

DAY OF THE DEATH EXPERIENCE IN MEXICO

10 days/09 nights



Mexico is a country full of traditions and unique festivities all year round. And one of the most important festivities/events in the country is the so-called "Día de Muertos", day of the death, which actually handles more than one day, basically on November 1 and 2, the same as All Saints and All Souls Days in Christianity. This event is an explosion of joy and compromise with life demonstrating love and respect to those family and friends who passed away. Like the latinos say, to bring back your beloved ones to Earth during this day sharing what they liked in life, like food and drinks. In 2008, UNESCO recognised the importance of Día de los Muertos by adding the holiday to its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In despite to the common belief that this festivity is the latin version of Halloween, the "día de los muertos" originated several thousand years ago with the Aztecs, Toltecs and other Maya People, who considered mourning the dead disrespectful.

Like all over Latin America, especially on those countries with large indigenous population, the core of the celebration are the "ofrendas", an altar-like display built in homes and/or cemeteries. The purpose of these "ofrendas" is to give their deceased, things they loved while they were alive. And they decorate their altars with family photos, candles and flowers.

As a fact, in Mexican culture, death is viewed as a natural part of the human cycle. Mexicans view it not as a day of sadness but as a day of celebration because their loved ones awake and celebrate with them. Therefore, we invite you to live the "catrinas" the representation of the skull in different ways, the staging of "La Llorona" one popular character of these days in Mexico (not yet confirmed by Mexican authorities), la "Comparsa", a parade mobilizing different characters representing the death and the ancestors. We will also see the link of this festivity with the old cultures such as the Teotihuacan, the Aztecs and others who worshiped the death, including the catholic church. Enjoy our "Día de los Muertos" Package and live your adventure in Mexico. And as a present from our side, we will offer you a free "photo shooting of you as a catrina" while your stay in Mexico City.

DAY 1 (Monday, October 28) ARRIVAL IN MEXICO CITY

After your international flight, arrival at the International airport of Mexico City, transfer to your hotel and free time to start exploring the city and its fascinating history. At the given time, get together and dinner with all members of the group and your guide, who will give you a complete briefing about what you should expect from this trip. Accommodation at the hotel Plaza de Florencia 4**** or similar. BIENVENIDOS A MEXICO. (D)

DAY 2 (Tuesday, October 29) MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. We will have today a tour of CIUDAD DE MÉXICO, capital city of the country. Founded in 1521 by the Spaniards on the remains of the Great Tenochtitlan, capital of the Aztec Empire, formerly a large lake on which islets were built and the city was based. An average altitude of 2,240 m.a.s.l., temperate climate, one of the most densely populated cities in the world, with an approximate 9,000,000 inhabitants. Also known as the City of the Palaces: it has a historic center full of monuments and buildings of very different types and times: Palacio de Bellas Artes, Paseo de la Reforma and Zócalo among others. After visiting the highlights, your guide will take you to the MUSEO NACIONAL DE ANTROPOLOGÍA E HISTORIA, one of the most important museographic precincts in Latin America. Designed to house and exhibit the archaeological legacy of the peoples of Mesoamerica, as well as to account for the country's ethnic diversity, it is an eminently didactic museum with an imposing beauty. The lower part comprises an introductory room to anthropology, and the rest are all of archeology, while the first floor is devoted entirely to ethnography, and together they show in detail the development of Mesoamerican cultures. Back to the hotel and time at leisure for private activities. Accommodation. (B)

PRICE PER PERSON IN
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

EUR 2.110.-

Surplus single room
EUR 547.-

**GROUP TOUR
GUARANTEED
DEPARTURE 2024**

from October 28th through
November 6th

Optional Extension to Cancun

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Accommodation on selected 3*** and 4**** hotels including breakfast
- 4 dinners and 1 picnic-lunch
- Air-conditioned deluxe motorcoach
- English-Spanish speaking guide.
- All visits mentioned in this program.
- Entrance tickets for the Show "La Llorona" (not confirmed yet)
- Guided tour in Mexico DF, Puebla, Oaxaca
- Transfers from/to airport

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic Flights
- Meals or other tours not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters





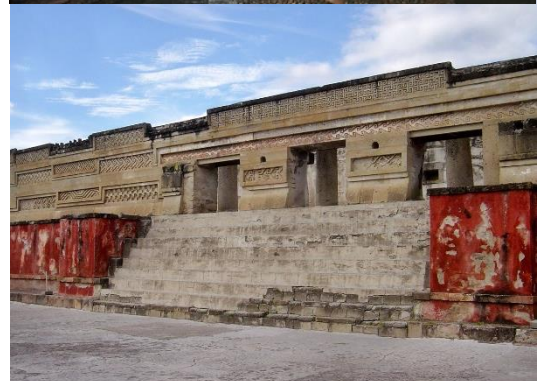
DAY 3 (Wednesday, October 30) MEXICO - TEOTIHUACAN

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to **BASILICA DE GUADALUPE**, religious complex in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of Mexico. Located on the Cerro del Tepeyac, indicates the approximate place of the apparitions of the Virgin to the Indian San Juan Diego. After this visit, we will continue to **TEOTIHUACAN**, archeological site and UNESCO's World Heritage site since 1987, located at 50 km from Mexico City. Check in at the hotel. After a small rest, we will proceed to the archaeological site for a visit. Among its important constructions are the Pyramid of the Sun, the Pyramid of the Moon, the Palaces of the Jaguars and the Plumed Snails and Quetzalpapálotl, the latter having preserved remains of mural painting. It is believed that it was the Aztecs who called the main street Calzada de los Muertos (Street of the dead). After a short rest, we will take place to live the **PARADE OF CATRINAS** (event not confirmed yet by the authorities), a street show dedicated to the dead. The route begins towards the center of San Juan Teotihuacán, passing through the main avenues so that the work and effort of all those who make up the procession can be appreciated. Then, it goes through the cathedral square and then through the center of San Juan Teotihuacán again. The total journey is two and a half hours. To the procession, another activities enrich the experience. There are, for example, concerts, dances, exhibitions, offerings, theatrical performances, interactive workshops and mobile cinema. Free time to walk around, take pictures, live your adventure with music and dances. Back to the hotel in Teotihuacan.

Accommodation. **(B)**

DAY 4 (Thursday, October 31) TEOTIHUACAN – CHOLULA - PUEBLA

Breakfast at the hotel. Bus ride from Teotihuacan to Cholula, around 133 km. **SAN PEDRO CHOLULA** is an archaeological site. Here are the remains of the most voluminous Mesoamerican pyramid; after the Conquest, it served as a foundation for the Temple of Our Lady of Los Remedios. You will admire the Mural of the Drinkers and go through the tunnel that pierces the entire basement. The town specializes in making life trees, red terracotta tableware, and pyrotechnic games such as toritos, waterfalls and castles. After the visit, we will continue to **SANTA MARIA TONANZINTLA**, a magical Town. Hundreds of Mexican and foreign tourists visit the Church of Tonantzintla annually. The interior decoration of the temple corresponds to the Indo-Christian Baroque style, consisting of an exuberance of Indian motifs, such as angels with plumes, flower garlands, attire of Eagle Knight and Indian features, fruits and local plants. Its facade is of great ingenuity, because it presents tiny sculptures that seem not to fit in their niches. Our next stop will be **SAN FRANCISCO ACATEPEC**, another magical town. The temple, dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, for its exterior decoration, belongs to the Talavera baroque style, while in the interior we see the triumph of the "Solomonic" baroque, both styles of the seventeenth century. It competes in beauty with the Chapel of the Rosario's Virgin of Puebla. The plasterwork refers to the Incarnation and the Birth of the Son of God, through the figures of the Holy Trinity and a resplendent sun and, consequently, the formation of the Holy Family, which appears in the vault of the apse. The evangelists who narrate these passages figure in the side arches of the vault, with the characteristic apocalyptic attributes. Finally, and after the visit, we will continue to Puebla, around 12 km away. We will do a tour of the capital city of the State of Puebla, **HEROICA PUEBLA DE ZARAGOZA**, UNESCO's Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 1987. The foundation of Puebla was made in 1531. It has a rich architectural heritage. In this set of monuments there are numerous religious and civil constructions of Baroque and Neoclassical style: The Cathedral, the Palafoxiana Library, the Chapel of the Rosary, which is located in the Temple of Santo Domingo de Guzmán; the old Palace of the Town Hall, the House of Dolls, the Temple of the Company and the House of Alfeñique. Accommodation at the NH Hotel Centro Histórico or similar. **(B)**





DAY 5 (Friday, November 01) PUEBLA – OAXACA

Breakfast at the hotel. Continue to Oaxaca on a 342 km bus ride. Upon arrival, check in at the hotel and time at leisure to explore the city on your own. Afterwards, we will continue to the cemetery in SANTA CRUZ XOXOCOTLAN to observe the altars that participate in a contest in originality. These are adorned with flowers, fruits, chocolate, bread, mezcal, all based on the season, at the same time you can see the light of hundreds of candles lit and riding on each of the tombs built into the wall. We will be in this place approximately one hour. Then after that we will move to the pantheon of Xoxocotlán where you walk on the streets to admire the rugs made from sand and sawdust with the image of a saint, as in the tombs of deceased. For this tour you will receive offering products like a candle, flowers and mezcal so you can actively participate of the ceremonies. During dinner you will be able to taste typical food of the “day of the dead” season. Accommodation at the Hotel Los Olivos Spa or similar. **(B) (D)**

DAY 6 (Saturday, November 02) OAXACA – MONTE ALBAN - OAXACA

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit of the **MONTE ALBÁN** archaeological site, another UNESCO’s Cultural Heritage of Humanity since 1987. It is the largest and most important ceremonial center of the Zapotec culture. It is on a hill whose summit was flattened. Among its most important buildings, include The Great Plaza, the North and South Platform, Ball Game, Building of the Dancers. Other buildings of interest are The Palace, Building J, from which astronomical observations were made, and graves 7 and 104. Studying the architecture, specialists have found that this city had contact with other cultures, mainly with Teotihuacan, in the center of Mexico. On time, we will take you to observe the COMPARSA, kind of parade that it takes place in **SAN JOSE DEL MOGOTE ETLA**, Oaxaca. You will observe and accompany people who are disguised as characters of death , the devil, among others, dancing through the streets; and in every house they visit, they will get a present like fruit, bread, chocolate or whatever is in the altar of each family. Back to the hotel. Accommodation. **(B)**

DAY 7 (Sunday, November 03) OAXACA – MITLA – SANTA MARIA DEL TULE - OAXACA

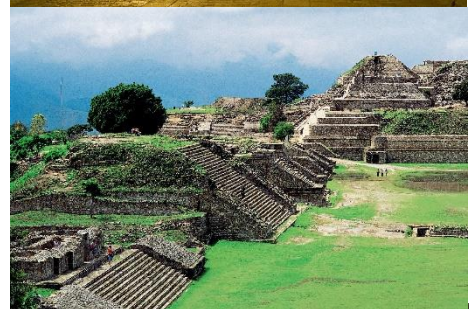
Breakfast at the hotel. Visit of the archaeological site of **MITLA**. In its buildings, there is evidence that there was mural painting. In its structures and the type of decoration that was used to decorate its temples, made of stone lace (vedi Uxmal, El Tajín), the absence of anthropomorphic motifs, very frequent in the ornamentation of other cultures, is noted. It comprises five groups of monumental architecture: North Group, of Adobe, of the Columns, of the Stream and of the South. The sets of Adobe or Calvario and the South, for having been built in previous times, reproduce the tradition of squares surrounded by palaces on platforms, in the style of Monte Albán. For the construction of the other buildings, large monoliths were used as lintels. Continue to **SANTA MARÍA EL TULE**. Famous for hosting the Tree of the Tule, a giant ahuehuate, 'cypress swamp, sabino' more than 2,000 years old that has become one of the main attractions of the State, visited by national and international tourism. Over the centuries, its branches and bark have created whimsical shapes in which, with a little imagination, you can see profiles of people, animals and even fantastic beings. Back to Oaxaca and free time for private activities or just to relax at the hotel. Accommodation **(B)**

DAY 8 (Monday, November 04) OAXACA – MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. AM at leisure. On time transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to Mexico City. Free day for private activities. Accommodation and dinner at the Barcelo Hotel Mexico Reforma 4**** or similar. **(B) (D)**

DAY 9 (Tuesday, November 05) MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. Today’s visit will take us to the traditional neighborhood of **COYOACÁN**. Hernán Cortés established here the first City Council that would briefly rule the capital of New Spain after the conquest of Tenochtitlan. Because of its magical environment, its abundant vegetation, its tranquility and its provincial characteristics, many writers, researchers and chroniclers, painters and artists came to reside in the old town of Coyoacán. The best known were Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Leon Trotsky. In this place, a large number of cultural





activities are concentrated to the present day throughout the year, such as art exhibitions, concerts, plays, dance, parties and festivals. Our guide will take us around the area while we walk enjoying the architecture and the charm of many centuries. On the way, we will find the **MUSEO-CASA FRIDA KAHLO**, also known as the “Casa Azul”. The Museum-House belonged to the Kahlo family, where Frida was born, lived and died. It became a museum in 1958, four years after the death of the painter. The Museum-House allows its visitors to discover the deep relationship that existed between Frida, her paintings and her house. Some parts of the decoration are attributable to Diego Rivera, who also lived in that residence. Apart from some works of the painter, there are objects collected by her.

Our next visit will be the **MUSEO DOLORES OLMEDO**. She was a Mexican businesswoman, philanthropist and musician, better known for her friendship with the Mexican painters Frida Kahlo and her husband Diego Rivera. She conceived a unique set to place their artistic works in the old Hacienda La Noria, built in the seventeenth century and surrounded by magnificent gardens. The site houses the most important collections of the works of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo worldwide, as well as outstanding engravings by the artist Angelina Beloff, Rivera’s lover during his stay in Europe, and the American Pablo O’Higgins, who was Rivera’s assistant in several jobs. Lunch on your own. Rest of the afternoon at leisure for private activities.

On the evening, on time transfer to **XOCHIMILCO**, a natural landscape and UNESCO’s World Heritage Site since 1987. It is a town literally within the metropolitan area of Mexico City. It is one of the most visited places by national and foreign tourism. They are channels through which you can navigate safely aboard a boat called trajinera, enjoying the typical local food and music. This evening we will assist to an spectacle called “La Llorona” (“The Weeping Woman” or “the Cryer” is one of the most famous oral legends in Mexico) made up of contemporary music with modern and pre-Hispanic instruments, songs in Nahuatl, pre-Hispanic dance of tradition and theater, with the natural scenery of the Xochimilco Chinampera area in the endearing Laguna de Tláxac, a unique place in the world where all elements such as the water of the canals, the sounds of the birds and the blowing of the wind among the hollows are the perfect framework to go back to a Mexico that was, and will continue to be present in Xochimilco. This show year after year, involves the public in a mystical and majestic world created by the moon of October and November reflected in the channels, faithful guides who invite us to travel to the past.

This staging takes place during the months of October and November, due to the mysticism that is created by the celebration of the Day of the Dead and that makes the place a magical, almost unreal place within this great city of Mexico City. That is why year after year it is renewed to join this party and invite those who are looking with great interest, to live an artistic and cultural experience unique in its class within Mexico City. Back to the hotel. Accommodation. **(B)**

DAY 10 (Saturday, November 06) MEXICO CITY – DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure. On-time transfer to the Airport in Mexico City for your flight back home or extension of your trip. END OF OUR SERVICES.

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

