

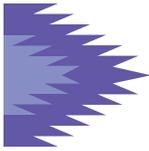
# THE MEXICAN REBOZO & FASHION: IKAT TRADITIONS AND TECHNIQUES

THE MEXICAN REBOZO TOUR

*Tia Stephanie* TOURS

**Cultural Journeys**

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# THE MEXICAN REBOZO & FASHION: IKAT TRADITIONS AND TECHNIQUES

## THE MEXICAN REBOZO TOUR

This year, our trip is scheduled around the Feria del Rebozo in Tenancingo, the rebozo mecca of Mexico, known for exquisite ikat (jaspé) 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 Michoacan, we’ll visit the artisans from the Purepecha Plateau to visit master weavers in the communities of Ahuiran, Aranza and Angahuan. If you love textile traditions, dye resist techniques and colonial cities, this trip is for you!



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### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- See master artisans use intricate dye resist techniques, known as “jaspé”(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!
- Visit the important rebozo making centers of Mexico, including Tenancingo and the Purepecha Plateau.
- Enjoy the opportunity to see antique and present day rebozo collections and meet their collectors.
- Learn about Heritage and Threats to this women’s garment, so important to Mexico’s cultural heritage and traditions.
- Opportunities to Purchase Collection Quality Textiles at their source and to meet the artisans.
- Appreciate how and why globalization is a threat to cultural diversity and is evident through changes in dress and textile traditions.

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### LOCATION





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## ITINERARY

### Day 1:

#### Thursday, Sept. 5, Transfer to Tenancingo, Edo Mex (L, D)

Today you will transfer from Toluca or Mexico City (we'll help arrange this), to the town of Tenancingo, the epicenter of the cotton ikat rebozo. We'll check into our charming hotel, before heading out to the market. Tenancingo is in a fertile valley, so the produce here is exceptional. We'll also begin to see the permanent rebozo stalls, that sell daily and collection quality rebozos. We'll enjoy a regional lunch, before going to visit "Don" Evaristo Borboa, one of the few weavers who continues in the ancient technique of the backstrap loom. He's a great master, and he knows it! We'll enjoy some free time, before having dinner together.

### Day 2:

#### Friday Sept. 6, Visit Rebozo Workshops & Master Artisans (B, L)

This morning, we'll visit the workshop of Fermin Escobar, who will help us understand the multiple steps that go into ikat rebozo thread preparation and weaving. Most of the work required to weave an ikat rebozo happens in the thread preparation

phase. Fermin has 12 looms, so we have the opportunity to see a cottage industry approach to the production of rebozos. Then we'll visit master Adolfo "Fito" Garcia, who has fewer looms, and is known as a creative master, designing with new colors and patterns for his rebozos. His wife Carmen travels to Toluca every week to sell rebozos. After a fun regional lunch, we'll visit another great master, Miguel Flores. Miguel is among the most creative of the reboceros. Evening is at leisure.

### Day 3:

#### Saturday, Sept. 7, Rebozo Feria, Afternoon Visit to Empuntadoras and Mezcal producers! (B, L)

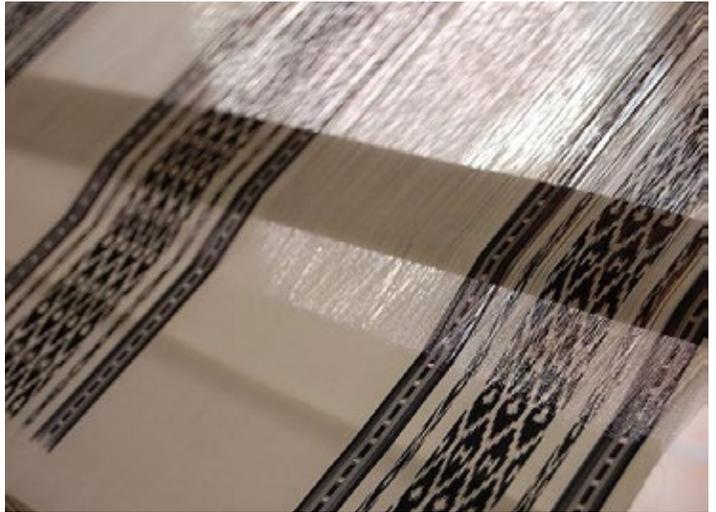
The first half of the day is dedicated to attending the annual Rebozo Feria! All of the reboceros, the fringe makers (empuntadoras), local designers come out to showcase their traditional and innovative designs. Adapted products are also sold, such as: handbags, change purses, shoes, dresses and other items, that are very creative. After we have fully scoured the Feria, we'll travel to nearby San Pablo to pay a visit to the empuntadoras (fringe makers). They will show us the multiple techniques they use to complement the ikat rebozo. They are a big part of

the rebozo story and end result. We'll also visit an area mezcal producer. Surprise! Mezcal is not just from Oaxaca! In fact some states, such as Edo Mex., Michoacan and others have excellent mezcal. Our evening is a leisure...perhaps to stargaze!

### Day 4:

#### Sunday, Sept. 8, Last Visit to Rebozo Market / Feria a.m., Visit to Malinalco in the afternoon (B, L, Reception)

We'll spend a little time attending either the Rebozo Feria or Mercado, before traveling to the nearby town of Malinalco. It is a favorite place for "Chilangos" to go on the weekends, with its charming cobblestone streets, beautiful plaza, stunning murals in the Dominican convent, and for those who want to climb, a fantastic prehispanic site, of the extended Aztec empire. We'll also visit the small but well done Museum there. In between our visits, we'll enjoy lunch at one of our favorite restaurants in Mexico! We'll return to our hotel, enjoy viewing a renowned rebozo collection and enjoy our own fashion show with our new treasures. We'll enjoy a farewell reception at the hotel.



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## ITINERARY

### Day 5:

#### **Monday, Sept. 9, Depart or Continue on Michoacan Extension (B, L)**

For those doing only the Tenancingo segment, you will transfer to Toluca or Mexico City. For those continuing on to Michoacan, we'll transfer to Morelia. Here, we'll enjoy lunch and a lovely walking tour. Dinner is at leisure, but we can go to a favorite Mezcaleria as a group!

### Day 6:

#### **Tuesday, Sept. 10, Transfer to Uruapan, Check into hotel in Uruapan, Travel to Angahuan (B, L)**

Today we make our way to Uruapan, entering the "Meseta Purepecha" region of Michoacan. We'll check into our centrally located hotel, before going to the community of Angahuan to meet some of the finest weavers of the brocade weave technique, done on the backstrap loom. We'll share a meal with the Purepecha women, likely corundas and delicious "churipo" stew. Returning to Uruapan, our evening is at leisure.

### Day 7:

#### **Wednesday, Sept. 11, Ahuiran and Aranza in Municipio de Paracho (B, L)**

Today we'll visit two communities with outstanding and very different weaving techniques. In Ahuiran, we'll meet the artisans who, on backstrap looms, weave cotton cloth, typically in striped patterns. What makes their rebozos so singular and identifiable is the fringe. Bright rayon threads are tied into the open spaces of the knots to create beautiful and bright patterns. In Aranza, we'll learn about the technique called "pataqua", a form of complex gauze weave, done on a backstrap loom, where the weft thread wraps around the warp thread.

### Day 8:

#### **Thursday, Sept. 12, Eduardo Ruiz National Park, Return to Morelia for Free Day (B, D)**

After breakfast, we'll visit the beautiful Eduardo Ruiz National Park, full of wild orchids and

cascading waterfalls. It's a lush and enchanting setting. Then, we'll return to Morelia for a free afternoon, before enjoying a Farewell Dinner together.

### Day 9:

#### **Friday, Sept. 13**

Transfer out