



Weaving Zapotec Dreams in Oaxaca



With 5 Days of
Hands-On
Weaving
&
an Optional
Natural Dyeing &
Fiber Sculpture
Workshop

January 20 - 24

**Zapotec Weaving Workshop,
Ancient Ruins, Chocolate,
Mezcal, Mole, and More!**

January 10 – 21, 2024

Loom Dancer Odysseys

*"Weaving together uncommon journeys
with hands-on experience."*

Dear Fellow Adventurer,

As an avid explorer and a weaver, I feel there is a timeless connection between these two passions. For the past 31 years, with my adventure travel company, NatureQuest, we have shown countless travelers the many treasures of this planet. I have combined my travel industry expertise with my love for, and appreciation of, weaving to create affordable hands-on weaving workshops around the world.

Each odyssey focuses on, and explores in depth, the various weaving centers of the world. These journeys offer the discovery of colorful destinations combined with an opportunity for a "hands on" fiber arts experience in the style and tradition of that country with master artisans. These are small group, intimate travel experiences limited to just a handful of travelers. I will lead each odyssey, so I invite you to join me for the textile experience of a lifetime!

In the Spirit of Adventure and Creativity,

Cari Sample Malver
Director



Meet Our Local Weaving Mentors...

Felipe Hernandez & Family

One of the most renowned weavers of Zapotec rugs, Felipe, like many of the weavers of the community, began weaving at age 13. He has carried on the tradition by teaching his three sons how to card, spin and weave. Felipe has been able to support his family with his weaving after he was discovered by a buyer from the United States to whom he has provided rugs for more than 15 years. Felipe weaves five hours every day from 4 AM – 9AM. He is a master dyer who expertly produces rose, blueberry and peach shades and is one of the few weavers in Teotitlán that dyes for custom orders. Weaving remains Felipe's passion. He says that even if he had different opportunities in another life, he would first and foremost be a weaver.



The Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Oaxaca City

Days 2-3: Exploring Colorful Oaxaca City

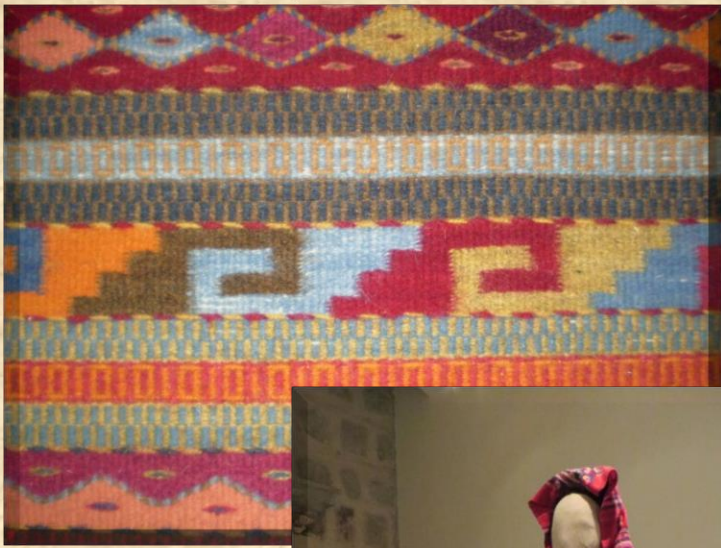
Day 4: The Ancient Ruins of Monte Alban, Markets and Teotitlán

Day 5: Mitla Ruins and Markets

Days 6-10: Weaving with Felipe & Family

Day 11: Local Markets: Ceramics, Textiles, Embroidery, Wooden Carvings and much more...

Day 12: Flights Home



Wednesday, January 10 To Oaxaca

Today you fly from your home to Oaxaca. Upon arrival, you will be greeted and transferred to the charming hotel, Parador San Miguel, a colonial-era home that has been transformed into a lovely hotel. With only nineteen rooms and filled with Old World details, a tranquil leafy inner patio, stained glass, and an elegant restaurant, it is an oasis in the city. Overnight at Parador San Miguel. (Meals on flights)

www.paradorsanmigueloaxaca.com

Thursday, January 11 Exploring Oaxaca City

Today we will have a half day guided tour of Oaxaca City offering a historical perspective on this fascinating city with time to explore on your own. This evening, we enjoy a private rooftop reception. Overnight at Parador San Miguel. (No meals included)

Friday, January 12 Free Day in Oaxaca City

Today you have a free day to explore this fascinating city at your leisure. Oaxaca City literally overflows with handicrafts with a variety of colorful native markets which are considered the city's heart and soul. Overnight at Parador San Miguel. We will have the opportunity for an optional group dinner tonight. (No meals included)

Saturday, January 13 Monte Alban & To the Valle de Teotitlán

The Zapotec civilization was one of the earliest complex societies in Mesoamerica. This area is a beautiful treasury of colorful markets, bucolic handicrafts villages, and ancient archeological sites; some of which we will explore. East, west, and south of the city lie countless artistic and archeological wonders.

We will be picked up by our private driver this morning and be driven into the Valley of Oaxaca. This is a landscape of a mountain-rimmed patchwork of fertile fields, rivers and streams located within the Sierra Madre Mountains.



En route, we will visit **Monte Albán**, considered the “must-see” archeological site in Oaxaca. Monte Albán ranks among Mesoamerica’s most regally magnificent, ruined cities where its vibrant civilization reigned from 500 BC – 750 BC.

Situated on a mountain 1,315 feet above the Oaxaca Valley, Monte Alban (*mohn-the ahl bahn*) was once the holy city of more than 30,000 Zapotecs. It is the area’s most interesting and extensively excavated ruin, yet it is estimated that only about 10% of the site has yet been uncovered.

Our ultimate destination today is **Teotitlán del Valle**, which means “Place of the Gods” and is world famous for its weavings. The art of weaving in this village dates to 500BC. Currently there are more than one hundred weaving workshops here. Our lodging host will be Demetrio Bautista Lazo, master weaver and part of a family that has been weaving for generations. We will stay at his B&B on the outskirts of town. La Cúpula is a quaint Moorish-style villa with incredible views of the Sierra Juarez Mountains and will be our home for the next 7 nights while we weave and explore.(D)
www.teotitlan.com



Oaxaca 2017 Weavers





Sunday, January 14 Teotitlán, Tlascaloula Market & Mitla

Early this morning, we will visit the colorful local square in Teotitlán and its daily market. It is unlikely we will see any tourists at this quaint traditional shopping mecca where the locals come to shop and socialize. It is alive with traditional sights, smells and sounds of this charming small village.

From here we travel to another colorful market experience, Tlascaloula Market, one of Oaxaca's largest and oldest markets. Locals from all around the region come to this market for daily supplies and food. They can purchase everything from a yoke for their ox to live turkeys for their Sunday dinner. We'll spend a couple of hours wandering around this lively venue.

In the afternoon, we have another cultural treat in store; this time the ancient Zapotec ruins of Mitla (*"Place of the Dead"* in Zapotec) which features five ruins clusters and was at its height at AD

1350. We will see the stone carvings that are found in the designs of traditional Zapotec Weavings. You might want to photograph them for inspiration in the weaving you will begin tomorrow.



The rest of the afternoon is free to explore the sights and shops of Teotitlán, design your weaving, or simply relax on the terrace.

Overnight at
La Cúpula.
(B,D)





Monday – Friday, January 15 – 19 Weaving Workshop with Felipe Hernandez & Family

We will spend five 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.



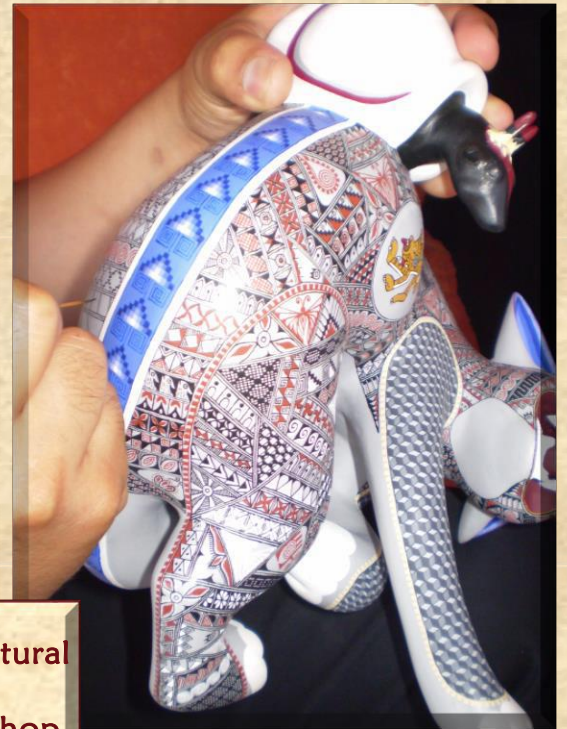
One evening we will visit a local cooperative, Vida Nueva, which features the altruistic work of local women weavers. Overnight at La Cúpula.
(B,L,D Daily)



Saturday, January 20

Exploring Oaxaca's Outstanding Handicrafts

On our way back to Oaxaca City we have a variety of treats in store en route. This morning we visit a cochineal farm where we can observe how the cactus is cultivated with these fascinating beetles to create magnificent red dyes. From here we will visit **San Antonio Castillo Velasco** which is famous for its lovely embroidery. A stop at **San Martín Tilcajete** introduces us to *alebrijes*, the prime source for fanciful wooden creatures found the world over. **San Bartolo Coyotepec** is renowned for its black pottery (*barro negro*) which is sold throughout Mexico. In the evening we will return to Oaxaca City and Parador San Miguel, where we may enjoy a farewell dinner and overnight. (B)



Or begin the Natural
Dyeing & Fiber
Sculpture Workshop.
See Page 12 for
details...



Oaxaca's Special Cheese



Mezcal Tasting



Happy Hour at La Cupula



Buying aprons at the Teotitlán Market



A little finishing work



Sunday, January 21 Flight Home

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.
(No meals included)

As with all true adventures, these itineraries are subject to change without notice based on a variety of factors. Although Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys will do our best to adhere to the scheduled itinerary, we are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions. As is the case with all true adventures, your itinerary should be considered an approximation of activities only. The itinerary may be changed subject to unexpected and worthwhile opportunities, weather, group desires, 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.

Land Costs Include:

- 11 Nights' Accommodation based on double occupancy; single accommodations available with supplement
- Meals as designated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- 5 Days of Textile Workshops including use of the loom and all materials and equipment!
- 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

Land Costs Exclude:

- 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

Cost:

\$2,595 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy

For those wishing single accommodations: Single Supplement \$600

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 10-12 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

- We invite you to join us; be a traveler,
 - not a tourist.

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



October 2012



January 2014



January 2015



February 2015



October 2015



January 2016

**** Plus ****

An Optional 3 Day Natural Dyeing and “Move Over Barbie,” A Fiber Sculpture Workshop



In this exclusive workshop, we will learn the ancient tradition of natural dyeing with Zapotec weaver and dyer, Demetrio. We will work with cochineal, indigo, Spanish moss, wild chamomile, pecan leaves, pomegranate, marigolds and anchiote. Using these materials, we can create colorful dyes to use making in our doll sculptures with amazing artist Rebecca Severide. Demetrio Bautista Lazo grew up at his parents' knees weaving rugs using the popular aniline dyes of the 1960's and 1970's. But times have changed and so has the marketplace. While Demetrio looks forward with his innovative weaving designs, he is looking back generations for the rich hues and dying

techniques of his ancestors. The results are rugs that embrace both the future and the past. For Demetrio, the process of making a rug begins far above the village. It is here in the high meadowlands that he comes to gather the flowers and herbs that he uses to make many of the dyes for his *tapetes*.



“I am obsessed with dyes,” Demetrio confides. “Every day I am working to create some special colors. I have some very interesting experiments that I am conducting using different kinds of minerals.” We are extremely fortunate to be able to gain knowledge and expertise from Demetrio's passion for natural dyeing.



Saturday - Monday, January 20 - 22

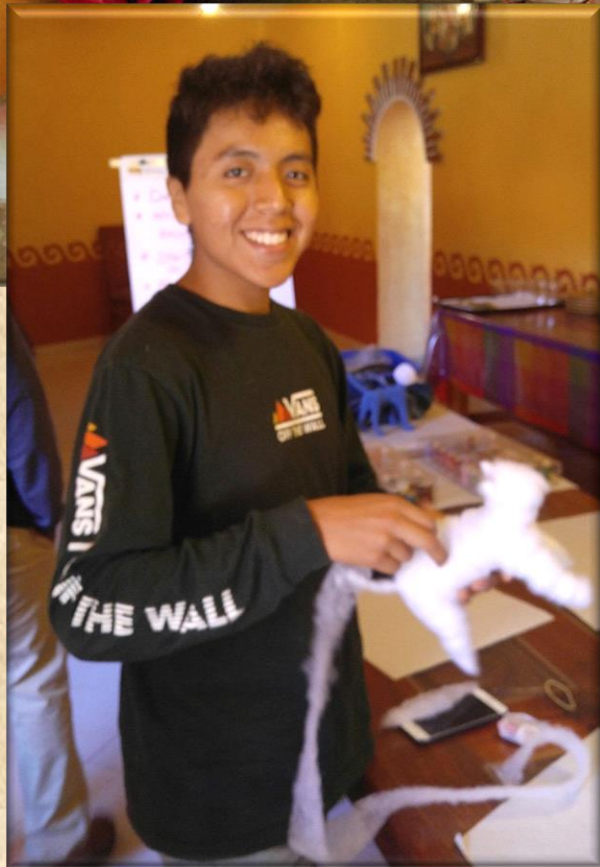
In this exclusive workshop in Teotitlán, first we will learn the ancient tradition of natural dyeing with Master Zapotec weaver and dyer, Demetrio Bautista Lazo working with natural elements. These may include cochineal, indigo, Spanish moss, wild chamomile, pecan leaves, pomegranate, marigolds and anchiote. Using these materials, we can create many colorful dyed yarns to incorporate into our wonderful dolls over the next few days.







These are not your ordinary dolls! Think of them more as 3D fiber sculptures. Historically, dolls and action figures are more than mere play objects. With Rebecca Severide, we will explore their power to tell memorial stories, bridge



cultural viewpoints and create our own narratives. Using mixed media, including our hand-dyed yarn, fiber, beads, wire and clay, we will each create a one of a kind masterpiece. Don't worry – no experience is necessary!





Tuesday, January 23 Exploring Oaxaca's Outstanding Handicrafts

You don't miss out on all the wonderful visits en route back to Oaxaca City by doing this extension! On our way back to the city, we have the same variety of treats in store on the way. This morning we visit a cochineal farm where we can observe how the cactus is cultivated with these fascinating beetles to

create magnificent red dyes. From here we will visit **San Antonia Castillo Velasco** which is famous for its lovely embroidery. A stop at **San Martín Tilcajete** introduces us to *alebrijes*, the prime source for fanciful wooden creatures found the world over. **San Bartolo Coyotepec** is renowned for its black pottery (*barro negro*) which is sold throughout Mexico. In the evening we will return to Oaxaca City and Parador San Miguel, where we may enjoy a farewell dinner and overnight. (B)

Wednesday, January 24 Flights Home

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flights home. (No meals included)

Includes:

- 3 Day workshop
- All workshop materials
- 4 Night's Accommodation
- All meals in Teotitlán (B,L,D)
- All transfers and tours



Cost: \$995 per person Double Occupancy
Single Supplement: \$195
\$1095 as a stand alone tour