



Tia Stephanie Tours Educational Travel Programs

FESTIVALS OF MEXICO

Day of the Dead in Michoacan

Program Highlights

- Travel to remote villages to witness the preparations of grave-sites and home altars that commemorate the dead.
- Meet farmers who grow their annual crop of marigolds for this occasion!
- Travel at dawn by boat to cross Lake Patzcuaro, landing at Janitzio Island. Here, we are special guests, as we witness the gentle arrival of villagers in the morning hours as they prepare their family graves.
- Travel to lesser visited communities to see how each, in their unique way observe this tradition.
- Visit and meet with extraordinary artisans from the state of Michoacan who bring their crafts: textiles, pottery, copper to sell in Patzcuaro's main plaza.
- Learn about the Ancient Purepecha empire of Tzintzuntzan on the shores of Lake Patzcuaro.
- Take guided walking tours of charming Morelia and Patzcuaro to learn about the history and landmarks of each city and town.
- Enjoy regional cuisine from Michoacan, such as *corundas* and *uchepos*, both a type of *tamale*!



Summary

Join us on an extraordinary journey to learn about how and why Mexicans observe Day of the Dead. We will visit the grave sites and home altars that have been decorated to commemorate the return of deceased family members and loved ones, and we will learn about the "syncretism" or fusion of the pre-Hispanic world and the Catholic world that produced unique forms of internalized meaning and outward expressions and symbols. By traveling to small villages, we gently observe this most meaningful tradition that honors the memory of loved ones. We enjoy many off-the-path experiences and encounters with communities, people and their traditions.



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



Itinerary

- Day 1: Arrive **Morelia**, where we will transfer to our centrally located hotel. We enjoy a light snack at the Portales, across from the Cathedral, which is illuminated at night! (D)
- Day 2: Breakfast at hotel, followed by a **guided walking tour of Morelia**, the capital of Michoacan and a colonial gem! Morelia is a conservative city with deep traditions in higher education, music and the arts. Highlights include: The Government Palace and Alfredo Zalce Murals, Palace of Justice, Cathedral, Temple of the Roses, the former Aqueduct, and the outstanding House of “Artesanias”. We will enjoy a fabulous welcome dinner at one of Morelia’s top rated restaurants. (B, D)
- Day 3: Breakfast at hotel followed by journey to the lakeshore town of **Patzcuaro**. En route, we pay a visit to the local farmers who have been cultivating their **marigold fields** since May, for the Day of the Dead celebrations. In this lakeside community, you can smell the lake air and the rich earth that combine to produce a bountiful harvest of marigolds. This bucolic paradise is followed by a **guided walking tour of Patzcuaro** that includes visits to: the Basilica, Large and Small Town Squares, House of Eleven Patios. Special dinner overlooking Patzcuaro. (B,D)
- Day 4: After breakfast, we travel to the lakeside ruins of the pre-Hispanic Purepecha empire in **Tzintzuntzan**. Little is known about the early Purepecha people, but it is believed that they are descendants of peoples from north-western Mexico, known as the Chichimecas. We spend time visiting the present day village and artisans of Tzintzuntzan. From here, we travel to the artisan community of **Santa Clara del Cobre**, where the ancient tradition of hammered copper thrives to this day. Free Evening (B,L)
- Day 5: We rise before dawn, quaff down coffee and breakfast and head out on our early morning boat journey across Lake Patzcuaro to the island community of **Janitzio**. We travel early in order to witness the Vigil of the Little Angels, where the souls of children who have died, are visited. Following our return boat journey, we have a free afternoon to stroll and shop in Patzcuaro, and to rest up for our night time departure to witness the all night gravesite vigils that take place in the **communities surrounding Lake Patzcuaro**. It is here that we begin to understand how Mexican people view the concept of life and death. (B)
- Day 6: On our final day in Patzcuaro, we take a wonderful guided Lakeside drive and tour to visit the numerous **artisan villages** that surround Lake Patzcuaro. We make stops in the villages of Tocuaro, which is known for wooden mask carving, Erongaricuaru, and Santa Fe de la Laguna, the first town founded by Vasco de Quiroga. (B,L)
- Day 7: We return to a place we have all grown to love, **Morelia** for our final day to further explore the museums, galleries, shops, Music Conservatory and cafes of this colonial city. We enjoy a Farewell Dinner. (B,D)
- Day 8: Depart for Home

(B) - Breakfast

(L) - Lunch

(D) - Dinner



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



Hotels: Centrally Located and Charming properties in Morelia and Patzcuaro



Tia Stephanie Tours
(734)-769-7839
info@tiastephanictours.com