



Obsidian Arts & Tia Stephanie Tours

# The African Descendants of Mexico: Mexico City, Veracruz & The Costa Chica

October 25 – November 4, 2011 (10 Nights)  
Includes Day of the Dead in Collantes!

## Program Highlights

- Learning about the History of African Descendants in Mexico
- Enjoying Lectures by Mexico's leading Historians to learn about the African experience in Mexico during the Colonial period
- Learning about the Mexican Muralism movement at the Antigo Colegio San Idelfonso and The Palace of Fine Arts where we see how Rivera, Siqueiros, Orozco and others used public, monumental and political art to communicate to the Mexican populous in post-Revolutionary Mexico.
- Learning about Regional and Period Art such as the "Travel Art" and "Casta Paintings"; one used to describe time and place, the other to "order" society.
- Traveling to Veracruz to Learn about the Historical importance of the Port of Veracruz, the San Juan Ulua Prison and to learn about Yanga.
- Visiting and sharing with the vibrant Costa Chica communities of the Pacific Coast to see their creative energies and revival of dance, music and art. We get to experience Day of the Dead in Collantes!



## Summary

Join us on an extraordinary journey to learn of the African descendants in Mexico. From the Colonial Era to present, we learn how the people and communities of African descent helped shaped Mexico's past and continue to express traditions in art, dance, music and food that reflect their heritage. Few people know about the African descendants in Mexico, as their history has been little studied and told. This, however is changing as UNESCO, community activists and academics increasingly give voice to the people and communities of African descent in Mexico. Most importantly, through organizations such as Mexico Negro, A.C., the communities themselves are enjoying a revival and are strengthening their own sense of identity as they explore their roots and unique traditions in an effort to carve out a stronger future. Join us to learn of the past and present history and initiatives of the vibrant people, their music, dance and art in Veracruz and the Costa Chica.



## Trip Includes:

- Accommodations
- Expert Guides and/or Academics
- Comfortable / Secure Transportation
- Welcome and Farewell Dinners
- Breakfasts
- Meals according to itinerary
- Water on Van/Coach
- Airport Transfers
- Entry Fees



## Preliminary Itinerary\*

\*subject to modification

### PART ONE: MEXICO CITY

Day One: Arrive **Mexico City: Museum of Anthropology (D)**

You will be met at the Airport: Welcome to Mexico City! We transfer to **Museo Nacional de Antropología** to learn about the Gulf Coast & other pre-Hispanic Civilizations of Mexico. Later, we enjoy a fun **Welcome Dinner** at our Hotel so we can get to know our fellow travelers!

Day Two: **Mexico City: National History Museum, Antiguo Colegio San Idelfonso, Palace of Fine Arts (B, L)**

After Breakfast we visit the **National History Museum** located in the **Chapultepec Castle**, where we learn of Mexico's Colonial Era and see **Caste Paintings** of the period. From here, we visit the **Antiguo Colegio San Idelfonso** hosted by curator, **Ery Camera**. Here we learn of the beginnings of the **Mexican Muralism**. After lunch at famed **El Cardenal**, we see the **Rivera, Siqueiros and Orozco** later murals at the **Palace of Fine Arts**. Our evening is at leisure.

Day Three: **Mexico City: Lecture, Historic Center, Zocalo, Cathedral, Templo Mayor, National Palace (B, L)**

Morning Lecture: *The African Descendants in Mexico: the Colonial Period*, by **Dr. Maria Elisa Velazquez** a leading historian. From here, we visit Mexico City's **Historic Center**, including the massive **Zocalo** square, the **Main Cathedral**, the ancient and former capital of the Aztec empire, **Tenochtitlan** and the famed **Diego Rivera** murals at the **National Palace**. Our Evening is leisure.

### PART TWO: VERACRUZ

Day Four: **Xalapa, Veracruz (B, L)**

Today we transfer to Xalapa, Veracruz where we visit the **Xalapa Museum of Anthropology** to learn about **Olmec Art** and Theories of Ethnographic/Geographic Origin of the Olmec Culture and People. We enjoy a lunch of Regional Cuisine and overnight in Xalapa, a charming town.

Day Five: **Veracruz, Veracruz (B, L)**

Today we take a short ride to **Veracruz** to learn about this important Gulf Coast port city and the important role it played as a port of entry for African slaves and trade during the Colonial period. We visit the imposing Fort and later, Prison of **San Juan de Ulua**. We enjoy free time in Veracruz to explore the tropical city or go to the beach before a fun night of dancing to the famed Jarocho Music. We overnight in this vibrant tropical city.

Day Six: **Veracruz-Puebla (B, L)**

Today we depart for Puebla and make important stops en Route at **Yanga**, to see the statue in honor of **Gaspar Yanga**, the leader in Mexico's slave rebellion. Stopping in **Orizaba** we visit the jewel, **Museum of the State: Regional Art**, to see some of the finest expressions of "Traveler Art" and an impressive collection of Diego Rivera paintings that span his lifetime. Arriving in **Puebla**, we enjoy a late lunch or "comida" of mole, pipian and other regional dishes, followed by a brief walking tour of colonial Puebla, where we will spend the night.

### PART THREE: COSTA CHICA

Day Seven: Transfer to **Copala (B, D)**

Today we have a longer drive as we travel from Puebla to the Pacific Coast. We will make stops along the way and enjoy our scenic journey. Upon arrival in "**La Costa Chica**", we will be met by the local community of **Playa Ventura** and enjoy a fabulous dinner of local fish and dancing under the stars to the sounds of the "**Son Chilenas**" so famous in the region. We overnight on Playa Ventura at Hotel Villa Tortuga, hosted by Rene and staff.

Day Eight: **Costa Chica: Cuajinicuilapa & San Nicolas, Guerrero (B, L)**

We begin our trek into the Guerrero side of the Costa Chica and visit **Cuajinicuilapa's Museum of Afro-Mestizo History and Culture**, where we will enjoy a Guided Visit. From here, we visit the community of **San Nicolas** to learn of the Youth Revival of the "**Baile de Artesa**" dance, with roots in African rhythms. We overnight in Ometepe, Hotel San Carlos

Day Nine: **Costa Chica: El Ciruelo y El Collantes, Oaxaca (B, L)**

Day two in the Costa Chica takes us to **El Ciruelo** to see the extraordinary talent of the artists at the **Graphic Arts Workshop**: founded by **Father Glyn Jemmott**. We will enjoy an Exhibition/Sale and Meet the Artists. After lunch in **Pinotepa Nacional**, we travel deeper into the region to **Collantes**: where we see and learn of the **La Danza de Los Diablos** and **Celebration of Day of the Dead**. We are special invited guests for this occasion! Once again, we overnight Ometepe.

Day Ten: **Transfer to Acapulco (B, L)**

Today is designed to relax & enjoy the beach in Acapulco. Excursions to the **Fuerte San Diego** or other points of interest in Historic/Old Acapulco, are available upon Request. We enjoy a sad but festive Farewell Dinner in Acapulco

Day Eleven: **Morning transfer to Mexico City Airport for Departing Flights (B, L)**

Trip Cost: \$2,285 per person/  
Double Occupancy  
(Single Supplement: \$450)

Includes:

**Airport Transfers**  
**Ground Transportation w/A.C**  
**10 Nights Hotel Accommodation**  
**Guides and Experts**  
**Breakfasts**  
**Meals according to itinerary**  
**Entry Fees**  
**Water on Bus**

Does Not Include:

**Airfare**  
**Gratuities (Guides/Drivers)**  
**Alcoholic Beverages**  
**Personal Items**  
**Travel Insurance**

**JOIN US!**



Transportation: Licensed, insured, comfortable and safe vans or coaches



Hotels: Centrally Located, Charming hotels in Mexico City, Veracruz, Costa Chica



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