

The Magic of San Miguel de Allende

Feb 9 – 16, 2027



A Unesco World Heritage Site, famous for its culture, artistic lifestyle & architectural 16 century Baroque style masterpieces. Experience: Majestic Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel that towers above the city; **Evening Music & Events in El Jardin;** Benito Juarez Park; **Local Markets; Bellas Artes Gallery; Fabrica La Aurora,** an upscale art & design center; **Biblioteca,** (public library) the second largest bi-lingual library in Mexico & the center of cultural events; **Instituto Allende,** arts & language school built in the 1700's.

Tues. Feb 9: Choose an early flight from Tucson to arrive at Queretaro (ke re' taro) International mid-afternoon. (Flights from Tucson on American leave around 7:00am, 2 hr flight to Dallas with 2 hr layover & 2 hr flight to Queretaro.) I watch for good flight deals. We have a private van for the group to San Miguel, 1 hour & 15 minute drive. Check into **Hotel Quinta Loreto,** www.quintaloreto.com.mx, for five nights, located within a few blocks from the Center, with gardens & restaurant & next to the Artisan Market, several blocks long.

Wed. Feb 10: **San Miguel food tour** will delight as San Miguel is also known as a Culinary Mecca as a blend of Aztec, Mayan, Toltec, Spanish & French. Experience the regional flavors while learning about the architecture, history & culture.

Thurs. Feb 11: A private all day tour to the UNESCO city of Guanajuato. A fascinating, colorful small city with French architecture, cleverly engineered underground tunnels & history of the start of Mexican War of Independence, it has a very different ambiance than San Miguel. The lovely tree filled piazza is surrounded by restaurants, the second largest Theater in Mexico, live music, a short walk to the International University, the birthplace of Diego Rivera & the museum of Don

Quixote. We have lunch at one of my favorite restaurants on the piazza.

Fri. Feb 12: After breakfast, taxi to La Gruta Hot Springs, (20 minutes drive) with a short stop at the UNESCO site of 18th century Santuario de Atotonilca with its beautiful murals that adorn the baroque-style church. It is a holy pilgrimage to celebrate the saints of the indigenous villages. Www.lagruta-spa.com.mx. There are changing booths, restrooms & restaurants at the Hot Springs. It's delightful and has five pools varying in water temps. A favorite of travelers.

Sat. Feb 13: Benito Juarez Park Art Show including sculptures. Tour of Instituto de Allende, started in the 1950's by Stirling Dickinson. Lunch at the Instituto. Explore the shops along Ancha de San Antonio making our way to Bellas Artes. Remaining day free.

Sun. Feb 14: Yay! A Free Day to Shop!! And Explore. A visit to the neighborhood of the Rosewood hotel & an elevator to their rooftop bar for happy hour & spectacular views.

Late afternoon, we return to the UNESCO site of Queretaro for two nights at the **lovely Dos Patios Hotel**, located in the pedestrian area with many restaurants & lovely parks close by. A university town known as one of the best Ex-Pat destinations in Mexico, one of the safest places in Mexico and one of the most well-preserved historical cities with modern facilities.

Mon. Feb 15: After breakfast, a two hour private walking tour with Grace, from Maine, who has made her home here for eighteen years. This historical tour leads us to beautiful, mostly baroque-style buildings. Your afternoon is free to explore the areas that interest you.

Tues. Feb 16: Shuttle to airport.

Details: Ten People Max Double occupancy per person: \$885 Single: of \$1195 Deposit: \$200. 50% of deposit refundable until May 2 when balance is due. No refund beyond that date unless the space is filled. Includes: 7 nites lodging, 5 tours & shuttles, departing airport shuttle. Register: Joyce Sierra 520-404-2254 backroadsjoy@gmail.com Www.toursbysierra.com Checks: Tours by Sierra, P.O. Box 912, Green Valley, Az 85622, or Zelle to backroadsjoy@gmail.com. Airfare not included. Tucson to Queretaro, average \$550. I watch vigently for specials and pass