

Spring Break in Mexico City!

March 20 – March 28, 2010

\$1,300

Oregon International Council is offering a grown-up's trip to Mexico for Spring break. Let's turn a week off into an exciting and memorable experience. We are going to Mexico City for fun and relaxation. We are life long learners and we want to see the things we have heard about. We are going to live life fully and see the world. You'll probably want to get some of your friends to bring along and enjoy the good times too. If we have to make itinerary adjustments due to unforeseeable circumstances, we will adjust, not delete experiences. Breakfast is included everyday at the hotel, a real full complete breakfast. There is one lunch we are buying. The rest of the meals are at your leisure in the approved restaurants where you prefer to spend your money. Guiding the tour will be Master Teacher Anne Mueller.

- **Saturday March, 20, 2010** **Benito Juarez Airport, Mexico City, Mexico 5 p.m.**

You'll need to have your passport and buy airline tickets to get to Mexico City before 5 pm.

This is a busy week of discovery. The sooner you buy your ticket, the deeper the discount with most airlines. We will meet you at the airport and take you to the Tulip Inn Hotel. You should be able to meet your traveling companions and enjoy the evening by 8 p.m...

- **Sunday, March 21, 2010** **Discover the Days of Cortez**

Breakfast is included everyday at the hotel, a real full complete breakfast. Leave for the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco, in the morning with the Tour Guide, Paco, and our bus driver. Ride on one of the boats, explore the flowers and native plants, and grab yourself a bite to eat. Soak in the sun and atmosphere and enjoy the camaraderie. Regroup on the bus back into the city and see the Town square. Stroll, watch the people and inspect the National Palace and the Cathedral of Mexico City. Later in the afternoon there are some more cultural treats for you as you stroll through the area.

- **Monday, March 22, 2010** **Archeology and Arts**

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll travel to Teotihuacán and tour the archeological zone. It is really just a warm-up for tomorrow. Let's see how the Aztecs lived. When we arrive back in the city, we can arrive back in the 21st century and take in the Ballet Folkloric Show and the Palace of Fine Arts.

- **Tuesday, March 23, 2010** **The Best Museum of Anthropology in the World**

The great Museum of Anthropology is like the Louvre and the Prado...you can't see it all in just one day.

We are doing our best by getting to the museum early, providing lunch in the museum, shopping in the store and getting you to almost overload. There is a leisurely return to the hotel to decompress from the Mayan Calendar and pre-Colombian artifacts. There is a free night to send your postcards you bought, or whatever you would like to do.

○ **Wednesday, March 24, 2010** **Cultural Traditions, Archetypes and Icons**

This is a day for, not seeing, but understanding the cultural, political and social icons of Mexico.

Stroll through the historic center, the big temple, the Cathedral. See the police as dressed as charros at the Alameda. Art from the smallest blue and white tiles to the Murals of Diego Rivera are here for you. After lunch, see the image of the “Virgen de Guadalupe” the greatest Mexican religious icon. Return from a long day of connecting to Mexican culture.

○ **Thursday, March 25, 2010** **Art: the humble and the heroic**

Visit the Blue house of Frieda Kahlo. Have the guided tour. Inspect handicrafts in local stores and see Coyoacan’s small town square, live the quieter life of Coyoacan and its bookstores, artisans, and regional restaurants. This day is followed by a subtle and subdued evening of interactions.

○ **Friday, March 26, 2010** **Solemn History & Celebrations**

This time a different view of the fine arts in the daylight is yours. Come to understand the sacrifices of the Child Heroes. The palace of Maximillian is now the National Museum of History. See the famous Chapultepec Park and visit the Museum of Modern Art. Café Tacubo is a feast for the eyes and ears. Get ready for a fun night and of food and drink.

○ **Saturday, March 27, 2010** **The Last of the Highlights**

You have been running all week long, from one more awe inspiring experience to the other. Now the time is coming to an end but you can’t leave with out having seen the highlights. Guided tours abound through the Post Office, the Theater District and the Palace of Iturbide. The museum of the Carmelite Convent won’t fail to impress you. Experience the different neighborhoods of Mexico City and a night of Mariachi music at Garibaldi.

○ **Sunday, March 28, 2010** **One last wonderful morning.**

After breakfast, do the things you have to do before you leave Mexico City. Do you need to see one more thing or see one thing one more time? You’ll have just a quick chance before we leave for the airport and a voyage home with extra memories and recuerdos (souvenirs). We’ll get you to the airport about 9 am, in time to make your connections home.

1. Everything on itinerary included in cost: transportation, hotel stays, museum entrances, fee for raft ride in Xochimilco.
2. Note that the cost includes double occupancy in hotel - inquire about single occupancy if desired.
3. Transportation to and from airport as well as transportation to all planned activities
4. Tips are not included: 10% for meals, including the ones included, tour guide at \$5.00 per day, bus driver @ \$2.00 per day, \$5.00 to hotel maid at end of stay, porters at airport \$1.00 per bag, hotel porters @\$1.00 per bag
5. Additional meals: we highly recommend that you eat at places considered safe, albeit it may cost you more because this is still cheaper than medical expenses if you get sick, There are alternates to the restaurants we will take the group to around the hotel, such as VIPs. Safe food is generally just a few dollars less than in the States at places such as Denny's, Appleby's, etc. McDonald's is generally the same price as the US. On the group restaurant tours, the menu ranges from soups, appetizers, simple meals for not much more than \$5.00 but, depending on what you order, the meals range from \$9.00 to 20.00. Beverages are extra. Some combination meals include a 3 course dinner for around \$10.00 plus tip.
6. Internet access at hotel is available on a minute by minute fee.
7. Depending on conditions beyond our control like bad weather, lots of traffic, big crowds, and the itinerary could be changed but all the activities will be included. For example, if the group wants to spend more time at a certain spot, we can adjust our timing. The tour bus is at our disposal, but remembers that the driver will have had as long a day as you.
8. Send deposit by Feb 4 - \$350 refundable if 10 people don't sign up; remainder due by March 15. This allows us time to allow you to make airline reservations. As soon as we have 10 we will inform you so you can make the reservations. Plan to get to DF between 5 and 5:30. Anne and Paco will be waiting for you on the other side of customs and will have a waiting area for you and your luggage should you arrive earlier.
9. Travelers will receive a travel guide via e-mail as well as a photo of Anne and Paco. Your safety and enjoyment are our highest concerns.

See as much as one possibly can in a week in Mexico City with an itinerary designed by experienced tour leader and guide. It could take a month to see all that Mexico City has to offer. Our guides have chosen a panoramic view of DF with the luxury of a private tour bus and private tour guide.

México DF 2010- Almost finalized itinerary

March 20:

5:00 P.M. Arrival al aeropuerto de la Ciudad de México/ Benito Juárez

6:00 P.M. Transfer (to) al Hotel Tulip Inn

7:00 P.M. Rooming

March 21:

8:00 A.M. Breakfast Hotel

9:00 A.M. Salida a Xochimilco
11:00 A.M. Arrival a Xochimilco, paseo en Trajinera
12:30 P.M. Lunch
2:00 P.M. Transfer (to...) al hotel
4:00 P.M. Walking Tour to the Zócalo and tour through the zone.

March 22:

7:00 A.M. Breakfast Hotel
8:00 A.M. Transfer (to) a Teotihuacan
9:30 A.M. Tour the archeological zone
1:00 P.M. Lunch at "LaGruta"
2:30 P.M. Transfer (to) al Hotel
6:00 P.M. Stroll to the Bellas Artes/ Ballet Folklórico
10:00 P.M. Return to Hotel

March 23:

8:00 A.M. Breakfast Hotel
9:30 A.M. Transfer to Museum de Anthropology
1:00 P.M. Lunch /Cafeteria Del Hotel
2:30 P.M. Shopping Museum
3:30 P.M. Tour en Turibus (leave from museum de Anthropology)
6:00 P.M. Transfer (to) al Hotel
7:00 P.M. Free night

March 24

8:00 A.M. Breakfast at the Hotel
9:00 A.M. Paseo en el Centro Histórico
Guided visit to Zócalo, Palacio Nacional, Catedral, Templo Mayor, Museo del Estanquillo
1:00 Lunch at Sanborns "Casa de los Azulejos"
3:00 Visita a "La Alameda" Policías vestidos de charros
5:00 Visita al Mural de Diego Rivera
5:30 Transfer (to) a la Basílica de Guadalupe
6:30 Visita a la Basílica
8:00 Regreso al Hotel

March 25

8:00 A.M. Breakfast Hotel
9:30 Transfer (to) a La Casa Azul de Frida Kahlo
11:30 Guided visit
12:30 free time en Coyoacán
Nieves, artesanías, librerías, restaurantes, Zocalito.
2:00 Lunch at your leisure
5:00 P.M. Transfer (to) al Hotel
8:00 P.M. Actividad Nocturna/ Bar "El Nivel" primer Bar de la Ciudad de México

March 26

8:00 A.M. Breakfast Hotel

9:30 A.M. Transfer (to) a Chapultepec

10:30 A.M. Visita guiada Museo Nacional de Historia

1:00 P.M. Lunch/Polanco

3:00 P.M. Museum of Modern Art

5:00 P.M. Zone Rosa/ Shopping time

7:00 P.M. Dinner time in the Pink Zone

March 27

8:00 A.M. Breakfast Hotel

9:30 A.M. walking tour of the Historic Center

10:00 A.M. Visita guiada Palacio e Correos, Bellas Artes (de día), Palacio de Iturbide

12:00 P.M. Transfer (to) a San Angelin

1:30 P.M. Lunch en la zone

3:00 P.M. Guided tour through the Zone

5:00 Transfer (to) Hotel

8:00P.M. Transfer (to) a "Garibaldi" "Mexican Evening"

March 28

7:00 A.M. Breakfast en el Hotel

9:00 A.M. Transfer (to) a Aeropuerto Benito Juárez México DF

You need:

1. A valid passport.
2. A total payment, in installments, to Oregon International Council of \$1300,
(Add 7% for credit card charge fees, if you use a credit card to pay)
3. An airline ticket to and from Mexico City's Benito Juarez Airport, arrive before 5 pm on March 20 expect to leave after 12 noon on March 28.
4. To read the fine print.
5. To know, if I were going and buying the lunches and dinners and souvenirs, I would bring between \$300 and \$500 spending money. If you are a shopaholic or wealthy you might want to bring more, or have access to more credit.

For more information contact:

Dave Raffetto

Associate Director

Oregon International Council

PO Box 111, Salem Oregon 97308-0111

Phone: 503-584-7100, Fax 503-584-7102