An Art Lover’s MEXICO

Art, Archaeological & Architectural Treasures of Mexico City & Oaxaca

NOVEMBER 9–16, 2018
Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends,

Smith Travel invites you to An Art Lover’s Mexico, November 9–16, 2018. Begin with three days in Mexico City, a critical center for creativity that has attracted and nurtured great minds like Henry James, Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Leon Trotsky. Scattered throughout the city’s urban core are oases of beauty, from the colorful mosaics that adorn a dozen public buildings in the historic center to the artistic domestic aura of the homes of Frida Kahlo and art patroness Dolores Olmedo. Great architecture abounds from ancient temples and colonial churches to the early 20th-century Belle Époque Museo de Bellas Artes and iconic modern buildings by Ricardo Legorreta and Pritzker Prize winner Luis Barragán.

Then fly to Oaxaca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a rich artistic legacy that stretches back for centuries. Largely shielded from modernity in the Oaxaca Valley, the city is an ideal haven for artists and craftspeople, who have drawn inspiration from the valley’s rich indigenous traditions, the brilliant sunlight peaking over the mountains, and images of lush bougainvillea spilling into historic colonial courtyards. Meet with artists and craftspeople in their studios and visit remote craft-producing villages to explore woodcarvers’ workshops, ceramicists’ homes, and weaving centers. At Monte Albán and Mitla, learn about Zapotec and Mixtec civilizations under the masterful guidance of your Oaxacan guide.

Throughout the week, sample the succulent molés and tamales for which Mexico is world-famous. Follow expert guides on special tours to great museums, gardens, and works of art. Relax at unforgettable hotels: the Camino Real Hotel designed by Ricardo Legorreta and the delightful Quinta Real Oaxaca, a converted 16th-century convent. We hope that you will join Smith alumnae and friends on this Mexican sojourn. Space is limited, so reserve your place today!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director for Travel,
Office of Alumnae Relations
This custom travel program has been created uniquely for Smith College.

Friday, November 9, 2018

Welcome to Mexico City

Fly to Mexico City and take an afternoon group transfer to the Camino Real Polanco, a unique modernist hotel designed by Ricardo Legorreta. At 4:30 pm, depart by coach for the world-renowned National Anthropology Museum to see exquisite sculpture and artifacts from Mexico’s pre-Columbian civilizations. Continue to one of Mexico City’s best restaurants for a gourmet welcome dinner.

Camino Real Polanco (D)

Saturday, November 10, 2018

Mexico City’s Murals

View spectacular murals around Mexico City’s zócalo (main square), including works by José Clemente Orozco in San Ildefonso and Diego Rivera in the National Palace or the Ministry of Public Education. Following a luncheon of Mexican specialties, visit the iconic Palacio de Correos built predominantly in the Spanish Renaissance Revival style. At the Museo de Bellas Artes, see its remarkable Art Deco interior and outstanding murals by Orozco and Rivera as well as David Siqueiros and Rufino Tamayo, the same artist who painted the mural in the atrium of the Brown Fine Arts Center. This evening, gather for a cocktail in the hotel’s memorable Blue Bar, and admire the famous large-scale painting El Hombre Frente al Infinito by Tamayo.

Camino Real Polanco (B, L, Cocktail)

Sunday, November 11, 2018

Art in Splendid Settings

Drive to the Dolores Olmedo Museum to see an excellent collection of works by Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo in a magnificent hacienda setting. Enjoy a luncheon of traditional home cooking at the Casa Pedregal, a privately owned house designed by notable Mexican architect Luis Barragán. Continue to the Blue House in Coyoacán, the lifelong home of Frida Kahlo. The museum houses artwork by Kahlo, Rivera, and other artists along with the couple’s Mexican folk art, pre-Hispanic artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia displayed in the rooms of the house, which remains much as it was in the 1950s. The evening is at leisure.

Camino Real Polanco (B, L)

Monday, November 12, 2018

Artist Studio Visit & Oaxaca Arrival

Following breakfast, check out of the hotel. Drive to the beautiful apartment of one of Mexico’s most prominent emerging artists and learn about works-in-progress during a visit to his studio. After lunch in a popular restaurant, proceed to the airport for a nonstop, hour-long flight to Oaxaca. Drive to the five-star La Quinta Real and check in. Walk to a nearby restaurant and savor a delicious dinner under the stars on the restaurant’s lovely colonial patio.

Quinta Real (B, L, D)

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Oaxaca’s Treasures

During an orientation city tour, see the impressive Santo Domingo Church, described by Aldous Huxley as “one of the most extravagantly gorgeous churches in the world.” At the Oaxacan Cultures Museum, housed in a former Dominican monastery, see magnificent Zapotec jewelry discovered in “Tomb 7” of Monte Albán. Visit the beautifully renovated Ex-Convento de San Pablo, a multistory learning center including a remarkable textile museum. Following a luncheon of Oaxacan specialties, stroll along Oaxaca’s charming cobblestone streets to the zócalo, the main plaza and heart of the colonial city. Continue on foot to the Museo
Tour Information

Thursday, November 15, 2018
**Mitla Archaeology & Weaving Village**

Drive into the Oaxacan Valley to the palatial ruins of the Mitla archaeological site featuring impressive stone mosaics. Original Mitla designs are incorporated into the patterns of distinctive textiles displayed in the textile market near the site. Continue to Teotitlán del Valle, a major Zapotec weaving village known for its traditional weaving techniques and use of natural dyes. Meet one of the village’s most famous families of weavers, who will demonstrate the hand dying of wool and weaving on treadle looms before treating you to lunch. Return to Oaxaca in the afternoon. This evening, bid adiós to Oaxaca during a farewell dinner in a memorable location.

*Quinta Real (B, L, D)*

Friday, November 16, 2018
**Return to the U.S.**

Following breakfast, join a group airport transfer to the Oaxaca airport for independent flights back to the United States.

*Quinta Real (B, L, Rec.)*
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Name (as listed on passport)  Smith Affiliation

Name (as listed on passport)  Smith Affiliation

Address (billing if using credit card for payment)

City  State  Zip

Daytime Telephone  Cell Phone

E-mail Address

Please send mailings to my email to receive information more quickly

Number of Persons  Amount Enclosed

DEPOSIT BY:

- Visa or MasterCard
- Check (payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.)

Card Number  Exp. (mm/yy)

Billing Zip Code (if different from above)

Rooming Options: (please select)

- Double Occupancy
- Single Supplement ($895)
- I will share a room with:

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI), Smith College, and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN
Registration invalid without signature

Signature  Date

Signature  Date

Complete and return to:
Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations
33 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063
Tel: 800-225-2029
Fax: 413-585-2015
Email: alumtrav@smith.edu

Tour Price Inclusions
| Accommodations as outlined in the itinerary (double occupancy); breakfast daily, 6 lunches, 3 dinners, 2 receptions; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert, local English-speaking guides; entrance fees for included visits; gratuities for guides and drivers; transportation by private, deluxe motor coach; one group airport transfer on arrival and departure as outlined; porterage of two pieces of luggage per person at hotel; taxes, services, and porterage fees. |

Tour Price Exclusions
| Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport porterage; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time or marked “optional” on the itinerary; personal items; personal services such as laundry, wines, liquors, and mineral water; travel extensions and transportation not included on the itinerary; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; any item not specifically listed as included. |

Figure at Monte Albán / Graeme Churchard

with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Smith Travel will provide travel insurance information upon registration. For additional information, please contact Smith Travel at 800-225-2029.

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI), Smith College, and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.
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Meet local artists, woodcarvers, ceramicists, and weavers in their studios and workshops.

Explore the dramatic life and work of Frida Kahlo at the lushly landscaped Dolores Olmedo Museum and at her lifelong home, Casa Azul.