



## Mexico City Cultural Tour

**2019** March 28 to April 8 A Gay Travel Mexico Cultural Tour Physical Challenge:

Mexico City is the largest metropolis in the Western Hemisphere and is brimming with rich culture and awe-inspiring architecture. It can be hard to experience it all in one trip, so we've lined up plenty of big and hidden gems. We'll visit ancient pyramids, take walks through interesting neighborhoods, enjoy a wide variety of arts, and have delicious food and drinks along the way.

\$5698

[Highlights Overview Itinerary Price Includes](#)

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**Marvel** at the ancient Pyramids of Teotihuacan **Explore** the 20<sup>th</sup> century home of Frida Kahlo  
**Drink** and relax at the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco **Visit** the palace that once housed Cortes  
**Eat** at authentic Mexican restaurants  
**Listen** to live music and dance at Zocalo  
**Discover** the elaborate art styles made by local people

This cultural tour of Mexico City, Puebla, Cuernavaca, and Taxco reveals the beauty of the area. We will have the opportunity to experience the ancient Pyramids of Teotihuacan first hand. Learn about local art through the plethora of museums spotted throughout the region. See a variety of architectural styles of homes, palaces, and churches. This tour is overflowing with culture in and around Mexico City.

We'll have the opportunity to explore some of the hidden gems of the area. We will walk through interesting neighborhoods, eat at some of the most delicious restaurants, including food from an authentic private home. This tour will delight all the senses and submerge you in culture.

**Map:**

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### Day 1: Mexico City, "The City of Palaces"

Welcome to Mexico City, the largest metropolitan area in the Western Hemisphere. Grab your bags and enjoy your transfer to our hotel. To celebrate our arrival, we'll enjoy a welcome drink at a nearby restaurant which overlooks the Cathedral and National Palace. After that, we will have our welcome dinner at the Azul Historico, a dining experience that beautifully entwines both indoor and outdoor atmospheric elements.

### Day 2 - Pyramids of Teotihuacan



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Today we will visit the Pyramids of Teotihuacan, a World Heritage Site and enormous archaeological complex. We will marvel at the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon and even see how families lived around the time of 100 BC. After the pyramids, we will have a traditional lunch served in a private home and then head to the Shrine of Guadalupe. The Shrine is located in the Basilica of Guadalupe and is an important pilgrimage site and one of the most frequented churches in the world. We'll then follow this with an evening stroll through entertaining pedestrian walkways. Tonight we will dine at a tasty rustic restaurant.

### Day 3 – 20th Century Mexican Architecture

We'll start our day with a walking tour through the Coyoacan neighborhood and end up at Frida Kahlo's home, the Casa Azul, where the Frida lived the majority of her life. The Casa Azul (Blue House) is both a look into the life of Frida Kahlo and a testament to the beauty of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mexican architecture. We'll follow this with the Saturday Art Market, El Bazaar Sabado, in San Angel, where we'll see stall after stall of handmade jewelry, textiles, crafts, and accessories. After we grab some lunch, we'll enjoy a boat ride, drinks and mariachi music at another World Heritage site, the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco. In the evening, you'll have the opportunity to dine at your leisure.

### Day 4 – Mexico City to Puebla, “The City of Angels”



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Today, we'll see an early morning performance of Ballet Folklórico at the Palace of Fine Arts where we'll experience colorful song and dance. Afterward, we will travel to Puebla, where we will have lunch at a lively café in the town square. We'll check into our hotel in the Centro Historico District, then take a walking tour of Puebla. Along the way, you'll have the opportunity to visit markets with antiques, crafts, and tianguis. We'll then take a culinary tasting tour of the local market.

### Day 5 – Puebla and The Great Pyramid of Cholula

This morning, we will visit the Great Pyramid of Cholula, the largest pyramid constructed in the world. Then we will visit two baroque churches: San Francisco Acatepec and Santa Maria Tonanzintla, then pause for lunch. After lunch we will see the Amparo Museum, followed by the Rosary Chapel, the Church of Santo Domingo. To conclude the day, we will experience live music and dinner at the La Casa del Mendrugo, where you can see a unique skull and other art.

### Day 6 – Puebla to Cuernavaca, “The City of Eternal Spring”



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Today we will make our way from Puebla to Cuernavaca, The City of Eternal Spring. We will check into our hotel and enjoy lunch at the House Restaurant located inside. After that, we will visit the Palace of Cortes that sits on a large tract of land awarded to Cortes after his conquests. We'll visit the Cuernavaca Cathedral and then make our way to the Robert Brady Museum, a large collection of visually stunning art. We will finish the day with dinner at Casa Hidalgo.

#### Day 7 – Cuernavaca to Taxco, “The Silver City”

Today we will say goodbye to Cuernavaca and hello to Taxco, The Silver City. This area is home to the Xochicalco, an ancient fortified city with impressive ruins. These ruins include influences from the Aztec, Zapotec, and Olmec people. We'll then have lunch on our way to our resort hotel, Pueblo Lindo. We'll have a fun introductory walk along the hillside lanes of Taxco, then let you explore the wonderful dining choices that this city has to offer.

#### Day 8 – William Spratling Museum and Dancing



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Today we'll visit the Taxco Cathedral. Then we'll have a traditional pozole lunch at a local restaurant. Following lunch, we'll head to the William Spratling Museum, where we can see some of the renowned silver creations of William Spratling. In the late afternoon we'll enjoy some live music and dancing in the Zocalo, then head out for dinner.

#### Day 9 – Caves of Cacahuamilpa

Today we will explore the caves of Cacahuamilpa, the largest cave system in all of Mexico. We'll have lunch in the resort town of Ixtapan de la Sal, then return to Mexico City and check into our hotel in the Zona Rosa District. This evening will feature dinner and music as we get into the vibe of the nightlife that Zona Rosa has to offer.

#### Day 10 – Chapultepec Castle – Tamayo Museum of Contemporary Art



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We'll start our day visiting Chapultepec Park. We'll then go to the local Anthropological Museum, to see the world's largest pre-Columbian relics, artifacts, and art. We'll enjoy lunch before heading to Chapultepec Castle, the only castle in North America to have ever housed actual sovereigns. Afterward, we will head to the Tamayo Museum of Contemporary Art, where you'll marvel at international contemporary art collections. We'll finish our day with food and some great atmosphere.

#### **Day 11 – Count del Valle Palace – Diego Rivera Mural Museum**

We will start today by heading to Count del Valle Palace (House of Tiles), one of the most beautiful pieces of Spanish baroque civil architecture. We'll then head to the Iturbide Palace and Cultural Museum, once the home of Agustín de Iturbide, who accepted the crown after Mexican independence from Spain. Next, we will visit the Diego Rivera Mural Museum, followed by lunch. A later stop will be the Museum of Popular Art, where you'll see handcrafted Mexican folk art. After the museum, we'll head to the Mercado San Juan traditional food market. Here you'll be pleasantly surprised at the variety and uniqueness of food and atmosphere. Afterward, we'll have drinks and enjoy our farewell dinner.

#### **Day 12 – Departure Day**

Today we will enjoy one last breakfast together and then take our transfers to the airport.

**Price includes:** Airport transfers; Accommodations for 11 nights; All breakfasts, all lunches, 9 dinners; Entrance



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fees and activities shown; All ground transportation; Services of knowledgeable, full-time, bilingual national guide and HE Travel Tour Director (pending minimum participation). HE Travel provides complimentary Medical & Evacuation Insurance for every US Resident on our group tours who does not have other coverage.

**Not included:** Airfare to and from starting and ending points; 2 dinners; Personal items including: alcoholic beverages, snacks, laundry, and telephone calls; gratuities for guides and HE Travel host.

#### **Optional Tour Choices:**

**\$1800** Single Supplement (for solo travelers who wish to enjoy a private bedroom and bathroom)

#### **What if I am traveling alone?**

Most of our trips draw more single travelers than couples. When couples do join us, it's usually because they're looking forward to interacting with a gay group; if they wanted a holiday by themselves, they wouldn't have signed up to travel with us. Furthermore, the activities included with our trips serve as natural ice-breakers. Within a day, you'll be traveling with friends. You don't need to pay the single supplement if you're traveling alone. We'll be happy to match you with a roommate. Pay the single supplement only if you want a bedroom to yourself.

For selected trips, including cruises, we will charge half the single supplement if you request a roommate but we can't match you with someone.

#### **Where does the tour start and end?**

This tour starts and ends in Mexico City. We recommend arriving by 3 pm on Day 1 of the tour so you'll have time to get to the hotel and join our evening reception and Welcome Dinner.

#### **What is the Activity Level of This Tour?**

To fully enjoy this tour, one should be able to walk on uneven surfaces for extended periods and enjoy outdoor activities.

#### **What will the hotels be like?**

We will be staying at boutique hotels where possible. Everything is 4-Star or better.

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#### **Additional Questions**

For answers to your additional questions, please email [info@hetravel.com](mailto:info@hetravel.com) or call 305-294-8174



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