

SMALL-GROUP MEXICO CITY TOUR

8 DAYS FOR \$1495.00

TOUR SIZE 8-12 PARTICIPANTS

NOVEMBER 6, 2022, TO NOVEMBER 13, 2022

REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 20TH



The tour will afford participants the unparalleled opportunity to explore Mexico's pre-Columbian, Spanish Colonial, Post-Independence, and Post-Revolutionary past. Mexico's diverse and lively capital is layered in 1,000 years of history, culture, and art 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 that space with their intricate Baroque façades adorning one of the world's largest plazas, the Zócalo.

COVID PROTOCOLS: The tour will be as careful as possible with your health; therefore we will adhere to the following guidelines during the tour. Tour members are required to provide fully vaccinated and current boosters. Documentation needs to be submitted upon registration. Members of the tour will be required to wear face masks in indoor common areas and on the tour bus.

TOUR LEADER: Tucson commercial photographer and freelance Writer Dan Chavez. The tour will provide a Ministry of Tourism licensed guide on days 2, 3, 4, and 6 and museum guides on days 5 and 7.

DAY ONE: Arrival – For those arriving by 5:30 PM, you'll be met by your tour leader at the airport to facilitate ground transportation to the hotel. Those arriving later will be able to book a taxi at one of the many airport taxi stands in the terminal. The tour will reimburse you for the cost of the taxi. ***The tour will host a get-acquainted happy hour at 7:00 pm.***

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 250,000 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. ***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. **Voladores de Papantla** – View the sacred indigenous ceremony at the Parque Tamayo in front of the Anthropology Museum. Dating back hundreds of years, the ritual consists of 5 men dressed as birds climbing a 98 ft pole. Four of the five launch themselves upside down tied to ropes spinning around the pole while slowly descending to the ground as the 5th one plays a flute and drum. **Chapultepec Castle** – Is the historic site where the Niños Héroes died defending the hilltop in 1847 during the Mexican-American War. It also served as the opulent residence of Emperor Maximilian and President Porfirio Díaz. ***Breakfast provided.***

DAY FOUR: Secretaría de Educación – Originally constructed as a convent in 1594, the building houses the renowned Diego Rivera Murals, consisting of 235 panels commissioned in 1923 by Mexico's Secretary of Public Education. **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, through the Colonial period, up to the present day. **Templo Mayor** – You will have the opportunity to view the site of the main temple of the Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlan located adjacent to Mexico City's Zócalo, or Central Square. **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.***

Evening performance of the **Ballet Folklórico de México** – in the iconic Palacio de Bellas Artes. Amalia Hernandez's renowned dance troupe is internationally acclaimed and 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. You will tour the private rooms of the house and its 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. **Floating Gardens of Xochimilco** – This picturesque network of canals, with its colorful trajineras, or gondola-like boats, bordered by gardens, it serves as a vivid reminder of the City's pre-Columbian legacy (shopping). ***Breakfast and group dinner provided.***

DAY SIX: Museo de la Revolución – Located underground below the 1938 Art Deco Monument to the Revolution, the museum covers a 63-year period, from the implementation of the constitution guaranteeing human rights in 1857 to the installation of the post-revolutionary government in 1920. **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 enormous satirical mural "Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda Central". **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 Mayer** – Housed in an 18th-century monastery, the museum houses Latin America's largest collection of decorative arts with items dating from the 15th to the 20th centuries. The collection was amassed by stockbroker and financier Franz Mayer. **Breakfast provided.**

DAY SEVEN: Mercado Jamaica – Best known for its over 1,100 flower vendors, it is considered one of the 15 most beautiful flower markets in the world. **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 de Arte Popular** – The museum houses eye-poppingly beautiful handicrafts from across Mexico, while covering the country's history and its many cultures. **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.
- ✓ Expert licensed guides at museums and archeological sites.
- ✓ Ground transportation to museums and sites.
- ✓ **AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED**

REGISTER TODAY

Per person, based on double occupancy: **\$1495.00**

Single occupancy supplement: **\$175.00**

Tour minimum: **8** – Maximum: **12**

Registration Deadline: **September 20, 2022**

Final Payment Due: **September 20, 2022**

FOR QUESTIONS PLS CONTACT

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

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT DEADLINES: Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis with a **September 20th deadline**. A \$250.00 deposit is requested at the time of registration in order to secure your space on the tour. Be sure to register early to secure your spot. PDF copies of your registration form along with your COVID vaccination card documenting your vaccinations and boosters can be sent electronically to Dan Chavez via email to fotoventures@gmail.com. Your tour deposit can be made electronically through your bank via its Zelle money transfer feature to fotoventures@gmail.com or via the Venmo app to **@Daniel-Chavez-175**. Should you wish to pay using a credit card, let us know, and we will invoice you via PayPal. **The final payment will be due no later than September 20, 2022.**

We will confirm the tour once we meet the 8 participant tour minimum by the **September 20th registration deadline**. **We strongly recommend that you NOT make non-refundable travel arrangements until the tour is confirmed.**

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Cancellations must be in writing. Participants who cancel on or before **October 3, 2022**, will receive a full refund less a \$50.00 processing fee. If a cancellation is made after **October 3, 2022**, no refund can be made. Your tour leader 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 or events beyond our control, we reserve the right to make adjustments or modifications to the itinerary and/or accommodations that may be deemed necessary. You will need a valid passport with at least six months of validity prior to expiration and with blank pages for immigration stamps.

TOUR LEADERS BIO

Dan Chavez is a Tucson-based commercial photographer and freelance writer whose passion for photography began as a teenager. Chavez has been working as a commercial photographer since 2013. He began freelance writing in 2015 with a focus on the beauty and diversity of Hispanic culture and traditions. Chavez's interests have allowed him to travel extensively, researching and exploring Colonial Mexico's, Argentina's, Peru's, Cuba's, and Spain's culture and traditions. Having visited Mexico City multiple times over the years, he is knowledgeable about the city's historical and cultural highlights. His experience and insight, along with his enthusiasm and curiosity, will provide you with a unique and informed perspective on 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 as moderate or level 5 with our itinerary includes 2- 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 opportunities to purchase bottled water at tour sites, kiosks, or mini-marts as well as restrooms available at the venues and restaurants.

The itinerary calls for departing the hotel each morning at 9:00 AM with one 8:30 AM departure on Day 7, returning to the hotel between 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM. On the evening of day 4, we will be going out in the evening to attend a performance of the Ballet Folklórico returning to the hotel at approximately 10:30 pm. 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 9:00 PM. Please take this into consideration when booking your airline departure time for the following morning because you need to 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 US Embassy 2 blocks away, the British Embassy within 3 blocks, and the nearby Zona Rosa (known for its shopping, cafés, and nightlife), making the area a relatively safe place for visitors and tourists. Like any large city, tourists need to be cautious, aware of their surroundings, dress inconspicuously, and not carry excessive amounts of cash to avoid being a target of crime.

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 doctor "On Call" 24 hours per day. They are available to come to the hotel to assist guests who may become ill. Guests would arrange payment with the doctor.