



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

**National Trust Tours**



**Oaxaca, Mexico City & Puebla**  
**Ancient to Contemporary Art & Architecture**

**January 12 – 19, 2025**



Dear National Trust Traveler,

Mexico's history is a fascinating tale of Indigenous empires, Spanish conquest, and the forging of a unique, modern national identity. In January 2025, join the National Trust and our friends at the Museum Travel Alliance to experience historic wonders in Oaxaca, Mexico City, and Puebla. Expert guides will reveal the complex interplay of Indigenous and European influences that shaped these cities' cultural treasures, taking you through centuries of political, social, and artistic change.

Gain a deep understanding of the rise and fall of Mesoamerica's greatest civilizations. Join experts to experience UNESCO-listed archaeological sites like Oaxaca's remarkable city of Monte Albán and Puebla's sacred site of Cholula, home to the world's largest pyramid by volume. Engage with Mexico's living history, meeting skilled craftsmen for exclusive, hands-on workshops exploring traditional Mexican Indigenous arts. Throughout your journey, you'll be accompanied by **Rika Burnham**, an acclaimed educator and lecturer from the Museum Travel Alliance, who will share her insights on the art and cultural significance of the sites you visit.

Begin with three nights in mountainous Oaxaca, set at the convergence of three stunning valleys. Enjoy guided inside looks at opulent Spanish colonial churches such as the Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, an exquisite example of Mexican Baroque architecture with its sumptuous interior. Venture outside the capital to Monte Albán, where grand plazas, towering pyramids, and ball courts transport you back to the height of the Zapotec civilization.

Over a two-night stay in Mexico City, join experts to explore remnants of the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlán. During an exclusive visit to the Museo Nacional de Antropología, you'll be fascinated by the legacy of Mexico's ancient Indigenous cultures, including giant Olmec stone heads and the revered Aztec sun stone. Finally, we'll spend two nights in UNESCO-listed Puebla, where you'll enjoy guided looks at its superb museum collections. A tremendous highlight will be the colossal Great Pyramid of Cholula, which is topped by a Spanish colonial church, creating a powerful symbol of the cultural fusion that defines this region.

**Reserve your place on this program today by calling National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.**

I hope that you can join this exclusive journey through the heart of Mexico's historical and cultural heritage.



Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Perez  
Director, National Trust Tours



Activity Level:



Pace Level:

Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels [here](#).

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at [www.savingplaces.org](http://www.savingplaces.org) or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

**JOIN** renowned museum educator **Rika Burnham** on an exclusive journey through **Oaxaca, Mexico City, and Puebla** as you share guided looks at the Indigenous heritage, colonial architecture, and modern artistic expressions that make these destinations so significant

**MARVEL** at the breathtaking architecture of Oaxaca's Baroque **Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán**, where experts will showcase its intricate 16th- to 18th-century carvings, dazzling gilded interiors, and rare artifacts from Monte Albán's Tomb 7 at its on-site museum

**MEET** expert guides for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour of the ancient Oaxacan city of **Monte Albán**, exploring grand plazas, towering pyramids, and elaborately decorated tombs carved into the mountainside by Zapotec masters

**STEP** inside the **private studio of a remarkable contemporary Oaxacan artist** for an intimate look at the city's thriving art scene and the chance to see creativity in action

**UNCOVER** the secrets of ancient Mesoamerican civilizations on an exclusive visit to Mexico City's **Museo Nacional de Antropología**, one of the world's finest museums, home to colossal **Olmec stone heads** and priceless **Maya treasures**

**EXPLORE** the birthplace and former home of **Frida Kahlo, Casa Azul**, going behind the scenes of this museum dedicated to the groundbreaking artist's life and work

**ADMIRE** an impressive collection spanning pre-Columbian, colonial, and modern art at Puebla's **Museo Amparo**, housed in beautifully restored colonial buildings

**EXPERIENCE** a guided look at the **Great Pyramid of Cholula**, the world's largest pyramid by volume, where a Spanish colonial church sits atop this ancient Mesoamerican sacred site

## 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.

# Oaxaca, Mexico City & Puebla

## Ancient to Contemporary Art & Architecture

January 12 – 19, 2025



### SUNDAY, JANUARY 12: DEPARTURE / OAXACA DE JUÁREZ, MEXICO

Depart by air for **Oaxaca de Juárez**, the capital of Oaxaca in south Mexico. This sunny region sits where three valleys meet, a majestic landscape you'll view as your flight lands. Upon arrival, transfer from the airport to your hotel for check-in. This evening, join Rika Burnham and fellow guests for an orientation and a festive welcome reception. Dinner is at leisure. R

### MONDAY, JANUARY 13: OAXACA

In Oaxaca de Juárez, the capital, you'll find **Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán**, the city's most splendid church, constructed from 1575 to 1731. The temple has been a church, military barracks, and a national monument. Its New Spanish Baroque style features intricate carvings, saint statues, and façades of local green volcanic stone.

The church is part of a large Dominican monastery. The stone cloister leads to the **Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca**. Inside, take a guided tour of its Oaxacan archaeological treasures like those from Monte Albán's Tomb 7, highlighting Mixtec culture. After lunch, walk down **Calle Macedonio Alcalá**, a pedestrian boulevard, to see remarkable colonial buildings and shops. You'll also visit a local artist's private studio for an exclusive view of the city's art scene. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner together. B,L,D

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 14: OAXACA

Enjoy a guided look at one of Mexico's most impressive ancient sites, **Monte Albán**, which sits on a flat hilltop a few miles west of Oaxaca de Juárez. Founded around 500 B.C., Monte Albán was the Zapotec civilization's capital and

was inhabited by Olmecs, Zapotecs, and Mixtecs over a 1,500-year period. Take an awe-inspiring inside look at the city's grand plazas, truncated pyramids, ball court, underground passageways, and over 170 tombs, making it one of the Americas' most elaborate burial sites.

Pay special attention to the famous *Danzantes* stones, intricate bas-reliefs depicting human figures initially thought to be "dancers" but now believed to be captured war prisoners. Discover how Monte Albán's hilltop location provided defensive advantages and savor the commanding view of the surrounding valley. This evening, explore Oaxaca on your own and enjoy dinner at your leisure. B,L

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15: OAXACA / MEXICO CITY

Transfer to the Oaxaca airport with the group for a morning flight to **Mexico City**, with lunch upon arrival. Then join an expert guide to visit one of the world's most extraordinary museums, the **Museo Nacional de Antropología** (National Museum of Anthropology).

This museum holds the world's largest collection of ancient Mexican art and ethnographic exhibits on Mexico's Indigenous groups. Peruse its exceptional pre-Columbian artifacts, including the Stone of the Sun (often called the Aztec calendar stone), giant Olmec heads, and Maya civilization treasures, all beautifully displayed in 23 rooms. After the museum visit, transfer to the hotel to check in and enjoy some free time. Later, attend a special cocktail reception at a private home and enjoy Mexico City's internationally acclaimed culinary scene with dinner at leisure. B,L,R





Casa Azul, Mexico City

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 16: MEXICO CITY

Revel in a morning visit to **an ancient archaeological site** (to be determined pending schedules) with a local expert specializing in ancient ruins. Later, enjoy lunch and a visit to the **Frida Kahlo House**, located in the Coyoacán district of Mexico City. Go behind the scenes at this cobalt-blue house known as Casa Azul, Kahlo's birthplace, childhood home, and creative sanctuary.

Frida Kahlo's father, Guillermo Kahlo, built the house in 1904. It's where Frida was born and lived much of her life until her death in 1954. In 1958, shortly after Diego Rivera, Kahlo's husband, donated the house to the Mexican government, it became a museum. It displays a wide collection of Kahlo's work, including personal items, paintings, and memorabilia, giving a deep, personal look into her life and artistic journey. Your final evening in Mexico City is at leisure.

B,L

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 17: PUEBLA

Drive two hours south to **Puebla** this morning. After arriving, have lunch, then visit the **Museo Amparo**, whose permanent collection follows Mexico's development throughout its history. Inside, join an expert guide to discover one of Mexico's most important collections of pre-Hispanic, colonial, and modern art, with pieces dating from 2,500 B.C. to today, spanning the pre-Classic period to the Spanish Conquest.

The collection includes artifacts from the Teotihuacan, Zapotec, Huastec, Totonac, Maya, Olmec, Chichimec, Mixtec, and Aztec civilizations. The Museo Amparo is in two beautifully restored colonial-era buildings, one from the 16th century. After the museum, check into the hotel and enjoy the rest of the evening on your own.

B,L

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 18: PUEBLA

Explore the beautiful UNESCO-listed city of Puebla on a walking and driving tour this morning. This afternoon, join an expert guide at the **Great Pyramid of Cholula**, also known as Tlachihualtepetl, the largest pyramid in the world by volume and the largest archaeological site of a pyramid in terms of dimension.

Historically, Cholula was an important religious center dedicated to the god Quetzalcoatl. The pyramid's construction started around 300 B.C. and it's thought to have been built by people influenced by the nearby Teotihuacán culture, as similar architectural styles can be seen at both sites.

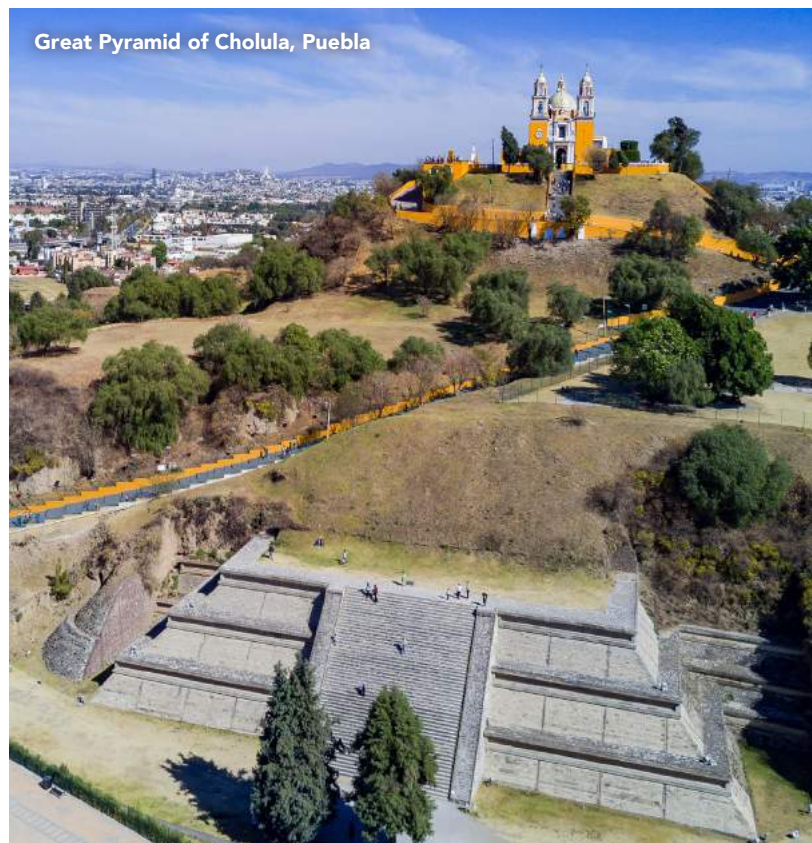
However, you might miss it if you didn't know it's made of dirt and grass and topped with a Catholic church built by the Spanish Conquistadors. By the time the Spanish arrived in the 16th century, the pyramid was mostly abandoned and eventually became overgrown, leading the Spaniards to mistake it for a natural hill and build the Church of Our Lady of Remedies on top.

Afterwards, enjoy some free time before a festive farewell dinner with the group. B,L,D

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 19: PUEBLA / MEXICO CITY / RETURN

After departing the hotel early this morning, join the group transfer to the Mexico City airport for flights home. B

**DISCLAIMER:** *The 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](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).*



Great Pyramid of Cholula, Puebla

## ACCOMMODATIONS

### HOTEL BOUTIQUE PARADOR SAN MIGUEL OAXACA

In this Oaxacan hideaway, a wrought-iron door opens into the hotel lobby, where ochre, terracotta, beige, and cream walls combine with dark green iron and green granite columns. This provides a dramatic backdrop for the bright bougainvillea and geraniums growing in the house's central patio. Enjoy the fascinating flavors of Oaxacan cuisine in The Kitchen, where you can choose a dish to your specifications.



### BANYAN TREE PUEBLA

In the center of one of Mexico's most charming colonial cities, this hotel is the perfect place to experience the region's rich culture, history, and culinary delights. Set in a historic 19th-century building, its guestrooms perfectly combine the charm of vintage craftsmanship with the luxuries of modern living.



### HYATT REGENCY POLANCO MEXICO CITY

Your stay at this hotel places you in the heart of stylish and upscale Polanco, a district filled with lively shopping, art galleries, and more. Enjoy the heated outdoor pool and sundeck offering splendid views of Chapultepec Park, stay fit in the hotel gym and savor the culinary team's delicious, distinctive creations.



### PROGRAM RATE

**\$8,999 per person, double rate**

**\$10,599 single rate**

### RATE INCLUDES

- Seven 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, house wine and coffee/tea with all included meals
- Internal, one-way, economy-class flight (Oaxaca-Mexico City)
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATE** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is 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.

**INSURANCE** National Trust Tours strongly suggests the purchase of travel insurance. For more information on policy options, visit <https://my.travelinsure.com/nationaltrust/plan/> or call 1-800-937-1387.



**NATIONAL TRUST TOURS**  
**OAXACA, MEXICO CITY & PUEBLA • JANUARY 12 – 19, 2025**  
**RESERVATION FORM**

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.

