



Tailor-Made Itinerary – Hakim (coucou !)





Introduction

Did you know that Mexico is home to more UNESCO World Heritage sites than any other country in the Americas? From ancient Mayan ruins to vibrant colonial cities and stunning coastlines, it's a country that delights families with its diversity. You're planning a three-week adventure in August 2026, traveling as a family of four (2 adults, 2 children), aiming for luxury hotels and a budget of €1500 per person. This program is auto-generated based on local expert experience and tailored to your preferences as you begin to map out your journey.



Why Mexico?

Mexico is a fantastic choice for families seeking a blend of culture, nature, and relaxation. August falls in the rainy season in many regions, but this often means lush landscapes and fewer crowds at major sites. The country's well-developed infrastructure makes it feasible to combine vibrant cities, archaeological wonders, and spectacular beaches within a single trip. With a focus on luxury accommodations, your family will enjoy comfort and memorable experiences, from Yucatán's cenotes to Pacific sunsets. The three-week duration allows for a balanced pace, mixing discovery and downtime.



Custom Program



Day 1: Arrival in Mexico City

- **Morning:** Arrival in Mexico City; private transfer (~30 min) to your hotel.
- **Afternoon:** Settle in, relax at the hotel pool, and explore the nearby Polanco neighborhood.
- **Evening:** Family-friendly dinner at a gourmet Mexican restaurant.
- **Highlight:** Rooftop views of the city's skyline.
- **Hotel options:**
 - Four Seasons Mexico City (Luxury, Reforma/Polanco; lush courtyard oasis with impeccable service; from €350–€500/night)
 - St. Regis Mexico City (Luxury, Paseo de la Reforma; panoramic city views and butler service; from €400–€600/night)
 - Las Alcobas (Boutique, Polanco; contemporary design and personalized touches; from €300–€450/night)

TIP: Early check-in and child amenities can be arranged upon request.

Activity: Polanco Neighborhood Walk – Discover upscale boutiques, leafy parks, and the famous Lincoln Park, ideal for a gentle family stroll after your flight.

Day 2: Mexico City – Historic Center

- **Morning:** Guided family tour of Zócalo, Palacio de Bellas Artes, and Templo Mayor (~4h, minimal transfers).
- **Afternoon:** Chocolate tasting and interactive museum visit.
- **Evening:** Leisure time at Chapultepec Park or hotel spa.
- **Highlight:** Kids' scavenger hunt in the historic center.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 1.

TIP: Private guides with family focus can adapt the pace and content for children's interests.

Activity: Museo del Chocolate – Hands-on chocolate-making workshop and tasting, perfect for families.

Day 3: Teotihuacán Pyramids

- **Morning:** Early private transfer (~1h) to Teotihuacán; climb the pyramids and explore with a guide.
- **Afternoon:** Lunch at a cave restaurant, visit local crafts workshop.
- **Evening:** Return to Mexico City; casual dinner.
- **Highlight:** Panoramic pyramid views from the top.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 1.

TIP: Hot air balloon flights over Teotihuacán are available at sunrise for an unforgettable family adventure (advance booking required; weather dependent).

Activity: Teotihuacán Archaeological Tour – Explore the Avenue of the Dead, Pyramid of the Sun, and Pyramid of the Moon with a specialist guide.

Day 4: Flight to Oaxaca

- **Morning:** Private transfer to airport (~30 min), flight to Oaxaca (~1h).
- **Afternoon:** Check-in at hotel, explore colorful markets and the Santo Domingo area.
- **Evening:** Dinner with local specialties (mole tasting).
- **Highlight:** Evening stroll through Oaxaca's lively zócalo.
- **Hotel options:**
 - Quinta Real Oaxaca (Luxury, Historic Center; former convent with colonial charm; from €250–€350/night)
 - Casa Oaxaca (Boutique, Centro; artful design and renowned restaurant; from €300–€400/night)
 - Hotel Escondido Oaxaca (Design, Centro; stylish, minimalist retreat with rooftop pool; from €280–€350/night)

TIP: Oaxaca's markets are vibrant and safe for families; try local chocolate and handmade crafts.

Activity: Mercado Benito Juárez Visit – Taste Oaxacan delicacies and browse artisan stalls in the city's most famous market.

Day 5: Monte Albán & Artisans

- **Morning:** Private visit to Monte Albán ruins (~30 min transfer).
- **Afternoon:** Hands-on workshop with local artisans (alebrijes or weaving).
- **Evening:** Relax at hotel or optional family cooking class.
- **Highlight:** Kids create their own Oaxacan crafts.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 4.

TIP: Workshops can be tailored to children's ages and interests—alebrijes painting is especially popular.

Activity: Monte Albán Guided Exploration – Discover ancient Zapotec pyramids and panoramic valley views.

Day 6: Herve el Agua & Mezcal Route

- **Morning:** Excursion to Herve el Agua petrified waterfalls (~1.5h drive by private vehicle).
- **Afternoon:** Swim in natural pools; visit a family-friendly mezcal distillery.
- **Evening:** Return to Oaxaca; dinner at leisure.
- **Highlight:** Swimming with mountain views.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 4.

TIP: Bring swimsuits and water shoes for Herve el Agua's mineral pools; the site can be slippery.

Activity: Mezcal Distillery Visit – Learn about traditional mezcal production

and sample non-alcoholic agave drinks for kids.

Day 7: Flight to Chiapas (Tuxtla Gutiérrez) – San Cristóbal

- **Morning:** Flight to Tuxtla Gutiérrez (~1h30), private transfer to San Cristóbal de las Casas (~1.5h scenic drive).
- **Afternoon:** Settle into colonial hotel, wander cobble streets.
- **Evening:** Family dinner in town square.
- **Highlight:** First glimpse of Chiapas highlands.
- **Hotel options:**
 - Hotel Bo (Boutique, Centro; modern design meets local tradition; from €250–€350/night)
 - Casa del Alma (Luxury, Centro; spacious suites and spa; from €300–€400/night)
 - Guayaba Inn (Boutique, Barrio El Cerrillo; lush gardens and personalized service; from €200–€300/night)

ALTITUDE: San Cristóbal sits at 2,200m; take it easy on arrival and stay hydrated.

TIP: Private transfers ensure comfort on winding mountain roads.

Activity: San Cristóbal Orientation Walk – Explore the colorful streets and artisan shops of this highland town.

Day 8: Indigenous Villages & Markets

- **Morning:** Guided visit to San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán villages

(~30 min each way by private vehicle).

- **Afternoon:** Explore local markets and textile workshops.
- **Evening:** Free time at hotel or chocolate café.
- **Highlight:** Witnessing unique indigenous ceremonies.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 7.

TIP: Photography is restricted inside San Juan Chamula church; always ask before taking photos in villages.

Activity: Textile Workshop – Try your hand at traditional weaving with local artisans in Zinacantán.

Day 9: Sumidero Canyon

- **Morning:** Excursion to Sumidero Canyon (1h drive by private vehicle), boat tour through dramatic cliffs.
- **Afternoon:** Picnic lunch; return to San Cristóbal.
- **Evening:** Relax at hotel or short city walk.
- **Highlight:** Spotting crocodiles and monkeys from the boat.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 7.

TIP: Life jackets are provided for all ages during the boat tour; bring sun hats and water bottles.

Activity: Sumidero Canyon Boat Safari – Glide between towering canyon walls and spot wildlife with a naturalist guide.

Day 10: Flight to Yucatán (Mérida)

- **Morning:** Private transfer to Tuxtla airport (~1.5h), flight to Mérida via Mexico City (~3h total with layover).
- **Afternoon:** Arrive in Mérida, check in to historic hotel, relax by the pool.
- **Evening:** Explore Mérida's central plaza and local eateries.
- **Highlight:** Evening street performances in the city center.
- **Hotel options:**
 - Rosas & Xocolate (Boutique, Paseo de Montejo; pink-hued mansion with gourmet dining; from €300–€400/night)
 - Casa Lecanda (Luxury, Centro; adults-oriented, but accepts families with older children, elegant courtyard; from €350–€450/night)
 - Coqui Coqui Mérida (Boutique, Centro; perfumer's residence with colonial flair; from €280–€350/night)

TIP: Mérida's historic center is lively and walkable; street performances often take place on weekends.

Activity: Paseo de Montejo Carriage Ride – Enjoy a traditional horse-drawn carriage tour along Mérida's grand boulevard.

Day 11: Uxmal & Puuc Route

- **Morning:** Private excursion to Uxmal ruins (~1h drive), guided exploration.
- **Afternoon:** Visit to chocolate eco-museum; optional cenote swim.

- **Evening:** Return to Mérida, dinner at leisure.
- **Highlight:** Sound & light show at Uxmal (if available).
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 10.

TIP: The Uxmal sound & light show is weather dependent—confirm schedule in advance.

Activity: Choco-Story Eco-Museum – Interactive exhibits on cacao history, with tastings and family workshops.

Day 12: Celestún Biosphere Reserve

- **Morning:** Excursion to Celestún (~1.5h drive by private vehicle), boat tour to see flamingos and mangroves.
- **Afternoon:** Seafood lunch by the beach; swim and relax.
- **Evening:** Return to Mérida.
- **Highlight:** Flamingo spotting in the wild.
- **Hotel options:** Same hotel options as Day 10.

TIP: Bring binoculars for birdwatching; best flamingo sightings are early morning or late afternoon.

Activity: Celestún Boat Safari – Glide through mangroves and spot flamingos, herons, and crocodiles with a local guide.

Day 13: Valladolid & Cenotes

- **Morning:** Private transfer to Valladolid (~2h drive); visit colonial center.

- **Afternoon:** Swim in nearby cenotes (family-friendly, shallow options).
- **Evening:** Stay in boutique hacienda near Valladolid.
- **Highlight:** Swimming in crystal-clear cenote waters.
- **Hotel options:**
 - Hacienda San Lorenzo Oxman (Eco-lodge, near Valladolid; cenote on site and rustic charm; from €200–€300/night)
 - Le Muuch Hotel (Boutique, Valladolid center; lush gardens and family suites; from €250–€350/night)
 - Coqui Coqui Valladolid (Boutique, historic center; exclusive suites with colonial ambiance; from €300–€400/night)

TIP: Cenote Oxman and Cenote Xkeken are both safe and shallow for children—life jackets available on site.

Activity: Cenote Swim – Refreshing dip in a natural limestone pool surrounded by jungle.

Day 14: Chichén Itzá & Transfer to Riviera Maya

- **Morning:** Early visit to Chichén Itzá (~45 min from Valladolid), guided tour before crowds.
- **Afternoon:** Continue to Riviera Maya (~2.5h drive), check in at beachfront resort.
- **Evening:** Relax on the beach or enjoy resort amenities.
- **Highlight:** First swim in the Caribbean Sea.
- **Hotel options:**

- Banyan Tree Mayakoba (Luxury, Playa del Carmen; private pool villas in a lush eco-resort; from €600–€900/night)
- Rosewood Mayakoba (Luxury, Playa del Carmen; lagoon suites and world-class kids' club; from €700–€1000/night)
- Hotel Esencia (Boutique, Xpu-Ha; understated elegance on a pristine beach; from €800–€1200/night)

TIP: Early access to Chichén Itzá avoids crowds and midday heat; bring hats and water.

Activity: Chichén Itzá Family Tour – Explore the iconic pyramid and learn about Maya astronomy with a child-friendly guide.

Days 15–20: Riviera Maya Family Beach Stay

- **Morning:** Flexible: snorkeling, kayaking, or kids' club activities.
- **Afternoon:** Optional day trips: Tulum ruins, Sian Ka'an Biosphere, Xcaret eco-park.
- **Evening:** Themed dinners, family movie nights, or spa sessions.
- **Highlight:** Swimming with turtles in Akumal or exploring underground rivers (cenotes).
- **Hotel options:**
 - Fairmont Mayakoba (Luxury, Playa del Carmen; extensive family amenities and nature trails; from €600–€900/night)
 - Banyan Tree Mayakoba or Rosewood Mayakoba (see Day 14)
 - Andaz Mayakoba (Boutique, Playa del Carmen; vibrant design)

and kids' club; from €500–€700/night)

TIP: Book day trips (e.g., Sian Ka'an, Xcaret) in advance during August, as demand is high for family excursions.

Activity: Akumal Turtle Snorkeling – Swim alongside gentle sea turtles in shallow, protected waters with a marine biologist.

ALTITUDE: Riviera Maya is at sea level; no acclimatization needed, but sun protection is essential.

Day 21: Departure from Cancún

- **Morning:** Leisurely breakfast, beach time, and check-out.
- **Afternoon:** Private transfer to Cancún International Airport (~1h).
- **Evening:** International flight home (timing TBD).
- **Highlight:** Farewell to the Caribbean coast.
- **Hotel options:** N/A (departure day).

TIP: Late check-out or day-use rooms can be arranged for evening flights.

Customizable Options

- Private bilingual family guide throughout the trip.
- Hot air balloon ride over Teotihuacán (weather/age dependent).
- Exclusive cenote or lagoon access with private picnic.
- Hands-on cooking class with a local chef (child-friendly menu).
- Marine biologist-led turtle watching in Akumal.

- Babysitting or kids' club services at luxury resorts.



Practical Info & Budget

- **Comfort level:** Luxury hotels and resorts throughout, with family amenities.
- **Indicative budget:** For 21 days, luxury lodging alone typically ranges from €4000–€8000 per person, not including flights, transfers, private guides, or activities. The stated budget of €1500 per person is well below the expected cost for this comfort and duration.
- **Suggestions:** To align with the desired luxury level, consider either increasing the budget, reducing the trip length, or mixing in boutique/eco-lodge options for some nights.
- **Included:** Accommodation, daily breakfast, private transfers, guided excursions, entrance fees as described.
- **Excluded:** International flights, lunches/dinners (unless specified), personal expenses, tips.
- **Seasonal notes:** August is rainy season in much of Mexico (especially Yucatán and Chiapas); expect afternoon showers and high humidity. Hurricane risk is present on the Caribbean coast—travel insurance is strongly recommended.
- **Luggage tips:** Lightweight, quick-dry clothing, rain jackets, swimwear, and sun protection are essential.

- **To be determined:** Exact dates, flight schedules, special requests for children's ages or dietary needs.

TIP: Bring cash for remote areas; credit cards are not always accepted in villages and markets.

TIP: Tap water is not potable in Mexico—always use bottled or filtered water, especially for children.

Item	Estimated Cost (per person)
Luxury accommodation (21 nights, avg. €400/night shared, 2 persons/room)	€4,200
Domestic flights (Mexico City–Oaxaca, Oaxaca–Tuxtla, Tuxtla–Mérida)	€450
Private transfers & drivers (all regions)	€700
Private guides & entrance fees (main sites, family focus)	€600
Activities & workshops (cooking, crafts, boat tours, etc.)	€400
Meals (daily breakfast, some	€350

lunches/dinners included)	
Travel insurance (recommended, estimate)	€100
Total Estimated Cost	€6,800

Next Steps

- Please confirm your exact travel dates and any must-see regions or activities.
- Is the luxury comfort level a firm requirement, or are you open to boutique or eco-lodge stays to optimize the budget?
- Would you like to shorten the trip or adjust the itinerary to better fit your budget?
- Let us know your children's ages and any special needs or interests.
- Once these details are clarified, we'll refine the program and provide a more precise budget breakdown.

www.traveldifferently.org | info@traveldifferently.fr