

# MAYA LAND

The route to the cosmos



Romance · Culture · Gastronomy · Nature · Pleasure · Adventure



SECRETARIA  
DE TURISMO  
GOBIERNO FEDERAL



**MUNDO MAYA**

## The path to the cosmos

From 300 to 900 of our time, in the Lacandon Jungle, the amazing Maya metropolis of Palenque was erected into an actual city-state establishing alliances, doing battles, conquering territories and lives, and creating cultural aspects that have not yet been revealed completely.

*The influence of this enigmatic culture has been of great interest for researchers and travelers of different parts of the world, who are eager to visit this magnificent civilization through its archaeological vestiges, which not all of them have been discovered.*

*Besides its beautiful landscapes, colorful magic towns and superb colonial monuments, Chiapas has interesting vestiges of the Mesoamerican period that are mixed with the sounds and the vegetation of the jungle.*

# MAYA LAND



# THE KINGDOM OF LAKAMHÁ



## Palenque Archaeological Site



**The pre-Hispanic city and national park of Palenque was recognized by the UNESCO as Heritage of Humanity in 1987.**

In the middle of the jungle, Palenque was developed as one of the most important cities during the Classic Mayan period. It was the seat of a powerful dynasty, whose power was extended to the Northern mountains of Chiapas and the plains of Tabasco; territories that have been recognized as part of the kingdom of Lakamhá.

The spectacular Temple of the Inscriptions is the most outstanding building at the Great Plaza of Palenque. This temple was named after the limestone blocks carved with glyphs that are in the interior of this authentic mausoleum, which was erected by Pakal (the Maya leader from 615 to 683 AD) with the purpose to become his tomb.

\*It is located at 8 km from the city of Palenque

## ON THE MAYAN ROUTES

*Going into the Lacandon Jungle is one of the most fascinating experiences for tourists because of the archaeological secrets and abundant nature that are part of this amazing natural attraction.*

## PALENQUE

Palenque is one of the destinations of Chiapas for people eager to be in touch with nature and interested in discovering one of the most impressive cities of the Mayan culture. This city has history, legends and historical facts in each corner, and it is well-known for its natural wealth and cultural heritage. For these reasons, it was recognized as a Magic Town in September 2015.



## CATAZAJÁ

It is a region full of lakes created by the overflowing of the Usumacinta river. Several migratory birds coming from North America (as the blackpoll warblers, pelicans, northern shovelers, among others) stay in this place every year, turning it into a spectacular landscape, which is typical of the Mexican Gulf Coastal Plain. Moreover, on every October, it is held the International Sport Fishing Tournament for Snook - English for robalo.

\*It is located at 28 km from the city of Palenque.



## MISOL-HÁ

It is a spectacular waterfall of 30 meters height surrounded by abundant selvatic vegetation and big trees such as the sapodilla, the white olive, the mahogany and the madre de agua. In its crystal waters, it is possible - with caution and having good weather conditions - to practice swimming. Misol-Ha is a tourist park which has the essential facilities for practicing adventure tourism.

\*It is located at 21 km from the city of Palenque.



## CASCADAS DE AGUA AZUL

The indigo water, the green vegetation, the constant breeze and the endless cascade sound contribute to make this place one of the most amazing and unforgettable attractions of Mexico. The Túliza River goes down over its limestone bed in steps that form a series of spectacular cascades creating natural pools.

\*It is located at 64 km from the city of Palenque.



# SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LAS CASAS



Several towns from a Maya origin are part of the region called Los Altos - The Highlands. A region which preserves the traditions and the landscapes that have had little changes since the Colonial period. The most representative cityscape of this region is San Cristóbal de Las Casas, which has been recognized for its cultural heritage and named as Magic Town in 2003.



## SAN ANDRÉS LARRÁINZAR

In this town were held the meetings between the federal government and the zapatistas in 1995-1996. This led to sign "the agreements of San Andrés" - Tratados de San Andrés. Besides, the women of San Andrés - and those of the surrounding communities - craft excellent textile products. One of these products is the huipil, a traditional blouse in which saints, toads, flowers, corns, butterflies and other representative symbols of the Maya culture are woven.

\*It is located at 22 km from the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.



## SAN JUAN CHAMULA

Having three barrios (boroughs), this Tzotzil ceremonial center is located in a valley chosen by San Juan. In here, the mountains and the crosses define the sacred spaces, which combine the Christian tradition and the pre-Hispanic roots. In addition, here is celebrated in February one of the most attractive festivities in México: the Carnaval Chamula or Kin Tajimolcic.

\*It is located at 10 km from the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.



## ZINACANTÁN

Zinacantán is a Tzotzil town with sacred spaces that are defined by colorful textiles, beautiful flowers and mountains surrounding the valley. These mountains are featured in an ensemble alongside the church of San Lorenzo. Additionally, the textiles of Zinacantán are one of the most colorful textiles in Chiapas.

\*It is located at 12 km from the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.



## TENEJAPA

This town is located on a valley which has a limestone wall as a background. Its cemetery, which is possible to see from the highway in Romerillo, has big indigenous crosses colored in blue and adorned with pine leaves and, as in San Juan Chamula, the tombs are just covered by a thick plank. This is the only way to arrive to the slopes of the Tzontehuitz mountain, which is the highest elevation in Los Altos and the legendary dwelling of San Juan.

Tenejapa has some interesting attractions, such as the Sunday market - the most attractive in the region, as well as the feast day of Santiago, the carnival and its excellent weaver women. In the streets, there can be seen some crosses that indicate the Via Crucis. Additionally, it has to be mentioned that there are men in black chuj - a lambskin attire - at the main plaza.

\*It is located at 28 km from the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.



## AMATENANGO DEL VALLE

It is located on a little hill that domains over a fertile valley full of crops. This Tzeltal town has a Franciscan colonial church that stands out among the traditional houses and the vegetable gardens. Also, It is famous for the handmade pieces of pottery which are crafted in an open fire, technique coming from a pre-hispanic origin.

\*It is located at 37 km from the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.

# COMITÁN DE DOMÍNGUEZ



Comitán de Domínguez is a charming land to be worthy of the Chiapanecan pride for its local kindness, its peaceful atmosphere and valuable traditions. In this place, tourists find a desirable weather, exotic flavors, gardens full of flowers, landscapes with abundant vegetation and sunbeams, alongside immemorial vestiges of the Mayan culture.

Comitán is the cradle of the independence of Chiapas and Central America, and it is the city of museums and monuments. Some of the most famous monuments in this town are the temples of Santo Domingo, San Caralampio, San José, El Calvario and San Sebastián, and it has been named Magic Town since September 2012.

Besides being named "the city of flowers", flavors and colors that make this town unique to the state, it is also a city with a wide variety of cultural activities in Chiapas.



## Z. A. TENAM PUENTE

It is located on a series of calcareous hills, which are 1600 – 1700 meters above sea level, at the Southern border area of the Maya Zone. The main period of occupation of this place belongs to the Classic and Early Postclassic periods (period between 300 and 1200 of our time). It is situated on the route that connects Los Altos - the Highlands of Chiapas and Guatemala, which allowed to have access to important trading networks.

The importance of Tenam Puento is that represents the transition from the Classic to the Postclassic period, one of the least studied periods of the Chiapanecan archaeology.

\*It is located at 13 km from the city of Comitán de Domínguez.





## Z. A. LAGARTERO

It is a small paradise which combines nature and archaeology. Within this site, it is found the tributary of the upper Grijalva river that produces several clear ponds and little cascades. Among these bodies of water, there are found the vestiges of a Mayan city, whose inhabitants cleverly employed the aquatic resources to create canals, which are thought to be used for irrigation or protection.

\*It is located at 68 km from Comitán.



## CHINKULTIC

It is a Mayan site which was adapted to limestone hills and in the presence of several bodies of water, standing out the Azul cenote. The architectural peak of this site was in the late Classic period (600 - 900 A.D.), though it was inhabited many centuries later, differentiating from those Mayan centers in lower lands.

One interesting feature of this place is the "acropolis", which is in the top of a hill and formed by five structures: three small chapels, preceding the five-stepped-part great temple, and the base in the center of the cenote, where the offerings were thrown. Chinkultic also has a ball game with sculptures referring to it. In addition to the archaeological interest, this site is spectacularly located in a lake system and on the wide Comitecan plains.

\*It is at 53 km from the city of Comitán de Domínguez.



## CASCADAS LAS NUBES

These majestic cascades are located in the municipalities of Las Margaritas and Maravilla Tenejapa, and they are part of the mighty Santo Domingo river, where rafting can be practiced in its turquoise water. The Santo Domingo river is one of the largest branches of the Jataté river, having several cascades throughout its course, where one of the most spectacular beauties of Southern Mexico is found.

\*It is located at 129 km from the city of Comitán de Domínguez.



## LAGUNAS DE MONTEBELLO

Being one of the most spectacular and beautiful natural places in México, this natural park, which has an aquatic ecosystem - rather ground or surface - of a karst nature origin, is determined by the dense pine, holm-oak and mixed coniferous forests with the presence of bromelias and orchids.

The lakes are úvalas (closed karst depressions), in other words, they are old cenotes that have been united by the erosion of limestones and landslides. Some of them have the names of Tzisco, Esmeralda, Bosque Azul, Pojoj and Encantada while others have not been named yet. It is said that there are around 56 lakes, being this number uncertain. Furthermore, they are famous because of the color of their water owing to a variety of factors, such as the soil type of the bottom, the vegetation and the refraction of light.

\*It is located at 59 km from the city of Comitán de Domínguez.



## LAGUNA MIRAMAR

This is one of the most beautiful lakes of Mexico located in the heart of the Lacandon Jungle within the limits of the Montes Azules Reserve. This adventure tourism destination has rural cabins surrounded by jungle and archaeological vestiges.



## LAS GUACAMAYAS

It is a tourism center located in Reforma Agraria, community of the municipality of Marqués de Comillas that is located along the Lacantún River, which is used as borderline between the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve. This natural reserve has 3,200 hectares of jungle, giving the opportunity to see the natural habitat of different species such as the Guatemalan black howler, the scarlet macaw, the white-tailed deer, the toucan and the white hawk. Besides, this place is the ideal paradise for hiking, kayaking, boat riding and macaw watching.



# FRONTERA COROZAL

Inside this Chol ethnic group community, there are found two ecotourism centers: Escudo Jaguar and Nueva Alianza, and a small museum of archaeology. This community also works as a pier for the boats that take visitors through the Usumacinta river to arrive at the Archaeological Site of Yaxchilán.

\*It is located at 164 km from the city of Palenque.



# Z. A. YAXCHILÁN

A splendid landscape of highland tropical rainforest is part of this magnificent archaeological site, which is famous for its notorious sculptural art on stelae and lintels. The development of Yaxchilán was from 350 to 810 A.D; and, for having a large extension, the city has restricted tours only visiting the Great Plaza, the Great Acropolis, the Small Acropolis and the Southern Acropolis.



# Z. A. BONAMPAK

It is a ceremonial center built in the heart of the Lacandon Jungle. At its peak, it was reigning the kingdom of Jaguar Ojo-Anudado (Spanish for Knot-Tie Jaguar) who ascended the throne of Bonampak in 743 AD. Its last leader was Chaan Muan II, whose kingdom began in 776 AD. This leader was portrayed on stelae, lintels and wall paintings, which are still preserved. Bonampak was discovered in 1946 and is one of the most representative archaeological achievements in Chiapas. Besides to know more about the Mayan culture, the discovery of Bonampak allowed to recognize the extraordinary conception of colors and lines had by the Mayan painters.

\*It is located at 132 km from the city of Palenque.



# CASCADA WEJLIB HA

This natural attraction surrounded by a tropical rainforest is distinguished by the colors of the limestones and the green of the vegetation which are combined with the shade of turquoise of the refreshing water, thereby giving life and motion to the landscape.

\*It is located at 31 km from the city of Palenque.



# Z. A. OCOSINGO



It is a municipality that is located in the heart of the Tzeltal region, and it belongs to the most important livestock region of the state. The plaza of this town preserves a pair of evidences from the Colonial period: a hexagonal water tank and the San Jacinto church, which was see of the Dominican convent.

\*It is located at 119 km from the city of Palenque.



## TONINÁ

Toniná is a sacred place into an artificial mountain of seven platforms. It was erected over a calcareous hill that domains an extend and long valley. The peak of Toniná was between the end of the 6th century A.D. and the beginning of the 10th century A.D. It was a military power as shown on the representations on stucco and rock that are still preserved in this place. The most important leader of Toniná was Tzotz Choj, meaning "Bat-Tiger". It has to be mentioned that in this archaeological site was made the last inscription of the Classic Mayan in 909.

\*It is located at 119 km from the city of Palenque.



MUNDO MAYA

Chiapas has an impressive destinations circuit. Memories carved on stone in the middle of the jungle; jungle that protects amazing metropolis of the brilliant and mysterious Mayan civilization.

## SAN MARTÍN ABASOLO

This little Tzeltal town has a small and simple church, a plain atrial cross and a sacred ceiba tree that recalls the sacred nature of the place from the pre-Hispanic times.

\*It is located at 63 Km from San Cristóbal de Las Casas.



## OXCHUC

It is a Tzeltal town that preserves two interesting monuments of its old architecture: the Church of Santo Tomás, which is located at the main plaza, along with posa chapels in its atrium, and El Calvario church, which is on a hill out of the town. In the surrounding area, it is found the Mesbiljá or El Corralito cascade.

\*It is located at 48 km from the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.



## HUIXTÁN

It is a Tzeltal town that was the scene of the crucial battle of the rebellion of Zendaes in 1712. People say that the apparition of Our Lady of Charity (Virgen de la Caridad) determined the outcome of this battle. Besides these historical facts, Huixtán has some interesting pieces of the regional architecture, standing out the Colonial temple of San Miguel.

\*It is located at 32 km from the city of San Cristóbal de Las Casas.