Mexico: Central 2 North America Tour (Puerto Arista, Monte Alban Biosphere / Group / 9 Days)

Day 1: Chiapa de Corzo

Bienvenidos a Mexico! The country with a pleasant and warm climate, diverse landscapes, superb art and architecture, impressive pyramids, rich cultural heritage & traditions, unique UNESCO-listed cuisine, friendly people, and, of course, millions of ways to have fun a great time!

Arrive at any time and transfer to your accommodation in Chiapa de Corzo – Tuxtla Gutiérrez International Airport is about 30 km away from Chiapa de Corzo and is also easily accessible by taxis and local transport. Chiapa de Corzo, a colonial site of tradition and culture, is framed with the warmth of its people, constitutes one of the most beautiful cities in the State of Chiapas. Located just 15 minutes from the capital city; its value lies in its history because it was the first city founded by the Spanish during the 16th century.

Take this day to acclimatize and have rest before meeting your group and Tour Leader the next day in the morning. If you arrive early and have enough time, go to explore the place – we will provide you with suggestions for optional activities.

• Accommodation: conveniently located, locally-owned hotel/B&B in Chiapa de Corzo.



Day 2: Chiapa de Corzo - Sumidero Canyon - Chiapa de Corzo

In the morning, after breakfast, meet your group and Tour Leader and go to take an impressive boat trip in Sumidero Canyon.

Once there, enjoy the sight of majestic waterfalls, enter mystical caves and see the cliff where Chiapanec Warriors committed suicide instead of being forced to surrender to the Spanish Conquistadores.

Afterward, go back to Chiapa de Corzo: accommodation, orientation walk of the historic center, optional dinner & get-together with the group.

- Accommodation: conveniently located, locally-owned hotel/B&B in Chiapa de Corzo.
- Meals Included: breakfast.
- <u>Activities Included</u>: boat tour of Sumidero Canyon, orientation walk in Chiapa de Corzo.



Day 3: Chiapa de Corzo - Puerto Arista

In the morning, move to a quiet beach town Puerto Arista on the Pacific coast of Chiapas. Check-in at one of the hotels near the beach and enjoy the sea! Optional dinner & get-together with the group in the evening.

- Accommodation: conveniently located, locally-owned hotel/B&B in Puerto Arista.
- Meals Included: breakfast.



Day 4: Puerto Arista - Mitla

Enjoy the sea & sun in the morning before going to Mitla, visiting one of the artisanal mezcal factories on your way. Taste this typical drink from heaven and learn more about the history behind it. Afterward, transfer to the nearby "Magical Town" of Mitla. Orientation walk of the historic center, check-in, optional dinner & get-together with the group in one of the local restaurants.

- Accommodation: conveniently located, locally-owned hotel/B&B in Mitla.
- Meals Included: breakfast.
- Activities Included: orientation walk in Mitla; guided visit to an artisanal mezcal factory.



Day 5: Mitla - Hierve el Agua - Monte Alban - Oaxaca

In the morning, after breakfast, transfer to Hierve el Agua. The location for some of the "Top posts" on Instagram, this series of spectacularly sited mineral springs is a great place to enjoy the impressive landscapes and sunsets. Then, go to Monte Alban Archeological Zone. The former capital of the Zapotec people is today an illustrious ruin, but for over a thousand years it served as the second-largest ceremonial site in Mesoamerica, after Teotihuacán.

In the afternoon, continue our "Mexico: South 2 North Adventures" tour in Oaxaca. A cultural colossus fit to rival anywhere in Mexico for history, gastronomy, and colorful manifestations of indigenous culture, Oaxaca is a complex but intensely attractive city whose majestic churches and refined plazas have deservedly earned it a UNESCO World Heritage badge. Accommodation, walking tour, optional dinner & get-together with the group in the evening.

- Accommodation: conveniently located, locally-owned hotel/B&B in Oaxaca.
- Meals Included: breakfast.
- Activities Included: guided visit to Hierve el Agua, guided visit to Monte Alban ruins, walking tour in Oaxaca.



Day 6: Oaxaca - Tehuacan-Cuicatlan Biosphere Reserve - Puebla

After breakfast, go to the UNESCO-listed Tehuacan-Cuicatlan Biosphere Reserve. Located in a complex system of mountain ranges and valleys, this region has played an essential role in the development of agriculture in Mesoamerica. In the afternoon, move to Puebla. Once a bastion of conservatism and tradition, the city retains a well-preserved UNESCO-listed historic center, a stunning cathedral, and a wealth of beautiful churches. Accommodation, walking tour, optional dinner & get-together with the group in the evening.

- Accommodation: conveniently located hotel/B&B in Puebla
- Meals Included: breakfast
- Activities Included: guided visit to Tehuacan-Cuicatlan Biosphere Reserve, walking tour in Puebla



Day 7: Puebla - Cholula - Teotihuacán - Mexico City

In the morning, continue our "Mexico: Central 2 North America" tour in a nearby "Magical Town" of Cholula. The oldest city in America inhabited without interruption since its origins, it proudly rises up next to the smoking Popocatepetl Volcano. Once there, visit the former Franciscan convent of San Gabriel, one of the oldest in America, and the Sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Los Remedios. Built by Spaniards in the 16th century, it was placed right over the Great Pyramid of Cholula – the biggest one in the world by volume.

Afterward, our adventure tour will continue to Teotihuacán. A fabulous UNESCO-listed archaeological zone, it was Mexico's biggest ancient city and the capital of the country's largest pre-Hispanic empire. Lunch around Teotihuacan and evening arrival to Mexico City: check-in, optional dinner & get-together with the group.

- - Accommodation: conveniently located, locally-owned hotel/B&B in Mexico City.
 - Meals Included: breakfast, lunch.
 - Activities Included: guided visits to Teotihuacán & Cholula archaeological zones; walking tour in Cholula.



Day 8: Mexico City

Join your Tour Leader and start the day with a walking tour around the UNESCO-listed historic center of Mexico City and a visit to the National Museum of Anthropology. Then, choose by yourself what to do next - your Tour Leader will be happy to give suggestions. Optional dinner & get-together with the group in the evening.

- <u>Transportation</u>: walking, public transportation.
- Accommodation: conveniently located, locally-owned hotel/B&B in Mexico City.
- Meals Included: breakfast.
- Activities Included: walking tour of the Historic Center of Mexico City; guided visit to the National Museum of Anthropology.



Details

Meeting Point	Exact time and location to be specified in the trip notes that are sent 1-2 weeks before the tour.
Departure Time	6:00 PM
Languages	English & Spanish
What to take with you?:	Comfortable clothes & shoes; swimming suit & slippers/water shoes; a smaller backpack for daily tours; hat/cap, sunglasses & sunscreen; travel insurance; good mood & curiosity.

Notes

ACCOMMODATIONS: An exact list of accommodations is sent together with trip notes 2 weeks before the departure date. All accommodations are centrally located, tourist-class, locally-owned properties with private facilities in each room. We can arrange pre- & post-tour accommodations but not earlier than 2 weeks before the departure when we send you final trip notes. **ROOM TYPES:** Shared Twin Room: Single bed in a twin room shared with another co-traveler of the same gender. This option is specifically designed for solo travelers and applies just to group departures. Double/Twin Room: Private room for 2 people. You can choose between 1 double bed or 2 single beds. Triple Room: Private room for 3 people. It normally has 1 double bed for 2 people and 1 single bed for 1 person. Quad Room: Private room for 4 people. It normally has 2 double beds for 2 people each.

If none of the room types above fits you, please contact us and we will send you a personalized quote.

TRANSPORT: The type of vehicle depends on the size of the group and may include car, 7-seater, minivan.

PHYSICAL CONDITION: This tour involves a decent amount of walking & hiking. Therefore, travelers should have at least moderate physical fitness condition.

ACTIVITIES: Participation in all activities is optional – just be sure to be in time for daily departures. Most of the included activities such as walking tours (>2h, normally in historic centers of bigger cities), orientation walks (<2h, normally in smaller towns & villages), guided visits & hikes focus on local nature, history, culture & gastronomy and are led by a Tour Leader. You will receive suggestions for optional activities in trip notes. Extra day tours and activities can be booked by your Tour Leader for an extra fee.

GROUP VS. PRIVATE: Our multi-day tours offer both group and private departures (see pricing at checkout). Group tour – take a scheduled trip with other travelers. Private tour – take a trip on your own, with friends or family. Private tours are customizable (you can depart any day and we can add additional stops & activities on your request) and thus may cost more than group tours.

PRICING: * The price of the tour/person depends on the number of travelers and the room/tour option you choose.

VISA: All foreign visitors, regardless of their nationality, traveling to Mexico for tourism, business, or in transit to another destination, *are exempt from presenting a Mexican visa* as long as they have a valid visa issued by any of the following countries: Canada, Japan, the United States of America, the United Kingdom or any of the countries comprising the Schengen Area (more info).