Jungle Kingdoms of the Ancient Maya

January 6 - 19, 2017 (14 days)
with Mayanist Alexandre Tokovinine

"Alex was the best archeologist I have ever traveled with. His attention to the group, wonderful on-site explanations, lectures, and willingness to answer questions...I learned more than on any other archeological experience I have had."
This tropical adventure provides the best-paced itinerary available to thoroughly explore ancient Maya sites in the lush jungles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. Maya art and architecture will “come alive” as you encounter enormous stelae (carved monoliths), painted frescoes, stucco friezes, carved lintels, and huge temple-pyramids that soar above the rainforest. Explore, in-depth, the sites of Palenque, Bonampak, Yaxchilán, Tikal, Yaxhá, Copán, and Quiriguá (four are UNESCO World Heritage sites); with free time to go bird watching or simply relax, reflect, and enjoy our comfortable hotels and remote jungle lodges. Limited to 16 participants.

**ITINERARY**

(B)= Breakfast, (L)= Lunch, (D)= Dinner

Friday, January 6, 2017 - HOME | VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico
Depart home for Villahermosa where, if traveling on the suggested group flight, you will be met upon arrival at the airport and transferred to our hotel. For those arriving independently, a taxi can be hired for the short drive into town. **Overnight at the Hyatt Villahermosa for two nights.**

Saturday, January 7 - VILLAHERMOSA | COMALCALCO | VILLAHERMOSA
Set out for Comalcalco, the westernmost known Maya site, and the only Maya city built with bricks of baked clay instead of stone. The site comprises the North Square, Great Acropolis, and Acropolis of the East, and it thrived as an agricultural center specializing in cacao (the seeds from which cocoa, cocoa butter, and chocolate are made). After lunch we visit a hacienda to learn about modern cacao production, returning to our hotel late in the afternoon for a few hours at leisure before our welcome dinner. (B,L,D)

“By far the highlight of the tour was Dr. Alex Tokovinine’s expertise, sharing ability, teaching capability, sense of humor and general demeanor. All the sites were magnificent, well organized, and incredibly interesting.”

Sunday, January 8 - VILLAHERMOSA | LA VENTA PARK | PALENQUE
Visit La Venta Park to see a magnificent outdoor collection of stone sculpture that originally came from the Olmec site of La Venta. The Olmec were one of the earliest cultures developed in Mesoamerica, preceding the Maya by centuries. Their monumental stone carvings and strange mythological beings puzzle archaeologists to this day. After lunch, drive to Palenque, a World Heritage site and one of the great western capitals of classic Maya civilization that some have called “the Paris of the Maya.” We will check into our charming hotel and have time for relaxation, exploring the surrounding lush forest, and swimming in the unusual pool. **Overnight at Chan Kah Resort Village for two nights.** (B,L,D)

Monday, January 9 - PALENQUE
Explore Palenque’s many exquisite examples of 7th- and 8th-century Maya architecture, including the Temple of the Inscriptions, Palace, Temples of the Cross Group, recently uncovered Temples XIX and XXI, and much more. We finish the morning walking a beautiful downhill jungle trail, across waterfalls and hidden ruins, to get a true sense of the rainforest and all its beauty. After lunch at an outdoor, palm thatch restaurant, visit the Palenque site museum, with many world famous pieces of Maya ceramics, jades, and stone carving. (B,L,D)
Tuesday, January 10 - PALENQUE | BONAMPAK | FRONTERA COROZAL

Enjoy some time at leisure, perhaps to stroll around the resort grounds, do some hiking, take a swim, or relax on our bungalows' individual verandas, before departing for Bonampak. Lunch today will be in a rustic jungle restaurant. The discovery of the painted murals at Bonampak in the 1950s changed the way the world saw the Maya. Although the murals are faded and difficult to view, they remain a sight to see. The site is run by Lacandon Maya, and we may get a chance to interact with them during our visit. Continue on to Frontera Corozal, a Chol Maya community on the banks of the Usumacinta River, the famous “river of ruins.” Along its banks, classic Maya civilization built some of its grandest cities. We are now traveling deep into the heart of Maya country, and we will stay at a remote, rustic jungle lodge. **Overnight at the Escudo Jaguar Lodge for two nights. (B,L,D)**

“Each location had special components to offer. The boat trips on the Usumacinta River were amazing adventures to special sites. The leaders were always accommodating and interested in what we wanted to see and learn.”

Wednesday, January 11 - FRONTERA COROZAL | YAXCHILÁN | FRONTERA COROZAL

After breakfast, travel by motor launch down the Usumacinta River to the great classic Maya site of Yaxchilán, whose high-crested temples and palaces climb the steep hills above a large plaza upon a terrace by the river. We will spend all day at this fantastic site, enjoying a picnic lunch under the forest canopy. Beautiful monolithic stelae (standing stone monuments) and lintels spanning the temple doorways display intricate reliefs. Howler and spider monkeys and many tropical birds may accompany us as we explore the steep jungle trails, climbing to the higher elevations overlooking the ancient Maya landscape. We return by boat to our lodge late this afternoon. (B,L,D)

Thursday, January 12 - FRONTERA COROZAL | TIKAL, Guatemala

Journey upriver and cross over into the heart of Guatemala, to the World Heritage site of Tikal. As with most Maya sites, Classic Period constructions cover those from earlier times, and ancient structures are scattered for miles in every direction from its center. **Overnight at the Jungle Lodge for three nights. (B,L,D)**

Friday, January 13 - TIKAL

Spend a full day at Tikal, which contains thousands of ancient structures, the majority of which remain unexcavated. This vast site has spectacular pyramids, numerous plazas, a sprawling main palace and several lesser royal residences, multiple ball courts, causeways, dozens of stelae, and much more. It is estimated that more than 50,000 people lived at Tikal in its heyday, and the story of the city and its rise and fall mirrors the larger story of Maya civilization itself. Following the glories of the Classic Period, the site was largely abandoned by A.D. 900. (B,L,D)

Saturday, January 14 - TIKAL | YAXHÁ | TIKAL

Weather permitting, there will be an optional, pre-dawn hike for breathtaking views at sunrise from Tikal’s Temple IV—the site’s tallest pyramid at 230 feet, and the largest Maya shrine built in the 8th century. After breakfast, we will visit the Tikal site museum. The remainder of the day is free for you to revisit Tikal, relax, or join our study leader on a 1.5 hour drive to Yaxhá, a large and important ancient Maya site that is infrequently visited. Located in dense jungle on a ridge overlooking turquoise Lake Yaxhá, still known by its ancient name, the vast site includes numerous altars and stelae, nine temple pyramids, and two ball courts. Boxed lunches will be enjoyed at the site. (B,L,D)

Above, the magnificent Temple I at Tikal rises 154 feet. Below, the Yaxhá Plaza.
Sunday, January 15 - TIKAL | RIO DULCE
Depart Tikal for the Rio Dulce, where we enjoy lunch and get an overview of the area, including viewing a 17th-century Spanish fortress, the Castle of San Felipe de Lara, located where the river meets Lake Izabal. Also visit the Southeastern Petén Regional Museum, in the town of Dolores, with a significant collection of Classic Maya artifacts. Late this afternoon, we check in to our waterside hotel. Overnight at the Hotel Catamaran. (B,L,D)

Monday, January 16 - RIO DULCE | QUIRIGUÁ | COPÁN, Honduras
After a short boat ride, continue to Quiriguá, home to the tallest Maya stela— one weighs 65 tons and is 35 feet above ground and eight feet underground. Sculpture here is like no other place, with spectacular cosmograms in the likeness of divine crocodiles and jaguars carved in the round from huge boulders. Here we also find a rare description of mythical events which took place at the origin of the calendar Great Cycle that ended in 2012. After leaving Quiriguá, we have lunch in the Motagua Valley, the primary jade source for all of Mesoamerica; and stop in Estanzuela to visit the small Roberto Wookfolk Saravia Paleontology and Archeology Museum. Continue on, crossing the border into Honduras, and check in to our hotel. Overnight at the Clarion Copán for two nights. (B,L,D)

“His [Alex’s] enthusiasm, his knowledge, his humor, and his hands-on explanations made the Maya Kingdom very real and exciting. It was indeed a privilege to have this experience with this lecturer.”

Tuesday, January 17 - COPÁN
A short drive brings us to the archaeological site of Copán, known as Hux Wintik (translation uncertain). If Palenque was the “Paris of the Maya,” then Copán was the “Athens of the Maya.” The magnificent acropolis, plazas, courtyards, and standing sculptures are the hallmarks of this southernmost Maya capital. Enjoy a splendid picnic lunch at the site and then visit the excellent site museum, which has a full-scale replica of the funeral shrine of the founder of the Copán dynasty and many fabulous pieces of Maya sculpture. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 18 - COPÁN | SAN PEDRO SULA
Tour the Sepulturas Group, located a few miles from the site of Copán, which also housed a residential area for non-Maya (perhaps foreign merchants) around A.D. 800. Also visit newly-opened Rastrojón, a defensive site with panoramic views of the valley that is the latest Harvard University-sponsored archaeological project at Copán. We have now traveled from the western capital of Palenque, through the heartland at Tikal, and on to the southern capital of Copán, giving us a sense of the enormity of ancient Maya civilization in its heyday. After lunch at a local restaurant, drive to San Pedro Sula, where we check in to our hotel, get settled, and then gather for a farewell dinner. Overnight at the InterContinental Real San Pedro Sula. (B,L,D)

Thursday, January 19 - SAN PEDRO SULA | HOME
Transfer to the airport in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, for flights home. (B)

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**HARVARD MUSEUMS LECTURER AND HOST**

Alexandre Tokovinine is a Maya epigrapher and archaeologist. He participated in several projects in Guatemala, including the Holmul Archaeological Project and Proyecto Arqueológico de Investigación y Rescate Naranjo. Alexandre received his PhD in Anthropology at Harvard University in 2008. His doctoral research centered on Classic Maya place names and was supported by the Junior Fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks. Its results were published in a monograph, *Place and Identity in Classic Maya Narratives*. Alexandre’s other research projects include 3D documentation of Classic Maya sculpture and contributions to *Ancient Maya Art at Dumbarton Oaks* (CAA Alfred H. Barr Jr. Award of 2013) and *Veiled Brightness: A History of Ancient Maya Color*. Alexandre is currently a research associate of the Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions, Peabody Museum, as well as lecturer at the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University. He received excellent reviews as the Harvard Museums lecturer and host on a 2014 departure of this Jungle Kingdoms tour.
What to Expect
This program involves extensive walking often on uneven terrain or up and down stairs that may be steep and without handrails. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. Participants who are not able to walk unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour unless accompanied by a companion who will be available to assist you at all times. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not the program is appropriate for you. At the time of year that we visit this region the weather is generally sunny and dry, with temperatures in the upper 70s and 80s during the day and in the 50s and 60s at night. Complete pre-departure details and what to pack will be sent to participants.

Air Arrangements
Airfare is not included. Group arrival and departure transfers are provided in conjunction with the suggested flights. Once you have received your final payment invoice you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

About the Travel Program
Harvard Alumni Travels is the umbrella organization for all Harvard alumni and museum travel programs. Harvard Alumni Travels and HMSC have formed a partnership to offer superior trips with expert planning, custom-designed itineraries, and Harvard lecturers. Journey in the spirit of expeditions gone-by, with small groups of like-minded travelers. Travel with HMSC and discover the world.

Reservations & Payment (U.S. dollars)
A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. You will receive an invoice for final payment. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment.

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For questions and to make a reservation please contact:

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Email: hmsctravel@hmsc.harvard.edu
Website: www.hmsc.harvard.edu/travel

Travel Programs, Harvard Museums of Science & Culture
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138

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Tour Prices (Per Person)
Double Occupancy (11-16 participants) ....................... $8,395
Single Supplement .................................................. $1,245

PRICES INCLUDE:
• Leadership of Dr. Alexandre Tokovinine, plus an experienced tour manager, local guides, and drivers;
• Group arrival and departure airport transfers for those taking the suggested flights;
• All ground and riverboat transportation as indicated in the itinerary;
• All accommodations as indicated in the itinerary;
• All meals (except on day of arrival), including welcome and farewell dinners with cocktails;
• One soft drink or beer at lunch and dinner plus bottled water during meals and on excursions;
• All entrance fees to all sites listed in the itinerary;
• All tips for the tour manager, guides, drivers, maids, bell hops, and porters at airports for those on suggested flights;
• Comprehensive pre-departure information, including what to pack and a suggested reading guide.
• $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance.

Not Included: Any airfare; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; meals on day of arrival; alcoholic beverages except as noted above; excess baggage charges; personal, trip cancellation and baggage insurance; any activities not specified in the itinerary; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, medical expenses, and room service.

Cancellation and Refunds: All requests for cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received at least 90 days prior to departure will receive a full refund less a $300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received between 89 and 60 days prior to departure will receive a full refund less an $800 per person fee. No refunds will be made for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. Refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Insurance: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for trip cancellation insurance will be sent upon confirmation. The pre-existing medical conditions exclusion is waived if the insurance is purchased within 15 days of initial deposit. Neither the HMSC nor the tour operator accepts 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. As a service to our travelers we automatically provide emergency medical evacuation insurance. You will receive detailed coverage information approximately 30 days prior to your departure.

Prices, leader, and itinerary are subject to change.

About the Museums: The Harvard Museums of Science & Culture (HMSC) partnership was established in 2012 to develop a strong, coordinated public face for the six museums that are within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard. Its mission is to foster curiosity and a spirit of discovery in visitors of all ages, enhancing public understanding of and appreciation for the natural world, science, and human cultures. HMSC works with Harvard faculty, museum curators, students, and members of the extended Harvard community to provide interdisciplinary exhibitions, events, and lectures, as well as educational programs for students, teachers, and the general public. HMSC draws primarily upon the extensive collections of the member museums and upon the research of their faculty and curators.
JUNGLE KINGDOMS OF THE ANCIENT MAYA
January 6 - 19, 2017 (14 days)
with Mayanist Alexandre Tokovinine

“Dr. Alexandre Tokovinine’s knowledge about the Maya sites, the history, and archeology is as boundless as his enthusiasm and professionalism.”

Yaxchilán, Bonampak, and Yaxhá (seen here) are three spectacular but rarely visited ancient Maya sites.
Terms & Conditions

Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason nor to passengers whose required documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. RESPONSIBILITY: The Harvard Museums of Science & Culture and its agent, Eos Study Tours (hereinafter “Sponsors”), and the tour operator, and their respective employees, officers, directors, trustees or representatives (hereinafter “Operator”) assume no liability for failure to provide the services, transportation, lecturers and accommodations referred to in this brochure to the extent that such services and accommodations cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond the control of Operator, which include but are not limited to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, and acts of God. In the absence of negligence on the part of Operator, the participant agrees that Operator has no responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for or damage to or injury to, or death of persons due to any act, omission or negligence of any carrier, hotel, restaurant, bus carrier, tender service, sightseeing company, or any other persons rendering any of the services or ground portions of the itinerary. The participant further waives any claim against Operator and Sponsors for any such damage, loss, injury or death. Operator and Sponsors shall not be responsible for any additional expenses, delays, substitution of equipment, and/or any act or omission whatsoever by the suppliers of such services, their agents, servants and employees, and the participant hereby waives any claim arising therefrom. Operator and Sponsors reserve the right to decline, accept or reject any applicant at any time. Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part, except when trip cancellation, itinerary changes and/or delays are mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Operator and Sponsors are able to recover on the passenger’s behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, Operator and Sponsors shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. All refunds of passenger payments are the responsibility of Eos and/or the Operator, and the participant agrees that the sponsor bears no financial responsibility for refunding of participant’s payments. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies (such as ship operators and airlines) and the purchaser of this tour and/or passage. Participants are encouraged to purchase airline tickets no sooner than 60 days before the tour begins to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant’s purchase of those tickets. Sponsors and Operator accept no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets to the tour departure city and return. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. Itinerary: Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary due to weather conditions, availability of anchorages, political conditions and other factors beyond our control without consulting the participants. Participants have no right to any refund or other considerations in the event of these itinerary changes. Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices. AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE, EACH PARTICIPANT MUST AGREE TO AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING RELEASE OF LIABILITY: RELEASE: Notwithstanding anything set forth above or otherwise contained herein, the signatory clearly understands that the signatory is in no way responsible and can assume no liability of any nature whatsoever for the tour and any acts, omissions or negligence by the Operator or by companies and persons with whom the Operator may contract. The signatory has carefully read the list of activities, requirements and conditions as listed in the brochure and application for the tour and is/are aware that the tour and its activities involve the risk of personal injury or death and damage or loss of property. In consideration of the benefits to be derived from participation in the tour, the signatory voluntarily accepts all risk of personal injury or death and property damage or other loss arising from participation on the tour and hereby agrees that he/she and his/her dependents, heirs, executors and assigns, do release and hold harmless Sponsors and the employees, officers, directors, trustees or representatives of Sponsors, from and all claims, including claims of negligence, illness, personal injury, death or property damage or loss, however caused, arising from or related to this tour. The signatory has read carefully this agreement, and will abide by the conditions set by Sponsors and the Operator as described in the brochure and in the Terms and Conditions of this and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. The signatory affirms that he/she has not received or relied on any oral or written representation of Sponsors as a basis for executing this Release.

HMSC Membership
One membership in the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture opens the doors to four unique museums. As a member, enjoy access to the museums through free admission, behind-the-scenes tours, exclusive member events, and opportunities to interact personally with celebrated scientists, archaeologists, artists, and experts from Harvard and around the world. Additionally, membership supports the museums’ ability to bring dynamic exhibitions and engaging public programs to a broad and diverse audience.

I/We would like to become a member at the following level:

- Senior/Student $35
- Individual $50
- Household $85
- Supporting $125
- Sustaining $250
- Patron $500

Please enclose a separate check made out to Harvard University/HMSC for membership. Thank You.

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