

MUSEUM
TRAVEL
ALLIANCE



Cultural Treasures of Mexico Oaxaca & San Miguel de Allende

March 5–11, 2022



Dear Travelers and Friends,

In March 2022, join the Museum Travel Alliance on a six-night cultural journey into the ancient heart of Mexico. Experience two enchanting cities, Oaxaca and San Miguel de Allende, both UNESCO-recognized for their well-preserved history, marvelous cuisine, and complex cultures. Surround yourself with an array of colors, from the rich yellows and coral reds of the Spanish colonial buildings, to the brilliant patterns of the handmade traditional crafts and indigenous costumes. Venture just outside Oaxaca for an exclusive, expert-led inside look at one of the most impressive archaeological sites in Mexico, Monte Albán, first occupied in 500 B.C.

In southwestern Mexico, begin in charming Oaxaca, perched on a 5,000-foot-high plateau at the confluence of three emerald valleys. Stroll its beautiful *calles* and plazas with a scholar. Go behind the scenes of the 16th-century Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, whose interiors are lavishly decorated with gold leaf, polychrome figures, and bas-reliefs. Inside its centuries-old monastery, join a curator to behold archaeological treasures. Delight in a special, by-

invitation-only visit to the private studio of a local artist. Spend a day with an expert as you explore the exquisite palaces and pyramids of Monte Albán, evidence of the advanced craftsmanship of the Zapotecs and Mixtecs, the civilizations who ruled this region many centuries ago.

After a flight to Mexico City, arrive in San Miguel de Allende, known for its rainbow of Mexican Baroque architecture. Take an inside look at the 17th-century Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, a soaring, opulent marvel in pink, viewable from almost anywhere in the city. You will also join curator-led looks at San Miguel's extraordinary galleries, including one housing a rare collection of authentic Mexican ceremonial masks. Enjoy a hands-on immersion into Mexican art traditions in a fascinating private workshop. Conclude with an exclusive vineyard tour and tasting with awe-inspiring views outside of San Miguel.

Book with confidence: Your deposit for this program will be fully refundable until 120 days before departure. We hope that you will join us in Mexico for an exciting, in-depth exploration of two colorful cities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

Jim Friedlander
President, Museum Travel Alliance

HIGHLIGHTS

ENJOY a special expert-guided tour of one of Mexico's most impressive ancient cities, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Monte Albán, with its breathtaking ceremonial center filled with temples, pyramids, plazas, and tombs, all carved out of a mountain

GO behind the scenes of awe-inspiring colonial churches, including Oaxaca's sumptuously gorgeous, 16th-century Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, with its spectacular gold and polychrome interiors, and the Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, a 17th-century wonder with towering pink spires

TAKE a curator-led tour of the Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca, with its outstanding display of archaeological treasures dating back millennia, and gaze upon colonial architecture as you stroll the cobblestone streets of Oaxaca with a scholar

JOIN a curator for a private look at more than 500 authentic Mexican ceremonial masks, all worn in indigenous dance performances, inside one of San Miguel de Allende's most sensational galleries

MEET innovative artists in their own private workshops and studios, including a local artisan who handcrafts unique musical instruments

DELIGHT in a hands-on, expert-led experience creating *alebrijes*, wonderfully colorful sculptures of mythical creatures, part of a modern Mexican art tradition

SAVOR an exclusive vineyard experience in a pastoral setting outside San Miguel de Allende, enjoying a private tasting and expert-guided tour with dramatic views

Cultural Treasures of Mexico

Oaxaca & San Miguel de Allende

March 5–11, 2022



SATURDAY, MARCH 5: DEPARTURE / OAXACA, MEXICO

Depart by air for Oaxaca, Mexico. Transfer from the airport to your hotel for check-in. Gather this evening for an orientation and welcome reception. Dinner is at leisure. R

SUNDAY, MARCH 6: OAXACA

Situated at the confluence of three valleys, the state of Oaxaca boasts a sunny, temperate climate amid a rocky landscape. In the capital city of Oaxaca de Juárez, visit Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, which was constructed primarily from 1570 to 1608 and remains the most splendid of Oaxaca's churches. The church is part of a great Dominican monastery, whose stone cloister is the antechamber to the Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca, where you will admire an outstanding display of archaeological treasures. After lunch, stroll down the Calle Macedonio Alcalá, a boulevard reserved for pedestrians, to view many of the city's most remarkable colonial buildings and shops. A visit to the private studio of a fascinating local artist will be a highlight. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner. B,L,D

MONDAY, MARCH 7: OAXACA

Perched on a flattened hilltop just a few kilometers west of the city and with commanding views of the surrounding valley, Monte Albán is one of the most impressive sites in Mexico. First occupied around 500 B.C., Monte Albán was the center of the Zapotec Empire, which extended over most of the present state of Oaxaca, between 300-700 A.D. Today, join an expert guide to explore this majestic complex of pyramids, palaces, platforms, and tombs arranged around a grand plaza. Highlights include bas-

relief "Dancers" (conquered chieftains) and hieroglyphs that are the earliest examples of writing in Mexico.

Discover the many sights of Oaxaca on your own this evening, with dinner at leisure. B,L

TUESDAY, MARCH 8: OAXACA / MEXICO CITY / SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Depart this morning for a flight to Mexico City, and transfer by motor coach to San Miguel de Allende. In the state of Querétaro, stop in San Sebastián Bernal, a village known as a *Pueblo Mágico* (Magical Town) for its symbolic and historical significance as well as its natural beauty and cultural attractions. Visit the village's famous Peña de Bernal, the third-largest monolith in the world. Arrive in San Miguel de Allende, voted "The Best City in the World" by readers of *Travel + Leisure* over several years. This colonial-era metropolis was inscribed by UNESCO as a Cultural Heritage of Humanity due to its cultural and architectural contribution to the Mexican Baroque and its importance in the country's quest for independence from Spain. Enjoy an evening at leisure to explore this beautiful city. B,L

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9: SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Delight in a morning visit to one of San Miguel de Allende's most famous galleries, "Another Face of Mexico." Take a guided exploration of the gallery, which houses an exceptional collection of more than 500 authentic Mexican ceremonial masks, which were worn in indigenous dance performances. Stroll past a rainbow of brilliantly painted colonial buildings to the historic town center, where you will tour one of San Miguel's most iconic landmarks, the 17th-century Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, with its sublime pink spires. After lunch, enjoy free time in town. Walk around its cobblestone streets, enjoy the many art galleries and craft shops, or indulge in the rich array of gastronomical selections on offer. B,L



Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, San Miguel de Allende



THURSDAY, MARCH 10: SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

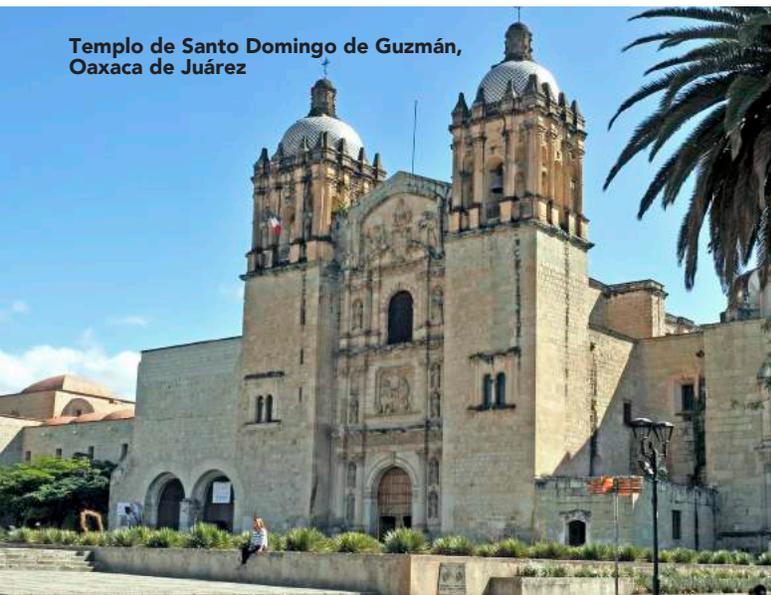
Enjoy breakfast, followed by a visit to a private sculpture workshop. Watch skilled craftsmen create *alebrijes*, vividly colorful sculptures of fantastical creatures, a Mexican folk art tradition. Learn the intriguing legends of these mythical creatures, and perhaps try your hand at creating your own masterpiece to take home. Enjoy lunch at leisure before a scenic ride to an enchanting local winery for a private tasting. An expert will guide you through the vineyards, the viewpoint overlooking the winery, the production area, and the underground cellar. This evening, gather for a festive farewell dinner. B,D

FRIDAY, MARCH 11: SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE / MEXICO CITY / RETURN

Depart the hotel early this morning, and transfer to the Mexico City airport for flights home. B

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Museum Travel Alliance and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php>

Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Oaxaca de Juárez



ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL BOUTIQUE PARADOR SAN MIGUEL OAXACA

In the historic downtown area of Oaxaca City, this beautiful three-story colonial-style building has 23 rooms, four of which are suites. Delight in its bewitchingly colorful décor and gardens and its restaurant serving the fascinating flavors of Oaxacan cuisine. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.

HACIENDA EL SANTUARIO SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Housed in a charming mansion full of history, this exclusive hotel is located in the historic center of San Miguel de Allende. Each of its 30 beautiful suites is decorated with beautiful pieces of Mexican folk art and has a king-size bed, safe, plasma TV and cable TV service, and complimentary Wi-Fi.



Hotel Boutique Parador San Miguel Oaxaca



Courtyard, Hacienda el Santuario San Miguel de Allende

PROGRAM RATE

\$4,999 per person, double rate

\$5,799 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Six nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals, house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Internal economy-class flight (Oaxaca de Juárez-Mexico City)
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach and entrance fees for included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage 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.



MUSEUM TRAVEL ALLIANCE

CULTURAL TREASURES OF MEXICO: OAXACA & SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE ▪ MARCH 5- 11, 2022 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call the Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (**fully refundable until 120 days prior to departure**) payable to *Museum Travel Alliance*. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 W 39th Street, Suite 1701, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with

MTA MUSEUM AFFILIATION

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Museum Travel Alliance*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php> to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date