



# ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD



## **Mexico City & Oaxaca** Ancient Inspirations & Contemporary Art

Winter, Spring or Fall



# Mexico City & Oaxaca

## Ancient Inspirations & Contemporary Art

Winter, Spring or Fall

The ancient civilizations of Mexico, such as the Aztecs, Zapotecs, and Olmecs, left behind a rich legacy of art and culture, which continues to inspire artists today. In two of its most vibrant cities, Mexico City and Oaxaca, join a behind-the-scenes look at how the use of symbolism, color, materials, and techniques from the ancient world can be seen in many contemporary Mexican artworks. Meet artists and weavers in their private studios, join experts in UNESCO-listed archaeological sites, and savor delicious, authentic dishes in these culinary capitals.



Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City (top) and map of the region (above)

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Join an after-hours private tour of the Museo Nacional de Antropología, experiencing its vast collection of artifacts from the Aztecs, Maya, Olmecs, and other cultures without the crowds
- Visit the private home of a famous Mexican artist and his fashion-designer wife, a contemporary mix of concrete architecture, unique artworks, mismatched furniture styles, and sculptures by the artist
- Before opening hours, tour Casa Azul, the home of Frida Kahlo and now a museum dedicated to the life and work of this iconic Mexican artist
- Meet with Mexico City's leading artists in their studios on private visits, learning about their art and seeing their works in progress
- Revel in Mexico City's exciting contemporary art scene by visiting some of the city's most influential art galleries, which features some of the world's most cutting-edge art
- Savor a special tasting session of *mezcal*, the region's famous smoky spirit made from the agave plant
- Be awed by several UNESCO World Heritage Sites including a visit to Oaxaca's archeological powerhouse, Monte Albán, the capital of the Zapotec civilization between 500 B.C. and 800 A.D.
- Enjoy a special lunch with a Zapotec weaving artisan and his family, seeing how they create their beautiful textiles in millennia-old traditions



UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Mexico City

### DAY 1: DEPARTURE / ARRIVAL IN MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Depart by air for Mexico City and arrive in the mid-afternoon. Guests who choose the suggested flights will be met at the airport and taken to the hotel by group transport. This evening, enjoy a special after-hours visit to one of the world's most fascinating, beautifully curated museums, the **Museo Nacional de Antropología**.

Explore the museum's 23 halls, each of which is dedicated to a different culture or region. Discover Mexico's ancient cultures across 23 exhibit halls. Marvel at treasures such as the 23-ton Aztec Sunstone, its intricate carvings depicting cosmic cycles and rituals. Examine the jade funerary mask of Pakal, the seventh-century A.D. Maya ruler of Palenque. Later, gather for a welcome dinner at a Mexico City favorite. D

### DAY 2: MEXICO CITY

After breakfast, drive to Coyoacán and San Ángel, two charming colonial neighborhoods. Visit the **Museo Frida Kahlo**, also known as the Casa Azul (Blue House), on a pre-opening private tour. This house was where the artist was born, grew up, and returned to live as her career flourished. Walk along leafy, cobblestone streets lined with former mansions and stop at the colorful Mercado de Coyoacán, one of Mexico City's oldest and largest markets.

Drive to **UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)**, a university that UNESCO recognized as "an outstanding example of 20th-century modernism inspired by Mexican mural tradition." View the façade of the Central Library, which is decorated with mosaics by Juan O'Gorman and David Siqueiros's mural *The People to the University, the University to the People* on the rectory.

While on campus, enjoy lunch together at the **University Museum of Contemporary Art (MUAC)** and its restaurant Nube 7, followed by a special tour of the museum's incredible collection. This cultural landmark was designed by Teodoro González de León and holds the largest public collection of contemporary Mexican art, including painting, photography, and sculpture. Stop at Bazaar Sabado, the popular shopping destination for arts and Mexican handicrafts. Return to the hotel and gather later for dinner at a local favorite. B,L,D

### DAY 3: MEXICO CITY

Explore the beginnings of Mexican muralism, starting at the **Plaza del Templo Mayor**, an active archaeological site that holds the historic remnants of the Great Temple of the Aztecs. As you stroll along, catch a glimpse of the majestic **National Palace** and behold the mesmerizing murals by Diego Rivera that depict Mexico's enduring struggles and triumphant moments. View the **Cathedral**, an architectural marvel constructed using the very stones from the once-standing Aztec temples.

Gather for a delightful lunch at **Lago/Algo**, a venue that seamlessly blends contemporary art, stunning architecture, and gastronomic delights. This extraordinary establishment, managed by the renowned art gallery OMR, has breathed new life into a pre-existing modernist building from 1964. From its vantage point overlooking the picturesque Lake Chapultepec, savor a culinary feast that harmoniously complements the artistic ambiance.

Afterwards, experience works by acclaimed artists such as Andy Warhol, Cy Twombly, and Damien Hirst on a special guided visit to the David Chipperfield-designed **Museo Jumex**, which holds one of Latin America's most extensive private collections of contemporary art. Dinner tonight is at leisure. B,L



Plaza del Templo Mayor, Mexico City





Monte Albán, Oaxaca

#### DAY 4: MEXICO CITY

Begin your day with a walking tour of a local arts district, including **a private visit to a local artist's studio**.

Afterwards, upon invitation of the owners, **visit the Luis Barragán-inspired private home** of an artist and his fashion-designer wife. This Brutalist-styled structure features locally crafted cement blocks and an expansive double-height library.

Have lunch together at a nearby eatery, then visit the **Kurimanzutto Gallery**, which boasts a roster of important local and international artists housed in an exquisite Alberto Kalach-designed contemporary space. In the evening, enjoy dinner at one of Mexico City's finest restaurants, helmed by a chef known for her creative and innovative take on Mexican cuisine.

B,L,D

#### DAY 5: MEXICO CITY / OAXACA

Take a morning flight to **Oaxaca**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and mecca for Indigenous culture, authentic craftwork, and gastronomy. Arrive in Oaxaca City in time for lunch together.

In the afternoon, take a walking tour of the city's historical center, stopping at the baroque **Templo de Santo Domingo**, a stunning example of Spanish colonial architecture and home to a number of important works of art. Enjoy the traffic-free Zócalo, Oaxaca City's main square, with its elegant *portales*, and browse through the city's colorful markets, where you can find everything from traditional handicrafts to fresh produce.

Delve into Oaxaca's rich textile tradition during a guided visit at the **Museo Textil de Oaxaca**, which houses a collection of more than 10,000 textiles, many of them a century or more old. This evening, venture off the beaten path to a local *mezcaleria* to taste *mezcal*, sampling its distinctive smoky flavor. Dinner is at leisure.

B,L

#### DAY 6: OAXACA / MONTE ALBÁN / TEOTITLÁN DEL VALLE

On a morning tour, go behind the scenes at one of Mexico's best preserved and culturally rich archeological sites:

**Monte Albán**. Join an expert guide in this former Zapotec capital and admire many of its structures, from palaces and temples to a ball court.

Afterwards, drive to **Teotitlán del Valle**, a village known for its incredible weavers and textiles. Visit a local family who specialize in spinning and weaving the famous Oaxacan rugs, highly prized by collectors for their use of natural and organic dyes, made from fruit, vegetables, and even an insect called the *cochineal*.

Next, tour the **studio of a master painter and sculptor** who makes unique designs of Oaxacan magical realism in watercolors, oils, bronze, and fabrics. Meet his Zapotec weaving family and stay for a traditional lunch. Gather later for a festive farewell dinner.

B,L,D

#### DAY 7: OAXACA / RETURN

Transfer to the Oaxaca airport this morning for your flights home.

B



Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca

**DISCLAIMER:** This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).



## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Camino Real Polanco México (or similar), Mexico City

This luxurious modern retreat is conveniently located near attractions such as Chapultepec Castle, the National Auditorium, Teotihuacan, and the Xochimilco-Floating Gardens. Guests can enjoy stylish rooms with marble bathrooms. Dining options include the hotel's own Xanat Bistro & Terraza, which serves Mexican cuisine. For relaxation, take a dip in the outdoor pool or visit the health club stocked with cardio equipment and free weights. Additionally, the hotel provides helipad access and complimentary transportation for guests to and from the helipad.



Camino Real Polanco México (top) and Café Tamayo (above)

### Grand Fiesta Americana (or similar), Oaxaca

With a contemporary and refreshing ambiance, the hotel showcases a light color palette and utilizes natural materials such as wood and stone. The welcoming entrance hall and central patio seamlessly blend nature and architecture, adorned with cacti and agave plants. The 144 rooms exude style and comfort, ensuring a delightful stay.



Grand Fiesta Americana (top) and Suite (above)

### PROGRAM RATE

\$TBD per person, double rate

\$TBD single rate

#### RATE INCLUDE

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all participants
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATE** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Oaxaca