

## 6 Days COLONIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2019

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

*Go back in time and explore Mexico's fascinating colonial heritage. Start in Mexico City, one of the World's most fascinating cities. Then discover the highlights of Central Mexico, a perfect getaway from Mexico City. Be surprised by the beauty of inland Mexico. Travel to the cradle of the Mexican Independence Movement. Stroll the picturesque streets of Queretaro, San Miguel de Allende, and Guanajuato.*

*Let these places tell you fascinating stories that mark Mexican history.*

### **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. After check-in, free time to start exploring the city.

**Included:** 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! With its distinct mestizo culture, blending native Indian (Nahuatl) and Spanish heritage, this mega city is the beating heart of the country. 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 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 in Chapultepec Park. In pre-Hispanic times a summer residence for the noble class of the Aztecs, now it is Mexico City's largest park and one of the largest city parks in the world. We will visit the Museum of Anthropology (closed on Mondays). This museum is considered to be among the world's finest of its kind. Here you will admire the famous Aztec calendar stone, models of Tenochtitlan, a fascinating market place diorama, giant stone Olmec heads from the jungles of Tabasco and Veracruz, among many other interesting treasures.

**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**

Teotihuacan, 'the place where gods were created', is one of the most impressive archaeological sites of the country. The history of Teotihuacan is quite mysterious. The earliest buildings were constructed around 200 BC. It is assumed that the city may have counted 200,000 inhabitants during its period of prosperity. In those years, Teotihuacan 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 will encounter the magic and mystery of Teotihuacan. Admire (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 well preserved 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 archeological zone of Tula in English, Entry to archeological zone of Tula, Lunch in Queretaro, Walking Tour around center of Queretaro in English, Walking Tour around center of San Miguel de Allende, 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 encounter and fusion of the European and Pre-Hispanic 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 - Mexico City**

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 the town of Tepotzotlan, for a short visit to this beautiful place and its impressive church (nowadays the Vice Regal Museum). Late in the afternoon we will head back to Mexico City, arriving around 06:00 pm.

Possibility for drop-off at the airport,

without an extra charge, or inquire about an extension in Mexico City.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Walking Tour in the center of Guanajuato, optional: Drop-off at Airport MEX (without charge)

| Nights | City                  | Hotels 4*           |
|--------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 03n    | Mexico City           | Casa Blanca         |
| 01n    | San Miguel de Allende | Imperio de Angeles  |
| 01n    | Guanajuato            | Holiday Inn Express |

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

| DBL        | SGL          | TPL *      | CHILD (4-11 years)** | SGL spl    |
|------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| USD \$ 969 | USD \$ 1,298 | USD \$ 927 | USD \$ 373           | USD \$ 613 |

**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:**

- 05 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:**

- Airlines (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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