

TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS IN 2017

Kukulcan El Castillo, Chichén Itzá © Mr. Theklay/Flickr

Mexico: Mayan to Magic Realism

MEXICO CITY TO THE YUCATAN PENINSULA

with Julian Droogan
08–26 January 2017 (19 days)



R
Renaissance
Tours

Mexico: Mayan to Magic Realism

MEXICO CITY TO THE YUCATAN PENINSULA



TOUR LEADER

Dr Julian Droogan is a lecturer in the Faculty of Arts at Macquarie University where he teaches in Asia-Pacific Studies, issues of Religion and Politics and International Studies.

Julian has written books and papers on archaeology, Asian history and culture as well as the role of religion in modern politics and international relations. Julian's tours combine a focus on the art and archaeology of a region with a love of its religious, artistic and architectural heritage, while also paying attention to the dynamic forces at play in the modern world. Julian is also a visiting lecturer at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

A vibrant palette of ancient cultures and modern art, heritage cities and beautiful beaches, colourful music and dance, Mexico offers a feast for all the senses.

Begin with a thorough exploration of the outstanding museums, pre-historic sites, colonial heritage and thriving cultural scene in and around Mexico City. Then travel into the jungle to visit the ancient Mayan sites of Palenque and Yaxchilan, before concluding in the Yucatan Peninsula famous for its archaeological sites, enchanting colonial cities, stunning beaches and distinctive cuisine. Whilst the itinerary will be comprehensive, there will be time to relax and immerse yourself in the local culture.

At a glance...

- Discover the lives and art of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo
- Enjoy full day at the imposing ruins of Teotihuacan
- Marvel at the three great cultures that dominate the history of Mexico, the Olmec, the Mayan and the Aztecs
- See the Mayan temple ruins of Ek' Balam and Tulum, plus the Great Pyramid of Uxmal
- Relax on the shores of the Caribbean on the 'Mayan Riviera'
- Experience the music and dance of Latin-America



Sun 08 Jan 2017

Depart Australia – Mexico City

Suggested departure from Sydney on QANTAS to Dallas/Fort Worth OR Los Angeles. Connect with an American Airlines flight to Mexico City where you will arrive in the late afternoon on the same day. Transfer to your hotel on arrival.

Mexico City was originally built on an island of Lake Texcoco by the Aztecs in 1325 C.E and known as Tenochtitlan. Almost completely destroyed in the decisive 1521 C.E siege of Tenochtitlan by the conquistador Hernán Cortés, the city was subsequently redesigned and rebuilt by the Spanish. One of the largest urban centres in the world with over 20 million inhabitants, Mexico City today is a fascinating contrast of ancient Aztec ruins overlaid by Spanish colonial architecture and gleaming glass and steel towers, symbols of Mexico's booming economy and economic aspirations.

Mon 09 Jan

Mexico City

Following a welcome breakfast and briefing, begin your exploration of Mexico City with a tour of the historic centre. See the ruins of the Aztec Templo Mayor and visit the Metropolitan Cathedral, the oldest and largest Roman Catholic cathedral in the Americas. Continue to the National Palace on Constitution Square, renowned for its murals by prominent Mexican artist Diego Rivera (1886–1957) that adorn the main stairwell and the walls of the second floor.

This afternoon visit the Casa Luis Barragán, Mexico's most famous modernist architect. **B L D**

Tue 10 Jan

Mexico City

Following a talk, visit the homes and learn about the intriguing lives and compelling personalities of the important Mexican artists Frida Kahlo (1907–1954) and Diego Rivera, and their friend Leon Trotsky.

Continue to the National Museum of Art in the historic centre, representing the history of Mexican art from the mid-sixteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

This evening is at leisure. You may wish to visit the Plaza Garibaldi after dinner. This plaza is the home of mariachi music in Mexico City. **B L**



La Casa Azul, museum and home of Frida Kahlo © Kyle Magnuson/Flickr

Wed 11 Jan

Mexico City

Departing early, drive out to Teotihuacan, about an hour north of the city. This spectacular site contains some of the finest prehistoric urban planning and civil engineering in the world. Spend several hours on the site visiting the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon and the Temples of Quetzlcoatl and Quetzlpopocatl.

On your return to the city, stop to visit the Basilica de Guadalupe, a famous pilgrimage site located within the city limits.

Evening folkloric dance show at the National Theatre (subject to performance schedules). **B L D**

Thu 12 Jan

Mexico City

This morning visit the History Museum located on top of Chapultepec Hill in the middle of beautiful Chapultepec Park.

Following lunch (own expense), visit to the National Museum of Anthropology.

Evening at leisure. **B**

Fri 13 Jan

Mexico City – Palenque

Depart Mexico City on a morning flight to Villahermosa.

On arrival, visit the Parque Museo de La Venta which has one of the best collections of Olmec monuments in Mexico, rescued from sites threatened by drilling for oil.

Later, continue by coach to Palenque (145 km, approx. 2 hr).

B L D

Sat 14 Jan

Palenque

Following a talk, spend the day wandering through the ruins, visiting the Temple of the Inscriptions and Pakal's tomb, the Temple of the Cross and Temple of the Jaguar.

The ruins of Palenque are set in the jungle in the foothills south-west of the village. A prime example of a Mayan sanctuary of the classical period, Palenque was at its height between 500 and 700 C.E, when its influence extended throughout the basin of the



Teotihuacan Pyramids

Usumacinta River. The elegance and craftsmanship of the buildings, as well as the lightness of the sculpted reliefs with their Mayan mythological themes, attest to the creative genius of this civilisation.

Afternoon at leisure. **B L**

Sun 15 Jan Palenque – Yaxchilan – Palenque

Today you will travel to Yaxchilan, a remote Maya archaeological site deep in the jungle on the border with Guatemala (164 km, approx. 3 hr one-way). Yaxchilan, which means “green stones” in Mayan, was an important and powerful city by the end of the seventh century B.C.E and is known for its large number of architectural structures and inscriptions. There is text all over the site, on stelae, altars, doors and lintels. This site is not accessible by road – a 1-hr trip by small boat is taken to reach the archaeological site. **B L**

Mon 16 Jan Palenque – Campeche

Depart Palenque by coach to Campeche, stopping at the Mayan site of Edzna. The site was discovered in 1907 and a highlight is the main temple which stands 40 m tall, providing an excellent overview of the surrounding structures.

Afternoon arrival in Campeche, enjoy a walking tour of this walled city besieged by pirates on several occasions during the 18th century.

B D

Tue 17 Jan Campeche

Following a talk, enjoy a day at leisure. **B**

Wed 18 Jan Campeche – Uxmal

Depart Campeche for a mornings drive to the Puuc Region of the Yucatan Peninsula and the city of Uxmal, considered to one of the most important archaeological sites of Mayan culture. Uxmal was founded c.700 C.E and had some 25,000 inhabitants. The layout of the buildings, which date from between 700 and 1000 C.E, reveals knowledge of astronomy.

Following lunch, enjoy a guided walking tour of the ruins, including the Pyramid of the Magician, Nunnery Quadrangle, and the House of the Turtles.

This evening, return to the ruins of Uxmal to see its spectacular light show. **B L D**

Thu 19 Jan Uxmal – Merida

Continue your exploration of local Mayan sites including Labna, Mayapan and Kabah. There are many Mayan sites in this region and only a few are visited by tourists. Visiting these smaller sites will provide a better appreciation of the extent of the Mayan realm and its diversity.

After the site visits, continue to Merida (80 km, approx. 1.5 hr).

B L D

Fri 20 Jan Merida

Founded upon the ruins of the ancient Mayan city T'ho, which was constructed with white limestone and means “Face of Infinity,” Merida is known today as the ‘White City’. Carved Mayan stones from ancient T'ho were widely used to build the Spanish colonial buildings during the 18th and 19th centuries. During a morning walking tour of the historic centre see the Plaza de Armas, Cathedral and the English Library House and Garden.

In the afternoon visit Dzibilchaltun, a Mayan site located a short distance from Merida. Visit Xlakah ‘cenote’ – a natural swimming hole, formed by the collapse of porous limestone bedrock. **B**

Sat 21 Jan Merida – Chichen Itza

Mid-morning departure for Izamal, the ‘Golden Town’ (70 km, 1.5 hr), visit the Colonial Franciscan Monastery that stands in the heart of the town and the pyramid of Kinich Kak Mo, the Mayan sun god, – the largest pyramid temple on the Yucatan Peninsula.

Following lunch, continue to Ik Kil cenote, before driving on to Chichen Itza (78 km, 1.5 hr). **B D**

Sun 22 Jan Chichen Itza

This morning visit the famous ruins of Chichen Itza (meaning “At the mouth of the well of Itza”). Dating from c.600–1200 C.E, Chichen Itza was one of the largest Maya cities and was likely to have been one of the mythical great cities, or *Tollans*, referred to in later



Mesoamerican literature. The city may have had the most diverse population in the Mayan world, a factor that could have contributed to the variety of architectural styles at the site. Visit the pyramid known as El Castillo, the Temple of the Warriors, the Sacred Cenote (well) and the infamous Ballcourt.

Afternoon at leisure.

Tonight attend the Chichen Itza light and sound show (optional). **B**

Mon 23 Jan Chichen Itza – Playa del Carmen

Depart Chichen Itza for a morning drive to the archaeological site of Ek' Balam, one of the most mysterious Mayan cities ever to be discovered. See its main temple, which features a delicate stucco relief as well as feathered sculptures and jaw of the jaguar.

In the afternoon, check in to your hotel located on the beach.

B D

Tue 24 Jan Playa del Carmen

Day at leisure to enjoy the 'Mayan Riviera'. **B**

Wed 25 Jan Playa del Carmen

This morning visit the ruins of Tulum perched on the edge of a cliff overlooking the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea.

Return to Playa del Carmen, afternoon at leisure.

This evening, celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a special farewell dinner. **B D**

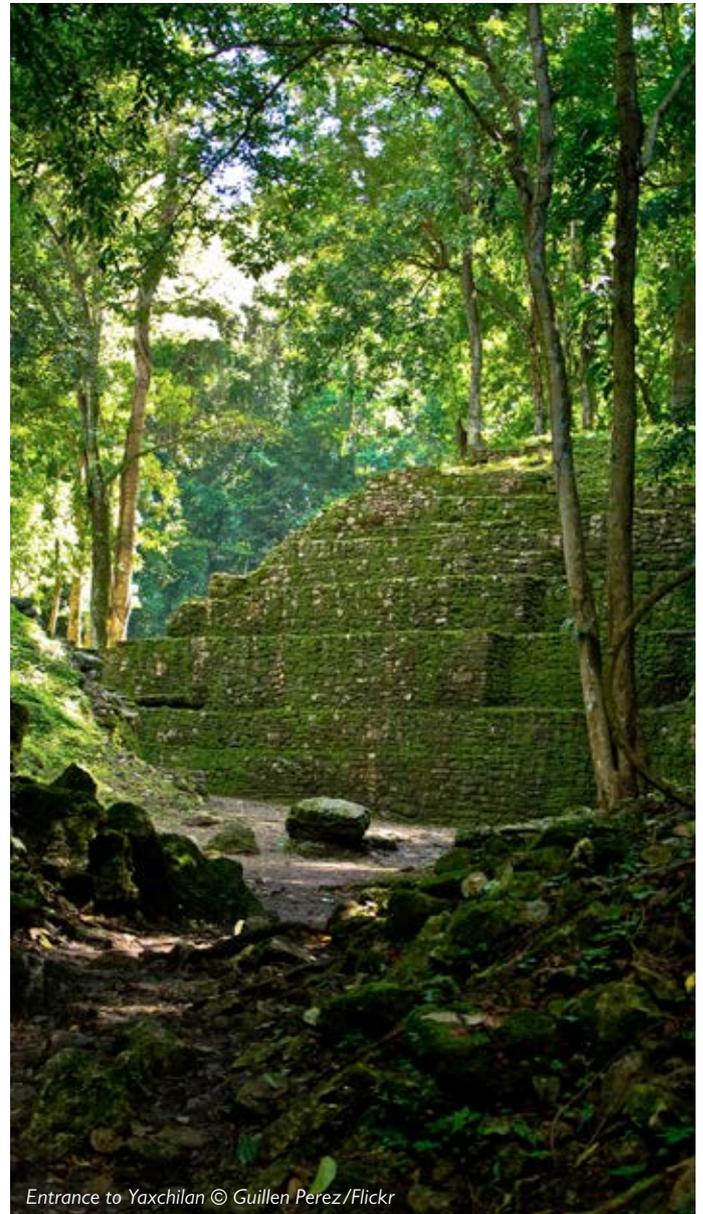
Thu 26 Jan Playa del Carmen – Depart Cancun

If returning to Australia today, transfer to the airport at Cancun (120 km, 2 hr) for an afternoon departure on an American Airlines flight to Dallas/Fort Worth, connecting with the QANTAS flight to Australia. **B**

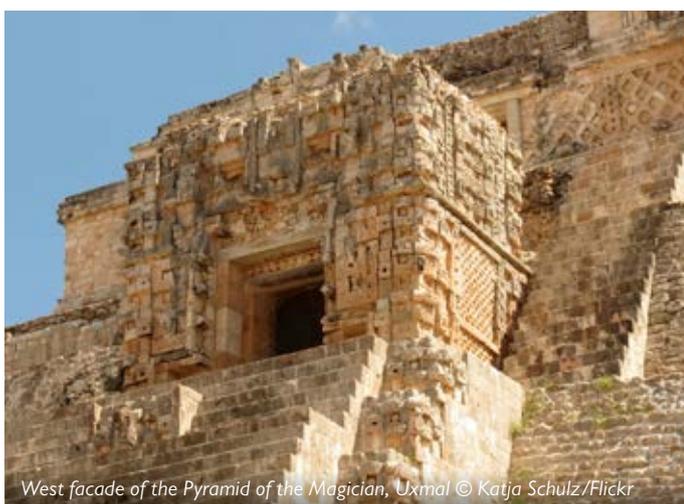
Fri 27 Jan In-flight

Sat 28 Jan Arrive Australia

Early morning arrival in Australia.



Entrance to Yaxchilan © Guillen Perez/Flickr



West facade of the Pyramid of the Magician, Uxmal © Katja Schulz/Flickr



Mayan Ruins at Tulum © Dennis Jarvis/Flickr



Great Ball Court carving at Chichen Itza © Paul Simpson/Flickr



Ek' Balam Tomb with Jaws of the Jaguar © Dennis Jarvis/Flickr

Your hotels

- Mexico City – Historico Central ★★★★★
- Palenque – Hotel Mision Palenque ★★★
- Campeche – Hotel Plaza Campeche ★★★★★
- Uxmal – The Lodge ★★★★★
- Merida – InterContinental ★★★★★
- Chichen Itza – Hotel Mayaland ★★★
- Playa del Carmen – Hotel Mahekal ★★★★★

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Tour prices

Per person, twin-share	AUD 11,250
Single supplement*	AUD 2,500
Deposit per person	AUD 500
Final payment due	08 November 2016

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code AG1702

Fitness level Above Average

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Airline

Please contact Renaissance Tours for current airfares and flight reservations.

Visa

Australian passport holders do require a visa for Mexico.

Tour price includes

- Accommodation in centrally located hotels with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner), wines with meals
- Transfers on arrival and departure if travelling on suggested group flights
- Domestic flight Mexico City – Villahermosa (20KG luggage allowance)
- Comprehensive sightseeing, including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader throughout
- Camera and video fees
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- International airfares (please contact Renaissance Tours for assistance)
- Transfers on arrival/departure, if not travelling on suggested group flights
- Items of a personal nature (e.g. telephone, laundry, mini-bar, taxis etc.)
- Travel insurance (recommended)

Terms & Conditions

HOW TO BOOK

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

DEPOSIT / FINAL PAYMENTS

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for

force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

FITNESS AND PARTICIPATION

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above).

You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissance-tours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.





Left panel of the "History of Mexico" mural by Diego Rivera on stairway of National Palace in Mexico City © Jay Galvin/Flickr



Renaissance
Tours

1300 727 095 (AU)

0800 403 621 (NZ)

call (+61 2) 9299 5801

fax (+61 2) 9299 5805

email info@renaissancetours.com.au

visit www.renaissancetours.com.au

Level 4, 47 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001

ABN 14 069 591 448

Travel agent

Booking form

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Renaissance
Tours

www.renaissancetours.com.au

Please return pages 1 and 2 to:

GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001, Australia or info@renaissancetours.com.au

Toll free AU 1300 727 095 or NZ 0800 403 621 | Tel: +61 2 9299 5801 | Fax: +61 2 9299 5805

- Please complete, sign and return this Booking Form, along with a copy of page one of your passport (international tours only and deposit).
NOTE: Flight bookings cannot proceed without passport copy. This is an airline security requirement.
- Complete credit card authority (if paying by credit card) OR forward a (deposit) cheque (made payable to Renaissance Tours).
- Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place on the tour(s) from Renaissance Tours.

Tour name

Tour code

Personal details – Passenger 1

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

Yes

No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist Renaissance Tours in determining the suitability of a tour participant for a particular tour. The information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE DECLARATION (Please tick)

I have read, understood and confirm that I meet the:

MODERATE

ABOVE AVERAGE

CHALLENGING

fitness level to participate on this tour.

Personal details – Passenger 2

Title (Ms, Mrs, Mr, Dr or Other)

Hon

Family name (as in passport)

Given names (as in passport)

Preferred name

DOB

Email

Mobile

Phone

Address

State

Postcode

Country

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / ALLERGIES

Yes

No

MEDICAL DECLARATION

What medical conditions do you currently have and/or have you received treatment for in the past three years? (e.g. stroke, heart, respiratory and psychiatric conditions). **Attach extra pages, if necessary.**

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FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE DECLARATION (Please tick)

I have read, understood and confirm that I meet the:

MODERATE

ABOVE AVERAGE

CHALLENGING

fitness level to participate on this tour.

Booking conditions

- I have read, understood and accept the **Booking Conditions** on page 3. I have enclosed the deposit and understand that the balance of the tour cost must be paid at least 60 days prior to departure (45 days prior for domestic tours) or my reservation may be cancelled.

Sign here

Booking conditions

- I have read, understood and accept the **Booking Conditions** on page 3. I have enclosed the deposit and understand that the balance of the tour cost must be paid at least 60 days prior to departure (45 days prior for domestic tours) or my reservation may be cancelled.

Sign here

Booking form

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Renaissance
Tours

Travel details – Passenger 1

AIRFARE – WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A QUOTE FROM US?

Yes No

Economy Premium Economy Business Class First Class

CITY OF DEPARTURE

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Perth Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin Single If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

TRAVEL INSURANCE – WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE?

Yes No

PRE/POST TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Please advise if you would like Renaissance Tours to organise any pre/post tour arrangements (e.g. earlier departure, later return, additional accommodation/flights, etc)

NEXT OF KIN (Emergency contact only)

Name

Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER? Yes No

Travel details – Passenger 2 (only fill if different from Pax 1)

AIRFARE – WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A QUOTE FROM US?

Yes No

Economy Premium Economy Business Class First Class

CITY OF DEPARTURE

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Perth Other

FREQUENT FLYER NUMBER

AIRLINE SEAT PREFERENCE

ACCOMMODATION

Double Twin Single If single, would you like us to arrange twin-share?

TRAVEL INSURANCE – WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE?

Yes No

PRE/POST TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Please advise if you would like Renaissance Tours to organise any pre/post tour arrangements (e.g. earlier departure, later return, additional accommodation/flights, etc)

NEXT OF KIN (Emergency contact only)

Name

Relationship

Daytime contact ()

After hours contact

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS TOUR?

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER? Yes No

Payment

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express. Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

AMOUNT CREDIT CARD CHEQUE CASH EFT

CREDIT CARD AUTHORITY

Cardholder's name

American Express MasterCard Visa

Cardholder's number

SIGN

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account name: Renaissance Tours

BSB: 062-032 / Account: 2800 4163

Swift code: CTBAU2S (use for transfers from overseas)

Expiry (month/year)

DATE

Travel agent

Booking form

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FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE

Most of our tours require a **MODERATE** level of fitness.

However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (eg. remote rail), certain tours will require an **ABOVE AVERAGE** or **CHALLENGING** level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

MODERATE

for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1–2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

ABOVE AVERAGE

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Undertake walking tours of 2–3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

CHALLENGING

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- Handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 m and above).

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is highly recommended that you are covered by travel insurance for domestic tours.

However, it is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact.

1. TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received. In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid. Once final payment is received, all prices (excluding air taxes) will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

2. PAYMENT

Your final payment is due 60 days before departure (45 days prior for domestic tours). Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

3. FLIGHT BOOKINGS AND FARES

Renaissance Tours will use its best endeavours to ensure that all flight prices are correct at the time that they are quoted. However, once a deposit is paid on an air fare, it guarantees that a booking is being held for you, it does not guarantee the fare and applicable taxes.

The fare and taxes can only be guaranteed when the flight booking has been paid in full and a ticket has been issued. Flight bookings cannot be transferred.

4. CHANGES

a) Changes by You – Because of additional communication and other expenses, we reserve the right to charge an appropriate administration fee per amendment to your original booking. While every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate changes and additional requests their availability cannot be guaranteed.

b) Changes by Us – While we will use our best endeavours to operate all tours as advertised, by entering into this contract the Client accepts that it may prove necessary or advisable to vary or modify a tour or its contents due to prevailing local conditions. We reserve the right at any time to cancel or change any of the facilities, services or prices described in the brochure (including flights, transport, accommodation or other arrangements) and to substitute alternative arrangements of comparable monetary value without compensation.

If a service or facility becomes unavailable due to circumstances beyond our control ('force majeure') and no alternative arrangement of comparable monetary value is available, we will substitute the best alternative available and will refund the Client for any cost saving or charge the Client for any additional costs incurred. 'Force majeure' includes any event which Renaissance Tours or its suppliers could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid (e.g. advice against travel from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, epidemics, health risks, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or adverse weather conditions, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by cancellation or rescheduling of flights by an airline or main charterer, the alteration of airline or aircraft type). Renaissance Tours is not liable for any penalty charges associated with 'supersaver' type connecting rail or air fares, in the event of a change to a holiday departure time, date or airport.

5. SUBSTITUTION OF CLIENT

If any member of the party is prevented from travelling because of the death, injury or serious illness of the passenger, close relative or friend, redundancy or jury service, it may be possible to transfer the booking to another suitable person (acceptable to Renaissance Tours) provided that written notice is given at least one calendar month prior to departure. An administration fee of \$100 + GST per person will be levied plus any costs imposed by our suppliers. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

6. CANCELLATION

a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to the charges shown below airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

International Tours

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

Domestic Tours

45 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

* Includes any flight deposit paid.

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for *force majeure* (as outlined in clause 4b) or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure for international tours and 45 days before departure for domestic tours. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees. No compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

7. PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return to Australia. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary visas, inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Renaissance Tours.

8. ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

Anyone suffering from illness or disability or undergoing treatment for any physical or medical condition must declare the true nature of such condition at the time of booking and make arrangements for the provision of any medication or other treatment which may be required during the tour. Failure to make such disclosure will constitute a breach of these booking conditions and result in such persons being excluded from the tour in which case all monies paid will be forfeit.

9. LOCAL LAWS

All participants of the tours we operate are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the countries visited and any failure to do so will relieve Renaissance Tours of all obligations that they may otherwise have under these booking conditions.

10. IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT

If you have a complaint about any of the tour arrangements, you must bring it to the attention of the tour leader or other representative of Renaissance Tours at the time so that they may use their best endeavours to rectify the situation. It is only if we are made aware of any problems that there will be the opportunity to put things right. Any complaints must be made in writing to Renaissance Tours within 28 days of the completion of the tour.

11. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

All bookings are accepted on the understanding that the Client appreciates that travel does involve some risk and that they undertake all tours of their own volition.

i) Renaissance Tours accepts liability should any part of the tour arrangements booked with us not be supplied as described in the brochure(s) and not be of reasonable standard. In such a case, we will pay reasonable compensation if the Client's enjoyment of the tour has been adversely affected but will pay no compensation if there has been no fault on the part of Renaissance Tours or our suppliers and the reason for the failure in the tour arrangements was the Client's fault, the actions of someone unconnected with the tour arrangements or could not have been foreseen or avoided by Renaissance Tours or its suppliers even if all due care had been exercised.

ii) Our acceptance of liability to pay compensation pursuant to clause 11(i) is limited, in the case of air travel, rail travel, sea travel or hotel accommodation, to the amount set out in the provisions of, respectively, the Warsaw Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol 1955, the 1961 Berne Convention, the 1974 Athens Convention and the 1962 Paris Convention.

iii) Our acceptance of liability in clauses 11(i) and 11(ii) above is subject to assignment by the Client to Renaissance Tours of the Client's rights against any agent, supplier or sub-contractor of Renaissance Tours which is in any way responsible for the unsatisfactory tour arrangements.



Renaissance
Tours

toll free 1300 727 095 (AU)

toll free 0800 403 621 (NZ)

call (02) 9299 5801

fax (02) 9299 5805

email info@renaissancetours.com.au

visit www.renaissancetours.com.au

Level 4, 47 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 5068, Sydney NSW 2001

ABN 14 069 591 448