

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

Mexico & the Yucatan





MEXICO & THE YUCATAN

VIBRANT CULTURE, RICH HISTORY,
MESMERIZING LANDSCAPES.

15 DAYS

VIVA LA MEXICO

 DEPARTS FROM: **MEXICO CITY**  MAX GROUP SIZE: **14 PEOPLE**  PHYSICAL LEVEL: **MODERATE**

This immersive Byroads trip takes you into the heart of Mexico where Maya and Aztec Empires thrived, and where today modern cities and quaint colonial towns offer a vibrant and captivating blend of the past and present. Mexico's marvels and beauty will leave you in awe and wonder.



MEET YOUR HOST



Every Byroads tour is supported by either Steve or Bronny – two experienced travellers with a genuine passion for people. They take care of all the nitty-gritty details to ensure your trip runs smoothly – and you can focus on enjoying the moment.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Zocalo & Mexico City Cathedral
- National Palace & Templo Mayor
- Anthropology Museum
- Frida Kahlo House and Gallery
- Teotihuacan Archaeological Site
- Virgin of Guadalupe Shrine
- Xochimilco canal tour
- Taxco 'Silver City'
- Puebla City Walk
- Sierra Madre Mountains
- Monte Alban Zapotec Site
- Oaxaca
- Sumidero Canyon
- Grijalva River Cruise
- San Cristobal de Las Casas
- Indian Church of San Juan
- Agua Azul Waterfalls
- Palenque Mayan Site
- Uxmal Mayan Pyramids
- Celestun Biosphere Reserve
- Chichen Itza
- Cenote Swim
- Tulum Mayan Site
- Playa del Carmen

ITINERARY

DAY 1: FRI 14MAR25 - MEXICO CITY

Arrive at Mexico City Airport and transfer to your hotel. Settle in and meet up with your group in the evening.

DAY 2: SAT 15MAR25 - MEXICO CITY

Take a guided tour to explore the Zocalo, the largest square in the Americas. A gathering place since the Aztec times, it reflects the rich tapestry of the country's history, culture and contemporary life. View the Mexico City Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace, and the old city hall. Stop by the Anthropology Museum and later, visit the Frida Kahlo Museum, dedicated to Mexico's most celebrated artist. (B)

DAY 3: SUN 16MAR25 - TEOTIHUACAN - MEXICO CITY

Travel to see the Basilica of Guadalupe, the spiritual home of Mexico's patroness, the Virgin of Guadalupe. Next, take time to slowly explore Teotihuacan, the ancient ruins- so named by the Aztecs for being 'a place where gods were created'. The city's origins are mysterious, but it's believed its population peaked around 250-550 AD. Walk along the Avenue of the Dead and admire the Pyramid of the Sun- almost as large as the Great Pyramid of Egypt, and the Pyramid of the Moon- aligned with Cerro Gordo, a nearby mountain. Return to Mexico City for one last evening. (B)

DAY 4: MON 17MAR25 - TAXCO

En route to Taxco visit Xochinilco, the 'Venice of Mexico'. Whilst here, board colourful gondola-like 'trajineras' and navigate the wonderful UNESCO listed canals and floating gardens. Drive on to the picturesque town of Taxco, with its beautifully preserved colonial architecture. Known as Mexico's 'Silver City' it is situated in the mountains of the North Sierra. Take time to wander and explore its fabulous silver shops, for the town is famous worldwide for its extensive silver mines, and exquisite silver jewellery, crafts and artifacts. (B)

DAY 5: TUE 18MAR25 - TONANTZINLA - PUEBLA

Leaving Taxco, call in to the 18th century Templo de Santa Prisca, known as an exquisite example of Mexican Baroque architecture. Next, stop in the small town of Tonantzintla and visit the Templo de Santa Maria, renowned for its unique blend of the Catholic faith- brought by the Spanish, with the indigenous beliefs and traditions of the local Nahua people. Drive on to Puebla, passing the impressive Popocatepetl Volcano. Upon arrival, be guided through Puebla -the 'City of Angels', famous for gastronomy and its Talavera pottery. (B)

DAY 6: WED 19MAR25 - MONTE ALBAN - OAXACA

Drive this morning through the beautiful Sierra Madre Mountains to Oaxaca, known for its significant indigenous population, including Zapotec and Mixtec communities. This afternoon, journey to UNESCO listed Monte Alban, and traverse the ruins of the ancient Zapotec capital. Be amazed at its large plazas, pyramids, and temples. Enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and mountains, before returning to Oaxaca. (B)

DAY 7: THU 20MAR25 - OAXACA

Explore the UNESCO listed historic centre of Oaxaca, a living open-air museum with its well-preserved colonial architecture, colourful buildings, and cobblestone streets. Visit several local workshops and admire the artisans specialising in 'barro negro' - black clay pottery and Alebrijes woodcarvings. The town is well-known for both these traditional handicrafts, which commonly use age-old techniques passed down through generations. Alebrijes are the brightly coloured Mexican folk-art sculptures of fantastical creatures. After watching how they're made, lose yourself in the wonderful Oaxaca markets and haggle for such treasures for your own. (B)

DAY 8: FRI 21MAR25 - SUMIDERO CANYON - SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Take a short flight to reach Tuxtla Gutierrez and soak up one of Mexico's most amazing landscapes, the Sumidero Canyon. The Canyon is a blend of stunning natural beauty and ecological diversity. Formed by a geological fault during the Pleistocene era, its walls are as high as one thousand metres in some places. Enjoy a two-hour cruise through the canyon on the Grijalva River and take lots of photos. Check in for your two-night stay in San Cristobal- known for its indigenous cultures including the Tzotzil and Tzeltal Maya peoples. (B)

ITINERARY

DAY 9: SAT 22MAR25 - SAN JUAN CHAMULA - SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Visit the Indian village of San Juan Chamula. Predominantly inhabited by the Tzotzil Maya, the town is known for its autonomous state, and uses traditional laws and practices independent of the Mexican legal system. Its renowned San Juan Bautista church is a major attraction- see a blend of Christian and indigenous spiritual practices, including the use of candles, incense, and locally brewed alcohol for rituals. Return to explore San Cristobal and browse its famous markets, where indigenous people sell traditional textiles and handicrafts. Before the end of the day, try your hand at chocolate making at the 'bean to mouth' Kakaw workshop. (B)

DAY 10: SUN 23MAR25 - AGUA AZUL - PALENQUE

Enjoy an easy travel day and pack your bathing suit! Stop en route to first view Agua Azul. A beautiful series of cascading waterfalls and famous for their bright turquoise colour. These falls create natural pools and limestone formations along the Xanil River. Close by, the Misol-Ha waterfall is a single high waterfall, falling into a large pool below. Both sites are popular for swimming- enjoy! Drive on to Palenque- surrounded by jungle, the town is a hub of local culture and there's time to discover the local cuisine and crafts of the region. (B)

DAY 11: MON 24MAR25 - PALENQUE - CAMPECHE

Start the day with an early breakfast and wander slowly through the incredible jungle-swathed Mayan ruins of Palenque. One of the most significant and fascinating archaeological sites of the Maya civilization, it is known for its unique architectural style. Witness the Temple of Inscriptions- an astonishing funerary pyramid, the Palace- with its distinctive four-storey tower and intricate carvings, and the Temple of the Cross Complex. Drive on to Campeche, set along the scenic Gulf of Mexico. Welcome to the Yucatan! Upon arrival take a tour of the city's fortified walls, built during the 16th and 17th centuries due to frequent pirate attacks. (B)

DAY 12: TUE 25MAR25 - UXMAL - CELESTUN - MERIDA

Journey first to Uxmal, a UNESCO listed site, recognised for its significance in the study of the ancient Maya civilisation. Traverse the site and witness one of its most iconic structures, the Pyramid of the Magician. Its distinctive but unusual oval base imbues this pyramid with a rich mythology. See also the Governor's Palace and the Nunnery Quadrangle before heading off to enjoy lunch with a local family in the village of Abala. Take a boat in Celestun to view the greater pink flamingos and then spend the night in Merida. (B,L)

DAY 13: WED 26MAR25 - CHICHEN ITZA - PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Spend time at another incredible UNESCO World Heritage, Chichen Itza, where its principal landmark El Castillo has been named as one of the New Seven Wonders of the world. El Castillo- the Kukulcan Pyramid, is a step pyramid that exhibits the precision and importance of Mayan astronomy. Traverse the Temple of Warriors, The Great Ball Court, and see the Sacred Cenote. Later visit Cenote Ik Kil and enjoy a swim. Check into your hotel in Playa Del Carmen for your final two nights. (B)

DAY 14: THU 27MAR25 - TULUM - PLAYA DEL CARMEN

This morning wander the Mayan ruins located on cliffs of the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, overlooking the turquoise Caribbean Sea. These are one of the most well-known and picturesque archaeological sites in the region and are unusual being remnants from one of few Mayan cities built on the coast. After exploring Tulum, spend the rest of the day at leisure to enjoy the many sights and delights of Playa del Carmen. (B)

DAY 15: FRI 28MAR25 - PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Breakfast concludes your tour. Taxis to the airport are available, or Byroads can organise a transfer on request. (B)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

GUIDES

- ✓ Byroads tour host and national and local guides

TRANSPORT

- ✓ Arrival transfer, private minibus, motorboat, domestic flight

ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ 14 nights (3 to 4-star hotel average)

MEALS

- ✓ 14 breakfasts, 1 lunch

TICKETS

- ✓ Entrance fees to indicated sites

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

We'd love to do it all for you. But there are a few things you'll need to arrange yourself. This includes you:

- Visa
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Departure transfer
- International flights
- Additional meals and drinks
- Cash for tipping kitty
- Optional tours
- Spending of a personal nature
- Laundry



GETTING THERE: FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

Most flights to Mexico travel via the USA. Qantas, United, American, Delta and JAL all fly from Australia. Both Mexico City and Cancun are gateway airports. You can book flights on-line through the respective airline's website or through your local travel agent.

Your arrival transfer is included – however, your departure transfer is not. But we can organise one upon request.

ACCOMMODATION

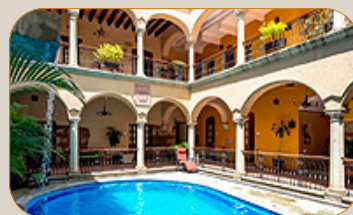
Byroads accommodation is a destination unto itself. We choose our hotels carefully to ensure a seamless transition from your day exploring to a night of relaxation. Think traditional architecture blended with modern comforts – and plenty of views.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



Majestic Hotel

Situated in the historical centre of Mexico City, this colonial era 4-star hotel offers stunning views of the cathedral and the Zocalo, the city's main square.



Hotel Casantica

This wonderful, atmospheric hotel is set in a restored 16th-century building just a stone's throw from Oaxaca's main square.



Hotel Diego de Mazariegos

Just 150 metres from San Cristobal Church, this converted 18th century home features attractive courtyards and lovely rooms decorated with warm colours and classic furniture.

THE FINER DETAILS

DATES AND PRICES

DATE	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
14 Mar 2025	5495 USD	800 USD
Due to the volatility of international currencies, trip fees are calculated in US Dollars. However, you will be charged in Australian dollars. Currency conversion is based on Westpac Banking Corporation's buying rate on your balance due date.		

Additional expenses

Tipping is customary, so please allow extra funds for the tipping kitty. This will pay your local and national guides, drivers and porters.

MEALS

Breakfast is included daily and enjoy lunch with a local family in Abala village. Elsewhere, you can enjoy the delicious variety of local food on offer. Meals typically cost between 10-15 USD for lunch and 20-30USD for dinner.

DOCUMENTATION

Once we've received your final payment, we'll post you a comprehensive field guide. It's a physical document you can keep handy to inform your travels. It also includes all relevant tour and accommodation information you need to book your visa.

VISAS

Australian and New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa for Mexico however if transiting through the USA they must apply on-line for a US Travel Authorisation (ESTA).

Other passport holders, please contact Byroads for the latest information.

READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS?

There are two ways to book:

Online
(available 24/7)

Postal booking
form (below)



Got questions? Contact us at travel@byroads.com.au

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

Mexico & Cuba





MEXICO & CUBA

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS,
COLONIAL HISTORY AND REVOLUTION

28 DAYS

A CULTURAL FIESTA!

 DEPARTS FROM: **MEXICO CITY**  MAX GROUP SIZE: **14 PEOPLE**  PHYSICAL LEVEL: **MODERATE**

Mexico and Cuba, two unique countries, both rich in history and vibrant culture, beckon with a tapestry of colourful traditions and breathtaking landscapes. Travel deep into the heart of these lands with Byroads and be mesmerized and enchanted at every turn.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Zocalo & Mexico City Cathedral
- Anthropology Museum
- Frida Kahlo House and Gallery
- Teotihuacan Archaeological Site
- Virgin of Guadalupe Shrine
- Monte Alban Zapotec Site
- Oaxaca & Sumidero Canyon
- San Cristobal de Las Casas
- Agua Azul Waterfalls
- Palenque Mayan Site
- Uxmal & Chichen Itza Pyramids
- Celestun Biosphere Reserve
- Playa del Carmen
- Walking Tour 'Old Havana'
- Classic Convertible Car Tour
- Rum Museum & Cigar Factory
- Cocktail at Hemmingway's Bar
- Baracoa - Cuba's First Capital
- Palacio de Valle
- Santiago de Cuba Walking Tour
- San Pedro Castle
- Cayo Granma Island
- Fidel Castro Mausoleum
- Camaguey Cyclo Tour
- Trinidad Home Stay
- Che Guevara Memorial
- Bay of Pigs Museum

MEET YOUR HOST



Every Byroads tour is supported by either Steve or Bronny - two experienced travellers with a genuine passion for people. They take care of all the nitty-gritty details to ensure your trip runs smoothly - and you can focus on enjoying the moment.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: FRI 14MAR25 - MEXICO CITY

Arrive at Mexico City Airport and transfer to your hotel. Settle in and meet up with your group in the evening.

DAY 2: SAT 15MAR25 - MEXICO CITY

Take a guided tour to explore the Zocalo, the largest square in the Americas. A gathering place since the Aztec times, it reflects the rich tapestry of the country's history, culture and contemporary life. View the Mexico City Metropolitan Cathedral, the National Palace, and the old city hall. Stop by the Anthropology Museum and later, visit the Frida Kahlo Museum, dedicated to Mexico's most celebrated artist. (B)

DAY 3: SUN 16MAR25 - TEOTIHUACAN - MEXICO CITY

Travel to see the Basilica of Guadalupe, the spiritual home of Mexico's patroness, the Virgin of Guadalupe. Next, take time to slowly explore Teotihuacan, the ancient ruins- so named by the Aztecs for being 'a place where gods were created'. The city's origins are mysterious, but it's believed its population peaked around 250-550 AD. Walk along the Avenue of the Dead and admire the Pyramid of the Sun- almost as large as the Great Pyramid of Egypt, and the Pyramid of the Moon- aligned with Cerro Gordo, a nearby mountain. Return to Mexico City for one last evening. (B)

DAY 4: MON 17MAR25 - TAXCO

En route to Taxco visit Xochimilco, the 'Venice of Mexico'. Whilst here, board colourful gondola-like 'trajineras' and navigate the wonderful UNESCO listed canals and floating gardens. Drive on to the picturesque town of Taxco, with its beautifully preserved colonial architecture. Known as Mexico's 'Silver City' it is situated in the mountains of the North Sierra. Take time to wander and explore its fabulous silver shops, for the town is famous worldwide for its extensive silver mines, and exquisite silver jewellery, crafts and artifacts. (B)

DAY 5: TUE 18MAR25 - TONANTZINLA - PUEBLA

Leaving Taxco, call in to the 18th century Templo de Santa Prisca, known as an exquisite example of Mexican Baroque architecture. Next, stop in the small town of Tonantzintla and visit the Templo de Santa Maria, renowned for its unique blend of the Catholic faith- brought by the Spanish, with the indigenous beliefs and traditions of the local Nahua people. Drive on to Puebla, passing the impressive Popocatepetl Volcano. Upon arrival, be guided through Puebla -the 'City of Angels', famous for gastronomy and its Talavera pottery. (B)

DAY 6: WED 19MAR25 - MONTE ALBAN - OAXACA

Drive this morning through the beautiful Sierra Madre Mountains to Oaxaca, known for its significant indigenous population, including Zapotec and Mixtec communities. This afternoon, journey to UNESCO listed Monte Alban, and traverse the ruins of the ancient Zapotec capital. Be amazed at its large plazas, pyramids, and temples. Enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and mountains, before returning to Oaxaca. (B)

DAY 7: THU 20MAR25 - OAXACA

Explore the UNESCO listed historic centre of Oaxaca, a living open-air museum with its well-preserved colonial architecture, colourful buildings, and cobblestone streets. Visit several local workshops and admire the artisans specialising in 'barro negro' - black clay pottery and Alebrijes woodcarvings. The town is well-known for both these traditional handicrafts, which commonly use age-old techniques passed down through generations. Alebrijes are the brightly coloured Mexican folk-art sculptures of fantastical creatures. After watching how they're made, lose yourself in the wonderful Oaxaca markets and haggle for such treasures for your own. (B)

DAY 8: FRI 21MAR25 - SUMIDERO CANYON - SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Take a short flight to reach Tuxtla Gutierrez and soak up one of Mexico's most amazing landscapes, the Sumidero Canyon. The Canyon is a blend of stunning natural beauty and ecological diversity. Formed by a geological fault during the Pleistocene era, its walls are as high as one thousand metres in some places. Enjoy a two-hour cruise through the canyon on the Grijalva River and take lots of photos. Check in for your two-night stay in San Cristobal- known for its indigenous cultures including the Tzotzil and Tzeltal Maya peoples. (B)

ITINERARY

DAY 9: SAT 22MAR25 - SAN JUAN CHAMULA - SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

Visit the Indian village of San Juan Chamula. Predominantly inhabited by the Tzotzil Maya, the town is known for its autonomous state, and uses traditional laws and practices independent of the Mexican legal system. Its renowned San Juan Bautista church is a major attraction- see a blend of Christian and indigenous spiritual practices, including the use of candles, incense, and locally brewed alcohol for rituals. Return to explore San Cristobal and browse its famous markets, where indigenous people sell traditional textiles and handicrafts. Before the end of the day, try your hand at chocolate making at the 'bean to mouth' Kakaw workshop. (B)

DAY 10: SUN 23MAR25 - AGUA AZUL - PALENQUE

Enjoy an easy travel day and pack your bathing suit! Stop en route to first view Agua Azul. A beautiful series of cascading waterfalls and famous for their bright turquoise colour. These falls create natural pools and limestone formations along the Xanil Rivel. Close by, the Misol-Ha waterfall is a single high waterfall, falling into a large pool below. Both sites are popular for swimming- enjoy! Drive on to Palenque- surrounded by jungle, the town is a hub of local culture and there's time to discover the local cuisine and crafts of the region. (B)

DAY 11: MON 24MAR25 - PALENQUE - CAMPECHE

Start the day with an early breakfast and wander slowly through the incredible jungle-swathed Mayan ruins of Palenque. One of the most significant and fascinating archaeological sites of the Maya civilization, it is known for its unique architectural style. Witness the Temple of Inscriptions- an astonishing funerary pyramid, the Palace- with its distinctive four-storey tower and intricate carvings, and the Temple of the Cross Complex. Drive on to Campeche, set along the scenic Gulf of Mexico. Welcome to the Yucatan! Upon arrival take a tour of the city's fortified walls, built during the 16th and 17th centuries due to frequent pirate attacks. (B)

DAY 12: 25MAR25 - UXMAL - CELESTUN - MERIDA

Journey first to Uxmal, a UNESCO listed site, recognised for its significance in the study of the ancient Maya civilisation. Traverse the site and witness one of its most iconic structures, the Pyramid of the Magician. Its distinctive but unusual oval base imbues this pyramid with a rich mythology. See also the Governor's Palace and the Nunnery Quadrangle before heading off to enjoy lunch with a local family in the village of Abala. Take a boat in Celestun to view the greater pink flamingos and then spend the night in Merida. (B,L)

DAY 13: TUE 26MAR25 - CHICHEN ITZA - PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Spend time at another incredible UNESCO World Heritage, Chichen Itza, where its principal landmark El Castillo has been named as one of the New Seven Wonders of the world. El Castillo- the Kukulcan Pyramid, is a step pyramid that exhibits the precision and importance of Mayan astronomy. Traverse the Temple of Warriors, The Great Ball Court, and see the Sacred Cenote. Later visit Cenote Ik Kil and enjoy a swim. Check into your hotel in Playa Del Carmen for your final two nights. (B)

DAY 14: WED 27MAR25 - TULUM - PLAYA DEL CARMEN

This morning wander the Mayan ruins located on cliffs of the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, overlooking the turquoise Caribbean Sea. These are one of the most well-known and picturesque archaeological sites in the region and are unusual being remnants from one of few Mayan cities built on the coast. After exploring Tulum, spend the rest of the day at leisure to enjoy the many sights and delights of Playa del Carmen. (B)

DAY 15: THU 28MAR 25 PLAYA DEL CARMEN - CANCUN - HAVANA

After breakfast travel to the Cancun International Airport and fly to Havana | Transfer and check-in for a three-night stay in the Cuban capital | The afternoon is at leisure. (b)

ITINERARY

DAY 16: SAT 29MAR25 - HAVANA

Take a guided walking tour and continue to explore Havana's 'Old City'. Founded in 1519 by the Spanish, and now a listed World Heritage Site, the Old City is the beating heart of Havana. An architectural melting pot, cultural hub, full of famous landmarks and bars, its bustling street life is intoxicating. Later, as evening approaches, enjoy a ride through the city in a classic 1960's convertible and watch the sunset over the Malecon promenade and its spectacular coastline. (B)

DAY 17: SUN 30MAR25 - HAVANA

Today, investigate Cuba's famous exports with a visit to the Havana Rum Museum and later, the Partagas Cigar Factory. Housed in an 18th century colonial building, the Rum Museum showcases the entire rum-making process – from sugarcane to 'salud' (cheers). Sample some rum and of course, exit through the gift shop. Tonight visit the 'La Bodeguita del Medio', Ernest Hemmingway's renowned watering hole, and enjoy a Cuban Daiquiri. (B)

DAY 18: MON 31MAR25 - BARACOA

After an early breakfast fly to Cuba's first colonial capital, Baracoa. Known as 'First Cuban Villa' since 1511, and renowned for its natural beauty, it is celebrated for its three World Heritage sites; Alejandro de Humboldt National Park, Cuchillas del Toa Biosphere Reserve, and French Coffee Plantations. Take time to explore the old town and the Matchin and La Punta fortifications, which perfectly symbolise the city's past struggles and resilience. Later, enjoy a canoe ride on the nearby Yumuri River. (B)

DAY 19: TUE 1APR25 - BARACOA

Time at leisure to explore the stunning natural beauty of Baracoa. Wander the old streets amongst the beautiful, preserved colonial buildings, and maybe stop to view the Parra Cross, left by Christopher Columbus in 1492. Relax at the picturesque and tranquil Maguana white-sand beach or settle in and sample some of the local specialised cuisine- seafood, and its noted chocolate-based recipes, influenced by it being Cuba's foremost cacao growing region. (B)

DAY 20: WED 2APR25 - SANTIAGO DE CUBA

A long drive today to Cuba's second largest city, Santiago de Cuba, situated on the coast and close to the Sierra Maestra Mountains. On the way make a stop at Guantanamo, capital of one of the 15 provinces of Cuba. Known for its cultural diversity, a mix of African, French, Haitian and Spanish influences, it is of course internationally known now for the U.S. Naval Base located in the Bay. Check in to Santiago de Cuba for your three-night stay. Be guided over the Parque Cepedes and the stunning World Heritage Site, San Pedro Castle which overlooks the bay. (B)

DAY 21: THU 3APR25 - SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Embark on a guided tour of this city that is a cultural melting pot and regarded as the birthplace of various Cuban music genres, including Son and Bolero. Visit all the main attractions, including the Basilica of Our Lady of the Assumption. View the balcony at the City Hall, where Fidel Castro declared the success of the Revolution on the first of January 1959. Immerse yourself in the music, art and cultural delights of the famous street, Calle Heredia and dance the night away. (B)

DAY 22: FRI 4APR25 - CAYO GRANMA - SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Ride a local ferry boat to the tiny, picturesque island of Cayo Granma. Known for its brightly coloured wooden houses built on stilts over the water, the island is home to a local tight-knit fishing community. Wander the island and then enjoy lunch – perhaps a fresh seafood feast. It's possible to hike to the historic San Rafael Church before returning to Santiago de Cuba for a final evening in the 'city of music and dance'. (B)

ITINERARY

DAY 23: SAT 5APR25 - BAYAMO - CAMAGUEY

Leave Santiago de Cuba and enjoy the rich geographical diversity of Cuba. Stop to explore the historical town of Bayamo. Founded by a conquistador in 1513, the city played a crucial role in the Cuban fight for independence, and it is here where the Cuban national anthem, 'La Bayamesa' was first sung in 1868. Arrive in Camaguey, whose historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and explore its pretty and labyrinthine streets by bicycle taxi. The city is well-known for its large clay pots, called 'tinajones'. Used historically to collect rainwater, they are now symbolic of the city. (B)

DAY 24: SUN 6APR25 - TRINIDAD

Drive to Trinidad, one of Cuba's most loved and photographed destinations, famous for its stunning colonial-era architecture with cobbled streets, pastel-coloured houses and wrought-iron grilles. Take a walking tour and explore the colourful Plaza Mayor, the heart of Trinidad. Visit the Church of the Holy Trinity and Palacio Cantero, which offers spectacular, panoramic views of the city from its tower. (B)

DAY 25: MON 7APR25 - TRINIDAD

Time at leisure today to enjoy the town and its amazing surrounds. Options include a swim at beautiful white-sands beach Playa Anco or walk to the UNESCO listed, ruined sugar mills in the Valle de los Ingenios. Take a hike in the near-by Sierra del Escambray mountains, or just sip coffee, relax and enjoy the local's warm hospitality and rhythmic music. (B)

DAY 26: TUE 8 APR 25 - SANTA CLARA - CIENFUEGOS

An early start to drive to Santa Clara, whose blend of revolutionary history, cultural dynamism and colonial architecture makes it a unique stop. Here was the site of the decisive Battle of Santa Clara in 1958, led by Che Guevara, which played a crucial role in the overthrow of the Batista regime. Stop to reflect upon the Revolution at the Che Guevara Memorial, which is a museum, a memorial, and the final resting place of Che Guevara and several of his fellow combatants. Arrive and check in at Cienfuegos, 'The Pearl of the South' and enjoy a walking tour of the town. (B)

DAY 27: WED 9APR25 - BAY OF PIGS - HAVANA

Drive west and stop at the infamous Bay of Pigs, a site of historical and political significance. It was here in 1961 that the American sponsored invasion of Cuba took place, in attempt to overthrow the Cuban government led by Fidel Castro. The invasion failed but led to closer ties between Cuba and the Soviet Union, which eventually led to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Now all calm and exceptionally beautiful, enjoy the surrounds- dive in, swim, snorkel or just paddle in the bay before returning to the capital. Arrive and check-in to enjoy a special roof-top dinner over-looking Havana. (BD)

DAY 28: THU 10APR25 - HAVANA

Breakfast concludes your tour. Taxis to the airport are available, or Byroads can organise a transfer on request. (B)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

GUIDES

- ✓ Byroads tour host and national and local guides

TRANSPORT

- ✓ Arrival transfer, private minibus, motorboat, 1 domestic flight in Mexico, 1 domestic flight in Cuba

ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ 24 nights (3 to 4-star hotel), 3 nights Casa Particulares in Cuba

MEALS

- ✓ 27 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner

TICKETS

- ✓ Entrance fees to indicated sites



GETTING THERE: FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

Most flights from Australia to Mexico and back from Havana travel via the USA and Mexico City. Qantas, United, American & Delta Airlines fly to Mexico via the USA and connect with regional carriers. **The flight Cancun-Havana on 28 Mar 2025 is not included and can be booked in conjunction with your international ticket.**

Your arrival transfer is included – however, your departure transfer is not. But we can organise one upon request.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

We'd love to do it all for you. But there are a few things you'll need to arrange yourself. This includes you:

- Visa
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Departure transfer
- International flights
- Flight Cancun to Havana (book for 28 Mar 2025)
- Additional meals and drinks
- Cash for tipping kitty
- Optional tours
- Spending of a personal nature
- Laundry

ACCOMMODATION

Byroads accommodation is a destination unto itself. We choose our hotels carefully to ensure a seamless transition from your day exploring to a night of relaxation. Think traditional architecture blended with modern comforts – and plenty of views.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



Majestic Hotel

Situated in the historical centre of Mexico City, this colonial era 4-star hotel offers stunning views of the cathedral and the Zocalo, the city's main square.



El Castillo Baracoa

El Castillo was built in the 1700's as a Spanish fortress to defend from the attacks of buccaneers and pirates. Today it is considered the best hotel in Baracoa, with its comfortable rooms and swimming pool.



Trinidad Casa Particulares

A Cuban style bed & breakfast. They are run by local families which allows a more authentic Cuban experience. It's a wonderful glimpse into Cuban life and culture which we think you will love.

THE FINER DETAILS

DATES AND PRICES

DATE	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
14 Mar 2025	9650 USD	1720 USD
Due to the volatility of international currencies, trip fees are calculated in US Dollars. However, you will be charged in Australian dollars. Currency conversion is based on Westpac Banking Corporation's buying rate on your balance due date.		

Additional expenses

Tipping is customary, so please allow extra funds for the tipping kitty. This will pay your local and national guides, drivers and porters.

MEALS

Breakfast is included daily and enjoy lunch with a local family in Abala village and a wonderful roof-top dinner in Havana. Elsewhere, you can enjoy the delicious variety of local food on offer. Meals typically cost between 10-15 USD for lunch and 20-30USD for dinner.

DOCUMENTATION

Once we've received your final payment, we'll post you a comprehensive field guide. It's a physical document you can keep handy to inform your travels. It also includes all relevant tour and accommodation information you need to book your visa.

VISAS

Australian and New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa for Mexico however if transiting through the USA they must apply on-line for a US Travel Authorisation (ESTA). They also require a Tourist Card to visit Cuba which can be applied for online before departure or at Cancun airport.

Other passport holders, please contact Byroads for the latest information.

READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS?

There are two ways to book:

Online
(available 24/7)

Postal booking
form (below)



Got questions? Contact us at travel@byroads.com.au

BYROADS TOUR

BOOKING FORM

Tour name: Start date:

Room type: Twin Double Single Sharing with:

Full name: Date of Birth:

Email: Mobile:

Postal address:

Emergency contact (Name and phone number):

Nationality: Passport No:

Issue date: Expiry date:

Any medical, dietary or other special requests?

Travel insurance provider:

Policy No:

Emergency assistance phone no:

PAYMENT DETAILS

The tour deposit is due at the time of booking. The final balance payment is due 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour. All payments must be made via direct bank deposit to Byroads.

Acc Name: Byroads Pty Ltd

BSB: 034-605

Acc number: 697336

DECLARATION

I have read and I understand all the information in the respective Byroads tour brochure, and agree to abide by the Standard Booking Conditions attached to this booking form. I also confirm that I am fit to travel.

Signature:

Date:

BYROADS TOUR

BOOKING CONDITIONS

RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of \$750 is payable on all tours. This deposit must be paid to Byroads, and each participating client must complete the Byroads Booking form. You agree to accept these conditions when paying a deposit for your tour and completing the Booking Form. Your Byroads tour booking will only be confirmed once the deposit and completed booking form have been received. These Booking Conditions form the basis of the contract between you and Byroads.

PAYMENT

All payments must be made directly to Byroads by bank transfer.

FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- Cancellation up to and including 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- From 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of the tour price shall be retained
- From 44 to 31 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- Within 30 days prior to departure, no refund will be made.

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilized.

CANCELLATION BY BYROADS – Prior to Travel

If, for any reason, Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, Byroads may offer a transfer to an alternate departure, or all monies paid by you in respect of the tour will be refunded, less any unrecoverable costs. Unrecoverable costs may include but are not limited to monies paid to service providers, airlines, transportation companies, travel agencies and hotels associated with your tour.

AMENDMENTS

Up to and including 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation may incur a fee of \$50 per change per file. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements may incur a fee of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched, any amendment may incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, epidemic, pandemic, adverse weather conditions, floods, earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the tour's content. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour.

If Byroads is forced to cancel your travel arrangements after your trip has commenced due to reasons outside of its control, it will provide you with a refund of recoverable third-party costs only.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operate soft adventure tours. All participants must have a reasonable degree of physical fitness and be healthy. Before travelling with Byroads, you must familiarise yourself with any health requirements applicable to the areas you will be travelling. This includes obtaining any compulsory vaccinations or medical tests that may be required for entry into your country of travel.

You are responsible for having the correct entry and exit documents for your visiting countries. Byroads will assist in providing up-to-date information but is not responsible for any changes that may be made by governments.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the tour is adventurous and that participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes can present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from foreign government departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However, you must acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made considering this information, and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Ensure your passport has a minimum of six months validity remaining, as this is an entry requirement in many countries. Upon booking, visa requirements will be advised once Byroads has received your passport details. Visas are required for a number of our tours, and it is your responsibility to obtain them.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, etc. or any other incidental expenses.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance to cover you for the duration of your tour. This should include full cover for any medical expenses and repatriation if required. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance when you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances that can lead to your need to cancel your tour. If you rely on complimentary travel insurance offered through your credit card company or bank, you should ensure that it is suitable for your tour. Some of the policies offered by these institutions may not offer adequate coverage. You must provide the policy number, insurance supplier details and emergency contact number to Byroads before your documents are issued.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our tours as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

(i) Any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a tour, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;

(ii) You release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of, or in connection with, your participation in a tour;

(iii) Any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty) is excluded.

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar tour to an equivalent value or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss (however it arises) or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia, govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a tour or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts of Victoria.