A Connoisseur’s
MEXICO
Art, Architectural & Culinary Treasures of Mexico City & Oaxaca
MARCH 6–13, 2020
Experience the art, architecture, and culinary specialties of Mexico City and charming Oaxaca.

Scattered throughout Mexico City’s urban core are oases of beauty, from the colorful murals that adorn more than a dozen public buildings in the historic center to the artistic domestic aura of the homes of Frida Kahlo and Luis Barragán. Gain special insight into many of Mexico City’s cultural gems during special tours of the city’s best museums and contemporary spaces. Then in the city of Oaxaca, learn about the well-preserved history of two of the largest indigenous populations in Mexico, the Mixtec and Zapotec pre-Hispanic civilizations, in outstanding museums and ceremonial centers such as Monte Albán and the Mitla palace complex. Observe the influence of Spanish colonization in the architecture of the zócalo and surrounding city center. Experience present-day Oaxaca, from the colorful dreamlike paintings of Rodolfo Morales to local crafts by artisans who preserve traditional techniques, including pottery and loom weaving. Throughout the tour, enjoy a culinary journey of regional specialties at local food markets, a chocolate mill, the home of a local family, and top restaurants.

Accommodations

Hilton Mexico City Reforma

The Hilton Mexico City Reforma offers an ideal downtown location and modern decor, including original artwork by renowned Mexican artists. Three hotel restaurants and the Lobby Bar provide several options to dine and unwind on site in addition to a 25-meter rooftop lap pool, fully equipped gym, spa, and whirlpool.

Parador de Alcalá

Located in the heart of Oaxaca’s historic center between the Santo Domingo de Guzmán Ex-Convent and Oaxaca’s zócalo, the boutique Parador de Alcalá is located in a restored 18th-century mansion with a mix of modern and rustic colonial styling. The hotel features an on-site restaurant, a colonial courtyard, and rooms with marble floors and soft, warm tones.

Explore Monte Albán and Mitla, whose ruins preserve the rich history and stories of ancient Mexican civilizations.
Friday, March 6, 2020
Welcome to Mexico City
Arrive on independent flights into Benito Juárez International Airport in Mexico City and join your fellow travelers for a group transfer to the Hilton Reforma Hotel, ideally located beside Alameda Park, an expansive green space in the heart of the city. Settle in before a visit to the fascinating National Archaeological Museum—a crown jewel of Latin American cultural institutions. Our guide will lead us on a tour of the museum’s highlight relics and stand-out art from the many ancient civilizations that thrived throughout the region, from the Olmecs and Aztecs to the Maya and Zapotecs. Celebrate the start of a fantastic week with a feast of Mexican specialties in one of the city’s top restaurants.

Hilton Reforma, Mexico City (D)

Saturday, March 7, 2020
Art in Splendid Settings
Following breakfast at the hotel, tour the Dolores Olmedo Museum, which houses an excellent collection of works by Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in a magnificent hacienda setting. Olmedo—an intuitive businesswoman, keen collector, and close friend of Rivera—transformed her former home to open this museum in 1994. Later this morning, visit the contemporary home of Casa Pedregal, designed by architect Luis Barragán and today a private residence owned by one of Mexico’s most important art collectors. Then explore the collections at Frida Kahlo’s Blue House, the artist’s birthplace and home. The space and its contents were donated in 1958 by her husband, Diego Rivera, following Kahlo’s death. Today, the items on display focus on pieces created by the couple and items from their collection of Mexican folk art, pre-Hispanic artifacts, and personal items. On our return to the hotel, stop at the Camino Real, a hotel in the Polanco neighborhood designed by Ricardo Legorreta. Enjoy a cocktail and hors d’oeuvres in the hotel’s unforgettable Blue Bar.

Hilton Reforma, Mexico City (B, L, R)

Sunday, March 8, 2020
Mexico City’s Murals & Museo de Bellas Artes
Spend a leisurely Sunday morning exploring the spectacular murals around the city’s Zócalo, or main square. Enter the Colegio de San Ildefonso to view works by José Clemente Orozco and later explore treasures inside the National Palace—notably Diego Rivera’s incredible murals. Following a casual luncheon, witness the iconic Palacio de Correos, a building emblematic of the Spanish Renaissance Revival style, dating back to the early 1900s. Finish the afternoon at the Museo de Bellas Artes, a phenomenal Art Deco building with treasures by Mexican artists David Siqueiros, José Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera, and Rufino Tamayo. Enjoy dinner together this evening.

Hilton Reforma, Mexico City (B, L, D)

Monday, March 9, 2020
Culinary Mexico City & Arrival into Oaxaca
Embark on a culinary tour through a famous Mexico City food market followed by lunch together at a top local spot. Take a short afternoon flight to Oaxaca where our accommodations for the remainder of the tour are the Parador de Alcalá, a boutique hotel in a restored 18th-century mansion that is perfectly located in the heart of the city. Enjoy a brief tour of the city as we walk to dinner at the upscale La Catedral, where we’ll savor a delicious meal under the stars on the restaurant’s lovely colonial patio.

Parador de Alcalá, Oaxaca (B, L, D)
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

**Historic Oaxaca**

Discover the beauty of Oaxaca’s architecture, the richness of its culture, and its soft, temperate climate during a morning walking tour with a local guide through some of the city’s most celebrated sites. Begin at the Santo Domingo Church, founded in 1552 by the Dominican Order and known for the contrasting styles of its severe façade and exuberant baroque interior. Continue to the Oaxacan Cultures Museum, located in the Santo Domingo Ex-Convent, and uncover a vast collection of historical, archaeological, and ethnographic objects including pieces excavated from Tomb Seven at Monte Albán. Next door is the Ex-Convento de San Pablo, a new cultural attraction in Oaxaca funded by philanthropist Alfredo Harp Helú, and today a learning center and textile museum. After visiting the center, break for a gourmet lunch featuring regional specialties. This afternoon, enjoy free time to relax or join a guided walking tour through the festive zócalo, food and craft markets, and a chocolate mill. Tonight, gather for an optional Dutch-treat dinner.

Parador de Alcalá, Oaxaca (B, L)

**DOSPEX**

**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

**Oaxaca & Mitla**

Set out for the archaeological site of Mitla, an important Mixtec ceremonial center comprising various palaces, central squares, courts, temples, and tombs. In the nearby village of Atzompa, meet a renowned artist known for ceramic pottery that conveys local legends and customs. Dine in a charming garden setting for lunch before returning to Oaxaca in the mid-afternoon for free time. This evening, visit the Arte de Oaxaca Gallery featuring works by Latin American painters such as Rodolfo Morales, an internationally celebrated artist also known for his philanthropic work in his hometown of Ocotlán. Enjoy the rest of the evening independently.

Parador de Alcalá, Oaxaca (B, L)
and beautiful tombs for royalty and holy leaders, with walls decorated with unique designs and variations of a geometric fretwork. Meander through the neighboring textile market to examine handwoven goods that reflect these ancient designs found at Mitla. Then visit Teotitlán del Valle, a Zapotec village famous for its weaving techniques and colors, the latter of which is created by hand-gathered natural ingredients to make the dyes. We’ll join a family of local weavers, who will host us for a luncheon of homemade goods and then demonstrate the impressive process of carding, spinning, and dyeing the natural wool as they weave on traditional looms. Enjoy a bit of free time upon return on your last afternoon in Oaxaca. Celebrate a memorable week during a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers and bid adiós to this beautiful city.

Parador de Alcalá (B, L, D)

Friday, March 13, 2020

Return to the U.S.

Following breakfast this morning, transfer to the airport for independent flights back to the United States. (B)
See the work of Mexico’s legendary artists including surrealist painter Frida Kahlo and muralists Diego Rivera and José Clemente Orozco. Step inside a private home designed by famed Mexican architect Luis Barragán to view the contemporary architecture and interior design of the space currently owned by one of Mexico’s top art collectors.