

DAY OF THE DEAD 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 dead, 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 where alive, decorated 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, 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. As an optional service, we will offer a "photo shooting of you as a catrina" while your stay in Mexico City. Please book in advance since spaces are limited and subject to availability.

DAY 1 (Friday, October 25) 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. Accommodation at the hotel Plaza de Florencia 4**** or similar. BIENVENIDOS A MEXICO.

DAY 2 (Saturday, October 26) 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 museums 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, 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)

DAY 3 (Sunday, October 27) MEXICO CITY – QUERETARO – SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to San Miguel. On the way. We will make a stop in Santiago de Queretaro that has consistently been celebrated as Mexico's fastest growing city. Walking through the city center named UNESCO World Heritage Site, you will see one of the most impressive examples of Baroque architecture in North America. Take a stroll along the immaculately maintained aqueduct. This city's extensive past as well as its optimistic future will be sure to facilitate an educational and enjoyable travel experience. Continue to San Miguel to your hotel. After a short break, get involved in the preparations for the big celebration of the day of the dead which is, like in every corner in Mexico and Latin America, a huge occasion. Overnight in San Miguel. (B)

PRICE PER PERSON IN
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

EUR 2.010.-

Surplus single room
EUR 547.-

**GROUP TOUR
GUARANTEED
DEPARTURE 2024**
from October 25th
through November 3th
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 4 (Monday, October 28) SAN MIGUEL – GUANAJUATO – SAN MIGUEL

After breakfast at the hotel, we will set off in the direction of Guanajuato, located about 70 kilometres to the north. After a little more than an hour on board a comfortable bus, we'll reach our destination, a World Heritage City known for being the cradle of Mexican Independence. We'll embark on a complete guided tour of Guanajuato, an old mining town, entering the famous Callejón del Beso (alleyway of the kiss), where we'll learn numerous stories and legends related to this charming little street. Continuing our tour of Guanajuato, we'll admire some of its most important monuments, including the University, the Juarez Theatre, and the Basilica of Our Lady of Guanajuato. Located in the Plaza de la Paz, this impressive church watches over the city with its imposing yellow facade and great baroque dome. We'll also visit the Diego Rivera House Museum, the former home and studio of the famous muralist, where some of his studio paintings are exhibited. After touring the museum, we'll get to explore the network of tunnels located below Guanajuato, where we'll hear all about mining, which for a long time was the main livelihood of the people who lived here. After the tour of Guanajuato, we'll leave you an hour of free time to quench your hunger at a local restaurant. We'll return to San Miguel de Allende, where we will bring the night for a good rest. **(B)**

DAY 5 (Tuesday, October 29) MIGUEL DE ALLENDE – MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. Walking city tour in San Miguel, one of the most beautiful cities in Mexico, starting in one of the city's most emblematic monuments, the San Miguel Arcángel Parrish. We'll get to know the history behind this symbol of the city, a monumental structure built in European style by architect Zeferino Gutierrez. Next up on our guided visit of San Miguel, we'll enter the former captain Ignacio Allende's home for an in-depth look into the story behind the city's viceroyalty. Additionally, we'll also visit the Temple of Pure Conception and its former cloister, which serves today as the Ignacio Ramirez "El Nigromante" Cultural Center. Did you know San Miguel de Allende was deemed a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008? We'll reveal special links as we continue touring through the incredible city. Along the route we'll also visit the Main Square in San Miguel de Allende. Then, after an immersive 2 hours, we'll end our tour at the Casa de las Conspiraciones. In the afternoon, we will come back to Mexico City and check-in at the selected hotel. **(B)**

DAY 6 (Wednesday, October 30) MEXICO – XOCHIMILCO Turisbus and La Llorona show

Breakfast at the hotel. Take advantage of your visit to Mexico City and live the experience of a contemporary historical tour without time restrictions with our Turisbus, visiting the most representative attractions: archaeological, colonial, modern and contemporary during a fun and cultural tour. The turisbus has 21 stops where you can get off, get to know the city on foot and after a while get back on board and continue. The tour is done in double decker buses with no roof on top to better admire the beauties that this city has to offer (not including transfers to the Turibus stops, passengers travel on their own). Later in the afternoon (around 5 pm), we will go to Xochimilco, to learn about the pre-Hispanic legend of the woman in white who cries out for her children, through a tour of Cuemanco. This magical place will once again be adorned with a unique spectacle in the world where the natural scenery of its canals and chinampas become the ideal setting for the presentation of one of the most deeply rooted legends in Mexican culture, La Llorona. At the indicated time transfer back to the hotel. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 7 (Thursday, October 31) 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, 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**, a Mexican businesswoman, philanthropist and musician, better known for her friendship with the Mexican painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. She conceived a unique set to place their artistic works in the old Hacienda La Noria, built in the 17th century and surrounded by magnificent gardens. The site houses the most important collections of the works of Diego and Frida 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.

DAY 8 (Friday, November 01) MEXICO - TEOTIHUACAN

Breakfast at the hotel. We will start our tour visiting the "Plaza de las Tres Culturas", a historic site located in the Tlatelolco neighborhood of Mexico City. It symbolizes the blending of three distinct cultural heritages that have shaped Mexican history: pre-Columbian, Spanish colonial, and modern Mexican. The plaza is surrounded by Pre-Columbian Ruins: The remains of the ancient Aztec city of Tlatelolco, including the Templo Mayor and other archaeological structures, by Colonial Structures: The Santiago de Tlatelolco Church, a 16th-century Franciscan church built by the Spanish and by modern Buildings. This blending of historical eras and its importance in modern history make the Plaza de las Tres Culturas a poignant symbol of Mexico's complex and layered heritage. 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. 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. On the way back, we will visit the **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. Back to the hotel in Mexico City. Accommodation. **(B)**

DAY 9 (Saturday, November 02) MEXICO CITY – MIXQUIC – MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. The today's tour offers a unique and immersive experience in the town of San Andrés Mixquic, located in the southeastern part of Mexico City. Mixquic, a town that symbolizes the very essence of the ritual of death, prepares to celebrate the traditional Day of the Dead with sawdust carpets and cempasúchil flowers, pre-Hispanic dances and colorful altars. Dare to learn more about how the locals receive their deceased relatives and friends in a totally unique rite. The tour starts at 13:45 hrs and the return is the same day at approximately 23:59 hrs. (Depending on traffic) and includes a Box Lunch. The tour typically includes cemetery **Visits**: Participants visit the local cemetery, where graves are elaborately decorated with marigold flowers, candles, and offerings to honor the deceased. **Ofrendas**: Observing and sometimes participating in the creation of ofrendas (altars) set up in homes and public spaces, adorned with photos, food, and personal items of the departed.

Processions: Experiencing traditional processions, where locals carry candles and flowers, creating a solemn and beautiful spectacle. **Cultural Activities**: Engaging in cultural activities such as traditional dances, music performances, and storytelling, which highlight the significance of the Day of the Dead. **Local Cuisine**: Tasting traditional foods and drinks associated with the celebration, such as pan de muerto (bread of the dead) and atole. As a matter of fact, the Mixquic Tour provides a profound and authentic insight into one of Mexico's most cherished and vibrant cultural traditions, emphasizing the importance of remembering and celebrating loved ones who have passed away. Back to the hotel in Mexico City for the overnight. **(B) (L)**

DAY 10 (Sunday, November 03) 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