



Oaxaca FOLK ART, ARCHEOLOGY & GASTRONOMY TOUR

9 DAYS FOR \$1995.00 (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)

TOUR SIZE 10-14 PARTICIPANTS

MARCH 4, TO MARCH 12, 2025

REGISTRATION DEADLINE | SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Embark on this exclusive journey to the enchanting city of Oaxaca, where history and culture collide. The tour will explore the region's artisan villages and visit Zapotec Folk artists in their workshops, including a skilled tapete (rug) weaver, a candlemaker, clay sculptors, and wood carvers. Our group meals will be a culinary adventure, showcasing the region's most delectable dishes. We will also spend a day at the renowned Seasons of My Heart Cooking School, where you will enhance your culinary skills. Our adventure includes visits to the ancient archeological sites of Monte Alban and Mitla. The tour will allow you to immerse yourself in the region's rich history and traditions to savor its delectable cuisine. This popular international destination was voted 2023's World's Best City by Travel and Leisure Magazine readers.

TOUR LEADER AND GUIDES: You will be in the capable hands of our tour leader, freelance writer, and photographer, Dan Chavez, and Oaxacan natives and guides Miguel Lescus and Evely Santibanez Lopez. They bring a wealth of knowledge and passion to the tour that they will eagerly share with you providing invaluable insights into the local culture and history.

DAILY ITINERARY

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Day 1 Tuesday, Mar 4: Arrive in Oaxaca City, Mexico.

Your tour leader will meet you at the airport to facilitate ground transportation to the hotel. Depending on your arrival time, travelers can become familiar with the surrounding area and enjoy a meal at a local restaurant.

Day 2 Wednesday, Mar 5: Oaxaca City & San Agustin de las Juntas. (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, your tour leader and guide will provide orientation followed by a walkabout through Oaxaca's Centro Histórico. The walkabout will include visiting the public market, a chocolate-making store, and more.



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

Tonight, the tour will host a welcome dinner at a traditional restaurant.

Day 3 Thursday, Mar 6: Santa Maria de Tule & Teotitlán del Valle. (B, L)

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

The next stop on our day's adventure is the village of Teotitlán del Valle, famous for its candle artisan and tapete (rug) weaving artisans. We will visit the ritual candle workshop of 75-year-old Doña Viviana. 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 to fabricate their wondrous ritual candles. Following the demonstration, we will stroll around the nearby village's Mercado Central and Colonial Church.



We will then visit Nelson Perez Mendoza's workshop to enjoy a traditional Oaxacan lunch. After lunch, Nelson, who is from a well-known family of loom weavers, will demonstrate the techniques used to make their wool rugs. The demonstration will include carding, spinning, dyeing, and weaving.



Day 4 Friday, Mar 7: Monte Alban Ancient Archeological Site and Santa Maria de Atzompa. (B, L)

This morning, we visit the ancient archeological site of Monte Alban. It served as the political and economic center of the Zapotec civilization for nearly 1500 years. Its impressive size and sprawling architectural remains are a testament to the Zapotecs' organizational and building skills. Our group will have



lunch at the site's restaurant, which overlooks the scenic valley and offers great fare and a breathtaking view.

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

Day 5 Saturday, Mar 8: San Bartolo de Coyotepec. (B)

Today 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 eight regions of the state of Oaxaca.



Afterward, we return to Oaxaca City for lunch on your own. You will have the afternoon at your leisure for independent exploration to see and do what interests you most. Your tour leaders will be available to provide you with various options.

Day 6 Sunday, Mar 9: Santo Tomas Jalieza and San Martin Tilcajete. (B, L)

Today, we will visit the village of Santo Tomas Jalieza and the Navarro Gómez Family workshop and home 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.

Day 7 Monday, Mar 10: 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 and an opportunity to sample your creation.



After enjoying a light almuerzo (lunch) of traditional Oaxacan dishes, our instructor will discuss 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.

Day 8 Tuesday, Mar 11: Mitla Ancient Archeological site, Templo Santo Domingo, and the Museo de Las Culturas. (B, L)

After breakfast, we travel to the Mitla ancient archeological site. It was inhabited at least since 100- 650 CE. It comprised the most important Zapotec religious center at the time.



After our group lunch, we return to Oaxaca City to visit 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.



Tonight, we will enjoy our farewell dinner.

Day 9 Wednesday, Mar 12: Oaxaca City-Tour Concludes. (B)

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

TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Transfers to and from the airport to the hotel.
- ✓ 8 nights accommodations at Parador Monte Carmelo.
- ✓ **16 meals: 8 breakfasts, 5 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 guide at all sites.
- ✓ Ground transportation to all tour sites and villages.

***** AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED**

REGISTER TODAY

Per person, double occupancy: **\$1995.00**

Single occupancy supplement: **\$350.00**

Registration Deposit: **\$500.00**

Registration Deadline: **SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

Final Payment Due: **DECEMBER 10, 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 a **SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, DEADLINE**. A **\$500.00** deposit is requested with your registration to secure your space on the tour. A PDF copy of your **registration form** can be sent electronically to

Dan Chavez via email to fotoventues@gmail.com. Your deposit payment may be made electronically through your bank via Zelle to fotoventures@gmail.com or via the Venmo app to [@Daniel-Chavez-175](https://www.venmo.com/Daniel-Chavez-175). Let us know if you wish to pay using a credit card, let us know, and we will invoice you via PayPal. A 3.0% processing fee is applied to credit card payments. **The final payment is due by DECEMBER 10, 2024.**

We strongly recommend that you NOT make non-refundable travel arrangements until the tour is confirmed. The tour will be confirmed once the minimum number of 10 is met or no later than the final payment deadline of DECEMBER 10, 2024. The \$500 deposit is fully refundable should the tour minimum not be met.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Cancellations must be in writing. Participants who cancel on or before **January 4, 2025**, 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.**

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 three 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, there will be 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.

TOUR LEADER BIO

Dan Chavez, is a Tucson-based freelance writer and photographer whose passion for capturing the world began in his teenage years. Since 2013, Chavez has been working as a commercial photographer, and in 2015, he expanded his creative talents to include freelance writing, focusing on Hispanic culture and its diverse and vibrant traditions.

A 2017 consulting project for a Mexico City tour sparked a world of new possibilities for Chavez. His adventurous spirit led him to start organizing exclusive small-group cultural tours to Mexico. By the end of this year he will have successfully conducted nine tours to Mexico City and Oaxaca. Looking ahead to 2025, Chavez will continue his popular tours to Mexico City and Oaxaca. Additionally, he will introduce a new tour to San Miguel de Allende and launch Mexico City 2.0, featuring all-new and unique sites

Chavez's curiosity has led him to explore the rich histories and traditions of Colonial Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Cuba, and Spain. Having visited Oaxaca on multiple occasions, he has become intimately familiar with its historical and cultural treasures. His extensive travels and deep knowledge provide a unique and insightful perspective on this tour.

Join Chavez on this extraordinary journey, and let his experience, enthusiasm, and curiosity enrich your adventure through Oaxaca's fascinating past and vibrant present.

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.