



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Cultural Treasures of Mexico Oaxaca & San Miguel de Allende

with Rika Burnham, Lecturer

February 4 – 10, 2023

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

ENJOY a special expert-guided tour of one of Mexico's most impressive ancient cities, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Monte Albán, with its breathtaking ceremonial center filled with temples, pyramids, plazas, and tombs

GO behind the scenes of awe-inspiring colonial churches, including Oaxaca's sumptuously gorgeous, 16th-century Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, with its spectacular gold and polychrome interiors, and the Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, a 17th-century wonder with towering pink spires in San Miguel de Allende

TAKE a curator-led tour of the Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca, with its outstanding display of archaeological treasures dating back millennia, and gaze upon colonial architecture as you stroll the cobblestone streets of Oaxaca with a scholar

MEET innovative artists in their own private workshops and studios, including a local artisan who handcrafts unique musical instruments

DELIGHT in a hands-on, expert-led experience creating *alebrijes*, wonderfully colorful sculptures of mythical creatures, part of a modern Mexican art tradition

SAVOR an exclusive vineyard experience in a pastoral setting outside San Miguel de Allende, enjoying a private tasting and expert-guided tour with dramatic views

TRAVELING WITH YOU



RIKA BURNHAM is a leading theorist and practitioner of art museum gallery teaching. Author of *Teaching in the Art Museum: Interpretation as Experience*, and lecturer at Columbia University, she has served as Head of Education at the Frick Collection, Museum Educator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Project Director for TIME/Teaching

Institute in Museum Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and was appointed Getty Research Institute Museum Scholar in 2002 and 2018. She holds a degree in art history from Harvard University and was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2014.



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Dear National Trust Traveler:

In the ancient heart of Mexico, experience a tale of two enchanting cities. In February 2023, join the National Trust for a six-night cultural adventure in Oaxaca and San Miguel de Allende, both UNESCO-recognized for their well-preserved history, marvelous cuisine, colorful architecture, and layers of cultural influences. The veteran museum educator **Rika Burnham** will join travelers once again after leading our Oaxaca program in 2022 to rave reviews. Throughout this journey, her fascinating approach to looking closely at art will illuminate the many wonders you will experience.

In southwestern Mexico, begin with three nights in charming Oaxaca, perched on a 5,000-foot-high plateau at the confluence of three emerald valleys. Stroll its beautiful *calles* and plazas with a scholar. Go behind the scenes of the 16th-century Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, whose interiors are lavishly decorated with gold leaf, polychrome figures, and bas-reliefs. You will also have an exclusive exploration of nearby ancient Monte Albán, a UNESCO World Heritage Site occupied since 500 B.C., awe-inspiring in its scale. Spend a day with an expert as you explore its exquisite palaces and pyramids, evidence of the advanced craftsmanship of the Zapotecs and Mixtecs, the civilizations who ruled this region many centuries ago.

After a flight to Mexico City, stop in the “Magical Town” of San Sebastián Bernal before arriving for three nights in San Miguel de Allende. Known for its rainbow of Mexican Baroque architecture, San Miguel has a wealth of stunning centuries-old churches to admire. Take an inside look at the 17th-century Parroquia

de San Miguel Arcángel, a soaring, opulent marvel in pink, viewable from almost anywhere in the city. The city’s art scene is also among the finest in Mexico, and you will enjoy a hands-on immersion into a colorful form of traditional Mexican sculpture.

We hope that you will join us in Mexico for an exciting, in-depth exploration of two dazzling cities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MAP'.

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours



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Cultural Treasures of Mexico

Oaxaca & San Miguel de Allende

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4: DEPARTURE / OAXACA, MEXICO

Depart by air for Oaxaca, Mexico. Transfer from the airport to your hotel for check-in. This evening, gather for an orientation and welcome reception, with dinner at leisure. R

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5: OAXACA

Situated at the confluence of three valleys, the state of Oaxaca boasts a sunny, temperate climate amid a rocky landscape. In the capital city of Oaxaca de Juárez, visit Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, which was constructed primarily from 1570 to 1608 and remains the most splendid of Oaxaca's churches. The church is part of a great Dominican monastery, whose stone cloister is the antechamber to the Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca, where you will admire an outstanding display of archaeological treasures. After lunch, stroll down the Calle Macedonio Alcalá, a boulevard reserved for pedestrians, to view many of the city's most remarkable colonial buildings and shops. A visit to the private studio of a fascinating local artist will be a highlight. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner. B,L,D

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6: OAXACA

Perched on a flattened hilltop just a few kilometers west of the city and with commanding views of the surrounding valley, Monte Albán is one of the most impressive sites in Mexico. First occupied around 500 B.C., Monte Albán was the center of the Zapotec Empire, which extended over most of the present state of Oaxaca, between 300-700 A.D. Today, join an expert guide to explore this majestic complex of pyramids, palaces, platforms, and tombs arranged around a grand plaza. Highlights include bas-relief "Dancers" (conquered chieftains) and hieroglyphs that are the earliest examples of writing in Mexico. Discover the many sights of Oaxaca on your own this evening, with dinner at leisure. B,L

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7: OAXACA / MEXICO CITY / SAN SEBASTIÁN BERNAL / SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Depart this morning for a flight to Mexico City, and transfer by motor coach to San Miguel de Allende. In the state of Querétaro, stop in San Sebastián Bernal, a village known as a Pueblo Mágico (Magical Town) for its symbolic and historical significance as well as its natural beauty and cultural attractions. Visit the village's famous Peña de Bernal, the third-largest monolith in the world. Arrive in San Miguel de Allende, voted "The Best City in the World" by readers of *Travel + Leisure* over several years. This colonial-era metropolis was inscribed by UNESCO as a Cultural Heritage of Humanity due to its cultural and architectural contribution to the Mexican Baroque and its importance in the country's quest for independence from Spain. Enjoy an evening at leisure to explore this beautiful city. B,L

Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Oaxaca



Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca





San Miguel de Allende

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8: SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Delight in a morning exploration of San Miguel de Allende's colorful churches and cultural center. Stroll past a rainbow of brilliantly painted colonial buildings to the historic town center, where you will tour one of San Miguel's most iconic landmarks, the 17th-century Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, with its sublime pink spires. After lunch, enjoy free time in town. Walk around its cobblestone streets, enjoy the many art galleries and craft shops, or indulge in the rich array of gastronomical selections on offer. B,L

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9: SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Enjoy breakfast, followed by a visit to a private sculpture workshop. Watch skilled craftsmen create *alebrijes*, vividly colorful sculptures of fantastical creatures, a Mexican folk art tradition. Learn the intriguing legends of these mythical creatures, and perhaps try your hand at creating your own masterpiece to take home. Enjoy lunch at leisure before a scenic ride to an enchanting local winery for a private tasting. An expert will guide you through the vineyards, the viewpoint overlooking the winery, the production area, and the underground cellar. This evening, gather for a festive farewell dinner. B,D

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10: SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE / MEXICO CITY / RETURN

Depart the hotel early this morning, and transfer to the Mexico City airport for flights home. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.



Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel,
San Miguel de Allende



Alebrijes

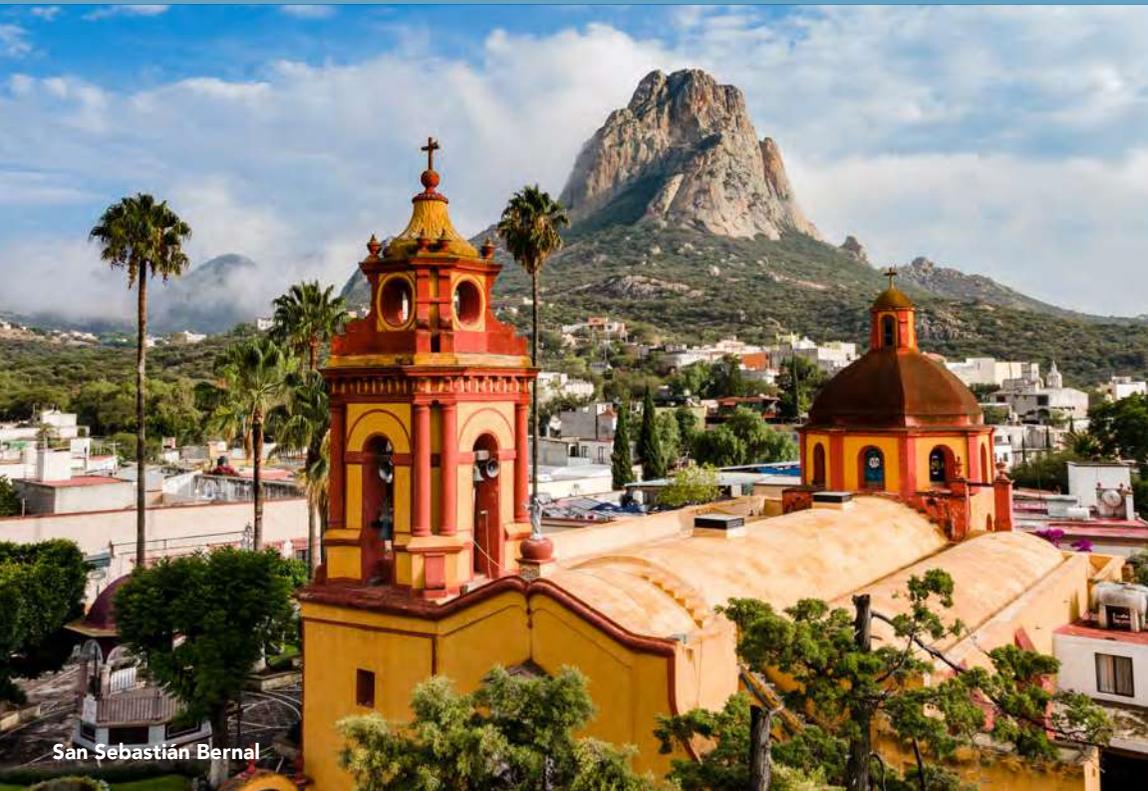
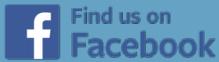


Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Oaxaca

RESERVATION INFORMATION

To secure your cabin, please call National Trust Tours at
888-484-8785.

A deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable
for administrative fees) is required.



San Sebastián Bernal



Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca

ACCOMMODATIONS



Hotel Boutique Parador San Miguel Oaxaca



Doña Urraca Hotel & Spa, San Miguel de Allende

HOTEL BOUTIQUE PARADOR SAN MIGUEL OAXACA

In the historic downtown area of Oaxaca City, this beautiful three-story colonial-style building has 23 rooms, four of which are suites. Delight in its bewitchingly colorful décor and gardens and its restaurant serving the fascinating flavors of Oaxacan cuisine. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.

DOÑA URRACA HOTEL & SPA, SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Only steps away from San Miguel's main square, this hotel is built in the Novo-Hispanic style and features an outdoor pool and spa. Free Wi-Fi is included.

PROGRAM RATE

\$4,999 per person, double rate

\$5,799 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- One-way, internal economy-class flight (Oaxaca de Juárez-Mexico City)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Cultural Treasures of Mexico

Oaxaca & San Miguel de Allende

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