

# **GROUP OLLAMI 2020**

# Day 1 Mexico City

Arrival at the México City international transfer to the hotel Galeria Plaza. Overnight.

## Day 2 México City

Breakfast in the Hotel included. Morning dedicated to the visit of this city: the "Zocalo" the heart of the city since the Aztec's rule at the time of Montezuma I. this area was surrounded by palaces and temples, now it's the second largest public square in the world. It's the official title is Plaza de la Constitucion; You can gain a good understanding of Mexico's history and culture in this square alone, from Templo Mayor ruins of the Great Temple of Tenochtitlan-to the Cathedral built on the site razed by Cortes, and Diego Riviera's murals of the struggle for independence on the walls of the National Palace. Drive towards the south of the City to visit the Floating gardens of Xochimilco. Upon arrival you will board the famous TRAJINERA boats and on board you will have Lunch as you ride the channels. After a two hour ride you will have some free time to look around a Arts and Craft Market. Transfer back to the Hotel to freshen up. Overnight. WELCOME DINNER IN CAFÉ TACUBA RESTAURANT.

# Day 3 México City

Breakfast in the Hotel included. Morning dedicated to the visit of the archeological site of Teotihuacan., both in the size of the Pyramid of the Sun (the third largest pyramid in the world) and the majesty of the Calle de los Muertos (Street of the Dead) - originally 4km long and flanked by temples, palaces and platforms. Look for amazingly well preserved murals in the Palace of the Jaguars or the Palace of the Quetzal-butterfly and bold sculptures in the Temple of Quetzalcoatl. Be prepared for lots of walking and climbing here, If at all possible, we'd recommend climbing to the top of the Sun and then at least to the first platform of the Moon for the awesome view down the Calle de los Muertos. Bearing the above in mind, bring some water (the refreshment stalls are quite a distance from the pyramids) a sunhat, camera, guidebook - but little else to drag around. Included also the visit of the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, About five miles north-east of the Zocalo is the Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, home of the most venerated icon in Mexico. It is said that the image of the Virgin was imprinted on the cloak of Juan Diego, an ordinary Indian who was chosen to request the bishop of Tlatelolco to build a church on the hill. The famous cloak now hangs in a new basilica built alongside the old, which is tilting severely as it sinks into the soft soil. Join the gueues to pass by the image. Lunch in the restaurant Gran Teocalli Teotihuacan. We will return to the hotel in the early afternoon. Free time. Overnight.



### Day 4 México City-Puebla

Breakfast in the Hotel included. Departure by private bus to Puebla and upon arrival visit of this beautiful colonial city, Puebla is flanked by four of Mexico's best-known volcanoes — Popocatepetl, Iztaccihuatl, Malinche and Citlaltepetl, also called Pico de Orizaba.

Famous for hand-painted Talavera tile, Puebla was the first city in New Spain to master the art of decorating and glazing fire-baked clay, an art introduced by the Spanish, who had in turn learned it from the Arabs. Spanish tile makers took up residence in Puebla and set a standard of excellence that prevails to this day. You'll see tiles adorning many churches and other buildings around town.

There are many reasons to visit the city, including sampling its fabulous regional cuisine. Some of Puebla's delectable dishes include their famous mole poblana sauce as well as the seasonal delicious dish of chiles en nogada. Additionally, the historic center of Puebla has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Undoubtedly, one of the reasons for this honor is due to the absolutely stunning tile work that decorates the town's historic colonial buildings. Famous for its churches in baroque style. Lunch in a local restaurant (HOTEL COLONIAL). Overnight at the hotel Posada San Pedro.

## Day 5 Puebla-Oaxaca

Breakfast in the Hotel included. Drive to Oaxaca with City tour after lunch. Overnight at the hotel Casa Conzatti.

#### Day 6 Oaxaca

Breakfast in the Hotel included. In morning visit of Monte Alban, visited and took these pictures, it was the end of the rainy season, and we found the greenness of the surrounding hills and valleys and the archeological site itself extremely pleasant. The ruins extend over the peaks of 3 mountain ranges that converge in Oaxaca's central valley, at an altitude of 1,600 meters (about 5200 ft.) above sea level. Religious capital of the Zapotecan people. Built upon a hill, this place is rich with pyramids, tombs, set in a beautiful panoramic location. Return back to Oaxaca with Lunch in Hacienda San Agustin. In the afternoon free time to enjoy the city and look around the wonderful shops and attraction of the City and overnight.

### Day 7 Oaxaca-Tehuantepec

Breakfast in the Hotel included. Visit of the surroundings of the city, starting with Mitla, an old Mixtec centre Mitla's quaint, narrow and colorful streets are home textile merchants as well as to a great number of Mezcal producers and vendors. Visit the church and neighboring archaeological site. Named by the Spaniards after



San Pablo Mitla, Mitla's quaint, narrow and colorful streets are home to textile merchants as well as to a great number of Mezcal producers and vendors. The area produces corn and beans, including the castor bean and old Mixtec Centre, (santa maria del tule with its famous Arbol del <a href="Tule">Tule</a> (tree of tule) in the churchyard .This mighty tree, having a circumference of over 160 feet at its base, is between 2000 and 3000 years old, making it one of the oldest living things on earth .)With a stop on the way to see the "Tule", an amazing tree considered the oldest in the world. Lunch at Local Restaurant, Transfer to Tehuantepec to Htl Calli. Free afternoon. Overnight.

### Day 8 Thuantepec - Chiapa de Corzo-San Cristóbal de las Casas

Breakfast in the Hotel Included. Departure toward the State of Chiapas in the direction of its capital, and a stop in Chiapa de Corzo is included to visit the impressing <u>Canyon of Sumidero</u> on board by the river, of local boats. About an hour and a half away from San Cristobal, in the warmer and jungly Grijalva Valley. We'll pass beneath towering waterfalls, glimpse crocodiles sunning themselves on the riverbanks, Lunch in a local restaurant (JARDINES DE CHIAPAS). Continue to San Cristobal de las Casas, going up on the mountains above 2,000 meters. Overnight in San Cristobal at hotel Holiday Inn San Cristobal.

## Day 9 San Cristobal de las Casas

Breakfast in the Hotel included. Visit the indigenous communities of <u>San Juan Chamula & Zinacantan</u>, located few kilometers from San Cristóbal. It is also included a short city tour, with the local market, where it is possible to admire the art crafts abilities of the local indigenous, and the famous local churches, among which the most important is Santo Domingo. Lunch in a local restaurant. The rest of the day is free in San Cristobal to enjoy this unique place, its markets, its churches, the many little shops and restaurants.

#### Day 10 San Cristóbal de las Casas-Palenque

Breakfast in the Hotel included. Today we will descend from the Chiapas Mountains, driving through the greenest valleys. A stop is programmed to admire the <u>Aqua Azul</u> waterfalls and for lunch at La Escondida Rest. Arrival to Palenque and overnight at the hotel Misión Palenque.

#### Day 11 Palenque-Campeche

Breakfast in the hotel included. The entire morning will be dedicated to the visit of the <u>archeological site of Palenque</u>, though not the largest of Mayan sites, is many people's favorite by far. Its architecture, particularly the ornate and well-preserved "bell tower", is highly advanced, and its inscriptions and murals are some of the best in the Maya world. Trace the rise and fall of Palenque's dynasty as we tour the site, still partly hidden in the tropical jungle, fascinating and rich of unique



Pyramids. Lunch (not included) departure to Campeche, overnight at Hotel Plaza Campeche.

## Day 12 Campeche-Merida

Breakfast in the Hotel included. Today our first stop will be to <u>visit the site of Uxmal</u>, one of the most important places for the Mayan culture. Lunch at local restaurant (at the moment restaurant is the restaurant CANANAH. Arrival in Merida in the afternoon, the capital of the Yucatán State, the "white city", so called for its colonial buildings. There will be a stop in the "zocalo" (main square) to visit the Cathedral, the Government Palace, the Town hall and the House of Montejo. Overnight at the Hotel Gran Real Yucatan.

## Day 13 Merida-Chichen Itza-Merida-Playa Del Carmen

Breakfast in the Hotel included. Departure to <u>visit Chichen Itza</u>, probably the most famous between the Mayan archeological sites, with its famous Pyramid of Kukulkan. Lunch Pueblo Maya. Continue to Playa Del Carmen. Overnight in Hotel HACIENDA PARADISE.

# Day 14 -Playa Del Carmen

Breakfast in the Hotel. Day at leisure.

#### Day 15 – Playa Del Carmen to Apto Cancun Breakfast

Transfer to the airport to take flight back home