

SOUL OF MEXICO TOURS

DOMINGO DE RAMOS & SEMANA SANTA

A Celebration of Handicraft Markets

Art Collection Beyond the Purepecha Plateau

Day One: Thursday April 2, 2020

Stay in Pueblo Magico Patzcuaro

Depart Zihuatanejo on the 9:30 AM bus for Uruapan, arriving at 1:45 PM. Our guide will greet us at the bus station and transport us directly to Angahuan, where we will ride on horseback to the ruins of the Church of San Juan Parangaricuaro, which was devoured by Paricutin Volcano in 1943. There are food stands here, so we can eat before we explore the church ruins. Sturdy shoes are a must, as the lava rock is sharp and uneven. If you have a pair of light gloves, these may also be helpful.

We will make a short stop at the church of Angahuan before heading to Patzcuaro for check-in and dinner.

Please note: We will bring a small cooler on the bus so you can bring a sandwich, yogurt etc.

Day Two: Friday April 3, 2020

Stay in Pueblo Magico Patzcuaro

This morning, our guide will pick us up at 8:30 for a 9 AM arrival in the *Pueblo Magico* copper town Santa Clara del Cobre. Here we will enjoy a demonstration before visiting the Perez Family. We will then head for the main plaza to browse through the copper galleries. We will depart Santa Clara del Cobre at 11:30 and head directly to Capula, arriving there at 12:15. We will first visit the artist studio and workshop of Juan Torres, who made La Catrina famous in the third dimension. We will also stop at the pottery collective in Capula before heading to Chef Diego's Los Molcajetes restaurant in Quiroga.

Following lunch, we will make our way to the ancient Purepecha Capital of Tzintzuntzan, before exploring the village by the same name. Here we will visit the

pottery studio of siblings Manuel and Angelica Morales, the handicraft market and Convent, where the oldest olive trees of Latin America reside. We will have dinner at Las Yacatas Restaurant before returning to Patzcuaro for the evening.

Day Three: Saturday April 4, 2020
Stay in Pueblo Magico Patzcuaro

This morning we will depart Patzcuaro by 9AM for Uruapan's main central plaza. The Annual Art Parade is scheduled to start at 10 AM, though as it starts at the National Park, it takes time to make it to the plaza. This gives us a chance to secure a good spot – though today we will certainly battle the crowds! Following the art parade, the largest art market of Mexico opens, and we can spend the afternoon browsing through the wares of 1400+ vendors. We will see a diverse selection of pottery styles, copper work, embroidery, reed weaving, masks, figurines, furniture, dishes and toys in this market. This market is also complete with food stalls, where we can sample traditional cuisine from this region. Once everyone is satisfied with their purchases, we will visit Cupatitzio National Park to stroll the beautiful cobblestone pathways of this lush and tropical forest. From here, if time allows, we may stop at Tingambato Archaeological site on our way back to Patzcuaro for approximately 30 mins.

Day Four: Sunday April 5, 2020
Stay in Pueblo Magico Patzcuaro

This morning we will depart Patzcuaro by 8:30 AM in taxi's for the docks of Lake Patzcuaro, where we will embark on a short boat ride to the famous Purepecha Isla de Janitzio. This touristy but enchanting island is a winding staircase of markets that lead up to the statue of Jose Morelos. Upon reaching the top, we can rest before entering the statue to view the museum of paintings suspended alongside the stair well that winds up the inside of the statue until you are standing in his hand. We will return to Patzcuaro around 12:30 PM for lunch in the local market – followed by a 30 mins walking tour. The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy browsing the many galleries and shops of this adorable town.

Day Five: Monday April 6, 2020
Stay in UNESCO Centro Guanajuato City

This morning we will enjoy an early breakfast, departing by 8:30 AM for the UNESCO city centro of Guanajuato! Our first stop will be Atotonilco, where we will visit the UNESCO protected Sanctuary of Jesus de Nazarene. We will enjoy lunch at the local hot springs here, followed by an afternoon soak in these medicinal waters.

Our next stop will be Dolores Hidalgo's talavera shops and plaza, where the infamous Cry of Dolores rang out on September 16, 1810. Father Hidalgo's call to arms triggered the War of Independence, which eventually concluded with Mexico's independence from Spain. From Dolores Hidalgo, we will visit Cuna Tierra Winery for wine and a light charcuterie snack. Our last stop will be our destination – Guanajuato City.

Day Six: Tuesday April 7, 2020
Stay in UNESCO Centro Guanajuato City

Head out this morning for a walking tour of this majestic city of vibrant colour and countless tunnels. We will visit the Granary, the childhood home of Diego Rivera, the Juarez Theatre, Hidalgo Market, and Pipila. If you would like to visit the Mummy Museum, please let us know in advance. This is by far, Guanajuato's most famous museum; however, our experience is that many visitors have found the experience unsettling. Perhaps more grim than having bodies on display, is the fact that their eviction from their graves was due to the inability of descendants to pay their upkeep in the cemetery. Among the mummies is a murder victim, a drowned man, and most disturbing, a woman who was accidentally buried alive and another woman who died with her baby. You have been warned.

We will enjoy some free time in the afternoon – but will meet at Juarez Theatre at 7:45 PM for a fun street theatre performance. Please wear comfortable shoes, as this performance requires some walking.

Day Seven: Wednesday April 8, 2020
Stay in Pueblo Magico Mineral de Pozos

This morning we depart Guanajuato City for the Pueblo Magico ghost town of Mineral de Pozos. This low-key town has little in the way of night life, art galleries or museums; however, the quaint village is scattered with various hacienda ruins, a lavender farm, a fossil mine that we can enter, and the home of Luis Cruz, who builds beautiful pre-hispanic instruments. We will also visit the mysterious structure out at Exhacienda Santa Brigida, which is an old abandoned mine site. Rich with picturesque views for those who love photography, there are ovens here with three vaulted chimneys, and a

celestial building that fills with moonlight on the summer solstice. The old Hacienda is not open to the public, though sometimes the owner is here. We will have dinner at the restaurant in our hotel, which is centrally located.

Day Eight: Thursday April 9, 2020
Stay in UNESCO Centro Morelia

This morning we will depart Mineral de Pozos for Dos Buhos Winery. After enjoying a wine tour and some samples, , we will hit the hwy back to Michoacan – destined for the UNESCO Centro of Morelia. As we will be staying in the centro of Morelia, we can head out for dinner at one of the lovely restaurants on the plaza.

Day Nine: Friday April 10, 2020
Stay in UNESCO Centro Morelia

This morning we will enjoy a lovely champagne breakfast, followed by a day to explore the city. We can organize a walking tour, unless guests would prefer to go on a self-guided walking tour. This evening, we will enjoy an early dinner at Cielo Cocina Fusion, which is Morelia’s number 1 restaurant. Following this, we will head for the plaza to witness the religious and enigmatic Procession of Silence – an annual religious observation of the Cofradio, who are a pious sect of the Catholic church.

Day Ten: Saturday April 11, 2020

This morning we will depart our hotel for the 11 AM bus back to the sandy shores of Zihuatanejo. We hope you have enjoyed our tour, and will join us again in future!