



9 Days FOR \$2595.00 (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)

TOUR SIZE 14-20 PARTICIPANTS

OCTOBER 26 TO NOVEMBER 3, 2024

REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2024

Embrace and explore the historic city of Oaxaca and nearby artisan villages in an unparalleled opportunity to celebrate Mexico's Día de Los Muertos. Voted the 2023 number-one city in the world by Travel & Leisure Magazine readers, it's home to a vibrant culture, beautiful weather, delectable food, and strong indigenous folk art traditions.

TOUR LEADERS: Your tour leaders will be Tucson freelance writer and photographer Dan Chavez and contemporary abstract painter, entrepreneur, and author Stevie Mack. Join your tour leaders for this amazing adventure and become a part of the festivities as you visit cemeteries, shop the unique markets, and enjoy the processions.

DAILY ITINERARY

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Saturday, October 26: Arrive Oaxaca City, Mexico

Your tour leader will meet you at the airport to facilitate ground transportation to the hotel. Depending on your arrival time, you may explore the historic district near the hotel and have dinner.

Sunday, October 27: Oaxaca City & San Agustin de las Juntas. (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, your tour leaders will provide orientation followed by a walkabout through Oaxaca's Centro Historico. The walkabout will include a visit to the public market, a chocolate-making store, and more.

After enjoying lunch on your own, we will travel by motorcoach to the village of San Agustin de las Juntas' and the home and workshop of the Agustin Prudencio family. Prudencio will demonstrate and discuss his materials and techniques. He is recognized for his creativity as one of the great masters of Mexican folk art in the prestigious Banamex's book of the same name.



Tonight we will enjoy dinner at a traditional restaurant.

Monday, October 28: Santa Maria de Tule & Teotitlan del Valle. (B, L)

After breakfast, we depart for our first stop in the village of Santa Maria de Tule, renowned for its Tule Tree, the largest tree in the Western Hemisphere.

The next stop on our day's adventure is the village of Teotitlan del Valle, famous for its tapete (rug) weaving and ritual candle artisans. We will visit the home of Nelson Perez Mendoza,



who is from a well-known family of loom weavers. They will demonstrate the techniques used to make their wool rugs, including carding, spinning, dyeing, and weaving. Following the demonstration, we will stroll around the village's Mercado Central and Colonial Church. We will then return to the Perez Mendoza workshop to enjoy a traditional Oaxacan lunch.



After lunch, the ritual candle workshop of 75-year-old Doña Viviana is our next stop. We will learn her remarkable story of how she apprenticed at her grandmother's side as a 10-year-old girl. Viviana and her son, Roman, will demonstrate the intricate steps they employ to fabricate their wonderous ritual candles.

Tuesday, October 29: Santo Tomas Jalieza and San Martin Tilcajete. (B, L)

Today, we will visit the village of Santo Tomas Jalieza and the Navarro Gómez Family home and workshop to learn about backstrap weaving. Doña Mariana Gómez and her three daughters produce a beautiful assortment of functional woven cotton items.



Our next stop is the prominent woodcarving village of San Martin Tilcajete, the home of Zeny and Reyna Fuentes. We will enjoy a traditional lunch, an alebrije wood carving demonstration, and an opportunity for shopping.

Wednesday, October 30: Monte Alban Archeological Site and Santa Maria de Atzompa. (B, L)

This morning, we visit the archeological site of Monte Alban. It served as the political and economic center of the Zapotec civilization for nearly 1500 years. Its impressive



size & sprawling architectural remains are a testament to Zapotec's organizational and building skills. Our group will have lunch at the site's restaurant, which overlooks the scenic valley, offering great fare

and a breathtaking view.

After lunch, we visit the village of Santa Maria de Atzompa and the home of Ednedina Vasquez, a highly acclaimed folk art clay artist. Her work forming terracotta figures with regional religious and secular themes has been awarded the 2013 "Premio Pantaleón Panduro" in 2013 Premio Nacional de la Cerámica" by Mexcio's president.

Thursday, October 31: Templo Santo Domingo and the Museo de Las Culturas. (B)

After breakfast we head out on foot to the nearby Templo de Santo Domingo. Opened in 1724, it is a striking example of the Colonial period's Spanish Baroque architecture. We will also visit the adjacent Museo de las Culturas. Housed in 17th-century ex-Convento, the museum has an impressive collection of Zapotec and Mixtec treasures found in Monte Alban's tomb N^o. 7. You will be able to enjoy a free afternoon with lunch and dinner on your own.



Tonight, we visit the cemeteries and observe the traditional celebrations for Día de Los Muertos. The graves are lavishly decorated and candlelit, and the smell of incense fills the air. Visitors are welcome to walk among the graves and be a part of the event.



Friday, November 1: Seasons of My Heart Cooking School. (B, L, D)

We depart immediately after breakfast for a cooking class at Seasons of My Heart, the famed ranch and cooking school of Suzana Trilling. You'll enjoy a cheese-making class followed by an opportunity to sample your creation.



After enjoying a light almuerzo (lunch) of traditional Oaxacan dishes, our instructor will talk about the recipes, ingredients, and cooking methods for the six dishes we will prepare. A hands-on cooking class will follow. At around 5:00 PM, we will sit down to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Saturday, November 2: San Bartolo de Coyotepec.

(B, D) On this, our last day, we travel to the Village of San Bartolo Coyotepec, famous for the black pottery of Mexico. We will visit the home of Magdalena Pedro Martinez, who comes from an outstanding family of talented potters. She will explain the traditional techniques she uses to create her exquisite museum-quality sculptured figures that recognize the 8 regions of the state of Oaxaca.



Afterward, we returned to Oaxaca City for lunch on our own, a free afternoon for exploring, and last-minute shopping.

Tonight, we will enjoy our farewell dinner.

Sunday, November 2: Oaxaca City-Tour Concludes.

(B, flight time permitting)

Depart from the hotel with many happy memories and your bags packed with folk art from Oaxaca!

TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Accommodations for eight nights.
- ✓ **8** Double occupancy rooms; **4** single occupancy available for an additional \$600.00 fee.
- ✓ **15** meals: **8** breakfasts, **4** group lunches, and **3** group dinners.
- ✓ Visits to **6** nearby villages and **8** artisan workshops.
- ✓ Admissions to all sites.
- ✓ A full-day cooking class with lunch and dinner.
- ✓ Server tips for group meals.
- ✓ Expert guides at all sites.
- ✓ Ground transportation to all tour sites and villages.

***** AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED**

REGISTER TODAY

Per person, double occupancy: **\$2595.00**
 Single occupancy supplement: **\$600** (4 available)
 Registration Deposit: **\$500.00**
 Registration Deadline: **APRIL 1, 2024**
 Final Payment Due: **JULY 26, 2024**

FOR QUESTIONS PLS CONTACT

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

PAYMENT DEADLINES

Registrations & deposits will be accepted on a first-come, first-served 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 JULY 26, 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 **August 26, 2024**, will receive a full refund, less a \$95.00 processing fee. No refund can be made for cancellations 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: Your tour leaders will make every effort to conduct the tour as advertised. However, in the event of unforeseen circumstances or events beyond our control, we reserve the right to make adjustments or modifications to the itinerary 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, which includes climbing one or two flights of stairs and walking over uneven pavement or cobblestones. In addition, standing up for one to two hours may be required at some of the 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, with regular restroom breaks at venues and restaurants. There are also opportunities to purchase bottled water 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 Thursday, we will be going back out to visit the cemeteries at 6:30 PM and returning to the hotel at approximately 9:30 PM.