



Tia Stephanie Tours

See Mexico, Beyond the Beach Resorts

Folk Art and Craft Traditions of Oaxaca

Day 1: Arrive Oaxaca City

You will be met at the airport and transferred to our lovely accommodations. Depending on arrival time, we will have a leisurely stroll to the *Zocalo*.

Day 2: Oaxaca Walking Tour

We start our day with a guided walking orientation tour of Oaxaca City to include: the Zocalo, Benito Juarez Market, Garcia Virgil Street, Santo Domingo Church and Botanical Gardens. Our late lunch, or "*comida*" is at the famed Marco Polo Restaurant, where the wood fired fish is brought in daily. Evening is free to explore and shop. (B, L)

Day 3: Tlacolula

We visit one of the best weekly markets, or "*tianguis*" in Tlacolula. Locals come from neighboring villages to shop for the week. We will also see the best baroque architecture in the area. Upon return to Oaxaca City, we can enjoy a free weekly concert in the Zocalo by the Oaxaca Symphony Orchestra. Our lunch is at Casa de Abuela, where we can taste several types of mole and the local favorite, "*chapulines*", or grasshoppers! Evening is open for you to explore or sit in the *portales* and listen to the marimba. (B, L)

Day 4: Monte Alban –UNESCO World Heritage Archaeological Site

The first urban center of Mesoamerica, Monte Alban is where we will learn about early *Zapotec* Civilization during our guided tour. You will have time to relax, get a beverage from the cafeteria and take in the wonderful views or browse the bookstore and museum before heading to lunch at La Capilla. After lunch, we stop in the craft villages of *Arrazola* and *Aztompa* to see the whimsical "*alebrije*" wood carvings and pottery. Evening is free for you to experience the local restaurants and night life. (B, L)

Day 5:

Your choice: Optional cooking class or nature hike in the valley. (B, L)

Day 6: ETLA and Suchilquitongo

Market day in ETLA is sure to fascinate the senses. A visit to *San Jose el Mogote* - Zapotec site existing prior to Monte Alban - will enhance our history lesson of previous day tour.



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We will lunch with the locals en route to our afternoon stop. See and learn about the art of making paper by hand at a Paper Workshop. In the evening, we head for *Zocalo* for dancing to the State Marimba Band. Guayaberas required! (B, L)

Day 7: Mitla, Teotitlan del Valle, Tule

On the east side of the Oaxaca Valley we visit the ancient ruins at Mitla to see the strong design motifs carved in the stone walls. We then stop in Teotitlan del Valle, a Zapotec community known for its weaving traditions. Lunch is at Tlamanalli restaurant. On our way home, we stop to see the amazing tree in Tule. (B, L)

Day 8: Southern Craft Route: San Antonio, Tilcajete, Jalieza, Coyotepec

The Ocotlan Market is one of the most colorful in the valley and a favorite among locals. In Ocotlan we visit the former Dominican Convent that is now a Museum established by famed Oaxacan artist, Rodolfo Morales. On this southern craft route, we stop in San Antonino to see their beautifully embroidered blouses, Tilcajete for extraordinary whimsical "alebrijes", Jalieza for back strap woven belts and bags, and Coyotepec for the black burnished pottery, made famous by Dona Rosa. Tonight we have a special farewell dinner at Cafe Casa Oaxaca,

Day 9: Return home or extend your stay