

# Textile Traditions and Carnival Costumes of Mexico

## February 3 – 14, 2016



Experience a different Mexico: let ROMtravel guide you through central Mexico and Oaxaca.

Visit three Mexican states: Tlaxcala, Puebla, and Oaxaca, each with its unique blend of Spanish and indigenous culture. Travel with Chloë Sayer, a specialist in Mexican culture and textiles. In the highlands, see weavers wearing traditional dress and creating exquisite gauze-like cloth on the backstrap loom. Shop for unique crafts at village markets and observe pre-Lenten Carnival festivities.

Learn about the indigenous roots of the patterns found in contemporary Mexican textiles by visiting archaeological sites such as Mitla, where Zapotec culture flourished before the arrival of the Spanish conquistadores.

Savour the regional specialties of Pueblan and Oaxacan cooking. Relax in the comfort of unique hotels. Experience a feast of colour: the soft green of Oaxacan facades; the red terracotta roof-tiles of Tlaxcala; the purple mountains of the Sierra Madre; and the visual splendour of hand-made Mexican textiles.

### Tour Itinerary & Highlights

#### Day 1 Mexico City – Tlaxcala City

Individual arrivals in Mexico City. Meet up in the Hilton Hotel lobby in the Benito Juárez Airport, Mexico City, to drive to Tlaxcala City. Welcome Dinner with wine.

#### Day 2 Tlaxcala City

Walking tour of this fine colonial city. Watch preparations for pre-Lenten carnival parade, with lavish costumes and carved masks.

#### Day 3 Tlaxcala City

Carnival celebrations continue. See masks and costumes in the Arts and Crafts Museum. Private evening lecture by Chloë Sayer.

#### Day 4 Cuetzalan – Puebla State

Travel to the mountain town of Cuetzalan. Meet skilled local weavers who will demonstrate spinning and gauze-weaving.

#### Day 5 Cuetzalan – Puebla State

Market day when villagers wear and sell home-woven, hand-embroidered clothing. Visit Yohualichan, ancient site of Totonac culture.

#### Day 6 Puebla City

Travel to Puebla City. Walking tour: visit the celebrated Rosary Chapel; craft market; and *talavera* (ceramic tile) workshop.

#### Day 7 Puebla City

Museo Amparo: important collections of pre-Hispanic and colonial art; Museo Luis Bello y González: famous *talavera* collection. Afternoon at leisure.

#### Day 8 Oaxaca City

Drive to Oaxaca City. Walking tour of city centre: Church and Cultural Centre of Santo Domingo; see Mixtec gold work and treasures from Tomb 7 (Monte Albán), Private evening lecture with Chloë Sayer.

#### Day 9 Oaxaca City – Mitla

Day trip to Mitla, pre-Conquest centre of Zapotec culture, with exquisite cut stone mosaics; stalls here sell local folk art. Visit master-dyers and weavers in nearby Teotitlán del Valle, famous for fine rugs. See the 2,000 year old giant cypress Tule tree.

#### Day 10 Oaxaca City – Ocotlán

Day trip to Ocotlán de Morelos to see market stalls and eat lunch. Visit the Rodolfo Morales Museum; a plantation where cochineal (the renowned crimson dye) is produced; meet backstrap weavers in Santo Tomás Jalieza.

#### Day 11 Oaxaca City

Visit Monte Albán, one of the earliest cities in Mesoamerica, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Afternoon at leisure to stroll, shop, or visit the Textile Museum. Farewell Dinner with wine.

#### Day 12 Oaxaca – Mexico City

Fly from Oaxaca City airport to Mexico City. Individual departures.



### Hotels

Tlaxcala City	Hotel Posada San Francisco 3 nights
Cuetzalan	Hotel Posada Cuetzalan 2 nights
Puebla City	Quinta Real Puebla 2 nights
Oaxaca City	Hotel Quinta Real 4 nights

### Resource Person

**Chloë Sayer** is a researcher and writer on Mexican textiles and traditions. The author of numerous books, Chloë lectures widely, and leads cultural tours. She has lived and worked in Mexico for many years. Now based in London, England, she has made ethnographic collections for the British Museum and contributed to BBC television documentaries. She is Guest Curator of ¡Viva México! Clothing and Culture at the ROM, opening May, 2015. Her knowledge of the arts and culture of Mexico will enhance your enjoyment of this trip.

### ROMtravel Coordinator

**Judy Ireland** is a volunteer with ROMtravel who has travelled widely in Mexico and elsewhere.

### Travel Agency Contact

**Georgia Kourakos**, Merit Travel Group, has worked with special interest group travel for years and with a ROMtravel trip recently.

### Tour Cost

Double Occupancy	\$6,635
Single Supplement	1,200

Tour begins and ends at Benito Juárez Airport, Mexico City. International flight costs between your home and Mexico City are NOT included.

This trip involves a moderate level of walking, some on uneven surfaces.

### Photos

- Bag by Crispina Navarro, Santo Tomás Jalieza, Oaxaca, courtesy of Chloë Sayer
- A Carnival Dancer, Tlaxcala, courtesy of Chloë Sayer
- Weaving on a backstrap loom, Oaxaca, courtesy of Chloë Sayer

# Terms & Conditions

## Textile Traditions and Carnival Costumes of Mexico

### February 3 – 14, 2016

#### Tour Cost

**Double Occupancy:** \$6,635 per person

**Single Supplement:** \$1,200

**Tour cost does NOT include international flight costs between your home and Mexico City.** Merit Travel Group can assist with booking flights.

#### Tour Cost Includes

- Group coach transfer from Hilton Hotel lobby in the Benito Juárez airport, Mexico City, to hotel in Tlaxcala on Day 1; and from hotel to airport in Oaxaca City on Day 12.
- One way flight: Oaxaca City to Mexico City.
- Portage of one standard sized suitcase per person.
- Ground transportation in a deluxe, air-conditioned coach for transfers and excursions as per itinerary.
- Shared accommodation in double occupancy room with private facilities.
- Meals: breakfast daily, 7 lunches and 6 dinners. Bottled water each day.
- All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.
- All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotel, restaurant and guiding staff related to the basic tour; all hotel and local taxes.
- Services of Resource Person, Chloë Sayer; and a ROMtravel Coordinator.
- Services of English-speaking local tour managers and local guides as needed.
- Services of Merit Travel Group.
- Pre-trip orientations; post-trip reunion. A travel handbook.

#### Not Included

- International flight costs between your home and Mexico City.
- Items of a personal nature, e.g., laundry, telephone calls, internet.
- Airline baggage fees where applicable. Visa costs where applicable.
- Meals, snacks, and beverages unless specified. Travel insurance.

#### Costs

All prices quoted herein are based on rates, fees and taxes as of January 1, 2015. Costs are subject to change without notice. Should tour costs increase, Merit Travel Group (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the price accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Note that the itinerary may be subject to change without notice.

#### ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of the Royal Ontario Museum. Individual annual membership is \$97; family annual membership is \$149 (if both partners join the tour, only one needs to be a member). Non-resident family annual membership (outside L/M postal zones) is \$102. Prices are subject to change without notice.

#### Deposits and Final Payment

An **initial non-refundable deposit of \$1,050.00 per person** is required at the time of booking. Optional trip cancellation and hospital/medical insurance are also payable at this time. **A second payment of \$1,500.00 is due on July 30, 2015. The balance of payment, \$4,085.00, and Single Supplement, \$1,200.00, if applicable, is due on November 13, 2015.**

#### Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over-subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

#### Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made. Merit Travel Group and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

#### Cancellations

Should a confirmed participant cancel, notification must be received in writing by Merit Travel Group. The costs of cancellation are:

(A) 90 days or more prior to departure: Loss of all deposits.

(B) 89 – 60 days prior to departure: Loss of 50% of total tour cost.

(C) 59 days or less prior to departure: Loss of 100% of total tour cost.

Purchase of cancellation insurance is recommended, which may provide compensation for cancellation costs. No refund will be issued for unused services. No claim or refund will be considered unless submitted in writing and received by Merit Travel Group within 30 days of the termination of the tour.

#### Documents

A passport valid for six (6) months after the return is required. **Canadian citizens do not require a visa for travel to Mexico. Citizens of other countries must acquire visas for Mexico if required.** Neither Merit Travel Group nor ROMtravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents.

#### ROMtravel values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the Trip Handbook unless you advise us NOT to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMtravel and the travel agency, and will not be shared with anyone else.

#### Insurance

Many different policy options are available depending on your desired level of protection. Please speak with Merit Travel Group for details. The insurance is underwritten by TIC Insurance. The insurance premium is non-refundable and must be submitted at time of deposit. A waiver will be necessary if insurance is not taken. The policy options below are only available to residents of Canada. The rates quoted below are subject to change until insurance policy is issued, and include taxes applicable to Ontario residents. Taxes for the province or territory in which you reside will be applied at time of booking.

Based on shared accommodation			Based on single accommodation		
Age	Deluxe	Non-Medical	Age	Deluxe	Non-Medical
To 54	\$449	\$409	To 54	\$506	\$466
55-59	\$460	\$429	55-59	\$519	\$489
60-64	\$555	\$502	60-64	\$627	\$577
65-69	\$677	\$577	65-69	\$762	\$667
70-74	\$871	\$662	70-74	\$973	\$768

For those aged 75 and over, or for other coverage, please contact Georgia Kourakos at Merit Travel Group.

#### Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of the Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the conducting of the tour, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection with this tour however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of the Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the tour. The applicant by applying to join the tour hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

#### Responsibility and Jurisdiction

Merit Travel Group and their agents act only as agents for the passengers with respect to services supplied to passengers by others, including but not limited to transportation, hotel and restaurant services, on the express condition that they are not liable for any failure in such services, or injury, loss or damage, delay or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any defect in any vehicle or any act, omission, accident or error in providing such transportation, hotel, restaurant or other services. There is no refund for unused portions of the tour. In case of an accident occurring during the land portion of any tour, the passenger must submit any claim therefore only to the competent judicial authorities of the jurisdiction where such accident occurred, to be determined exclusively in accordance with the laws of such jurisdiction. By accepting the coupons and tickets and utilizing the services, the passenger agrees that neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor any affiliated or Merit Travel Group subsidiary companies or representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage to the passenger or belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or resulting directly from any occurrences beyond its control including breakdown in equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation or changes in itinerary or schedules, etc. Merit Travel Group and its agents reserve the right to refuse to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all of the tour or portions thereof. All tour services including, but not limited to hotel accommodations, restaurants, guide services and transportation are furnished by independent contractors.

**Merit Travel Group Inc.**  
**TICO Registration # 4499356**

**Organized by ROMtravel for**  
**The Department of Museum Volunteers**  
**Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Canada**

The Department of Museum Volunteers' ROMtravel Program was established to provide superior quality tour opportunities for members and to generate income for the Royal Ontario Museum.

#### For further information, contact:

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