



Tia Stephanie Tours

Veracruz, Chinantla, Tlaxcala Thursday, March 30 – Sunday, April 9, 2017 10 Nights

Day One: Arrive Mexico City, Enjoy a Festive Welcome Dinner!

Day Two: El Tajin

Leaving Mexico City in the morning, we travel to El Tajin and spend the afternoon learning about the ancient Totonac people!

Day Three: Xalapa and Textile Festival

We travel to Xalapa to attend the 4th Annual Textile Festival, that will feature textile artisans from the State of Veracruz! Also, invited country this year is Peru, so we'll see textiles from the Andes, as well! In addition to attending the Textile Festival, we will enjoy a guided visit of the host site for the Festival: The Museum of Anthropology in Xalapa, known for its extraordinary architecture and collection of Olmec art and ritual sculptures.

Day Four: Alvarado, Tlacotalpan, Tuxtepec

Leaving Xalapa, we take a classic "road trip", making stops in the shrimping and fishing town of Alvarado, followed by the UNESCO World Heritage town of Tlacotalpan before arriving in Tuxtepec. Settling into our hotel, we'll enjoy a poolside fashion show to learn about the Chinantec and Mazatec dress of the region we are about to explore!

Day Five: Rancho Grande, Valle Nacional

Today we spend the day with a special community in Rancho Grande, Valle Nacional to learn of their traditions in food and dress. We will enjoy a light hike to learn of their native crops and then enjoy regional dishes made from these ingredients. We will enjoy a special expo-venta of their most beautiful brocade weave and embroidered huipiles. We will learn about the meaning of the various "tree of life" designs embroidered on the huipil panels.

Day Six: San Bartolome Ayautla and San Lucas Ojitlan

Today we'll visit a Chinantec community and a Mazatec community, both of the Otomangue linguistic groups of Mexico. In Ayautla, we'll meet with the extraordinary embroiderers who depict nature on their huipiles. Birds are the most common motif. In San Lucas Ojitlan, we'll visit the Chinantec women of this community who will invite us to enjoy a lunch of local dishes, and to enjoy an expoventa for their extraordinary "diario", "media-gala" and "gala" huipiles. The plumed serpent, Quetzalcoatl is among the most important of symbols.

Day Seven: San Felipe Usila

Leaving in the morning, we enjoy a full day in the Chinantec community of San Felipe Usila. This is an incredible drive, surrounded by the cloud forest and lush green mountainous landscape of this region. The drive is the journey! Arriving in town, we'll be met by members of the community to learn about their culture and traditions. We'll enjoy an expo venta, visit to weaver's homes, and experience the famed "caldo de piedra" (stone soup) made on the shores of the Usila River.

Day Eight: Tuxtepec to Orizaba, Tour Orizaba

Today we depart "La Chinantla" and travel to Orizaba. Arriving in Orizaba, we'll visit the wonderful State Art Museum and enjoy dinner.

Day Nine: Orizaba to Tlaxcala, Tour Tlaxcala

Today we depart Orizaba and travel to Tlaxcala. Arriving in Tlaxcala we will take a walking city tour to learn about the Tlaxcaltecas. We enjoy a wonderful dinner of regional cuisine!

Day Ten: Tlaxcala, Ixtenco, Contla, overnight Tlaxcala

Today begins with a special visit to the State Craft Store. We will meet the Director, who will talk to us about the crafts and textiles from Tlaxcala. We travel to Ixtenco to learn about native corn, and enjoy a meal there! We'll visit the artisans who specialize in the "smocked" blusa de "pepenado". We'll also visit the birthplace of the sarape: Contla! We return to Tlaxcala to overnight. Farewell dinner.

Day Eleven: Depart for airport for flights from Mexico City

Night One: Mexico City (1)

Night Two: Papantla (1)

Night Three: Xalapa (1)

Night Four, Five, Six, Seven: Tuxtepec (4)

Night Eight: Orizaba (1)

Night Nine and Ten: Tlaxcala (2)