

“Dia de Los Muertos” Day Of The Dead 7 Days, 6 Nights

October 31st marks the beginning of Mexico’s “Dia de Los Muertos” celebration. Day of the Dead events honor the deceased with vibrant festivities through November 2nd. Elaborate altars welcome spirits with food and flowers as people visit cemeteries to decorate gravesites and spend time with the souls of their loved ones. These celebrations originated with pre-Hispanic traditions dating back hundreds of years, including an Aztec festival honoring the goddess of the afterlife, Mictecacihuatl. As the cultures intertwined, The Day of the Dead evolved to include elements of Christianity, including prayers for the souls of the deceased. Rather than a morose occasion, Dia de Los Muertos is a celebratory holiday when the lives of those passed are commemorated. Whimsical skull decorations symbolize the cycles of life, death and rebirth. Experience the layers of history behind this UNESCO cultural heritage event in the land of its origins.



Tour Breakdown

Day 1 - Tuesday - Oct 29 – Oaxaca (incl. dinner)

Arrive at the Oaxaca airport, then check in to the Hotel Victoria or similar property. Attend a briefing with your tour manager to learn about the age-old traditions surrounding the Day of the Dead. Enjoy a welcome dinner and relax for the evening.

Day 2 - Wednesday - Oct 30 – City tour and parade (incl. breakfast, dinner)

Today starts with an orientation walk of Oaxaca, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. We will visit, the central market, the bustling Zocalo (Town Square), and the famous Santo Domingo Church. Lunch today is on your own at one of the many local eateries. This evening enjoy a leisurely dinner at a local restaurant before watching the Day of the Dead masquerade parade in Oaxaca city downtown. People dressed in elaborate costumes dance through the main streets of the city.



Day 3 – Thursday – Oct 31 – Oaxaca Arts and Crafts, & Night tour to cemeteries (incl. breakfast, dinner)

Travel to Ocotlan to explore traditional markets, then continue to Coyotepec to take in the ornate trademark black Oaxacan pottery. Continue to the Tilcajate, a town famous for its “Alebrjes,” wood carvings of mystic figures. Finally, travel to Jaltetza, where artisans create lovely and elaborate products of embroidered cloth. This evening will be a leisurely dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner we will visit the cemeteries to see the elaborately decorated altars with offerings to the dead. Colorful carpets of Marigold, sand, and sawdust adorn the streets welcoming the spirits.

Day 4 – Friday – Nov 1 – Cuisine of Oaxaca (incl. all meals)

This day is dedicated to the flavorful and aromatic cuisine of Oaxaca. After breakfast, visit the Mercado to learn about the local ingredients, and then attend a lesson on the techniques of Oaxacan cooking. The afternoon is yours to relax or explore more. Tonight join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 5 – Saturday – Nov 2 – Mitla, Teotitlan del Valle, Tule Tree (incl. all meals)

After breakfast, visit Tlacoahuaya, a beautiful XVI century church, decorated with hand painted flowers and angels on the walls and ceiling. Mitla, archeological site and “Place of the Dead.” Remarkable architecture and striking grecas still survive from this Mixtec ceremonial center’s construction around 800 A.D. In Teotitlan, see the production of woolen and woven goods, as well as the natural dye techniques used to color them. Then, visit a distillery to learn about and sample Mescal, made from blue agave. Return to Oaxaca by way of Santa Maria del Tule, location of El Árbol del Tule, the legendary Montezuma cypress. Reportedly over 2,000 years old, this magnificent tree measures 42 meters in diameter.

Day 6 – Sunday – Nov 3 – Monte Albán, Guelaguetza, (incl. breakfast, dinner)

In the morning, explore the ruins of Monte Albán, the empire on a hill that endured for over 1200 years. The remains of temples, pyramids, palaces and ball courts reveal a culture advanced in the time of its founding, around 500 B.C. Monte Albán is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the most significant archaeological sites in Mesoamerica. In the evening, indulge in the customary foods of Oaxaca and see the Guelaguetza, traditional folkloric dancers of Oaxaca.

Day 7 – Monday – Nov 4 – Return Flight (incl. breakfast)

Say Adios to Oaxaca with breakfast at the hotel then transfer to the airport.

PRICE PER PERSON

Single: \$1,630

Double: \$1,360

(México City hotel pre/post accommodation available for \$175.00 per night includes transfer to Oaxaca)

Hotels and itinerary subject to change (of equal or greater value), not affecting cost of the tour. Airfare not included.

