

CRIZMAC Travel Adventures

Trip Information Days of the Dead

Oaxaca, Mexico

October 27 - November 4, 2017

▶ Travel Arrangements

Days of the Dead participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to/from Oaxaca City, Mexico. If you arrive in Oaxaca on October 27th, upon request, a tour leader will meet you at the airport and arrange your transportation to the hotel. It is easy to arrange transportation with authorized hotel vans or taxis at the airport should you wish to do it yourself. Travel insurance is highly recommended. Please also be aware that a passport is required for U.S. citizens traveling to Mexico.

▶ Early Arrival or Late Departure

If you choose to arrive in Oaxaca before October 27, or would like to stay after the tour is over, and want to extend your stay at our hotel, please contact us at CRIZMAC and we will try to arrange the discounted group rate for your additional nights as well.

▶ Some Airport Vocabulary

Baggage—*equipaje*

Gate—*puerta*

Baggage Claim—*reclamo de equipaje*

Flight—*vuelo*

Passport—*pasaporte*

Customs—*aduana*

Airport—*aeropuerto*

Exit—*salida*

▶ Transportation

Land transportation will be provided for all group activities by a chartered van/bus.

▶ Weather

The altitude in Oaxaca is about 5200 feet above sea level, so it is much cooler than traditional beach destinations in Mexico. In the fall, Oaxaca is generally warm and sunny in the daytime, but cool at night and in the early mornings. Rain is always a possibility.

▶ Accommodations

All hotel arrangements will be made by the tour leaders, and hotel room and tax charges are included in your tour



fee. Hotel contact information for family and friends is provided below. Please keep in mind that when calling from the United States, the numbers have to be preceded by 011-52.

Hotel Parador Monte Carmelo

Oaxaca City, Oaxaca

Phone/Fax: (951) 501-0514

or (951) 501-0515

www.hotelparadormontecarmelo.com

▶ What to Bring

The following items are suggested for your travel. You will want to add your own personally preferred items to this list. Note: Travel light!

- Passport. A passport is required for U.S. citizens traveling to Mexico. It's a good idea to make two copies of your passport and credit cards. Keep one copy with you but separate from the originals and leave one at home with someone you will be able to contact in the event the originals are lost or stolen.
- Comfortable travel clothing for daytime trips such as slacks, jeans, or shorts and comfortable walking shoes.
- A skirt for women and dressier pants for men are nice for some restaurants but not required
- A jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt for the cool temperatures in the evenings
- Hat, sunscreen and sunglasses
- Hair dryer/curling iron, electric razor, etc., as needed. The electrical current is the same as the U.S.
- Backpack or fanny pack
- Medication in case of intestinal upset and any prescription medications you need
- Camera, extra memory cards—keeping in mind that you will be taking indoor and outdoor photographs (and probably many more than you expected!)
- Journal or sketchbook
- Extra bag for purchases, bubble wrap and tape if you plan on buying fragile items
- Anti-bacterial hand wash gel or wipes
- Water bottle carrier; we recommend you drink only bottled water, which is easy to buy all over Mexico

▶ Money

The monetary unit in Mexico is the peso. The rate of exchange is usually between 9 and 12 pesos to one U.S. dollar, but this fluctuates daily.

There will be many places to change money at the Mexico City airport and in Oaxaca City. The exchange rate is usually better in Mexico than in the U.S.

ATMs - ATMs are available in many locations, including the airport. The safest and easiest way to obtain money is by using an ATM. The exchange rate through ATMs is usually quite good, but as in the U.S., not all machines will accept all ATM cards, and some banks charge an added "conversion fee" for these transactions as well.

Traveler's Checks - We have found that it is becoming more difficult to exchange Traveler's Checks, and the places that do have generally done so at a less favorable rate of exchange than for cash. If you use Traveler's Checks, be aware of these potential disadvantages and weigh them against the obvious security benefits the checks provide.

Credit Cards - The most commonly accepted credit cards are Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Credit cards can also be used in some ATMs in order to withdraw funds in the local currency at the current exchange rate, but be aware that many credit card companies charge a high fee for this type of transaction.

Credit cards can be used in many stores and restaurants, however you will probably find a hidden "fee" (a few percentage points) on your credit card statement when you return. Call your credit card company beforehand and ask about their fees for international transactions to avoid any unpleasant surprises. Be aware that it is not always possible to use credit cards in small villages or backyard shops. However, in recent years, some artists have acquired credit card capabilities.

It is advisable to make photocopies (front and back) of all of your credit cards. Check with the credit card company and get a telephone number to contact them directly should you lose your cards. It is usually not possible to access 800 numbers from Mexico, and it will save you time and frustration if you have the correct number to call.

▶ Taking Your Purchases Home

Many people expect to ship their purchases back to the U.S., but this is usually expensive. Even with the additional checked luggage fees levied by the airlines, it is often less expensive than shipping and you will have the items immediately when you reach home. Check with your carrier about their luggage fees before leaving so you'll know what to expect. You may also want to bring a collapsible duffel bag or flattened cardboard box and tape along with enough bubble wrap to protect your treasures and then check this extra item with your luggage on your return trip.

▶ Telephoning from Mexico

Cell phones are used throughout Mexico. Check with your cell phone service provider for availability of service in Mexico.

▶ Cancellations and Refund Policy

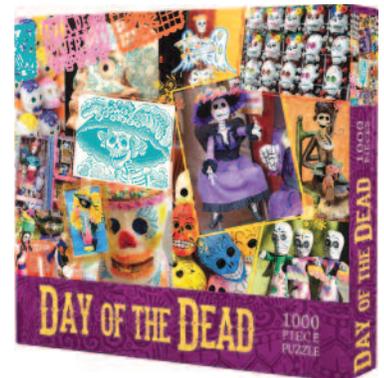
Cancellations must be received in writing. Participants who cancel on or before July 27, 2017 will receive a full refund **less a \$250 processing fee. If cancellation is made after that point, no refund is given.** CRIZMAC will make every effort to operate the tours advertised. In the event CRIZMAC must cancel a tour, participants will receive a full refund of all monies paid to CRIZMAC, however CRIZMAC is not responsible for losses due to non-refundable airline tickets or other travel arrangements. **Travel insurance is highly recommended.**



Two exciting titles by Kitty Williams and Stevie Mack, your tour leader, are a must for anyone with an interest in the Days of the Dead.

Enjoy the fun of "puzzling" (shown at right) with this vibrant collection of art taken from CRIZMAC's best selling Day of the Dead book.

Your signed copies of the book and the puzzle can be ordered today at CRIZMAC.COM.



▶ Need Other Information?

Contact Stevie Mack: (520) 323-8555 or steviemack@crizmac.com