

SPRING MEXICO CITY TOUR

MAY 22, 2019 to MAY 29, 2019

8 Days for \$1299.00



Mexico's diverse and lively capital is layered in 1,000 years of culture, art, and history with one civilization built upon another. Aztec ruins, with their rugged stones, lie uncovered at the Templo Mayor, once the thriving epicenter of Moctezuma's empire. The 16th century Catedral Metropolitana and the Palacio Nacional occupy that space today, with their intricate Baroque façades adorning one of the world's largest plazas, the Zócalo. More recently the city has served as a backdrop to the 20th century revolution and the spectacular renaissance that followed.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Please join University of Arizona Professor Todd Fletcher and Tucson Freelance Photographer-Writer Dan Chavez on this extraordinary opportunity to explore Mexico's pre-Columbian, Spanish Colonial, Post-Independence, and post-Revolutionary past as we visit the following sites:

DAY ONE MAY 22ND: Arrival-You'll be met by one of your tour leaders who will facilitate ground transportation from Benito Juarez International Airport to your hotel.

DAY TWO MAY 23RD: **Secretaria de Educación**-Originally constructed as a convent in 1594, the building houses the renowned Diego Rivera Murals commissioned by Mexico's Secretary of Public Education in 1923, consisting of 235 panels. **Templo Mayor**-Located adjacent to Mexico City's Zócalo, or Central Square, it is the site of the main temple of the Mexican peoples' capital city of Tenochtitlan. **Palacio Nacional & Rivera Murals**-The Palacio Nacional is a splendid example of Colonial architecture and is located in the City's main square, El Zócalo. The site has been a palace for the rulers of Mexico since the days of the Aztec empire. **Catedral Metropolitana**-Consecrated in 1653, the cathedral was ordered built atop the Templo Mayor by the conquistadors as a further show of domination, and most of Templo Mayor's stones were used in its construction. **Museo Soumaya Plaza Carso**-The museum boasts an amazing collection of 66,000 works spanning 30 centuries. Our visit will focus on the Arte Mesoamericano, Old Masters of New Spain, 19th Century Mexican Portraiture, Landscapes of Independent Mexico, and Post-Revolutionary 20th Century Mexican Art. *Breakfast provided. Group Happy Hour in the evening.*

DAY THREE MAY 24TH: **Museo Frida Kahlo Casa Azul**-Kahlo's historic house and art museum are dedicated to her life and work. The house is a vivid expression of post-revolutionary Mexicanismo. **Plaza Coyoacán & Parque Centenario & Artisan Market** (shopping & lunch)-this charming plaza and park is lined with cafés and restaurants and the north side features a very large Mexican folk art market. **Leon Trotsky Museum**-The center of the complex is the house where Trotsky and his wife lived from April 1939 to August 1940, and it is where Trotsky was murdered. **UNAM—Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México**-Highly rated in international rankings, the university is distinguished for its extensive public research and innovation. UNAM's campus was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognizing its innovative architectural design by some of Mexico's best-known 20th-century architects. *Breakfast provided.*

DAY FOUR MAY 25TH: **Studio-Museo Diego Rivera y Frida Kahlo**-Rivera and Kahlo's San Angel studios were designed in 1931 by functional architect Juan O'Gorman. **Bazar Sábado Plaza San Jacinto**-This colorful Saturday bazaar is housed in an 18th-century home and the surrounding plaza features vendors selling fine art, jewelry, textiles, and pottery, along with a wide variety of delightful cafés and restaurants. **Museo Dolores Olmedo**-The museum houses the impressive art collection of pre-Hispanic, colonial, folk, modern and contemporary art from the collection of Mexican businesswoman Dolores Olmedo. The museum is located in a former 16th-century hacienda. **Floating Gardens of Xochimilco**-This picturesque network of canals, with its colorful trajineras, or gondola-like boats, bordered by gardens serves as a vivid reminder of the City's pre-Columbian legacy (shopping). *Breakfast provided.*

DAY FIVE MAY 26TH: **Juarez Memorial**-This Neoclassical monument located at the City's Alameda Central Park commemorates the Mexican statesman Benito Juárez and his political success at leading the country through turbulent times. **Rivera Mural Museum**-The museum houses Diego Rivera's giant satirical mural "Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda Central". **Palacio de Bellas Artes and Mexico's Muralists**-This iconic cultural and performance venue's Art Nouveau style was favored by Mexico's President Porfirio Diaz. It also houses brilliant works by Mexico's most famous 20th century muralists including Rivera, Siqueiros, Orozco and more. **Casa de Azulejos**-Built in the late 1500's by a Count, this former residence is an incredible example of Colonial architecture distinguished by its façade, which is covered on three sides by blue and white tiles. It also offers great dining and shopping opportunities. **Palacio Iturbide**-A palatial 16th century residence now houses Citibanamex Culture, which showcases an outstanding art collection highlighting the culture, art, and history of Mexico. In the evening enjoy a performance

of the **Ballet Folklórico**-Internationally acclaimed, this uniquely Mexican troupe has toured over 60 countries and 300 cities. *Breakfast provided.*

DAY SIX MAY 27TH: Pyramids at Teotihuacán-Located 25 miles northeast of Mexico City, Teotihuacán was the largest Mesoamerican city in the pre-Columbian Americas, with a population estimated at 125,000 or more. **Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**-According to tradition, this was the site where Mary, Mexico's most beloved religious and cultural image, appeared to an Aztec convert nearly 500 years ago. The shrine is one of the most visited churches in the world, second only to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. **Plaza de las Tres Culturas**-Located in the Tlatelolco neighborhood, the plaza reflects three periods in Mexican history in its pre-Columbian, Spanish colonial, and Independent Nation architecture. *Breakfast provided. Group lunch provided.*

DAY SEVEN MAY 28TH: Anthropology Museum-This is the largest and most visited museum in Mexico chronicling pre-Columbian civilizations that were located on what is now the current territory of Mexico. **Chapultepec Castle**-Is the historic site where the Niños Héroes died defending the hilltop in 1847 during the Mexican-American War. **Museo de Arte Popular**-The museum promotes and preserves Mexican handcrafts and folk art including traditional Mexican textiles, pottery, glass, piñatas, colorful intricately carved alebrijes(wood figurines), furniture and much more. **Mercado de Artesanías la Ciudadela**-The market is home to over 350 vendors specializing in the sale of Mexican handcrafts and folk art that promote Mexico's cultural heritage. *Breakfast provided. Group Dinner provided.*

DAY EIGHT MAY 29TH: Departure-Ground transportation provided from your hotel to Benito Juarez International Airport. *Breakfast provided prior to departure.*

TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Accommodations for seven nights at the Hotel Casa Gonzales.
- ✓ Transfers to and from the airport to the hotel (for those traveling on scheduled arrival & departure dates).
- ✓ Rooms are double occupancy; single occupancy available for an additional fee.
- ✓ Meals include seven daily breakfasts, one group lunch, one group dinner, and one group happy hour.
- ✓ Server tips for group meals.
- ✓ Admissions to all museums, tours, and sites.
- ✓ Ground transportation to all museums, tours, and sites.

AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED

REGISTER TODAY

\$1299.00 per person, based on double occupancy.

Single occupancy supplement \$175.00

Tour minimum: 8 Travelers

Registration Deadline: APRIL 1, 2019

FOR QUESTIONS PLS CONTACT

Dan Chavez, Email: fotoventures@gmail.com or tel: 520-904-5730

Todd Fletcher, Email: toddfletcher1@me.com or tel: 520-665-1277

PAYMENT DEADLINES: Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first serve basis with an April 1, 2019, deadline. A \$150.00 deposit is requested in order to secure your space on the tour. Registration and your deposit payment may be made by check or with a credit card by completing the PDF Registration Form included in the email and mailing it via USPS to: Mexico City Tour, P.O. Box 41591, Tucson AZ 85717 or by emailing a printed copy to fotoventures@gmail.com. You may also register by telephone by calling either Todd Fletcher or Dan Chavez at the numbers listed above.

Your deposit of \$150.00 00 will NOT be charged to your credit card until the trip is confirmed with a minimum of 8 travelers, at which time you will be notified and your deposit will be processed. We strongly recommend that you NOT make non-refundable travel arrangements until the tour is confirmed. Final payment is due no later than April 1, 2019.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Cancellations must be in writing. Participants who cancel on or before April 1, 2019, will receive a full refund less a \$50.00 processing fee. If a cancellation is made after April 1, 2019, no refund can be made. Your tour leaders will make every effort to conduct the tour as advertised. In the unlikely event the tour needs to be cancelled, participants will receive a full and complete refund. However, we cannot be responsible for losses due to non-refundable airline tickets or other travel arrangements. **Travel insurance is highly recommended.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Every effort will be made to carry out all the activities as planned. However, in the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, we reserve the right to make any adjustments, modifications or deletions to the itinerary and/or accommodations that may be deemed necessary. You will need to travel with a valid passport with blank pages for stamps.

Todd Fletcher Bio: Fletcher is a distinguished outreach professor in the College of Education at the University of Arizona. He completed his undergraduate degree at the Universidad de las Americas in Puebla, Mexico and has done research in Mexico and throughout Latin America during his academic career. For the past 30+ years he has led a study-abroad program to Mexico, taking University students on a 7-week tour of Mexico. He is the founder of Resplandor International, an educational non-profit which operates in a rural area outside of Guanajuato, Mexico.

Dan Chavez Bio: Chavez is a local freelance photographer whose passion for photography began as a teenager. In 2015, seeking new markets for his photography, he began working as a freelance writer with a focus on the beauty and diversity of Hispanic culture and traditions. Chavez's interests have afforded him the opportunity to travel extensively, researching and exploring locations in Colonial Mexico, Latin America, Cuba, and Spain. Having visited Mexico City on nine occasions over the past 20 years, Chavez has knowledge and familiarity with the city that, along with his curiosity and enthusiasm, will bring a unique perspective to the tour.