

TEXTILE TRADITIONS OAXACA: COAST & ISTHMUS & CHIAPAS HIGHLANDS!

Oaxaca & Chiapas

Guerrero and Oaxaca: March 11-19, 2022

Duration: 8 Nights

Chiapas Segment: March 19-25, 2022

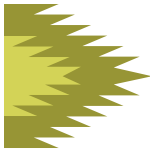
Duration: 6 Nights

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Cultural Journeys

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TEXTILE TRADITIONS OAXACA: COAST & ISTHMUS & CHIAPAS HIGHLANDS!

OAXACA & CHIAPAS

On this journey, we explore the multiple ethnic communities of Oaxaca (and Guerrero) to learn of their cultural and ethnic expressions in dress and textiles. From the Amuzgo in Guerrero to the Mixtec, Huave, Zapotec in Oaxaca we will readily see how textile traditions and dress are a cultural passport and unique expression of the women (and some men) who live in this region. We will learn of the fibers, such as coyuche cotton and natural dye sources, such as Purpura Pansa, indigo and cochineal. Visiting the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, we'll learn about the fascinating culture there of the strong women, ripe mangoes, fashion and markets. Leaving Oaxaca behind we climb into the Chiapas Highlands to learn about dress and textile techniques of the Tzotzil and Tzeltal Maya. This is an extraordinary close up journey into the communities where we meet the people and artisans who create visual masterpieces and maintain their cultural heritage. Join us!



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn of Indigenous Textile Traditions of Oaxaca including: Amuzgo, Mixteco, Zapoteco & Huave.
- Travel to Xochistlahuaca, Guerrero to meet the finest Amuzgo weavers.
- Meet weavers & coops in remote communities of Pinotepa de Don Luis & San Juan Colorado to learn of their unique traditions in weaving and dress.
- Meet Mixteco weavers in Huazolotitlan and Jamiltepec where we see how dress is a cultural passport.
- Travel with the purpura pansa dyers of the coast to see how they extract this scarce purple dye.
- Learn about the history and evolution of "traje" from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.
- Learn of the various embroidery techniques in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.
- Learn about Muxe culture.
- Travel to the Highlands of Chiapas to meet the extraordinary Maya weavers of this region.

LOCATION





Itinerary

Pre-Arrival: Thurs., March 10

If you'd like an extra day in Acapulco, schedule your arrival for today. The hotel is not included, but we'll make the arrangements.

Day 1: Arrival Day: Fri., March 11, Arrive Acapulco, Dinner included (D)

Arriving to the Acapulco airport (ACA) you will take the airport transportation to our hotel: the famed and legendary Las Brisas. Think pink jeeps! This was the hotel of the movie stars, back in the day, in the 1950's / 1960's-. We'll meet in the lobby to go to dinner at another famed and legendary restaurant, Susana Palazuelos's Zibu, overlooking the Acapulco Bay. We will time our dinner to enjoy the singular sunset; one that was painted in its multiple manifestations by Diego Rivera in his later years. Return to Hotel and Overnight Hotel Las Brisas Acapulco, Included: Hotel and Dinner

Day 2: Sat., March 12, Fuerte San Diego Acapulco, Transfer to Ometepe (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we'll visit the Museo Fuerte San Diego. Here, we'll learn about the fascinating history

of the Manila Galleon and the trade that transformed Asia and the Americas, plying trade for over 250 years between Manila and Acapulco. After our visit, we'll begin our journey on the Coast of Guerrero, making our way to Ometepe, the Municipal Center of the region. We'll enjoy a fresh seafood meal en route. Arriving in Ometepe, we'll settle in to our hotel, enjoy some tacos and overnight. Overnight Ometepe, Guerrero

Day 3: Sun., March 13, Xochistlahuaca (B, L)

Before we leave Ometepe, we'll visit the local market. Arriving in Xochistlahuaca, we'll also visit the very local Amuzgo market, only on Sundays. Then we'll visit some of our favorite coops, weavers and shops, to learn about and purchase the famed and beautiful brocade woven huipiles. Overnight Ometepe, Guerrero

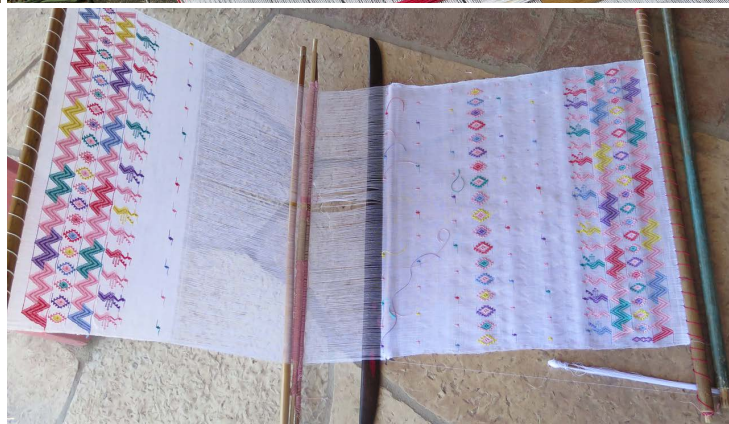
Day 4: Mon., March 14, Pinotepa de Don Luis, San Juan Colorado (B, L)

Today, we say goodbye to Xochis and continue our journey, traveling towards Oaxaca. En route, we'll make a quick stop at the Afro-Descendent Museum in

Cuajicuinilapa, Guerrero, to learn about the history of the African presence in Mexico and in this region. We'll then visit the two Mixtec towns in Oaxaca: Pinotepa de Don Luis and San Juan Colorado. In these two communities, we'll learn about the traditional dress of the region, such as the pozahuanco wrap skirt of caracol purpura, indigo and cochineal stripes. We'll also see the beautiful native coyuche cotton in these communities. Overnight Pinotepa Nacional

Day 5: Tues., March 15, Huazolotitlan-Jamiltepec-Puerto Escondido (B, L)

Today, we make our way to Puerto Escondido. We make stops in two communities: Huazolotitlan and Jamiltepec, to learn about their unique textile traditions and styles that identify the women of these communities. Arriving in Puerto Escondido, we'll check into the Hotel Santa Fe, enjoy lunch overlooking the ocean. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure, to walk along the beach, relax at the hotel or visit the Manialtepec Lagoon. Overnight Hotel Santa Fe Puerto Escondido



Itinerary

Day 6: Weds., March 16, San Agustin, Caracol Purpura Dye Demo (B, L)

This morning we leave early, to arrive to the Baja de San Agustin, to catch the low tide. Today is the day we will witness one of the great relationships between biology and culture, the "milking" of the caracol purpura mollusk to obtain the revered purple dye. The Mixtec dyers are the only people authorized to engage in this sustainable activity. The purple threads have been woven into the women's pozahuanco wrap skirts for thousands of years. Overnight Huatulco

Day 7: Thurs., March 17, San Mateo del Mar, Tehuantepec (B, L, D)

Today we leave the Coast and continue to a singular and the narrowest region of Mexico: Isthmus of Tehuantepec. On a map, you can see why it's called Mexico's waistline! It's only 90 miles across from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. Sometimes the "norte" winds blow fierce. Hence, many wind generators! The beauty and mystique of the Istmena women have captured the imagination of many artists and poets. Their dress style is often associated with Frida Kahlo, as she frequently wore Istmena dress. Her mother Matilde was from here.

We'll stop in Mateo del Mar, seemingly at the end of the earth, and home to the ikoots or huave people. Here they weave charming brocade cloth on a backstrap loom. Arriving in Tehuantepec, we'll have lunch, visit the market, then rest up at the hotel before our fun evening, enjoying a fashion show of Isthmus dress, followed by a reception and dancing to the regional tune, La Zandunga. Overnight Hotel Cali, Tehuantepec

Day 8: Fri., March 18, Juchitan (B, L)

On our second day in the Isthmus, we'll visit the region of Juchitan, visiting an embroidery school in the town of Asuncion Ixtaltepec. We'll learn about the school and their initiatives to revive the cadenilla style of machine embroidery. We'll enjoy a light lunch, before going to the recently renovated market in Juchitan. Returning to our hotel, we can rest, relax and take a swim in the hotel pool. Overnight Hotel Cali, Tehuantepec.

Day 9: Sat., March 19, End of Guerrero / Oaxaca Trip (B)

Group will transfer to Oaxaca City or Huatulco for flights or extensions. This transportation is not included, but will be arranged.

TRIP PART TWO: CHIAPAS (6 Nights), March 19-25

Day 1: Sat., March 19, Chiapa de Corzo (B, D)

For the group continuing to Chiapas, we'll depart for Chiapa de Corzo. Arriving in Chiapa de Corzo, we'll enjoy a marimba exhibition, and we'll learn about the famed dress (Chiapaneca) and lacquerware of Chiapa de Corzo. Overnight La Seiba, Chiapa de Corzo

Day 2: Sun., March 20, Venustiano Carranza, Amatenango, Gauze weave and pottery, Arrive in San Cristobal and enjoy dinner at El Paraiso (B, L, D)

In the morning, we'll tour Chiapa de Corzo, before we make our way to Venustiano Carranza, in the midland region. The cotton backstrap woven huipiles are a light, cotton, gauze weave, as this region is warmer than the highlands we'll be visiting later on our trip. We will visit homes of master weavers to see this delicate weaving style. After lunch, we'll depart for Amatenango and Aguacatenango, visiting potters and embroiderers of these communities. Arriving in San Cristobal de Las Casas, we settle into our hotel and enjoy dinner.



Itinerary

Day 3: Mon., March 21, Larrainzar and Magdalenas, Fine brocade weave, Free time in San Cristobal (B)

Today we focus on the text and iconography in the Maya weaving of Magdalenas and San Andres Larrainzar and Magdalenas. We will learn of the Ceremonial huipil from Magdalenas and the layers of text and meaning of the woven designs and the form of the huipil, itself. Omnipresent in the Maya iconography are themes of underworld, material world and celestial world (3 planes), the elements (earth, wind, fire and water), and the cardinal points. Also, humankind's relationship to the outer world is always present. In Magdalenas, we'll also see how the itxle bags are woven; from the stripping of the fiber from the maguey leaf, to the plying of the threads, to the weaving of the bags. It's a fascinating process that dates to pre hispanic times.

Day 4: Tues., March 22, Tuesday, Chamula, Zinacantan and the Museo de Textiles Mundo Maya (B)

Today we'll experience the indigenous church of San Juan, where the Maya cosmovision of this Tzotzil community is revealed. Healing ceremonies take place to heal the infirm and drive out bad spirits. This church is like any other, with pine needles and candles on the floor as the community members pray to the respective saints, with the help of a "healer". In Chamula we will also learn about the importance of sheep, as members of the family and we will learn how the women's woolen skirt is made. In Zinacantan, flowers are seen everywhere; from the embroidered smocks worn by the women and men, to the cultivated variety. We'll learn about the evolution of their styles and colors; something they pay very close attention to, as color trends change annually! Returning to San Cristobal, we'll visit the

extraordinary Museo de Textil Mundo Maya. The evening is free to explore the bohemian atmosphere of San Cristobal de Las Casas.

Day 5: Weds., March 23, Free Day in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Farewell dinner at Na Bolom (B D)

Day 6: Thurs., March 24, Tenejapa and Cancuc (B)

In addition to visiting the Thursday market in Tenejapa we will visit a special coop that produces extraordinary examples of weaving technique and designs of this Tzeltal weaving community. Returning to San Cristobal the afternoon is at leisure to explore the wonderful shops of Real de Guadalupe.

Day 7: Fri., March 25, Depart or extend in San Cristobal (B)