

Gourmet Mexico City Weekend Aug 4-7 2022

Price: \$1350 Single supplement \$250 Deposit \$400

Aug 4 2022 Welcome Dinner/water/tequila

After landing in Mexico City (MEX), proceed to baggage claim. Our transfer staff is waiting. Transfer time 3PM. For optional private transfers, see below. Transfer to our central 4 1/2 star historic hotel. **Zócalo Central**. Located in the heart of Mexico City, close to the Cathedral and National Palace is the **Zócalo Central**, with a stylish blend of colonial façade, stone engravings, and modern interiors. The hotel has a roof terrace with breathtaking views of the historic center. For extra space, we booked Junior Suite rooms for singles and Family Rooms for double occupancy.



Meet our guide 7PM for a short walk to **Café de Tacuba** founded 1912. It offers traditional gastronomy in a cosy atmosphere. **A la carte dinner with one glass of tequila + water**

Aug 5 B L D with tasting menu and snack on boat tour

Teotihuacán Pyramids (Journey / 70 Min.)

Visit of the huge pyramid complex of Teotihuacán, the first city in the “New World”, 250 BC-700 AD. Its population was 125,000 – 250,000 in 2,300 apartment complexes; it was the largest metropolis on the American continent. Only when one walks along the mighty “Avenue of the Dead” (1 km long) is one aware of the hugeness. Ongoing excavations continue, **(Lunch is included at Restaurant La Gruta Teotihuacán.**

Acolman (Journey /15 Min.)The former Convent of San Agustín Acolman, looks like a fortress. The large cloister in one of two atriums has wonderful columns with exposed wall paintings. The open chapel with its outward layout and fresco of St. Catarina promoted Christianization of “infidels”, who, some state, were at ease in open air than within church walls.

Acolman - Ciudad de México (Journey / 40.0 km / 51 Min.)Our dinner at **Carmela y Sal Restaurant is a gourmet tasting menu**. Chef Gabriela Ruiz Lugo, is one of Mexico’s new star chefs. She transforms ingredients from her native region into traditional innovative delicacies. Each dish has its own anecdote, which she is happy to tell. Try the “toast of lies”, made from coconut, jicama salad with Creole basil pesto or banana packets with beans. Dinner includes a glass of wine and water.

August 6 BL a La Carte and Snack

Mexico City is the political, social and cultural center with universities, museums, and monuments. Tour of the center with a visit to the presidential palace, Zócalo and cathedral. Surrounded by twin volcanoes Popocatepetl and Iztaccíhuatl, architecture, monuments and avenues are stunning. We visit the Public Education Ministry with murals by Diego Rivera. Between 1923 and 1928, Rivera decorated two large patios of the neocolonial building with frescos covering some 17,000-sq.ft. He called those courtyards “Patio del Trabajo” and “Patio de las Fiestas.” The subjects include religion, battle scenes of Revolution, traditions of the people, and landscapes.



Floating gardens of Xochimilco

Xochimilco is a district in Mexico City, known for floating gardens the Aztecs created on Lake Texcoco. The canals of the “Huertos Flotantes” are more than 90 miles long. The gardens were declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1987 and are popular with both locals and tourists. On our small boat tour we visit the gardens. There is a snack on the boat.



Coyoacán has a much slower pace. With its cobblestone pavements, colonial buildings, colorful markets, and small cafés and restaurants, it is a tranquil neighborhood with charm. Coyoacán attracts artists, but also serves for relaxed Sunday outings. Visit the Iglesia de Coyoacán, the Fonoteca Nacional with its lovely garden, and the impressive fountain in the Jardín Centenario.

Probably the most famous building in Coyoacán is the cobalt blue house in Calle Londres 247. It was artist **Frida Kahlo's** home. In accordance with what she wished, the Casa Azul became a museum after her death in 1954. The exhibits include personal belongings, books, photos, clothes, etc. and Frida's wonderful garden. Visit the “Museo Casa Estudio Diego Rivera” – the connected twin buildings in Bauhaus style, where Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo lived. Diego Rivera's studio exhibits part of his paintings, photos, painting utensils, and personal objects. In Frida Kahlo's house, alternating exhibits are shown

Angel Inn We enjoy late lunch in this place full of history, located on a former hacienda that dates to 1692. The colonial ambience underlies this modern restaurant famous for more than 50 years. Just a few steps from the Diego Rivera y Frida Kahlo museum, we are served exquisite international cuisine with Mexican influences, though. Think about giving a try to “Carne asada a la Mexicana” or – still more typically Mexican – “Crepas de huitlacoche”.



Aug 7 BL Anthropological Museum

This museum is considered the top anthropological museum in the world and is the most frequented museum in Mexico. It has 12 exhibition halls, each dedicated to a different pre-Columbian civilization, which total 20-acres. Designed in 1964 by a team led by architect Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, the monumental construction impresses with a mighty pillar that supports a huge concrete umbrella. Discover the Olmec, Toltec, Aztecs, Maya civilizations.

Castle in the Chapultepec Park

We visit Chapultepec Park, formerly overgrown with forest and a sacred place of the Aztecs. Today it is an oasis with old, shady trees, idyllic lakes, sculpture garden, museums and monuments (such as the Altar a la Patria in memory of the Niños Héroes), a zoo, and market stalls. Above the park is the castle, which the Habsburg Emperor Maximilian of Mexico rebuilt in the style of his Italian villa in 1864. **Chapultepec Castle** houses the National Museum of History. Its rich collections from several centuries include, e.g., clothes, antique furniture, coins, paintings, and countless documents of Mexican history.

Located in the picturesque Condesa district, the Tizoncito Tamaulipas Taquería is a true paradise for taco lovers. Founded in 1966 by Doña Conchita meats are cooked on a special charcoal grill – “Horno de Pastor”. Pineapple juice is poured over to provide a bittersweet Mexican touch. The classic Tacos al Pastor, along with the Pozole, Tacos de Bola and Chilaquiles de frijoles con pastor, are worthy of forgetting your diet.

Those going to Ixtapan Resort will be picked up at a meeting point in town. Others will transfer to the airport- transfer included. Do not book flights before: 6:30PM as lunch will end at 2:30PM. If you skip lunch: we can arrange private transfers 1 person \$85, 2 total \$99,00 3-6 \$155,00 . If you wish an extra night at our hotel or at the airport, please ask.

Included:

Upgraded rooms Zocalo Central Hotel. 4 1/2 star hotel. Rooms all have plaza views.
Full time local guide, who accompanies group to all meals
All sightseeing noted with Entrance Fees
Meals as noted **B** breakfast/ **L** lunch/ **D** dinner Dinners are a la carte with water + a glass of wine or tequila. One is a tasting menu.
Transfer at 3PM on Day 1.
Transfer to airport on Aug 7. See times above
Private air conditioned vehicle
Water on bus.
One group airport transfer 3PM on start day
Porterage and tips for housekeeping

Not included:

Optional transfers which we help you share if possible.
Meals and sights not included
Tips to driver and guide
Personal items like telephone, laundry etc.
Return transfer to either Ixtapan Resort or airport (hotel taxis available for the latter). Ixtapan Staff transfer for the former.
International airfare
Transfer to Ixtapan Resort for those continuing. Prices for this transfer are on the Ixtapan Page.