



Discover Corps

Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



OAXACA: DAY OF THE DEAD

Experience the Day of the Dead parades in the heart of Oaxaca



MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Experience Day of the Dead through the eyes of local families and learn their traditions
- Visit a family-owned flower plantation and harvest marigolds for the week's festivities
- Stroll through the Historic Center of Oaxaca and visit some of the city's archaeological landmarks
- Meet with award-winning artists in the fields of ceramics, weaving, woodworking, and black pottery
- Tour one of the region's most esteemed mezcal distillery's and enjoy a batch of mezcal de pechuga that has been distilled especially for you



TRIP AT A GLANCE

Day 1 - Settle-in and take a stroll through the Historic Center of Oaxaca

Day 2 - Experience festival preparations with local families and learn their unique traditions

Day 3 - Immerse yourself in Mexican art and experience a one-of-a-kind sunset at Monte Alban

Day 4 - Participate in local family traditions and lay bouquets and candles in a cemetery

Day 5 - Learn about the art of woodworking, black pottery, and visit a mezcal distillery

Day 6 - Depart for home



OAXACA: DAY OF THE DEAD

OUR PURPOSE

Oaxaca City is the capital and largest city of the Southern Mexican state of Oaxaca and is known for its diverse, indigenous cultures. With a history dating back thousands of years, Oaxaca is home to numerous archaeological relics from the native Zapotec and Mixtec cultures, including the ancient city of Monte Alban and the 2000-year old El Tule Tree. The region is rich in the arts, with generations of woodworkers, weavers, potters, ceramists, and more calling the area home. The city was identified as a World Heritage site in 1987.

Your Oaxaca Day of the Dead festival experience with Discover Corps will be unlike any other. While we will visit many of the city's most cherished landmarks and see all of the local parades, we'll avoid the traditional tourist traps and instead bring personal meaning to the festivities by interacting directly with families in the region. Your local Discover Corps Guide will facilitate these experiences, whether it's having a cup of hot cocoa with a family of flower farmers or watching a family of master weavers or potters at their craft. By sharing their traditions, our local hosts will teach us about their individual ways to welcome the souls of their loved ones.





DAY OF THE DEAD HIGHLIGHTS



COLORFUL MARKETS

Markets are an important staple of the Day of the Dead festivities, offering locals all the supplies they will need for their celebrations. Chaotic in the absolute best way, you'll be able to browse hundreds of vendor stalls for flowers, food, and crafts to commemorate your time in Oaxaca.



THE MARIGOLDS

Marigolds are an essential element of Day of the Dead festivities. They symbolize the brevity of life, and are used to decorate family altars and gravesites. We'll visit a family-owned flower plantation to pick marigolds and prepare bouquets to place on gravesites during the festivities.



ALTAR OF OFFERINGS (*Ofrendas*)

Often misunderstood as an altar for worship, an ofrenda is a structure meant to honor the memory of one's ancestors complete with photos, candles, and items or food that were loved by the departed. During our time, we will see a variety of different types of ofrendas and will learn from locals about their unique ofrenda traditions.



PARADES & COSTUMES

Throughout our time in Oaxaca, we will see several parades celebrating the return of the dead. Parades are somewhat informal and aren't run according to a set schedule. Beginning after sundown, brass bands lead the way with celebratory music, followed by costumed dancers and participants and fireworks.



HIGHLIGHTS



LALOCURA DISTILLERY

No trip to Mexico is complete without visiting a mezcal distillery, and Discover Corps takes you to the region's best at Lalocura. Owner Eduardo Angeles Carreno is a deeply respected, fourth generation master mezcalillero specializing in creating mezcal using ancient methods that predate the Hispanic period. As part of the Day of the Dead festivities, Eduardo will create a special batch of 3 liters of mezcal de pechuga specifically for our group, nearly two weeks ahead of our arrival..



FAMILY ARTISTIC TRADITIONS

We offer our guests exclusive interactions with local families specializing in a specific art form, who will teach us about their Day of the Dead traditions. We'll join the families to learn about everything from ancient weaving techniques and renowned woodworking, to world-famous pottery and ceramics. Plus, award-winning Master Ceramist Angelica Vasquez will also welcome us into her home to impart her family's artistic wisdom and share a lunch made of special dishes that her family prepares for the season.



MONTE ALBAN

Monte Alban is one of the most important archeological sites in Oaxaca. Dating back to 500 BC, it's the city from which the ancient Zapotecs once ruled and contains the remains of templates, palaces, platforms, an observatory, and even an organized ball court. Discover Corps offers guests an unparalleled, private visit with an archaeologist before heading to the top of the south pyramid to watch an exquisite sunset.



DAY OF THE DEAD FESTIVITIES

The Day of the Dead (Dia de Muertos) festival is one Mexico's most recognized celebrations, enjoyed each year from October 31st-November 2nd. During this time, locals believe that the gap between the world of the spirits and the living is lifted, allowing their departed loved ones to travel back for a visit. Special altars (ofrendas) are setup and decorated with photos, flowers, food, and personal possessions that honor their ancestors. Parades occur daily, bursting to the brim with color, costumes, puppets, music, fireworks, and more.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive and Take a Stroll Through the Historic Center of Oaxaca

Arrive in Oaxaca and settle into your room at Hotel con Corazon before experiencing a traditional Tehuantepec home-style lunch at the famous La Teca Restaurant. We'll take a quick drive to the Historic Center of Oaxaca where your Discover Corps guide will take you on a walking tour through some of the city's landmarks, including the Santo Domingo Cultural Center, Santa Domingo Church, the bustling Benito Juárez Market, and more. (L,D)



DAY 2: Experience the Festivities with Local Families and Learn their Traditions

We begin our day with a stop at the Hernandez Family flower plantation, where we'll harvest our very own marigolds for the Day of the Dead festivities and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate with our hosts. We'll visit the indigenous Tlacolula market (one of Southern Mexico's most popular) as well as the ancient archaeological site of Mitla and the San Jeronimo Tlacoahuaya temple and monastery. We'll continue learning about individual traditions by dining with a local family in their home.



Today will be the first evening you can expect to see and join in a Day of the Dead parade. These unscheduled festivities are usually put together by individuals, private organizations, and schools and can take place every 20 to 30 minutes. Brass bands will often head up the parade, leading the way with their joyful music, followed by fireworks and costume-clad locals. Feel free to join in for one block or three - all are welcome! (B,L)



DAY 3: Engage with Award-Winning Artist Angelica Vasquez and Experience a One-of-a-Kind Sunset at Monte Alban

Enjoy breakfast and a leisurely morning on your own before we tour the Art Center of San Agustin. This former textile facility is now a center for artistic creation of all kinds. After our tour, we'll stop by the studio of award-winning Master Ceramist, Angelica Vasquez, and enjoy an intimate lunch at her home. We'll cap off our day with an incredible one-of-a-kind experience at the archeological site of Monte Alban. Learn about the history and importance of this site before heading to the top of the South pyramid to watch the sunset. If you're feeling the urge to head back to the city center, you may just see a children's parade or even a pet parade! Each night of Dia de Muertos sees a wide variety of parades, and no two are exactly alike, so you're sure to find something new each evening. (B,L)





DAY 4: Participate in Family Traditions and Lay Bouquets and Candles in a Local Cemetery

After a visit to the 2000-year-old Tule Tree, we'll travel to Teotitlan del Valle, often said to be the original village in this area. We'll visit several families and participate in their festival traditions including weaving wool rugs with natural dyes, creating candles, and preparing specific family meals. In the evening, we'll visit a cemetery where families will be decorating their loved ones' gravestones. You'll have the opportunity to lay candles and flower bouquets at graves that have not been visited, bringing light to those souls in this local tradition. We welcome you to continue exploring Oaxaca on your own this evening and join in one of the dozens of parades that will take place on this special night! (B,L,D)



DAY 5: Learn About the Art of Woodworking, Black Pottery, and Visit a Mezcal Distillery

We'll continue learning about local traditions from several families and artists. Highly regarded artists Jacobo and Maria Angeles will share with us the techniques used to create their intricate woodcarvings. Master distiller Eduardo Angeles Carreno will take us on a tour of his distillery, complete with lunch and a special sampling of mezcal de pechuga made specifically for our group. We'll also meet with a family who will teach us about their world-famous black pottery making process.



Tonight, we'll have a Farewell Dinner at one of Mexico's top restaurants, Casa Oaxaca, before heading to Jalatlaco for a final parade! Sometimes called Mexico's most beautiful neighborhood, Jalatlaco hosts one of the most impressive Day of the Dead parades in the country. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Return Home

After breakfast together, we'll head to the airport for our flights back home. (B)



HOTEL CON CORAZÓN

During our time in Oaxaca, we'll stay at Hotel con Corazón, a modern but cozy hotel where profits go into educational projects that lift up the local community. Each room reflects the colorful beauty and character that Oaxaca is renowned for.

Please note that the exact property is subject to change

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6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

PRICING

ADULT: \$3,895

CHILD: \$3,695

There is an additional single room supplement fee of \$495 per person. This will guarantee you your own, single occupancy room for the entirety of the trip. If you are a solo traveler and would like us to match you with a roommate of the same gender, please book as double occupancy. See full details on the website page for the trip.

***SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF
DEPARTURE DATES***

RECOMMENDED FOR

- Adults & children ages 8+
- Travelers who are comfortable with MODERATE physical activity

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

CUSTOM / PRIVATE GROUPS

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 5 nights lodging at Hotel con Corazón in Oaxaca City
- All meals throughout the trip except for two dinners
- English-speaking local guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Airport transfers
- Admissions and entrance fees to parks, historic sites and all transportation during the trip
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- All gratuities for hotels and meals
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips for the Discover Corps Guide and Driver
- Two Dinners
- International airfare
- Alcoholic beverages

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

PAYMENT PLANS

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.



Our Mission

Discover Corps' mission is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.



OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	JAMAICA
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN
BALI	KENYA
BAJA	MOROCCO
BHUTAN	OAXACA
COSTA RICA	PERU
CUBA	SOUTH AFRICA
EGYPT	TANZANIA
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	THAILAND
GREECE	UGANDA
GUATEMALA	VIETNAM



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619.758.3030