

## **8 Days COLONIAL ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC 2019**

**departures between 12 December 2018 - 04 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 a series of colonial cities, many of which earned the World Heritage status because of their extraordinary beauty, architectural uniqueness, and historical significance. Follow the colonial route to the State of Jalisco. Get to know Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, be serenaded by mariachi, and learn everything about tequila. End this journey with some 'Fiestas Tapatias' in the relaxed and open-minded beach town of Puerto Vallarta, a real treat for sun lovers on Mexico's scenic Pacific Coast.

### **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. As the country's capital, the "Distrito Federal" is a mosaic of contrasts but most of all an experience in which all of Mexico comes together. It's the perfect place to start your trip in Mexico.

**Included:** Airport transfer, 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 in 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 Teotihuacan, '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, 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 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 - Tlaquepaque – Guadalajara**

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 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 proceed to nearby Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city and home of many of Mexico's most beloved traditions.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transportation, Walking Tour around center of Guanajuato in English, Overnight Hotel in Guadalajara

**Day 07: Thursday / 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 Cabacas.

**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 08: Friday/ Bus To Puerto Vallarta**

In the morning we will take you to the bus terminal, for a first-class bus from Guadalajara to Puerto Vallarta. Its tropical climate, tranquil beaches, liberal ambiance, and its many natural wonders make Puerto Vallarta the perfect holiday destination. Please contact us for a beach extension.

**Included:** Breakfast in Hotel, Transfer to Bus Terminal, First Class Bus from Guadalajara to Puerto Vallarta

Nights	City	Hotels 4*
03n	Mexico City	Casa Blanca
01n	San Miguel de Allende	Imperio de Angeles
01n	Guanajuato	Holiday Inn Express
02n	Guadalajara	De Mendoza

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

DBL	SGL	TPL *	CHILD (4-11 years)**	SGL spl
USD \$ 1,416	USD \$ 1,872	USD \$ 1,356	USD \$ 580	USD \$ 1,073

**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:**

- 07 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
- First-class bus ticket Guadalajara - Puerto Vallarta
- 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 itinerary
- Personal expenses, such as: phone calls, laundry, beverages, etc.
- Tips to bellboys, room-maids, drivers, and guides

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