

# Catherwood's Mysteries and Splendors of the Maya World

## Catherwood's Yucatán Peninsula



### Overview

- Magnificent 5-star accommodations at restored haciendas
- Ancient Maya ruins: Huntichmul, Kiuic, Uxmal, Oxkintok
- Quaint local towns and local handicrafts: 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!



Celestún

### DAY 1: THE EASY CHARM OF HACIENDA LIFE

**ALL DAY:** Catherwood drivers bring you to magnificent Hacienda Temozón, 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: HACIENDA HERITAGE

**AM:** Catherwood takes you to Sotuta de Peón, one of the Yucatán's last working henequen plantations, where you witness the centuries-old techniques that once brought wealth to the region and now are the base for beautiful artisanal crafts.

**LUNCHTIME:** A delicious Yucatecan lunch awaits at Hacienda Itzincab Cámara or Hacienda Tekik de Regil, two private properties, impeccably restored and reserved exclusively for Catherwood travelers.

**PM:** Return to Hacienda Temozón for poolside relaxation or a splendid dinner.



## DAY 3: MAYA MYSTERIES (Choose One)



### Option 1: Huntichmul and Kiuic

**AM:** Gain exclusive access to lesser known ruins and see them as the first explorers did. Visit Huntichmul, an unexcavated site on horseback, then continue on to Kiuic.

**LUNCHTIME/PM:** A delicious Catherwood picnic is served at Kiuic's archaeology and ecology camp. Tour the dazzling city of Kiuic, with its magnificent pyramid, palaces and remarkable stone houses. Catherwood's archaeologist guides help you understand the possible reasons why Kiuic was abandoned in a moment of economic expansion.

**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 the pool. The botanical garden is regionally prized for its medicinal and comestible produce.



### Option 2: Uxmal and Xocnaceh

**AM:** Catherwood's guide leads you on a private tour of Uxmal, one of the most complex and beautiful sites in the Yucatán, famed for its architecture and sculpture. Catherwood experts bring it all to life as no one else can. To take your Uxmal visit to an even higher level, a Catherwood archaeologist guide is available.

**LUNCHTIME/PM:** A delicious Catherwood picnic is served in the chapel ruins at Xocnaceh, a private hacienda open only to Catherwood travelers. After lunch, there's swimming in the water tank, converted into a pool, exploration of archaeological sites, or just plain relaxation.

**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 the pool. The botanical garden is regionally prized for its medicinal and comestible produce.

#### DAY 4: RELAX AMID NATURAL SPLENDORS

**ALL DAY:** Explore fascinating Celestún, a nature preserve on the Yucatán's gulf coast. A boat excursion takes you to the estuary and the bordering mangrove forests where you'll come face to face with 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:** Hacienda Santa Rosa.



#### DAY 5: THREE MILLENNIA OF LIFE IN THE YUCATÁN



**AM:** Make a private journey with Catherwood to Oxkintok, a classic-era city, never been 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 Calkiní, 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 your choice of two magnificently restored haciendas, Uayamón or Puerta Campeche. Southeast of Campeche city, Uayamon presents rural splendor beneath the shade of magnificent old trees and features a dramatic pool, exuberant gardens and a five-star restaurant. Hacienda Puerta Campeche is a block of restored buildings in the center of Campeche, near to its ancient protective wall. Its pool, spa, delicious dining and impeccable service await you in the very heart of this lesser known, utterly charming city.

## DAY 6: 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 or Hacienda Uayamón for free time and relaxation.

## DAY 7

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



Campeche

Julia Miller and  
Alfonso Morales,  
Catherwood's  
Archaeologists



### Catherwood's Mysteries and Splendors Of The Maya World: 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 Huntuchmul and Kiuic, or Uxmal and Oxkintok, in the company of your Catherwood expert guide.
- The best of Yucatán small town life: artisanal crafts in Becal, Pomuch or Calkiní.
- Celestún's flamingos, mangrove forests and other natural splendors.
- The historical splendors of life on the hacienda and in Campeche city.

Plus lots of time for pure relaxation!

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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