



YUCATAN

Exploring Yucatan's Coral Reefs and Tropical Forests

DATES

FEBRUARY 9-15,
2020

PRICE

\$5,320
PER PERSON
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT APPLIES

Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula separates the Caribbean from the Gulf of Mexico, and is particularly susceptible to hurricanes and natural disasters, which are being exacerbated by climate change. The Nature Conservancy is pioneering initiatives designed to reduce storm impact risks on people, infrastructure and the economy in the Mexican Caribbean by promoting conservation and restoration of reefs, dunes and wetlands.

TNC has been instrumental in safeguarding the Meso-american Reef, the largest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere. Mexico recently tripled its marine protected

areas, contributing significantly to TNC's global goal of protecting 400 million hectares of ocean. This journey through the Yucatan Peninsula gives you the opportunity to see the impact of the Conservancy's global priorities are playing out on the ground and in the water, and gain a greater understanding of how the Conservancy is using Mexico as a model for collective action between governments, corporations, and private stakeholders, while providing an opportunity for both relaxation on the beach and for adventure in the Caribbean Sea and freshwater springs.



TNC TRAVEL VALUES

A journey with The Nature Conservancy is an immersive experience that offers unparalleled access to TNC experts and programs deep in the heart of the world's most dramatic landscapes. Put your conservation values in action by seeing remote corners of the globe and engage in a behind-the-scenes view of conservation efforts that have a global impact.

ACCESS:

Fish with members of Punta Allen's fishing cooperative, which follow sustainable fishing practices like no-take zones.

IMPACT:

Sail across the first reef ever to be insured, a policy that provides funds for reef restoration after a major storm.

KNOWLEDGE:

Travel with the scientists who have generated oceanographic and economic models that demonstrate the protective function of natural ecosystems.

INSPIRATION:

Witness the first-hand importance of the Mesoamerican reef, the significance of the reef's health to the communities and the critical ecosystem services and natural protection that serves as the community's greatest defense against the next natural disaster.

GLOBALLY MINDED:

Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula is home to the world's first Reef and Beach Insurance Fund, the first ever insurance policy on nature.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SIAN KA'AN BIOSPHERE RESERVE: Boat and swim through this UNESCO World Heritage Site. At 1.3 million acres, it's the largest protected area in Mexico, boasting more than 300 species of birds and 115 mammals, including manatees that gather in the lagoons and freshwater springs.

FAIRMONT MAYAKOBA: One of the Conservancy's lodging partners, the resort was built using an ancient Mayan technique called "socoleo," where more than 1,500 trees were rescued and relocated around the property.

MESOAMERICAN REEF RESTORATION: The Mesoamerican Reef is one of the largest reef systems in the world. The Conservancy is partnering with fishing communities and cooperatives that rely on the reef to reverse the decline in fishstocks by demonstrating sustainable practices and establishing fish replenishment zones.

Your trip supports the local communities you're traveling in and The Nature Conservancy's efforts locally and globally. This trip has been planned specifically by The Nature Conservancy's team of scientific experts and travel liaisons to immerse you in the work the Conservancy is doing on the ground that has global consequences.

Trip at a Glance



Arrive in Cancun and travel south to the coastal town of Puerto Morales for a catamaran tour and snorkel adventure along the Mesoamerican reef. Here, the Conservancy is working with fishing communities to develop sustainable practices, and has spearheaded a groundbreaking insurance program for the restoration of the reef. Enjoy plenty of downtown to explore the beach and your lodging for the evening, the lush Fairmount Mayakoba, an ecologically conscious

resort. Continue south to Tulum to explore private natural springs and limestone caves, before learning about the ancient history and culture of the area at the Prehistory Museum. Further south, you'll explore the lagoons of Sian Ka'an, the largest protected area in Mexico, then transition from the coast to the forest to learn about sustainable harvesting practices. The trip will conclude with more opportunity to explore the beaches of Tulum before your departure home.




FEATURED EXPERT:


JEFF WEIGEL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES, MESOAMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION

Jeff started working for the Nature Conservancy's Minnesota Chapter in 1979 as a seasonal field biologist cataloging grassland birds, plants and animals. He was hired as the Minnesota Chapter Assistant Land Steward in 1980 and spent the next five years managing TNC preserves. After a three-year stint in graduate school, Jeff returned to TNC as the Texas Chapter Director of Stewardship. Over the next fifteen years, he worked in a variety of positions developing conservation projects, raising funds, and building conservation programs. Currently he is working as a fund raiser and conservation specialist for the Conservancy's Mesoamerican and Caribbean Region.


Schedule

 **DAY 1:** Arrive in Cancun, and travel south to your hotel, Fairmont Mayakoba.


 OVERNIGHT FAIRMONT MAYAKOBA, PUERTO MORELOS

 **DAY 2:** Take a catamaran tour and snorkel a flourishing segment of the Mesoamerican Reef while learning about the groundbreaking insurance program the Conservancy has initiated. Relax on the lush grounds of Fairmount Mayakoba before dinner.


 OVERNIGHT FAIRMOUNT MAYAKOBA, PUERTO MORELOS

 **DAY 3:** Head south to Tulum, where you'll visit a private cenote that's part of one of the most famous underground river systems in the world. You'll also visit the Prehistory Museum, home to one of the oldest skeletons found in the Americas, dating back more than 12,000 years. Relax on the beach of Tulum before dinner.


 OVERNIGHT HOTEL CABANAS LOS LIRIOS, TULUM

 **DAY 4:** Spend the day at Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, where you'll explore crystal clear lagoons teeming with manatee, and spot some of the reserve's 300 species of bird. Enjoy lunch on the boat in the expansive canal system that meanders through the reserve. Learn about the Conservancy's partnership with Amigos de Sian Ka'an to protect the mangroves of the Reserve.

 OVERNIGHT HOTEL CABANAS LOS LIRIOS, TULUM

 **DAY 5:** Transition from the coast to the forest, traveling to Noh Bec, a farming community the Conservancy works with to develop sustainable forestry programs. Enjoy breakfast in Sijil Noh Ha Lagoon, and learn from the Conservancy's partners about their efforts to provide economic productivity while also storing carbon. Take a tour of the forest and sawmill, and learn how their practices serve as a model to other villages. Drive south to the town of Bacalar and take a dip in a large freshwater lagoon.

 OVERNIGHT RANCHO ENCANTADO, LAGUNA BACALAR

 **DAY 6:** Relax at Rancho Encantado in the morning, enjoying the lagoon and hammocks, before driving back to Tulum for the afternoon at leisure at the beach. Final Farewell dinner.

 OVERNIGHT HOTEL CABANAS LOS LIRIOS, TULUM

DAY 7: Drive to Cancun for final departures.

Lodging



THE FAIRMONT MAYAKOBA in Puerto Morelos is rainforest certified and sits within 240 acres of privately protected tropical forest.



LOS LIRIOS CABINS, sitting on the white sands beach of Tulum, has its own water purifying plant and its own electric power plant.



RANCHO ENCANTADO sits on the shores of the pristine Laguna Bacalar, known as the lake of the "Seven Colors."



CONTACT

**FOR BOOKING INFORMATION OR FOR
JOURNEY QUESTIONS PLEASE
CONTACT:**

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www.nature.org/insiderexperiences