

COLONIAL MEXICO

10 days / 9 nights

After 2500 years, ancient Mexican civilizations met the Spanish "conquistadores" who arrived in the newly discovered continent under orders from the Spanish crown. Very quickly became Mexico the center of the Viceroyalty of New Spain (Nueva España). After the fall of the Aztec Empire, Spain ruled over Mexico for the next three hundred years. Tenochtitlan, the old capital of the Empire, became known as Mexico City. The Spaniards built palaces and churches on their own style, all over Mexico. One kind of building highlighted the colonial time, the Haciendas. These were very large enclosures of land, which produced a variety of crops, and employed many workers who lived on the land. The Spaniards decided also to change the native religions, languages and cultures. Missionaries were brought over from Spain to convert the indigenous populations to Roman Catholicism and started to educate natives according to Spanish beliefs. With the time, the Spanish language became the official language of the country. As a matter of fact, this combination of religions -the natives never gave up their own Gods, but accepted the Catholicism- cultures, architecture and traditions gave form to the Mestizo Era, On this tour we will help you to understand the influence the Spaniards left in Mesoamerica, visiting Mexico City, Oaxaca, Puebla, Taxco and Cuernavaca, where the influence of the "conquistadores" was big. Also, we will visit some of the renowned Mexican civilizations such as Tepotzotlan, Teotihuacan, Monte Alban and Cholula. And last but not least, you will have the chance to stay in one Hacienda in Tequesquitengo for an unforgettable experience.

DAY 1 (Thursday) INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT - MEXICO

Arrival in Mexico City, capital of the country and one of the largest cities in the world, built on the ruins of Tenochtitlan, the center of the Aztec universe. Reception through our Mexican partner who welcomes you with a "Cocktail de bienvenida" at the hotel.

DAY 2 (Friday) MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. We start our city tour visiting the heart of Mexico City's main square, known as the "Zocalo". The cathedral is located there and is one of the largest churches in the world. Commissioned by King Phillip II of Spain, the church was built in 1537 on the ruins of an Aztec temple. Afterwards, admired the 235m long National Palace, built upon the orders of Hernan Cortes in 1529. There you can see the wall paintings of Mexico's most famous painter Diego Rivera. See also the ruins of the "Templo Mayor", part of the old center of Tenochtitlan. Departure to the Anthropology Museum and on the way past the beautiful Paseo de la Reforma and Chapultepec Park where you will see a world-class permanent collection of Mesoamerica. Continue to Xochimilco, arriving in the afternoon at this place of the freshwater flow paths and the famous "trajinera boats". Here you will meet the Mexican culture while the mariachis are playing local music and you enjoy a glass of tequila on board a trajinera. Return to hotel (B)

DAY 3 (Saturday) MEXICO CITY – TEPOTZOTLAN – TULA - TEOTIHUACAN (about 181 Km)

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, you will visit the Basilica of "Our Lady of Guadalupe", the holiest site in Mexico. Guadalupe is lovingly called by the Mexicans, "La Lupita". The tour continues to Tepotzotlan (1 hour drive), a mini-city which is famous for and proud of their way of beeing. Tepotzotlán houses are also famous because of their known style, among others the Convent of the Jesuits of the novices with the beautiful church in honor of St Francis Xavier from the 18th century. You will visit this excellent museum. We continue to Tula (1 hour drive), the most important place from the Toltec culture. It consists of a group of structures with a deep religious background, belonging to him the 'central altar or Morningstar, the Coatepantli or snake wall, the Burnt Palace and the Ball Court. To be in Tula and to hike through the beautiful ruins is like finding again the magnificent past. It is a magical place full of energy, which promotes the spirit, a truly unique experience. We continue to Teotihuacan (2-hour drive). Arrival and accommodation at the selected hotel. (B)

PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

EUR 1.450.-

Surplus single room	+ EUR 951.-
DISCOUNT triple room	- EUR 60.-
Child 2-11 years old	EUR 1.094.-

GROUP DEPARTURES

2024

18 Apr	23 May
13 Jun	11 Jul
08 Aug	22 Aug
19 Sep	07 Nov
28 Nov	05 Dec

INCLUSIONS

- ✚ Private transfers airport and sightseeing tours
- ✚ Public transportation for connections.
- ✚ 09 nights in selected 4**** incl. breakfast
- ✚ All excursions and transfers mentioned in the program.
 - City tour in Mexico City, Oaxaca, Puebla, Taxco, Cuernavaca
 - Xochimilco with a trajinera boat + Tequila
 - Visit archaeological sites: Tepotzotlan, Teotihuacan, Tula, Monte Alban, Cholula
 - Guelaguetza Show in Oaxaca
- ✚ Local english-speaking guide in all excursions
- ✚ All entrance fees to national parks, museums and excursions
- ✚ 24 h. support (Hotline)

NOT INCLUDED

- ✓ International and domestic flights
- ✓ Local airport taxes
- ✓ Tips for Guides, drivers and Porters
- ✓ Personal expenses
- ✓ Optional tours
- ✓ Other services not mentioned in the program





DAY 4 (Sunday) TEOTIHUACAN – OAXACA (Km 490)

Breakfast at the hotel. The tour continues to the impressive archeological site of Teotihuacan, the “place of the gods”, 53km from Mexico City to (takes 1 ½ hours). Visit the Quetzalcoatl Temple, the sun and the moon pyramids and then you will have pulque and tequila tasting when visiting a nearby workshop. Departure to Oaxaca, known as the "City of Jade" after a few buildings that have been decorated with jade. (5-hour drive). Arrival at the hotel. **(B)**

DAY 5 (Monday) OAXACA

Mexican breakfast. Early departure to the archaeological sites of Monte Alban, the center of the Zapotec Culture. It is one of the impressive archaeological sites in Mexico with a wide view over the valleys and mountains. The Zapotecs lived on hills in the southwestern part of the city and formed there their cultural center. Continue to the town of Santa Maria del Tule to see the old "El Tule Tree", a 40-meter high and 42 meters broad cypress. It is said that the tree is 2000 years old and it would be the oldest tree in the world. Then we will go back to Oaxaca for a guided sightseeing tour of this typical Mexican town. We will see the Zocalo, the Cathedral with its wooden bells who struck the time over 200 years and the church of Santo Domingo. Transfer to the "La Casa de Cantera" to see the show Guelagueta in Oaxaca, a folk dance show with traditional colorful costumes. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 6 (Tuesday) OAXACA - PUEBLA (360 km)

Breakfast at the hotel. Early departure to the charming city of Puebla de los Angeles (4-hour drive). Puebla was named after the founder, Fray Julian Garces, who dreamed to have been guided by angels to build the city there. We will visit the famous colonial architecture of the 16th Century, with colorful enameled tiles that adorn most of the churches and house fronts. Visit to the Cathedral, the Rosario Chapel and the Old Town. **(B)**

DAY 7 (Wednesday) PUEBLA - CHOLULA – TAXCO (223 km)

Breakfast at the hotel. Continue to Cholula, 15 minutes from Puebla. Visit the Great Pyramid of Cholula, dedicated to Quetzalcoatl, the widest single building in Mexico with 55 meter height and covering an area of 25 acres. Its construction began in the pre-classical period, and four peasant ramifications followed it. There stands now a church in colonial style. Departure to Taxco (3 1/2 hour drive). Upon arrival, a short visit to Taxco, a historic Baroque city, known throughout the world for its silversmith handicrafts. **(B)**

DAY 8 (Thursday) TAXCO - CUERNAVACA - TEQUESQUITENGO (42 Km)

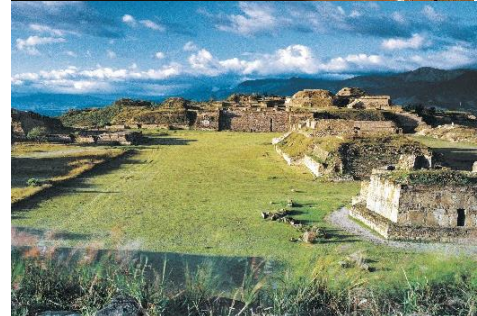
Breakfast at the hotel. Morning visit of Taxco. The gorgeous city has managed to preserve its charm and its rural freshness. You will be walking around narrow streets that lined along with beautiful houses and their roofs convey the southern flair. Departure to Cuernavaca, the capital of the State of Morelos. Upon arrival, visit the attractive city also known as the city of eternal spring. Transfer to Tequesquitengo whose name comes from the word "tequesquite", which means something like “flower of salt”. In the nearby salt lake, salt crystals form flowers on the surface by water evaporation. **(B)**

DAY 9 (Friday) TEQUESQUITENGO

Breakfast at hotel. Morning tour of Tequesquitengo, a small friendly town on a lake near the Hacienda. Free afternoon at the Hacienda Vista Hermosa, a place with a history that goes back 600 years. Hernan Cortés founded the city in 1529. He was the Spanish conquistador who initiated the downfall of the Aztec empire. The entire infrastructure of the Hacienda includes tunnels and towers that are part of the beautiful and historic place and has 105 rooms, each equipped with a different colonial decor. In wonderful, beautiful gardens with lakes, pool and a variety of small cookies and hidden corners, you will make your stay there enjoyable and unforgettable **(B)**

DAY 10 (Saturday) TEQUESQUITENGO – MEXICO CITY AIRPORT

Breakfast at the hotel and free time to enjoy the hotel and its facilities. At the given time transfer to the airport in Mexico City for your flight home or your next destination. Planning an extension in México or somewhere else? It will be a pleasure to help you. End of our services **(B)**



(B) Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner