



Celebrating Day of the Dead

Zapotec Weaving and Natural Dyeing in Oaxaca



BY INVITATION ONLY
Exclusive New Itinerary!

October 25 – November 6, 2026

Trip Highlights

- Celebrate the Day of the Dead with local families in Teotitlán rather than commercialism in the city
- Optional hiking in the mountains of Teotitlán foraging for natural dye plants and fibers
- Four days of Zapotec Weaving
- Two Days of Natural Dyeing
- Exclusive visit to the “Women of the Red Clay” in San Marcos Tlapazola with other private artists’ visits
- Visit *Hierve el Agua*, the Petrified Waterfalls of Oaxaca
- A Cultural Oaxacan Cooking Class
- Visit Yagul Archeological Site and the River Reed Basket Weavers of San Juan Guelavía



Sunday, October 25

To Oaxaca

Today you fly from your home to Oaxaca. Upon arrival, you will be greeted and transferred to the luxurious Casa Hidalgo Boutique Hotel, a veritable oasis amidst the hustle and bustle of Oaxaca City. Built in the 18th century, it was owned by the friars of Felipe II and nuns from the neighboring church of San Felipe Neri, who often invited prominent figures such as José María Díaz Ordaz, Benito Juárez García and Igor Stravinsky. Located right in the center of Oaxaca City, the hotel features neoclassical architecture and colonial touches of green Cantera stone. The house was also the headquarters of the French consulate, and the original French flagpole is still preserved. Overnight at Casa Hidalgo. (No meals included)

Monday, October 26

Free Day in Oaxaca City

Today you can rest from your travels and have a free day to explore this fascinating city at your leisure. Oaxaca City literally overflows with handicrafts located at a variety of colorful native markets which are considered the city's heart and soul. We will have the opportunity for an optional group dinner tonight. Overnight at Casa Hidalgo. (B)



Tuesday, October 27

A Very Cultural Oaxaca Cooking Class



A culinary delight awaits us today. Chef Carrizosa opens the doors of Casa Crespo to offer us an intimate opportunity to cook alongside him in a relaxed and exclusive environment. This is an immersive experience in Oaxacan cuisine, designed to allow us to learn at our own pace, with no set menu. We can choose what interests us. The chef will provide detailed explanations and a selection of dishes personalized according to our gastronomic interests. Our class will be a journey that connects the present with the deep pre-Hispanic roots of this unique gastronomy.

First, though, we will wander through the local market with Chef Carrizosa to explore, learn about the unique and exotic spices, local herbs and endemic chilies that distinguish Oaxacan cuisine. We'll discover the secrets of local ingredients such as "criollo's corn" that has been the basis of food in Oaxaca for centuries. He will teach us about the cultural landscape that surrounds the local gastronomy, the history, the present, the places, and the characters.

Finally, we will learn to cook emblematic dishes of our choice, with techniques passed down through generations. At the end of class, we'll enjoy the feast we have created. Overnight at Casa Hidalgo. (B,L)





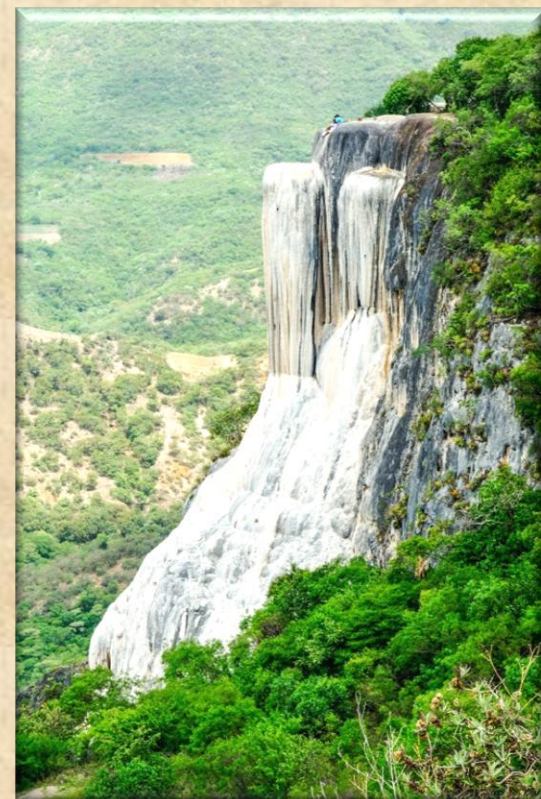
©Photo Credit: <https://fahho.mx/mujeres-del-barro-rojo/>

Wednesday, October 28

To Teotitlan: An Exclusive Visit with the “Women of the Red Clay” and Petrified Waterfalls

We have a special treat in store today when we travel out of the city for an exclusive visit to the village of San Marcos Tlapazola, a rural gem whose name means "place of the quail." Its population is 100% indigenous Zapotec. Here we find *Las Mujeres del Barro Rojo*, the renowned cooperative of fifteen potters founded by master potter Macrina Matethe. The women practice the time-honored craft of pottery passed down from their ancestors and make each red clay piece by hand. In this village, we take a step back in time where the women wear traditional colorful clothing of long skirts and blouses, topped with aprons and rebozos, their hair braided with ribbons. We'll visit other workshops in the town where they support each other in their craft. This visit will surely deeply touch our souls.

From here we carry on to *Hierve el Agua*, the petrified waterfalls which are a stunning natural phenomenon and almost otherworldly. Here we do a short hike to the falls (optional) and witness the stupendous views across the Sierra. Pools of water formed by natural hot springs are located on a natural shelf overlooking the valley. For those that would like a longer hike, we can go a little further for more stunning views. Overnight at La Cupula. (B,D)



Thursday, October 29

Mountain Foraging for Natural Dyes

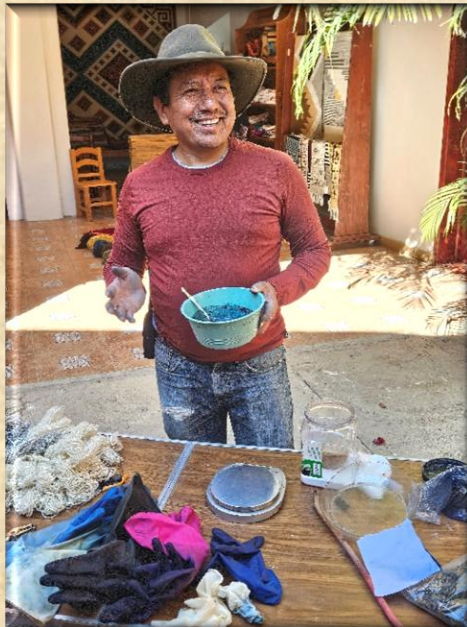
This morning, we will start the day off with a visit to the quaint local market at Teotitlán. Then, we will enjoy an exclusive hike in the local mountains with Master Dyer Demetrio Bautista Lazo to explore his favorite places to find the plants for his beautiful natural dyes. We'll travel off the beaten path to his secret spots and harvest what we need for our upcoming dyeing workshop. For those who prefer not to hike, you can begin your weavings. Overnight at La Cupula. (B,D)





Friday - Saturday, October 30 - 31 Natural Dyeing Workshop

We will spend these two days dyeing with Master Dyer Demetrio Bautista Lazo using the plants that we harvested in the mountains. Overnight at La Cupula. (B,L,D)





Sunday, November 1 Weaving and Celebrating Day of the Dead with Locals

Nowhere in the world is this traditional festival celebrated with more joy, color, authentic ritual and magic than in Teotitlán! This special departure allows us to celebrate this important authentic cultural extravaganza in a small village with local hosts. We get to stray from an ordinary tourist extravaganza in the frenetic city.

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a long-established custom tradition in which Mexicans honor their deceased loved ones. This is not a morbid occasion



at all, but rather a vibrant, festive and colorful holiday. It is their belief that spirits return to this earth for one day to be with their families, so it is a time of celebration and love. In Mexico, they decorate their loved ones' graves and create *ofrendas* (elaborately decorated altars) to welcome the spirits home. We have been invited to be a part of this ancient practice with the local people of Teotitlán. Overnight at La Cúpula. (B,L,D)





Monday – Wednesday, November 2 - 4 Weaving Workshop with Felipe Hernandez & Family

We will spend three glorious days weaving in the incredible setting of Teotitlán. Working on traditional walking looms, Felipe will teach us the Zapotec style of weaving *tapetes*. Using Felipe's naturally dyed wool in a gorgeous palette, we will each create a piece of our own.

Each morning, we will be treated to a delicious breakfast prepared by Demetrio's wife Maribel at La Cupula. She is an amazing chef and teaches cooking classes featuring traditional Zapotec dishes. The rest of the day is ours to weave. Felipe's wife Maria prepares a delicious lunch each day featuring some of the best home cooked cuisine in Oaxaca. Light soup dinners are prepared by Maria for our dining pleasure at La Cupula each evening. Some days (depending on each weaver's progress) might include an opportunity to visit some of the colorful local sites (optional, additional cost). Right in our backyard, nearly every Teotitlán house is a mini factory where the families still card, spin, and dye wool. Overnight at La Cúpula. (B,L,D Daily)



Thursday, November 5
Exploring Oaxaca's Lesser-Known Ruins of Yagul
and River Reed Basket Weaving



Yagul is a spiritual and magical place that not many people visit. Here, quiet stone ruins rise from dry earth, and we can meander among walls that echo the whispers of Zapotec rulers and sacred rituals. Yagul features two pre-Hispanic archaeological complexes and a series of pre-historic caves and rock shelters.

The site is not as fully developed or highly promoted as the ruins at Mitla or Monte Alban so there is air of mystery.

In this setting, we can let our imagination run wild as we picture what lies below. Early corn (maize) was carbon dated to 8,000 years ago. There is extremely well-preserved botanical evidence of bottle gourds, beans and squash and the earliest known maize cobs. There is also evidence of Pleistocene animals and stone tools and the seasonal use of the abundant summer resources of fruit and small mammals.



Relatively nearby is the town of San Juan Guelavía known for its lovely 16th-century church and traditional *carrizo* (river reed) basket weaving. Tourists rarely visit this off-the-beaten-path town. Basket weaving is thought to be Mexico's oldest craft as remnants of baskets have been found in Mexican caves dating as far back as 7,000 B.C. It is believed that basketry developed before agriculture and that the nomadic hunter-gatherers wove containers to collect and store their food and carry their supplies long before the

Spanish conquest in 1521.

Today, there are roughly thirty families in the village that still practice this craft that was originally used for utilitarian agricultural purposes, but has shifted to creating baskets, bird cages, earrings and lamp shades. The weavers sell at local markets for Dia de los Muertos to carry bread and flowers to the altars. This craft has been passed down for generations and is intense, skilled manual work. Like local weavings, the varying

designs are influenced by the ancient Zapotec culture with similar patterns to those found in the stonework at Mitla. Sadly, it is believed by many anthropologists that there are significant risks to the continuation of this artisan craft as much of it is being replaced by plastic baskets.

We have a bit of a drive back to Oaxaca City this afternoon but our visits on the road less traveled are definitely worth it! We can gather tonight for a farewell dinner on the final night of our adventure (cost not included). Overnight at Casa Hidalgo. (B)

Friday, November 6

Flights Home

Sadly, our time in Oaxaca has come to an end. We hope that your memories last a lifetime! You will be transferred to the airport for your flights home. (B)

Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain, or “ordinary” tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the discerning and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. Our typical group size is limited to 12-14 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

We invite you to join us.
Come be a creative traveler,
not a tourist.

As is the case with all true adventures, your itinerary should be considered an approximation of activities only. Although Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys will do our best to adhere to the scheduled itinerary, the itinerary may be changed subject to unexpected and worthwhile opportunities, weather, group desires, traffic and circumstances beyond our control, etc. Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys and its guides reserve the right to alter the itinerary without prior notice. Also please be aware that any voluntary changes on your part to your itinerary while in Mexico will be made at your own expense.

Included:

- 12 Nights' accommodation; Single Room Upgrade Available
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- 3.5 – 4 Days of weaving workshop including use of the loom and all materials and equipment
- 2 Days of natural dyeing workshop
- Airport transfers as indicated
- Private sightseeing tours with bilingual guide—entrance fees
- All applicable service charges and taxes
- Pre-departure materials including destination information, travel tips, packing recommendations and current CDC health travel recommendations

Not included:

- International air transportation
- Any item not specifically included in your program including all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Tips for your guide, ground staff, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional Insurance of any kind. **We highly recommend trip insurance!**

Cost: \$3,395 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy
Single Room Upgrade \$895

**We highly recommend purchasing additional insurance, including trip cancellation.
We provide details in our Registration Packet.**



From Oaxaca with Love

