



COPPER MOON
TRAVELS

ALONG THE MONKEY RIVER

Ancient Trade Waters of the Maya

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

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TOUR ITINERARY

DATES: December 2-14, 2027

NIGHTS/DAYS: 11 Nights / 12 Days

DAY ONE: THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 2027 - BIENVENIDOS

HOTEL LOCATION: VILLAHERMOSA, TABASCO

EVENING:

Please land at the Villahermosa Airport this evening. Transfer to the hotel to meet the group. For those who arrive on time, we will have dinner at 6:30 PM.

MEALS:

All meals are separate

DAY TWO: FRIDAY DECEMBER 3, 2027 – COSMIC CURRENCY

HOTEL LOCATION: VILLAHERMOSA, TABASCO

MORNING:

This morning, we will meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM, departing at 8:45 AM. We will commute for one hour to reach the unique, brick-constructed archaeological site of Comalcalco.

AFTERNOON:

This afternoon, we will have lunch and visit the Jesus Maria Cacao Plantation to learn about the cultivation of cacao and process for rendering chocolate. We will also explore how chocolate served the Maya as an economic commodity that was spiritually motivated and integral to cosmic ceremonies.

EVENING:

This evening we will have dinner at 6 PM, followed by a short presentation about our tour.

MEALS:

Breakfast is included. All other meals are separate.

DAY THREE: SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2027 – WATERWAYS OF THE MAYA**HOTEL LOCATION: CANDELERIA, CAMPECHE****MORNING:**

This morning, please bring your luggage to the lobby for 7:15 AM so we can load the van before breakfast. We will depart after breakfast at around 8 AM for the commute to the Pueblo Magico of Palizada.

AFTERNOON:

The waterways around Palizada lay within one of the most important trade networks of the Maya world. Chontal Maya merchants traveled the Usumacinta River system in large canoes, carrying goods between the interior cities of Chiapas and Guatemala and the Gulf Coast. The region was part of the ancient “Place of Canoes,” or “Acalán” trading zone and almost certainly witnessed centuries of river-borne commerce. There is a small archaeological zone called El Cuyo, though nothing remains but some small mounds. The village is now a charming collection of colourful homes but remains a river-lifestyle. We will have lunch here before departing at 3:00 PM for the Pueblo Magico of Candelaria, where we will arrive at approximately 6:00 PM. The accommodations here are more basic than our other accommodations, as this is still a developing town. The pristine nature of Candelaria’s surroundings are what we have come for.

EVENING:

We will have dinner tonight at 7:00 PM, followed by an evening of relaxation.

MEALS:

Breakfast is included. All other meals are separate.

DAY FOUR: SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 2027 – PLACE OF THE CROCODILE HOUSE
HOTEL LOCATION: CANDELERIA, CAMPECHE

MORNING:

This morning we will have breakfast at 8:00 AM before boarding our boat for an iconic journey along the Candelaria River to reach the banks of El Tigre, just as the Maya arrived here in ancient times. Known as Itzamkanac, which loosely translates as “Place of the Crocodile House,” El Tigre was the capital of the Chontal Maya trading province of Acalán. Situated on the Candelaria River, it flourished for more than 2,000 years as a major commercial center connecting the Maya world with the Gulf Coast. Today visitors can explore its pyramids, plazas, and ball courts while learning about the merchants who navigated the waterways of southern Campeche and the dramatic events surrounding Hernán Cortés and Cuauhtémoc in 1525.

We will enjoy a lengthy boat ride along the Candelaria River, observing birds, monkeys and other wildlife as we meander through riparian forest, wetlands, and tropical vegetation before reaching the banks of the ancient city.

AFTERNOON:

Our driver will meet us at El Tigre to bring us back to Candelaria. As we won't have lunch until 2 PM, we will bring some snacks for the journey. After lunch, we will visit Salto Grande Ecological Park to cool down in the water, so make sure you pack your bathing suit and towel this morning, before we leave the hotel.

EVENING:

We will have dinner at 7 PM.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Snacks included. All other meals are separate.

DAY FIVE: MONDAY DECEMBER 6, 2027 – PRISTINE WATERS OF THE CHONTAL MAYA
HOTEL LOCATION: CANDELERIA, CAMPECHE

MORNING:

This morning we will have breakfast at 8 AM, then spend the morning swimming at Manatiales Pedro Baranda, which is a natural spring-fed lagoon.

AFTERNOON:

We are leaving the afternoon free so guests can have some down-time. We can continue swimming or explore the town.

EVENING:

We will have dinner at 7 PM.

MEALS:

Breakfast included. All other meals are separate.

DAY SIX: TUESDAY DECEMBER 7, 2027 – LORD PAKAL & THE RED QUEEN

HOTEL LOCATION: FINCA VALLESCONDIDO, CHIAPAS

MORNING:

Please have your luggage ready by 6:45 AM so we can load the van before breakfast. We will depart Candelaria at 8:00 AM, arriving in Palenque at around 10:00 AM. The site takes a good 3 hours to tour comfortably, so we will bring power bars to hold everyone over until lunch.

AFTERNOON:

We will have lunch after our site visit, then head to the museum. We will depart Palenque at 4:00 PM for our lodgings in the jungle. Finca Vallescondido is a beautiful ranch property with lovely accommodations and a large veranda to enjoy happy hour and quiet time. Señor Willie and his family are wonderful hosts, offering homecooked and healthy meals daily, boxed lunches for our excursions, and more. The property also has the added benefit of being home to a plethora of birds, including Toucans, Montezuma Oropendolas, and other beautiful and colourful birds.

EVENING:

We will have dinner at 6:30 PM followed by some time to rest.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Dinner Included. Drinks are separate.

DAY SEVEN: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2027 – SHROUDED TEMPLE ON A HILL

HOTEL LOCATION: FINCA VALLESCONDIDO, CHIAPAS

MORNING:

This morning we will have breakfast at 7:30 AM for an 8:30 AM departure for an administration centre that was discovered only 6 or 7 years ago, due to its location at the top of a steep, shrouded hill. To imagine the hundreds of years people traversed the road below, never knowing this administration centre with her beautiful roof combs stood here undisturbed, only known by the howler monkeys and other fauna of the area.

AFTERNOON:

This afternoon we visit a second city with a local Maya farmer who inherited property and discovered ancient artefacts, including the human remains of a Maya woman who was buried in the ancient ballcourt. Her remains are interred in a small but fascinating museum, which we will

visit. This site also has some stelaes, one of which David Stuart translated to the astonishment of many archaeologists, as it confirmed this as a site that had long been known about but never previously located. We will enjoy a picnic before entering the park and will spend the latter part of the afternoon swimming in the beautiful Lacantun River. Pack your swimsuit and towel.

EVENING:

We will have dinner at 6 PM followed by an interesting lecture.

MEALS:

Breakfast, lunch and Dinner Included. Drinks are separate.

DAY EIGHT: THURSDAY DECEMBER 9, 2027 – PLACE OF BLACK STONES
HOTEL LOCATION: FINCA VALLESCONDIDO, CHIAPAS

MORNING:

This morning we will have breakfast at 7 AM, departing by 8 AM for a small Maya village on the banks of the Usumacinta River. Señor Willie and his son Cesar will be launching a private boat there to take us to the elusive and important city of Piedras Negras, which sits on the Guatemala side of the mighty Usumacinta. This site was excavated, but has now been left to be reclaimed by the jungle. An extraordinary experience, including the slow, meandering climb past multiple stelaes and crumbled temples to the Acropolis, where the ashes of Architect & Mayanist, Tatiana Proskouriakoff, were interred by expert Maya archaeologist & author, David Stuart.

AFTERNOON:

We will bring a box lunch today, to enjoy at the site. We will also have a cooler with ice for beer and cold wine. We will spend the majority of our day here, returning to the ranch at around 4 PM.

EVENING:

We will have dinner at 6 PM followed by an evening of rest.

MEALS:

Breakfast, lunch and Dinner Included. Drinks are separate.

DAY EIGHT: FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 2027 – LOST CITY OF THE MAYA
HOTEL LOCATION: FINCA VALLESCONDIDO, CHIAPAS

MORNING:

This morning we will have breakfast at 7:30 AM for an 8:30 AM departure for a nearby Lacandona village where we can hike through the jungle to a lost temple in the jungle. The commute to the village takes about 1.5 hours.

AFTERNOON:

Before we return to Finca Vallescondido, we are heading to the ancient city of Bonampak, which despite being a small site, is a crown jewel among Maya cities due to her remarkable, well-preserved murals that are showcased between 3 separate rooms in the Temple of Paintings. We will enjoy an interpretation of these murals, which outline the events recorded on the walls. This is a very special and important stop on this tour.

EVENING:

We will have dinner at 6 PM followed by an interesting lecture.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Dinner Included. Drinks are separate.

DAY NINE: SATURDAY DECEMBER 11, 2027 – PLACE OF GREEN STONES

HOTEL LOCATION: FINCA VALLESCONDIDO, CHIAPAS

MORNING:

This morning we will have breakfast at 7:00 AM for an 8:00 AM departure to the boat docks of Frontera Corozal. Here, we board a boat and motor-away to the spectacular ancient city of Yaxchilan. This city was built up the banks of a steep hill, so expect to climb and climb, and climb some more. If you are not especially eager to climb, you can stay down below where there is still plenty to see and explore. This site has a plethora of stelaes and ornamented door frames, birds, monkeys and picturesque views everywhere one turns.

AFTERNOON:

We are bringing a box lunch today, which we can enjoy at leisure. After exploring the site for the bulk of the day, we will board our boat and head back to the boat docks, returning to the ranch at around 5:00 PM.

EVENING:

We will have dinner at 6 PM followed by an evening to visit and rest.

MEALS:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included. Drinks are separate

DAY TEN: SUNDAY DECEMBER 12, 2027 – A DAY OF REST

HOTEL LOCATION: FINCA VALLESCONDIDO, CHIAPAS

MORNING:

This morning we will have a leisurely morning, with our departure from the Ranch scheduled for 11:00 AM.

AFTERNOON:

We are heading to a beautiful swim-hole today. The location has a restaurant and the expansive park is filled with beautiful turquoise waters and waterfalls.

EVENING:

We will have dinner at 6 PM followed by an evening to visit and rest.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Dinner Included. Drinks are separate.

DAY ELEVEN: MONDAY DECEMBER 13, 2027 – VISITING THE OLMECS**HOTEL LOCATION: VILLAHERMOSA, TABASCO****MORNING:**

Please have your luggage outside by 7:45 AM so we can load the van. This morning we will have breakfast at 8:00 AM, departing at 9:30 AM for our return to Villahermosa. We will arrive in the city at lunch time, so will have lunch before visiting the museum.

AFTERNOON:

We will spend the afternoon exploring the beautiful Museo Parque la Venta, which sits on the banks of the Rio Grijalva. There is an interesting relationship between the Grijalva and Usumacinta Rivers, as they are both fed from the same watershed, converging again near the coast.

EVENING:

We will have our last dinner at 6 PM, returning to the hotel at 8 PM.

MEALS:

Breakfast is included. All other meals are separate.

DAY TWELVE: TUESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2027 – HOME SWEET HOME**HOTEL LOCATION: N/A****MORNING:**

We will help everyone arrange taxis to the airport this morning. Once we have your flight confirmation, we can also pair guests so you can ride-share. The restaurant serves breakfast from 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM, so please keep that in mind when you book your flight.

Most international guests will be flying through Mexico City, Cancun or Guadalajara, so you will need to be at the airport about 1.5 hours early, for a domestic flight.

MEALS:

Breakfast is included. All other meals are separate.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS JOURNEY AND WILL JOIN US AGAIN!