Yale Educational Travel presents:

Cultures and Cuisines of Mexico

With Dean Mary Miller                                                    January 3-11, 2014

PRELIMINARY ITINERARY
(subject to change)

Friday, January 3
HOME/OAXACA, MEXICO
Fly to Oaxaca and check in to Quinta Real Hotel, originally built in 1576 as the Convent of Santa Catalina de Siena. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel.
HOTEL QUINTA REAL
(MEALS ALOFT, R, D)

Saturday, January 4
OAXACA
After a welcome orientation by Mary Miller, begin the exploration of Oaxaca, nestled in a beautiful valley surrounded by the Sierra Madre mountains. An area with a 3,000-year history of flourishing civilizations, the valley is replete with ruins of the Zapotec and Mixtec cultures, impressive architecture from the Spanish colonial era, world-renowned handicrafts, and an outstanding regional cuisine.
HOTEL QUINTA REAL
(B,L,D)

Sunday, January 5
MONTE ALBAN / LAMBITYECO / MITLA
Explore Monte Albán, the religious, political and commercial center of the Zapotec culture for over 1,200 years, built on a flattened mountaintop with panoramic views of the valley. They began leveling the mountain in 500 B.C., building a great plaza, ball court, pyramids and an observatory. After a traditional Zapotec lunch, explore the surrounding countryside including the lesser-known Zapotec and Mixtec sites of Lambityeco and Mitla.
HOTEL QUINTA REAL
(B,L)

Monday, January 6
OAXACA / PUEBLA
Depart this morning for Puebla, enjoying a lecture by Dr. Miller en route. Arrive early in the afternoon and explore the historic center of the city, famous for its hand-painted tiles and beautiful Spanish-era architecture.
HOTEL LA PURIFICADORA
(B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 7
PUEBLA / CHOLULA / HUEJOTZINGO
Spend the morning exploring Cholula, which was the second largest city in central Mexico at the time of the arrival of Hernan Cortés. The Great Pyramid of Cholula is the largest man-made monument by volume in the world, and because the Spanish built a church on its top, the oldest continuously occupied building in North America. Enjoy a lunch of local specialties and continue to Huejotzingo, a pleasant town famous for its carnival before returning to Puebla for a special culinary experience this evening.
HOTEL LA PURIFICADORA
(B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 8
CACAXTLA / TEOTIHUACAN / MEXICO CITY
This morning visit the nearby ruins of Cacaxtla, an archaeological site where exciting murals were only recently discovered. The extraordinary degree of realism and depiction of detail in the murals has astounded the archaeological world.
Depart Puebla for the ancient metropolis of Teotihuacán, one of Mesoamerica’s great cities. Arrive in Mexico City early this evening and check in to the marvelous Hotel Las Alcobas in the heart of the fashionable Polanco district.
HOTEL LAS ALCOBAS
(B,L,D)

Thursday, January 9
MEXICO CITY
Visit the Templo Mayor, the ancient ceremonial center of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán. Since its 1977 rediscovery, a wealth of artifacts and exquisitely carved stone sculptures has been recovered. Continue this afternoon to the Casa Azul, the birthplace and former home of artist Frida Kahlo. Enjoy dinner at leisure tonight at one of Mexico City’s best and most stunning restaurants.
HOTEL LAS ALCOBAS
(B,L,D)

Friday, January 10
MEXICO CITY
This morning enjoy Dr. Miller’s final lecture of the trip and a special guided visit of the extraordinary National Museum of Anthropology. This museum houses significant archaeological artifacts from the Pre-Columbian heritage of all of Mexico.
After a free afternoon, celebrate your trip with a special farewell reception and dinner at Pujol, one of Mexico City’s best and most stunning restaurants.
HOTEL LAS ALCOBAS
(B,L,D)

Saturday, January 11
MEXICO CITY / HOME
Transfer to the Mexico City airport and connect to flights home.
(MEALS ALOFT)

Trip Cost:
$5,950 per person, double
$7,240 per person, single

Cost Includes:
• All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary
• All excursions as specified in the itinerary • Group arrival and departure transfers by motorcoach • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • Wine, beer or soft drinks with welcome and farewell dinners • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Professional Tour Manager

Cost Does Not Include:
• U.S. domestic and international group airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except at welcome and farewell dinners • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, email and fax charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

Cancellations & refunds:
Upon payment of a $1,000 deposit per person, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by the Association of Yale Alumni. Deposits are refundable (less a $250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% non-refundable. Final payment is due September 6, 2013 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations within 120 days of departure are 100% non-refundable. For this reason we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by the Association of Yale Alumni or the tour operator, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. Note: Neither the Association of Yale Alumni nor Criterion Travel, Inc., the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

For booking and payment information, please contact the Yale Educational Travel office at: (203) 432-1952 or margaret.carnright@yale.edu

Mary Miller

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