



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



OAXACA: GUELAGUETZA FESTIVAL

Experience the festival of giving in the heart of Oaxaca!



MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Take in the breathtaking *Desfile de Delegaciones* from a private terrace, to see the vibrant colors and rhythms of Oaxaca's eight regions
- Step into the heart of the city's Guelaguetza celebration to experience the true, intimate spirit of Zapotec reciprocity
- Savor Oaxacan flavors, from tasting ancestral moles with traditional cooks to a farewell feast celebrating the valley's rich culinary heritage
- Connect with master artisans as you watch black clay pottery and hand-painted alebrijes come to life
- Stand atop the ancient ruins of Monte Albán, looking out over the valley where centuries of history remain vividly alive



TRIP AT A GLANCE

Day 1 - Arrive in Oaxaca and gather for a private welcome feast at Casa Mook to taste the eight regions of the state.

Day 2 - Take a walking tour of the city and enjoy free time to explore the festivities in the afternoon.

Day 3 - Visit the ancestral Tlacolula Market and Mitla ruins, followed by a private terrace dinner overlooking the grand parade.

Day 4 - Watch a traditional dance performance before more free time in Oaxaca City.

Day 5 - Meet master artisans in the Ocotlán Valley to witness the creation of black clay pottery, textiles, and alebrijes.

Day 6 - Discover the mountaintop ruins of Monte Albán and the vibrant murals of Jalatlaco before a farewell dinner at Casa Oaxaca.

Day 7 - Depart for home!



OAXACA: GUELAGUETZA FESTIVAL

OUR PURPOSE

Oaxaca is a city of layers, and there is no moment where those layers are more vibrant than during the Guelaguetza. Derived from the Zapotec word for "to give" or "to share," the Guelaguetza is far more than a festival; it is an ancient system of social reciprocity that has bound the indigenous communities of the valley together for centuries. While the world sees a spectacular display of music and dance, the locals are participating in a sacred offering to the land and to each other. When you travel with us, you aren't just visiting a destination—you are entering the "Fiesta Máxima," a period where the entire state of Oaxaca descends upon the capital to share the very best of their harvest, their textiles, and their ancestral traditions.

This is, quite simply, the best time to experience the soul of Mexico. July in Oaxaca is a sensory inundation: the streets are alive with *convites* (invitational parades), and the air carries the scent of wood-fired tamales and ceremonial mole. By anchoring our itinerary around this festival, we grant you access to an energy that is otherwise impossible to replicate. From the grand scale of the main auditorium to the intimate village celebrations where the "sharing" is still a deeply personal act of community, this journey offers the definitive portrait of a culture that defines itself not by what it has, but by what it gives.



HIGHLIGHTS



GUELAGUETZA FESTIVITIES

It's time to celebrate! This vibrant dance festival brings together communities from across the state to share their traditional music, food, and dance in honor of a centuries-old tradition of connection, sharing and reciprocity. Large auditorium performances, small village gatherings and parades are in store! This festival is celebrated the final two Mondays in July each year, but the city comes alive for the whole month, with lots to do and see in the city center.



ARTISANS OF THE OCOTLÁN VALLEY

In the workshops of the Ocotlán Valley, our journey takes a tangible, artistic form. Here, you will step into the private studios of artisans to witness the alchemy of Oaxacan craft: the burnishing of San Bartolo Coyotepec's signature black clay, the hand-painting of *alebrijes* in San Martín Tilcajete, and the rhythmic clatter of backstrap looms in the hands of indigenous weavers. These are not just souvenirs; they are living legacies of cultural resistance and skill, offered by families who share the stories within every piece.



MONTE ALBÁN

The ruins of Monte Albán stand as a testament to the astronomical and architectural genius of the Zapotec people. Walking across the expansive Great Plaza, you'll feel the weight of 2,500 years of history, from the mysterious stone carvings of "The Dancers" to the grand North Platform that offers a breathtaking 360-degree view of the Oaxacan landscape. This sacred topography where ancient history remains surprisingly present, inviting a quiet reflection on the civilizations that shaped the heart of Mexico.



A MASTERCLASS IN OAXACAN FLAVOR

Our journey is a curated map of Oaxaca's legendary culinary landscape, moving from the colorful local markets to the refined elegance of the city's top restaurants. Begin with an intimate regional feast at Casa Mook and continue through a sensory deep-dive into a variety of moles at Mo-Kalli. The experience culminates in elevated dining at Casa Oaxaca and Almú, where Michelin-recognized chefs transform humble ingredients into sophisticated tributes to the valley's biodiversity.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrivals

Touch down in the valley of eternal spring. Settle into your boutique hotel accommodations before a welcome dinner at Casa Mook, an intimate culinary sanctuary owned by a traditional cocinera. Here, the spirit of Guelaguetza—the act of giving—is served on a plate. As you share this dinner featuring dishes from across Oaxaca's eight regions, you'll learn how this festival is more than a performance: it is a social contract of mutual support that has sustained these communities for centuries. (D)



DAY 2: Oaxaca City Walking Tour & Festival Free Time

After breakfast, wander through the emerald-stone streets on a relaxed exploration of the city. We'll navigate the lively central plaza, the aromatic corridors of local markets, and the quiet majesty of Santo Domingo Church. The afternoon is yours to let Oaxaca's energy guide you—perhaps a coffee overlooking the square, a quiet moment in a hidden courtyard or joining in on some of the festival activities. We'll gather again in the evening for dinner as the city's festive hum begins to rise. (B, D)



DAY 3: Tlacolula Valley & Parade

Today, we'll journey to the Tlacolula Valley, where the Sunday market remains one of the most authentic pre-Hispanic traditions in Mesoamerica. Villagers from remote mountain outposts descend to sell their crafts. After exploring the ancient "Place of the Dead" at Mitla, we'll indulge in a mole tasting at Mo-Kalli, deciphering the complex layers of Oaxaca's most famous dish.



Return to the city in time for terrace dining, with a spectacular view of the main festival parade, the *Desfile de Delegaciones*. You'll see all of Oaxaca's traditional garb on display in this breathtaking parade where every performing community marches in a whirlwind of traditional dress, music, and dance. (B, L, D)

DAY 4: Lunes del Cerro

Today is the main event: Lunes del Cerro! We'll have some free time after breakfast to wander the city and take in the vibrant colors, music, art and dance of the festivities.

Later in the afternoon, we'll head into the heart of the city and take our seats for the great celebration of Guelaguetza. This experience will feel both intimate and timeless. Here, the "sharing" is literal; at the end of each dance, performers toss the fruits of their land—hats, coffee, hand-carved crafts—into the crowd. After the festival, the evening is yours to wander the lantern-lit streets and soak in the final echoes of the day's music. (B, L)





DAY 5: Traditional Crafts & Free Time

Today we'll get a closer look at the traditional art forms that have been passed down for generations. Venture out of the city to the Ocotlán Valley, where we'll meet with weavers and craftspeople to learn more about their livelihoods. Watch as black clay pottery takes shape, see how textile artists weave intricate designs and hear the meaning behind Oaxaca's iconic wooden *alebrijes*.

Lunch is a curated experience at Almú, a Michelin-starred open-air kitchen where you can sample some of Oaxaca's most iconic dishes. Your final evening in the city is free to explore the endless pop-up galleries, mezcalerías, and street-side concerts of the city. (B, L)

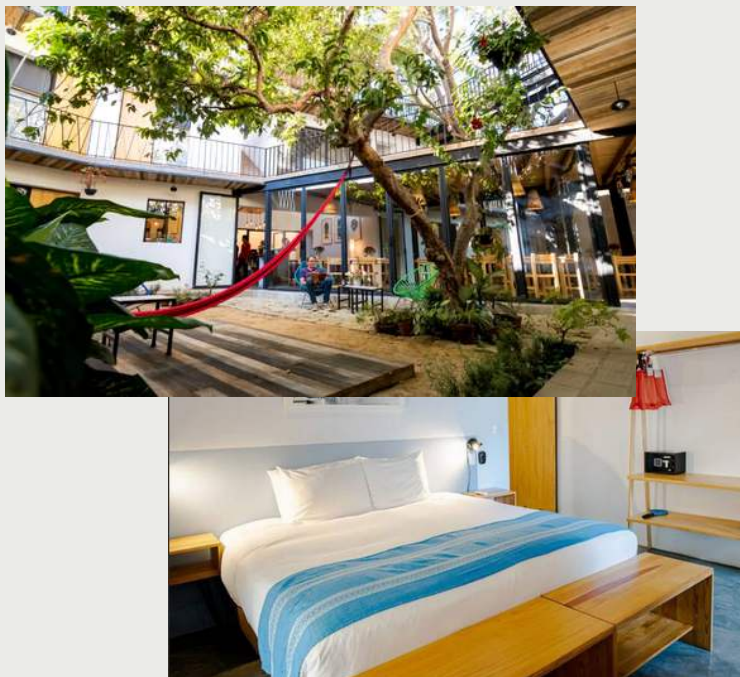
DAY 6: Monte Albán & Murals of Jalatlaco

Take a step (way) back in history this morning! Monte Albán was the ancient Zapotec capital and one of the earliest cities in Mesoamerica. Explore the ruins and take in amazing views of the valley below.

Return to the city for a walking tour of Jalatlaco - this neighborhood is a living gallery! Explore the murals and street art that tell the modern story of Oaxacan resistance. The afternoon is yours to linger over coffee, take a street-art walking tour or do some last-minute shopping. We'll reconvene for a farewell dinner together at Casa Oaxaca. (B, L, D)

DAY 7: Return Home

Enjoy a final Oaxacan breakfast before heading to the airport. You'll leave not just with memories, but with a piece of the valley's spirit of reciprocity. (B)



STANDARD LODGING

During our time in Oaxaca, we'll stay at Hotel con Corazón, a modern but cozy hotel a 15-minute walk from Oaxaca City's central square. Each room reflects the colorful beauty and character that Oaxaca is renowned for, and features an open courtyard and terraces.

This boutique hotel prioritizes sustainable operations and promotes responsible travel. It also sends a portion of its profits into local educational projects that lift up the local community.

Please note that the exact property is subject to change



OAXACA: GUELAGUETZA FESTIVAL

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS



PRICING

ADULT: \$3,695

CHILD: \$3,495

There is an additional single room supplement fee of \$600 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 2026 / 2027 FESTIVAL
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

- 6 nights lodging at Hotel con Corazón in Oaxaca City
- All meals throughout the trip except for 2 dinner and 1 lunch
- 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 and one lunch
- 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.



info@discovercorps.com



[@discovercorps](https://www.instagram.com/discovercorps)



619.758.3030

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
CHILE	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
EGYPT	THAILAND
GALAPAGOS ISLANDS	UGANDA
GREECE	VIETNAM
GUATEMALA	



FAMILY FRIENDLY ~ SMALL GROUPS ~ POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT ~ DISTINCTIVE LODGING ~ HANDPICKED GUIDES



Visit discovercorps.com/register to place a \$395 deposit to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.



info@discovercorps.com



[@discovercorps](https://www.instagram.com/discovercorps)



619.758.3030