



The Colonial Heart of Mexico:
San Miguel de Allende & Surrounding Areas
with Florencio Moreno
February 12 to 17, 2023

A walk through the beloved city of San Miguel de Allende, tucked high in the hills of Mexico's central highlands, reveals why a mix of artists and art aficionados from Mexico and around the world, as well as a large community of expatriates, have decided to make it their home: wrought iron gates lead to colorful gardens, ornate colonial churches line the cobblestone streets, apartment doors seem to pose for photographs and tree-filled plazas beckon. The colonial town was named by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers as the best city in the world due to its ambiance and culture, history and romance, and the lack of street lights and billboards.

There is a particular charm to central Mexico's colonial towns. Both San Miguel de Allende and Guanajuato are rich with Renaissance, Baroque, and Moorish architecture created during three hundred years of Spanish rule. During the colonial period they became major centers of art and architecture, with a proliferation of churches, monasteries and elegant private residences. Sustained by the wealth from silver mines and agriculture, these cities experienced a renaissance in the arts as builders, artisans and artists expressed themselves in a burst of aesthetic exuberance. Each city became cultural centers, UNESCO World Heritage sites, and a work of art in itself, their plazas surrounded by buildings that symbolize great civic pride.

The tour will be based at:

- ❖ **Rosewood San Miguel de Allende** for *five nights* ☞ A favorite hotel of past SBMA travelers, the property constantly wins awards including the #1 hotel in Mexico by *Condé Nast Traveler's* readers. Laid out like a classic Mexican hacienda peppered with fountains and ornately tiled ponds, the enchanting sanctuary rises among the surrounding colonial architecture and cobblestone lanes of San Miguel de Allende.



A combination of indigenous traditions, thriving art scenes, exceptional well-preserved architecture, and a large expat community influence life in San Miguel. Through special connections, the Museum has organized a unique itinerary completely customized for the SBMA traveler. With ideal February weather and jacarandas in bloom, this is a fitting time to experience Mexico's myth, magic, and mystery. For those who have been to the larger, more touristy cities of Mexico, this program delves deeper into the culture of Mexico's heartland that first-time visitors don't often see. 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 Museum favorite.



Florencio Moreno

Tour Organizer, Leader, Guide, Scholar



Florencio Moreno has led over 20 tours for the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and is unquestionably one of SBMA's favorite guides and scholars. A cultural anthropologist, historian, and captivating storyteller, he has an innate ability to bring the history and legends of Mexico's vibrant past to life. He graduated from the Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana (UAM) in Mexico City with a degree in Cultural Geography and a Masters in Colonial Iconography and Iconology, as well as Astro-archaeology. As a member of the Astronomical Society of Oaxaca, Florencio teaches at local schools and also lectures within and outside of Mexico on Meso-American and Mexican anthropology and history. He is a native of Oaxaca and fluent in English, French, Spanish, and Zapotec. His broad knowledge and expertise of colonial iconography, history and archeology, as well as his affable personality make him a favorite tour guide-lecturer of Santa Barbara Museum of Art travelers. He lives in Oaxaca and has two sons.

What do Florencio's past SBMA Travelers have to say?

"I have been on two tours with Florencio and it never ceases to amaze me that he does everything—he is the guide, the academic leader/scholar, AND he runs the logistics of the tour—all with such calm and compassion. I have been on other tours where there are three people doing each of those three roles." – Anonymous

"Florencio is incredibly thoughtful, kind, helpful and personable. He is an absolute joy and keeps everyone's needs in mind...and makes each day the best it can be." – Anonymous

"Florencio was fabulous; he has such a wealth of knowledge." - Marjorie McShirley



Itinerary

February 12, Sunday—U.S. to SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Depart LAX in the morning (or other home gateway), layover in Mexico City, and arrive at BJJ airport in León/Guanajuato. A private group transfer to the hotel is included for those on the suggested flight.

Gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner at the hotel restaurant 1826. The name of this farm to table restaurant pays homage to the year in which the city was renamed in honor of Ignacio Allende y Unzaga, the mastermind of the Mexican independence movement. *Dinner included, overnight at Rosewood San Miguel de Allende*

February 13, Monday— SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

After breakfast, set out for a **walking tour of the historic district.** This town has been a haven for expats from the U.S. and Canada since the 1930s, who came to San Miguel for the slower pace and to experience the art and culture that is very much a part of life in this mountain town. Begin at the multi-spired pink **Parroquia church, which stands guard over the town's heart, the Jardín.** Walk through the **traditional market** where food, arts, and crafts are sold. Continue to the **Other Face of Mexico, a museum where 500 masks** are beautifully displayed. Owners Bill and Heidi LeVasseur have spent years traveling through rural Mexico, collecting masks used in traditional dance ceremonies and their notable collection has been featured in countless publications. **Drive up into the hills to La Mansion de Montitlan, for lunch in the gardens, prepared by the owner,** and take in the beautiful views of the city. In the early evening, **gather on the hotel's rooftop terrace (one of the nicest hotel terraces in the world according to *Travel & Leisure*) for a**

welcome cocktail overlooking the cathedral. Dinner is at your leisure to sample one of San Miguel's many great restaurants. *Breakfast, Lunch, Cocktails included, overnight at Rosewood San Miguel de Allende*

February 14, Tuesday—SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE to GUANAJUATO and RETURN

Board our private coach for an hour-and-a-half drive to the UNESCO-designated city of Guanajuato, a gem of a colonial Mexican city. Located on the steep slopes of a ravine, fine examples of colonial architecture stand as both monument and testament to the city's turbulent and prosperous past, when its silver and gold mines were the richest in the world. Begin at the **Regional Museum of Guanajuato Alhóndiga de Granaditas, a fantastic art and history museum.** Continue to the birthplace and **childhood home of Diego Rivera, now a museum,** where his studio and some of his work is shown. Lunch at a favorite restaurant, Mestizo, will be followed by a visit to **Teatro Juárez,** a stunning 19th-century theater with neoclassical columns and bronze statues of Greek muses topping its stone façade that holds opera and classical music concerts. End our day with a **cable car ride for fabulous views of the city,** and walk down Guanajuato's famous **kiss alley.** Return to San Miguel, arriving in the evening. *Breakfast, Lunch included, overnight at Rosewood San Miguel de Allende.*



February 15, Wednesday—SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE & SURROUNDING

A short drive takes us to the **home and studio of Ana Thiel, a Mexican glass artist, who will lead us on a tour of her wonderful work.** Visit **another local artist's studio** to experience his moving work and hear about his process. Drive twenty minutes to the countryside to the ornately

decorated Santuario De Jesús Nazareno de **Atotonilco, an UNESCO World Heritage Site**. This Jesuit sanctuary dates back to the 18th century and is considered **one of the finest examples of Baroque art and architecture** in any former Spanish possession. The church and several smaller chapels are decorated with oil paintings by Rodriguez Juárez and mural paintings by Miguel Antonio Martinez de Pocasangre. After lunch at Nirvana, a popular country retreat, visit the unique **home and studio of Anado McLauchlin**, where all the walls are tiled and the entire home is a colorful arrangement of art. Return to San Miguel for an evening at leisure. *Breakfast, Lunch included, overnight at Rosewood San Miguel de Allende*



February 16, Thursday—SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

This morning, we will have a **private visit of the botanic gardens, El Charco del Ingenio**, with its vast collection of cacti and other Mexican plants. It is also a wildlife and bird sanctuary, as well as a nature preserve. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure. One may wish to explore Fabrica La Aurora, where gallery after gallery fills the acres of a former textile factory. Or, walk to the 250-year-old Centro Cultural Ignacio Ramírez, also known as Bellas Artes. This former convent is now a community center and art gallery with an interior courtyard that is surrounded by two stories of arched colonnades. Though exhibitions rotate through five gallery spaces, the permanent frescoes by Siqueiros, painted 15 years after the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's "Portrait of Mexico Today" mural, are most impressive. After some time at leisure at the hotel, drive to **the home of jeweler Bill Harris for a special private reception**. Gather this evening for a festive **Farewell Dinner**. *Breakfast, Lunch,*

Cocktails, Dinner included, overnight at Rosewood San Miguel de Allende

February 17, Friday—SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE to U.S.

Depart from Guanajuato International Airport (BJX.) Those on the suggested flights will be transferred from the hotel to the airport. *Breakfast included*



Tour Costs:

- ☞ Per person cost, double occupancy: \$3,620
- ☞ Per person cost, single occupancy: \$4,990
- ☞ Plus Tour-Related Donation to SBMA: \$500 per person

Included:

- ☞ Accommodations for five nights
- ☞ Breakfast daily; some lunches and dinners as described in the itinerary
- ☞ Ground transportation by air-conditioned coach for included activities
- ☞ Airport transfers in Mexico for those on the suggested flights
- ☞ Admissions, excursions, sightseeing, and tours
- ☞ Special events and private visits
- ☞ The services of Study Leader/Guide Florencio Moreno and SBMA host throughout (with 15 participants)
- ☞ Most gratuities including to drivers, porters, site guides, and waiters for included activities and meals
- ☞ Pre-tour gathering in Santa Barbara a few weeks prior to departure

Not included: Roundtrip flights to and from BJX; checked baggage fees; airport transfers in home city; airport transfers in Mexico and porter tips for those not on the suggested flights; passport and all other airline and travel fees; customary tips to Florencio Moreno, drivers, and housekeeping; optional travel insurance (highly recommended); expenses incurred as a result of delays or deviations; items of a personal nature such as room service, not-included meals and beverages, telephone or internet charges; and items not specifically mentioned as included.

Air Arrangements: To allow maximum flexibility for travelers, flights to and from BJX León/Guanajuato airport are not included in the cost of the tour. A suggested flight schedule will be sent to confirmed passengers once the group has been formed. Please do not book your flights until the minimum group size has been reached. Airport transfers between the airports in Mexico and the hotel will be included for those on these suggested flights. Flights are subject to change. In the case of flight changes the participant is responsible for any costs for hotels, transfers, and meals required as a result. Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance is strongly encouraged.

Requirements: For your own enjoyment and the enjoyment of the group, we must stress the following requirements. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. Days will be busy with a moderate amount of walking and standing during tours. Sightseeing excursions may last for a few hours with distances of up to a few miles and participants must be able to keep pace with a larger group, get on and off of busses, and navigate uneven terrain, stairs, and slippery surfaces with ease and without assistance. Good health and stamina plus a sense of adventure and a positive, flexible attitude about delays and inconveniences are also essential. Participants must enjoy being part of a group tour. The right is reserved to decline or retain any person as member of the tour, when such action is determined by SBMA to be in the best interests of the health, safety, enjoyment, or general welfare of the tour group or the individual participant. We reserve the right to ask you for health information before you travel.

Museum Membership Requirement: Travel is a benefit of Museum Membership. Non-members will be required to join at the general "Friend" level (\$80 or \$60 for seniors) or higher and will receive full membership benefits for a year. Members at the \$500 "Enthusiast" level and above receive advance notice about SBMA-custom tours. Membership is separate from the \$500 donation, which is the portion of your tour cost that is tax deductible.

INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A RESERVATION:

Phone: (805) 884-6435

Fax: (805) 966-6840

Email: travel@sbma.net

Web: www.sbma.net/travel

Covid-19 Requirements: For the protection of SBMA travelers and to adhere to the requirements of tour operators, suppliers, and the destinations (i.e. countries, hotels, museums, restaurants, many of which are requiring it), tour participants must be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 and provide SBMA with proof of vaccination prior to departure. A negative test before the tour begins is currently required by SBMA, if not already required by the destination. Other Covid-19 requirements may apply and further details will be sent prior to departure.

General Caution: This is a group tour taking place in the era of a pandemic and we urge everyone to be cautious before departure and to take precautions while traveling and on tour, in order to keep the group as safe as possible. Travel always has inherent risks. There are new and constantly evolving risks with travelling during the Covid-19 pandemic. When choosing to travel during this time you are accepting these risks. There will be times during the tour where you gather with your fellow travelers unmasked, such as during meals. There are things we as individuals can do to mitigate risk such as masking and distancing if possible and when appropriate. It is important to be aware of your personal health status and let tour staff know if you develop a sore throat, runny nose, cough or other symptoms. New policies may be implemented during the tour such as daily testing if deemed necessary by tour staff. We greatly appreciate your help with keeping yourself and those around you as safe as possible.

Tour Protocols Regarding Covid-19: Travel has the potential to transform people and places, to have a positive impact on those lucky enough to experience it, and to make one's life richer forever. Our goal is to make those experiences a reality while implementing science-based methods for staying healthy while traveling. At SBMA Travel we are committed to your comfort, health, and safety. Due to the ever-changing nature of the pandemic, protocols will be adjusted to fit the current health and safety guidelines at the time of travel. Information will be provided to participants before and during travel. SBMA and on-the-ground suppliers will take appropriate measures and reserve the right to make adjustments to respond to up-to-date regulations. Since guidelines change month-to-month, specific requirements for this tour will be shared closer to departure based on the requirements to operate a safe tour at that time. We ask that all travelers kindly comply with requests from tour staff in the interests of everyone's comfort and safety. Tour leaders reserve the right to enforce rules established for the tour and by any authority such as tour operator, SBMA, government, vendors, etc. Tour members who do not comply can be removed from the tour at their own expense.



If by chance you test positive for Covid-19 in the 72 hours leading up to the tour, or at any time during the tour, you will need to remove yourself from group activities and will not be able to rejoin the tour until testing negative on a clinic or physician issued test. It is for this reason that we highly recommend travel insurance. You should confirm with the insurance company what will (and will not) be covered in the event you contract Covid-19 and are unable to continue on the tour. You will also want to know what

documentation the insurance company will require to support a claim should you need to file one. Tour staff will assist as needed with adjusting hotel reservations and transfers, arranging or offering guidance for doctor visits, testing, and interpreting the local regulations.

Cancellation Policy: Your reservation deposit (\$600 per person) is partially refundable before July 1, 2022, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee. On July 1, 2022 your deposit becomes fully non-refundable. An interim payment of \$1,500 per person is due by check by August 12, 2022 (6 months prior) and becomes non-refundable on September 12, 2022. Final payment is due by check by November 12, 2022 (3 months prior) and becomes non-refundable on December 12, 2022. The SBMA tour-related donation may be paid any time before the final payment and is not refundable and not insurable. **By placing a deposit on the tour, you are acknowledging acceptance of terms and cancellation penalty, and that you have read the section on Requirements.** We HIGHLY recommend a travel insurance policy with “Cancel for Any Reason” (CFAR) coverage, as SBMA will not be able to reimburse you in the event of cancellation. If SBMA and/or our operator call off the tour, we would likely postpone rather than cancel the tour and transfer monies paid to the new dates. If you are unable to participate in the future dates, we would attempt to reimburse you what we can, but reimbursements are not guaranteed since our suppliers are not legally obliged to give refunds. We can only refund what we can recover from the vendors.

Travel Insurance: A confirmation letter and travel insurance information will be sent to you upon receipt of your tour deposit. While optional, due to the Covid-19 pandemic it is highly recommended to get travel insurance with the benefit to “Cancel for Any Reason” (CFAR). It is crucial to purchase travel insurance within 21 days of your deposit and that you understand all aspects of your policy. We recommend insuring only the deposit at first (please note, however, that it is your responsibility to insure the additional payments as soon as you make them; if you prefer not to have to think about this, please insure the total tour cost.) If you do not purchase insurance and have to cancel, there will be no flexibility with the cancellation terms for any reason including but not limited to fear of travel due to Covid-19, if you contract or show symptoms of Covid-19 prior to departure or during the tour, or you are exposed to someone with Covid-19 prior or during the tour, including from another tour participant. If the tour can be operated in compliance with U.S. safety guidelines and the destination’s government policies, and one makes the personal choice to cancel, all cancellation penalties apply. Insurance with the CFAR may be your only source of (partial, usually 75%) reimbursement. In addition, travel insurance policies usually include international health insurance that is crucial coverage if you get any illness, including Covid-19. As with any other sickness or injury, we and our suppliers cannot be held responsible or liable in the event that a participant contracts Covid-19, is prevented from traveling due to a positive Covid-19 test, is denied exit from, or entry to, a country or has to isolate abroad or on their return because of health issues, including Covid-19, or due to government/border regulations. Again, travelers are strongly advised to take out personal travel insurance with CFAR to cover for such eventualities.

Misc. notes: Arrangements, private visits, meetings with individuals, and tour cost are all subject to change. Some restaurant names are listed, but there are bound to be changes, especially due to the pandemic. Final restaurant selections will be based on the best options available in each place. Although SBMA and its suppliers will make every effort to adhere to the printed itinerary, on occasion it may be necessary to adjust arrangements because of circumstances beyond our control. Should an itinerary adjustment be necessary, substitution will be made to the best of our ability and additional costs necessitated by such changes may have to be covered by the tour member. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, participants are required to spend any additional days or nights in the destination, they will be responsible for any additional expenses incurred, including hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the program, or are for any reason prevented from joining parts of the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the program. There are no refunds if a portion of the tour is missed due to flight delays or cancellations. Depending on the situation, trip insurance may reimburse for missed portions of the tour. If a staff member is unable to participate, SBMA will make every effort to find a replacement with similar qualifications and no refunds will be made. The tour is based on a minimum of 12. Interim and final payments are to be made by check. Regarding mealtimes in Mexico, typically group lunches will occur at around 1:30 pm (and in some cases 2 pm) in the tradition of the Mexican *comida*, and group dinners around 7:30 pm, with adjustments on certain days.

RESERVATION FORM ~ SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

RESERVE BY PHONE: (805) 884-6435

or **MAIL FORM TO:** SBMA Travel, 1130 State Street,
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

or **FAX FORM TO:** (805) 966-6840

or **EMAIL FORM TO:** travel@sbma.net

To hold your space on the tour, a **\$600 per person deposit is required** (*refundable before July 1, 2022 minus a \$250 cancellation fee*) paid by check or credit card. Interim payment of \$1,500 per person is due by check August 12, 2022 (6 months prior) and final payment is due by check November 12, 2022 (3 months prior). The tour-related donation to SBMA may be paid any time before final payment by separate check.

A check made payable to SBMA is enclosed.

Please charge the deposit to my credit card: VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

Card number _____ Expires _____

Name as on card _____ Security Code _____

Travelers using a credit card may reserve by fax: (805) 966-6840 or phone: (805) 884-6435.

I/we are not current members; please charge for general membership: \$80 **OR** \$60 (senior) **OR** \$500, which gives you advanced notice about SBMA's most special travel programs and many other benefits. Visit www.sbma.net/support/membership for full Membership details.

I will be sharing a room with _____ **OR** Single Supplement

One Bed **OR** Two Beds (based on availability)

I/we are interested in knowing about room upgrade options.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____ E-mail _____

IMPORTANT: By placing a deposit on the tour, you are acknowledging acceptance of terms and strict cancellation penalty, and that you have read the section on Requirements. A confirmation letter and travel insurance information will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation form and deposit. While optional, travel insurance is highly recommended and can be time-sensitive depending on the benefits desired.