

# Discovery

## “Colonial Cities”



### 1st day. Mexico City

Arrival at Mexico City airport. Meeting with our assistant, transfer to the hotel, and overnight stay.

### 2nd day. Mexico City/Querétaro

Breakfast at the hotel. Pick up the rental car at a nearby location of the car rental company. Departure towards Queretaro. About 50 km away, don't miss the visit to the archaeological site of Teotihuacán. This site offers one of the most spectacular sights in Mexico, with its grand avenues, pyramids, and temples. Among the largest and most interesting constructions is the Pyramid of the Sun. The Pyramid of the Moon is smaller compared to that of the Sun, but from its summit, one can admire an exceptional panorama. Also interesting are the sculptures of Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent, the heads of some deities including Tlaloc, the rain god, the Jaguar Palace with its blood-red murals, and the Temple of Feathered Shells. Continuation by rental car towards Querétaro, founded in 1531 by Franciscan monks. Arrival, hotel check-in. Late afternoon available to visit the historic center of this wonderful city. Overnight stay.



### 3rd day. Querétaro/San Miguel de Allende

In the morning, it will be possible to finish the visit of the city center of Queretaro and then head to San Miguel de Allende. Arrival in the afternoon in San Miguel de Allende and check-in at the hotel. Overnight stay.

### 4th day. San Miguel de Allende

Day at leisure to visit the city, located on the steep slope of a hill overlooking the Rio Laja, a true gem of colonial architecture with its characteristic cobblestone streets, houses, gardens, and shops. It is famous for its large immigrant community. The influx began in the 1940s, when artists, writers, and other creative figures arrived in the city to attend the Escuela de Bellas Artes. To protect the charm of the city, the Mexican government declared it a national monument in 1926. The main square, called "Jardin," is very picturesque, where you can find the Templo de San Rafael and the Parish of San Miguel Arcángel. Next to the Parish is the Casa de Allende, now the site of the Museo Histórico, one of the best-preserved examples of 18th-century Spanish architecture. A peculiar aspect of San Miguel de Allende is the celebrations and religious festivals that take place almost every month in honor of the various saints and patrons. Overnight stay.

### 5th day. San Miguel de Allende/Guanajuato

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, departure for Guanajuato, the most beautiful silver city in Mexico, which juts out from a rugged ravine and climbs up barren hills that once provided a quarter of the silver production. Along the way, there is a possibility to make a stop in Dolores Hidalgo, the cradle of Mexican independence. Arrival in Guanajuato and check-in at the hotel. Time available for a brief initial visit to this charming city. Overnight stay.

### 6th day. Guanajuato

Day to dedicate to the visit of Guanajuato. The late 1800s saw the construction of a modern network of underground tunnels that made communication easier. The result is a center devoid of traffic lights and signs, which became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. Much of the city's architecture was built with the wealth from the gold and silver deposits in this region, among the richest in the world, making Guanajuato a monument of art. We will visit the important Museum of Popular Art and History, which exhibits a collection of regional art, a 17th-century palace, and the sumptuous 20th-century Juarez Theater with its Doric columns and large statues. Overnight stay.

**7th day. Guanajuato/Pátzcuaro/Morelia**

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, departure for the State of Michoacan, a region rich in lakes and dormant volcanoes. Just before arriving in Morelia, we suggest a stop and a visit to the small but picturesque village of Pátzcuaro. It is a small colonial gem in the heart of the State of Michoacan, in colonial style, with imposing churches, charming cobblestone streets, and buildings in white and red stone. The beautiful square is named after Vasco de Quiroga, the city's bishop. It is surrounded by hills, lakes, rivers, and lush valleys. Continuation to Morelia, capital of the Tarascan Indians and the State of Michoacán. Arrival and hotel check-in. Overnight stay.

**8th day. Morelia/Mexico City**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning to dedicate to visiting the city that retains its colonial charm with palaces, churches, and gardens. Most of the historic monuments in Morelia are built with pink stone, featuring very particular architecture: the ornaments of the buildings reflect the so-called "Baroque of Morelia" in which the decorative elements are contained in unique blocks of stone. Its Cathedral is a fusion of styles: Neoclassical, Baroque, and Herreresque. Morelia is a pleasant town to explore on foot; we will visit the Cathedral, the Government Palace, and the Conservatory of Roses, which exude the charm of an ancient and aristocratic era. At the end, departure for Mexico City, arrival in the evening and accommodation in a hotel. Overnight stay.

**9th day. Mexico City**

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, return of the rental car at a nearby rental agency location. End of our services.

**NOTE:****Minimum 2, maximum 5 participants.**

Discovery Tours "Colonial Cities" is an itinerary that allows you to discover and get to know the cities considered the colonial jewels of Mexico with maximum freedom. The colors, scents, and atmospheres that you breathe in these places that seem to have stopped in time will fill your days with visits. It can be considered an easy trip with relatively short transfers between the various locations, perfectly reachable within the indicated times, but above all, the necessary overnight stays to be able to carry out the various visits with ease. For car rental, it is mandatory to have an international credit card as a guarantee (no Electron); a valid driver's license and passport; and to be at least 21 years old. Vehicle type: within each group, there are multiple car models available. At the time of vehicle delivery, the group will be respected but not necessarily the model of the vehicle.