



Oaxaca Folk Art, Culture, Archeology & Gastronomy Tour

8 Days for \$1995.00 (Double Occupancy)

Tour Size 10-14 Participants

November 8 to 15, 2026

Registration Deadline | June 20, 2026

Embark on this exclusive journey to the enchanting city of Oaxaca, where history and culture collide. The tour will explore the region's artisan villages and visit Zapotec Folk artists in their workshops, including a skilled tapete (rug) weaver, a candlemaker, clay sculptors, and wood carvers. Our group meals will be a culinary adventure, showcasing the region's most delectable dishes. We will also spend a day at the renowned Seasons of My Heart Cooking School, where you will enhance your culinary skills. Our adventure includes visits to the ancient archeological sites of Monte Alban and Mitla. The tour will allow you to immerse yourself in the region's rich history and traditions to savor its delectable cuisine. This popular international destination was voted 2023's World's Best City by Travel and Leisure Magazine readers.

TOUR LEADER AND GUIDES: You will be in the capable hands of our tour leader, freelance writer, and photographer, Dan Chavez, and your Ministry of Tourism licensed Oaxacan guide. Together, they bring a wealth of knowledge and passion to the tour, eager to share it with you and provide invaluable insights into the local culture and history.

DAILY ITINERARY

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

SITES

- ✓ Historic Center, Mercado, & Chocolate Factory
- ✓ Alebrije Wkshp
- ✓ Black Clay Sculpting Wkshp
- ✓ Ritual Candle Wkshp
- ✓ Tapete Weaving Wkshp
- ✓ Terracotta Clay Sculpting Wkshp
- ✓ All Day Cooking Class
- ✓ Jardin & La Parroquia in Historic Center
- ✓ Monte Alban Zapotec Archeological Site
- ✓ Museo de las Culturas
- ✓ Santo Domingo Church
- ✓ Santo Domingo, Public Mkt
- ✓ Sta. Maria Tule & Tree
- ✓ Templo Santo Domingo

TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Transfers to and from the airport to the hotel.
- ✓ 8 nights' accommodations at Parador Monte Carmelo.
- ✓ **13 meals: 7 breakfasts, 3 group lunches, and 3 group dinners.**
- ✓ Visits to 4 nearby villages and 5 artisan workshops.
- ✓ Admissions to all sites.
- ✓ A full-day cooking class with lunch and dinner.
- ✓ Server tips for group meals.
- ✓ Expert guide at all sites.
- ✓ Ground transportation to all tour sites and villages.

***** AIRFARE IS NOT INCLUDED *****

REGISTER TODAY

Per person, double occupancy: **\$1995.00**

Single occupancy supplement: **\$350.00**

Registration Deposit: **\$500.00**

Registration Deadline: **JUNE, 20, 2026**

Final Payment Due: **AUGUST 10, 2026**

FOR QUESTIONS PLS CONTACT

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

Day 1 Sunday, November 8: Arrive in Oaxaca City, México.

Your tour leader will meet you at the airport to facilitate ground transportation to the hotel. Depending on your arrival time, travelers can become familiar with the surrounding area and enjoy a meal at a local restaurant.

Day 2 Monday, Nov 9: Oaxaca City & San Agustin de las Juntas. (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, your tour leader and guide will provide orientation, followed by a walkabout through **Oaxaca's Centro Histórico**. The walkabout will include visiting the public market, a chocolate-making store, and more.

After lunch on your own, we take our private van for a 20-minute drive to visit the **village of Santa Maria de Atzompa**. We will visit **the home and workshop of Enedina Vasquez**, a highly acclaimed folk-art terracotta artist. Her work, which features figures with regional

religious and secular themes, was awarded the 2013 Premio Nacional de la Cerámica by México's president.

Tonight, the tour will host a **Welcome Dinner** at a traditional restaurant.

Day 3 Tuesday, November 10: Santa María de Tule & Artisan Village of Teotitlán del Valle. (B, L)

After breakfast, we depart in our chartered van for our first stop in the **village of Santa María de Tule**, renowned for its Tule Tree, the largest tree in the Western Hemisphere.

Next on our day's adventure is the village of Teotitlán del Valle, famous for its tapete (rug) weavers and candle artisan Doña Viviana.



Our first stop in the **Village of Teotitlán** is the workshop of **Nelson Perez Mendoza**. Nelson, who is from a well-known family of loom weavers, will demonstrate the techniques used to make their wool rugs. The demonstration will include carding, spinning, dyeing, and weaving. After a shopping opportunity, we will enjoy a traditional Oaxacan lunch prepared by Nelson's family.

After lunch, we head to the nearby **ritual candle workshop of 75-year-old Doña Viviana**. We will learn her remarkable story of apprenticing herself to her grandmother at the age of 10. Viviana and her son, Roman, will demonstrate the intricate steps involved in fabricating their wondrous ritual candles. Following the demonstration, we will stroll around the nearby village's Mercado Central and Colonial Church.



Day 4, Wednesday, November 11: Seasons of My Heart Cooking School. (B, L, D)

We depart immediately after breakfast for a cooking class at **Seasons of My Heart**, the famed ranch and cooking school founded by Suzana Trilling. The first activity of the morning will be a cheese-making class, with an opportunity to sample your creation.



After enjoying a light almuerzo (lunch) of traditional Oaxacan dishes, our instructor will discuss the recipes, ingredients, and cooking methods for the six dishes we will prepare. A hands-on cooking class will follow. In the afternoon, we will sit down to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Day 5 Thursday, November 12: Monte Alban Ancient Archeological Site & Santa Maria de Atzompa. (B)

This morning, we visit the ancient archeological site of Monte Alban. It served as the political and economic center of the Zapotec civilization for nearly 1500 years. Its impressive size and sprawling architectural remains are a testament to the Zapotecs' organizational and building skills. Our group will have lunch at the site's restaurant, which overlooks the scenic valley and offers great fare and a breathtaking view.



After lunch on your own back in Oaxaca City, we visit **Templo de Santo Domingo**. It was built in 1724 and is a striking example of Spanish Baroque architecture from the Colonial period. We will also visit the **adjacent Museo de las Culturas**. Housed in a 17th-century ex-Convento, the museum has an impressive collection of Zapotec and Mixtec treasures from Monte Albán's Tomb No. 7.

Day 6, Friday, November 13: Artisan villages of Ocotlán de Morelos and San Martín Tilcajete. (B, L, D)

We head to the nearby **Village of Ocotlán de Morelos** to visit its vibrant Public Market, or "tianguis," and the beautiful 16th-century Templo Santo Domingo. The market is one of the oldest and largest traditional markets in Oaxaca's Central Valleys. The finely restored 16th-century Santo Domingo church and convent now serve as a museum celebrating the legacy of local artist Rodolfo Morales.

Our next destination is the prominent woodcarving **Village of San Martín Tilcajete, home to renowned woodcarvers Zeny and Reyna Fuentes**. After enjoying a traditional lunch on the patio, we will get an inside look at the intricate process of transforming copal wood into vibrant folk art, followed by an opportunity to browse their gallery and purchase authentic pieces directly from the source.

Tonight, the tour will host a **Group Dinner** at a traditional restaurant.

Day 7 Saturday, November 14: San Bartolo de Coyotepec. (B, D)

Today, we travel to the **Village of San Bartolo Coyotepec**, famous for México's black pottery. We will visit the home of Magdalena Pedro Martinez, who comes from an outstanding family of talented potters. She will explain the traditional techniques she uses to create her exquisite, museum-quality sculpted figures that represent the eight regions of the state of Oaxaca.



After lunch on your own, you will have the afternoon at your leisure for independent exploration to see and do what interests you most. Your tour leaders will be available to discuss various options with you.

Tonight, the tour will host a **Farewell Dinner** at a traditional restaurant.

Day 8, Sunday, November 15: Oaxaca City-Tour Concludes. (B)

Depart from the hotel with many happy memories and your bags packed with folk art from Oaxaca!

PAYMENT DEADLINES

Registrations & deposits will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with a **JUNE 20, 2026, DEADLINE**. A **\$500.00 deposit** is requested at the time of registration to secure your space on the tour. A PDF copy of your **registration form** can be emailed to Dan Chavez at fotoventures@gmail.com. Your deposit payment may be made electronically through your bank via Zelle to fotoventures@gmail.com or via the Venmo app to [@Daniel-Chavez-175](https://venmo.com/Daniel-Chavez-175). Let us know if you wish to pay by credit card, and we will invoice you via PayPal. A 3.5% processing fee is applied to credit card payments. **The final payment is due by AUGUST 10, 2026.**

We strongly recommend that you NOT make non-refundable travel arrangements until the tour is confirmed. The tour will be confirmed once the minimum number of 10 is met or no later than the final payment deadline of **AUGUST 10, 2026**. The \$500 deposit is fully refundable if the tour minimum is not met.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Cancellations must be in writing. Participants who cancel on or before **SEPTEMBER 6, 2026**, will receive a full refund, less a \$95.00 processing fee. No refund can be made for cancellations made after that date. We cannot be responsible for losses due to non-refundable airline tickets or other travel arrangements. **Travel Insurance is highly recommended.** You may also wish to consider **minimum Medical Emergency and Evacuation Insurance.**

TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL and Pace

The tour is moderately active. On a scale of 1 to 10, it would be a level 5 to 6. Travelers should be able to walk 2 to 3 miles, including climbing one or three flights of stairs and walking over uneven pavement or cobblestones. In addition, standing for one to two hours may be required at some sites. The pace is moderate or level 5-6, on a scale of 1 to 10. Our itinerary includes two to three sites daily, allowing for a 90-minute lunch/rest break. Most venues offer benches or seating, should you need to rest for a few minutes or catch your breath. Throughout each day, there will be regular restroom

breaks at venues and restaurants. There are also opportunities to purchase bottled water at tour sites, kiosks, and mini-marts.

The itinerary calls for departing the hotel each morning at 9:00 AM and returning around 5:00 PM.

TOUR LEADER BIO

Dan Chavez is a travel writer and photojournalist whose passion for photography began in his teens. Since 2013, he has worked as a commercial photographer and, in 2015, expanded into freelance writing, focusing on Hispanic culture and traditions. A 2017 consulting project for a México City tour inspired Chavez to begin leading small-group cultural tours.

Join Chavez on this extraordinary journey, and let his experience, enthusiasm, and curiosity enrich your adventure through Oaxaca's fascinating culture, folk art, and delectable gastronomy. With multiple visits to Oaxaca over the past decade, he brings a deep familiarity and thoughtful perspective to this vibrant destination.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Your tour leaders will make every effort to conduct the tour as advertised. However, in the event of unforeseen circumstances or events beyond our control, we reserve the right to make adjustments or modifications to the itinerary or accommodations that may be deemed necessary. Passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay in México and have blank pages for immigration stamps.