



The peak body for the  
building design profession

# Study Tour of Mexico

8 – 22 September 2024



Palacio de Bellas Artes – Mexico City



Angel of Independence statue

## A Journey Through Mexico's Captivating Architecture

*Discover Mexico's visually stunning and incredibly diverse architecture on a two week-long insider's tour. From pre-Columbian pyramids to Spanish colonial cathedrals, Mexico boasts centuries of architectural styles condensed into one fascinating country.*



## Our Journey of Discovery

**Sun-08-Sep-24**

### Depart Australia/Arrive Los Angeles

Own arrangement for flights from Australia most of which have early morning arrivals at Los Angeles International Airport which allow time to connect to the AeroMexico flight from Los Angeles to Mexico City at 2:20pm.

Depart on – AeroMexico flight AM645 at 1420 arrive 1915

### Arrive Mexico City

Our first port of call is the vibrant metropolis of Mexico City, where the sheer magnitude of the 22 million population is matched only by its awe-inspiring architectural diversity. As an architecture professional, or simply someone with a curious mind, this visit is designed to captivate your senses and leave you in awe of the wonders that Mexico City has to offer. Join us as we delve into the heart of this magnificent melting pot of architectural styles and uncover the stories that have shaped its iconic skyline.

On arrival you will be met and transferred to our hotel with its convenient central location.

### Welcome Drinks

Meet with your fellow travellers for drinks and a get to know you gathering as we anticipate our Mexican journey of architectural discovery.

**Mon-09-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

### Half Day Tour – Exploring Mexico City and its Architecture

The highlights today will be to introduce you to this extraordinary city. Step back in time as we wander through the historic centre, where colonial architecture coexists harmoniously with contemporary design.

But the tour doesn't stop at history. Venture into the realm of contemporary architecture, where cutting-edge projects redefine the city's skyline. From the iconic Museo Soumaya which we will visit, with its futuristic metallic façade, to the gravity-defying Torre Reforma (skyscraper), witness the bold vision of renowned architects in action.

The afternoon will be free for you to explore at your own pace.

### Welcome Dinner (inclusive)

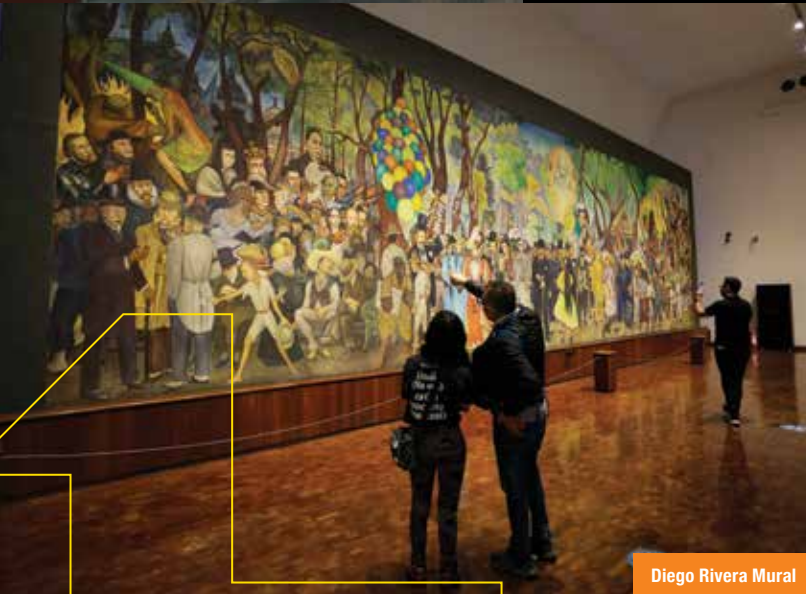
Team up with your fellow travellers and colleagues at one of Mexico City's renowned restaurants for a taste of Mexico and things to come.



Diego Rivera House – Mexico City



Central Library UNAM – Mexico City



Diego Rivera Mural



National Museum of Anthropology – Mexico City

**Tue-10-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

**Full Day Tour – Mexico City**

Today continue visiting key architectural wonders; marvel at the intricate details of the Templo Mayor, an ancient Aztec temple complex that reveals Mexico City's rich cultural heritage. Then, prepare to be awe-struck by the grandeur of the Palacio de Bellas Artes, a masterpiece that fuses Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles.

We also delve into the works of renowned architects such as Luis Barragan, Diego Rivera and Tatiana Bilbao. Discover the iconic landmarks that have shaped Mexico's architectural landscape and gain insights into their design philosophies.

From Barragan's colourful masterpieces to Barragan House which we will visit, to Diego Rivera's monumental murals, each stop will leave you inspired and in awe of the creative genius behind these structures.

We will be privileged to visit the studios of renowned Mexican architect, Tatiana Bilbao who is reputed to be amongst [Mexico's Top 10 architects of all time](#).

We will also be visiting some of her architectural masterpieces during our program today.

The evening is at leisure for you to explore this amazing city and its vibrant nightlife.

**Wed-11-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

**Full Day Tour – Mexico City**

This morning's tour we will visit the University City Campus UNAM. Amongst the vast landscaped grounds and diverse architectural styles the Rectorate Tower and the Central Library are adorned by murals made by famous Mexican muralists David Alfaro Siqueiros (Rectorate Tower) and Juan O'Gorman (Central Library).

The latter is recognised as the largest mural in the world, covering all sides of the Library, based on Aztec and Spanish motifs and UNAM's coat of arms, making the Central Library Ciudad Universitaria's most iconic building.

We will also be visiting the National Museum of Anthropology, the largest and most significant museum in Mexico with its spectacular exhibits. Designed in 1964 by Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, Jorge Campuzano and Rafael Mijares Alcérreca, the monumental building contains exhibition halls surrounding a courtyard with a huge pond and a vast square concrete umbrella supported by a single slender pillar.

The evening is at leisure.



Our Lady of Remedies church

**Thu-12-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.  
After breakfast we will transfer you to Puebla, approximately 2 hours by road from Mexico City.

**Hello Puebla City**

As the fourth largest city in Mexico with a population of 3.5 million and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Puebla City is full of history and beautiful colonial architecture and is one of the best foodie destinations in Mexico.

Long the commercial centre of an important agricultural district, Puebla was also an early manufacturing city, known for its traditional onyx products, Talavera tiles, pottery, glass, and textiles.

**Transfer Mexico City to Puebla**

Normally the transfer takes approximately 2 hours but enroute we will explore the archaeological site of Cacaxtla. Cacaxtla thrived from around 600-900 CE as the capital of the Olmeca-Xicalanca people. After its decline, the site lay untouched for centuries and archaeologists have since uncovered incredible murals, pyramids, and artifacts.

Cacaxtla's strategic hilltop location allowed it to control trade routes. Its construction exemplifies skilled engineering to build on challenging terrain. The intricate murals offer clues into the culture, religion, and politics.

After this visit we continue to Puebla where we will visit the spectacular International Baroque Museum designed by world renowned Japanese architect Toyo Ito.

**Welcome to Puebla Group Dinner (inclusive)**

The traditional gastronomy in the city of Puebla is over four centuries old, mixing ingredients and techniques of Pre-Hispanic, European, Asian and Lebanese origins and this evening we will introduce you to the gastronomic delights of the "foodie" capital of Mexico.

**Fri-13-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

**Half Day Tour – Discover Puebla City**

Puebla is a colonial gem renowned for its awe-inspiring architecture. As one of the only cities in Mexico honoured as a UNESCO World Heritage site based on its wealth of historic colonial buildings, Puebla offers architects an unparalleled opportunity to admire exquisite 17th and 18th century architecture.

The historic centre alone contains over 5,000 colonial buildings spanning four centuries and fusing European and indigenous architectural influences. Grand cathedrals, lively plazas, imposing forts and multicoloured row houses are just a glimpse of Puebla's architectural allure.

This morning's tour program will uncover the best Puebla has to offer with the afternoon free to explore at your leisure.

The evening is at leisure for you to explore and experience Puebla's foodie culture.

**Sat-14-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

**Full Day Tour – Puebla and Cholula Architectural Discovery**

Our program today takes us to Cholula, a 30 minute drive from Puebla, where you will uncover the secrets of the Great Pyramid of Cholula and marvel at the magnificence of Our Lady of Remedies Church.

We will visit the awe-inspiring Great Pyramid of Cholula, the largest pyramid in the world by volume. With its intricate stone carvings and towering presence, this pyramid is a testament to the architectural genius of its time.

Next we explore the exquisite Our Lady of Remedies Church, perched atop the Great Pyramid of Cholula with its stunning facade and intricate Baroque interior design. Marvel at the fusion of indigenous and European architectural styles, which beautifully blend to create a unique and awe-inspiring masterpiece.

Our final visit will be Santa Maria Tonanzintla Church, decorated by indigenous craftspeople in a style dubbed "Indigenous Baroque".

The evening is at leisure.



Governors Palace – Merida



Merida streetscape



**Mon-16-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

**Half Day Tour – Merida Architectural Discovery**

This morning we discover the hidden gems and architectural marvels that make Merida a true masterpiece from the intricate details of the colonial architecture, which beautifully blends European and Mayan influences. The city's focal point is Plaza de la Independencia, bordered by the fortress like Mérida Cathedral and white limestone Iglesia de la Tercera Orden, both colonial-era churches built using relics from ancient Mayan temples.

We will be visiting the Governors Palace and Museum, an elegant colonial 1890s government building with an arcaded courtyard and murals on key local events and people.

Your introduction to the Mayan civilisation, our focus for the next few days, will commence with a visit to the Gran Museo del Mundo Maya which contains the largest collection of ancient Maya artifacts in the world, providing a glimpse into the advanced, mysterious civilisation.

You will be inspired by the ingenuity and artistic expression of the ancient Maya culture through their architecture, art, mathematics and cosmology.

The afternoon is free to explore this lovely city at your leisure.

**Evening Group Dinner (inclusive)**

A get together to treat your taste buds to a mouthwatering culinary journey that is Yucatan cuisine, where traditional spices and flavours come alive.

**Sun-15-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

Transfer to Mexico City Airport for our flight to Merida.

Depart on – AeroMexico flight AM832 at 1430 arrive 1633

**Welcome to Merida**

Merida, the vibrant capital of the Mexican state of Yucatán, has a rich Mayan and colonial heritage. The Yucatan capital has both colonial and Mayan treasures to discover. Mayan culture is also still evident in Merida's daily life and in the many festivals.

Merida is also the starting point of our Yucatan Peninsula discovery, filled with ancient Mayan temples, breathtaking cenotes and unique cultural traditions. Mayan and Spanish influences shape their mouthwatering cuisine of this region which is quite distinct from other regions of Mexico.



**Tue-17-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

### Half Day – Continuation of our Merida Discovery Tour

The Casa de Montejo facing the main square in Merida is an extraordinary building dating back to 1549 and is built with intricate artistry in the Spanish Plateresque style. This will be the main highlight of this morning tour.

Our expert local guide will once again be on hand to facilitate additional sightseeing and site visits this afternoon.

**Wed-18-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

Transfer from Merida to Valladolid.

### Full Day Tour – Ancient Mayan Cities Exploration

Today we visit the ancient Mayan cities of Uxmal and Chichen Itza, architectural marvels that have withstood the test of time. Built over a thousand years ago, these sites demonstrate remarkable feats of engineering and design.

From the 30 metre tall El Castillo pyramid at Chichen Itza to the magnificent Pyramid of the Magician at Uxmal, the structures integrate ingenious shapes, acoustics, aesthetics, and cosmic alignments. The ancient Mayans had a sophisticated understanding of materials, math, and astronomy, which enabled the creation of these engineering masterpieces.

For architects, these sites offer a rare window into pioneering architecture and design from over a millennium ago. What insights can today's architects gain about structural techniques, acoustic principles, use of natural light and integration with the landscape?

Come marvel at these sites yourself to fully appreciate and learn from the architectural genius of the ancient Mayans.

After our visits to these two ancient cities we continue to Valladolid

### Welcome to Valladolid

Valladolid is a city steeped in captivating history and home to magnificent historic architecture. Though not as famous as some of Mexico's more renowned destinations, this colourful colonial city offers architectural aficionados an abundance of intriguing sites to explore.

Overnight in Valladolid



Uxmal



Plaza Grande – Merida

**Thu-19-Sep-24**

Breakfast at leisure.

### Half Day Tour – Valladolid Discovery

From the imposing 16th century Cathedral of San Gervasio, Valladolid is an opportunity to admire both the larger-than-life cathedrals boasting immense scale and ornate details, as well as appreciating the smaller subtleties of the brightly painted colonial townhouses. The city offers plenty of fascinating insights into Mexico's architectural evolution, a unique blend of pre-Hispanic Mayan, Spanish colonial and modern influences which have shaped the city's architectural aesthetic over the centuries.

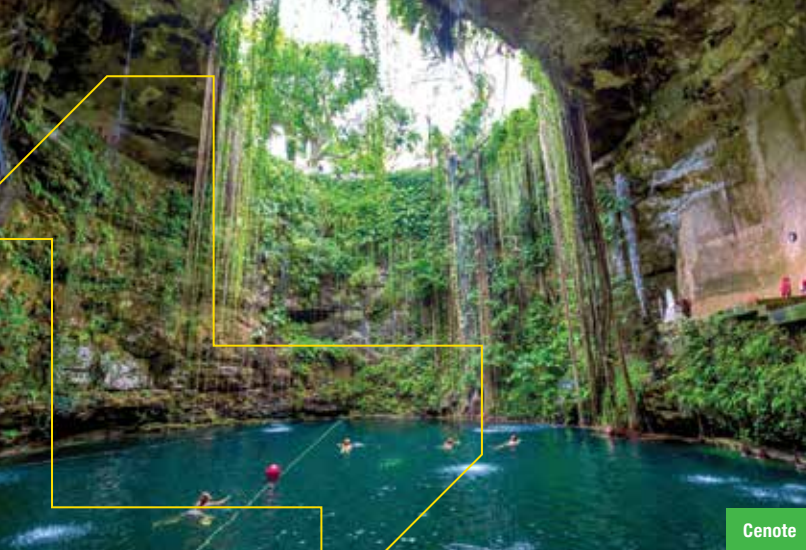
Our next stop is the equally impressive Mayan city of Ek Balam with its impressive Acropolis and a site which influenced Frank Lloyd Wright who had been looking to pre-Columbian Latin American ruins for inspiration.

After the tour of Ek Balam we continue to the lovely Caribbean Coast and the laid-back town of Tulum.

### Welcome to Tulum

Tulum is a destination like no other, home to ancient ruins and paradise beaches. Perched dramatically on cliffsides overlooking the turquoise Caribbean Sea, the ancient Mayan ruins of Tulum provide a glimpse into innovative engineering from the 13th century.

Beyond the ruins, Tulum's stretch of coastline features soft white sands, crystal clear cenotes, and lush jungle landscape.



Cenote

### Fri-20-Sep-24

Breakfast at leisure.

#### **Full day Tour – Expedition to Tulum’s Ancient Architectural Wonders and Cenotes**

The cliffside ruins of Tulum represent the pinnacle of Mayan architecture and design. These iconic and majestic ruins provide a window into the sophisticated engineering of this advanced ancient civilisation.

Tulum was uniquely situated to thrive as a port city and hub for trade, protected by fortress-like walls and natural barriers. Walking through Tulum’s ruins, it’s clear the structures were strategically designed to integrate into the natural landscape. The elevated placement along the cliffs harnessed natural cooling winds and provided sweeping views of the Caribbean Sea.

Descending the structure, you can examine the intricate stonework and admire the Mayan’s architectural achievements. Beyond the grandeur of the ruins, smaller details reflect sophisticated understanding of materials, with limestone used for foundations and porous coquina stone to allow ventilation. Tulum’s ruins offer an unparalleled opportunity to admire ingenious design from the 13th century.

We will also discover the natural wonders of Tulum, the cenotes of Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula, natural pits formed when limestone bedrock collapses, revealing groundwater pools of vibrant turquoise.

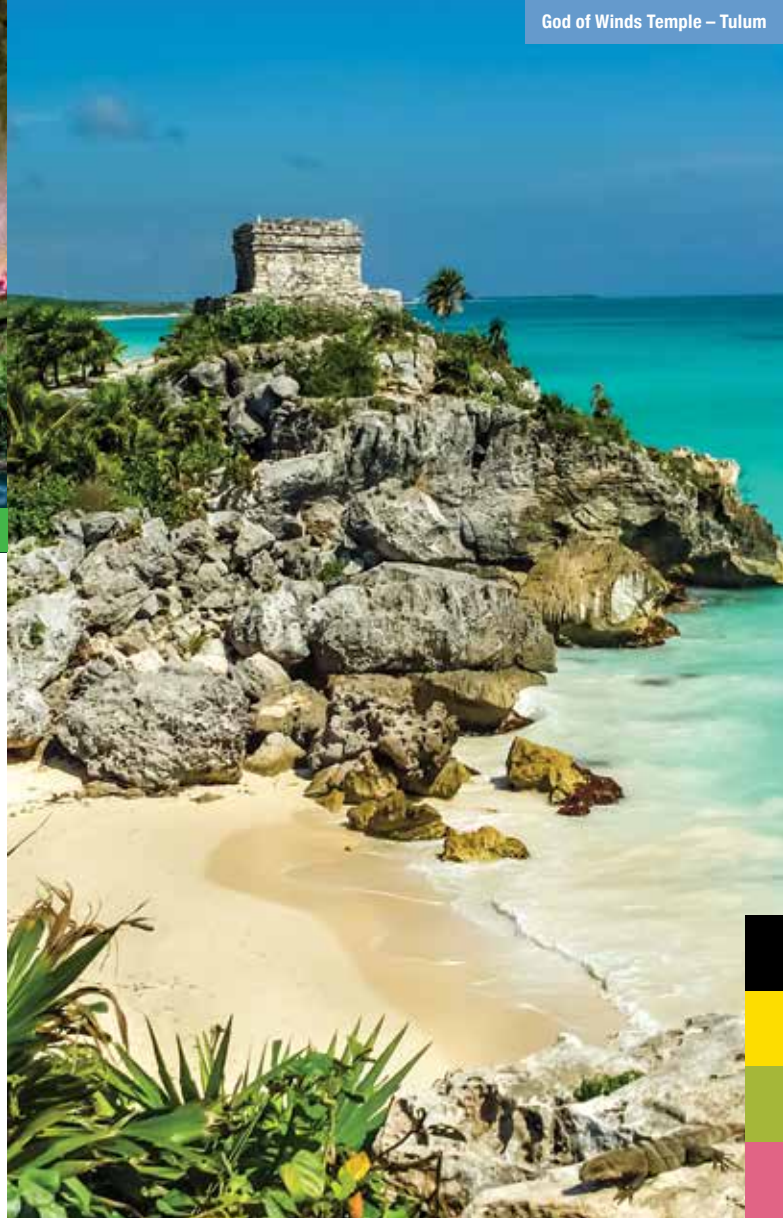
The word “cenote” comes from the Mayan word “dzonot” meaning well or sinkhole. The Yucatan Peninsula is made of porous limestone, which allows rainwater to filter down and fill these cavernous spaces.

While cenotes can be found across the Yucatan, some of the most spectacular are located around Tulum. Famous sites like Gran Cenote and Dos Ojos offer snorkelling and diving in crystal clear waters.

As an architect, these cenotes offer much to appreciate, from the way they naturally form spaces and tunnels, to the interplay between light and shadows. Their sheer geological power is humbling yet magnificent.

During the day there will be several stops to admire, swim and snorkel in the cenotes as well as a stop for an included lunch.

The evening is yours to relax and enjoy the bohemian lifestyle of Tulum with its lively nightlife.



### Sat-21-Sep-24

Breakfast at leisure.

From the breathtaking coastline, archaeological wonders and dense tropical jungles Tulum is also brimming with culture and creativity. There are plenty of galleries, restaurants and beach clubs that demonstrate Tulum’s vibrant art and design scene and today is free for you to explore at leisure.

#### **Farewell Dinner**

As our time in Mexico draws to a close it is time for a last celebratory occasion with your colleagues and fellow travellers with a lavish dinner at one of Tulum’s renowned restaurants.

### Sun-22-Sep-24

Breakfast at leisure.

#### **Depart Tulum**

Services end here.

There are daily direct flights from Tulum to Dallas with connections on Qantas direct flights from Dallas to Melbourne and Sydney.

Speak to Katherine our expert travel advisor who will assist you in making travel arrangements.



Diego Rivera mural – Mexico City



Uxmal

## Study Tour Pricing

- AU\$7,890** per person (DMN member rate)
- AU\$8,190** per person (non-member rate)
- AU\$1,990** single occupancy room supplement
- US\$5,190** per person (DMN member rate)
- US\$5,390** per person (non-member rate)
- US\$1,290** single occupancy room supplement

## Inclusions

- 14 night accommodation on a twin share basis
- Daily breakfasts
- Extensive touring as outlined in the program
- Admission fees to all the archaeological sites, museums and private sites we will be visiting
- Exclusive site visits to venues not available to the general public
- Visit and interaction with associates of the Tatiana Bilbao Estudio as well as site visits
- A total of 3 group dinners including beverages in each of the key locations we will be visiting
- Lunch on the full day tour in Tulum
- All coach transportation, touring and transfers indicated in the program
- Flights in economy class on AeroMexico:
  - Los Angeles to Mexico City
  - Mexico City to Tulum
- The tour will be accompanied by an expert guide on architecture and Mexican history and culture throughout our tour of Mexico
- Tips to drivers and guides

## Not Included

- Flights from your home port to Los Angeles and from Tulum back to your home port
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified
- Room service and items of personal nature such as laundry



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