



CELEBRATING DAY OF THE DEAD IN SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 4, 2017
WITH NEXT TRIBE

7 DAYS, 6 NIGHTS

in Conde Nast Traveler's #1 Travel Destination in the World
and a Stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site

The most beguiling city in Latin America.
Fall in love on your first visit...decide to stay forever.

Read NextTribe's article about San Miguel here:
[The Town Where You'll Always Feel Younger](#)

DAY 1: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

ARRIVE IN SAN MIGUEL * DINNER AT BUGAMBILIA

Depart your hometown for the flight to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Upon arrival transfers will be provided from Leon/Guanajuato Airport (BJX) or Querétaro (QRO) airport to San Miguel. You'll check into the charming [Casa Calderoni](#) in the historic center of San Miguel, just three blocks from the main square.

Address: Callejon Pueblito 4-A, Centro.

Spend the afternoon acclimating or stepping out for a quick bite to eat. There's a terrific coffee shop just across the street. This evening we'll get to know one another over dinner at local favorite, Bugambilia, housed in an old hacienda in the center of town. Its specialty is chiles en nogada, a mellow poblano stuffed with rice and meat, covered in sweet cream and pomegranate seeds. A welcome margarita, or two, is included with your meal! (D)

DAY 2: MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

WALKING TOUR AND LUNCH; SHOPPING; DRINKS AT A PRIVATE HOME

After breakfast at the inn, included daily, you'll meet your private guide in the main square (jardin) to enjoy an informative, two-hour tour of the historic center. Your guide, one of the town's most noted historians and best-loved guides, grew up in San Miguel in a large family. She and her sisters have all become local entrepreneurs and successful businesswomen. She is extremely charming and will give you a great insider's view of a very different life in colonial Mexico just two decades ago. Afterwards we'll have lunch together at the lovely rooftop restaurant La Posadita. This local favorite has 180-degree views including the stone facade of the iconic Parroquia church across the street. It also boasts one of the best margaritas in town so relax with some fresh guacamole and a drink while you soak in the views.

After lunch, Jeannie Ralston, Next Tribe co-founder and editor, will take you on a shopping tour of the town. Jeannie lived in San Miguel for four years and has written about the town for many publications, including the New York Times. She'll take you to her favorite stores and to the Mercado de Artesanias, a collection of stands displaying tin mirrors, hand-woven shawls, embroidered linens, hand-painted pottery and the latest folk-art trends. The market continues outside to tiny shops showcasing their wares by the front door. Look for the shop with oilcloth bags as you exit the market at Calle Loreto—inside you'll find placemats, cosmetic cases, and other clever items made from colorful Mexican oilcloth.

This evening you'll get a chance to peek behind one of those magical doors of San Miguel when we enjoy cocktails and canapés at a private home. The building talent and artisanal mastery is evident all over San Miguel, from handcrafted iron furniture and lighting, to specialty weavings and stone arches. (B, L, cocktails)



DAY 3: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

VISIT TO CHARCO INGENIO BOTANICAL GARDENS * CATRINA PARADE AT FABRICA AURORA

You'll be picked up after breakfast by your driver and taken to the botanical gardens at the top of town. Here you'll enjoy a guided tour and lecture by one of the garden volunteers. Located in the heart of the central highlands of Mexico, at the highest point of San Miguel de Allende, [El Charco del Ingenio Botanical Garden](#) includes over 170 acres of nature preserve and indigenous plants. An extraordinary natural monument, its name comes from a legendary spring-fed pool nestled in an impressive canyon spotted by historic vestiges. An old reservoir extends on wetlands frequented by birds and surrounded by vast slopes of native scrubland. This is the scene of the Botanical Garden, devoted to the preservation of this area and its biodiversity, as well as a remarkable botanical collection of cacti and other succulent Mexican plants.

After the approximately two-hour walking tour we'll be dropped off at the main square for lunch at El Pegaso, a local's favorite.

This afternoon we will visit the Mask Museum, which is in a private home. You'll view an enormous collection of ceremonial masks from around Mexico.

The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure.

Drinks at La Azotea; Located on a rooftop off the *jardin*, this sleek bar offers, to one side, a crane-your-neck, close-up of the Parroquia. The ideal perch at sunset, however, is the outside patio, where you can sip your margarita while watching the light disappear over a panorama of the Guanajuato Mountains in the distance.

Dinner suggestion: Beautiful, airy [La Parada](#), where Leche de tigre figures prominently on the menu. That's a citrus concoction that "cooks" the unusual ceviches (fish, corn, and sweet potatoes, for instance) at this popular bistro, owned by Peruvian Cordon-Bleu-

trained chef and her partner. Also memorable are the pork ribs and the gnocchi with shrimp and pecans, and don't leave without a pisco mojito. There will be activities in the jardin this evening to kick off Day of the Dead.

For those who still have energy, finish the evening with a night cap just down the street at [El Manantial](#), which retains the hole-in-the-wall look of a cantina.
(B, cocktails)

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

LA GRUTA HOT SPRINGS AND ATONTONILCO, PLUS DAY OF THE DEAD ACTIVITIES

Today and tomorrow are two of the most important days on the Mexican calendar: Day of the Dead, celebrated every November 1 and 2. The Day of the Dead (El Día de los Muertos in Spanish) is a Mexican celebration of dead ancestors, coinciding with the similar Roman Catholic celebrations of All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

While it is primarily viewed as a Mexican holiday, it is also celebrated in communities in the United States with large populations of Mexican-Americans, and to a lesser extent elsewhere in Latin America. Despite the morbid subject matter, this holiday is celebrated joyfully, and though it occurs at the same time as Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day, the mood of The Day of the Dead is much lighter, with the emphasis on celebrating and honoring the lives of the deceased, rather than fearing evil or malevolent spirits. The origins of the celebration of The Day of the Dead in Mexico can be traced back to the indigenous peoples of Mexico, such as the Aztecs, Mayans, Chichimecas and Otomi.



After a leisurely morning, you will be picked up at your hotel and taken to one of the fabulous hot springs that surrounds San Miguel.

[La Gruta](#) is the most famous of all the resorts and offers green leafy grounds and several pools. Swim through a man-made tunnel into a large domed room. At intervals through out the day, hot water straight

from the ground pours into the room. The highlight is getting to stand under the powerful stream. It's heavenly.

Eat lunch at La Gruta (and book a massage if you'd like). In mid-afternoon, we'll visit the nearby town of Atotonilco. Baroque Mexican churches are not unusual, but the 250-year-old [Santuario de Atotonilco](#) is over-the-top ornate, a dizzying visual cacophony. Nearly every inch of wall and ceiling space is filled with detailed Biblical scenes and passages, which is why the church is known as Mexico's Sistine Chapel and was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. The sanctuary is also a pilgrimage site for penitents, who self-flagellate to atone for sins. Note the rope flails sold by vendors outside the church.

Dinner suggestion: The special four-course tasting menu at [Aperi](#), a gourmand's paradise set in an intimate courtyard of a boutique hotel converted from several adjoining town homes. This extraordinary restaurant in San Miguel's historic district was voted "Best New Restaurant" and Best Hotel Restaurant" by Travel & Leisure's Gourmet Awards in 2015. Aperi, Latin for "open," perfectly describes the restaurant's vision and concept, featuring a unique culinary experience, prepared with the region's freshest ingredients and the passion that characterizes chef Matteo Salas. (B)



DAY 5: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

DAY OF THE DEAD ACTIVITIES. GUIDE WILL TAKE YOU TO CEMETERIES.

Today the town is alive with more activity. A guide will pick you up and take you through the streets to view shrines set up in private homes now open to visitors, in businesses and restaurants and in Parque Juarez, where you'll find art installations specific to Day of the Dead. Many will make the walk to the local cemetery to watch families decorate the graves of loved ones with their favorite foods and possessions. Mariachi bands, solo guitarists, child singers and more will stroll through the grounds performing at the grave sites of departed relatives. With thousands of flowers decorating hundreds of graves, the cemetery and the rituals seen there will leave an indelible impression upon you and this visit to San Miguel.

Lunch is on your own. We suggest Rincon de Don Tomas, on the southeast corner of the jardin under the portico. With great people watching, spectacular views to the church and the best guacamole and margarita in town. For organic salads, herbal teas and delicious

homemade soups try the lovely La Lavanda Cafe, Hernandez Macias 87. It's a huge favorite with locals!

This evening we'll go to the Jardin around 6:30pm to watch the parade of costumed, painted catrinas as they march through the city and end up in front of the main church. A staple of Day of the Dead activities, this parade highlights the playful nature of Mexican as they laugh at death, and the willingness of the ex-pat community to be absorbed in local rituals.

You might enjoy a late dinner at the modern, sleek Cumpanio, which by day is one of the best bakery/bread shops in town. Just off the jardin, this is the perfect place to retire to after the festivities in the main square. (B)

DAY 6: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

HORSEBACK RIDING/PYRAMID TOUR AT BOCA DE LA CANADA

Today we'll drive about 30 minutes from San Miguel to breathe in that fresh country air! There are two options, both suitable for the adventurous who need only be reasonably fit! No experience required! Equine lovers can have the ride of a lifetime today, galloping up hills, through rivers, across plains, and amongst cactus and a cows, all against a gorgeous backdrop of blue skies and canyon walls in Boca de la Cañada. Those who don't care to horse ride can visit the Cañada de la Virgen pyramid and archaeological zone with the bilingual Professor Albert T. Coffee, an anthropologist who was invited to work on the pyramid alongside the official INAH investigating team during the 2004 field season. He offers an entertaining and insightful treasure trove of historical, geographical and anthropological facts about the ruins.



Dinner tonight is [The Restaurant](#), the most elegant dining venue in town. Its outdoor courtyard is stunning with a rose-filled fountain, handcrafted chandeliers, and often, live music. This is a fitting send off to a magical week in San Miguel. (B,D)

DAY 7: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

DEPART SAN MIGUEL

After breakfast we will return you to the airport for your homeward flights. Return transfers to León and Querétaro Airports are provided.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Accommodation for 6 nights at Casa Calderoni
Daily breakfast
Welcome cocktails and dinner on arrival day
Two-hour guided walking tour of historic center
Lunch at La Posadita
Cocktail reception at private home
Drinks at La Azotea
Farewell dinner at The Restaurant
Entrance into the Botanical Gardens and guided 2-hour walking tour
Entrance to La Gruta Hot Springs and Atotonilco Church
Entrance to Mask Museum
Guided tour of two cemeteries.
All transportation as required by the itinerary
Roundtrip transfers from León or Querétaro Airport to hotel
Detailed notes with restaurant, shopping, sightseeing instructions

Price per person: \$1295, double occupancy

For Next Tribe members: \$1195, double occupancy.

Single supplement: \$350

Limited to 20 people

Save your space with a \$250 non-refundable deposit.

Email: info@NextTribe.com for instructions on making your deposit.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

Roundtrip airport transfers by shuttle are provided from León/Guanajuato (BJX) and Querétaro (QRO) Airports.

There are two airports that service San Miguel: Querétaro (QRO) and León/Guanajuato (BJX). Querétaro is about one hour from town; León is about an hour and a half. I prefer flying into QRO as the ride to town is a bit easier—it's more on a highway and less in the countryside. However there are generally more flights in and out of León. United, Delta and American Airlines service these two cities.