

# **10 DAYS COLONIAL JEWELS OF MEXICO 2019!**

**departures between 16 December 2018 - 15 December 2019 every Friday  
from 2 pax.**

To get a taste of the real Mexico, this journey will start in Mexico's capital city. This is where all of Mexico comes together. Then travel through the colonial cities of Central Mexico, many of which earned the World Heritage status because of their extraordinary beauty, architectural uniqueness, and historical significance. Immerse yourself in history and tradition. Be serenaded by mariachi in Guadalajara, learn how to properly drink tequila, and join the 'viejitos' in Patzcuaro in their traditional dance.

## **Day 01: Friday/ Welcome In Mexico City**

You will be amazed by the size of the city from the moment you arrive. Meet and greet with a local representative and transfer to your hotel.

**Includes:** Airport transfers, Overnight Hotel in Mexico City

## **Day 02: Saturday/ City Tour and Anthropology Museum**

Get to know one of the world's biggest and most exciting cities! Enjoy a guided visit to the historical center, listed by UNESCO as World Heritage. This interesting tour will include "The Zocalo", the heart of the city, where you will visit the Metropolitan Cathedral, one of the oldest and largest of the Americas, and (if open) the National Palace, home of the famous murals of Diego Rivera. You will also see the ruins of the Templo Mayor, one of the most important temples of the Aztecs in their ancient capital city of Tenochtitlan. Next, we drive down the beautiful Paseo de la Reforma Avenue to arrive at Chapultepec Park, to visit the Museum of Anthropology. This museum is considered to be among the world's finest of its kind. Here you will admire, among many other interesting treasures, the famous Aztec calendar stone.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided Walking Tour in English in the Historic Center, Entry to Museum of Anthropology, Overnight Hotel in Mexico City

## **Day 03: Sunday/ Pyramids of Teotihuacan and the Shrine of Guadalupe**

Discover Teotihuacán, 'the place where gods were created'. Teotihuacan is one of the most impressive archaeological sites of the country. It is assumed that the city may have counted 200,000 inhabitants during its period of prosperity. In those years, Teotihuacán was the biggest city of the American continent and one of the biggest of the world. Until its inhabitants abandoned the city around the 8th century, Teotihuacan was probably the most significant and civilized cultural center of ancient Mexico. During this guided excursion you see (and climb?) the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, walk down the Avenue of the Dead, visit the Temple of Quetzalcoatl with its unique stone sculptures of plumed serpents, the Temple of the Butterflies, and the Fortresses. Before arriving back at your hotel, we make a stop at the Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a pilgrimage place for millions of Mexicans and people from all around the world.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided Walking Tour in English in Archeological Site of Teotihuacan, Entry to Archeological Site of Teotihuacan, Overnight Hotel in Mexico City

#### **Day 04: Monday/ Tula - Queretaro - San Miguel**

Today we will leave the big city. Departure to Tula. Once upon a time, after the fall of Teotihuacan, Tula was the capital of the Toltecs and one of the most powerful cities of Mesoamerica. The most famous building of this archeological site is the temple of 'Tlahuizcalpantecuhtli', an impressive pyramid with beautiful statues of Toltec warriors (Atlantes) on top of it. We will then continue to Queretaro, an attractive city which has played a crucial role in Mexican history. In Queretaro, we will enjoy an included lunch. After a short tour around the town's wellpreserved historic center, recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage, we will go to San Miguel de Allende, one of the most beautiful colonial cities in Mexico. Let us show you the highlights of the city, including the famous "Parish of San Miguel", the iconic church in Neo-Gothic style, with the pink, sugar-candy pointing towers. These bizarre towers were designed by an untutored Indian, Zeferino Gutierrez, in the late 19th century. In the main chapel, you will see the much-revered image of the Cristo de la Conquista, made from cornstalks and orchid bulbs by Indians in Patzcuaro in the 16th century. In the evening you will have some free time for dinner and to enjoy the night ambiance of the city. Also a great opportunity for shopping typical crafts. Included: Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided visit to the archeological site of Tula in English, Entry to archeological site of Tula, Lunch in Queretaro, Walking Tour in Queretaro in English, Overnight Hotel in San Miguel de Allende

#### **Day 05: Tuesday/ San Miguel De Allende – Guanajuato**

In the morning we will go for a short drive to the town of Atotonilco. Here we will visit the Chapel built in the XVI century. You can see the fusion of the European and PreHispanic cultures in its walls and ceilings. We will continue to the town of Dolores Hidalgo, a small town where Miguel Hidalgo, father of Mexico, delivered his famous "Grito de Dolores" (Cry for Independence). This cry symbolizes the start of the Mexican independence movement in the early nineteenth century. In the evening we will arrive in Guanajuato. After check in at the hotel, we will go for a night-tour to see the illuminated center of the city.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, English-speaking Guide during all excursions, Walking Tour at night in Guanajuato in English, Overnight Hotel in Guanajuato

#### **Day 06: Wednesday/ Guanajuato - San Luis Potosi - Zacatecas**

With its history as an important mining center, Guanajuato derived great wealth from its abundant silver deposits. The city is a true jewel among Mexico's colonial cities. You will be surprised by its beauty, with its winding lanes, its plazuelas shaded by Indian laurels, its large variety of decorative styles, and its curious underground avenue. In the morning we will further explore the city. Enjoy sights such as the Hidalgo market, Juarez Theater, the University, the "Alley of the Kiss", the Alhondiga de Granaditas, and the monument of El Pipila. After this, we will travel to San Luis Potosi. Panoramic tour of the center and then continue to the beautiful city of Zacatecas, a magnificent historic monument of the vice royal era, located on a hillside of the Cerro de la Bufa. At night we will for a walk to get a first impression of this colonial jewel.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided Walking Tour Guanajuato in English, Panoramic Tour of San Luis Potosi, Walking Tour at night in English in Zacatecas, Overnight in Hotel in Zacatecas

### **Day 07: Thursday / Zacatecas - Tlaquepaque - Guadalajara**

Pink quarry stone constructions and plazas, filigree ironwork on balconies, narrow streets and stone paved streets, polished by time, characterize Zacatecas. The city was founded in 1548, originally as a residence for those working in the surrounding mines. In the time it became a cultural center with a beautiful architecture. Visit the cathedral, built in 1752, which is considered a masterpiece of the baroque style. You will have a gorgeous panoramic view of the city from Cerro de la Bufa, where we take the cable car and visit the Eden mine. It will be a great experience entering the mine, as we hop on a small train with narrow wagons, similar to those used in the New Spain era to transport precious minerals. Next, travel to western Mexico, to the pottery village of Tlaquepaque. Tlaquepaque is probably Mexico's largest and most important arts and crafts center, hosting wares from all over the country. Present day Tlaquepaque is still rich in local tradition and art. It attracts many of Jalisco's most talented artists and has a reputation for the quality and diversity of its products. We then proceed to nearby Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city and home of many of Mexico's most beloved traditions.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Cable Car Ride, Guided visit to the Eden Mine in English, Overnight Hotel in Guadalajara

### **Day 08: Friday/ Tequila and Guadalajara**

Today we start with a visit to the town of Tequila, to the origins of Mexico's most famous liquor. On the way to Tequila, we will enjoy spectacular views of agave plantations. In the colorful town of Tequila, we will visit one of the most recognized haciendas dedicated to the production of tequila, to learn about the production process of Mexico's national drink. Of course, we will also have the opportunity to taste some tequila! Afterward, return to Guadalajara. Back in Guadalajara, we will go for a tour including the huge twin-towered cathedral surrounded by attractive plazas, the "Government Palace", Degollado Theater, and Hospicio Cabañas.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided Visit in Tequila Distillery in English and Tequila Tasting, Guided Walking Tour in Guadalajara in English, Overnight Hotel in Guadalajara

### **Day 09: Saturday/ Guadalajara - Patzcuaro - Morelia**

In the morning, departure to Lake Chapala, the biggest lake in Mexico, surrounded by mountains. We visit Chapala and then continue to the State of Michoacán. A short visit is planned in Tzintzuntzan, once the capital of the Purepecha people. Next stop will be Pátzcuaro, a magical town located on a large lake, famous for its colonial beauty and unique for its traditional customs. Among its attractions are the "Basilique of Our Lady of Health", the "House of the Eleven Patios", and the historic center. Don't miss the traditional "Danza de los Viejitos" (Dance of the Old Men), probably the most entertaining Purépecha tradition. After some free time, at the end of the afternoon, we proceed to Morelia. This beautiful city was founded in 1541 by Viceroy Antonio de Mendoza, with the name of Valladolid. In 1828 its name was changed to Morelia, to honor Don Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon, the hero of the

Mexican independence movement. Morelia is known as the aristocrat among Mexico's colonial cities. Enjoy the wide variety of cafes and restaurants with typical dishes from the region.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, English-speaking Guide for all excursions and transfers, Overnight Hotel in Morelia

### **Day 10: Sunday / Morelia - Mexico City**

Tour through the historic center of Morelia, listed as World Heritage. Here you can see some of the most beautiful examples of baroque architecture from the XVII and XVIII centuries. We will visit the Cathedral – with a Baroque exterior and Neoclassic interior – Plaza de Armas, the Government Palace, the Clavijero Palace, and the monumental Aqueduct. After this, we will depart towards the town of Tepotzotlan, for a short visit of this beautiful place and its impressive church (nowadays the Vice Regal Museum). Late in the afternoon we continue towards Mexico City, arriving around 06:00 pm. Possibility for dropoff at the airport, without an extra charge, or inquire about an extension in Mexico City.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Guided Walking Tour of Morelia in English

Nights	City	Hotels 4*
03n	<b>Mexico City</b>	<b>Casa Blanca</b>
01n	<b>San Miguel de Allende</b>	<b>Imperio de Angeles</b>
01n	<b>Guanajuato</b>	<b>Holiday Inn Express</b>
01n	<b>Zacatecas</b>	<b>Emporio</b>
02n	<b>Guadalajara</b>	<b>De Mendoza</b>
01n	<b>Morelia</b>	<b>De la Soledad</b>

**The price of the program is per person in US dollars:**

DBL	SGL	TPL *	CHILD (4-11 years)**	SGL spl
USD \$ 1,905	USD \$ 2,650	USD \$ 1,781	USD \$ 687	USD \$ 1,094

#### **Please note:**

- Prices are subject to availability and change without prior notice.
- Supplements for holiday periods apply, all prices are based in the regular season, please ask your executive for High season rates, availability, and supplements.
- (\*) Triple rooms include two double beds only. Three beds are not guaranteed.
- (\*\*) Rate for children applies if children share a room with their parents (not including food and drinks).

#### **The cost of the program includes:**

- 9 nights' accommodation in standard room at the hotels above mentioned or similar
- Daily breakfast, 1x lunch, as mentioned in the program
- All transfers and excursions as mentioned in the program, operated in seat in basis
- Entrances to sites mentioned in the program
- Bilingual (English-Spanish speaking) guide for excursions
- Staff assistance for transfers

-Service charge on included meals

-Taxes (VAT and hotel taxes)

**The cost of the program does not include:**

-Airfares (domestic and international)

-All services, meals, or items not mentioned in the program

-Personal expenses, such as: phone calls, laundry, beverages, etc.

-Tips to bellboys, room-maids, drivers, and guides

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