

MEXICO CITY TOURS

8 Days for \$1495.00

May 24, 2020 to May 31, 2020

Registration Deadline March 1st

August 2, 2020 to August 9, 2020

Registration Deadline May 15th



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 center of Moctezuma's empire. Today the 16th century Catedral Metropolitana and the Palacio Nacional occupy the space with their intricate Baroque façades adorning one of the world's largest plazas, the Zócalo. The tour will afford an unparalleled opportunity to explore Mexico's pre-Columbian, Spanish Colonial, Post-Independence, and post-Revolutionary past.

May 2020 Tour – Tour leaders: University of Arizona Professor Todd Fletcher and Tucson Photographer and Freelance Writer Dan Chavez. **Tour size 18-20.**

August 2020 Tour – Tour leader: Photographer and Freelance Writer Dan Chavez. **Tour Size 8-12.**

DAY ONE Arrival – You'll be met by your tour leader(s) who will facilitate ground transportation from Benito Juarez International Airport to your hotel. *Group happy hour provided.*

DAY TWO 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 and group lunch provided.*

DAY THREE Anthropology Museum – This is the largest and most visited museum in Mexico chronicling pre-Columbian Mesoamerican 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. **Mercado Jamaica** – a typical market which in addition its dozens of fruit, vegetable and meat vendor stalls has an amazing flower market with over 1200 flower vendors, making it one of the largest markets of its kind in the world. *Breakfast and group dinner provided.*

DAY FOUR Secretaria de Educación – Originally constructed as a convent in 1594, the building houses the renowned Diego Rivera Murals, consisting of 235 panels they were commissioned in 1923 by Mexico's Secretary of Public Education. **Templo Mayor** – You will have the opportunity to walk the site of the main temple of the Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlan located adjacent to Mexico City's Zócalo, or Central Square. **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 historic site has been a palace for Mexico's rulers since the days of the Aztec empire, the Colonial period and today. **Catedral Metropolitana** – Consecrated in 1653, the cathedral was ordered built atop the Templo Mayor by the conquistadors as a further show of domination, using most of Templo Mayor's stones in its construction. *Breakfast and group lunch provided.*

Our evening will include a performance by Amalia Hernandez's renowned **Ballet Folklórico de Mexico** in the iconic Palacio de Bellas Artes, internationally acclaimed, this uniquely Mexican troupe has toured in over 60 countries and 300 cities worldwide.

DAY FIVE 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** – this charming plaza and park are lined with cafés and restaurants and the north side features a very large Mexican folk-art market where you will have time for shopping. **Leon Trotsky Museum** – The center of the complex is the house where Trotsky and his wife lived in exile from April 1939 to August 1940, and it is where Trotsky met his demise. Our visit will provide insight into the post Russian and post Mexican Revolutionary politics of the era. **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 SIX 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 Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros, and more. A quick stop at the **Palacio Postal**, more than just the central post office, will provide a peek at this opulent early-20th-century palace is an Italianate confection designed during the height of the Porfiriato government. **Casa de Azulejos** – Built in the late 1500s by a Count, this former residence is an incredible example of Colonial architecture distinguished by its façade covered on three sides by blue and white tiles. Today it is home to Sanborn’s Department store offering great dining and shopping experiences. **Museo Franz Meyer** – The museum houses Latin America’s largest collection of decorative arts from Europe and Asia but most comes from Mexico itself with items dating from the 15th to the 20th centuries. The collection was amassed by stockbroker and financier Franz Mayer. *Breakfast provided.*

DAY SEVEN 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 a multitude of vendors selling fine art, jewelry, textiles, and pottery. There is also a wide variety of delightful cafés and restaurants for having lunch. **Museo Dolores Olmedo** – The museum houses the impressive art collection of pre-Hispanic, colonial, folk, modern and contemporary art that belonged to Mexican businesswoman Dolores Olmedo. The museum is located in a former 16th-century hacienda. *Breakfast and Farewell dinner provided.*

DAY EIGHT – Departure, ground transportation provided from your hotel to Benito Juarez International Airport. *Breakfast provided prior to departure.*

TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Transfers to and from the airport to the hotel (for those traveling on scheduled arrival & departure dates).
- ✓ Accommodations for seven nights at the Hotel Casa Gonzales.
- ✓ Double occupancy rooms; single occupancy available for an additional fee.
- ✓ Seven daily breakfasts, one group happy hour, two group lunches, and two group dinners.
- ✓ Server tips for group meals.
- ✓ Admissions to all museums, tours, and sites.
- ✓ Licensed tour guides at all sites and museums.
- ✓ Ground transportation to all museums, tours, and sites.
- ✓ **AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED**

REGISTER TODAY

\$1495.00 per person, based on double occupancy.

Deposit \$250.00.

Single occupancy supplement \$175.00

May 2020 Tour Minimum 12 ~ Registration Deadline: March 1, 2020

August 2020 Tour Minimum 8 ~ Registration Deadline: May 15, 2020

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT

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

Todd Fletcher, Email: toddletcher1@me.com or tel: 520-665-1277

PAYMENT DEADLINES: Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis with a **March 1st deadline for the May tour** and a **May 15th deadline for the August tour**. A \$250.00 deposit is requested in order to secure your space on the tour. Registration. Your deposit payment may be made by check or with a credit card by printing and completing the PDF Registration Form and mailing it via USPS to Mexico City Tour P.O. Box 41591, Tucson AZ 85717 or by emailing a scanned copy to fotoventures@gmail.com. You may also register by telephone by calling either Dan Chavez or Todd Fletcher at the numbers listed above.

Your \$250.00 00 deposit will NOT be charged to your credit card until the trip is confirmed with a minimum of 12 travelers for the May 2020 tour and 8 travelers for the August 2020 tour, 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. The final payment is due no later than April 1, 2020, for the May tour and June 15, 2020, for the August tour.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Cancellations must be in writing. Participants who cancel on or before April 1, 2020, for the May tour and by June 15, 2020, for the August tour will receive a full refund less a \$50.00 processing fee. If a cancellation is made after April 1, 2020, or June 15, 2020 no refund can be made. Your tour leaders will make every effort to conduct the tour as advertised. 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 adjustments, modifications or deletions to the itinerary and/or accommodations that may be deemed necessary. You will need a valid passport with at least six months' validity prior to expiration and with blank pages for immigration stamps.

TOUR LEADERS BIO'S

Todd Fletcher is a distinguished outreach PhD. 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 educational tour of Mexico. He is the founder of Resplendor International, an educational non-profit which operates in a rural area outside of Guanajuato, Mexico.

Dan Chavez is a Tucson based freelance photographer whose passion for photography began as a teenager. In 2015 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, Argentina, Peru, Cuba, and Spain. Having spent time Mexico City on nine occasions, as well as acting as a tour leader on his two most recent visits, his knowledge and insight, along with his curiosity and enthusiasm, bring a unique and informed perspective to the tour.

TOUR PACE AND ACTIVITY LEVEL

If we had to rate the tour's activity and pace levels, overall on a scale of 1 to 10 the activity would be a level 4 or 5; travelers should be able to leisurely walk 1 to 1½ miles, which includes climbing one or two flights of stairs and walking over uneven pavement, or cobblestones. In addition, standing-up for up to one hour or more may be required at some of the sites. Regarding the pace, on a scale of 1 to 10, the tour is moderate or level 5 with our itinerary typically including 4 sites daily allowing for a 90-minute lunch/rest break. There are two evening outings planned on days 4 and 7. Most if not all the venues offer benches and seating should you need to rest for a few minutes or catch your breath. Throughout each day, there should be ample opportunities to purchase bottled water at tour sites, kiosks or mini-marts as well as plenty of restroom availability at the venues and restaurants.

The itinerary calls for departing the hotel each morning between 8:30-9:00 am, returning to the hotel between 5:30-6:00 pm. On the evening of day 4, we will be going back out to attend a performance of the Ballet Folklórico returning to the hotel at approximately 10:30 pm. Day 5 will be the longest of the tour's days likely returning to the hotel around 6:30-7:00 pm. Although day 5 is a longer day, on a scale of 1 to 10 the activity level is probably only a 3-4 and the pace a 2-3. That day's relaxed lunch at Plaza Coyoacán with its sidewalk cafes, and restaurants will allow time for relaxing prior to visiting the Olmedo Museum with day's last activity of the day, the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco, allowing for a leisurely level 1 or 2 activity with a 2-hour trajinera (gondola) cruise through the remnants of ancient waterways and canals with opportunities for food, libations, and music. On the evening of day 7 the group will be going out in the evening for a group farewell dinner returning to the hotel at approximately 9:30 pm. Please take this into consideration when booking your airline departure time as the following morning you should plan on leaving the hotel 3 hours prior to your international departure time.

MISCELLANEOUS

The tour's Hotel Casa Gonzalez is located in the Cuauhtémoc neighborhood, with the British Embassy across the street, the US Embassy 2 blocks away and the Zona Rosa nearby (known for its shopping, cafés, and nightlife), making the area a relatively safe place for visitors and tourists. Like any large city to avoid being a target of crime tourists need to be cautious, aware of their surroundings, dress inconspicuously, and not carry excessive amounts of cash.

Upon arrival in Mexico City tour participants will receive an informational handout with the hours of operation, telephone nos. and addresses of the nearby pharmacy, urgent care, and hospital. Also, the hotel has a registered Nurse "On Call" 24 hours per day. She is available to come to the hotel to assist guests who may become ill.