



MUSEUM
TRAVEL
ALLIANCE



Cultural Treasures of Mexico

Oaxaca & San Miguel de Allende

with Rika Burnham, Lecturer

February 4 – 10, 2023



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

ENJOY a special expert-guided tour of Monte Albán, one of Mexico's most impressive ancient cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its breathtaking ceremonial center filled with temples, pyramids, plazas, and tombs

GO behind the scenes of awe-inspiring colonial churches, including Oaxaca's sumptuously gorgeous, 16th-century Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, with its spectacular gold and polychrome interiors, and the Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, a 17th-century wonder with towering pink spires in San Miguel de Allende

TAKE a curator-led tour of the Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca, with its outstanding display of archaeological treasures dating back millennia, and gaze upon colonial architecture as you stroll the cobblestone streets of Oaxaca with a scholar

MEET innovative artists in their private workshops and studios, including a local artisan who handcrafts unique musical instruments

DELIGHT in a hands-on, expert-led experience creating *alebrijes*, wonderfully colorful sculptures of mythical creatures, part of a modern Mexican art tradition

SAVOR an exclusive vineyard experience in a pastoral setting outside San Miguel de Allende, enjoying a private tasting and expert-guided tour with dramatic views



Dear Travelers and Friends:

In February 2023, join the Museum Travel Alliance on a six-night cultural journey into the ancient heart of Mexico. Experience two enchanting cities, Oaxaca and San Miguel de Allende, both UNESCO-recognized for their well-preserved history, marvelous cuisine, and complex cultures. Venture just outside Oaxaca for an exclusive, expert-led inside look at one of the most impressive archaeological sites in Mexico, Monte Albán, first occupied in 500 B.C.

You will travel with longtime museum educator **Rika Burnham**, author of the seminal book on art education, *Teaching in the Art Museum: Interpretation as Experience*. Her fascinating approach to looking closely at art will illuminate the many treasures you will see.

In southwestern Mexico, begin in charming Oaxaca, perched on a 5,000-foot-high plateau at the confluence of three emerald valleys. Stroll its beautiful *calles* and plazas with a scholar. Go behind the scenes of the 16th-century Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, whose interiors are lavishly decorated with gold leaf, polychrome figures, and bas-reliefs. Inside its centuries-old monastery, join a curator to behold archaeological treasures. Spend a day with an expert as you explore the exquisite palaces and pyramids of Monte Albán, evidence of the advanced craftsmanship of the Zapotecs and Mixtecs who ruled this region many centuries ago.

After a flight to Mexico City, stop in the “Magical Town” of San Sebastián Bernal before arriving for three nights in San Miguel de Allende. Known for its rainbow of Mexican Baroque architecture, San Miguel has a wealth of stunning centuries-old churches to admire. Take an inside look at the 17th-century Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, conspicuously pink and opulent, viewable anywhere in the city. You will also discover San Miguel’s art scene, among the finest in Mexico, and enjoy a hands-on immersion into a colorful form of traditional Mexican sculpture.

We hope that you will join us in Mexico for an exciting, in-depth exploration of two colorful cities.

Sincerely,

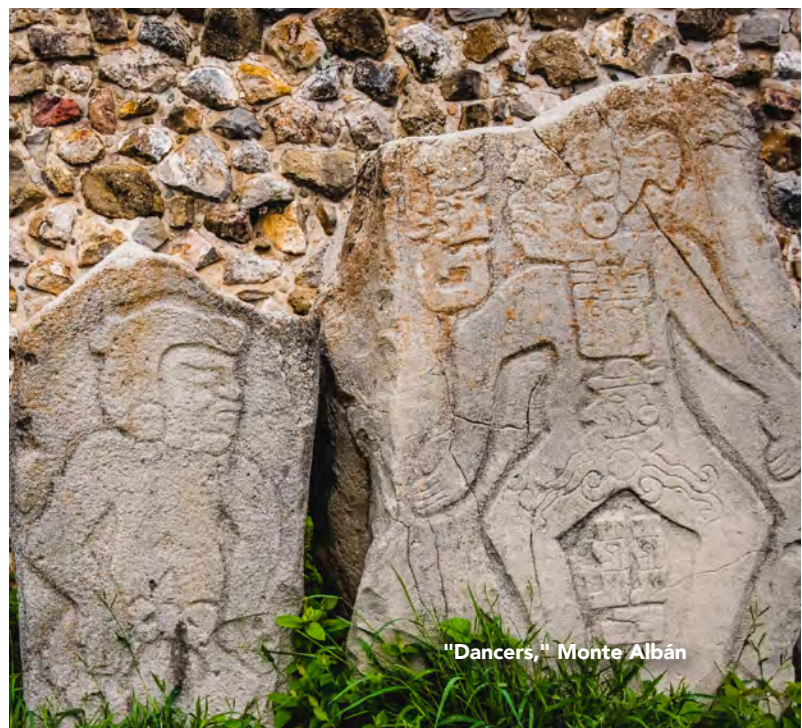
Jim Friedlander
President, Museum Travel Alliance

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Rika Burnham is a leading theorist and practitioner of art museum gallery teaching. Author of *Teaching in the Art Museum: Interpretation as Experience*, and lecturer at Columbia University, she has served as Head of Education at

The Frick Collection, Museum Educator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Project Director for TIME/Teaching Institute in Museum Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and was appointed Getty Research Institute Museum Scholar in 2002 and 2018. She holds a degree in art history from Harvard University and was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2014.



"Dancers," Monte Albán

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4: DEPARTURE / OAXACA, MEXICO

Depart by air for Oaxaca, Mexico. Transfer from the airport to your hotel for check-in. This evening, gather for an orientation and welcome reception, with dinner at leisure. R

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5: OAXACA

Situated at the confluence of three valleys, the state of Oaxaca boasts a sunny, temperate climate amid a rocky landscape. In the capital city of Oaxaca de Juárez, visit Templo de Santo Domingo de Guzmán, which was constructed primarily from 1570 to 1608 and remains the most splendid of Oaxaca's churches. The church is part of a great Dominican monastery, whose stone cloister is the antechamber to the Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca, where you will admire an outstanding display of archaeological treasures. After lunch, stroll down the Calle Macedonio Alcalá, a boulevard reserved for pedestrians, to view many of the city's most remarkable colonial buildings and shops. A visit to the private studio of a fascinating local artist will be a highlight. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner B,L,D

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6: OAXACA

Perched on a flattened hilltop just a few kilometers west of the city and with commanding views of the surrounding valley, Monte Albán is one of the most impressive sites in Mexico. First occupied around 500 B.C., Monte Albán was the center of the Zapotec Empire, which extended over most of the present state of Oaxaca, between 300-700 A.D. Today, join an expert guide to explore this majestic complex of pyramids, palaces, platforms, and tombs arranged around a grand plaza. Highlights include bas-relief "Dancers" (conquered chieftains) and hieroglyphs that are the earliest examples of writing in Mexico. Discover the many sights of Oaxaca on your own this evening, with dinner at leisure. B,L

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7: OAXACA / MEXICO CITY / SAN SEBASTIÁN BERNAL / SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Depart this morning for a flight to Mexico City, and transfer by motor coach to San Miguel de Allende. In the state of Querétaro, stop in San Sebastián Bernal, a village known as a *Pueblo Mágico* (Magical Town) for its symbolic and





San Sebastián Bernal



Alebrijes

historical significance as well as its natural beauty and cultural attractions. Visit the village's famous Peña de Bernal, the third-largest monolith in the world. Arrive in San Miguel de Allende, voted "The Best City in the World" by readers of *Travel + Leisure* over several years. This colonial-era metropolis was inscribed by UNESCO as a Cultural Heritage of Humanity due to its cultural and architectural contribution to the Mexican Baroque and its importance in the country's quest for independence from Spain. Enjoy an evening at leisure to explore this beautiful city. B,L

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8: SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Delight in a morning exploration of San Miguel de Allende's colorful churches and cultural center. Stroll past a rainbow of brilliantly painted colonial buildings to the historic town center, where you will tour one of San Miguel's most iconic landmarks, the 17th-century Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, with its sublime pink spires. After lunch, enjoy free time in town. Walk around its cobblestone streets, enjoy the many art galleries and craft shops, or indulge in the rich array of gastronomical selections on offer. B,L

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9: SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Enjoy breakfast, followed by a visit to a private sculpture workshop. Watch skilled craftsmen create *alebrijes*, vividly colorful sculptures of fantastical creatures, a Mexican folk art tradition. Learn the intriguing legends of these mythical creatures, and perhaps try your hand at creating your own masterpiece to take home. Enjoy lunch at leisure before a scenic ride to an enchanting local winery for a private tasting. An expert will guide you through the vineyards, the viewpoint overlooking the winery, the production area, and the underground cellar. This evening, gather for a festive farewell dinner. B,D

SATURDAY, MARCH 12: SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE / MEXICO CITY / RETURN

Depart the hotel early this morning, and transfer to the Mexico City airport for flights home. B

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Museum Travel Alliance. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php>.



San Miguel de Allende

ACCOMMODATIONS



Hotel Boutique Parador San Miguel Oaxaca

HOTEL BOUTIQUE PARADOR SAN MIGUEL OAXACA

In the historic downtown area of Oaxaca City, this beautiful three-story colonial-style building has 23 rooms, four of which are suites. Delight in its bewitchingly colorful décor and gardens and its restaurant serving the fascinating flavors of Oaxacan cuisine. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available.

DOÑA URRACA HOTEL & SPA, SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Only steps away from San Miguel's main square, this hotel is built in the Novo-Hispanic style and features an outdoor pool and spa. Free Wi-Fi is included.

PROGRAM RATE \$4,999 per person, double rate \$5,799 single rate RATE INCLUDES

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- One-way, internal economy-class flight (Oaxaca de Juárez-Mexico City)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Museo de las Culturas de Oaxaca

MUSEUM TRAVEL ALLIANCE CULTURAL TREASURES OF MEXICO FEBRUARY 4-10, 2023 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@museumtravelalliance.com; or complete and return this form with your payment in full, to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Museum Travel Alliance*. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

- ☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Museum Travel Alliance*)
☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card ☐ Wire transfer

Name on debit / credit card

Debit / Credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php> to review or call for a copy). Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date