

Itinerary

Oaxaca 2008 Dia de los Muertos

Food and Cultural Adventure with Daniel Hoyer

Monday October 27th-Day 1

Arrival in Oaxaca, check in at the *Hotel Aitana*, located on Crespo street 6 blocks from the beautiful Zócalo (plaza) in central Oaxaca. 6:30 pm orientation, cocktails and Cena (supper) at the *Terra Nova* restaurant on the Zócalo, Oaxaca's beautiful central plaza.

Meals(1)- D

Tuesday 28th-Day 2

Breakfast at the hotel. 10 am-2:30 pm cooking class at *La Casa de los Sabores* with chef/owner Pilar Cabrera where we will prepare traditional tamales and enjoy a five course Oaxacan meal. Walking tour of the Central Historic area afterwards. Independent dinner and free evening with optional street food and *Casa de Mezcal* adventure with Daniel

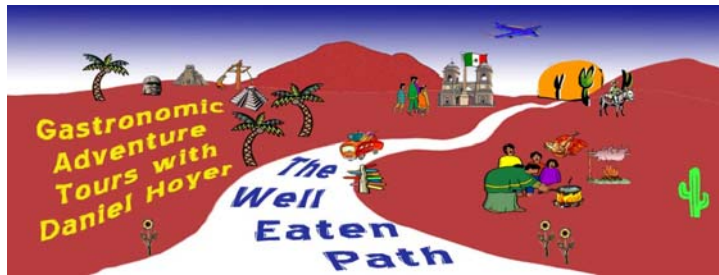
Meals(2)-B, Comida (afternoon main meal)

Wednesday 29th-Day 3

6:30 am departure to Teotitlan de Valle where we will pick up the manager of *Del Maguey Premium Mezcal*. Ron Cooper, my good friend, fellow Taoseño, and president of the company produces single-village mezcals in the 18th century tradition. We will have breakfast along the way and traditional Zapoteca comida with the family that runs the mezcal *palenque* (distillery) and will observe the process of growing, fermenting, bottling and also have an opportunity for tasting. This is a special treat where we will get a much more intimate insight into the Indigenous life in Oaxaca and what goes into producing a top-quality mezcal at a palenque employing hands-on artisanal techniques rather than the mediocre "factory" operations that most tours visit. When we return to Teotitlan, we will visit some of the famous rug weavers and enjoy a demonstration of dyeing and natural wool weaving techniques. On the way back from Teotitlan we will have a snack and then stop at *El Tule*, one of the largest trees in North America reputed to be over two thousand years old. Return to the hotel around 6 pm.

Free evening, independent dinner.

Meals(2)-B, L, snack



Budget

Meals not included - \$75-250 USD per person (depending on your choices)

Snacks and beverages \$50-150 USD depending on your personal habits. (All provided meals come with a beverage, sometimes this is beer or wine, if desired; if you want additional drinks you should budget for that. The hotels provide drinking water, but water away from the hotel must be purchased.

Additional sightseeing – optional at your pleasure-Daniel can often get you significant discounts on these activities.

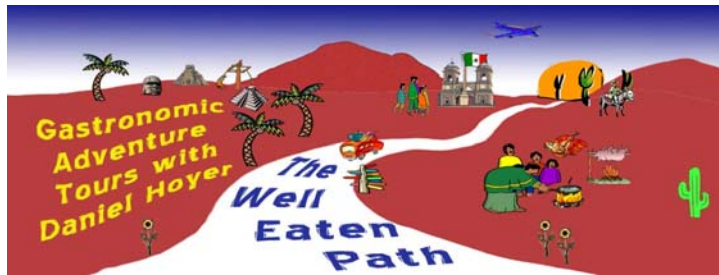
Tips- nothing required, I would bring between \$50-150 USD to cover the optional contingencies.

Local Payment - \$200/person US (part of quoted tour price)

Note on Paying Locally: Most of our tours involve a local payment. Paying locally allows us to keep the overall cost of our tours competitive and pass the savings on to you. These funds are put towards local expenses. In some developing countries the transferring of funds is at times problematic so this is a way to help us serve you while saving you money. Payment is to be made to Daniel upon arrival.

Shopping- depends on your desire for souvenirs, gifts, artwork, etc.

Film/video tape- also depends on what you use. It is more economical to bring these with you but you will have opportunities to purchase if you need to.



What to take

Check list

Documents:

- *Passport (with photocopies)
- *Travel insurance (with photocopies)
- *Airline tickets (with photocopies)
- *USD cash and travelers checks
- *Credit or debit card (see personal spending money)
- *itinerary

Items

- First-aid kit**
- Sun block and sunburn treatment
- Sunglasses
- Toiletries
- Watch or alarm clock
- Water bottle

Clothing (suggested minimum, less is better to keep your baggage light)

- Light jacket or sweater and/or windproof/waterproof jacket (October is not the rainy season but it is always a possibility)
- Small towel and swim wear (if desired)
- 4 shirts/t-shirts
- Sun hat
- 1 or 2 pair of shorts
- 2-3 pairs of long trousers (1 long skirt, dress or wrap for women)
- plenty of cotton socks (it is often very humid)
- Sturdy, comfortable walking shoes
- Sport sandals and/or casual shoes

**First aid kit should contain lip salve, Aspirin or Tylenol, Band Aids, anti-histamine, Imodium, pepto bismol or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, motion sickness medicine (if needed), extra prescription drugs you may be taking.

Optional

Camera, batteries and memory card or film, reading/writing material, Spanish dictionary or phrase book, binoculars, cover for backpacks, flashlight, concealable money belt.

