

## ONE DAY EXCURSIONS

### I. Mexico City

Megalopolis such as Mexico City are formed by the gradual fusion of several cities and towns. The roots of Mexico's capital lie in the so-called Historic Center, an area which occupies the original core of the city which the Aztecs set out like a celestial map, aligned according to the four cardinal points. The Spanish then retraced the area in a checker board pattern, and it was subsequently rebuilt as a convent-filled, aristocratic metropolis before eventually transforming into a microcosm of modernity. Visits to:



Zocalo



Catedral Metropolitana

- Historic center
- The National Palace where you will be able to admire the famous murals of Diego Rivera
- Zocalo
- Catedral Metropolitana
- Paseo de la Reforma
- Castillo de Chapultepec

### II. Mexico City + Museo de Antropología

#### 1. Mexico City

#### 2. Museo de Antropología.

In bringing together the vestiges of the past with the daily activities of the present, the National Museum of Anthropology has achieved a truly magnificent museological space. Here are assembled the major archeological and ethnographic collections gathered in Mexico since the 18th Century, when interest in the native heritage destroyed by the encounter between two worlds first took hold.

- Introduction to Anthropology
- Introduction to Mesoamerica
- Origins

- Pre-Classical Central Plateau
- Teotihuacan
- Tolteca
- Mexica (in restoration)
- Oaxaca (in restoration)
- Gulf of Mexico
- Maya
- North
- West
- Ethnography



Palacio de Bellas Artes

### III. Mexico City + Xochimilco

#### 1. Mexico City



Xochimilco

2. *Xochimilco*. The possibility of traveling through time is an endeavor best left to philosophers; however, visits to places such as Xochimilco present us with the opportunity to imagine the former character of this region, which was the main water catchment area for Mexico City up until the 19th Century. The tamed wilderness, or the country in the city, are two of the likely descriptions which can be applied to this lake which struggles to survive against the encroaching urban mass.

## V. Pyramids of Teotihuacan

Teotihuacan arose as a new religious center in the Mexican Highland, around the time of Christ. Although its incipient period (the first two centuries B.C.) is poorly understood, archaeological data show that the next two centuries (Tzacualli to Miccaotli phases; A.D. 1-200) were characterized by monumental construction, during which Teotihuacan quickly became the largest and most populous urban center in the New World. By this time, the city already appears to have expanded to approximately 20 square km, with about 60,000 to 80,000 inhabitants (Millon 1981:221). The development of the city seems to have involved inter-site population movements, exploitation of natural resources, an increase in agricultural production, technological inventions, establishment of trading systems and other kinds of socio-political organizations, and attractive belief systems. By the fourth century, unmistakable influences of Teotihuacan were felt throughout most parts of Mesoamerica. Teotihuacan was the sixth largest city in the world during its period of greatest prosperity, according to an estimated population of 125,000 (Millon 1993:33). The city seems to have functioned for centuries as a well-developed urban center until its rather sudden collapse, possibly in the seventh century. The place was called Teotihuacan by Nahuatl speakers several centuries after the city's fall, but its original name, the language or languages spoken there, and the ethnic groups who built the city are still unknown.



Teotihuacan



Pirámide del Sol

## V. Xochicalco

The site of Xochicalco is located on a hilltop in Morelos, with defensive walls and terracing along most of the hillside. This site, like Cacaxtla, shows the tell-tale signs of warfare and widespread culture contact after the fall of Teotihuacan.



## VI. Xochicalco - Hacienda de Vista Hermosa

### 1. Xochicalco



2. Hacienda de Vista Hermosa. Begun in 1529 by Hernan Cortes, Vista Hermosa has had a long and tumultuous past. After Cortes' death, his son, Don Martin arrived from Spain to take it over. The hacienda ownership left the Cortes family in 1621 and a series of eight more hacendados ruled Vista Hermosa before Emiliano Zapata and his followers evicted them in 1910, leaving it in ruins. Engineer Fernando Martinez found it in 1944 and created this luxurious refuge.

## VII. Taxco

Taxco is famous for its beautiful colonial architecture and narrow cobbled streets. Among Taxco main attractions are: The Santa Prisca Parish, built in 1751 with sumptuous decorations inside, The San Bernadino Convent, founded in 1592, The Chapel of Señor de Chavarrieta with its old crucifix, The antique Spanish castle,...



## **VIII. Xochicalco - Taxco**

1. *Xochicalco*
2. *Taxco*

## **IX. Xochicalco - Taxco - Grutas Cacahuamilpa**

1. *Xochicalco*
2. *Taxco*
3. *Grutas de Cacahuamilpa : caves*

## **X. Tepoztlan**



A small ancient town. Visits to the beautiful XVI century Augustinian Convent, the Zocalo, the market place,...

## **XI. Tepoztlan - Popocateptl and Ixtazihuacatl Volcano - Teotihuacan (pyramids) - Ciudad de México**

1. *Tepoztlan*
2. *Popocateptl and Ixtazihuacatl Volcanos: views*
3. *Teotihuacan*
4. *México City*

