

Day of the Dead Festival with Thomas John

Oaxaca, Mexico Oct. 29 – Nov. 5, 2016



Day 1 Oct. 29 Sat.

Arrive Oaxaca airport where a local agent will transfer you to the hotel. People will be arriving at different times, so no group gathering planned but those arriving in the late afternoon can enjoy dinner together and meet Thomas.

Day 2 Oct. 30 – Sun. B and Group welcome dinner

[Morning group session / 9 – 11am. orientation with Thomas and](#) guide about what the Day of the Dead is about to the locals etc... Thomas will present his teachings to prepare the group for the experience. In the afternoon enjoy a city tour to the Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzman church. This church is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful examples of Baroque in Mexico, with its splendid facade, and interior ornamentation such as the Chapel of the Rosary upholstered in gold or the high relief stucco of The Tree of Life. [Overnight Parador del Dominico](#)

Day 3 Oct 31 – Mon / B,L

We'll dedicate the entire morning to visiting the amazing "Oaxaca market". Everyone will buy their breads, special skeletons, candles, flowers, and food for our Day of the Dead Altar that our group will make at the hotel.

After the altar shopping is completed we will enjoy a group lunch at the fabulous restaurant Casa Oaxaca Café, in Colonia Reforma, an upscale neighborhood just beyond the city center. Then we'll go back to the hotel and have the wonderful opportunity to build our own altar for Dia de los Muertos. In creating our altar, it is customary to include pictures of your own departed loved ones that you bring with you from home. Participating in such a ritual is an important aspect of embracing the Mexican culture's reverence of life and death.

[Late afternoon group session with Thomas to prepare for the evening](#)

The most popular graveyard is in the village of Xoxocotlan. This evening, we will meet at 8:00 p.m. to go to a nearby town to meet with local families. We will accompany them to their local cemetery to take part in the yearly celebration of the arrival of the "Angelitos" (the children who have passed). It will be wonderful to help them clean & decorate their family's graves, a very special experience. We'll bring along a gift for allowing us to join them: flowers, incense, candles, etc and also leave a donation. Overnight Hotel Parador del Dominico

Day 4 Nov 1 – Tues. / B,L

Sleep in a little after a late night. We'll depart around 11 am and drive north in the valley of Etna.

First we will visit the new and beautiful Centro de las Artes San Agustin, founded by the great [Maestro Francisco Toledo](#). We will afterwards enjoy lunch at the traditional restaurant Los Caporales and then drive to the village of Soledad Etna to take part in the traditional [Comparsa Parade!](#) This is a parade that many villages organize in which most dress as spirits in fantastic outfits and dance thru their streets to the rhythm of brass bands. We can walk along with the parade and enjoy this very festive and colourful event. Hotel Parador del Dominico

Day 5 Nov 2 Wed. B, L

Today we explore Monte Albán, one of ancient México's most impressive ceremonial centers. This massive complex of pyramids, terraces and temples is considered one of the most important examples of pre-Columbian culture in all of México. Constructed by a culture that possessed a genius for building, this spectacular city is one of the most thoroughly explored archaeological sites in México. Throughout the centuries Monte Albán has continued to amaze those who study the site and has never failed to remain both magical and mysterious.

Constructed by the Zapotecs, Monte Alban sits 1200 feet above the valley floor. This location gave the residents a clear view of the Oaxaca valleys. The city experienced its peak golden age for a period of 500 years and then, for reasons still unknown, the city was abandoned. We'll have time to explore the site on your own and [perhaps Thomas will get some unexpected messages while you are there!](#)

We'll enjoy a lovely lunch in La Choza del Chef restaurant and then continue to Mitla, a UNESCO World Heritage site known as "the place of the dead". In ancient times Mitla was an important Zapotec ceremonial center and home of the Zapotec priestly class. The ancient city is known for the artistic quality of construction and the beauty of the intricate patterns and designs of some facades and tombs. To date, five large architectural complexes have been found. Overnight Hotel Parador del Dominico

Day 6 Nov 3- Thurs. B,L

Today enjoy visiting several of the nearby artisan villages outside of Oaxaca. Begin with a visit to Cuilapan de Guerrero a XVI church. Then we'll stop to see the making of the famed black pottery of the village of San Bartolo Coyotepec, made from a special black mud. We might be able to meet the famed potter Carlo Magno Pedro who specializes in Day of the Dead Art.

Afterward enjoy a visit to San Antonio Arrazola to see the traditional wood carvers of the famous Alebrijes. Alebrijes, are imaginary, fantasy animals, and many other objects that are carved out of a local wood named copal. These imaginative carvings are usually brightly colored with intricate designs and all painted by hand. We'll then get to visit the local Zaachila market which covers much of the town center. Here the locals retain many traditions and customs – including indigenous music, dance and food. Lunch will be in the La Capilla restaurant.

Hotel Parador del Dominico

Day 7 Nov 4 – Fri. / B,L

Today we'll be traveling east of the city to visit the Tule tree, "El Arbol del Tule" a truly remarkable being. The Tule tree, is said to be the world's largest tree, and once you see this magnificent natural wonder you will not doubt this claim. El Tule, is a Montezuma Cypress or Ahuehuete in the Nahuatl language and has the stoutest trunk of any tree in the world! The Tule tree is 170 ft around, 41 meters tall, weighs over 500 tons and is over 2000 years old. Spending time in the presence of this ancient wise one and connecting with the energy will open your heart.

We'll have lunch at at Tlamanalli restaurant in the traditional Zapotec village of Teotitlan del Valle. Teotitlán is famous for its beautiful woolen rugs woven on hand-made looms. Most weavers sell out of their homes and give demonstrations. The rugs are colored with natural dyes made from indigo, cochineal and rock moss.

Hotel Parador del Dominico [Final group session with Thomas after dinner](#)

Day 8 Nov. 5 – Sat. B

After breakfast we say goodbye to the new friends we've made and transfer to the airport to return home. Leaving with wonderful memories of a magical experience in Oaxaca connecting with those on the "other side".

Tour Cost per person: \$1,949.00

Based on a minimum group of 10 guests in double room – single supplement cost: \$360.00

What's Included:

- Seven nights' accommodations in shared room Parador del Dominico hotel or similiar
- Breakfasts, five lunches and welcome dinner
- All spiritual teachings and sessions with Thomas
- Admission fees to the ruins of Monte Alban, the Tule Tree, Mitla &/ the convent of Cuilapan de Guerrero
- Local English speaking personal guide
- All ground transportation in private bus
- Trips to the artisan towns of San Antonio Arrazola, San Bartolo Coyotepec & Teotitlan del Valle
- Day of the Day experience at the cemetery and market
- Transfers for arrival and departures hotel / airport

What's Not Included:

- Air fare to Oaxaca, Mexico
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages with meals, alcoholic beverages or wine
- Personal expenses such as phone calls, laundry etc.
- Tips to guides, bus driver, hotel staff etc.

To Register Contact:
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