



SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART

Myth, Magic and Mystery in Oaxaca with Florencio Moreno

October 27 to November 3, 2016

The legacy of Mexico's ancient civilization is as vibrant today in and around Oaxaca as it was three millennia ago. During the colorful celebrations surrounding *Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead, families in this spirited city make special altars within their homes, go to their local cemeteries to welcome loved ones, prepare special meals, and continue traditions with pride as they have been practiced for thousands of years. This uniquely Mexican holiday represents a mixture of Christian devotion and pre-Hispanic beliefs that are particularly meaningful in this region, which is deeply rooted in tradition.

Oaxaca, a city of tree-shaded plazas, tiled roofs, and cobbled streets, is without rival in Latin America for the richness, variety, and quality of its art and native crafts. Long a haven for collectors and a mecca for contemporary artists, it has become a gastronomic destination with its sophisticated cuisine that merges the influence of Spanish, Indian, and Mexican cooking. The tour will be led by Florencio Moreno, cultural anthropologist, historian, and captivating storyteller whose ability to bring to life the history and legends of Mexico's vibrant past has made him a favorite of SBMA travelers.

Highlights include:

- Visits to **local villages** for a chance to meet some of the area's best artists and to take part in the preparations and **celebrations surrounding *Día de los Muertos***.
- **The Museum of Oaxacan Cultures** and the **Rufino Tamayo Museum**, as well as **Our Lady of Solitude Church**, honoring Oaxaca's patron saint.

- **Day trips outside the city to the archeological sites of Monte Albán and Mitla.** Monte Albán dates from around 500 BCE and flourished as the Zapotec center for the next thousand years. Mitla, famous for its pre-Columbian Mesoamerican buildings, was built by the Zapotecs around 600 BCE and taken over by the Mixtecs in the late 10th century; it is the Mixtec influence that is most pronounced on the existing ruins.
- **World-class folk art** for which Oaxaca and the surrounding areas are known, including whimsical wooden animals, sophisticated embroidered textiles, and traditional weavings.

Accommodation is at the Quinta Real, once a 16th-century convent, and now the attractive grande dame of Oaxaca City. Rooms look out onto colonnaded cloisters and flower-filled courtyards with fountains, a large pool, and charming areas for alfresco dining. Located in the heart of town, the Quinta Real is the perfect base from which to explore the city on foot. Within an easy walk from the hotel are leading galleries, many of the town's twenty-seven churches, the Plaza de Santo Domingo where artisans hang charming woven rugs on clotheslines strung between trees, the Cathedral, and the main square, or *zócalo*.

Weather in late fall is dry and crisp, with warm days and cool evenings. One does not have to travel far to encounter the historic treasures, artistic masterpieces, and festive traditions of Mexico. Return from this respite laden with gifts for the holiday season. During *Día de los Muertos*, hotel space is at a premium and must be secured well in advance.



October 27, Thursday- U.S. to OAXACA

Fly to Oaxaca and transfer to the Quinta Real, **in the heart of the city's Historic District. Enjoy a festive Welcome Dinner at Casa Crespo, run by Oaxaca's great chef Oscar Carrizosa.** (D)

October 28, Friday – OAXACA

Tour Oaxaca on foot stopping at the **Rufino Tamayo Museum**, which houses the artist's collection of more than 1,000 pre-Columbian artifacts in a carefully restored colonial mansion, Our Lady of Solitude Church, and the main square or *zócalo*, with huge shade trees and an ever-busy bandstand. Continue to the restaurant La Biznaga for lunch.

After lunch walk to the **Museum of Oaxacan Cultures**, located within a 16th-century Dominican Convent. (B,L)

October 29, Saturday – OAXACA

Begin the day by visiting the **archeological excavations at Mitla** where Zapotecs and Mixtecs were in control from around the 7th century BCE to the 14th century CE. Mitla was once the site of sacrificial idols and rituals. It is known now for the remarkable intricacy of its stone walls, covered with inlaid cut-stone mosaic (stepped-fret design) with representations of the Sky Serpent, Quetzalcóatl, a symbol of the Mesoamerican deity.

Continue to the **Zapotec village of Teotitlán del Valle, famous for its weavers.** Browse the *Mercado* where a variety of quality crafts are for sale. Walk through the village to **visit one of Mexico's great masters of Mexican Folk Art, Maestro Bulmaro Mendoza. Following a traditional lunch in his home,** family members will demonstrate their **weaving and spinning**

techniques using natural dyes.

On the way back to Oaxaca, stop to visit **Tlacoahuaya, a 16th-century church with wonderfully preserved painted wood altars.** The rest of the evening is at leisure. (B,L)

October 30, Sunday – OAXACA

Spend the day in the Valley of Zimatlan, to experience the diversity of the folk art created by local artisans. Begin in the famed black pottery **village of San Bartolo Coyotepec,** and visit the **potter Carlo Magno Pedro, who specializes in Day of the Dead art.** Visit the home of **Sofia and Simón Reyes, whose family has made traditional ollas for generations.** The family will demonstrate how they create these ceramic cooking jars.

From there, continue to the **village of San Martín Tilcajete,** famous for its production of *alebrijes*, which are wood carvings of real or fantastic creatures painted in bright colors and intricate patterns. Here you will visit the finest of the workshops. Continue to the nearby village of Santo Tomas Jalieza to **visit the Mendoza Family.** See the centuries old use of the back strap loom before a traditional lunch, hosted by the family. View the work of the younger daughters, Abigail & Eva Mendoza, who make intricate, miniature weavings which can be seen in the Smithsonian Collection of Textiles. This afternoon, time permitting, we will also **visit the Aguilar Sisters, world famous potters** that make extraordinary Day of the Dead figures. Return to the city in the late afternoon. (B,L)

October 31, Monday – OAXACA

The origins of the Day of the Dead can be traced back 3,000 years to the Aztecs. Today is the day when families build altars to their late loved ones. This morning, stroll through the Mercado de Abastos, filled with special Day of the Dead products including **unique breads, sugar skulls, floral wreaths, and votive candles.**

Return to the hotel to enjoy a delicious lunch and make our own Day of the Dead altar in the hotel, with the ornaments found at the market.

Take the afternoon at leisure because late tonight we will be hosted for a **typical Day of the Dead snack of tamales and hot chocolate**



with the family of Angelica Vazquez, winner of the National Prize of Science and Arts of Mexico. Join them on a visit to help them decorate their family grave, and to welcome their departed late that night. (B,L,D)

November 1, Tuesday – OAXACA

It will be a leisurely morning following our late night festivities. Later we will visit the **archaeological site of Monte Albán,** perched on a promontory overlooking the city and valley below. **The Zapotec capital** was inhabited for almost 1,000 years. Its ancient motifs will be examined in relationship to those used in today's contemporary art in the area.

After a festive lunch at Los Caporales, a local favorite, continue to the nearby village of Soledad Etla. **Watch the comparsas, a celebration where men dress in fantastic costumes and parade from village to village to the rhythm of brass bands.** (B,L)

November 2, Wednesday – OAXACA

Travel to the town of **Yanhuitlan** to see the **home and studio of Manuel Reyes, one of Mexico's great folk artists, who specializes in ceramic mosaics.** Enjoy lunch in Manuel's home, followed by a **studio visit of one of Oaxaca's great painters of Oaxacan Magic Realism, Enrique Flores.** Bid farewell to Mexico with a festive Farewell Dinner at Casa Oaxaca prepared by Chef Alejandro Ruiz. (B,L,D)

November 3, Thursday – OAXACA to U.S.

Depart from Oaxaca for your home gateway. (B)

TOUR COST

Land Tour: \$3,645 per person, double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$1,240

Museum Donation: \$400 per person

Includes:

- ❖ Accommodation for seven nights
- ❖ Breakfast daily, six lunches and three dinners
- ❖ Ground transportation
- ❖ Airport transfers in Mexico for those on the suggested flights, to be determined later
- ❖ Admissions, excursions, sightseeing, and tours
- ❖ Special events and private visits
- ❖ Gratuities to guides, drivers, and porters

Not included: Flights to and from Mexico; airport transfers within the U.S.; airport transfers in Mexico for those not on the suggested flights; passport fees; personal insurance for health, baggage and trip cancellation; items of a personal nature; and items not specifically mentioned as included.

There will be no refund for unused portions of the tour. Itinerary and tour cost are subject to change. The tour is based on a minimum of 15 participants and a maximum of 22. Final payments must be made by check. CST 2090260

Air Arrangements: The tour is offered on a Land Only basis to allow maximum flexibility for travelers. More details on flights will be provided later.

Activity Level: Participants must be physically fit and in active good health, able to navigate uneven ground, large and/or tiny steps, and slippery surfaces with ease and without assistance, and be on their feet for several hours. Good health and stamina plus a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude about delays and inconveniences are essential.

Meals: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch/Comida, D = Dinner. The main meal of the day is "comida" and is normally served around 2 or 3 pm. With such a late meal we have left out most evening meals to allow travelers to have dinner at their leisure.

Museum Membership: Travel is a benefit of Museum Membership. Non-members will be required to join at the general level (\$60 or \$45 for seniors) or higher and will receive full membership benefits for a year.

INFORMATION

PHONE: (805) 884-6436

FAX: (805) 966-6840

EMAIL: travel@sbma.net

WEB: www.sbma.net/travel



RESERVATION FORM – Oaxaca

SEND TO: SBMA Travel, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

or FAX TO: (805) 966-6840 **or RESERVE BY PHONE:** (805) 884-6436

To hold your space on the tour, a **\$500 per person deposit** is required, refundable until September 1, 2015, less \$300 per person cancellation penalty. Checks and credit cards are accepted for the deposit. Credit cards cannot be accepted for final payment.

- A check made payable to *SBMA* is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____
- Please charge the deposit of \$ _____ to my credit card: VISA MASTERCARD AMEX
- Card number _____ Expires: _____
- Signature as on card _____ Security Code _____

I/we are not current members; please add the following for general membership: \$60 or \$45 (senior)

I will be sharing a room with _____ or Single Supplement.

Name(s) as on passport _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

A confirmation letter and travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your reservation form and deposit.