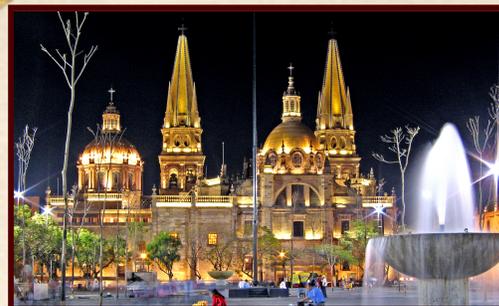


**Colonial Mexico - Guadalajara to Mexico City**  
**October 26, 2019 - 10 Days, 9 Nights**

People often characterize Mexico by its beach cities, and we understand the appeal. But Mexico has so much more to offer beyond the sand and sea. The history of indigenous peoples and Spanish conquerors alike meld together in a cultural excursion you cannot find anywhere else in the world.



**Tour Breakdown**

**DAY 1 – Guadalajara**

Arrive to Guadalajara International Airport. Guadalajara is the second largest city in Mexico, and is a modern metropolis with an international flavor that still maintains its colonial traditions. We transfer from the airport to the De Morales Hotel, located in the heart of the beautiful historical district, where we spend two nights. This evening, we enjoy a welcome dinner and meet our Tour Director. D

**DAY 2 – Guadalajara and Tequila**

After breakfast, we begin our day with a guided walking tour of the main plazas that surround the historical center. At the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Government Palace, we view the murals by José Clemente Orozco. We continue to Tequila, where the internationally renowned Mexican beverage is produced by dozens of distilleries set amidst the blue agave fields. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a Mexican Fiesta before we tour the city and visit a distillery to learn the process of making tequila. We return to Guadalajara this evening. BLD

**DAY 3 – Morelia**

This morning we head for the beautiful city of Morelia, where we check in to the centrally located Alameda Hotel for two nights, the best location in this elegant colonial city. After free time for lunch, we tour the city, where the buildings date back to the 17th century, allowing visitors to recapture the spirit and elegance of Old Spain. Our tour includes the Cathedral, Government Palace with murals depicting the history of the state, and the Candy Market. BD

**DAY 4 – Patzcuaro/ Tzintzuntzan/Morelia**

After breakfast, we drive to the hillside city of Patzcuaro, one of Mexico's Pueblo's Magicos that still retains its quaint 16th-century atmosphere. Afterward, we go to the ancient capital of Tzintzuntzan, where circular pyramids called yacatas were built overlooking a lake and where we will visit the charming Santa Ana monastery, dating back to the 1500s. B

**DAY 5 – Guanajuato/ San Miguel Allende**

Our route today will take us through the farmlands of El Bajío, arriving in the city of Guanajuato. Our first stop is the Garden of the Union, the city's lively focal point. After free time for lunch, our guide will lead us down the narrow cobblestone streets lined with the gorgeous architecture of this World Heritage Site city. Our walking tour includes a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guanajuato, Alley of the Kiss, Alhondiga de Granaditas, Hidalgo Market, and the University of Guanajuato. This afternoon we continue to San Miguel Allende, one of Mexico's most charming towns, also designated as a National Historic Monument to preserve its unique atmosphere. We check in to the Real de Minas Hotel, our home for two nights. BD

**DAY 6 – San Miguel de Allende**

After breakfast, we will tour San Miguel de Allende to admire the colonial homes with their gorgeous inner patios, wrought-iron trimming, and massive wooden doors. The square is filled with artists capturing the magic of the city with their paints and easels. After the guided tour, the day is free to stroll through the city's famous art galleries and eateries. BD

**Optional:** Travel to the charming city of Dolores Hidalgo, where the seeds for the independence of modern day Mexico started. It was at the foot of its main church that Father Miguel Hidalgo ignited the insurgence against the Spanish in 1810. The tour begins at the tree-lined Zocalo, a popular meeting point; view the magnificent monument dedicated to Mexico's national heroes. Next, visit the beautiful baroque church followed by a delicious homemade ice cream tasting from one of the many street vendors around the main square. Be adventurous and try the different exotic flavors! After, visit a "talavera" factory to see how local colorful ceramics are made before returning to San Miguel Allende. \$50 per person

**DAY 7 – Queretaro/ Mexico City**

This morning we leave lovely San Miguel Allende to visit another colonial jewel, the city of Queretaro. This is a charming colonial city steeped in Mexican history, with graceful balconies, tree-lined plazas, colonial streets, and alleyways. After free time for lunch, we continue to Mexico City. Before we arrive at our hotel, the Marquis Reforma, we will have a short panoramic tour of Reforma Avenue, Angel of Independence Monument, the Chapultepec area, and Castle. BD

**DAY 8 – Mexico City**

Today is a free day to explore Mexico City. B

**Optional:** Take a half day tour to Cuernavaca and Taxco, known for its Spanish colonial architecture, as well as its famous silver jewelry. \$75 per person

**DAY 9 – Xochimilco/ Mexico City**

After breakfast, we depart for Xochimilco, located in the southern part of Mexico City. We will also enjoy a trip through the canals on a trajinera (gondola). This afternoon, we tour the central plaza visiting the National Cathedral, the Government Palace, and Templo Mayor. We finish this busy, exciting day with a farewell dinner. BL

**Day 10 – Return flight home**

After breakfast, we head to the airport for our flights home, with memories of the beautiful colonial cities of Mexico. B

*Itinerary subject to change.*

