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**‘Go Mayan’ for a travel adventure within reach**

The dollar can take you far on a new nine-day Treasures of the Yucatan tour from Grand European Tours

Lake Oswego, Ore., August 5, 2008 – Many Americans have their sights set on vacations south of the border this year, where a stronger dollar translates into an enjoyable trip even during less-predictable times.

Grand European Tours, a company known for their high-value, high-experience escorted tours for boomers and beyond, takes this a step further with their Treasures of the Yucatan Peninsula Tour just launched for 2009 departures.

The trip is densely packed with unique experiences that teach and let travelers experience a more authentic side to this ancient-history drenched region of Mexico. But because you are traveling by tour to a region where the dollar buys more, prices are pleasantly affordable.

“We’re giving travelers an insider’s view to this unique region that is nearly impossible to duplicate any other way for the price,” says Hans Sohlstrom, president of Grand European Tours. “Each day is filled with opportunities to discover something new and create memories you’ll enjoy for lifetime.”

Led by a seasoned Tour Director, the tour takes you through the ancient Mayan world with visits to ruins in Ek Balam, Edzná, Uxmal, Tulum, Cobá and Chichen Itza – one of the new Seven Wonders of the World – as you travel from Cancun to Merida and Campeche to Riviera Maya. From raw, untouched sites to grand archaeological complexes, local guides breathe life into the stunning temples and ceremonial sites as you learn about the history of the region.

Through exclusive Explore and Discover engagements, travelers also have a chance to learn about the region’s culture on a deeper level.

One tour highlight is an intimate visit with a local Maya family to learn about their daily life and how age-old traditions are still maintained.

Taste traditional foods like “pollo pibil” and watch a demonstration of how this Yucatecan dish is seasoned and prepared – wrapped in banana leaves and cooked in an underground fire pit.

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Enjoy an evening hosted at a private colonial home for cocktails and a cooking demonstration after a day of discovering historic Merida and driving along the Paseo de Montego, modeled after Paris' Champs Elysees and lined with beautiful colonial mansions of Merida's old aristocracy.

Navigate your way through the protected mangrove forests and canals with local Mayan guides to explore the area's flora and fauna, including one of the most important colonies of pink flamingoes. And visit a living museum to learn about the production process of henequen (sisal fiber) considered the gold of Yucatan during the colonial era.

The itinerary is paced to allow time to relax along the way, including two nights in the Riviera Maya where you can relax on the white sand beaches overlooking the turquoise-blue waters of the Caribbean Sea.

Land Only prices start at \$1,869 and include hotels, most meals, entrance fees, a full-time Tour Director, local guides and many other perks, such as first entrance to Chichen Itza via private entrance. Departures are available from February through December 2009.

Grand European Tours has also introduced Real Time Price Quotes on their website which allows travelers to get an accurate quote for their entire trip, including airfare from their destination city. At the touch of a button, an up-to-the-minute tour price is calculated including any available discounts. You can then book directly online or request that a travel coordinator follow up with you.

Once your tour is booked in paid in full, the price is also guaranteed through Grand European Tours' Unconditional Price Guarantee, which means the price of your tour will not go up even if fuel prices or exchange rates fluctuate.

For more information on the Treasures of the Yucatan Peninsula tour and other tours to Mexico, Central or South America, or to request a free catalog containing a complete listing of all tours, departure dates and prices, call 1-888-522-3950 or visit [www.getours.com](http://www.getours.com).

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### **Grand European Tours**

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