

Experience Oaxaca's Day of the Dead y Mucho Más

7 Day / 6 Night Guided Tour to Explore Oaxaca City, Ancient Ruins, Traditional Markets, Local Artisans, Oaxaca's Colorful Celebrations of Día de los Muertos & much more

Trip Dates: October 30 - November 5, 2018

(Includes your arrival & departure travel days to and from Oaxaca City)

On this intimate small group tour, you will encounter scary masks, hang out at night in grave yards, climb around ancient ruins, watch pottery and textile artisans at work in their shops, imbibe in the spirits of Mezcal, wander around traditional markets, explore Oaxaca City as well as smaller villages in the surrounding valleys, and experience the annual festive celebration known as *Día de los Muertos* or *Day of the Dead* where Mexicans (all throughout México) honor their family members who have passed on.

A local knowledgeable bilingual host guide will lead you each day on a tour of cultural and historical discoveries in the Mexican state of Oaxaca.



Trip Fee: \$1479 USD/adult
Single Supplement: add \$325 USD

Group Size: 8-16 **Suggested Minimum Age:** 12

Includes: Airport pickup in Oaxaca City, all ground transportation, all entrance fees, private local bilingual host guide, tours per itinerary, 6 nights of hotel lodgings, 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner

Not included: Airfare, transfer to Oaxaca Airport on day 7, meals not listed in itinerary, alcoholic drinks, travel trip insurance, trip medical insurance, gratuities

Optional: Post Tour Extension Road Trip
Road Trip Through México's Puebla & Veracruz States

Trip Dates: November 5-9 2018

Trip Highlights

- Cactus Botanical Gardens Nature Reserve
- Xalapa Anthropology Museum
- Explore 2 Pueblo Mágico Pre-Hispanic towns - Veracruz Coffee Growing Region
- Veracruz & Xalapa City Tours, including the harbor fort - San Juan de Ulúa

Trip Fee: \$895 USD per adult **Single Supplement:** \$200 USD

Includes: Guided tour, transportation, 4 nights hotels, 9 meals, entrance fees &

Trip Itinerary

Day 1: Pick up at the Oaxaca City Airport

Day 2: Oaxaca City Tour
San Miguel Cemetery Tour

Day 3: Monte Alban Archaeological Zone
Rural Cemetery of Santa Maria Atzompa
Artisan pottery shops
Night-Villa de Etna - Festivities

Day 4: Free Day w /optional day tours

Day 5: Artisans of San Antonio Arrazola
Artisans of Bartolo Coyotepec
Explore a 16th Century Ex-Convent

Day 6: Gigantic Tule Tree
Traditional Tlacolula market
Tlacolula cemetery
Private Mezcal production tour
San Miguel de Valley - Weavers
Farewell Dinner

Day 7: Depart from the Oaxaca City Airport
Travel Day Home
- Extension Tour Departs for Veracruz



"I especially liked visiting the cemeteries at night where there were thousands of candles burning, music, and flowers everywhere."

Marisel Aguilar / Tehuacan, Puebla

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(800) 766-1437 (Toll-Free US)
+1(630) 274-5341 (Worldwide)
info@mexicovacationtours.com
www.MexicoVacationTours.com

Make plans to reserve your trip TODAY!



Experience Oaxaca's Day of the Dead y Mucho Más

October 30th - November 5th 2018

(includes your arrival & departure days)

Detailed Trip Itinerary



Day 1: Arrive in Oaxaca City

One of our tour team members will be waiting for you upon your arrival at the Oaxaca City Airport. You will then transfer to the Hotel La Casona del Llano (or similar) in Oaxaca City where you will check in. The rest of the day/evening is free to relax or explore on your own.

Day 2: Oaxaca City Tour

Today is the day to get to know Oaxaca City. Your guide will lead your small group on a walking tour of the city which will include the major landmarks such as the Santo Domingo church, the government palace, and a visit to the Regional Museum of Oaxaca where you will discover ancient artifacts from the Mixtec and Zapotec cultures. You will also stroll the main city markets and see all the items for sale that relate to the *Day of the Dead* celebration. Lunch will be at a nice local restaurant.

The rest of the late afternoon and evening is yours to experience this beautiful city on your own. (B,L)



Day 3: Monte Alban / Atzompa Cemetery / Pottery / Villa de Etla Celebrations

The ruins of one of the earliest cities established in Mesoamerica is located just a very short drive from Oaxaca City. Monte Alban was inhabited over a period of 1500 years first by the Olmecs and then the Zapotecs and Mixtecs. Today, you will see that the structures built here are situated on several hundred artificial terraces which were created on a high ridge with a superior view of the surrounding valleys and hills.

After your private tour of this very impressive archaeological zone, everyone will travel a short distance to view a peaceful rural cemetery in the small town of Santa Maria Atzompa. It is a picturesque place with a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside. Nearby, there are some local pottery shops for anyone who is interested in browsing.

Next, everyone will head into the town of Villa de Etla to have lunch at a local restaurant. Anyone up for barbecued goat? Afterwards, you can visit the main church and tour the town. The folks there really know how to celebrate *Día de los Muertos* with fun parades complete with costumes and lots of lively music.

Later, you will all travel back to Oaxaca City and your hotel. Dinner will be on your own. (B,L)



Day 4: "Go Have Fun Exploring on Your Own" Day / Night Cemetery Tour

After breakfast, you can relax at your hotel or head into town and check out the shops and other impromptu events that usually occur there because of the Day of the Dead celebrations. Your trip guide can also suggest other activities to do on this day.

Later in the evening, get ready to visit one of the main cemeteries in Oaxaca City; the San Miguel Cemetery. It is huge with some very nice decorations on many of the gravesites. The main attraction of the evening will be to see two thousands lit candles, each one located in a small niche found in a cavernous mausoleum. Believe it or not, just outside of the cemetery, you will encounter a big carnival complete with rides and lots of food. Party! Party! (B)



Day 5: Artisans / Ex-Convent / More Artisans

Today your group will travel to the nearby town of San Antonio Arrazola. This town is known for the artisans who create brightly painted animals (Alebríjes). These delicate creations can be seen in the shops there.

Then it is off to marvel at the large XVI Century ex-convent in the town of Cuilapam de Guerrero. Here you will learn about its history and architecture.

After lunch, everyone will travel to the town of San Bartolo Coyotepec where you will meet artisans who are known for creating unique black pottery. And of course, there will be time for browsing and shopping in their small stores.

Later, you will return to your hotel and have the evening free to explore, relax, and enjoy one of the many fine restaurants to have a nice dinner. (B,L)



Day 6: Tule Tree / Traditional Market / Artisans

After breakfast, get your wide angle lens out because you will need it to photograph the Tule tree. First off, it's over 2000 years old! Even the ancient Aztecs wrote about it. The measurement of the base is about 160 feet in circumference. Yikes! It is one of the oldest living things on this earth.

After your photo opt with this magnificent tree, your group will continue on your Oaxaca journey to explore the market in Tlacolula. It is especially interesting in that many of the vendors are dressed in traditional Zapotec clothing and will be speaking Zapotec. Everything from shoes to produce to live animals to crafts from artisans are sold there. Flowers and other items regarding the Day of the Dead celebration will be prominent on this day. You will have lunch in the "food court" area. OK, you will quickly notice that it's not even remotely similar to the food counts located at your hometown mall.

You will then have the opportunity to visit the local cemetery to watch the people as they decorate the graves of their loved ones. You will also see that a couple "cousins" of the huge Tule Tree provide shade at this site.

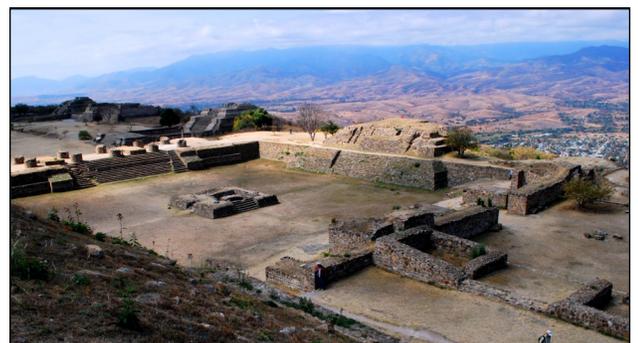
In the afternoon, you will visit the village of San Miguel de Valle. There, you will have the opportunity to visit one or two homes to see how they have created small alters or shrines to honor their deceased loved ones. You will also visit the home of a women who will show you the steps to making rugs and tapestries which are called, *Tepetes*. Depending on who else is home, you may visit some other folks in town who create embroidery items.

Your group will then return to your hotel and later, everyone will partake in a fun Farewell dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Travel Day Home

After breakfast, you can relax until it'

s time to take a taxi to the Oaxaca Airport for your flight home. If you are joining the group going on the extra 4 day extension trip to Veracruz, you will take off right after breakfast for more México adventures.



Oaxaca's Day of the Dead Extension Trip to Veracruz

5 Days / 4 Night Tour to México's Gulf Coast state of Veracruz

Trip Dates: November 5 - November 9, 2018

(Includes your departure travel day home from the Veracruz International Airport)

Continue your México adventure by traveling north through the beautiful highlands of Oaxaca state and into the neighboring state of Puebla. There you will encounter a region overrun with cactus as far as the eye can see.

Then you will head into the state of Veracruz and tour the cities of Orizaba (out of the 76 largest cities in Mexico, Orizaba was rated the most "peaceful"), the historical city of Veracruz, the capital city of Xalapa, and 2 quaint pre-Hispanic towns which are designated as *Pueblo Magico* towns (Magic towns) by the Mexican government. You will also visit an archaeological ruins site and one of the first municipalities in the New World where you will find the first coastal church built by the Spaniards in the early 1500's.

You will tour the Anthropology Museum in Xalapa which is the 2nd largest in the country and has a wealth of artifacts including some of the original giant Olmec Stone Heads.

So sign up for this excellent addition to the Day of the Dead celebration and see more of Mexico in one trip. Just make plans to fly out of the Veracruz International Airport instead of the one in Oaxaca City.



Trip Fee: \$895 USD/adult
Single Supplement: add \$200 USD

Group Size: 4-12

Includes: All ground transportation, all entrance fees, private local bilingual guide, tours per itinerary, 4 nights of hotel lodgings, purified water each day, 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 dinner, transfer to the Veracruz Airport on last day

Not included: Airfare, meals not listed above, alcoholic drinks, travel trip insurance, trip medical insurance, tips for your tour guide & driver

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+1(630) 274-5341 (Worldwide)
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Trip Itinerary

- Day 1: Helia Bravo Hollis Cactus Botanical Garden
- Day 2: Orizaba City Tour & Veracruz City Tour
- Day 3: Explore San Juan de Ulúa old harbor fort
Visit Cempoala Archaeological Ruins
Visit La Antigua
 - one of the first municipalities
 - one of the first Spanish churches
- Day 4: Xalapa's Anthropology Museum
Coatepec & Xico - *Pueblo Magicos* towns
Coffee Growing Region of Veracruz
Waterfall from *Romancing the Stone*
- Day 5: Travel day home from the Veracruz Airport



"Our trip has been absolutely beautiful with the gorgeous foliage and beautiful waterfalls. My wife & I have been to Costa Rica, Panama, and Ecuador, but Veracruz is by far, the best!"

Richard & Shirley Good / Michigan

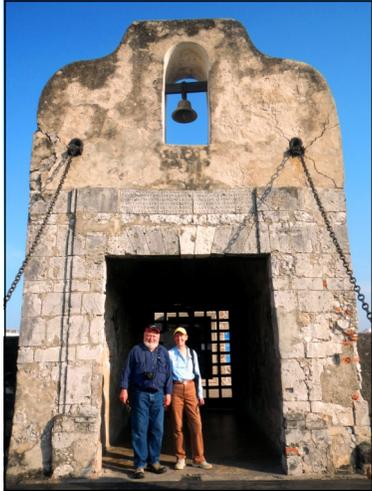
Make plans to reserve your trip TODAY!



Oaxaca's Day of the Dead Extension Trip to Veracruz

November 4th - November 8th 2015

(includes your departure day from the Veracruz International Airport)



Detailed Trip Itinerary

Day 1: Wednesday, November 4 (L)

After breakfast, you will say goodbye to Oaxaca City and travel north through the state of Oaxaca and cross over into the state of Puebla. There you will take a guided tour of the **Helia Bravo Hollis Botanical Garden**; a biosphere reserve to help preserve 53 different species of cacti. There are thousands of them as far as you can see. Later, after lunch, you will head north to the city of Orizaba, Veracruz and overnight at the Hotel Misión Orizaba or similar.

Day 2: Thursday, November 5 (B,L)

There are signs all around the **city of Orizaba** that say in Spanish, "*Smile, You're in Orizaba.*" Yes, it a very clean and friendly city. One of the main attractions is the Palacio de Hierro (Iron Palace) which was made by the same guy who created the Eiffel Tower. It was built in Belgium, dismantled, shipped, and rebuilt in the center of Orizaba. Nearby are small museums like the soccer museum and the beer museum (Heinekens & Dos Equis are brewed there). Also, you will ride up a cable car (Teliferico) to a nearby hill. On a clear day, you will be able to see the tallest volcano in North America (Pico de Orizaba, 18,500').

After checking out of your hotel, your small group will travel to the **city of Veracruz** which is only a short 2 hour drive away. After lunch, one of the local guides will lead you on a walking tour of this historical port city known as the *Gateway to México*. It was and still is one of the most important Mexican ports for large cargo ships importing and exporting goods, especially from the US, Europe, South America, Africa, and the Caribbean. This is where the Spanish Conquistadors lead by Hernán Cortéz first landed and changed this land forever.

The city of Veracruz has a unique blend of African, Caribbean, Cuban, Spanish, European, and indigenous mix not found in any other part of México. You will find this mix especially in the music and dance of this region. The Gran Hotel Diligencias, located right across the street from the main square in the center of the city will be you home from the next 3 nights.

Day 3: Friday, November 6 (B,L)

San Juan de Ulúa Fortress was built in the harbor of Veracruz on an island to mostly protect the city from marauding pirates. Today there is a causeway which connects the island to the mainland. You will get to explore this fort and hear all about its history as a fort and later, as a notorious prison.

Then your small group will travel north to visit the Cempoala Archaeological Ruins site. At one time, some 30,000 Totonacans lived here. This is the place where Hernán Cortés first encountered the leader of this large city.



On you way back to the city of Veracruz, you will make a stop to see where **Cortéz built one of the first municipalities** in the New World in the town of La Antigua. Parts of the administration building are still standing. Also, you will visit **one of the first Catholic churches** build in the Americas. Lunch will be at a local riverside restaurant. The evening is free to explore on your own in the city of Veracruz.

Day 4: Saturday, November 7 (B,L,D)

Today you will travel to the capital city of the state of Veracruz, Xalapa. First on your agenda will be a guided tour of the modern **Anthropology Museum**. This will really give you a good idea of the ancient history of this area. Next up will be a short drive to the **pre-Hispanic town of Coatepec** which is located in the higher altitudes of Veracruz in the middle of the coffee growing region. Lunch will be at one of the restaurant in town. Then there will be some free time to shop at their nice boutique stores and if you want, purchase great tasting coffee. You will also visit the **town of Xico** which is near the **waterfall (Texolo) made famous in the movie, Romancing the Stone** with Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Later your group will return to Veracruz city where everyone will gather together for a final farewell dinner.

Day 5: Sunday, November 8 (B)

Travel day home from the Veracruz International Airport (VER)