



HOLIDAY DIVER

A Mayan Experience



The visibility in the Cenotes is remarkable

MEXICO REALLY IS a fantastic destinations for a diving holiday - not only do you have the Sea of Cortez which received praise indeed when Jacques Cousteau called it the 'world's aquarium' but it is also home to the spectacular Cenotes.

Diving the Sea of Cortez, you can expect to see some of the most impressive marine animals in the world: Hammerhead Sharks, Whale Sharks, Blue, Grey, and Orca Whales, Dolphins and Giant Pacific Manta Rays, to name but a few. Dotted with underwater mountains and canyons, the Sea of Cortez circulates huge amounts of nutrient rich water, producing heavy plankton blooms that attract in turn a massive diversity of tropical and pelagic fish to these waters.

But if it is caves that get you going - you will not be disappointed with the Cenotes which are found in the

Yucatán Peninsula along the Riviera Maya. Mayans thought that the fresh water pools of the cenotes were holy places and portals to a spiritual world beneath the earth but in actual fact they are sinkholes where the ground above the cavern has collapsed.

The water of the cenotes is extremely cool and clear and visibility can reach 350 feet! The cave structures are millions of years in the making with limestone cathedrals adorned with brilliant stalactites and stalagmites. Cenotes are diverse in architecture, colour and their exotic entrances through the jungle. Some caverns have big spacious chambers, while others have several smaller chambers with cascading lights from openings in the ceiling.

Dive Worldwide can take you to the diving paradise of Mexico - with a range of trips to suit the exact

location you are after and the budget you have.

Should the Cenotes take your fancy then Playa del Carmen, just south of Cancun in the Yucatan Peninsula, is a unique destination that you might want to consider, with turquoise Caribbean waters,

jungle, and of course the incredible underground river system, or Cenotes.

Diving here is beautiful, safe, and unique, in that you can dive or snorkel the cave systems with just Open Water certification. The dives are shallow (5-10 metres) and the paths followed are wide enough to have two people diving side by side.

You are always within 40 metres of direct access to air and daylight and dive groups feature a maximum of four divers per guide. A further attraction is that, unlike the ocean, diving Cenotes is not dependant upon weather conditions - diving here is year round!

In addition to the Cenotes, Playa del Carmen offers beautiful ocean reefs, just a short boat ride from the dive centre, where you can dive with an impressive array of tropical fish, marine turtles and rays, and day trips to Cozumel Island and Holbox Island. It is north of Holbox Island that Whale Sharks gather each year, from May to September - offering the unforgettable experience of snorkelling with these majestic creatures! En route expect to see dolphins and Manta, and Eagle Rays.

Full cave or cavern diving courses are available, as are excursions to Tulum, Chichen Itza, Coba, Xel-Ha, Xcaret can also be organised. For more information call: 0845 130 6980



Diving in the Cenotes is a unique experience

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