



SMALL-GROUP

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE TOUR

8 Days for \$1950.00 (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)

TOUR SIZE 10-14 PARTICIPANTS

JANUARY 19 TO JANUARY 26, 2025

REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

The tour will provide a captivating blend of history and culture nestled in the heart of Mexico. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a living canvas where colonial architecture, cobblestone streets, and colorful festivals tell stories of a rich past intertwined with a dynamic present. Prepare to be enchanted by the town's baroque and neoclassical buildings and the timeless charm of its plazas. Whether you're a history enthusiast, an art lover, or a curious traveler, San Miguel de Allende promises an unforgettable experience where every street and landmark holds a tale waiting to be discovered. Join us as we unravel this extraordinary city's mysteries, traditions, and beauty.

TOUR LEADER AND GUIDE: Tucson freelance writer and photographer Dan Chavez will lead your tour. He will be accompanied by San Miguel de Allende resident and Ministry of Tourism licensed guide Angelica Juarez Rios. Having been born and raised in San Miguel, she will bring invaluable insights and perspectives into the local culture and history.

DAILY ITINERARY

B=Breakfast **L**=Lunch **D**=Dinner

SUNDAY, DAY ONE: Arrival—We recommend booking your travel into Queretaro México. It is the nearest international airport to San Miguel de Allende. Your tour leader will meet you at the airport and facilitate ground transportation to the hotel. The transfer time to San Miguel is approximately 90 minutes. Depending on your arrival time, travelers can become familiar with the surrounding area and enjoy a meal at a local restaurant.

MONDAY, DAY TWO (B, L): We will enjoy a 10-minute walking tour to the **Central Jardin & La Parroquia** in the vibrant heart of San Miguel de Allende. This walking tour will immerse you in the rich history, stunning architecture, and lively culture of this enchanting Mexican town.

Our next stop is the nearby historic **Museo Allende**, housed in an 18th-century mansion. This museum offers a glimpse into the life of Ignacio Allende, a key figure in Mexico's independence. We'll explore exhibits of artifacts, documents, and artworks that tell Allende's story and the region's broader history.

After our group lunch, we will walk 10 minutes to the nearby **Plaza Cívica and the Church of Our Lady of Health**. Plaza Cívica has been a central gathering place since the town's early days. It offers a look into the heart of San Miguel de Allende's historical and cultural essence.

The nearby **The Church of Our Lady of Health**, is a beautiful example of baroque architecture. Built in the 18th century, this church features a stunning façade adorned with intricate carvings and statues.

Our final stop of the day is the landmark **Biblioteca Publica**, the largest bilingual library in Mexico. It's not just a repository of books but a cultural hub that offers a unique glimpse into the town's community life. **The tour will host a get-acquainted happy hour at 6:30 PM at the hotel.**

TUESDAY, DAY THREE (B, L): Today, we take a 45-minute ride in our chartered van to the **Cañada de la Virgen Archaeological Site**, once home to the Otomi people from 540 to 1050 AD. This ancient ceremonial center is notable for its well-preserved pyramids, plazas, and burial mounds, showcasing advanced astronomical and architectural skills.

After a family-style lunch at the nearby Village of Agustín González, we'll visit the **Otoni Rug Weavers**, a women's cooperative known for their colorful carpets and efforts to preserve their culture and traditions. Each rug showcases aspects of daily village life.

WEDNESDAY, DAY FOUR (B, D): Today we travel to the nearby **Colonial city of Guanajuato**. After our 90-minute drive, our first stop is the **Teatro Juárez**. Since its 1903 inauguration, this architectural gem has been the hub of the city's premier artistic events. We'll explore its majestic interior and learn about its rich history, stunning architecture, and unique decorations.

After lunch on your own in the charming Plaza San Fernando, we will walk to the near-by **MERCADO HIDALGO**. Inaugurated on September 16, 1910, it has been a vibrant part of the city's culture. Initially intended as a railway station, its impressive iron framework and large clock tower showcase a blend of neoclassical and

Art Nouveau styles, making it a unique architectural landmark.

Our last stop is a short walk to the **Museo Diego Rivera**, located in the birthplace of the famed Mexican artist. Renowned for his murals and contributions to the Mexican muralism movement, the museum showcases Rivera's early sketches, paintings, and personal items.

THURSDAY, DAY FIVE (B, L): We'll take a 15-minute walk to the Museo de Juguetes, which features a vast collection of traditional Mexican toys. This unique museum preserves the craftsmanship and cultural heritage of Mexican childhood, with many handmade toys showcasing intricate designs and vibrant colors.

Next, we'll walk 10 minutes to **Mercado de Artesanía**, a vibrant spot where local artisans sell handmade crafts like ceramics, textiles, jewelry, and metalwork. It's a great place for diverse shopping and supporting the local economy.

After our group lunch and 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 provide you with various options.

FRIDAY, DAY SIX (B, L): Today, we'll travel 60 minutes to **Dolores Hidalgo**, the birthplace of the Mexican War of Independence. On September 16, 1810, Miguel Hidalgo, a catholic priest issued the "Grito de Dolores" here, calling for the end of Spanish rule. Our first stop is the Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Dolores, where this historic cry for independence was made.

After our church visit, we will walk 5 minutes to **the Museo de la Independencia**, opened in 2010 for Mexico's bicentennial. The museum offers exhibits on the independence movement, including artifacts, and documents as well as cultural elements like art, music, and traditions that evolved since the independence era.

After visiting the museum, we will board our chartered van for a short ride to a nearby winery, where we will have lunch and enjoy the view of vineyards and the countryside beyond.

Our next site is the **Sanctuary of Atotonilco**, founded in the 18th century and known as the "Sistine Chapel of Mexico." It was significant in the Mexican War of Independence, where Father Miguel Hidalgo used the Virgin of Guadalupe banner to rally his followers in 1810. The Sanctuary, an example of Mexican Baroque style, features intricate designs, domes, and altarpieces. It also houses a remarkable collection of murals and frescoes by Antonio Martínez de Pocasangre, depicting biblical scenes and appealing to art enthusiasts.

SATURDAY, DAY SEVEN (B, D): We begin our day with a brief 10-minute walk to the Centro Cultural Ignacio Ramírez-Escuela Bellas Artes. Once an 18th-century convent, the building now serves as an art school and

cultural center. It retains its historical charm while offering workshops, exhibitions, and performances. Notably, it houses David Alfaro Siqueiros's unique mural, "Vida y Obra del General Ignacio Allende," a significant piece in Mexican art that reflects themes of resistance, identity, and social justice.

Our next stop is Fabrica Aurora, a former textile factory from the early 1900s that was pivotal to the local economy until the 1990s. Now a cultural and artistic hub, it houses a delightful array of galleries, studios, shops, and cafes. It serves as a vibrant gathering place for artists and art enthusiasts, showcasing contemporary art, traditional crafts, and innovative design.

After lunch on your own and 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 provide you with various options.

In the evening, we will enjoy our farewell dinner at a nearby restaurant.

SUNDAY, DAY EIGHT: We hope that this departure day finds you with many fond memories of your time in San

REGISTER TODAY

Per person, based on double occupancy: **\$1950.00**

Registration Deposit: **\$500.00**

Single occupancy supplement: **\$400.00**

Tour minimum: **10** | Tour Maximum: **14**

Registration Deadline: **SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

Final Payment Due: **NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

FOR QUESTIONS PLS CONTACT

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

Miguel de Allende. Ground transportation is provided for the 90-minute ride from our hotel to Queretaro International Airport. **(B)**

TOUR INCLUDES

- ✓ Transfers to & from the Queretaro airport to the hotel.
- ✓ 7 nights' accommodations at the Hotel Villa Mirasol.
- ✓ 14 meals: seven daily breakfasts, one group happy hour, four group lunches, and two group dinners.
- ✓ Server tips for group meals.
- ✓ Admissions to all museums, tours, and sites.
- ✓ Expert licensed guide throughout the tour, including museums and the archeological site.
- ✓ Ground transportation to the towns of Guanajuato and Dolores Hidalgo.

*** AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED ***

PAYMENT DEADLINES: Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis with a **SEPTEMBER 1,**

2024 DEADLINE. A **\$500.00** deposit is requested with your registration to secure your space on the tour. A PDF copy of your **registration form** can be sent electronically to Dan Chavez via email to fotoventues@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 using a credit card, let us know, and we will invoice you via PayPal. A 3.0% processing fee is applied to credit card payments. **Final payment is due by NOVEMBER 1, 2024.**

We strongly recommend that you NOT make non-refundable travel arrangements until the tour is confirmed. The tour will be confirmed once the tour minimum of **10** is met or not later than **NOVEMBER 1, 2024**, final payment deadline. The \$500 deposit is fully refundable should the tour minimum not be met.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Cancellations must be in writing. Participants who cancel on or before **NOVEMBER 30, 2024**, will receive a full refund, less a \$95.00 processing fee. No refund can be made if a cancellation is 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.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Every effort will be made to carry out all the tour activities as planned. However, in the event of unforeseen circumstances or events beyond our control, we reserve the right to make adjustments, modifications, or deletions to the itinerary and/or accommodations that may be deemed necessary. Passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay in Mexico, with blank pages for immigration stamps.

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 5-6; travelers should be able to leisurely walk 2 to 3 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 to two hours may be required at some of the sites. Regarding the pace, on a scale of 1 to 10, the tour is moderate or level 5-6, with our itinerary typically including three 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, and mini-marts, with regular restroom breaks at venues and restaurants.

The itinerary calls for departing the hotel each morning 9:00 AM and returning to the hotel between 5:00 and 5:30 PM daily.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please take into account for the 2-hour transit time from San Miguel de Allende to the Querétaro International Airport when booking your return

flight. This is in addition to the 2 to 3-hour airport arrival time airlines recommend for international flights.

TOUR LEADER BIO

Dan Chavez, is a Tucson-based freelance writer and photographer whose passion for capturing the world began in his teenage years. Since 2013, Chavez has been working as a commercial photographer, and in 2015, he expanded his creative talents to include freelance writing, focusing on Hispanic culture and its diverse and vibrant traditions.

A 2017 consulting project for a Mexico City tour sparked a world of new possibilities for Chavez. His adventurous spirit led him to start organizing exclusive small-group cultural tours to Mexico. By the end of this year he will have successfully conducted nine tours to Mexico City and Oaxaca. Looking ahead to 2025, Chavez will continue his popular tours to Mexico City and Oaxaca. Additionally, he will launch two new tours, one to San Miguel de Allende and Mexico City 2.0, featuring all-new and unique sites

Chavez's curiosity has led him to explore the rich histories and traditions of Colonial Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Cuba, and Spain. With multiple visits to San Miguel de Allende over the last ten years, he has become intimately familiar with its historical and cultural treasures. His extensive travels and deep knowledge provide a unique and insightful perspective on this tour.

Join Chavez on this extraordinary journey, and let his experience, enthusiasm, and curiosity enrich your adventure through San Miguel de Allende's fascinating past and vibrant present.

September 2024