

FAIRPRICE TOURS

CHICHÉN ITZÁ · YUCATÁN · NEAR VALLADOLID

Chichén Itzá

a Maya wonder

Full-day trip to the world-famous Maya city. Beat the tour buses at El Castillo, walk the Great Ball Court and the Temple of the Warriors, then cool off with a swim in the Ik Kil cenote. Small groups, licensed guide, one honest price.

LENGTH

**Full day
(~10h)**

GROUP SIZE

10 max

LANGUAGES

EN · ES

DIFFICULTY

**Easy · lots
of walking**

FROM

\$95 USD

BOOK AT

fairpricetours.net/t/chichen-itza

FULL-DAY ITINERARY

07:00

Hotel pickup

Air-conditioned van pickup from Valladolid, Mérida, or the Riviera Maya. Coffee and pan dulce on board.

08:15

Arrive at Chichén Itzá

Enter at Gate 1 at opening time — the site is coolest and least crowded now.

08:45

El Castillo (Serpent Pyramid)

The main pyramid with the equinox serpent shadow. Construction phases, the nested older temple, the acoustic clap.

Great Ball Court + Warriors

The largest Mesoamerican ball court and its rules; the Temple of the Warriors with its Chac Mool.

11:00

Sacred Cenote + Nunnery

The sinkhole into which offerings were thrown, and the residential Puuc-style complex nearby.

12:30

Yucatecan buffet lunch

Three-course lunch at a nearby family restaurant. Cochinita pibil, sopa de lima, dessert.

14:00

Ik Kil cenote swim

The famous jungle cenote — climb down 30 m of stairs into a jade pool. Vines drop from the roof.

15:30

Depart for hotel

Van back to your pickup point. Nap encouraged.

18:00

Drop-off

Return to Valladolid by 17:30, Mérida by 19:00, Riviera Maya by 19:30 (traffic permitting).

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Everything you need for a long day

TRANSPORT

Round-trip in an air-conditioned van from Valladolid, Mérida, or the Riviera Maya. Free hotel pickup.

CERTIFIED GUIDE

A federally licensed archaeologist-guide (SECTUR), fluent in English and Spanish, ten years on-site.

SMALL GROUP

Fourteen guests max per van. You'll hear the guide at every stop.

ENTRY TICKETS

Chichén Itzá archaeological zone and Ik Kil cenote entry, purchased in advance so you skip the line.

LUNCH

Three-course Yucatecan lunch — cochinita pibil, sopa de lima, dessert. Vegetarian option with notice.

SUN & WATER

Bottled water all day, sunscreen, and shaded umbrellas at the plaza. Wear closed shoes.

HISTORY OF THE SITE

Chichén Itzá was built in three overlapping waves between about 600 and 1200 CE — first by the Yucatec Maya, then in a Toltec-influenced burst that gave us El Castillo pyramid, the Great Ball Court, and the Temple of the Warriors as we see them today.

The city was already declining when the Spanish arrived in the 1500s. The chronicler Diego de Landa left a strange, priceless record: he burned every Maya codex he could find (a catastrophe for scholarship), then meticulously documented the site itself in his "Relación de las cosas de Yucatán." Without him, we would know almost nothing.

Modern excavation began in the late 19th century and continues today. The most striking recent finding: a smaller pyramid nested inside El Castillo, and inside that, an even older one — three

temples stacked like Russian dolls, each abandoned as the ruling group changed.

WHY SHOULD I DO THIS

Because at the spring and autumn equinoxes the sun casts a shadow down the north stairway of El Castillo that looks exactly like a giant serpent slithering down the pyramid. The Maya designed for this. Standing there when it happens is a different kind of awe than you get from any other ruin.

Because the acoustics of the Great Ball Court are still baffling — you clap at one end and the sound comes back seven times, from angles the physics of the site shouldn't allow. Nobody knows how they did it.

Because the Ik Kil cenote afterward is one of the most beautiful natural swimming holes in the world, and swimming there after a hot morning in the ruins is the reward you didn't know you were working toward.

