

CHRISTMAS IN MEXICO

December 2026

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Tulum

Relax in the Yucatán during Christmas and New Year's

Escape to Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula this Christmas and New Year's on a journey filled with wonder, culture, and unforgettable moments. You'll explore shimmering underground rivers, glide through mangroves in a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and stand before the ancient Maya majesty of Tulum and Chichén Itzá. Sail to Isla Mujeres on a festive catamaran, wander Mérida's elegant colonial streets, and immerse yourself in living Maya traditions—from vibrant communities to hands-on cochinita pibil cooking. With free time to relax on stunning beaches, special holiday dinners, and handpicked experiences throughout the Yucatán Peninsula, you'll celebrate the season with Wells Gray Tours in a place where nature, history, and joy come alive.



INTERNATIONAL



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

► Departure from:

- I BC Interior:** December 20, 2026 - 16 days
- V Vancouver Island:** December 20, 2026 - 16 days
- L Lower Mainland:** December 21, 2026 - 14 days

► Fares per person

- L** from **\$11,325** double/twin, **\$15,080** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.

► Early Booking Bonus

- \$250** discount on first 8 seats; **\$125** on next 4.

► Earn 184 Experience Points



Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Your departure point will be discussed at the time of booking.

I BC Interior: We depart on Sunday, December 20 and overnight in Kelowna. We fly to Cancun early the following morning. We fly from Cancun to Kelowna on Sunday, January 3 and overnight once more before travelling home the following day. Transportation is arranged from your pickup location on the day of departure and back when we return.

Departure from Kelowna: No overnight stay on December 20 or January 3 is required. Transportation is arranged from your pickup location to the airport for the flight to Cancun on December 21, and to your drop off point from the airport when we return on January 3. A reduction to the BC Interior pricing below will be applied at the time of booking.

V Vancouver Island: We fly from Victoria to Kelowna on Sunday, December 20 and overnight in Kelowna. We fly to Cancun early the following morning. We fly from Cancun to Kelowna on Sunday, January 3 and overnight once more before flying home the following day.

Departure from Victoria: For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return. Home pickup may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area depending on the number of people booked and coach size. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Departure from Up-Island: There may be an additional cost for passengers who wish to fly from Nanaimo or Comox Airport to join this tour. Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. While we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox at the time of booking.

L Lower Mainland: We fly from Vancouver to Cancun on Monday, December 21. We return on Sunday, January 3, flying from Cancun to Vancouver.

Departure from Vancouver: Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Langley, Abbotsford, or Chilliwack: No transportation is provided to/from Vancouver Airport.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$11,355 double/twin \$15,195 single	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please add 0.1% GST.• There may be an additional cost to fly from/to Nanaimo or Comox to join this tour.
V	Vancouver Island	\$11,945 double/twin \$15,785 single	
L	Lower Mainland	\$11,325 double/twin \$15,080 single	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- 📌 **27 total:** 14 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 8 dinners
- 📌 **26 total:** 13 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 8 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Transfers to/from Kelowna, Victoria and Vancouver airports from the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas
- Flights to Cancun, Mexico & return
- Current air taxes, fees & fuel surcharges
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfer from Cancun airport to hotel
- Coach transportation in Mexico for 9 days
- Transfer from Mérida to Cancun airport

▶ Accommodation

- 📌 **15 nights** of accommodation & hotel taxes
- 📌 **13 nights** of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at most hotels

▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Local guides in Mexico
- Gratuities to local guides & drivers

▶ Key Highlights

- Guided walking tour through Río Secreto
- Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve boat excursion
- Snorkeling at Sian Ka'an
- Tulum Mayan archaeological ruin
- Catamaran excursion to Isla Mujeres
- Río Lagartos Biosphere Reserve
- Las Coloradas boat trip viewing pink flamingos
- Guided walking tour of Mérida Zócalo
- Mérida Cathedral and Government Palace
- Chichén Itzá Mayan archaeological site
- Swim in a cenote
- Yaxunah archaeological site
- Preparation of culinary dish "cochinita pibil"
- Izamal colonial town
- Cathedral of the Virgin of Izamal

Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.

▶ Wells Gray tour director throughout tour

Activity Level 2



Moderate Activity: As a traveller you like a variety of activities and walking up to 2 km with breaks such as a guided walking tour is very doable for you without assistance. You can stand for prolonged periods, negotiate a variety of terrain from cobblestone streets to moderate hills comfortably, and can climb two flights of stairs without assistance. At airports, you must handle your own luggage and often walk long distances. You may need to handle your own luggage at the hotels if luggage service is not available.

You may bring a cane or walking poles if needed. This tour is not appropriate for people who require the use of a walker. The coaches cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. The tour director, Mexican guides, and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.



Tour Size 25

This tour is limited to 25 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.

ITINERARY

Sunday, December 20

Passengers from Vancouver Island and BC Interior communities outside of Kelowna travel to Kelowna Airport for an overnight stay at the Hampton Inn YLW.

Accommodation: Hampton Inn YLW

Monday, December 21

Passengers from Kelowna and Vancouver are transferred to those airports. Our early morning flight is non-stop to Cancun. **Welcome to the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico.** The time difference is two hours ahead (Eastern Standard Time). Our guide and driver meet us at the airport and it is about an hour's drive to Playa del Carmen. We stay six nights at the nearby oceanfront all-inclusive **Barceló Maya Riviera**, surrounded by lush gardens, tranquil pools, and a stunning stretch of Playa del Carmen beachfront. Enjoy all-inclusive dining, eight swimming pools, multiple bars, spa services, and easy access to water activities. The resort is rated as 4.5 to 5 stars. A get-acquainted dinner is arranged.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Barceló Maya Riviera

Tuesday, December 22

We visit **Río Secreto**, an underground river system featuring clear freshwater pools and well-preserved limestone caves. We walk and wade through shallow passages while viewing natural stalactites and stalagmites formed over millions of years. The 90-minute guided tour explains the area's geology, conservation efforts, and the cave's role in the region's ecosystem. Safety gear such as helmets, lights, and life vests is provided.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Barceló Maya Riviera

Wednesday, December 23

Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve is a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its mangroves, lagoons, and diverse wildlife. We travel by boat through calm waterways to

observe turtles, starfish, and coastal birds in their natural habitat. The area includes tropical forest, wetlands, and part of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. There is also time for snorkeling on a shallow coral reef and relaxing in natural pools. The experience focuses on conservation, local ecology, and low-impact exploration suitable for most mobility levels.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Barceló Maya Riviera

Thursday, December 24

We visit **Tulum, the walled Mayan city**, built by the sea around 550 AD. One of the most important commercial centres in the region, it flourished between the 13th and 15th centuries, then was occupied by the Spanish upon their arrival and abandoned by the late 16th century. We explore the Great Palace, El Castillo, the Temple of the Frescoes where vestiges of paintings can be seen, and the Temple of the Descending God.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Barceló Maya Riviera

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas! Today is for relaxing by the beach or the pools in the sun, so much better than the rain or snow back home. Enjoy Christmas Dinner with your fellow travellers.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Barceló Maya Riviera

Saturday, December 26

We board a **catamaran to Isla Mujeres**. After a snorkeling stop on the reef, we visit some of the island's most beautiful beaches. The town centre has colourful stalls displaying local crafts. A buffet lunch is served on the beach and there is an open bar on the catamaran and during lunch.

During the return trip, enjoy Caribbean music and tequila beverages. It's a captivating day at sea to discover crystal-clear waters.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Barceló Maya Riviera

Sunday, December 27

One of the Yucatán's magnificent landscapes is the **Río Lagartos Biosphere Reserve**. Las Coloradas is a series of pink lagoons and we enjoy a boat ride through the mangrove forest, a haven for many bird species, including the famous pink flamingos. We continue to Mérida and stay six nights at the Hyatt Regency which offers elegant comfort. Facilities include restaurant, poolside bar, outdoor pool, fitness centre, and free Wi-Fi. The hotel has earned a 4-star rating.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Mérida

Monday, December 28

During a guided tour of **Mérida**, we stroll through the Zócalo, the vibrant, historic heart of the city. We visit the **Mérida Cathedral**, built in the 16th century, whose austere architecture is reminiscent of a fortress. The Government Palace displays murals by Fernando Castro Pacheco depicting the history of this region inhabited by the Maya before the arrival of the Spanish. We drive along Paseo Montejo, a six-km long broad avenue lined with splendid residences built in the 19th century, and see the Monument to the Flag.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Mérida

Tuesday, December 29

This is a free day to enjoy Mérida as you wish.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Mérida

Wednesday, December 30

The day is devoted to **Chichén Itzá**, a major Maya city from around 600–1200 AD and now one of Mexico's most important archaeological sites. Its centrepiece, **El Castillo**, is a stepped pyramid aligned with solar events, including the equinox serpent-shadow phenomenon. Other highlights include the Great Ball Court, the Temple of the Warriors, and the Sacred Cenote where offerings were made. The site reflects both Maya and Toltec influences and offers insight

into ancient astronomy, engineering, and religious life. Our guide leads us to the main structures and presents fascinating stories. After the tour of the archaeological site, enjoy a swim in the refreshing waters of a cenote.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Mérida

Thursday, December 31

We spend the day at **Yaxunah**, a small Maya community and archaeological site. It features an ancient ceremonial center, residential platforms, and one of the longest known Maya sacbeob (white stone road) which once connected Yaxunah to Cobá. Excavations have uncovered temples, a ball court, and evidence of long-distance trade. Our guide shows us partially restored structures and we learn about ongoing archaeological work and Maya cultural projects that preserve traditional farming and cuisine. Later, we participate in the preparation of the famous dish "cochinita pibil". Celebrate New Year's Eve with a special dinner.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Mérida

Friday, January 1, 2027

Happy New Year! We explore the colonial town of **Izamal**, also known as the City of Three Cultures or City of Yellow for the dominant colour of its buildings. We visit the Cathedral of the Franciscan Convent of the Virgin of Izamal, dedicated to Saint Anthony, patron saint of Yucatán.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Mérida

Saturday, January 2

Today is a free day to enjoy the warm weather and the hotel's many amenities. A farewell dinner is planned.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hyatt Regency Mérida

Sunday, January 3

We drive back to Cancun Airport and our non-stop flights to Kelowna or Vancouver leave this evening. Passengers from Vancouver Island and the BC Interior outside of Kelowna overnight in Kelowna as our flight arrives late in the evening. Passengers from Kelowna and Vancouver travel home.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hampton Inn YLW (Vancouver Island & BC Interior excluding Kelowna)

Monday, January 4

Passengers from the BC Interior outside of Kelowna travel home. Passengers from Vancouver Island fly home.

Meals included: Breakfast (Vancouver Island & BC Interior excluding Kelowna)

TOUR NOTES

Documentation: A passport is required for this tour and must be valid until you return to Canada. A tourist card is also required for Canadian citizens visiting Mexico. It is issued on arrival and must be kept throughout your visit and surrendered when you leave Mexico at Cancun Airport. Don't lose this card as there is a fine to replace it. The Mexico tourism tax is normally included in your airline ticket.

Currency & Expenses: Two currencies are used on this tour, the US dollar and Mexican peso. In cities and towns, the US dollar is used extensively in hotels, shops, and restaurants. Visa and Mastercard are accepted most places, but ATMs are common and you will need a 4-digit PIN. Markets generally accept either currency. As of April 2026, the exchange rate is approximately \$1 CDN = 12 pesos. Gratuities have been included for all meals, the Mexican guide, local guides, and drivers.

Tour Director and Guide: A Wells Gray tour director is with you throughout the tour. A bilingual Mexican guide accompanies you on all the days touring in Mexico and provides commentary about scenery and culture, and assists with translation at the various stops. The Mexican guide is not with our group on free days.

Flight Seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the "No Flight" option with a fare reduction of \$2,000 and book your own flights which allow seat selection. If you do this, you should try to book the same flights as the group, otherwise you are responsible for any ground transportation to connect with the group. See our [Terms & Conditions](#) and inquire at booking for more information.

Flight Upgrades: Please enquire about current prices for upgrades on the flights to and from Cancun. Premium economy may be available.

Flight delays or cancellations: In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather or other reasons, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for flight delays.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. Some restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due September 1, 2026. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (3% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard.

Early Booking Bonus: Receive a \$250 discount on the first 8 seats and \$125 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after September 1, 2026.

Cancellation Policy: Up to August 4, 2026, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From August 5 to September 1, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From September 2 to October 15, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From October 16 to November 13, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After November 13, there is no refund.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Our many suppliers may notify us about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes, currency exchange rates, or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage. Please do not travel outside of Canada without medical insurance as a minimum. The flights for this tour around Christmas and New Year's can have delays or cancellations, so a comprehensive travel insurance policy such as Travel Guard is especially important to cover those unexpected expenses.

Photo Credits: Adobe Stock (all photos).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 184 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until September 1, 2026.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

KAMLOOPS (Head Office) 250 Lansdowne St. Kamloops, BC V2C 1X7 250-374-0831	KELOWNA 2575 Richter St. Kelowna, BC V1Y 2R1 250-762-3435	VERNON 3206 35th St. Vernon, BC V1T 6B7 250-545-9197	PENTICTON 159 Wade Ave E Penticton, BC V2A 8B6 250-493-1255	VICTORIA 102-736 Broughton St. Victoria, BC V8W 1E1 250-590-7889
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