

Tela Ecológica

Textile Traditions + Eco-Tourism in Yucatán

--- 2017 International Textile + Apparel Association Study Tour ---

Date **December 9-20, 2017**
Duration **12 days**
Cost **\$2,500 USD per person**



OVERVIEW

Tela Ecológica is a textile-focused cultural and creative immersion experience into the world of Mexican artisanship, craft processes and design. This study opportunity offers exposure to new cultural environments and insight into the world of artisan production as it applies to the Yucatán region and its people. It will foster a deeper understanding of the impacts of globalization on Mayan culture, and the significance of environmental stewardship and social justice through the lens of cultural textiles and craft.

Yucatán is wonderfully rich with the cultural context of language, food, and visual aesthetics. Participants will experience travel in the region from a range of different vantage points- from tourist resorts, historic boutique hotels to thatched roof huts. We will stay in haciendas, swim in cenotes, and visit ancient Maya ruins. We will tour the popular cities of Cancun, Tulum and Playa del Carmen, and visit the lesser-travelled cities of Merida and Valladolid, and experience many charming pueblos along the way.

Participants will get a rarely-seen glimpse of authentic textile design and craft making throughout the the Yucatán peninsula region, experiencing the beauty of Mexican culture as we tour marketplaces, textile factories, ateliers, boutiques, artist studios, designer workshops, artisan homes and museums. We will learn regional handcraft skills from indigenous Mayan artisans and designers- exploring henequen fiber processing, back-strap loom weaving, hand and machine embroidery, cross-stitch, crochet and natural dyeing, completing our own sample works along the way. We will take a deep dive into the subject of designer/artisan collaboration, and investigate how historical symbolism of dress, contemporary influence and social entrepreneurship are all influencing craft production and apparel consumption behaviors in Yucatán today.

Eco-tourism will be a unifying theme, as we visit several environmental preserves in the region. We will see sacred underground caves, visit luscious aqua blue beaches, and see endemic flora + fauna including flamingos, spider monkeys and toucans. We will boat through mangrove forests, harvest and process henequen fiber, and visit sites of cultural importance to the Maya to better appreciate one of the world's most artistic and advanced ancient cultures. We will experience the burgeoning sustainable tourism market and understand the social and economic impacts that it has had on craft production in this region.

Did I mention fantastic shopping, nightlife and music? We will have many opportunities to shop artisan marketplaces and boutiques. The food and musical culture is second to none. We will eat fantastic local cuisine and experience regional dance, costume and culture. This is a trip of a lifetime, one not to be missed!

LEADERS

Through proven, secure, expert + reliable contacts and our leadership team's collective familiarity with the Yucatán region, we are able to locate resources and make arrangements for dining, lodging, guided tours, studio and marketplace visits, speakers and workshops that will perfectly suit the needs and interests of our group.

Ashley Kubley is an Assistant Professor of Fashion Design at the University of Cincinnati's College of Design Art Architecture and Planning. Her experience in industry spans from textile design, apparel manufacturing to entrepreneurship as the owner of a sustainable and fair trade apparel brand, Haberdashery Eco. Ashley has been actively engaged in scholarship and travel to the Yucatán for 10 years, working closely with artisans, designers and researchers in the textiles and apparel field, as well as anthropologists, archeologists, educators, environmental and cultural conservators, entrepreneurs, and guides across the states of Yucatán, and Quintana Roo, Campeche, and Jalisco. Her research focuses primarily on work with the Najil Tucha artisan group in Punta Laguna, Mexico, where she supports design education, social entrepreneurship and culture and craft conservation efforts through workshops and ethnographic research within this artisan community. Her research goals include creating a design thinking framework to ensure

cultural authenticity and mutually beneficial, healthy + sustainable growth for both artisan and designer in collaborative design projects.

Dr. Laura Vick is an anthropologist with extensive experience teaching, training, developing programs, conducting research and engaging in extensive travel with students, teachers, families, and individuals. She is an Emeritus Professor of Anthropology from Peace College in Raleigh NC. Laura has 23 years of college level teaching experience. She has created and managed international travel and study experiences in over twenty countries, and is the recipient of the Ragland Professorship of International Studies (endowed professorship), McCormick Distinguished Teaching Award (3 times), Alumnae Distinguished Professor Award, the Janice Edwards Service Award and is a Road Scholar guide. She has research experience in the Yucatán, studying primate behavior and environments in the Punta Laguna region for more than 20 years. She is fluent in Spanish, and her network of contacts and knowledge of the Yucatán region, Mayan culture and anthropology is extensive.

Miguel Mendez was born and raised in the Yucatán and has over 30 years experience as a certified tour guide, environmental conservationist, expert navigator and translator. He has guided many university student groups as well as private and group tours.

ITINERARY

Day 1 | Saturday Dec. 9th | Arrive Cancun > Playa Del Carmen

- Tour bus pickup at Airport + Travel
- Hotel check-in at Hotel Kinbé in PDC
- Orientation + PDC's 5th Avenue
- Introductory Group Dinner

Day 2 | Sunday Dec 10th | Playa Del Carmen > Night in Tulum

- Breakfast
- Mayan Ruins in Tulum
- Hotel Check-in at hotel Punta Piedra
- Afternoon: Explore Tulum (visit with retailers and local designers)
- Dinner at Mateo's

Day 3 | Monday Dec 11th | Tulum > Coba

- Breakfast at Hotel Punta Piedra
- Visit Punta Laguna: Meet Artisans + Villagers
- Zipline, cenote, kayaking and/or jungle tour in PL
- Coba ruins
- Cenote swim (Multun Ha)
- Overnight at Hotel Coqui Coqui Coba (Dinner at Hotel)

Day 4 | Tuesday Dec 12th | Coba > Punta Laguna > Valladolid

- Breakfast at Hotel Coqui Coqui Coba
- Visit Punta Laguna: Artisan workshop and market with Najil Tucha artisans
- Travel to Valladolid
- Visit to Cathedral San Gervasio
- Walking tour of Valladolid: Boutiques and City Center
- Overnight in Valladolid at Hotel Meson De Marqués (Dinner at Hotel)

Day 5 | Wednesday Dec 13th | Valladolid > Merida

- Breakfast at Hotel Meson De Marques
- Artisan market in Valladolid
- Ek Balam ruins and Cenote
- Travel to Merida (Mayan history talk on bus)
- Check into Hotel Casa Del Balam in Merida
- Get acquainted with Merida Centro + dinner on own

Day 6 | Thursday Dec 14th | Merida

- Day trip to visit designer Angela Damaan's artisan studio, henequen factory + home in Telchac
- Return to Merida
- Fiber art Workshop with Louisa Vogel

- Dinner at Chaya Maya
- Overnight at Casa Del Balam in Merida

Day 7 | Friday Dec 15th | Merida

- Breakfast @ Hotel Casa Del Balam
- Lucas de Galvez market + artisan market in main square
- Gran Museo de Mundo Maya and talk with Silvia Teran
- Artisan boutique walking tour in Merida: Visit Casa de las Artesenias + retail/buyer talk
- Overnight at Casa Del Balam

Day 8 | Saturday Dec 16th | Merida > Yunku

- Breakfast at Casa Del Balam
- Uxmal ruins
- Bécal Hatmaking village
- Hammock-making wksp in Sacalum
- Arrive at Hacienda Yunku + Dinner

Day 9 | Sunday Dec 17th | Yunku

- Breakfast @ Yunku
- Daytime visit to Celestun Ecological Preserve (Mangrove boat ride, natural springs, flamingos)
- Lunch and Beach @ in Celestun
- Free afternoon at Yunku: Henequen plantation, aqueduct, historical tour + cenote swim (Isaac)
- Dinner @ Yunku + PM lecture in Maya language

Day 10 | Monday Dec 18th | Yunku > Izamal > Cancun

- Breakfast @ Yunku
- Travel to Izamal Monastery + Ruins
- Artisan tour of Izamal + Esteban Ankincheles' Workshop
- Centro Cultural y Artisanal Store + Taller Maya talk
- Dinner + overnight stay at the JW Marriott in Cancun (dinner on your own)

Day 11 | Tuesday Dec 19th | Cancun

- Breakfast at JW Marriott in Cancun and talk on Tourism in Cancun by Professors from Universidad del Caribe)
- Project Presentations and Wrap-up discussions
- Chichen Itza day trip (optional) or Free Day at the beach
- Overnight stay at the JW Marriott in Cancun (dinner on own)

Day 12 | Wednesday Dec 20th | Depart

- Morning departure Cancun > Atlanta

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Major meals and roundtrip airfare from ATL to Cancun are included in the cost of the trip.
- Participants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from Atlanta.
- 1st deposit of \$1250 USD due May 1st, 2017
- Final balance of \$1250 USD due November 1st, 2017

TO VIEW or DOWNLOAD A PDF PRESENTATION ABOUT THE TRIP

https://www.dropbox.com/s/gk0mggylh8gcia2/ITAAYUC_SHORTPITCH.pdf?dl=0

FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION

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www.itaonline.org > Opportunities > Study Tours

or contact Ashley Kubley