

The Mexican Rebozo: Heritage & Techniques, or “Why didn’t I buy that rebozo?!” Tour September 6-16, 2012 (10 nights)



Summary

This year, our trip is scheduled around the Feria del Rebozo in Tenancingo, the rebozo mecca of Mexico, known for exquisite ikat (jaspe) dye resist rebozos. We enjoy this unique opportunity to see (& buy) the “best from the best” for our special collections. Of course, lovely “daily wear” rebozos will be abundant, as we scour the plaza for the ones that “speak to us”. In Mexico City, we hear from experts such as Textile Anthropologist, Marta Turok & Historian Ana Paulina Gamez, visit the shrine of “Nuestor Senor del Rebozo”, and see the Franz Mayer Museum antique rebozo collection. In Michoacan, we trek to the Purepecha Plateau to visit master weavers in the communities of Ahuiran and Aranza. Finally, we visit Santa Maria del Rio for their famous “Rebozo de Caramelo”. If you love textile traditions, dye resist techniques and colonial cities, this trip is for you!



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

- See master artisans use intricate dye resist techniques, known as "jaspe"(ikat). We see the process from the creating of thread bundles, tying off to create a pattern or design, dyeing and the cutting to reveal the pattern. Finally, the warp threads are carefully lined up on the loom for the weaving to begin!
- Visiting the important rebozo making centers of Mexico, including Santa Maria del Rio, Tenancingo, La Piedad, and the Purepecha Plateau.
- Enjoying the opportunity to see antique and present day rebozo collections and meet their collectors.
- Learning about Heritage and Threats to this women’s garment, so important to Mexico’s cultural heritage and traditions.
- Having Opportunities to Purchase Collection Quality Textiles at their source and to meet the artisans.
- Appreciating how and why globalization is a threat to cultural diversity and is evident through changes in dress and textile traditions.



Day 1, Thursday, Sept. 6 Arrive Mexico City, Transfer to our charming B & B, before we head out for an evening in Colonia Condesa, where we will shop at Carmen Rion's boutique of contemporary Mexican design, and enjoy our Welcome Dinner at a Mexico City favorite: Azul Condesa (D)

Day 2, Fri., Sept. 7 This morning, we enjoy a presentation by Textile Anthropologist, Marta Turok, to learn about the Mexican Rebozo: History & Role in National Identity, before we head to the Historic Center. First Stop: The Shrine of "Nuestro Sr. del Rebozo" in the Sto. Domingo Church. We walk the Historic Center, to make our way to La Lupita, to see this traditional Rebozo store that has been selling rebozos here for years. We continue towards the Zocalo and enjoy lunch at favorite, El Cardenal. After lunch, we are invited to a special and private viewing of important antique rebozo collections of Robert Everts, Franz Mayer & Ruth Lechuga at the Franz Mayer Museum. Ruth Lechuga was a pioneer in the study, collection & preservation of Mexican Folk Art. Marta Turok will lead our group during these visits that will only be afforded to our group. Following, we enjoy a visit to The Museo de Arte Popular, followed by a visit to La Ciudadela to create our own folk art collection! Dinner is at Leisure (B, L)

Day 3, Sat. Sept. 8 It's Saturday, that means we are going to Bazaar Sabado in San Angel! We amble the cobblestone streets of this charming neighborhood and visit artists and artisans. Then, we go to our favorite: San Angel Inn for a lux lunch in the gardens, with strolling musicians and charming fountains. Best margaritas in Mexico! Walking across the street we visit the Juan O'Gorman designed Frida & Diego Studios. Why is his studio bigger than hers! We end our day on a leisurely paddle through the Venice of Mexico: The chinampas floating gardens to learn about farming initiatives in this region. On our way home, we stop at UNAM Campus to see the works of O'Gorman, Siqueiros, Rivera. Dinner at Leisure (B, L)

Day 4, Sun. Sept. 9 Tenancingo! We say good by to Mexico City and begin our outbound rebozo journey. We leave after breakfast as today, we are going to experience one of the best days in one of the best rebozo centers of Mexico: The Feria del Rebozo in Tenancingo! The plaza becomes the grand central station or mecca of all reboceros and "empuntadoras" in this hallowed rebozo community. After a full day of rebozo admiring & shopping, we make our way to Malinalco to have lunch and to meet with the famed rebozo weaving family of Camelia Ramos & to climb the pyramid there. (B, L)

Day 5, Mon., Sept. 10 Back in Tenancingo, we have scheduled special visits with some of Tenancingo's master rebozo weavers. Here, we will focus on the traditional work in this community, from dye resist, loom dressing and weaving techniques. The intricacy of the snake skin like patterns is amazing, (thought to represent the plumed serpent, Quetzalcoatl) and for those weavers / dyers among us, we will greatly appreciate the degree of accuracy and precision required to establish tight register patterns by tying bundles of warp threads and dressing the loom. (B, L)

Day 6, Tues., Sept. 11 We say good by to the State of Mexico and press on to Michoacan, where we will stop in Morelia to enjoy lunch at our favorite, Hotel La Soledad. Here, we will also meet with rebozo artisans from La Piedad and from Uriangato/Moroleon, so we can learn about their role in rebozo production and distribution in Mexico. We make a quick stop at the State Craft Store, before heading out to the Meseta Purepecha. We Overnight at the Mancion del Cupatizio in Uruapan, enjoy their lush gardens, swimming pool and fresh trout baked in macadamia crust! (B, L)

Day 7, Wed., Sept. 12 The Purepecha Plateau, Today we travel into this remote and culturally rich region of Mexico. The Purepecha are proud, independent people who fended off the advances of the Aztec Empire during the pre-Hispanic era, and were fortunate to be under the wing of Bishop, Vasco de Quiroga during the Evangelization period. He established schools and community centers, called hospitals, where each community could develop their unique craft and utilitarian objects for long term trading (economic) opportunities and independence. We visit some of these temples, chapels and hospitals with their exquisite coffered ceilings, known as "artesones", and will have the opportunity to see and learn of the unique dress style of this region, a blend of pre-Hispanic and Spanish influences. We spend time with some of the prized rebozo makers of this region in their communities of Ahuiran & Aranza. Overnight, Uruapan (B, L)

Day 8, Thurs., Sept. 13, We leave in the a.m. to make our way to Guanajuato. Upon arrival, we enjoy a walking tour of this fascinating silver city in Mexico's Heartland. We will learn about the importance of Father Dolores Hidalgo and the Independence movement, that lead to revolution against the domination of Spain over this region, called New Spain. Overnight in Guanajuato (B, L)

Day 9, Fri., Sept. 14, Today we transfer to Santa Maria del Rio, Located in the Central Highlands of Mexico, Santa Maria del Rio is known as the "Birthplace of the Rebozo". Today is dedicated to the study of the history and revival initiatives of the exquisite silk jaspe rebozo, making this region famous for producing award winning masterpieces. With the support of government and non-government institutions, three groups of associated producers are working today to produce fine silk rebozos. We visit these rebozo schools / workshops to better understand what has happened in this region and to meet the master weavers. We meet the empuntadoras (fringe makers) and wooden box makers too! Overnight in San Miguel de Allende (B, L)

Day 10, Sat., Sept. 15, Today we visit Atotonilco to see the important pilgrimage site and Sanctuary, covered in rich stucco & murals. We visit Gallery Atotonilco to say hello to Mayer Schacter & his rescue dogs! We will see some of his collector quality serapes. Lunch is at Nirvana with Chef Juan Carlos Escalante, before we return to Mexico City. Farewell Dinner at Maximo Bistro in Col. Roma (B, L, D)



Hotels: Centrally Located and Charming properties in our destinations.

**Contact:
Tia Stephanie Tours**

(734)-769-7839

info@tiastephanietours.com