

Textile Traditions of Oaxaca

Coast & Isthmus

February 7-17, 2015

Tia Stephanie Tours

Tia Stephanie Tours designs Textile Journeys that provide travelers with intimate visits to some of Mexico's finest weavers and dyers. The trips showcase the tradition & evolution of the masterful techniques of the artisans and their cultural heritage.



Summary

*On this journey, we explore the multiple ethnic communities of Oaxaca (and Guerrero) to learn of their cultural and ethnic expressions in dress and textiles. From the **Amuzgo** in Guerrero to the **Mixtec**, **Huave**, **Zapotec** in Oaxaca we will readily see how textile traditions and dress are a cultural passport and unique expression of the women (and some men) who live in this region. We will learn of the fibers, such as **coyuche cotton** and natural dye sources, such as **Purpura Pansa**, **indigo** and **cochineal**. This is an extraordinary close up journey into the communities where we meet the people and artisans who create visual masterpieces and maintain their cultural heritage. Join us!*



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



Trip Highlights

- Learn of Indigenous Textile Traditions of Oaxaca including: Amuzgo, Mixteco, Zapoteco & Huave
- Travel to Xochistlahuaca, Guerrero to meet the finest Amuzgo weavers
- Meet weavers & coops in remote communities of Pinotepa de Don Luis & San Juan Colorado to learn of their unique traditions in weaving and dress
- Meet Mixteco weavers in Huazolotitlan and Jamiltepec where we see how dress is a cultural passport
- Travel with the *purpura pansa* dyers of the coast to see how they extract this scarce purple dye
- Learn about the history and evolution of "traje" from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec
- Learn of the various embroidery techniques in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec
- Learn about Muxe culture



Itinerary

Day One:

Arrive at our destination airport, Aca-pulco. From here, we immediately transfer to our base for the Amuzgo region, Ometepec, Guerrero. Upon arrival, we relax in our hotel and enjoy a great welcome dinner at the Carreta Marinero, where our hosts are gourmet cooks! (D)

Day Two:

An amazing day awaits, as we travel to the mecca of Amuzgo weavers, Xochistlahuaca, Guerrero, where we meet the extraordinary weavers of the coop, Flor de Xochistlahuaca, formerly lead by master weaver and teacher to young women, Florentina. Here, the tradition remains alive, due to the dedication of these women to their art and heritage. We see the huipils (3 panels) and batas (2 panels) that are woven on backstrap looms, taking up to six months to produce. We see the use of beautiful natural cottons, such as coyuche, with carmel hues, and others with sage green hues. Overnight in Ometepec. (B, L)

Day Three:

Today, once again, we travel to meet some of the most talented and inspiring weavers, spinners and dyers of the coastal Mixtec region of Oaxaca, known as the Costa Chica. In two communities, Pinotepa de Don Luis and San Juan Colorado, we will learn of the traditional dress of the region, such as the pozahuanco wrap skirt of purple Murex, indigo and cochineal stripes. We overnight in Pinotepa Nacional. (B, L)

Day Four:

Today we visit the communities of Huazolotitlan and Jamiltepec to meet with some of the best weavers and embroiderers of the region and to see how dress changes from one community to the next. Overnight in Puerto Escondido. (B, L)

Day Six:

Today we travel further up the coast to Huatulco, where we are met by the leader of the Mixtec coop of purpura pansa, Murex dyers, who have extracted the purple dye from the Purpura Pansa mollusk for generations. We learn about the tradition of dyeing with a live mussel, without harming it, and the work of anthropologist Marta Turok, to educate people on the threats to this now endangered creature of nature and the natural dye traditions of the Mixtec community. Overnight Huatulco (B, L)

Day Seven:

Leaving Huatulco, we continue up the Oaxaca coast towards Salina Cruz, to the Huave community of weavers, San Mateo del Mar. While the women are Huave, they have adopted the dress of the Zapotec women of the Isthmus; the colorful huipil accompanied with a flowing, equally colorful skirt. Their traditional whimsical weaving designs of animals, fish, butterflies, can be seen on the runners, place mats and other utilitarian items they weave of cotton on backstrap looms. From here, we travel into the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to visit the Zapotec community, Juchitan. We will learn of the history of traje, or dress which is so emblematic of this region, making the women of Tehuantepec a favorite subject of artists and sculptors, such as Roberto Montenegro and Francisco Zuniga, and made popular by Frida Kahlo, who often was seen wearing beautiful traje brought to her by travelers to the region. We overnight in Tehuantepec. (B, L)

Day Eight:

Day Two in Isthmus of Tehuantepec! Today we spend time learning about the different embroidery techniques of this region, including "gancho" (hook), "cadenilla" machine chain stitch, hand

Day Nine:

Today we leave the coast and Isthmus behind and begin our journey into the Valley of Oaxaca. Arriving in Oaxaca, we are free to explore co-ops, galleries, museums and markets of Oaxaca, or people watch at the Zocalo! Overnight Oaxaca (B)

Day Ten:

Today has been designed as a free day in Oaxaca City, as many of you have your favorite places to visit. We are happy to make arrangements for other excursions! Tonight, we'll enjoy a Festive and Farewell Dinner at one of our favorite Oaxaca Restaurants. Overnight Oaxaca(B,D)

Day Eleven:

Sadly we depart, or you may extend your stay in Oaxaca.



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