

Wisdom of the Stars - Sacred Land of the Maya

With Mayan Priest and Master Teacher Miguel Angel Vergara

October 18 - 26, 2014

Merida, Yucatan Mexico

As we travel through the towns and villages and meet today's Maya, you can see how they have preserved their ancient customs and have kept their past intact. The Maya are a strong and beautiful people. Each site we visit on the journey is special and each one will amaze you. We are living in extraordinary times and we are like pioneers entering a new world. As we search for the best expression of our authentic selves, it is only natural to look for guidance. As we connect with the Heart of Mother Earth and the Wisdom of the Stars, the possibilities become unlimited!

Not only will you experience Maya sacred sites but some of Nature's most magnificent gifts, including jungles, rivers, mountains, waterfalls, and more. There are many levels to this journey and the connection with Mother Earth is an important one. Miguel Angel will lead you in ceremonies and meditations to help you make this a deep and lasting connection with the natural world.

This is a journey that brings the Maya past and present together and Miguel Angel, through his teachings, ceremonies, practices, meditations, and explanations at the ancient sites, brings the Maya sacred wisdom alive and you become one with the past. The temples and pyramids in the Maya sites were built to connect with the Wisdom of the Universe and Miguel Angel will help open the doors to the ancient energies of the Maya Masters, who are waiting for you in the magical sites we will be visiting. The most important gift you will receive from this is the inner journey, the shift in consciousness that happens when you open your heart and accept all that comes to you. This journey will be unique for each one of you and exactly what each one of you needs.

OCT 18 SATURDAY: Arrival in Mérida

You will be met at the Mérida airport and transferred to your hotel in the Historic Center of Mérida.

When the Spaniards arrived, Mérida was a large Mayan city called ICH-KAAN-ZIHO (“They were born into the face of the Sky”) with five ancient pyramids situated on what is now the main plaza. Led by the Spaniard, Francisco de Montejo, the city was conquered and renamed Mérida in 1542. The Spanish dismantled all the pyramids and used the huge stones as the foundation for the Cathedral of San Ildefonso, the oldest cathedral on the American continent. The main plaza is a busy place, day and night, where people meet, relax, or just spend time enjoying the wonderful energy. Mérida has the highest percentage of indigenous persons of any large city in Mexico with approximately 60% of all inhabitants having Maya roots. They are generally friendly although they can be a little shy. Many will want to talk with you to practice their English.

Mérida served as the American Capital of Culture in the year 2000 and is still overflowing with cultural activities and events. Your hotel is situated in the Historic Center of this interesting city close to free cultural events, restaurants, banks, and shopping. You are only a short walk to the main plaza. This is a safe city so please go out and enjoy it. <http://www.casadelbalam.com> Mérida (no meals, no events since many will be arriving late in the evening)

OCT 19 SUNDAY: OXKINTOK

This morning we meet for breakfast at the hotel at 8:00am. Following breakfast we travel to the Maya site of Oxkintok with Miguel Angel where he will lead our opening Maya ceremony and where we will have our introductory circle. If possible Miguel Angel asks that you wear white or light colors for this ceremony.

“The Spiritual meaning of Oxtintok is “Where Three Suns Burn”. This Ceremonial Center is related to Ancient Initiations performed by the Maya Masters of Light, especially at the Maya Arch and the Labyrinth. At the Arch we will perform our Opening Ceremony in order to ask permission to the Guardians and the Maya Teachers to have our journey protected and guided, asking that each one receives all he needs for his spiritual development and awareness.

The name of the labyrinth in Maya is, “TZAT-TUN-TZAT” and means “Ancient Labyrinth of Precious Stone”. Here the ancient Maya activated their 3 Suns symbolically: Body, Soul, and Spirit in order to be ready to travel spiritually to other realities or dimensions in time.”

Miguel Angel will then give a brief tour of the site. There will be time for you to explore a little on your own before we leave for lunch. Our lunch stop today will be at Patricia’s in Muna. She is an amazing artist and creates museum quality replicas of the ancient Maya pieces. You will have time to see her at work and shop at her store which feels more like a museum. Miguel Angel will be able to explain some of the pieces for you.

We return to Mérida where you will have a little time to relax before we meet for our Welcome Dinner. <http://www.casadelbalam.com> Meals: B, L, & D

OCT 20 MONDAY: CELESTUN

After breakfast we check out of the hotel and travel to the Biosphere Reserve of Celestun which is the main wintering area for flamingos, nesting beaches for endangered sea turtles, endemic plants and birds in coastal dune scrubs; estuary "nurseries" for countless fish and marine species; highly productive mangrove communities; two endangered crocodile species; migrant and wintering waterbirds, shorebirds and songbirds.

Over 300 bird species can be found in the Biosphere Reserve: cardinals, orioles, motmots, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, flycatchers, kingfishers, cormorants, magnificent frigate birds, herons, egrets, white ibises, wood storks, ospreys, hawks, vultures, sandpipers, roadrunners, owls, pelicans, etc. There are some endemic birds such as the Yucatan Wren, the Black-throated Bobwhite and the Mexican Sheartail Hummingbird. Celestun is considered the fourth largest wintering ground for ducks in the Gulf region. But surely the most popular bird and the most sought after is the Pink Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

We will take a boat ride along the Ria to see the Flamingos and into the mangroves to see other birds and wildlife. After the boat tour we will continue on to the town of Celestun and have a relaxing lunch on the beach. This is the Gulf of Mexico and is a beautiful sandy beach and if time allows, some of you may want to swim.

“In the old times the Maya Teachers of Light called this place by two names: “The Spirit in the Stone” and “The Painted Stone”. Both names are in accordance with the Sacredness found in this Biosphere and protected Reserve. There are spirit elementals in the stones, sand, sea, mangroves, and the animals, especially the pink flamingos. We will offer some special Maya mantras to work with the spirit-elementals of the site. Here we can make offerings to the spirits, the elementals of the Reserve and at the same time awake ourselves to the knowledge that this marvelous nature outside, is only the inner reflection of what is within us”

We will then go to Uxmal and check into our hotel the Hacienda Uxmal. [Hacienda Uxmal](#) Meals: B, L

OCT 21 TUESDAY: UXMAL

We have a full day here so there will be time to enjoy exploring the many mysteries of the site of Uxmal. Called the “Cosmic Feminine University of the Maya” Uxmal was dedicated to the Moon, Women, and Medicine. Some ancient stories say that the name of Uxmal means: “Something that is coming in the future”. This coincides with the oral tradition of the Maya that says: “Uxmal was an invisible city until one day the magic arts of the Dwarf made it visible to human eyes.” Another part of the story says: “Uxmal, which long existed but unseen, was the city where the spirits of earth and air lived. One day this magnificent and mighty city rose up, finally visible to the eyes of human beings.”

“Uxmal is then a Magic City that descended from another higher dimension to this third dimension. Its beauty is something amazing, every aspect of the city: pyramids, temples, ball court, and the arches, were part of that spiritual connection with the Maya Creators: Hunab-Ku, Chaak, Ix’Cheel, Ix Mukane, and KuKuulKaan, the Feathered Serpent.”

You can walk to the site as it is just across the road from our hotel, so after the tour with Miguel Angel you can explore on your own, have lunch when you like, (there are a couple of restaurant options) relax at the hotel, swim in the pool or return to the site. The site closes at 5:00pm. We will return to the site for the Sound and Light Show in the evening and then have dinner together at the hotel. Hacienda Uxmal. Meals: B, D

OCT 22 WEDNESDAY: LOLTUN CAVES

First we travel to Oxkutzcab to visit the market. This is not a tourist market but a very large working market for the farms in the area. Here you will find a great collection of fruits and vegetables grown in this part of the Yucatan. There will be mountains of oranges, up to seven different types, other citrus fruits and whatever is in season.

The Loltun Caves are very special and were sacred to the Maya. You will travel deep into Mother Earth and with the guidance of Miguel Angel and another local Shaman you will connect with IxCheel and IxMukane, the Maya Goddesses. The cave is not very difficult, the air is good, there are lights along the way, and there are cathedral high ceilings. This is a wonderful experience and you will exit the caves with a whole new energy.

We will then go to the Yucatecan town Mani for lunch at a restaurant that will give you an authentic taste of the Yucatan cuisine. Here the local specialties are prepared in the traditional manner and served with handmade tortillas. Mani is the town where, in 1562, Fray Diego de Landa burned the Maya codices (books) in his effort to convert the Mayas to Catholicism. In his later years he regretted this and wrote a book containing everything he could remember about the Maya. This book has been translated into English and is likely available at the bookstore in Uxmal. Following our late lunch we will return to the Hacienda Uxmal for a relaxing evening. Meals: B, L

OCT 23 THURSDAY: LABNA & THE CHOCOLATE MUSEUM

Check out of the Hacienda and travel to Labna. This is a favorite site and we will start with a Maya Ceremony. Miguel Angel will lead you through the site explaining the spiritual significance of the temples and symbols. "Labna means in Maya: "The Walls of the Wisdom of the Mother". This Ceremonial Center is connected with the Cosmic Knowledge of the Calendars. In the sacred glyphs found carved in the walls we can see symbols of the constellations, the sun, the moon, Venus, the stars, the Sacred Caduceus of Mercury and others that are still being studied."

We will walk along the Sac Be, (Maya for White Road) to what is probably one of the most beautiful Mayan arches found on any site. Because of its elegance, ornamentation, and architectural perfection it raises the consciousness of the people who visit this site. As we walk through the arch we need to take a moment to connect with the high frequency here. There is also an Observatory at Labna where the Maya, through the Sacred Cosmic Knowledge of KuKuulKaan, "The Serpent in the Cosmos", opened their Chakras to receive the messages from the Stars.

The new Chocolate Museum is our next stop. Here you will see how it is grown and processed and learn how the Maya used it in ceremony. You will even get to taste it. We then travel on to our final destination for the day, Chichen Itza. [Hotel Mayaland Chichen Itza](#) Meals: B & D

OCT 24 FRIDAY: CHICHEN ITZA & IK KIL CENOTE

This morning we visit the amazing site of Chichen Itza, probably the most famous of all the Maya sites.

"Chichen Itza is called the City of KuKuulKaan and is dedicated to the Pleiades Constellation through the symbol of the Serpent which is connected to the Pleiades. The Pyramid was dedicated to the Serpent as a cosmic symbol and also to KuKuulKaan the teacher who taught the Maya how to connect in perfect balance with all the different kinds of knowledge: Science, Art, Philosophy and Religion. Chichen Itza is connected deeply with Science, but it is Science with Love, science and technology united with intuition."

From the Mayaland Hotel we can walk into the site early in the morning before the crowds and vendors set up. Miguel Angel will lead you through the main areas of the site including the Pyramid of KuKulKaan, the cenote, and the Ball Court and then you will have some free time for shopping and exploring on your own.

We then go to the beautiful cenote (natural well, sacred to the Maya) Ik Kil where there will be time for a swim and lunch before heading back to Merida for the night. “The cenotes in this area are all connected by underground waterways. Many are found in caves, and others like Ik Kil and the Sacred Cenote of Chichen Itza are open to the sky. The Sacred Cenote is the temple of the Rain God, YUM CHAAK. Great pilgrimages were made to the Cenote at Chichen Itza to pay tribute to the Lord of the Water and Life. The Cenotes were a worshipping and purification site for the Maya.” Casa del Balam Merida Meals: B, L

OCT 25 SATURDAY: MAYA MUSEUM AND FREE TIME

This morning Miguel Angel will walk you through the new Maya Museum in Merida. It is not a large museum but is well worth seeing. It is dedicated to the Maya from ancient times to present day. This is an opportunity to get your questions answered about this great culture.

The afternoon is free for shopping, relaxing, enjoying Mérida. This evening we will gather one last time for our farewell dinner Casa del Balam Merida. Meals: B and D

OCT 26 SUNDAY: DEPARTURE TO YOUR HOME CITY Transfer to airport.



Miguel Angel Vergara: Miguel Angel is a Mayan Priest and Master Teacher of the Maya Sacred Wisdom. His life’s work has been the study and true understanding of the Ancient Wisdom of the Maya, and his life’s mission is to share these Sacred teachings with the world. He does this through the study of their science, art, philosophy, and religion, extracting the true essence of the Maya teachings, and offering it to those seeking guidance on their Spiritual Path.

Miguel Angel Vergara lives and works in Yucatán, Mexico and is the author of a number of books on Chichen Itza and the Maya Sacred Wisdom. He studied with Mayan Elder Don Vincente Martín for seventeen years, was the Site Director at Chichen Itzá for four years, and has given lectures and workshops throughout North America and Europe. He works with groups and students from all parts of the world.

He teaches us how to connect with the Masters of Light who are still here at the sacred Maya sites ready to guide us now, as in ancient times. He goes to the source of the Maya knowledge; to the ceremonies, rituals, mantras, sacred books, pyramids, temples, stele, pottery, paintings, sculptures, and oral traditions that are available today, to find the essence of their knowledge and then teaches in a heart-centered style that connects rapidly and profoundly with his students.

Tour Cost: \$2,950.00 PP based on 10 guests in double room
Single Supplement: \$490.00

Includes:

Personal Guide, Miguel Angel Vergara, teachings, meditations, and ceremonies.

Airport transfers

Accommodations, 8 nights in double room:

Meal Plan: 7 breakfasts 4 lunches 4 dinners – coffee and tea usually included with meals

Transportation in air condition vehicle to all sites listed on the itinerary

Entrance fees to all sites listed on the itinerary

Shaman gratuity at Loltun Caves

Tips for bellboys, maids, and waiters

Taxes and toll road fees

Not included

Airfare to and from Merida, Mexico
Cancellation & Medical Insurance
Drinks, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, bottled water
Meals not specified on the itinerary
Personal items such as laundry, drinks and telephone calls.
Tips to guides and drivers

For reservations and information please contact

Gayle Lawrence Journeys of Discovery Travel

Email: info@ajourneyofdiscovery.com

727.785.5563

<http://www.ajourneyofdiscovery.com>