The Heard Museum Guild presents The Maya Culture
December 1-8, 2017

- 2 nights/ Chichén Itzá, 2 nights/ Uxmal, 2 nights/ Mérida.
- 16 meals • All ground transportation and tour expense

A fun, educational and adventurous journey to one of the most fascinating cultures of human history…. The Mayan Culture!

Explore the Yucatán Peninsula to visit the amazing Archeological sites of Chichén Itzá - once, the largest and most diverse city in the Americas in both population and architectural styles. A massive site featuring El Castillo pyramid and the largest ballcourt in the Americas.

We’ll also explore Uxmal. Known for the Pyramid of the Magician. Our well planned itinerary allows for you to visit these vast archeological wonders multiple times with and without guides.

Through expert interpretation we’ll learn about their hieroglyphic script, art, architecture, culinary arts, mathematics, calendar and astronomical system.

We’ll spend time in the metropolitan colonial city of Mérida. Absorb the sights, sounds and tastes of this fascinating region in a once in a lifetime tour.

DAY 1 PHOENIX to CANCÚN
We begin our tour in the resort city of Cancún, Quintana Roo. We’ll convene at a beachside hotel for our orientation fiesta dinner with Rich, Jorge and Stephen. D

DAY 2 CHICHÉN ITZÁ
After breakfast we travel east by Motorcoach across the peninsula, through jungle landscape to Chichén Itzá. After an amazing lunch, you’ll step inside the sacred site that was one of the greatest Mayan cities on the Yucatan Peninsula. A fusion of construction styles over two active building periods have created a composite of popular Mayan architecture. Dinner at the hotel. Afterwards, we’ll enjoy a presentation in the planetarium. B, L,D

DAY 3 CHICHÉN ITZÁ
This morning we’ll offer a class called “Be Mayan”. You’ll learn by hands on experiences about food preparation, numerology and spirituality. This afternoon we’ll explore the site once more to with Jorge Marin. And enjoy a full moon as it rises over Chichén Itzá. B,L,

DAY 4 UXMAL
Today we travel to Mayapan, the political and cultural capital of the Maya during the Late post-Classical period from 1220’s to 1440’s. Population estimated as many as 17,000 with over 4000 structures within the city walls. We finish our day at Uxmal. Considered one of the Maya cities most representative of the regions dominant architectural style. B,L,D

DAY 5 UXMAL
Today we’ll explore Uxmal. Maya chronicles indicate that Uxmal was founded about 500 AD by Hun Uitzil Chac Tutul Xiu, a prominent ruling family. It was dominant from 875-900 and declined by 1000 CE. Because it was at the apex of construction techniques, the buildings are in better condition than other sites and is considered by experts to be only matched by Palenque in elegance and beauty. Tonight after dinner enjoy Uxmal’s laser light show. B

DAY 6 MÉRIDA
Today we depart Uxmal and make the short journey to Mérida. The Colonial City’s focal point is Plaza de la Independencia, bordered by the fortresslike Merida Cathedral and white limestone Iglesia de la Tercera Orden, both colonial churches built using relics from ancient Mayan Temples. We’ll stay in the historic district. B, L

DAY 7 MÉRIDA
Today we have a tour of the central plaza district followed by free time. Enjoy a farewell tour celebration tonight. B,D

DAY 8 MÉRIDA/CANCÚN/PHX
Today after a leisurely morning, we’ll travel to Cancun to fly home. B,L