SIGNATURE JOURNEY

Discover Corps

Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

FAMILY TRAVEL ASSOCIATION MEMBER

OAXACA: WOMEN & GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment, Artistry, and Flavor - Experience the Spirit of Oaxaca Through Its Women, Traditions, and Cuisine

MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Experience women's empowerment in action through local weaving and micro-finance projects with the local nonprofit En Vía
- Visit an Alebrije workshop, the inspiration of Pixar's *Coco*, and learn to make your own!
- Take in the gorgeous colonial architecture and emerging culinary scene in Oaxaca City
- Make your own chocolate with the women of the off-the-beaten track village of San Marcos Tlapazola
- Uncover the wonders of the ancient world at Monte Albán archeological site

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Day 1 - Arrive and discover Oaxaca's architecture on a tour of the old city.

Day 2 - Meet the local women whose lives have been impacted by the non-profit Fundación En Vía. Visit their businesses and learn a bit more about micro-finance and what it means to those in the village.

Day 3 - Visit Hierve el Agua, a breathtaking natural rock formation & learn to make chocolate.

Day 4 - Taste your way through Oaxaca City with a walking food tour and enjoy some free time to explore at your own pace.

Day 5 - See the ancient, UNESCO-protected ruins in Monte Alban, then learn to make traditional animals painted with bright colors and designs.

Day 6 - Say your goodbyes & head to the airport.

OAXACA: WOMEN & GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

OUR PURPOSE

Gain rare insight into Mexican culture, and in particular the indigenous Zapotec people, on this fascinating trip into the communities of the Oaxaca Valley. See how non-profits such as Fundación En Vía are working to empower and uplift historically disadvantaged women in the region, and learn how you can help. You will be invited into the homes and workplaces of local women to learn craft techniques passed down through the generations. It's a unique glimpse at a side to Mexico that most will never have the chance to see, and an opportunity to play a role in supporting local women and girls in the community.

Over six impactful days, you'll have the chance to get lost amid the winding colonial streets of Oaxaca City's 16th-century historic district, visit the ancient ruins of Monte Albán and discover the bizarre rocks of Hierve el Agua. Along the way, you'll get to taste a rich cross-section of the different cuisines that thrive in the region. By the time your deep dive into the local culture draws to a close in Oaxaca City, back where you started, you'll have built up a multifaceted picture of what life is like here, and fostered connections with some unforgettable women.

HIGHLIGHTS

SAN MARCOS TLAPAZOLA

This village is a spot that few travelers from beyond Mexico get to visit. Many of the men here have moved further afield for work, meaning the population is dominated by women. Learn about the work they do in the fields and making pottery, then enjoy a warm welcome to a traditional Zapotec home, where you'll be guided to create your own personalized blend of chocolate using centuries-old methods.

MONTE ALBÁN

The most significant archaeological site in the Oaxaca Valley, Monte Albán is an unmissable stop for any visitor to Central Mexico. Over the centuries, this area has been occupied by Olmec, Zapotec and Mixtec people. Today, you can see ruins dating back as much as two thousand years, as well as more recent structures that demonstrate the fascinating development of Mesoamerican civilizations over time.

OAXACA CITY

One of the great architectural gems of Mexico, Oaxaca City is famed for its beautifully preserved old city. This UNESCO-protected area is packed with splendid colonial buildings, some of which were built as early as the 16th century. The city's strong Zapotec and Mixtec roots are still very much represented, and the cuisines you'll sample include the traditional fare of the Tehuanas, women known for their bright clothing and matriarchal social structures. Look for the streets that provided inspiration for the settings in Disney Pixar's 2017 movie Coco.

TEOTITLAN DEL VALLE

Your time in the Zapotec community will be spent getting to know women who have benefited from the work of the non-profit Fundación En Vía. See first-hand how their businesses have grown through the foundation's microfinance scheme and other programs, and learn about traditional artisan methods from local women in their own homes or businesses.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Welcome to Oaxaca, the Heart of Southern Mexico!

Touch down in Oaxaca and be whisked away to your hotel to meet your guide and fellow travelers. Explore the old city on a guided walking tour with a historian, taking in some of Oaxaca City's most beautiful churches, sun-drenched plazas and colorful architecture. You will get to explore the Santo Domingo Cultural Center, Santo Domingo Church and the Benito Juarez Market. In the evening, share a welcome meal in the traditional style of the Tehuanas at one of Oaxaca's most renowned restaurants, La Teca. *(D)*

DAY 2: Meet the Women of En Via

This morning, travel to the vibrant villages of San Marcos Tlapazola, and Teotitlán del Valle, where tradition and innovation intertwine. Meet the inspiring women of Fundación En Vía, a local nonprofit empowering female entrepreneurs through microfinance and education. Learn the history and cultural importance of the region's red clay pottery.

Next, visit the home of an entrepreneur and enjoy a homemade meal together before taking part in a natural dye workshop; find out first-hand how pieces of Oaxaca's landscape and ecosystem transform textiles into works of art. *(B, L, D)*

DAY 3: Visit Hierve el Agua and Make Chocolate in San Marcos Tlapazola

Begin the day surrounded by Oaxaca's natural wonders at Hierve el Agua, a breathtaking site of mineral springs cascading down cliffs like frozen waterfalls. Enjoy a refreshing swim in the turquoise pools or take a scenic hike along the 1.5-mile trail overlooking the valley below.

After lunch, we'll join local experts to learn the ancient art of chocolate making. Learn how Mesoamerican traditions continue to shape one of Oaxaca's most beloved crafts, then savor the sweet rewards of your experience. This evening, dinner is on your own to explore the city's culinary gems. *(B, L)*

DAY 4: Walking Food Tour & Free Time

Today, experience Oaxaca through its delicious culinary traditions. Embark on a guided walking food tour (approximately 1.5 miles) featuring sixteen tastings, weaving through lively markets and beloved local eateries. Savor an array of authentic flavors—from tamales, memelas, and tortas to chocolate atole, tejate, Oaxacan pastries, mezcal, and even more adventurous bites like grasshoppers.

In the afternoon, enjoy leisure time to shop for handcrafted treasures in Jalatlaco, explore the city's charming neighborhoods at your own pace, or return to the hotel for a restful break. Tonight, dine on your own. *(B, L)*

DAY 5: Explore Ancient ruins at Monte Albán and Make Your Own Alebrije

After breakfast, journey to Monte Albán, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the most significant archaeological complex in the Oaxaca Valley, with ruins dating back thousands of years. Later, visit the village of San Martín Tilcajete for a hands-on workshop painting your own *alebrijes*, surreal folk sculptures you may recognize from the Pixar movie Coco.

We'll enjoy lunch at Almú, a Michelin-recognized culinary gem. Learn from renowned local artists and bring home a one-of-a-kind piece of Oaxaca's artistic heritage. The day concludes with a farewell dinner at Casa Oaxaca, celebrating the flavors and spirit of this unforgettable region. *(B, L, D)*

DAY 6: Return Home

We'll have one last breakfast together before saying our goodbyes and heading to Oaxaca International Airport to catch our flights back home. *(B)*

STANDARD BOUTIQUE HOTEL LODGING

During our time in Oaxaca City, we'll stay in one of the colorful boutique hotels we partner with. Our main hotel, Hotel con Corazón, is a hotel with a cause, where profits go into local schools to help lift up the local community. This charming hotel & social enterprise is one with heart, recognizing that Oaxaca is one of the poorest states in Mexico, and children need more resources to ensure they finish school. This brand new building located in the heart of the old city of Oaxaca.

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.

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OAXACA: WOMEN & GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

PRICING

ADULT: $3,395 **CHILD: $3,195**

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements (SRS) are $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. Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF DEPARTURE DATES

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 5 nights lodging in a standard level boutique hotel in Oaxaca City
- All meals throughout the trip except for one lunch and one dinner
- Transportation in private vehicles
- Discover Corps Guide that is there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- All scheduled activities and excursions
- $50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature and pre-departure support from Discover Corps
- 24-hour Discover Corps emergency hotline while traveling

RECOMMENDED FOR

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

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips for the Discover Corps Guide and Driver
- One lunch & one dinner
- International airfare
- Alcoholic beverages
- Laundry services, phone calls, and Internet service

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.

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.

Certified B Corporation

OUR DESTINATIONS

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

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

Discover Corps
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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.

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