



COPPER MOON
TRAVELS

WEAVING THE MAYA COSMOS – WHERE THE LOOM MEETS THE STARS

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TOUR ITINERARY

DATES: November 5-15, 2026

NIGHTS/DAYS: 10 Nights / 11 Days

DAY ONE: THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2026 - BIENVENIDOS

HOTEL LOCATION: BELA'S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

AFTERNOON:

Please arrive at the Tuxtla Gutiérrez airport today and transfer to Bela's B&B in San Cristóbal de las Casas. If you would like us to arrange an airport pick-up, please let us know when making your reservation.

We are fortunate to be staying at Bela's B&B, where Manuela, who manages the kitchen, is an exceptional cook. After a long day, there is nothing more relaxing than unwinding in the garden and enjoying a delicious meal without having to head back out for dinner. Manuela will prepare several meals for us during our stay, and we will also dine out at a few local restaurants.

EVENING:

Our opening dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Tonight, Manuela is preparing *Drunken Chicken*, a traditional chicken stew made with Pox, the distinctive sugar-cane spirit of Chiapas.

During dinner, we will make introductions, including to Doña Estaquia, who will be leading our visits in the villages. Later in the evening, Jaime and Doña Estaquia will offer a brief presentation about our route, along with fascinating insights into the Zapatista uprising and the ways resistance continues to shape some of the communities we will visit — including Oventic, the village where Doña Estaquia is from.

MEALS:

Dinner included.

DAY TWO: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2026 – THERE’S A 1ST TIME FOR EVERYTHING
HOTEL LOCATION: BELA’S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

MORNING:

We will enjoy breakfast at 8:00 AM before departing along the winding rural roads that lead to the small Tsotsil Maya village of Oventic. There, we will meet Doña Estaquia’s family, receive our small looms, and begin our first weaving project with an introductory lesson in traditional backstrap loom weaving techniques.

While we are working on our projects, guests who are interested in learning some introductory expressions in the Tsotsil language will be happy to know that our hosts speak Tsotsil as a first language. The more we approach these communities with simple formalities in their language, the more respect we demonstrate.

AFTERNOON:

Our weaving class will take place from approximately 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM, with a midday break for lunch prepared by Doña Estaquia’s family.

Upon returning to San Cristóbal de las Casas, we will visit Sergio Castro Martínez and his remarkable Museo de Trajes Regionales, an extraordinary private collection of Indigenous Maya textiles and ceremonial dress from across Chiapas. Originally trained as an agronomist and veterinarian, Sergio Castro devoted decades of his life to working in Tsotsil and Tzeltal Maya communities, helping establish schools, water systems, and medical assistance programs while caring for thousands of Indigenous residents, particularly burn victims and families in remote villages.

Over the years, many communities gifted him ceremonial garments and heirloom textiles in gratitude for his humanitarian work, resulting in a deeply personal collection that reflects not only the artistry of Maya weaving traditions, but also the trust and relationships he built throughout the Highlands. It is a tremendous privilege to visit this intimate and fascinating museum, which even includes an intricately ornamented deck of playing cards hand-embroidered by his mother.

EVENING:

This evening, Manuela will prepare dinner for us. The remainder of the evening is yours to

enjoy—whether exploring the night market, relaxing, or continuing work on your weaving project.

MEALS:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

**DAY THREE: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2026 – LA MERCADO DE OXCHUC
HOTEL LOCATION: BELA’S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS**

MORNING:

This morning we will depart by 6:30 AM with yogurt, pastries, fresh fruit, granola bars, and coffee in hand for a truly unique experience. On Saturday mornings, the small Tseltal Maya village of Oxchuc comes to life as vendors from remote surrounding communities gather in the central plaza to sell textiles, produce, and a wide variety of local goods.

The drive will take approximately 90 minutes, giving us time to relax, enjoy breakfast, or catch a bit more sleep along the way. Arriving around 8:00 AM places us at the market just as it opens and is at its liveliest. The market is most active in the early morning hours and typically begins to wind down by 10:00 AM.

AFTERNOON:

About an hour further along the road lies the small Tseltal Maya village of San Juan Cancuc. Doña Estaquia will be arranging our visit there, and we will share additional details once the tour is underway.

Very few foreign visitors travel to either Oxchuc or San Juan Cancuc, making this a rare and deeply authentic experience. The garments and textiles seen throughout the region are created for local use and community markets rather than for international tourism, offering a genuine glimpse into everyday Maya life and tradition. We hope you will forgive the early departure in exchange for such an extraordinary opportunity.

Today we will provide a packed lunch, as some guests may feel more comfortable avoiding meals prepared in traditional kitchens that have not been specifically adapted for tourism. Once your tour is confirmed, we will send a questionnaire with several lunch options to choose from.

We expect to return to San Cristóbal de las Casas at approximately 4:30 PM.

EVENING:

This evening, Manuela will prepare dinner for us, to be served at 6:00 PM.

MEALS:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

DAY FOUR: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2026 – DREAM OF A SUNDAY AFTERNOON
HOTEL LOCATION: BELA’S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

MORNING:

Breakfast is served daily between 8:00–10:00 AM. At 10:00 AM, we will make our way to the Ex-Convento de Santo Domingo, home to the Centro de Textiles del Mundo Maya (Center for Textiles of the Maya World).

Doña Estaquia serves as curator of this remarkable museum, though she will likely be enjoying her day off today. During our visit, we will watch a short introductory film and discuss the connections between the ancient Maya world and the textile traditions that continue throughout Chiapas and the greater Maya region today.

The museum’s collection is extraordinary, featuring dozens of drawers filled with vintage huipiles and woven garments from across the Maya world. Downstairs, you will also see ancient textile fragments and archaeological examples of early weaving traditions. We will provide an introductory overview of the collection before concluding our morning tour, after which those wishing to remain and study the antique textiles in greater depth are welcome to do so. Others may prefer to explore the city independently, visit additional museums, or browse the lively handicraft market just outside the doors of the Santo Domingo convent.

AFTERNOON:

We are intentionally leaving the afternoon unscheduled, as Sundays in Mexico are traditionally considered Family Day, and many guests appreciate a slower pace and some free time to relax. You may wish to spend the afternoon people-watching in the plaza, strolling along the pedestrian streets, or enjoying one of the city’s cafés or bakeries.

San Cristóbal de las Casas offers several fascinating museums, including the Jade Museum, Kakaw Museum, Amber Museum, and Na Bolom. There are also numerous historic churches, boutique galleries, coffee shops, restaurants, and local street vendors throughout the historic center.

If you are uncomfortable exploring the city on your own and would like to visit somewhere specific, please let us know and we would be happy to accompany you. Likewise, if the group prefers to continue touring together this afternoon, we are happy to arrange additional activities—we simply recognize that many guests value having some unstructured time during the journey.

EVENING:

This evening we will enjoy dinner at Comal Cocina de Barro, known for its exceptional regional cuisine and warm atmosphere.

MEALS:

Breakfast included. All other meals are separate.

DAY FIVE: MONDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2026 – TEXTILES & MONUMENT**HOTEL LOCATION: BELA'S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS****MORNING:**

This morning we will enjoy breakfast at 8:00 AM before departing at 9:00 AM for the Tsotsil Maya community of Chenalhó. The drive takes just over an hour, and we expect to arrive around 10:15 AM to meet with local weavers and learn about their distinctive textile traditions and techniques.

AFTERNOON:

This afternoon we will continue north to the small Tsotsil Maya community of Pantelhó, where woven garments are often created from wool and feature rich, earthy color palettes characteristic of the Tsotsil Highlands.

Along the way, we will pass through the community of Acteal, site of the Acteal Massacre, where 45 civilians were killed in a tragic paramilitary attack while gathered in prayer at a church in 1997. We will pause to pay our respects at the memorial and view some of the murals commemorating the community's resilience and remembrance.

Doña Estaquia is arranging the details of today's visit, so we will confirm lunch plans closer to the date. Depending on local arrangements, we may either enjoy a meal in the community or bring a packed baguette lunch with us.

EVENING:

We expect to return to San Cristóbal de las Casas at approximately 5:30 PM. Dinner prepared by Manuela will be served at 7:00 PM.

MEALS:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

DAY SIX: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2026 – WISDOM OF THE ELDERS**HOTEL LOCATION: BELA'S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS**

MORNING: We will have breakfast this morning at 8:00 AM, departing by 9:00 AM for the Tsotsil Maya village of San Andres Larrainzár. Our focus today lies in exploring natural dyes, from their harvest to how pigments are rendered through manual process. Doña Rosa Hernandez is a deeply respected Tsotsil elder and master dye expert. It is a wonderful honour, to spend time learning directly from Doña Rosa.

AFTERNOON: This afternoon we are off to visit the Tsotsil Maya village of Aldama, sometimes called Magdalenas, which is celebrated for having some of the most intricate weaving of our time. The huipils we see today are reminiscent of one worn by Lady Xoc of ancient Yaxchilan, representing the sun rising in the east, setting in the west, surrounded by the universe. These pieces are highly prized among serious collectors.

EVENING: We will enjoy and elegant dinner at Tarumba this evening. Located in the Sombra del Agua hotel, Tarumba is a local favourite. Chef Jorge Gordillo's interpretation of regional cuisine is mouth-watering, with flavours your palette will long remember.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Lunch included. Dinner is separate

**DAY SEVEN: WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2026 – BAA BAA, BLACK SHEEP
HOTEL LOCATION: BELA'S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS**

MORNING:

Please join us for breakfast at 8:00 AM before our 9:00 AM departure to the Tsotsil Maya town of San Juan Chamula. While many visitors come only to experience the famous church of Chamula, we are fortunate that Doña Estaquia has connected us with a local family of Chamulan women who not only weave the iconic black wool skirts for which Chamula is so well known, but are also willing to share aspects of their process with us firsthand.

Our morning will begin with the preparation of raw wool, including removing straw and debris by hand before carding and spinning it using traditional drop spindles. No one is expected to master the technique, but there will no doubt be plenty of laughter as we try our hand at this centuries-old practice together. Along the way, we will learn about the evolution of Chamulan weaving traditions and the distinctive shag-like black wool skirts that have become emblematic of the community. Interestingly, the longest and most dramatic fibers are often considered the most desirable and command the highest prices at market.

AFTERNOON:

While in Chamula, we will also visit the extraordinary church of Iglesia de San Juan Bautista. We do wish to prepare guests in advance, as this is perhaps the most syncretic church in Chiapas, blending Catholic imagery with deeply rooted Maya cosmology and ceremonial traditions, including spiritual cleansing rituals that may involve the sacrifice of chickens.

Photography is strictly prohibited inside the church, including the use of cameras and cell phones. Guests are asked to keep all devices concealed, as violations can result in serious penalties. Upon entering, we encourage everyone to observe quietly, respectfully, and attentively. Please avoid stopping to watch individuals engaged in prayer or ceremony, as this would be considered highly intrusive. The atmosphere inside the church is powerful and unforgettable—

from the pine-covered floors and flickering candlelight to the scent of copal incense, the colorful saints, and the richly symbolic interior.

From San Juan Chamula, we will continue to the nearby town of Zinacantán, located approximately fifteen minutes away. The weaving traditions here are undergoing a fascinating transformation, particularly among younger artisans interested in modernizing local fashion. While backstrap loom weaving remains important, many contemporary textiles now incorporate ornamentation stitched on manual sewing machines rather than entirely hand-embroidered. During our visit, we will learn how to distinguish between these techniques and revisit examples from Don Sergio Castro's collection, including a remarkable series of four children's huipiles that demonstrate how Zinacantán embroidery styles have evolved across generations.

EVENING: This evening we will head to an Italian restaurant for dinner.

MEALS:

Breakfast and lunch are included. Dinner is separate.

DAY EIGHT: THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2026 – RECLAIMING OLD KNOWLEDGE
HOTEL LOCATION: BELA'S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

MORNING:

This morning we will depart at 7:00 AM with granola, yogurt, fresh fruit, pastries, and coffee to-go as we make our way to the Tseltal Maya village of Tenejapa. Much like the market in Oxchuc, Tenejapa offers a traditional and largely ungentrified market experience that remains oriented toward local community life rather than tourism.

Here we will encounter the community's striking textile traditions, particularly the distinctive huipiles characterized by vivid red and white palettes. We will also discuss the differences between woven and embroidered garments, as handwoven pieces are generally more labor-intensive and therefore command significantly higher prices than embroidered examples.

AFTERNOON:

This afternoon we are arranging a special demonstration, details of which we will share once plans have been finalized. Doña Estaquia is organizing a meeting with two remarkable artists who have devoted themselves to reclaiming and preserving a nearly lost artistic tradition deeply connected to ancient Maya knowledge and cultural heritage.

EVENING:

Upon returning to San Cristóbal de las Casas, we will enjoy dinner at Cocoliche, one of our favorite local restaurants, known for its eclectic menu, excellent cocktails, warm ambiance, and attentive service.

MEALS:

Breakfast and lunch included. Dinner is separate.

DAY NINE: FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2026 – LIFE IN THE HOT LANDS

HOTEL LOCATION: BELA'S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

MORNING:

We will meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM before departing at 9:00 AM for the Tsotsil community of Venustiano Carranza, located in the warmer lowlands of Chiapas. We have intentionally included this village in our journey for the striking contrast it offers: although the community is Tsotsil Maya, the weaving traditions here reflect the region's tropical climate and differ dramatically from the heavier wool garments of the Highlands.

For those interested in acquiring a truly collectible textile piece, this may be the highlight of the tour. We will visit the home of Carmen and Gabriela Fuentes to view their extraordinary collection of handwoven blouses and dresses. Gabriela will provide a weaving demonstration so guests can observe how this distinctive loose-weave technique is achieved.

The garments created here are exceptional works of textile art, with dresses often ranging between \$1,500–\$2,000 USD. These museum-quality pieces require many months to complete and are woven only by master artisans possessing years of experience, extraordinary patience, and a deep commitment to intricacy and precision.

AFTERNOON:

This afternoon we will continue to the Tseltal community of Aguacatenango, whose artists are renowned for their vibrant embroidery featuring large floral motifs on elegant blouses and dresses, often designed with empire waists. The village is also celebrated for its delicate white-on-white embroidery, creating garments with an understated yet sophisticated bohemian aesthetic.

Over the past decade, artisans from Aguacatenango have led a remarkable renaissance in embroidery style, color, and technique. Many artists now incorporate intricate French knots into their work—a relatively recent influence requiring considerably more patience, thread, and technical skill.

We will visit our friend Francisca Hernández, an award-winning embroidery artist whose exquisite designs are stitched into mesmerizing patterns with color combinations unlike anything we have encountered among Indigenous textile traditions elsewhere in Mexico. We hope you will enjoy viewing her collection and perhaps discovering a special treasure to take home.

From Aguacatenango, we will continue to the neighboring Tseltal village of Amatenango del Valle to visit the galleries of Paulina Jiménez and Juana Gómez Ramírez. Juana is considered

one of Mexico's most celebrated ceramic artists and is affectionately known as the "Woman of the Jaguar" for her extraordinary life-sized feline sculptures, each filled with movement, personality, and remarkable realism.

From Amatenango, we will return to San Cristóbal de las Casas at approximately 6:00 PM.

EVENING:

Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM, and Manuela is preparing a true feast for us this evening. While *Sopa de Pan* (Bread Soup) may sound deceptively simple, its fragrant herbs and delicate flavors make it one of the beloved comfort dishes of Chiapas. Manuela typically serves it alongside her rich chicken mole and rice—and you may very well find yourself returning for seconds.

MEALS:

Breakfast, lunch & Dinner included

DAY TEN: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2026 – SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

HOTEL LOCATION: BELA'S B&B, SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

ALL DAY: Today is a free day for guests to relax and explore on your own. If you would like to visit Canyon del Sumidero, El Chiflon etc, please contact us for assistance with tours. If enough of you would like to go somewhere together, we can also talk to our driver Julio, for a quote.

MEALS: Breakfast. All other meals are separate.

DAY ELEVEN: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2026 – FAREWELL CHIAPAS

HOTEL LOCATION: N/A

MORNING:

Once you confirm your departing flights, we will work out the transportation back to the airport. If everyone is going at the same time, we will ask Julio to take us, otherwise, we will use the taxis or shuttle service. (Not Included)

With this being the most culturally immersive and focused tour we have ever offered, we want to offer a special thank you for joining us and supporting the local Maya women of the region. Doña Estaquia has already intimated how grateful she is that we are trying to organize this tour, as her community feels honoured to showcase Maya textiles and their communities from a deep sense of pride. We truly hope you will consider this one of the more intimate experiences of your travels.

MEALS:

Breakfast is included. All other meals are separate.

TRAVEL HOME SAFELY AND PLEASE JOIN US AGAIN!