

DAY OF THE DEAD IN OAXACA

October 28 – November 4, 2019

Once again, as we have for so many years, Tot and Ward Albro invite you to share a most memorable Day of the Dead in Oaxaca with us, from October 28 to November 4, 2019. As the celebration of the Dia de los Muertos spreads to more and more parts of both Mexico and the United States, and becomes more and more commercial, we can say with great confidence we will provide you with a unique and totally authentic experience in Oaxaca. While we participate in all that is fun and exciting in Muertos activities, we also give you a most meaningful involvement in the essence of the observance in the homes and the cemeteries with the marvelous people of Oaxaca. With all this you will also come to understand why Oaxaca has become one of the top destinations any time of the year for travelers from all over the world. We will visit grand archeological sites and remarkable Spanish colonial churches and other structures. We will be welcomed into the homes and workshops of Mexico's finest artisans. We will go beyond the galleries and visit renowned artists in their studios. And to carry us through our busy schedule, we will fortify ourselves with meals in some of the finest of the famed Oaxaca restaurants. We will make our home away from home in the lovely Casa Sierra Azul hotel in the center of Oaxaca. Come join us!

Tentative Itinerary

Monday, October 28 – arrival at Sierra Azul. Depending on arrival times, welcome reception and orientation or dinner and orientation.

Tuesday, October 29 – Breakfast at the hotel every day. Visit nearby textile museum and San Pablo Cultural center, historic Quinta Real hotel, and other sites while walking to the Santo Domingo Church and adjoining regional museum. Santo Domingo one of jewels of colonial church architecture and museum features among its many treasures, the incredible contents of Tomb Seven at Monte Alban. Main meal at Los Danzantes. Evening free to experience life in the Zocalo.

Wednesday, October 30 – Guided visit to the amazing archeological site of Monte Alban, overlooking the valleys of Oaxaca. Visit the home and studio of award winning potter, Enedina Vasquez in Atzompa. Travel on to Zaachila, famed for their unique pan de Muertos, and enjoy main meal in a nearby rustic restaurant in a pecan grove, Evening free.

Thursday, October 31 - Travel to Mitla to see the Muertos market there and follow with a guided tour of the archeological site of Mitla. Main meal at Don Agave, which is also a producer of fine mescal. You can witness the process. Visit the fantastic Tule tree at Santa Maria Tule before returning to Oaxaca for rest and maybe some facepainting at the hotel. In the evening

we go to the cemeteries at Xoxocotlan, a must for Day of the Dead visitors in Oaxaca. Visit both the old and new cemeteries and the lively scenes in between. A truly unique experience.

Friday, November 1 – Guided visit to the Cathedral of Oaxaca. Visit the colorful 20th of November market. Visit the altar display in the public library. Main meal at Cathedral restaurant. Spend the evening following the lively bands and colorfully costumed processions through the center of town.

Saturday, November 2 – Visit the weaving center of Teotitlan del Valle, with a demonstration of the natural dyes and weaving techniques at the home and workshop of famed weaver, Bulmaro Perez. Main meal at Palapa de Raul. Visit the cemetery at Tlalixtiac to share the family visits to this small traditional cemetery.

Sunday, November 3 – Final day is a full day in the Ocotlan Valley. Visit the famous workshop of Jacobo and Maria Angeles in San Martin Tilcajete, and see all phases of the production of the wood carvings known throughout the world. Visit Santo Tomas Jalieza and the Navarro family, which consists of internationally famous back-strap weavers and their brother, a well known painter. Main meal at Azucena Zapoteca, where a special Muertos market will be operating. Visit some shops of the dress and blouse makers of San Antonino Castillo de Velasco before going on to the cemetery there—surely the most colorful in Mexico. Return to hotel for farewell reception.

Monday, November 4 – Departure for Oaxaca airport

Cost and Registration Information

Total cost of the program is \$2475 per person which includes seven nights double occupancy room in the Casa Sierra Azul; breakfast and one major meal (ordering off the menu) daily; all tours, including all admission fees and services of an English-speaking guide if necessary; pickup and return to the Oaxaca airport. Not included is airfare from the United States to Oaxaca and return. To guarantee a place in the program, a nonrefundable deposit of \$300 per person should be paid as soon as possible. Full payment is due by September 13, 2019. For all payments, please make check payable to Tierra del Sol and mail to Ward S. Albro, 139 West Mariposa Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78212.

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