



San Miguel de Allende, Mexico **September 26 – October 3, 2010**

The trip to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico will begin and end in Leon, Mexico. You will need to make your own arrangements to fly into and out of Leon, Mexico (BJX). We will advise you on flights once the trip minimum is reached.

Trip Start: September 26 – Leon, Mexico Airport - 2:30PM
Trip Finish: October 3 – Leon, Mexico Airport
Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights
Trip Cost: \$1650 per person sharing a room
\$1900 for a single room

(Trip cost includes everything except airfare, 4 dinners, 1 lunch, beverages, tips, and all items of a personal nature.)

Day by Day Overview

Sunday, September 26 – Leon, Mexico Airport. Meet at Leon, Mexico Airport (BJX) at 2:30PM and transfer to Casa Carmen, San Miguel de Allende. www.casacarmensma.com.

Monday, September 27 – Delores Hidalgo. Walking tour of San Miguel de Allende. Afternoon excursion to Viejo San Miguel (old San Miguel)—this is the mission church that was the beginning of San Miguel ; Atotonilco shrine - a sanctuary built in the 1700s; and Delores Hidalgo—the starting point for the Mexican Revolution of 1810 and the source of beautiful tile/pottery you see in the US.

➤ Dinner on your own.

Tuesday, September 28 – San Miguel de Allende. Visit to the local mercado followed by a cooking class at a local home. The mercado, under one roof, has almost everything a local family would want to buy: vegetables, fruits, flowers, spices, meat, clothes, shoes, music, piñatas, etc. Our cooking class, done in a typical home, will have half of our group in the morning and half in the afternoon. This is always a favorite experience of the week. We return here for dinner—the fruit of our labor today.

Wednesday, September 29 - Guanajuato, Mexico. After breakfast we leave San Miguel for an excursion to Guanajuato, the capital of the state and once among the richest cities in the world, glutted with silver. We visit the internationally famous theater of Guanajuato, the boyhood home of Diego Rivera, and the city center of Guanajuato.

➤ Lunch and Dinner on your own.

Thursday, September 30 - San Miguel de Allende. This is a free day to do as you would like...excellent shopping in San Miguel. Optional activities offered for the day: walk to the Botanical Gardens—beautiful natural cactus garden-- and a visit to a local home for an exhibition and talk on Mexican masks and crafts. Here we get the history of the crafts we are seeing sold on the street and in the mercado.

➤ Dinner on your own.

Friday, October 1 - San Miguel de Allende. Today is the beginning of the Festival of San Miguel—the place to be is the jardin to enjoy the festival or explore on your own. By today you have learned your way around and you have seen many interesting shops you want to investigate

➤ Dinner on your own.

Saturday, October 2-San Miguel de Allende. San Miguel stands out as a fiesta town. The Festival of San Miguel (St. Michael's Day) celebrates the city's patron saint. There are parades with conchero dancers, giant paper mache figures, xochiles—huge frames beautifully decorated with marigold, cactus, maize, plastic drink bottles and a statue of St. Michael --- and lots of fireworks. Your camera will be clicking wildly. Farewell dinner together.

Sunday, October 3 - Departure day...mid-morning transfer from Casa Carmen to Leon Airport

Please Note: The above schedule is subject to change due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.

Flight and Airport Info

Getting to San Miguel de Allende— Getting to Leon, Mexico—the most convenient connection to Leon is American Airlines via Dallas,TX or Continental via Houston TX. We should meet in Leon between noon and 1PM, but can confirm this once the trip minimum is met.

Weather:

San Miguel is just over a mile high in elevation (similar to Denver). Temperatures are a very comfortable high 60's to mid 70's with little humidity.

Flora:

We are there following the rainy season so lots of cosmos, bougainvillea in bloom plus a beautiful blooming botanical cactus garden.