

MEXICO CITY BOTANICAL GARDEN TOUR



8 Days FOR \$2195.00 (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)

TOUR SIZE 18-20 PARTICIPANTS

AUGUST 18, 2024 TO AUGUST 25, 2024

REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 15, 2024

The tour will afford Tucson Botanical Garden members an unparalleled opportunity to explore the beauty of Mexico City's botanical gardens. Showcasing a rich variety of plant species, both native and exotic, they are havens for the soul and places to rediscover the simple magic of nature. They can remind us of the interconnectedness of all living things and inspire us to become better stewards of our fragile planet. Mixed in with botanical garden visits, you will also

discover the city's rich history, culture, and art during visits to its most fascinating pre-Columbian, Colonial, and Post-Independence sites.

TOUR LEADER & GUIDES: Tour leader, Tucson freelance writer, and photographer Dan Chavez will be joined by Tucson Botanical Gardens Director of Horticulture Adam Ferrell Wortman and Executive Director Michelle Conklin, and accompanied by Ministry of Tourism guides Maribel Lugo and Isaac Rojas on this amazing adventure of exploration and discovery.

DAILY ITINERARY

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Sunday, August 18: Arrive Mexico City

For those arriving before 5:30 PM, your tour leader will meet you at the airport to facilitate ground transportation to the hotel. Those arriving after 5:30 PM can easily book a taxi at one of the many airport taxi kiosks in the terminal. Should this be the case, the tour will reimburse you for the cost of the taxi. *A get-acquainted group happy hour will be provided at 7:00 PM.*

Monday, August 19: Jardín Botánico Chapultepec, Museo Antropología & Voladores de Papantla. (B, L)

After breakfast, we depart for the nearby **Jardín Botánico Chapultepec**. The garden has more than 300 varieties of plants, including pollinator plants, edible plants, succulents, wetland plants, 14 species of wild dahlias, agaves, cacti, and arboretum. We will be treated to Cacti & chili plant displays, plus rare orchids in an ornate glasshouse with a stained-glass roof.

After our group lunch, we will visit the **Museo de Antropología**. This is the largest and most visited museum in Mexico. It houses an extensive collection of artifacts, art, and archaeological finds that span the diverse cultures and civilizations that have inhabited Mexico throughout its history.

Before returning to our hotel, we will relax in a shaded area of the nearby park to watch the Voladores (Flying Men) de Papantla perform a traditional Mesoamerican ceremonial ritual rooted in ancient indigenous cultures. The ritual is recognized as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO.

Tuesday, August 20: UNAM Jardín Botánico, Palacio Nacional, the Rivera Murals, & Templo Mayor (B, L)

After breakfast, we will travel to **UNAM-Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México's Jardín Botánico**. The garden's living collections maintain more than 1,600 species of plants native to Mexican forests, deserts, and jungles. Here, we will discover plant diversity's various historical and cultural uses.

After our group lunch, we will visit the **Palacio Nacional & the Rivera Murals**. It is a splendid example of Colonial architecture in the city's main square, El Zócalo. The historic site has been a palace for Mexico's rulers & leaders since the days of the Aztec empire, the Colonial period, and the post-independence period up through today.

The ancient site of the **Templo Mayor** is our third stop of the day. We will walk the site of the main temple of Moctezuma's Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan.

Wednesday, August 21: Pyramids at Teotihuacán & a Private Garden Tour. (B, L)

Today, we travel to the famed Pyramids at Teotihuacán, located 30 miles northeast of Mexico City. Teotihuacán was one of the most significant and influential cities of pre-Columbian civilizations in the Americas. Its population was estimated at 125,000 or more.

After our group lunch, we will have the opportunity to visit a private garden in Mexico City.

In the evening, we will attend a performance by famed choreographer Amalia Hernandez's renowned Ballet Folklórico de Mexico. The performance is held in the iconic Palacio de Bellas Artes. Internationally acclaimed, this uniquely Mexican troupe has toured in over 60 countries and 300 cities worldwide.

Thursday, August 22: Floating Gardens at Xochimilco & Museo Frida Kahol. (B, L, D)

In the morning, we will visit the **Floating Gardens at Xochimilco**. Dating back to the time of the Aztecs, the floating gardens of Xochimilco continue to thrive in Mexico City. They heavily support the area's agriculture by cultivating flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Despite being located near a big city, the floating gardens are more of a small town, named "where the flowers grow."

After our group lunch, we will travel to nearby Coyoacan and the **Museo Frida Kahlo**. It showcases her historic house, art museum, and verdant garden and is dedicated to Frida's life and work. We will tour the house's private rooms and stroll its leafy gardens, which were her and Diego Rivera's vivid expression of post-revolutionary Mexicanismo. Her garden was her creative refuge, and the plants inspired many of her paintings.

We will enjoy a group dinner at Hotel Casa Gonzalez in the evening.

Friday, August 23: Mercado Jamaica & the Jardín Botánico del Parque Bicentenario. (B)

Entering the **Mercado Jamaica** is a visual explosion of color. Considered one of the world's most beautiful flower markets, it has over 1100 vendors. With flowers filling the stalls and lining the floors in all directions, visitors are drawn to explore its wonder.

After our group lunch, we visit the Jardín Botánico del Parque Bicentenario. The botanical garden is the result of the 2007 conversion of a disused former PEMEX refinery as part of closing polluting industrial plants within Mexico City. All the industrial structures were dismantled, and the master plan took full advantage of the land. The Parque comprises a series of indoor and outdoor botanical spaces, representing the nine most significant biomes in Mexico.

Saturday, August 24: (B, D) Sabado Bazaar & Free Afternoon.

We travel to Colonia San Angel and the Sabado Bazaar on Saturday morning. This colorful bazaar is housed in an 18th-century home, and the surrounding plaza and streets feature many vendors selling fine art, jewelry, textiles, and pottery. The market showcases the country's rich cultural heritage, from colorful textiles to traditional folk art. There is also a wide variety of delightful cafés and restaurants for lunch.

After lunch, we return to our hotel. The rest of the afternoon is yours to stroll through Paseo Reforma, do a little shopping, or adventure out on your own to explore. Your tour leader and guides will be happy to share ideas for sightseeing.

In the evening, we will enjoy a group dinner at a restaurant in nearby Colonia Polanco.

Sunday, August 25: Mexico City Botanical Garden Tour Concludes. (B, flight time permitting)

Depart from the hotel with many happy memories.

TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Transfers to and from the airport to the hotel.
- ✓ Accommodations for seven nights.
- ✓ Double occupancy rooms; single occupancy available for an additional fee.
- ✓ 15 meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 group lunches, 1 happy hour and 2 group dinners.
- ✓ Visits to five 5 botanical gardens, 1 private garden, and 7 historical or cultural sites.
- ✓ Admissions to all sites.
- ✓ Expert guides at all sites.
- ✓ Server tips for group meals.
- ✓ Ground transportation to all tour sites and villages.

*** AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED

REGISTER TODAY

Per person, double occupancy: **\$2195.00**
Registration Deposit: **\$500.00**
Single occupancy supplement: **\$200**
Registration Deadline: **APRIL 1, 2024**
Final Payment Due: **JUNE 1, 2024**

FOR QUESTIONS PLS CONTACT

Dan Chavez, Email: fotoventures@gmail.com
or Tel: 520-904-5730

TUCSON BOTANICAL GARDEN DONATION

Your trip payment includes a \$300.00 gift to the Tucson Botanical Garden that will be made in your name. Travelers will receive documentation from the Tucson Botanical Garden to record their tax-deductible donation.

PAYMENT DEADLINES

Registrations & deposits will be accepted on a first-come basis with an **APRIL 1, 2024 DEADLINE**. A **\$500.00** deposit is requested with your registration to secure your tour spot. A PDF copy of your registration form can be sent electronically to Dan Chavez via email at fotoventures@gmail.com. Your deposit payment can be made electronically through your bank via Zelle to fotoventures@gmail.com or via the Venmo app to [@Daniel-Chavez-175](https://venmo.com/Daniel-Chavez-175). Let us know if you wish to pay using a credit card, and we will invoice you via PayPal. **The final payment is due by JUNE 1, 2024.**

We strongly recommend that you NOT make non-refundable travel arrangements until the tour is confirmed. The tour will be confirmed once the tour minimum is met or no later than **the registration deadline on APRIL 1, 2024.**

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Cancellations must be in writing. Participants who cancel on or before **June 18, 2024**, will receive a full refund, less

a \$95.00 processing fee. No refund can be made if a cancellation is made after that date. We cannot be responsible for losses due to non-refundable airline tickets or other travel arrangements. **Travel insurance is highly recommended.** You may also wish to consider **minimum medical emergency and evacuation insurance.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Every effort will be made to carry out all the activities as planned. However, in the event of unforeseen circumstances or events beyond our control, we reserve the right to make adjustments or modifications to the itinerary and/or accommodations that may be deemed necessary. Passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay in Mexico, with blank pages for immigration stamps.

TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL and PACE

The tour is moderately active. On a scale of 1 to 10, it would be a level 5 to 6. Travelers should be able to walk 2 to 3 miles, including climbing one or two flights of stairs and over uneven pavement or cobblestones. In addition, standing up for one to two hours may be required at some sites. The pace is moderate or level 5-6, on a scale of 1 to 10. Our itinerary includes two to three sites daily, allowing for a 90-minute lunch/rest break. Most venues offer benches or seating should you need to rest for a few minutes or catch your breath. Throughout each day there will be regular opportunities for restroom breaks at venues and restaurants. Bottled water can be purchased at tour sites, kiosks, and mini-marts.

The itinerary calls for departing the hotel each morning at 9:00 AM and returning to the hotel around 5:00 PM. On Wednesday, we will be going back out to the Ballet Fockloricio performance at 7:30 PM and returning to the hotel at approximately 10:30 PM. We will depart the hotel for dinner at 6:30 PM on Saturday evening and return by 9:30 PM.

TOUR LEADER BIO

Dan Chavez is a Tucson-based freelance writer and photographer. In 2002, he founded FotoVentures and began creating, producing, and marketing his photographic art. Dan subsequently shifted into the field of commercial photography, photographing corporate and non-profit events, advertising stills, weddings, and headshots. Seeking new markets for his photography in 2015, he began freelance writing with a focus on sharing the wonder of other cultures and traditions.

A 2017 Frida Kahlo magazine article led to a consulting project for a Mexico City tour that opened the door to a whole new world. Dan's sense of adventure resulted in his launching independent tours to Mexico.

As a freelance writer and photographer, Dan has been fortunate to travel widely, researching Mexico's, Argentina's, Peru's, Cuba's, Spain's, and Guatamala's cultures and traditions for his magazine articles.

Having visited Mexico frequently over the past 10 years, Dan is well-versed in the country's customs, traditions, and cultural highlights. Dan's experience and insight, along with his enthusiasm and curiosity, will give you a unique and informed perspective on the tour.