



GRASSROOTS
EXPEDITION



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



OAXACA: WOMEN & GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT



MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- **Experience women's empowerment in action through local weaving and micro-finance projects with the local nonprofit En Vía**
- **Visit an Alebrije Workshop, the inspiration of Pixar's *Coco*, and learn to make your own!**
- **Take in the gorgeous colonial architecture in Oaxaca City**
- **Make your own chocolate with the women of the off-the-beaten track village of San Marcos Tlapazola**
- **Uncover the wonders of the ancient world at Monte Albán archeological site**
- **Taste the world famous cuisine of Oaxaca**

Learn from Women and Girls Groups and Discover the Wonders of Central Mexico on this Cultural Exploration

TRIP AT A GLANCE

PHYSICAL DEMAND

Easy

GROUP SIZE

Average 6, Maximum 12

LODGING

Standard



SIGNATURE JOURNEY



OAXACA CITY

DAY 1 - Arrive and discover Oaxaca's architecture on a tour of the old city

TEOTITLAN DEL VALLE

DAY 2 - Meet local women whose lives have been impacted by the non-profit Fundación En Vía. Visit their businesses and learn a bit more about microfinance and what it means to those in the village.

DAY 3 - Learn the secrets of traditional dyeing and enjoy a home-cooked meal at women's workshops in the community.

HIERVE EL AGUA, SAN MARCOS TLAPAZOLA, AND OAXACA

DAY 4 - See Hierve el Agua's unique rock formations and learn to make local pottery and chocolate with the women of San Marcos Tlapazola

MONTE ALBAN, SAN MARTIN TILCAJETE, AND OAXACA

DAY 5 - Explore ancient, UNESCO-protected ruins in Monte Alban, then learn to make fantastic animals painted with bright colors and designs

Day 6 - Depart Oaxaca throughout the day

OAXACA: WOMEN & GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

OUR PURPOSE

Gain rare insight into Mexican culture, and in particular the indigenous Zapotec people, on this fascinating trip into the communities of the Oaxaca Valley. See how non-profits such as Fundación En Vía are working to empower and uplift historically disadvantaged women in the region, and learn how you can help. You will be invited into the homes and workplaces of local women to learn traditional cooking and craft techniques passed down through the generations. It's a unique glimpse at a side to Mexico that most will never have the chance to see, and an opportunity to play a role in supporting local women and girls in the community.

Over six impactful days, you'll have the chance to get lost amid the winding colonial streets of Oaxaca City's 16th-century historic district, visit the ancient ruins of Monte Albán and discover the bizarre rocks of Hierve el Agua. Along the way, you'll get to taste a rich cross-section of the different cuisines that thrive in the region. By the time your deep dive into the local culture draws to a close in Oaxaca City, back where you started, you'll have built up a multifaceted picture of what life is like here, and fostered connections with some unforgettable women.



HIGHLIGHTS



SAN MARCO TLAPAZOLA

This village is a spot that few travelers from beyond Mexico get to visit. Many of the men here have moved further afield for work, meaning the population is dominated by women. Learn about the work they do in the fields and making pottery, then enjoy a warm welcome to a traditional Zapotec home, where you'll be guided to create your own personalized blend of chocolate using centuries-old methods.



MONTE ALBAN

The most significant archaeological site in the Oaxaca Valley, Monte Albán is an unmissable stop for any visitor to Central Mexico. Over the centuries, this area has been occupied by Olmec, Zapotec and Mixtec people. Today, you can see ruins dating back as much as two thousand years, as well as more recent structures that demonstrate the fascinating development of Mesoamerican civilizations over time.



OAXACA CITY

One of the great architectural gems of Mexico, Oaxaca City is famed for its beautifully preserved old city. This UNESCO-protected area is packed with splendid colonial buildings, some of which were built as early as the 16th century. The city's strong Zapotec and Mixtec roots are still very much represented, and the cuisines you'll sample include the traditional fare of the Tehuanas, women known for their bright clothing and matriarchal social structures. Look for the streets that provided inspiration for the settings in Disney Pixar's 2017 movie *Coco*.



TEOTITLAN DEL VALLE

Your time in the Zapotec community will be spent getting to know women who have benefited from the work of the non-profit Fundación En Vía. See first-hand how their weaving, farming and cooking businesses have grown through the foundation's microfinance scheme and other programs, and learn authentic cooking methods from local women in their own homes or businesses. You'll also have time to shop the vibrant local market, and to explore the village at your own pace.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive and Explore Oaxaca's Colonial Old City

Touch down in Oaxaca and be whisked away to your hotel to meet your guide and fellow travelers. Explore the gorgeous old city on a guided walking tour, taking in some of Oaxaca City's most beautiful churches, temples and other historic buildings. In the evening, our group will share a welcome meal in the traditional style of the Tehuanas at one of Oaxaca's most renowned restaurants. (D)

DAY 2: Get to Know the Local Women in San Miguel and Teotitlán del Valle

Today, you'll meet the Fundación En Vía team who will take you into the local community to meet (and eat with) women who the non-profit supports. Learn how micro-finance has benefited their thriving businesses and projects. You will start your morning in the village of San Miguel to learn more about the craft and business of embroidery, and spend your afternoon traveling to the village of Teotitlán del Valle. Here, experience a unique weaving & pottery demonstration and learn more about their work. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Lend a Hand at a Dyeing Workshop

Today is a day to immerse yourself fully in Oaxacan culture. In the morning, shop for ingredients in the local market and use what you find to cook a traditional Zapotec lunch with the help of local Zapotec women from the community. Then enjoy some free time to explore the local area.

In the afternoon, join a dyeing workshop led by local women. Try your hand at this traditional skill and meet some of the powerful women of this community bringing back the art of natural dyeing, including working with certain bugs and plants to learn how colors are made. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: Visit Herve el Agua and Make Chocolate in San Marcos Tlapazola

Our morning will begin with a trip to the natural beauty of Herve el Agua, or "boiling water." You'll have the chance to swim among the unique rock formations that resemble petrified waterfalls. After lunch, we'll head to San Marcos Tlapazola, a remote community dominated by women whose husbands have left to work abroad. Here you'll see how the local women live and learn chocolate-making methods passed down from ancient Mesoamerican cultures. (B,L)





DAY 5: Explore Ancient ruins at Monte Albán and Make Your Own Alebrije

After breakfast, we'll head to Monte Albán, a UNESCO-protected archeological site regarded as the most significant in the Oaxaca Valley with ruins dating back thousands of years. Then, travel to San Martín Tilcajete for a workshop in making alebrije (surreal and colorful folk sculptures – if you've seen *Coco**, you'll recognize them!). In the afternoon, take an optional tour of Oaxaca's bustling markets, followed by a farewell dinner at the Restaurante Cathedral. (B,D)

DAY 6: Return Home

We'll have one last breakfast together before saying our goodbyes and heading to Oaxaca International Airport to catch our flights back home (B)



Standard Boutique Hotel Lodging

During our time in Oaxaca, we have a basket of boutique hotels that we partner with in the colonial heart of the city. The main hotel we use is Hotel con Corazón, a modern but cozy hotel where profits go into educational projects that lift up the local community. Each room reflects the colorful beauty and character that Oaxaca is renowned for.

***Did you know?** It was the Alebrije Workshop in San Martín Tilcajete in the Oaxaca region that inspired Pixar's *Coco*, and it was the Zapotec beliefs about death and protection that inspired much of the film. You'll also recognize Monte Albán - one of the Mesoamerican sites that inspired the vertical structure of the land of their ancestors in *Coco*.



Photo Credit: Pixar



OAXACA: WOMEN & GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS

| DATE | ADULT | CHILD |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| June 11-16, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| July 2-7, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| July 30-August 4, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| August 27-Sept 1, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| September 17-22, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| October 1-6, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| October 15-20, 2024 WO | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| November 19-24, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| November 26-Dec1, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| December 10-15, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| December 17-22, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| December 26-31, 2024 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |
| January 7-12, 2025 | \$3,195 | \$2,995 |

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are \$495 per person..

WO = Women-Only Dates

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 5 nights lodging in a standard level boutique hotel in Oaxaca City
- All meals throughout the trip except for one lunch and one dinner
- Participate in projects with the Zapotec women of Oaxaca
- English-speaking local guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Airport transfers
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks, historic sites and all transportation during the trip
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- All gratuities for hotels and meals
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Alcoholic beverages
- One lunch and one dinner
- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Laundry services, phone calls, and Internet service

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 12 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

CUSTOM GROUPS?

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Call/Text: 619-758-3030 Email: info@discovercorps.com

THE FINE PRINT

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

(B, L, D): Breakfast, Lunch Dinner

Dates don't work? Contact us about adding a new date for the trip.



Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

OUR DESTINATIONS

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| ALASKA | JAPAN |
| AUSTRALIA | KENYA |
| BELIZE | MEXICO |
| BHUTAN | PERU |
| COSTA RICA | SOUTH AFRICA |
| CUBA | TANZANIA |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | THAILAND |
| EGYPT | UGANDA |
| GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS | |



FAMILY FRIENDLY • SMALL GROUPS • POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT • DISTINCTIVE LODGING • HANDPICKED GUIDES



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Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

Visit discovercorps.com/register to place a \$395 deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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