



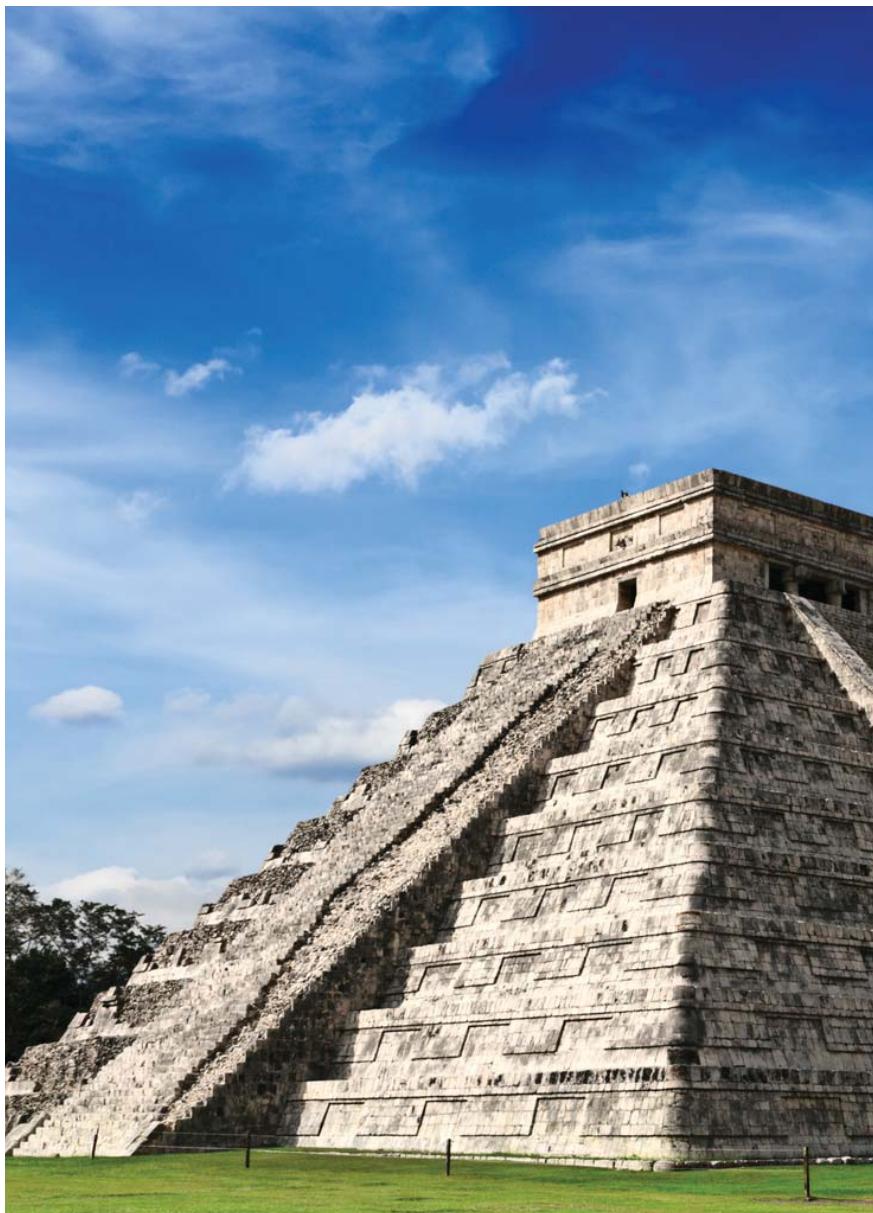
Globetrotters

GASTON

A Publication of Gaston College Study Tours

Spring 2015

Coming Fall: Legacy of the Maya & Aztec Civilizations



So you think you have to go to Egypt to see (and climb) a huge pyramid? Think again.

Some of the most impressive pyramids and monuments in the world are a short distance away in the **Yucatan Peninsula** of Mexico.

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Edited by Bob Blanton

Itinerary Overview

Day 1

December 27, 2015

Departure from Charlotte,
Arrive Cancun - Playa del
Carmen (3 nights)

Day 2

December 28, 2015

Tulum & Xel-ha Park

Day 3

December 29, 2015

Playa del Carmen - Free Day

Day 4

December 30, 2015

Playa del Carmen, Chichen Itza,
Merida (3 nights)

Day 5

December 31, 2015

Uxmal & Kabah
(Legacy of the Maya)

Day 6

January 1, 2016

Merida - Free Day

Day 7

January 2, 2016

Departure from Merida

Months of the Maya calendar

 Pop	 Uo	 Zip	 Zotz
 Tzec	 Xul	 Yaxkin	 Mo
 Chen	 Yax	 Zac	 Ceh
 Mac	 Kankin	 Muan	 Pax
 Kayab	 Cumhu	 Uayeb	

Legacy of the Maya & Aztec Cultures

December 27, 2015 - January 2, 2016

Come join us for a wonderful winter holiday tour during the week between Christmas and New Years to several interesting locations in the Yucatan. Beginning with a flight from Charlotte to the Maya Riviera, we will spend seven days touring both the ancient and modern Maya sites, including **Tulum**, **Chichen Itza**, **Uxmal**, **Kabah**, and the capital of Yucatan, the lovely colonial city of **Merida**. Temperatures will probably be in the 30's here at home; the expected temperatures in Yucatan will be in the mid-80's! We already have our flights on Delta confirmed, and our hotels are at least four-star in all of our overnight locations. On our last evening in Merida we will enjoy dinner and a performance of the famous **Ballet Folklorico de Mexico**, which captures the spirit and soul of the country!

DAY 1

Sunday, December 27, 2015

Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from **Charlotte to Cancun**, Mexico. Our Tour Director will meet us at the airport. Our private coach will be waiting to transfer us to our hotel in **Playa del Carmen**. Our accommodation for the next three nights will be in Playa del Carmen. Breakfast will be included at the hotel. This evening, dinner will be provided in a local restaurant.

DAY 2

Monday, December 28, 2015

Discover the **Tulum**



Archaeological Site, a Mayan fortress city overlooking the Caribbean. By 900 A.D. the Mayan civilization had begun its decline, and the large cities to the south were abandoned. Tulum is one of the small city-states that rose to fill the void, and came to prominence in the 13th century as a seaport, controlling maritime commerce along this section of the coast. The most imposing building in Tulum is a large stone structure above the cliff called the Castillo, which was a temple, as well as a fortress.

Take a trip to **Xel-ha Park**, where we can snorkel and relax in its warm waters, swimming among its brilliant fish. Xel-Ha (shell-hah) is a swimmers' paradise, with no threat of undertow or pollution, it is a beautiful, completely calm cove. Not interested in swimming? Simply relax and enjoy nature.

This evening, dinner will be provided in a local restaurant.

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Highlights of the Adriatic - Itinerary

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DAY 3

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

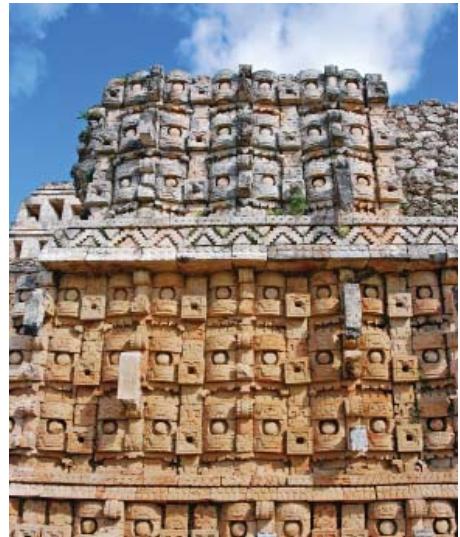
Spend a relaxing day on the beaches of **Playa del Carmen**. This evening dinner will be in a local restaurant, by the group's own arrangement and cost.



old and new exhibited in everything from fashion to architecture.

We will enjoy our evening meal together either in a local restaurant or at our hotel.

This evening dinner will be in a local restaurant, by the group's own arrangement and cost.



DAY 4

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

We continue on our journey from **Playa del Carmen to Merida**. En route we visit **Chichén Itzá**. Explore the ruins at Chichén Itzá, which has two parts: the northern zone, which shows distinct Toltec influence, and the southern zone, with mostly Puuc architecture. Our visit will include: the **El Castillo Pyramid**; the Main Ball Court; the North Temple; the Temple of Jaguars; the Temple of the Skulls; the Platform of the Eagle; the Platform of Venus; the Sacred Cenote; the Temple of the Warriors; the Tomb of the High Priest; the Observatory; and the Temple of Panels.

Our base for the next three nights will be Merida, where breakfast will be provided at the hotel.

Merida is the capital city of the state of Yucatan. Known as "White City" because of the use of white limestone and white paint this traditional city depicts much of the splendor of Colonial Mexico. There is

DAY 5

Thursday, December 31, 2015

Tour the Mayan ruin site of **Uxmal** and view the remarkable Pyramid of the Magician, unique because of its rounded sides, height, steepness, and its doorway with heavy ornamentation.

The visit will also include the Nunnery Quadrangle, which resembled a Spanish convent and was possibly a military academy or a training school for princes, the partially restored Ball Court, the Governor's Palace, the Great Pyramid and the Dovecote.

Explore the Mayan site of **Kabah** and view the spectacular facade of masks on the Palace of Masks, named for its decorative motif. Its outstanding feature is the Chenes-style facade, completely covered in a repeated pattern of 250 masks of the rain god Chaac, each one with curling remnants of Chaac's elephant-trunk-like nose. The visit will include the Palace Group, the Great Temple and a Great Arch.

DAY 6

Friday, January 1, 2016

Today is yours at leisure to enjoy **Merida**. We will enjoy our evening meal together either in a local restaurant or at our hotel. After dinner we will enjoy a **Ballet Folklorico** show.



DAY 7

Saturday, January 2, 2016

Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the airport on our final day.

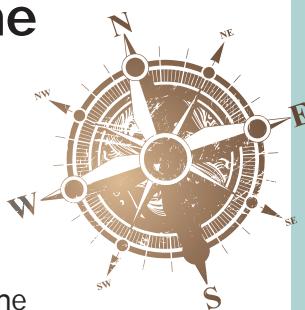
What is Included in the Tour Package



- Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which will not change after time of enrollment for any participant)
- Accommodation in four-star hotels (Hotels Fiesta Americana and Hotel Las Golondrinas) in twin with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- A filling breakfast everyday to get the day started well throughout your touring program
- A hearty three course dinner on nights 1,2,4 and 6
- A full-time Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- The expertise and perspective of local guides during your tour
- All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
- Transportation by private coach for airport transfers and touring
- Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to \$7,500) and \$50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation

What is NOT included in the Tour Package

- Lunches; Dinner on days 3 and 5; personal beverages with meals
- Valid passport
- Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage
- Travel insurance - We offer and always recommend our Trip Mate travel insurance policy to all participants. This comprehensive policy includes health, property and cancellation coverage at a cost of \$149 (unless your base program price is in excess of \$5,000, in which case the cost of the insurance will be \$199).
- Cost of Gaston College registration.



All-Inclusive Tour Price

\$2,849 per person,
double-occupancy,
based on 20 paying
participants.

Reservation Form

Legacy of the Maya & Aztec Civilizations

December 27, 2015 - January 2, 2016

Full name (as it appears on your passport): _____

Current address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email: _____

Valid passport number (for airlines): _____

Expiration date: _____

Note: Many foreign countries now require that your passport be valid at least 6 months after you end your visit. Make sure yours will meet this requirement.

I wish to room with: _____

I require a private room at additional cost: _____

Special dietary/health needs (for hotels/airlines): _____

- I am already covered by my own health/hospitalization insurance policy while overseas.
- I plan to purchase health/hospitalization insurance from Worldstrides.

The \$149 payment for additional insurance must be included with your initial deposit check.

Reservations

Legacy of Maya & Aztec Civilizations

December 27, 2015 - January 2, 2016

Reservation Form:

Please complete all information on this form, detach it and send it along with a check in the amount of \$500 per person (plus insurance premium if you purchase our company's policy), made payable to GASTON COLLEGE STUDY TOURS, and send to:

Bob Blanton,
Study Tours Director
Box 76
Gaston College
Dallas, NC 28034-1499

No space can be reserved without receipt of your deposit. Tour deposits are nonrefundable except in cases where we can resell your space on the tour. All prices, based upon a minimum of 20 paying participants, are valid at the time of this printing, but are subject to change. Tours are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Balance payments will be due approximately 90 days prior to departure.

Information

Contact Bob Blanton,
Study Tours Director
Box 76, Gaston College
201 Highway 321 South
Dallas, NC 28034-1499
blanton.bob@gaston.edu

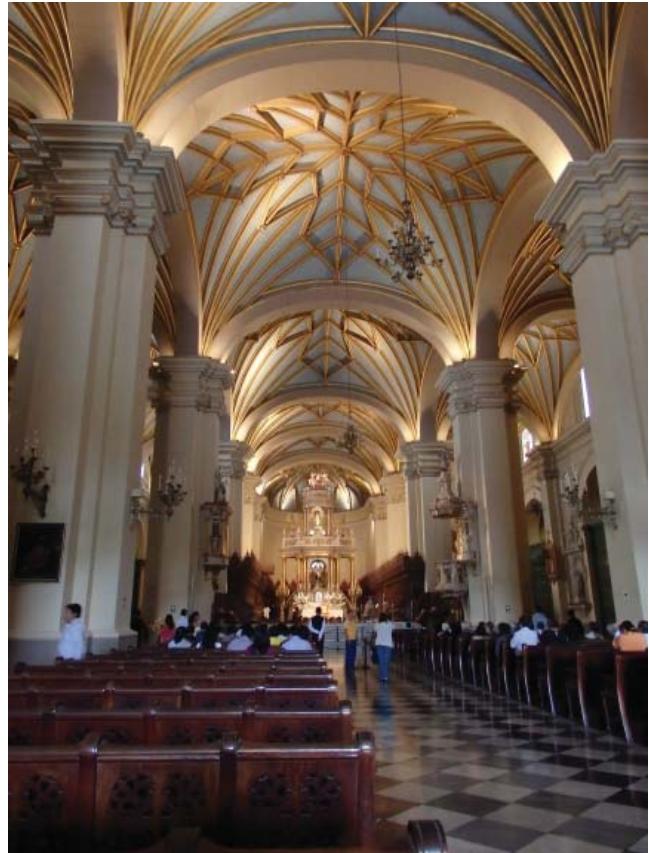


Dallas Campus
201 Highway 321 South
Dallas, NC 28034
704.922.6200
704.922.2323 (f)

Recent Tour to Peru



Gaston College students, Study Tours Director Bob Blanton, and our Peruvian guide near the Lima coast.



Interior of the Metropolitan Cathedral in downtown Lima, Peru



Classic view of the ruins of Machu Picchu in the early morning sunlight



Peruvian children who received school supplies wish us Happy Holidays

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Recent Tour to Peru (continued from Page 6)



Gaston College students present school and dental supplies to a member of the Lima Rotary Club.



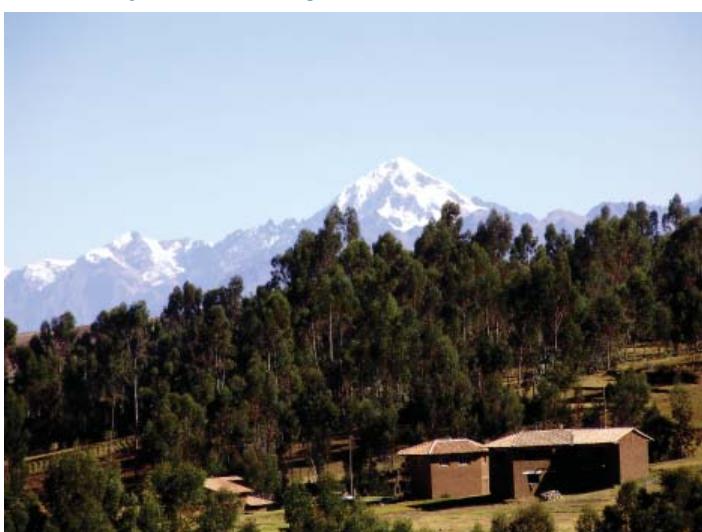
Gaston College students and participants learn how Inca weaving is done with a back-strap loom.



17th Century colonial buildings in the Plaza de Armas, Lima



The massive Inca fortress at Ollantaytambo, near Machu Picchu



Even in summer, snow caps are still visible in the high Andes near the village of Chinchero



Breathtaking sunset over the Pacific Ocean from Lima, Peru

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SOME OF OUR FAVORITE PLACES...

