CIUDADES VIRREINALES 5**** Boutique Hotels – Roundtrip UNESCO World Heritage Cities 12 days / 11 nights

Our roundtrip will show you the colonial past of Mexico with its architecture and gastronomy. For centuries, from 1521 to 1810, the Spanish crown ruled the territory that is now Mexico and was called the **Viceroyalty of New Spain**. In this span of time, the conquerors founded new cities and remodeled the ones that already existed, giving them their own identity.

On this trip, we will show you the beauty of cities like Mexico City where you will see the colonial influence in its historic centre. Our next vice royal city is Querétaro, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996. Then we visit San Miguel de Allende, UNESCO Site since 2008. Its wellpreserved historic center is filled with buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries that explains the town's history and role in the Mexican War of Independence. Dolores Hidalgo is a Pueblo Magico since 2002 and it's famous because of the first cry for the independence of Mexico uttered by Father Miguel Hidalgo. Next destination is **Guanajuato**, a mining center since long before the Spaniard arrived. Supported by the conquistadores became in the 18th Century one of the richest cities, and most opulent in New Spain. Zacatecas is a true colonial Paradise in Mexico. The whole city seems to be taken from an old film with its cobblestone streets and old buildings in impeccable condition. Guadalajara was founded in 1542 by a basque conquistador as capital of Nueva Galicia. During the Mexican war of independence, the city was the first revolutionary government in 1810. Finally, **Morelia** will bring you to the past a few centuries back in time when you walk around the Plaza Melchor Ocampo, Plaza San Francisco, the Town Hall building and the Morelia Aqueduct. After this roundtrip around the vice royal colonial cities in Mexico, you will get back home knowing much more about the country, its traditions, its people, its history, and its food. Come with us and live your adventure in Colonial Mexico!

DAY 1 DEPARTURE TO MEXICO CITY

Departure from home and arrival at the International Airport of Mexico City. Reception by our cooperation partner and transfer to the hotel in the city center. Overnight.

DAY 2 MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. Guided tour of the city with visits to the main attractions of the Mexico's capital city: The Cathedral originally built by the Spaniards over an Aztec temple; the government palace, with its famous frescoes by Diego Rivera, one of Mexico's most famous artists. Continue through El Paseo de la Reforma, one of the most impressive streets in Mexico City and the main artery of the city in east-west direction, with numerous roundabouts with monuments of famous personalities. You will pass even at the Palacio de Bellas Artes, the Palace of Fine Arts and the Monumento a la Revolución. Finally, you'll see the Castle of Chapultepec. Afternoon at leisure. **(B)** DAY 3 MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit the Museo Nacional de Antropología, the National Anthropological Museum, which provides an impressive collection of Mexican culture from the pre-Hispanic period on display. We continue to Xochimilco, a district of freshwater canals and floating gardens. Lunch on board a "trajinera" accompanied by the music of mariachis. Back to the hotel. Welcome dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B) (L) (D)

DAY 4 MEXICO / TEOTICHUACAN

After breakfast, depart for Teotihuacan. En route, visit the Basilica of Guadalupe. The Basilica is Mexico's most important pilgrimage site, dedicated in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe. With a total of 10,000 seats, it can accommodate up to 40,000 visitors. Thus, it is one of the largest

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If you have a group we will be very happy to send you a special offer

INCLUSIONS

- SIB services (sit-in basis), transfers, excursions and tours with English speaking guide
- 1 ! nights in selected 5***** boutique hotels including breakfast
- ↓ 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- All entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums.

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Meals and drinks and other services not mentioned in the program.
- Tips for tour guides, drivers and porters.
- Personal expenses





churches in the world. According to the legend, the Virgin Mary has appeared around 1531 to the already converted to the Christian faith Aztec Juan Diego. In subsequent years, the Virgin of Guadalupe, as she was so named after a Spanish appearance of the Virgin, attributed to a variety of miracles, which contributed greatly to the acceptance of Catholicism among the Mexicans. Arrival at the archaeological site of Teotihuacan, "the place where one becomes a god" is one of the largest archaeological sites in Central America, and the mightiest pyramids of the continent. The inner area of the gigantic surface covers approximately four km2, in its heyday the city stretched over an area of approximately 21 square kilometers and had nearly 125,000 inhabitants. Back to Mexico City and your hotel. (B)

DAY 5 MEXICO CITY - QUERETARO - SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Breakfast at the hotel. The next destination is the World Heritage city of Queretaro, where we visit the aqueduct, a former convent and the historic center. Continue to San Miguel de Allende. In the afternoon, you can explore this peaceful city. The main sights include the Parish Church of San Miguel Arcangel, the chapel of the Holy House, the Monasterio de la Concepción, San Francisco Church and House Institute Allende. Overnight. (B)

DAY 6 SAN MIGUEL ALLENDE - DOLORES HIDALGO - GUANAJUATO

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Dolores Hidalgo, where the priest Don Miguel Hidalgo gave in 1810 the famous "grito" (cry) announcing the independence of Mexico. There is located the house-museum of this national hero. We will continue to Guanajuato, World Heritage. In the afternoon, we will visit in a city tour the University, the Juarez Theater, the Alley of the Kiss and the house-museum of the muralist Diego Rivera, husband of Frida Kahlo. Its streets and boulevards are unique in the country. Arrival at the hotel, registration and room distribution. (B)

DAY 7 GUANAJUATO - ZACATECAS

After breakfast, departure to Zacatecas, beautiful mining town declared World Heritage with beautiful facades processed in pink stones. The Cathedral is the most outstanding example of Mexican baroque. Panoramic view of the city from Cerro de la Bufa, the house mountain. We take the cable car back to the city and visit La Mina del Edén (Mine of Eden). Other sightseeing of the city are the museums Rafael and Pedro Coronel and Francisco Goitia. Overnight. (B)

DAY 8 ZACATECAS - GUADALAJARA

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Guadalajara, cradle of the mariachis and the tequila that made Mexico known in the world. Visit to the beautiful district of Tlaguepague, Jalisco where the finest handicrafts are produced. Here is the famous gallery of Sergio Bustamante. Possibility of a dinner in a typical restaurant with mariachi music. Accommodation. (B)

GUADALAJARA - TEQUILA - GUADALAJARA DAY 9

Breakfast. Tour of the city with the so-called Teatro Degollado, the cathedral, the government palace with magnificent wall paintings (murals) of Orozco and the Plaza Tapatía. Continue to Tequila, the place where the original tequila distilleries in the country are located. We ride through agave plantations from which the drink tequila is made. We will visit a distillery to learn about the process of tequila production. Return trip to Guadalajara. Overnight. (B)

DAY 10 GUADALAJARA - PATZCUARO - MORELIA

Breakfast at the hotel. Continue to Patzcuaro, a word that means in the "Purepecha" dialect "Heaven's Gate". The city is famous for its colonial beauty and local traditions. The main attractions include the Cathedral "Basilica de Nuestra Señora de la Salud", the house of the eleven courts, the historic center with the Plazas Vasco de Quiroga and Gertrudis Bocanegra. Continue to Morelia, the "City of Lights" with the best lighted historic center of Mexico. Overnight in Morelia. (B)

DAY 11 MORELIA - MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. City tour in Morelia, cultural world heritage and known for its student's ambience and its magnificent colonial buildings of pink stones. Other attractions include the Cathedral, the Government Palace, the palace Clavijero, la Plaza Mayor (Main Square), the market of typical sweets, the aqueduct and the Temple Guadalupita at the monastery of San Diego. Continue towards Mexico City. Upon arrival, register at the hotel and overnight. (B)

DAY 12 MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. On-time transfer to the airport for your flight home. End of our services. (B)

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