

Lost City Marathon 24 February 2024



Lost City Marathon 2024 – 24 February 9-day package

The Lost City Marathon kicks off in the ancient Maya city of Palenque, México. The race features both a marathon and a half marathon. The awe-inspiring route follows jungle trails, majestic rivers, picturesque ranches, and small villages. It's a challenging race crossing various surfaces and steep hills. Palenque is nestled in the dense rainforests of the Chiapas region on the Yucatan peninsula, surrounded by lush vegetation and breathtaking beauty.

It provides a fascinating glimpse into the religious and cultural practices of the Maya people which thrived in this once vibrant and powerful city, famous for its well-preserved and impressive architecture of the Maya civilization. It has now been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its historical and cultural significance. A rich birdlife and howler monkeys dominate the jungle and in the open plains, hundreds of species of butterflies live.

PACKAGES:

Hotel option	Double/Twin Share per person	Single per person
Standard	R 29 245.00	R 38 045.00
Deluxe	R 39 045.00	R 52 545.00

NOTE : All prices are the approximate price per person sharing. Meals are included in the Standard package. If choosing the Deluxe package, the stay in Playa del Carmen is all-inclusive (some food and alcoholic beverages at a fee)

Inclusions:

- 2 nights' accommodation at the chosen hotel in Playa del Carmen
- 4 nights' accommodation at the chosen hotel in Palenque
- 1 night accommodation in Campeche + 1 night in Mérida
- Transfer from and to Cancún airport on 19th and 27th February 2024
- Bus transportation as described in the program
- Daily breakfast
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- Guided tour to Palenque ruins including entry ticket
- Guided tour to Chichén Itzá ruins incl. entry ticket
- English-speaking tour leader

Exclusions:

- Flights
- Visa for Mexico
- Race entry
- Optional excursions
- Travel and health insurance
- Meals not stated in the itinerary
- Beverages
- Personal expenses
- Anything not mentioned under 'Inclusions'

ITINERARY

⇒ Day 1, Monday 19 February 2024: Arrival in Cancún - Transfer to Playa del Carmen

This tour starts at Cancún airport. According to your arrival time this day we will arrange transportation from the airport to your chosen hotel in Playa del Carmen. The drive to Playa del Carmen takes 45-60 minutes and upon arrival, you can simply kick back and relax in this famous vacation town.

Note: Check-in cannot be guaranteed before 15h00, but luggage can be stored at the hotel while you stroll the city or visit the beach if you arrive early. It is possible to book pre-nights if you want more time to explore.

⇒ Day 2, Tuesday 20 February 2024: Playa del Carmen

A full day to relax by the beach and enjoy Playa del Carmen.

⇒ Day 3, Wednesday 21 February 2024: Chichén Itza, Cenote and Campeche

After breakfast, you head inland for the amazing Chichén Itzá. Named one of the 7 Modern Wonders of the World in 2007 the Chichén Itzá is of course the most famous of the Maya cities, but it was also one of the most important places of the Maya civilization.

The pyramid known as El Castillo - a geometrical, astronomical, and architectural masterpiece rises majestically in the center of the archeological zone, but Chichén Itzá has many excavated and reconstructed buildings including one of the finest ball courts from the period of the Maya.

After you will visit a Cenote for a swim. Cenotes are sinkholes where the limestone bedrock has collapsed and exposed groundwater. The Maya used these as a source of fresh water. In the evening you will reach the coastal city of Campeche. The city center has well-preserved Baroque colonial buildings and a walled historical district.

Meals: Breakfast

⇒ Day 4, Thursday 22 February 2024: Palenque

You start the day with a small sightseeing in Campeche before heading west to Palenque, which you will reach in the late afternoon. Palenque town is located 8km from the Maya ruins of Palenque. It is a small and relaxing place to stay, with a vibrant square and several good restaurants. As you check in to your hotel we can enjoy the evening ambiance and get into "race weekend" mode.

Meals: Breakfast

⇒ Day 5, Friday 23 February 2024: Explore the Maya ruins of Palenque - race briefing

The day before race day you will drive to the Maya ruins of Palenque.

The Palenque ruins used to be a Maya city-state but perished on the brink of the 9th century after more or less 1000 years of existence. It was a medium-sized city on a Maya scale, but nonetheless a very important site. Due to its location right between the flat Yucatan and the mountains, Palenque became a connecting center for several city-states and has some of the finest architecture of all the Maya cities. It is estimated that only about 10% of the constructions have been excavated with the rest of the city still being lost to the jungle...

On the way back all runners meet at the Chan-Kah Jungle Resort for lunch and a race briefing by the race officials. At this time your race packs will be handed out, the most important details about tomorrow's race will be explained and questions can be asked to the officials and medical team. Back at your hotel the rest of the afternoon can be used to relax at the hotel or take a stroll through the cosy town of Palenque. In the evening a pasta buffet dinner is served at your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

⇒ Day 6, Saturday 24 February 2024: Race Day

You will enjoy an early breakfast at your hotel before taking the bus to start at 06h00.

All runners will be dropped off at the parking lot outside the Palenque Archeological Zone. Here bags and items for the finish line can be dropped and toilets will be available. The race will be started in waves with the first wave starting at 07h00, with marathon runners in the first wave and half-marathon runners in the last wave. 10 minutes before the start of each wave the runners in that wave will be allowed to enter the Archeological Zone and line up at the start. No items that are not being used during the race can be taken inside. This includes drinks of any kind, food of any kind, bags, and extra clothing that is not being worn for at least the first 3 kilometres. The finish line is located by the Chiapaneca restaurant where a post-race meal is included. Shuttle buses will be ready to take runners back to their hotels.

Meals: Breakfast & lunch in the Finish Area



⇒ Day 7, Sunday 25 February 2024: Optional excursion and celebration dinner

Take time to relax or take another visit to the Palenque ruins.

You also have the option to reserve an excursion (See below). In the evening busses will bring everybody to the festive celebration dinner.

Meals: Breakfast & celebration dinner

⇒ Day 8, Monday 26 February 2024: Mérida

Your time in Palenque has come to an end. You will leave in the morning and drive to Mérida where you will spend the night. Mérida is the capital of the state of Yucatan and has a rich cultural heritage of both the Maya and Spanish periods.

Meals: Breakfast

⇒ Day 9, Tuesday 27 February 2024: Back to Cancún airport and goodbye to Mexico

After an early breakfast, your bus will take you from Mérida to the airport in Cancún. Expected arrival is at 12h00, so keep this in mind when booking your flight home.

It is also possible to book a post-night in the airport if your return flight doesn't match the bus arrival time to the airport.

Meals: Breakfast

Race Entry:

Extra cost - Approx. price R 4900 for Marathon or Half-Marathon entry

Race entry includes:

- English-speaking race officials
- English-speaking medical team from Denmark and Greenland
- Medal
- Manned water and supply stations along the route
- Craft Runners T-shirt
- Manned water and energy drink stations along the route

- Collapsible cup for hydration
- Transportation to start area and from finish

Optional Excursion

⇒ **Day 4, Sunday 25 February 2024: Misol-Ha & Agua Azul waterfalls**

5.5 hours | ZAR 1 695

If you are a fan of waterfalls, you should not miss this excellent excursion to two of Mexico's best - the Misol-Ha and the Agua Azul. The Misol-Ha is a single-drop 35-meter-high waterfall that plunges into a circular crystal-clear pool surrounded by lush vegetation. A boardwalk will bring you safely behind the waterfalls, giving you a spectacular and awe-inspiring view. Agua Azul, meaning "Blue Water" consists of several smaller falls and pools. The water is famous for its very clear and turquoise blue colour.

We recommend that you take good footwear (no flip-flops) as it can be a little muddy around the falls.

Lunch is included in the excursion.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Race organizers insist that you are adequately covered. We can arrange Travel Insurance Consultants comprehensive cover.

The premium for up to 8 days is R695 for each adult (aged up to 69 years).

The premium for up to 14 days is R1280 for each adult (aged up to 69 years).

Terms and Conditions are available on request.

FLIGHTS

Flights are not included as prices change daily and are subject to airline availability. The sooner you book the better the price generally. If you would like us to arrange your flights, please let us know and we will advise options and prices.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I purchase marathon entry only?

We do not sell marathon entry only; it is sold together with accommodation and/or flights booked through us.

What can I expect upon arrival?

Airport transfer to the hotel is included in the package if you choose by air at the local Villahermosa airport on 22 February 2024. A representative will be ready in Villahermosa airport for each flight arrival today, with busses waiting to take you down to Palenque - a 2½ hours drive

Do I need a passport and visa?

Yes, you need a fully valid passport. South African passport holders require a visa for most destinations abroad, including Mexico. Travelers with a valid visa issued by Canada, the United States, Japan, United Kingdom, or Schengen Member States are exempt from obtaining a visa for Mexico. Your passport also must be valid for 6 months beyond your planned departure. Travellers need to apply directly to the consulate and at their own expense. We suggest you research visa requirements and your eligibility before committing to travel arrangements. If you have an RSA passport as well as a foreign passport you must show the RSA passport when you exit/enter RSA. If you are a foreign citizen with permanent residency in South Africa you are required to travel with your original permanent residence certificate and RSA ID. If unsure please ask and we will guide you but advice and assistance can only be a guideline as we do not have access to your personal history/passport/visa history.

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IMPORTANT

Prices are approx. because at the time of calculating travel package costs we take a projected exchange rate; and base it on current government and supplier charges and fees. Therefore, all prices quoted are estimates, subject to change, and will be calculated shortly before the balance payment is due. Terms & Conditions apply as per Booking Form and Standard Business Terms & Conditions. Also organizers/race rules as per <http://booking.albatros-adventure.com/node/5>

I want to book. What do I do next?

Places are limited. **IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A BOOKING PLEASE COMPLETE AND SCAN THE BOOKING FORM, ENTRY FORM, and last PAGE OF THE STANDARD T&C'S TO US TOGETHER WITH PASSPORT COPIES.** Upon receipt of these documents (subject to availability), we will send banking details and a request for an initial 30% non-refundable deposit per person to secure. The balance of monies will then be calculated and due before 27 November 2023. Airline tickets are extra and must be paid in full to secure.

For reservations, please contact
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