

*San Diego Horticultural Society and Sterling Tours
present*

San Miguel de Allende

February 15-21, 2018

Escorted by

Cheryl & Robert Nichols

Local Guide Francisco Correa

San Miguel de Allende is a city that manages to be both quaint and cosmopolitan at the same time. Once an important stop on the silver route between Zacatecas and Mexico City, its historic center is filled with well-preserved buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries. With its narrow cobblestone streets, leafy courtyards, fine architectural details and sumptuous interiors, San Miguel de Allende is arguably the prettiest town in Mexico.

Thursday, February 15 Transfers are included from Leon or Queretaro airports to our hotel in San Miguel de Allende. Meet your escorts and your traveling companions at 6pm for a welcome reception in the garden of Casa Shuck, a boutique hotel. Later we'll stroll a few blocks for our welcome dinner at nearby *El Correo Restaurant*.
Reception, Dinner



Friday, February 16 Following breakfast at the hotel join our local guide, Francisco Correa, for a private walking tour of San Miguel de Allende. We will see the colorful fruit & vegetable market, the famous landmark, *La Parroquia* church and the *Biblioteca* -- the cultural heart of the city. We will include an exclusive visit to two private gardens in town, followed by lunch at *The Restaurant*, considered one of San Miguel's finest. It's located in an elegant colonial patio with a seasonal menu using local organic produce. Note that in Mexico, lunch is known as *la comida*, and is often the most important meal of the day. The balance of the day is at your leisure. *Breakfast, Lunch*



Saturday, February 17 Today we will visit the Mask Museum and patio garden at Casa de la Cuesta. The fascinating collection includes Mexican ceremonial dance masks from various regions in Mexico. Later we have a choice of lunch at La Cocina cooking school where Kris Rudolph, owner of El Buen Cafe in San Miguel de Allende, will give us a hands-on lesson in creating a deliciously authentic Mexican meal. Or enjoy a relaxing lunch in the patio at Casa Sierra Nevada. Evening at leisure. We may want to join the lively crowd at the Jardin, the meeting place for locals. Often on Saturday nights there are wedding celebrations. *Breakfast, Lunch or Cooking School*.



Sunday, February 18 After breakfast at the hotel we depart for a private docent-led tour of *El Charco del Ingenio*, a Botanical Garden and outstanding Nature Preserve with a vast collection of cacti and other Mexican native plants, many of which are rare or in danger of extinction. Next we visit *Fabrica La Aurora*, an art & design center with art studios, galleries, antiques, cafe and restaurant where we will have time for browsing and lunch on our own. In the afternoon we will tour two private gardens that include traditional Mexican tile work, spectacularly arranged potted plants and colorful landscapes. *Breakfast*



Monday, February 19. Today we visit the historic city of Dolores Hidalgo, formerly known simply as Dolores until Father Miguel Hidalgo uttered his famous cry for the independence of Mexico (the *Grito de Dolores*) there in the early hours of September 16, 1810 in front of his parish church. After Mexico achieved independence, the town was renamed Dolores Hidalgo in his honor. Of course we've included time to shop for *talavera* ceramics for which the state of Guanajuato is justly famous and a stop to sample the famous local ice cream. This evening we will enjoy dinner and music at *Bistro Mi Casa*. *Breakfast,*



Dinner.

Tuesday, February 20 This morning we depart for artist Anado McLauchlin's whimsical home and gallery, *Las Ranas*. Words simply cannot describe this fantasy estate, awash with vibrant colors, mosaics, and creative artwork. We'll enjoy another private garden visit before stopping at *Galeria Atotonilco*. The gallery owner finds the most talented and imaginative artists and craftsmen working in Mexico today,



and then buys their finest work including crafts, folk art, pottery, *papel mache*, vintage serapes, and Oaxacan wood carvings. Our farewell lunch will be in the garden at Nirvana's superb restaurant, known for its inventive, farm to table cuisine. We return to the hotel late afternoon, with the balance of the day at leisure, perhaps to enjoy one last dinner in San

Miguel de Allende. *Breakfast, Lunch*

Wednesday, February 21 Transfers included back to the airport for your flight home and say adios to Mexico. Please let us know right away if you would like to stay additional nights

TOUR LAND COST PER GUEST BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:

Based on double occupancy and a minimum of 13 guests per trip: \$2195.00 per person for members of San Diego Horticultural Society, \$2295.00 for non-members*. Supplement for single occupancy of a bedroom with private bath: \$838.00. **Membership starts at just \$30 so if you are not a member, we strongly encourage you to join before you register for the tour as you can then receive the member price. Visit sdhort.org to join.*

COST INCLUDES:

- 6 nights accommodation at Casa Schuck Boutique Hotel (see special "Hotel" note below)
- Hotel taxes, service charges, and tips to the hotel staff
- 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, 1 reception (Cooking school or lunch Feb. 17)
- Transportation as specified in itinerary
- Top local guide Francisco
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Airport transfers (see separate section on "Flights")
- Deluxe portfolio of documents
- Escorted by Cheryl & Robert Nichols, special guests Jim Bishop & Scott Borden
- Donation of \$150 to San Diego Horticultural Society

COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Airfare
- Travel insurance
- Tips to your local guide

HOTEL ---We have reserved all ten of the rooms at Casa Schuck Hotel. Each room is unique and bedding varies by room. Room assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis so we encourage early reservations for best choice. Rooms that can accommodate 2 beds are La Biblioteca, La Rosa, El Amarillo and El Sol. <http://www.casaschuck.com/>

FLIGHTS --- San Miguel de Allende is served by Leon/Guanajuato airport (BJX) and Queretaro (QRO) airport, each about 1.5 hours away from San Miguel. US carriers offering service include United, American and Delta. Mexican carriers from Tijuana include Aeromexico, Volaris and Interjet---the Cross Border Xpress offers an efficient and convenient way to fly from Tijuana with no long lines crossing the border. We suggest booking flights to arrive either Leon or Queretaro no later than 2pm on Feb 15 so you will have sufficient time to reach the hotel before the welcome reception and dinner. If meeting this schedule is a problem, please consider coming a day early and adding an extra pre-tour night to your hotel reservation---extra nights are \$304 including tax, gratuities, and breakfast

PASSPORT--a passport valid at least 6 months beyond trip date is required for this trip.

PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES - This tour includes a SIGNIFICANT amount of walking, FREQUENT use of stairs and steeply sloped pathways on uneven or unpaved surfaces. Some of the rooms at Casa Schuck are on the 2nd story and there is no elevator. Some of the places we will be visiting can only be seen on foot with no other access possible. Guests with limited mobility MUST consult with Sterling prior to tour registration.

For reservations and information, please contact:

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