

Classic Copán

2 days / 1 night, daily from / to San Pedro Sula
Approach: Mayan Culture

Day 1: San Pedro Sula – Copán Ruinas

In the morning you meet with your guide at the reception of your hotel. The transfer to Copán, located at the extreme west of Honduras next to the Guatemalan border, takes about three hours. En route you have the chance to enjoy beautiful countryside and to obtain first information about Mayan trade routes, social and political organization, as well as theories on their mysterious demise. Upon arrival we visit the little museum in the centre of the town, where you can find unique and original pieces from the archaeological park. In the afternoon there is time for a walk through the picturesque town. Overnight in Copán.

Day 2: Copán Ruinas – San Pedro Sula

After breakfast we visit the legendary Archaeological Park of Copán Ruins, which consists of two main sites: the ruins and the sepulchres. Apart from Tikal, Copán is recognized as one of the best excavated archeological sites. Although Copán was much smaller than Tikal, it stood out due to its artistry. Learn about the impressive 63-step stairway with over 2'500 hieroglyphs and masterfully carved stelae. By now it is the longest Maya text that has been discovered. There is enough time to gain insight into the history of Copán and take some great pictures before we return to San Pedro Sula in the late afternoon. End of the program or extension of your stay with another one of our itineraries. Please ask for our special archaeological tours and/or extension programs in Copán or to Quiriguá and Tikal in Guatemala.

Services included:

- 1 night lodging incl. breakfast
- All transfers and entrances according to itinerary
- Mesoamérica bilingual guide day 1-2
- 16% local taxes

Please find the rates for up to 4 participants on our web.

Wholesalers and groups 5+ please inquire special conditions at
sales@mesoamerica-travel.com



Copán Ruins

In a pretty valley in Honduras' western extreme lie the Ruins of Copán. The subject of exploration and investigation since the 1830s, archaeologists are digging deep into its massive temples, uncovering an intriguing buried dynasty. Their remarkable discoveries represent a Maya resurrection, and have made Copán the most thoroughly researched and understood of all Maya sites.

Since their emergence around 2,000 BC, the Maya developed into the New World's most sophisticated ancient civilization, a society of scientists, skilled architects and sculptors, fierce warriors, and a ruling class that raised enormous temples to honour the lives and achievements of their kings. Representing the southeast limit to the spread of the Maya world, the city-state of Copán became the Maya's crowning artistic achievement, the cultural apex of Maya civilization. Leader among all Maya cities in terms of quantity and quality of stone sculpture, it has been dubbed the Athens of the New World.

Classic Copán

The key to understanding Copán is a large, square block of carved stone known today as Altar Q. This altar depicts sixteen seated men, four on each of its North, East, South, and West sides. These sixteen figures were once thought to be astronomers gathered at an important meeting to adjust the Maya calendar, but we now know that the figures represent the members of a dynastic lineage of 16 kings whose rule spanned nearly four centuries between 426 AD to approximately 820 AD, Copan's "golden age". The stelaes and temples in Copán were erected to commemorate the accomplishments of this dynasty of kings.