lunch overlooking the hacienda pool, explore the town of Temozón and visit local craftswomen in their workshops near the hacienda entrance.

DAY 5: TEMOZÓN TIME-OUT

ALL DAY: Take all day exploring Hacienda Temozón and relax by its amazing swimming pool. And be sure not to miss its on-site cenote, accessed by a mule-drawn tram ride through the former henequen fields that's a Temozón must.



Hacienda San José Cholul



Hacienda Aké



DAY 6: RELAX AMID NATURAL SPLENDORS

ALL DAY: Explore fascinating Celestún, a nature preserve on the Yucatán's gulf coast. A boat excursion takes you deep inside the estuary and bordering mangrove forests where you will find American flamingos and dozens of other avian species. There's also swimming in a natural spring and a visit to the town of Celestún, an authentic fishing village, practically frozen in time. Best of all you'll have plenty of time for relaxing on the beach!

LUNCHTIME: Enjoy a delicious seafood lunch at a local beachside restaurant.

PM/NIGHTTIME: You conclude your day's adventure with a night at beautiful, intimate Hacienda Santa Rosa, a compound of restored nineteenth century constructions complemented by gardens and a pool. The botanical garden is regionally prized for its medicinal and comestible produce.

DAY 7: SEDUCTIVE SANTA ROSA

ALL DAY: Today you have a full day to explore Santa Rosa's botanical garden or visit its health center and nearby workshops. Or relax by Santa Rosa's pool and enjoy a Maya-style massage performed by a local therapist.

DAY 8: THREE MILLENNIA OF LIFE IN THE YUCATÁN

AM: Make a private journey with Catherwood to Oxkintok, a classic-era city, never abandoned by the Maya, where you'll see the entire civilization's architectural heritage preserved in magnificently carved stone. To take your site visit to an even higher level, a Catherwood archaeologist guide is available. En route to Campeche, you may stop in one of several living Maya towns: Becal, famous for its jipi japa hats; Pomuch, celebrated for its delicious bakeries; or Kalkiní, a center for sisal rug production. In each case, Catherwood experts take you behind the scenes to meet master artisans and appreciate their work firsthand.

LUNCHTIME/PM: Move on to Hacienda Puerta Campeche, a block of restored buildings, now a five-star hotel, in the center of Campeche, near the city's ancient protective wall. Its pool, spa, delicious dining and impeccable service await you in the heart of this lesser known, utterly charming city. Explore the surrounding streets or just relax in spectacular hacienda style.



DAY 9: CHARMING CAMPECHE

ALL DAY: Explore fascinating Campeche, built on the site of a Maya city. For centuries it was one of Mexico's most important ports and a frequent target of pirates, necessitating its justly famous city walls, parts of which still stand. Today a UNESCO world heritage site, Campeche is home to museums, magnificent churches and colorful colonial architecture, plus dozens of other hidden corners that few but your Catherwood guide know.

LUNCHTIME: Relax at La Pigua Restaurant, a local favorite.

PM/NIGHTTIME: Return to Puerta Campeche for free time and relaxation.

Julia Miller and Alfonso Morales, Catherwood's Archaeologists



Catherwood's Hacienda Grand Tour:

What you learn

Your adventure doesn't end when you leave the Yucatán peninsula...with Catherwood you acquire lifelong knowledge on:

- Ancient Maya art and architecture, with private, hands-on experiences at Aké and Oxkintok, in the company of your Catherwood expert guide
- The best of Yucatán small town life: artisanal crafts in Becal, Pomuch or Kalkiní
- Celestún's flamingos, mangrove forests and other natural wonders.
- The historical splendors of life on the hacienda and in Campeche city.

Plus lots of time for pure relaxation!

DAY 10

AM: Catherwood's driver takes you to the Campeche airport and flights home.



Make the most of your hacienda free time! Ask your Catherwood guide about the following options:

- Maya-style massage in hotel spas, in your room, by the pool, in the garden, or even next to a cenote!
- Visit with a traditional Maya medicine man and learn how ancient herbal remedies form part of modern medicine in the Yucatán.
- Explore the schools, clinics and libraries of the Fundación Haciendas del Mundo Maya, where your tourist dollar contributes to local wellbeing.
- Meet local artisans in their workshops and learn firsthand about their magnificent artworks and handicrafts.



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