

Tia Stephanie TOURS

**WARP Annual Meeting Pre-Trip:
“In the Footsteps of Irmgard Weitlaner-Johnson”
La Chinantla, Oaxaca
June 2-8, 2017 (6 Nights)**



On this journey, we'll travel to “La Chinantla”, a region of Oaxaca that topographically and culturally is distant from the Central Valleys of Oaxaca. Bordered by Veracruz to the North, the Sierra Juarez Mountains to the South, this region is a singular cultural region of Mexico. From low coastal plains and river banks, to mountain regions, the land and people offer incredible landscapes and cultural traditions. On this trip, we'll meet Chinantec and Mazatec people and communities.

This trip is designed as a special study trip opportunity for WARP members to observe dress of this region from the prior decades and to see how it may / may not have changed or evolved today. We will photograph, take notes and compare to the early field work of Irmgard Weitlaner-Johnson, and meet with her daughter Kirsten, when we arrive in Oaxaca on June 8.

Day One: June 2, Arrive Veracruz, Overnight Veracruz (Light snacks)



We will arrange for all airport to hotel transfers from VER (Veracruz) to our hotel, Gran Hotel Las Diligencias, on the main plaza in the Port of Veracruz. We'll enjoy a festive evening in the portales, listening to the famed "son jarocho" rhythm of this region!

Day Two: June 3, Transfer to Tuxtepec, stopping in Alvarado and Tlacotalpan, Fashion Show in Tuxtepec! Overnight Tuxtepec (B, L, D)



After breakfast with the famed coffee of Veracruz, we'll make our way to Tuxtepec, Oaxaca. En route we'll stop in the port towns of Alvarado (a shrimping capital of Mexico), and Tlacotalpan, a charming town on the banks of the Papaloapan River. Here, we'll listen to the sounds of the "son jarocho", it's much like listening to bluegrass in Appalachia! We'll also enjoy "arroz a la tumbada", tumbled rice, Mexico's version of paella.

Arriving in Tuxtepec, we'll settle into our hotel for the next four nights, the Gran Tuxtepec Plaza. In the evening, we'll gather by the pool to meet friends who will showcase via a fashion show and detailed description of the textiles and dress we will see on our journey! We'll enjoy an informal meal poolside, along with our new friends.

Day Three: June 4, Rancho Grande, Valle Nacional, Overnight Tuxtepec (B, L)



Today, a treat is in store, as we plan to spend our day in the extraordinary Chinantec community of Rancho Grande. Here, we'll meet with community members and weavers. We'll learn about their initiatives to revive the ancient brocade technique, only two elderly members of the community knew how to do. Now, others have learned and teachers are teaching others (2 more generations have been learning). We will meet with the cooperative to ask them about the revival work they have done, and learn from them, as a case study of revival and preservation of ancient techniques and designs. If this is not enough, we'll go on a brief foraging hike to see the wild and cultivated plants the community harvests for food. We'll enjoy a grand feast together with them!

Day Four: June 5, Soyaltepec, Ojitlan, Ayautla, Overnight Tuxtepec (B, L)



Today we hop on our lancha boats and cross the Miguel Aleman dam. While it is beautiful, we will also learn about the hidden story behind most dams: destruction of community. The community we will visit, San Miguel Soyaltelpec is now on an “island”, but was once part of a hilly valley region. We’ll meet with the Mazatec women, embroiderers of this community. We might enjoy a hand-made tortilla, too. Leaving the community, we travel by boat to San Pedro Ixcatlan, to meet other Mazatec embroiderers, before heading to San Lucas Ojitlan, a community that has a strong commitment to cultural preservation. We’ll meet with the Chinantec weavers of this community.

Day Five: June 6, Usila, Overnight Tuxtepec (B, L)

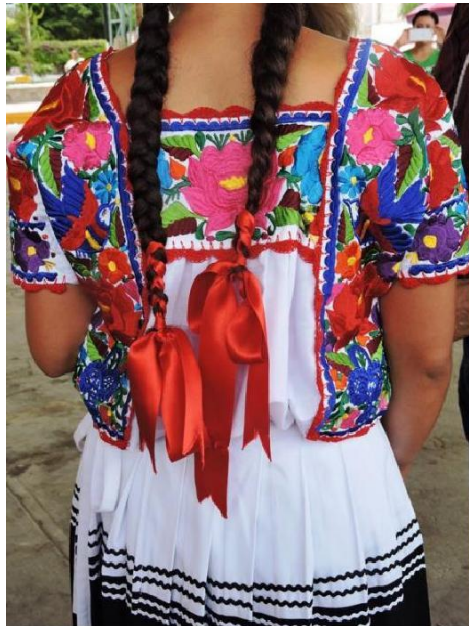


Today we embark on an adventure of a lifetime. Traveling to the Chinantec community of San Felipe Usila takes us into another biological and cultural world. Tropical mountain rainforest and sweeping landscapes appear, as we follow the Usila River below. There is a look-out point called, “Puerta al Cielo”, or Doorway to the Heavens, and it is possibly where Led Zepplin came for their inspiration!

Six: June 7, Tuxtepec to Orizaba, Overnight Orizaba (B)

Before we leave, we'll have one last "expo-venta" from some of the top textile collectors of the region. Sometimes they rotate their pieces and are willing to part with a few. We might also learn a few steps from the famed, "Flor de Pina", Pineapple Dance! Then, we say goodbye to the region, as we make our way to Orizaba, Veracruz, a town in the shadows of the largest volcano in Mexico: Orizaba. Time permitting, we can step into the Museo del Estado, art museum to see regional art, a couple of Diego Rivera paintings, or just stroll in the main plaza.

Day Seven: June 8, Orizaba to Tehuacan, EVENT, Tehuacan to Oaxaca (B, L)

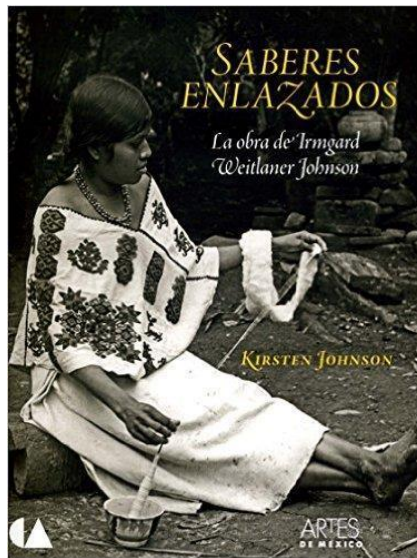


On our last day, we leave on the early side and make our way over the mountain pass, to enter the Valley of Tehuacan, a valley where some of the earliest domesticated corn was found, and home to the Nahua people. We'll visit the community of San Gabriel Chilac, enjoy a meal and a visit at the Museo del Agua, a living museum dedicated to reviving ancient water conservation practices and to reviving ancient and nutrient rich amaranth. In fact, our meal will be based on dishes using amaranth! Here, at the museum, members of the Nahua community will display their beautiful dress, and will give us a cleansing ceremony, as we make our way into Oaxaca City.

Trip Concept:

Travel in the footsteps of renowned and pioneering ethnography and textile anthropologist, Irmgard Weitlaner-Johnson, who made several trips to the region from mid-1930's to 1940. During the trip we will study the dress of specific regions to document:

1. Change in wearing / not wearing traditional dress
2. Change in the designs, motifs, huipil, dress
3. Document this change (during and after the trip)
4. Meet with Kirsten Johnson in Oaxaca City. She'll review our findings and give us a fire – side chat, about her mother and her travels and studies.



\$1,525, Double Occupancy*

*Trip Price Includes a \$25 donation to WARP, which will be matched (\$25 by Tia Stephanie Tours) for a donation of \$50 per traveler to WARP.

Includes:

Airport Transfer In from VER to Hotel
6 Nights Hotel
All Breakfasts
5 Lunches
2 Dinners
Comfortable, Licensed/Insured Transportation

Does not Include:

International Air
Meals not identified
Alcoholic Beverages
Personal Items (phone calls, laundry, etc.)
Tip for Driver

Trip Begins in Veracruz (VER) on June 2
Trip Ends in Oaxaca on June 8