

The Magic of San Miguel de Allende

August 13 - 20, 2024

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A Unesco World Heritage Site, this small city is famous for its culture, artistic lifestyle & architectural 16 century Baroque style masterpieces.

Experience: Majestic Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel that towers above the city, **Music & Events in the Jardín**, the local zocolo, Benito Juárez Park, **Local Markets, Bellas Artes Gallery, Fabrica La Aurora**, an upscale art & design center, **Biblioteca**, (public library) the second largest bilingual library in Mexico & the center of cultural events, **Instituto Allende**, arts & language school built in the 1700's.

Tues. Aug. 13: Arrive at Queretaro (ke re'taro) for a one night stay before heading to San Miguel. A university town known as one of the best Ex-Pat destinations in Mexico, it is also one of the safest places in Mexico. Also a UNESCO Site & one of the most well-preserved historical cities with modern facilities. Our walking tour leads us to the wealth of beautiful, mostly baroque-style buildings and what I love most....the many pedestrian streets lined with restaurants & lovely parks.



Wed. Aug 14: Depart after lunch for an hour drive to San Miguel de Allende for five nights. It's an artist's delight for the abundant artisan's galleries & shops as well as streets filled with musicians. Check into **Hotel Quinta Loreto**, www.quintaloreto.com.mx, located within a few blocks from the Center, with gardens & restaurant. A ten-minute stroll leads us to El Jardín, the center square, always filled with music and activities. The Parroquia de San Miguel Archangel is a remarkable presence.

Thurs. Aug 15: **San Miguel food tour** will delight as San Miguel is also known as a Culinary Mecca as it is a blend of Aztec, Mayan, Toltec, Spanish & French. Experience the regional flavors while learning about the architecture, history & culture.

Fri. Aug. 16: Fri. Aug. 23: Our guide and driver, Francisco Correa, will pick us up for a tour to Guanajuato, hour & a half drive. Frank is a local of San Miguel & my guide for many different tours in Mexico. I trust him completely & you will enjoy his sense of humor. I haven't had one client who hasn't appreciated him.

This is an all-day tour in this fascinating city with a very different ambiance than San Miguel & much history of the fight for Independence. A lovely tree filled piazza is surrounded by restaurants, the Theater, music and a short walk to the International University, the birthplace of Diego Rivera & the museum of Don Quixote. We have lunch at one of my favorite restaurants on the piazza.

Sat. Aug 17: After breakfast, we will take taxis to La Gruta Hot Springs, 20 minute drive with a short stop at the UNESCO site of 18th century Santuario de Atotonilca with its beautiful Frescoes. It is a holy pilgrimage to celebrate the saints of the indigenous villages. There are changing booths, restrooms & restaurants at the Hot Springs. It's delightful and has five pools varying in water temps.



Sun. Aug. 18: Yay! A Free Day to Shop!! And Explore Benito Juarez park is not to be missed with its wonderful sculptures and artwork as well as a lovely neighborhood. Happy Hour on the rooftop of the Rosewood hotel, which I recommend.

Mon. Aug. 19: Check out & a pick up by Frank as we head out for our wine tour, visiting the iconic Pena de Bernal & Tequisquiapan, another Pueblo Magico & home of the Opal mines & vineyards. End of the day, we will be dropped off at our hotel in Queretaro, Double Tree by Hilton.

Tues. Aug. 20: Shuttle to airport.

Details: Ten People Max Double occupancy per person: \$885 Single: of \$1195 Deposit: \$200. 50% of deposit refundable until June 13 when balance is due. No refund past that date.

Includes: 7 nights lodging, 5 tours & shuttles, departing airport shuttle

Register: Joyce Sierra 520-404-2254 backroadsjoy@gmail.com www.toursbysierra.com

Checks: Tours by Sierra, P.O. Box 912, Green Valley, Az 85622, or Zelle, credit card (add 3%)

Airfare not included. Tucson to Queretaro, average \$550. See Trip Insurance on my website.

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