

TOURS

Diamond Transportadora
ENGLISH - 2021



ART, CULTURE, TRADITION AND FUN

MEXICO CITY



Imagine yourself visiting one of Latinamerica's oldest and most historical sites; "**Mexico City's Historical Centre**" currently catalogued among the 32 mexican UNESCO sites declared World Heritage.

We'll be visiting some of the most iconic sites from the Precolumbian, Colonial and modern times, such as the **Palacio de Bellas Artes**, the most significant building in the art world of Mexico, as well as being one of the well recognized opera houses around the globe.

We'll see the "**House of Tiles**" one of the most unique and beautiful buildings of the Baroque period in the XVIII century, with its facade walls covered in Talavera tiles, as well as the Art Nouveau murals that decorate the inside courtyard. We'll walk down the pedestrian street Francisco I. Madero, where we see the **St. Francis Church, the first and largest Franciscan Monastery built in Mexico City**, also, the house of Agustín de Iturbide y several other palaces built in the XVIII century.

We'll reach the **Zocalo Square**, with its long history, as well as being part of the centre of the Aztec Empire; "**The Main Temple**".

We'll continue our visit the **Metropolitan Cathedral**, interesting, not only as a church, but also due to it being the sums of the architectural styles of the Baroque as well as the Colonial art of Mexico.

We'll enjoy a break at the restaurant El Mayor before continuing to visit the **National Palace** with the world famous murals by Diego Rivera and later visit the Museo del Arzobispado. Concluding our tour at the Zocalo Square.

Please Note, if time allows, we may visit the National Museum of Anthropology.

PYRAMIDS OF TEOTIHUACAN AND THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE.



Have yourself one of the most beautiful experiences by visiting one of the most holy of shrines that is the most visited in the world. The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with 17 to 20 million visitors a year, having more visitors that St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. As well as the historical buildings, the great circular basilica is awesome as well as grandiose. The construction itself is an amazing feat, since it was built on the muddy shores of the lake of Texcoco. Walking around Tepeyac Hill, where Mary the mother of Jesus left her image imprinted on St. Juan Diego's ayate is an experience that should not be missed.



We'll continue our tour with another visit that is just as magical, travelling to the pre-Columbian city of Teotihuacan, which was one of the largest urban sprawls of the ancient world. You will enjoy the pyramid of the Sun and The Moon, as well as a walk through the Avenue of the Dead. The recognition of this site as one of the most important cultural places is quite universal, since 1987 it is one of the listed World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.



To finish off with more delights of the Mexican experiences, you will enjoy a typical Mexican meal, as well as having the opportunity to see one of the oldest traditions, the extraction of Pulque from the agave, the oldest traditional drink in Mexico, as well as a free tasting of tequila, mezcal and pulque.



Tour duration approximately 6 to 7 hours. Includes: ground transportation, guide (Spanish, English, French) bottled water.

FRIDA AND DIEGO TOUR

COYOACAN, XOCHIMILCO AND THE UNIVERSITY CITY



When one visits Coyoacan, one feels as being transported back in time, the ambience, the restaurants, the shops as well as the markets have been preserved through the centuries. It is in this old neighbourhood that our most magical adventure begins. With such a rich centennial legacy, the Coyoacan neighbourhood drew towards itself a vast variety of artists of different fields, as well as philosophers and actors throughout the 20th Century. We'll visit the Coyoacan Market, where we'll find food, fruits, vegetables as well as typical dishes prepared in the traditional way, traditional crafts of Mexico, we can have lunch in the centre square of Coyoacan where there is a great variety of options to choose from in order to feast the palate.



One of the houses that stands out the most for its fame is the "Blue House" formally known as the Frida Kahlo House Museum. We'll visit this well recognized house, where we'll get more acquainted with Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, the controversial duo, due to their private life as well as their public one. They played an important part in the international political scene when they housed Leon Trotsky and his wife Natalia. You can admire their works on display, as well as where they lived together until Frida's death.

Of course, we cannot but admire a part of the collection of the Frida Kahlo dresses, making her, even today, a worldwide recognizable figure.

Please Note: Tickets must be purchased online well before the tour.



We'll continue our tour due South of Mexico City until we reach Xochimilco. This place housed one of the indigenous groups that allied themselves with Hernan Cortes from the beginning, preserving its chinampas (artificial islands), gardens that are surrounded by water where flowers and edibles are grown for sale. The tradition is to go on a ride punting, while enjoying the landscape and the music as well as the crafts and food and drink being offered, all of this while leisurely riding on a flat bottom boat called Trajinera.



Our next stop will be at the University City. We'll see the famous library, decorated with natural stones by the Architect Juan O'Gorman, one of Diego Rivera's closest Friends.

We'll also get to see the University Stadium that was the base of the Olympic Games in 1968. The facade has a mural, also with natural stones, that alludes to the Olympic Games.

FRIDA & DIEGO TOUR

COYOACÁN, XOCHIMILCO AND THE UNIVERSITY CITY



We'll finish our tour with the Diego Rivera Studio. A building that in no way integrates itself with the rest of the houses around. The construction of the Studio-house was targeted with so many varied opinions regarding its taste in architecture. Built by the architect Juan O'Gorman imitating the style and philosophy of the functionalist Le Corbusier, the building is austere and impersonal. It is comprised of two blocks, on the western side it is Dingo's studio, with its workshop area and the windows facing North to ensure the even light, it still today holds the tools he used for his works, as well as some of his collections of many varied objects. The original furnishings as well as a small bedroom he used to rest when he worked continuously on one of his projects. The second block is the house, with its functional reduced spaces, they display the philosophy by Le Corbusier that spaces are to be used exclusively for which they were designed; the tiny bedroom was to be exclusively for sleeping, there is not a closet, since, in a communist society, there is no accumulation of property, and this is reflected clearly in the architecture. The communication between the two blocks is by a small bridge on the roof. There was once a dark room for Frida, since she learnt from her father the art of photography, today it is the museum offices.

In the adjoining plot, we find the house-studio of Juan O'Gorman, its inside is also as austere and equal elements as the house of Diego. There is nothing original of the belongings of O'Gorman since he sold the house when he was alive.



If this tour is reserved on a Saturday, we may be able to visit the Saturday Bazaar.

In the old town of San Ángel, there is a Bazaar that has been opening its doors since the 1960's. As its name clearly indicates this bazaar only opens on Saturdays. It is here surrounded by old estates from the Colonial period of the 17th and 18th centuries, they still preserve their majestic architecture. The boutiques and shops have attracted many artists from Mexico and around the world, that have become expat residents that have embraced and love Mexican culture that is clearly manifested. Today they continue to display their works with a sensibility of the 21st century, at the same time honouring the ancient pre-Columbian traditions as well as the colonial past. From the most economical of paper pieces to the finest silver and gold, everything is displayed with pride of maintaining all the traditions and at the same time the innovations.

There is also plenty to eat at the Saturday Bazaar, as well as the San Jacinto Square, with traditional restaurants as well as modern cuisine, the gastronomical offer is both varied and unforgettable.



The duration is approximately 6 hours. Includes: Ground Transportation, Guide (Spanish, English or French) and water bottle.

MERCADOS TOUR



Definitely “Markets” are an integral part of Mexican culture. This practice of selling their products in a market came to be due to the pre-Columbian practices; the native Americans did not use money, basing their economy on bartering and trading, markets were simply open areas. It is Hernan Cortes who begins the “Mercy Market” La Merced, entrusting the Priests of Our Lady of Mercy to oversee that the natives were no longer taken advantage of by the conquistadores. Therefore, they established a series of specialized markets that are still active today.

We begin our visits with the market of “Jamaica”, it took the name of the street where it is located. This market specialises in flowers from Mexico and from abroad. Here you can find all the materials that are needed for people who own their own flower business as well as for people who make the occasional flower arrangement. There is also those who provide the arrangements to go, or you can hire a specialist that can make the arrangement to your specifications.



We continue our tour toward the “La Viga” market, the name comes from an old river that used to be right behind the market, this we’ll see without abandoning our vehicle, we see all the different places that specialize in seafood and fish, serving their specialties all year round.

Continuing our tour, we visit the area of “La Merced,” from our vehicle we can see the enormous variety of products offered, mainly clothes manufactured in Mexico, as well as a great different variety of low-cost electronics.



And you cannot do a market visit without a trip to the Market of San Juan. This market has food from all over the world, from the awfully familiar serrano Spanish hams black hoof and bellota, as well as cheeses domestic and imported. Also, you can purchase here edible bugs such as grasshoppers, chincuiltes worms, different types of scorpions, tarantulas, among others. You may taste wines from Mexico as well as imported, also there are beers, mezal as well as plenty of other drinks. You may also want to try the famous quesadillas with an assorted exotic meat such as boar, alligator, crocodile and plenty of other eccentric meats from animals and reptiles.

This grand day may not end without a visit to the great Garibaldi Square. It is here that we find the Tequila Museum, learning the history of this world-famous drink we can see a collection of over 500 different bottles of Tequila, that now has denomination of origin. At the end of our visit, we will have a tasting and we can enjoy great Mexican food in a typical setting surrounded by mariachi music in the most famous belly button of all the mariachi the Garibaldi Square, where mariachi bands offer their services to liven any party 24 hours a day!



Tour duration estimated 6 hours. Includes ground transportation, Guide (Spanish, English or French) and bottled water.

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE



San Miguel de Allende favourite city to visit by travellers, invites you to return again and again!

Awarded the second-best city as a travel destination in the world by the World's Best Awards 2020, catalogued as World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Magical city that takes you back in time, from the very road that we take to get there, known as "Independence Route," which crosses the main cities that the "insurgents" used to get together secretly to plot the independence of New Spain to become The Mexican Nation.

When we walk through this marvellous place and promenade the cobble stone streets, we realize that art permeates every nook and cranny, with its countless shops and an amazing crafts market of unnamed authors to the Aurora Factory that holds some of the most recognized contemporary artists renowned the world over.

Undoubtedly one of the major attractions is The Saint Michael the Archangel Parrish. The inside houses plenty of great artistic treasures. The altar piece on the main altar is a Neo-Classical jewel, all its decorative elements are gilded. The altar itself as well as the steps are made of red marble that was expressly imported from Italy, among so many other treasures.

Of course, in a place filled with magic, the typical Mexican gastronomy cannot be a miss. There are all kinds of places to eat, from the humblest of meals, that is quite delicious, to the most delectable of dishes created by world famous chefs.

Moreover, the natural enclave is spectacular and, there are so many more activities to do while visiting.

You must live the experience!



Tour duration approximately 10 hours. Includes: ground transportation, guide (Spanish, English, French) bottled water.

PUEBLA AND CHOLULA



Puebla is one of Mexico's most important touristic sites, due to its unparalleled cultural, historical and gastronomical importance. But, before we arrive at this magical city, we'll take a ride through the famous volcanoes of Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl, you'll love the legend!

Our first stop will be the town of Cholula, in Puebla, where the largest pyramid in the world can be found. The construction started during the 8th century and was continually added on until it reached a width of 700 meters. We'll then visit the church of Santa Maria Tonanzintla, the greatest example of the baroque architecture interpreted by the native Americans.



We'll continue our trip towards Puebla City, administrative centre for the state of Puebla, originally founded by the Bishop Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, basing the original design on a very vivid dream; where he saw the angels of Heaven building a City designed by God. The greatness and the wealth of its people is mirrored by the buildings and the plenty of treasures that decorate them. Puebla's Cathedral, as well as the Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary, are only two examples of the magnificence of the art influence that Puebla acquired.



The gastronomical delights are one of the most emblematic elements of the entire State of Puebla, making its culinary arts a true legacy that has been passed down the generations without change, it is therefore that the mole poblano, stuffed poblano chiles in a walnut sauce, and the sweet potato and pumpkin confections as well as the sugar skulls are now catalogued as Intangible Mexican Heritage.

The state's typical female costume is one that has represented Mexico around the world, it is the most recognizable and it holds a history that joined the world of the far East with the New World.



The tour has a duration of approximately of 7 hours. Includes ground transportation, guide (Spanish, English or French) and bottled water.

TULA AND TEPOTZOTLÁN



Today we shall be visiting one of the most transcendental pre-Columbian cities. Tula or the Great Tolan, associated with Quetzalcoatl. Using the city as the seat of knowledge of the most sublime arts, the Mexica took the word Toltec as a synonym of ultimate knowledge and the connection with the gods.



Established around 400 B.C. and occupied by different groups at different times, the city is mainly comprised of two elements in its history. Tula the small, the initial settlement and later Tula the Greater which contains the most emblematic buildings in the city.

The most relevant buildings in the site are 3, the first is the A building, with reliefs on the walls which are like the ones in Chichen Itza, as well of the elements of the Chaac Mool, and the burnt temple, with its columns that are like those in the temple of the thousand columns of Chichen Itza,

The second one or B building, is the most emblematic temple, it is the Quetzalcoatl one, with the most impressive columns in the form of 4 warriors dressed in the attire for war, however at the same time with elements of the ball game it shows the ritual importance for the continuation of life. These "Atlantean figures" have become emblematic not only for the State of Hidalgo, but for Mexico as well.

The third building or C building is the burnt temple with multiple columns like the thousand columns building of Chichen Itza.



Finishing our visit, we shall continue our trip heading southbound towards the city of Tepotzotlan, that is filled with the ambience of a small town and the beauty of the central square where all of society has gathered since times immemorial, it is presided by the old Saint Francis Xavier College, currently the Colonial Museum.

The Saint Francis Xavier Church is no longer in use for worship, it is an exceptional example of the Baroque-Churrigueresque style and has been completely restored and preserved spectacularly. This space is used these days for cultural events.



The tour has a duration of approximately of 7 hours. Includes ground transportation, guide (Spanish, English or French) and bottled water.

XOCHICALCO AND TEPOZTLÁN



Our journey will take us through the hills and mountains that surround the south of the Anahuac Basin, the imposing volcano Ajusco, with the Pico del Aguila is a popular spot to do some mountain climbing for the amazing view of the valleys that surround it.

We'll continue our ride through the Mexican landscape of thick forests full of pines of the Oyamel and Viking variety. We'll get to see the fields and the sheep and the agave that dot the countryside. There are plenty of crafts from the wool as well as the drinks from agave in the area.



Tepoztlan is quite the picturesque village, mystical as well as full of handcrafts, colour, tradition and delicious food. This village has the charm of the cobbled Stone streets and the traditional Mexican colonial architecture. The village contrasts against the Tepozteco hill, where the pyramid can be found. Built between 1150 and 1350 AD, this ceremonial centre was dedicated to Ometochtli-Tepxtécatl, the deity of pulque, fertility and the harvest. The Tepozteco hill was declared Natural Protected Area in 1937. In order to get to the top, it takes approximately one hour, it is required that you are in a fairly good shape and wear boots of foot gear that is appropriate for a climb, as well as comfortable clothes.

The ruins of Xochicalco are of an exceptional beauty, with the carvings on the walls that display the heritage left by its founding inhabitants the Olmec - Xicalanca People. The name translates as "In the house of the flowers."

Founded previously to Teotihuacan, it continued to be inhabited even after the fall of it. The greatest attraction is the observatory, that allows to see a sunbeam shine directly into the cave perpendicularly at noon, thus demonstrating the vast knowledge which the inhabitants possessed of the astronomical phenomena. We can also see the different pyramids where the carvings of Quetzalcoatl are displayed with the influence of Teotihuacan as well as the Mayan. We can also see the ball courts and the sweat baths.



The tour has a duration of approximately of 7 hours. Includes ground transportation, guide (Spanish, English or French) and bottled water.

CUERNAVACA AND TAXCO



Our ride will take us through some of the hills and mountains that surround the south side of the Anahuac Basin, the imposing volcano Ajusco with its Pico del Aguila, that is a pleasure to climb on foot to admire the landscape of three valleys that surround it.

We continue our ride through the Mexican countryside with the lush landscape of the perennial woods of Oyamel and Viking pines with dot most of the land. We'll see the sheep and agave for mezcal and the sweaters and scarfs and shawls and gloves that are a beautiful part of the woollen Mexican knitted handicrafts.

We will descend on the old Valley of Cuauhnahuac, today known as Cuernavaca, a large industrial city that began with the wool textile factories as well as other industrial plants in the area of Civac, greenhouses as well as rose fields as well as the very famous Miel Carlota these have made Cuernavaca an idyllic place to live. The temperate climate throughout the year made in olden times award it the motto "The City of Eternal Spring."



We shall continue through the "Highway of the Sun, we'll arrive at the Silver City, Taxco of Alarcon, old mining town, that, due to the immense silver deposits was in its heyday the envy of the entire world, due to the abundances provided to the miners. The beauty of the city is preserved along with the tradition of not allowing any modern looking building to be erected unless it be in the colonial Mexican style. Preserving thus the Mediterranean flavour that characterizes it, with cobbled stone streets and whitewashed walls, terracotta tiles cover the roofs, one hundred churches and centuries of tradition make Taxco one of the most famous silver centres around the globe.

The silversmiths of Taxco put all of their best efforts into offering the most traditional designs that are exhibited next to the most avant-garde designs of fashion, all of the silver offered is displayed by the shop keepers with pleasure and pride, the great jewellers display their prizes won that show their ability in the National Contest of Silversmiths.

The tour has a duration of approximately of 7 hours. Includes ground transportation, guide (Spanish, English or French) and bottled water.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY



At the appointed time and the appointed place, we will board our vehicle. Today's departure will take us towards the west. Through some imposing mountains we will go through La Marquesa as well as a wooded area that frames the exit of Mexico City. We'll descend on route, through the area of Lerma, from there we'll be taking the road through Toluca's industrial zone and will continue our trip towards the city of Valle de Bravo. Just outside before arriving in the city we find the sanctuary of the Monarch Butterflies in Piedra Herrada.

Here we'll climb a hill where we can climb the first $\frac{3}{4}$ part of the way on horseback (cost not included) or we can climb on foot, it is recommended that you wear comfortable clothes and proper shoes for light climbing. We'll reach the high part of the mountain, where we will find the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, where they spend the winter months.

Coming down from Canada, from the Quebec forests, as well as those from British Columbia, and from the western USA with an instinctive drive from thousands of years, the butterflies all leave at the same time towards the south. For years, no one knew where the butterflies were in Mexico they were hiding, until they were recently discovered between the Michoacan State and the Mexico State, they descend by the millions. The old tradition was thought that the butterflies were the souls of the dead that would return to visit, since their arrival coincided with the feast of the "Day of the Dead" around November the 1st and 2nd.



By the time we finish our visit it will be lunchtime, so we will board our vehicle in order to go to the lake of Valle de Bravo. This lake has been enjoyed by locals since pre-Columbian times, surrounded by multiple waterfalls, as well as thick forests. Valle de Bravo has become a place of rest for people vacationing from all over the world. We'll enjoy our lunch on one of the large boats that is floating on the edge of the lake. Here with the view of the entire lake we'll enjoy the company of the many ducks that approach the boats hoping to get some food.



Duración aprox 7 horas. Incluye: Transportación, Guía (Español, Ingles, Francés) y Agua.



www.diamondtransportadora.com

Tel. +52 553645 1956



