

Colonial Mexico - Guadalajara to Mexico City October 15, 2018 - 8 Days, 7 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

Arrival to the 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. Transfer from the airport to the De Morales Hotel, located in the heart of the beautiful historical district. Welcome Meeting this evening with your Tour Manager. 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, including a visit to the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Government Palace where we will enjoy viewing the murals by José Clemente Orozco. We will then 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 to include a traditional buffet and will be entertained by a live mariachi band. After lunch we will continue with a tour of the city and visit a distillery to learn the process of elaboration of the tequila. We return to Guadalajara to end our day with our welcome dinner. BLD

DAY 3 – Morelia

This morning we depart to the beautiful city of Morelia. Arrival and check in to the centrally located Alameda Hotel, with the best location in this elegant colonial city. After free time for lunch, we will 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, the Clavijero Palace, the Music Conservatory of the Roses and the Candy Market. Dinner at the hotel. BD

Optional: Dinner at Local Restaurant & Gallery

DAY 4 – Patzcuaro/ Tzintzuntzan/Morelia

After breakfast we will drive to Lake Pátzcuaro (1 hour) and the hillside city of Patzcuaro, on of Mexico's Pueblo's Magicos that still retains its quaint 16th-century atmosphere. We begin our tour with a visit to the Vasco de Quiroga square and the House of Eleven Patios. Once a convent, it is now a labyrinth of small shops where the artisans are creating their wares. Afterwards, we'll go to the ancient capital of Tzintzuntzan, where circular pyramids called yacatas were built overlooking the lake. In this village we will visit the charming Santa Ana monastery, dating back to the 1500s. We return to Morelia this afternoon to overnight. 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. Upon arrival we begin our visit of this fabulous city. Our first stop is the Garden of the Union, the city's lively focal point. After free time for lunch in one of the many great options available in the main square, your tour guide will begin with the guided tour of the main historical buildings and the narrow cobblestone streets lined with the gorgeous architecture that has led to the city's designation as a World Heritage Site. Your walking tour includes the visit of the Juarez Theatre, San Diego Church, Shrine of Our Lady of Guanajuato, Alley of the Kiss, Alhondiga de Granaditas, Hidalgo Market and the University of Guanajuato, as you walk by lovely plazas. This afternoon we continue on to San Miguel Allende one of Mexico's most charming towns, also designated as a National Historic Monument to preserve its unique atmosphere. Arrival and check in to the Real de Minas Hotel. BD

DAY 6- San Miguel de Allende

After breakfast we will tour this charming city 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 you will have plenty of time to stroll through the city's famous art galleries. It's a true shopper's paradise. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. BD
Optional: Half Day Dolores Hidalgo Tour

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. Our tour includes the Jardín Zenea, Independence Plaza, Government Palace and the baroque churches of Santa Clara and Santa Rosa del Viterbo. After free time for lunch in the historical center, we continue on to Mexico City (130 miles). Before we arrive to our hotel, we will do a short panoramic tour of the Reforma Avenue, Angel of Independence Monument, Diana Cazadora, Chapultepec area and Castle. Arrival and check in to the Krystal Grand Reforma in Mexico City. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant. BD

Day 8- Return flight home.

Breakfast at hotel and transfer to airport for those with AIR. (B)

