



Colonial Mexico

Mexico City • San Miguel de Allende • Guadalajara • Patzcaro



Day 1 • Departure/Mexico City

Our journey begins as we board our flight bound for Mexico City. Upon arrival we meet our tour guide and motor coach and transfer into the city. Located in a dry lake bed (elevation 7,400 feet) and surrounded by towering mountains, this is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the Western Hemisphere. We take a city tour which includes the **Zócalo**, the **Presidential Palace**, and the **Metropolitan Cathedral**. **D**

Day 2 • Mexico City

Today we learn more about this unique and richly diverse city, whose origin dates back to 1325 when Aztecs chose to settle here. Legend says their gods ordered them to settle where they saw an eagle perched on a cactus devouring a serpent. Today we visit the **Museum of Anthropology**, the **Shrine of Guadalupe**, and **Teotihuacan**. The sacred city and ceremonial center of Teotihuacan was once populated by 100,000 people. The immense **Pyramid of the Sun**, 206 feet high, is one of the best preserved archeological sites in the country. **B/D**

Day 3 • San Miguel de Allende

We depart this morning for **Queretaro**, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As we walk along Queretaro's cobblestone streets, we discover **Teatro de la Republica**, **Corregidora's House** and the **Aqueduct**. We then continue on to romantic **San Miguel de Allende** where we experience first hand why San Miguel is one of the most appealing cities in Mexico. **B/D**

Day 4 • San Miguel de Allende

After breakfast we embark on a full day excursion to **Guanajuato**, home of the renowned International Cervantes Festival. We explore Mexican history at the **Alhondiga de Granaditas** and the **Monumento al Pipila**, buildings which take us back to the time of Mexican Independence. We can have our picture taken at **Callejon del Beso** (Alley of the Kiss) and walk through the underground tunnels of this beautiful city. **B/D**

Day 5 • Guadalajara

Today we drive to **Guadalajara**, one of the three most important cities in Mexico and home to some of the nation's most important cultural symbols: Maricahi, Tequila, "Sombreros" and Mexican Rodeos. We visit the historic center of

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Guadalajara with its landmarks: the **Cathedral**, the **Degollado Theater** and the **Regional Museum**. **B/D**

Day 6 • Guadalajara

Today we visit nearby **San Pedro Tlaquepaque**, a center for the production of ceramics, glass, jewelry and many other crafts. Next we make an excursion to the town of **Tequila**, where the quintessentially Mexican liquor is produced. Along the way we see large fields of the cactus-like, blue agave plant, the main ingredient in Tequila. We visit a distillery, but –sorry! – no sampling allowed. **B/D**

Day 7 • Patzcuaro

Early this morning we depart for Patzcuaro in the state of Michoacan. Patzcuaro is proud of its fine architecture and its rich indigenous culture. We take a walking tour of the town, which includes **Gertrudis Bocanegra Plaza**, the **House of the Eleven Patios** and **Vasco de Quiroga Plaza**. We also have time to visit some of the small lakeside villages around lovely **Lago de Patzcuaro**. **B/D**.

Day 8 • Mexico City

We return to Mexico City today. En route we visit **Santa Clara del Cobre**, a small town renowned for its copper crafts. We also stop in the capital city of Michoacan, Morelia. The city has many examples of beautiful, pink-stoned Colonial architecture. Of particular interest are the **Cathedral** and the **Government Palace**. We also visit the **Mercado del Dulce**, where we will find nothing but candies! Back in Mexico City for the evening, we enjoy a farewell dinner. **B/D**

Day 9 • Return

We transfer to the Mexico City airport and board our homebound flight. We return with lasting memories of colonial cities, ancient cultures, and a wealth of new friends! *Adiós Mexico!* **B**

Abbreviations for Meals: B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Cost of tour: \$1,249*

Land portion only

**Based on 24 paying participants*

Included

Transportation

- Private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach

Accommodations

- Multi-bedded tourist class hotels

Meals

- As indicated in itinerary

Sightseeing

- Admission to all activities as indicated in itinerary

Tour Guides

- Teacher serves as tour leader.
(Professional tour director can be added upon request)
- Local guides for major attractions

Taxes and Tips

- All taxes and tips for provided services except end of tour tip for driver

Complimentary Tours

- One tour per 8 paying participants

Not included

- Roundtrip air transportation
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Beverages, except with breakfast
- End of tour tip for driver
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees
Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date
- Travel Insurance

This tour can be customized to your specifications.

Tour Code: SPML10

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