Dear Rochester alumni and friends,

The University of Rochester Travel Club is pleased to invite you to join us on this brand new and exclusive tour, designed and hosted by our own Renato Perucchio, professor and program director of Archaeology, Technology, and Historical Structures. Long before Europeans reached the shores of the Americas, the Mayan Empire thrived in what is now Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula. The Maya developed a writing system and calendar, and are perhaps best known today for the series of magnificent pyramids they left behind for us to marvel at and study. These centers of trade, culture, and sometimes warfare reflect complex relationships and tell the story of a civilization. On this tour, you will discover the story of the region from the time of the Maya through colonialism and to the present. We will begin our program in the capital of the Mayan world, Chichen Itza, and will continue our exploration to Spanish colonial towns like Valladolid and Izmal. We will visit local communities and enjoy the beautiful jungle landscapes and shining waters of Cenote Ik Kil. Preserved Mayan architectural wonders at Uxmal, Mayapan, and Labna contrast the port town of Campeche and its baroque colonial buildings and fortified historic district. Our nine day tour includes these and so many more highlights! Please enjoy the detailed itinerary for this tour, and do not hesitate to reach out to me at corinne.dagen@rochester.edu with any questions you may have.

We look forward to welcoming you for this extraordinary learning adventure!

Meliora,

Corinne Dagen ’03
Director, University of Rochester Travel Club

P.S. – This small-group tour is limited to 20 travelers, so make your reservation today!
Day-by-Day Itinerary

**Friday, January 4: Chichén Itzá**  
D
Depart on a flight to Merida that arrives mid-afternoon. Upon arrival, continue by road to Chichén Itzá and transfer to the Mayaland Hotel & Bungalows.

Attend an early evening light show at Chichén Itzá before a welcome dinner at the hotel.

**Saturday, January 5: Chichén Itzá**  
B,L,D
Spend the morning discovering the incredible architecture of the most important capital of the Mayan world, Chichén Itzá Archaeological Park. Considered one of the “New Seven Wonders of the World,” these ruins are evidence of a dazzling ancient city that once centered the Maya empire in Central America.

Explore the Pyramid of Kukulcan, Ball Court and El Caracol or “The Observatory.” The Mesoamerican fascination with, and knowledge of, math and astronomy is prominent in all of these sites, with symbolism in the detail of their architecture.

Continue on to visit the community of Yaxaunah where we will meet with Los Compadres, who will prepare the famous dish Cochinita Pibil. Learn how this dish is prepared before enjoying a very special lunch.

End the day with a stop at the Cenote Ik Kil. Enjoy a swim in the glistening turquoise blue water, one of the most impressive natural formations in Yucatan.

**Sunday, January 6: Chichén Itzá**  
B,L,D
Enjoy a morning drive to Ek Balam to explore one of the most impressive ceremonial centers of the Yucatan peninsula. You will be amazed by how incredibly well-preserved the sculptures and decoration of its temples and plazas are. Admire its main temples which have astonished archaeologists and scholars with their intricate detail of the artistry and symbolism incorporated into the frescoes and sculptures.

Continue on to Valladolid, where one can imagine the splendor of the Colonial era. Called the “Pearl of the Orient,” Valladolid saw the Maya rebellion in the 1847 War of the Castes, and it was here where the Mexican revolution was sparked in 1910.

On route to Chichén Itzá stop at the Caves of Balankanche, which were used as the ceremonial center of the ancient Mayan settlers.

Dinner this evening is at your leisure.

**Monday, January 7: Merida**  
B,L,D
This morning we depart Chichén Itzá and begin our drive to Merida.

On route, stop at Izamal, a small colonial town known as the City of Three Cultures. Admire the great Franciscan convent of San Antonio de Padua, an important reminder of the Spanish conquest and the initiation of the Maya to Catholicism. The convent was built on an ancient Mayan pyramid called Kinich Kakmó Pyramid and was also the home of the infamous Diego de Landa, who burned all the Maya books that he could gather.

After lunch, continue on to Mayapan, considered the last great capital of the post-classic Mayan culture. The rise of Mayapan occurred after the demise of Chichén Itzá sometime around 1250 A.D.

Continue by road to Merida and check into the Fiesta Amer-
**icana Merida.** Mérida is the cultural heart and soul of the Yucatan, with a history beginning with the Maya, leading to Spanish conquistadors, and continuing with henequin plantations, this historic city offers insights into a rich culture of Yucatan.

**Tuesday, January 8: Merida**  
**B,L**

Enjoy a morning visit to Dzibilchaltún where we will explore this archaeological site dating back to Pre-classic times. One of its most important structures is the Temple of the Seven Dolls where twice a year, during the Spring and Autumn equinox, the sunrays pass precisely through the temple’s portals. Take a tour of Merida’s Centro district, known as the “The White City.” Stop at the Government Palace, Plaza Mayor, Cathedral San Il defonso, the Peón Contreras Theater, the University of Yucatan, and Casa Montejo. After lunch, visit the Museo Regional de Antropologio “Palacios Canton.” Originally the residence of the Cantón Rosado family, today houses Yucatan’s most guarded and important collection of Yucatan Mayan artifacts. Dinner this evening is at your leisure.

**Wednesday, January 9: Campeche**  
**B,L,D**

Drive south this morning towards Yucatan’s Puuc region and spend the morning exploring the Uxmal temples where we will learn about the Maya world view, how astronomy ties in with the city’s layout, and how the city collected and stored rainwater.

Stop by Becal and meet with the locals who have preserved the beautiful tradition making regional handmade hats.

Continue on to Campeche and check-into the **Hacienda Puerta, A Luxury Collection Hotel.**

**Thursday, January 10: Campeche**  
**B,L**

Spend the day discovering the colonial city of Campeche. Begin with a morning visit to the Archaeological Museum in Campeche, which houses the treasures from the tombs at Calakmul.

This afternoon explore the surrounding 18th-century San Miguel Fort or Fuerte San Miguel.

Enjoy dinner this evening is at your leisure.

**Friday, January 11: Sotuta de Peon**  
**B,L,D**

Depart Campeche and drive through the Puuc region to explore a number of diverse archeological sites.

First stop at Labna and explore the Temple of the Columns, a watchtower atop a mostly disintegrated pyramid containing perhaps the most beautiful of all Mayan arches.

Continue on to Sayil, one of the most extensive and complex Mayan cities of the Puuc region, before visiting the ruins of Kabah. It is speculated that Kabah may have been as large as Uxmal.

Continue on the **Hacienda Sotuta de Peon** for dinner and an overnight stay.

**Saturday, January 12: Depart**  
**B,L**

This morning, tour Hacienda Sotuta de Peon where we will take a mule-drawn cart ride to meet with Don Anotnia who will teach us the process of making rope.

Enjoy a swim in the nearby Cenote before returning to Merida for your late afternoon departure home.
Program Costs and Inclusions

Trip price: $4,760 per person based on double occupancy
Single room supplement: $960

Trip price includes all hotel accommodations as listed in the itinerary based on double-occupancy, meals as listed in the itinerary (B,L,D), all excursions, entrances, transportation in an air-conditioned motor coach, a Distant Horizons tour manager, a University of Rochester host, and gratuities. Trip price based on a minimum of 15 travelers.

Trip price does not include international air fare, visa fees, drinks with meals, other than included soft drink, airport transfer for those not arriving on designated group flight, porterage, any meals not listed in itinerary, trip insurance, gratuities, and personal items.

To register: Please submit the attached application, along with a deposit for $1,000 per person and a copy of your passport to Distant Horizons.

For additional information, please contact Karen Siman-Tov at 800-333-1240 or via email at KarenS@Distant-Horizons.com.

Please note that participants must be in good physical condition and be able to walk for long distances over uneven cobblestones and up and down stairs without problems.

Renato Perucchio is professor of mechanical engineering and of biomedical engineering, and director of the program in Archaeology, Technology, and Historical Structures. He directs several projects on the structural design of world heritage monumental buildings, including concrete domes and vaults of Roman imperial architecture, Maya concrete vaults in Yucatan, and the Elmina Castle in coastal Ghana. Perucchio has organized and directed the University of Rochester Roman Structures summer program in Italy and has taught courses on the Monuments of Ancient Italy for the UR Italian Studies Program in Italy. He and his colleagues created the multidisciplinary curriculum in Archaeology, Technology, and Historical Structures: From Antiquity to the Pre-Industrial World. He is the recipient of the 2010 Goergen Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and in 1995, he received the Teacher of the Year Award from the Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Perucchio joined the University of Rochester faculty in 1984, after receiving doctorate degrees in aeronautical engineering from the University of Pisa, Italy in 1977 and in civil engineering (structural) from Cornell University in 1983.

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WHEN YOU RETURN THIS APPLICATION, PLEASE INCLUDE A DEPOSIT OF $1,000 PER PERSON, AND A LEGIBLE PHOTOCOPY OF THE PHOTO & SIGNATURE PAGES OF YOUR PASSPORT.  
(Please print)

University of Rochester Travel: Following the Path of the Mayans in Yucatan

Trip Dates: January 4-12, 2019

Name Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. ___________________________________________________________________________
Exactly as listed in your passport (First) (Middle) (Last)

Preferred first name: ____________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone: ___________________ Business Phone: ___________________ Cell Phone: ____________________

E-mail Address: _________________________________________________________________________________

Describe your health ____________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any allergies or physical limitations ______________________________________________________

Do you have any diet restrictions __________________________________________________________________

Are you presently under a doctor’s care or taking any medications? If yes, please elaborate. ________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Emergency contact person, phone number, and relationship: ____________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

ACCOMMODATIONS
Distant Horizons will do everything possible to satisfy requests to share a room for single tour members. On occasions when it is not possible, the single supplement will apply.

☐ I want a single room (limited availability) ☐ I will share a room with:

BED TYPE (not guaranteed): ☐ One large bed ☐ Two twins

I have read the terms and conditions and agree to abide by them.

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Mail completed and signed application, passport copy, and a check for $1000 (per traveler) made payable to Distant Horizons to: Distant Horizons, 350 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802
Payments:
Registration requires a $1000 per person deposit. Final payment is due by October 4, 2018, and must be paid by check.

Tour Price Includes:
Educational Program of lectures and discussions, accommodations in hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy, meals listed in the itinerary with mineral water and soft drink, bottled water kept on the bus, sightseeing and excursions as listed including all special events and lectures, transportation in an air-conditioned motor coach, services of a Distant Horizons tour manager, local guides and gratuities. Tour cost is based on rates of currency exchange at the time of printing (April 2018) and is subject to change with or without previous notice. If there is a price increase prior to the day of departure in the basic costs, such increases may be passed on to the participant. The University of Rochester receives a modest per-person commision from the tour operator for this program, which supports University of Rochester Travel Club activities.

Tour Price Does Not Include:
International airfare, passport fees, visa fees, luggage fees, meals not listed, additional drinks at meals, airport transfers if not arriving or departing with the designated group flight, trip cancellation, lost baggage, and medical insurance, items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed.

Any increases in the in-tour security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program may be passed along to the travelers.

Deviations:
Distant Horizons can assist with any pre- or post-tour arrangements in Mexico and neighboring countries.

Cancellations:
Distant Horizons and the University of Rochester, Office of Alumni Relations reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including an insufficient number of participants, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant at any time. Should this happen, refunds will be made, although we cannot be held responsible for any additional costs already incurred by participants. The tour price is based on a minimum number of travelers. If bookings fall below the minimum 15 required, passengers will be advised of additional small group surcharge costs. If small group surcharge is more than $200 per person, travelers can cancel without penalty. Otherwise, if a participant cancels, the following refunds will be available upon written notice of cancellation to Distant Horizons:

Notice more than 90 days prior to departure: a refund less a $500 cancellation charge.
Notice between 90 and 60 days prior to departure: a refund less a $1000 cancellation charge.
Notice between 59 days and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of trip price.
No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure date.
No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced. No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services.

Insurance:
We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for travel insurance will be mailed upon the receipt of the application and deposit. Distant Horizons does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour. Please contact Karen Siman-Tov at Distant Horizons at 800-333-1240 or via email at KarenS@Distant-Horizons.com with any questions.

Responsibility:
Distant Horizons and University of Rochester Office of Alumni Relations act only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus companies, railroads, ship lines or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Distant Horizons nor University of Rochester Office of Alumni Relations nor any of their subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury, damage to persons or property, loss, delay or irregularity caused by persons not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics or government restrictions. Distant Horizons and University of Rochester, Office of Alumni Relations cannot be held responsible for unfavorable weather or closure of access routes due to bad weather conditions. Distant Horizons and University of Rochester, Office of Alumni Relations cannot be held responsible if the tour lecturer or leader cancels, and passengers will be advised of a comparable replacement should time permit. Distant Horizons and University of Rochester, Office of Alumni Relations are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participant as a result of the above mentioned causes.