

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR DESIGN, INC.

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Alumnae Association of Smith College Oaxaca: Expressing Culture through Art February 18-24, 2009

DETAILED ITINERARY

Wednesday, February 18, 2009: Depart the U.S. for Oaxaca

- Arrive into Oaxaca on independent arrivals.
- Take taxis to the five-star Camino Real Hotel.
- The evening is independent.

Thursday, February 19, 2009: Oaxaca

- At 7:00 a.m., El Refectorio Restaurant begins serving breakfast.
- At 8:30 a.m., meet for Professor Ann Zulawski's lecture on the Mexican Revolution of 1910.
- At 10:00 a.m., meet in the hotel lobby, and depart on an orientation walking tour of Oaxaca.
- First, visit the Oaxacan Cultures Museum, which houses a vast collection of historical, archaeological, and ethnographic objects, including over 500 objects of gold, jade, amber, coral, and silver excavated from Tomb Seven at Monte Albán.
- Next, visit Santo Domingo Church, famous for its exuberant baroque interior.
- Walk to the festive *zócalo*, Oaxaca's lively city center, and enjoy lunch at Asador Vasco overlooking the *zócalo*.
- In the afternoon, visit the governmental palace, and view outstanding murals by Arturo Bustos that depict the struggles of Oaxaca's independence.
- Explore the colorful city market, and stop at a chocolate mill for a demonstration of chocolate making and a sample of this rich Oaxacan specialty.
- In the evening, meet in the hotel lobby, and walk to Smith alumna Margaret Barclay's private home, who will host a reception in your honor.

(B, L, Rec.)

Friday, February 20, 2009: Oaxaca and Ocotlán

- At 7:00 a.m., El Refectorio Restaurant begins serving breakfast.
- At 8:30 a.m., meet in the hotel lobby and depart on a full-day excursion into the valley of Oaxaca to discover the wealth and variety of the region's arts and crafts.
- Begin at San Bartolo Coyotopec, famous for its black pottery production, and view a demonstration by one of the town's potters.
- Continue to the Zapotec village of Ocotlán, and enjoy free time to explore the city's Friday market.

- At 12:30 p.m., meet at the town hall, and view its whimsical murals painted by the late Rodolfo Morales, an internationally celebrated artist who dedicated his resources to restoring Ocotlán.
- Following lunch in the refectory of the Ocotlán convent, visit the town's Popular Arts Museum.
- At the studio of artist Josefina Aguilar, see her brightly painted ceramic figures that playfully depict everyday life in Mexico.
- Continue to San Martín Tilcajete to see the "fantasy" woodcarvings by village artisans, and stop in the studio of one of the most highly regarded woodcarvers for a demonstration.
- Return to Oaxaca in the afternoon, and the evening is at leisure.

(B, L)

Saturday, February 21, 2009: Monte Albán and Atzompa

- At 7:00 a.m., El Refectorio Restaurant begins serving breakfast.
- At 8:00 a.m., meet in the hotel lobby, and drive to the dramatic archaeological site of Monte Albán, an important Zapotec ceremonial center, and learn about this ancient civilization while viewing the remains of its central plaza, palaces, temples, tombs, and ball court.
- Continue to the village of Santa María Atzompa, renowned for its production of emerald green-glazed pottery. Stop at an artisan's studio and then the Mercado de Artesanías, a village cooperative for artists.
- Following free time for lunch, visit the important paper workshop opened by artist Francisco Toledo, Oaxaca's most renowned living artist.
- Return to Oaxaca, and enjoy free time for relaxation.
- This evening, enjoy a reception with the director of one of Oaxaca's most important commercial galleries.
- Dinner is independent.

(B, Rec.)

Sunday, February 22, 2009: Oaxaca and Mitla

- At 7:00 a.m., El Refectorio Restaurant begins serving breakfast.
- At 8:30 a.m., meet for Professor Ann Zulawski's lecture on the Mexican mural tradition.
- Depart by bus for the archaeological site of Mitla, an important Mixtec ceremonial center, famous for the unique geometric designs used to decorate the palace walls and other buildings.
- Enjoy free time for shopping at the adjacent textile market.
- Following lunch in a local restaurant, drive to Teotitlán del Valle, a Zapotec village famous for its weaving techniques and use of natural dyes. Meet a family of weavers, who will demonstrate the dyeing of natural wool and weaving on treadle looms.
- Return to Oaxaca, and the evening is at leisure.

(B, L)

Monday, February 23, 2009:

Oaxaca

- At 7:00 a.m., El Refectorio Restaurant begins serving breakfast.
- This morning, visit the Museo Rufino Tamayo, donated to Oaxaca by the artist Rufino Tamayo. This museum contains the personal collection of the artist, containing almost a thousand priceless artifacts representing the artistic developments of the pre-Hispanic era.
- The afternoon is at leisure to explore Oaxaca independently.
- This evening, bid *adiós* to Oaxaca during a farewell dinner at La Catedral.

(B, D)

Tuesday, February 24, 2009:

Depart Oaxaca for home

- At 5:30 a.m., El Refectorio Restaurant begins serving Continental breakfast.

For those departing on Continental #2125, departing Oaxaca at 8:35 am:

- At 5:30 a.m., place your luggage outside of your hotel room door for collection by porters.
- At 6:15 a.m., collect your luggage from the hotel lobby and depart for the airport.

(B)