



## Art Workshop & Day of the Dead Festival in Colourful Mexico (Oct 28-Nov 10, 2024)

Join us for a 14 day experience in what is considered the jewels of colonial Mexico and centre of Arts and Culture; San Miguel de Allende and Guanajuato.

### **SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE**

Located in Mexico's central highlands, San Miguel de Allende is a beautiful colonial city famous for its Baroque Spanish architecture, thriving arts scene and cultural festivals. With its narrow cobblestone streets, leafy courtyards, fine architectural details and sumptuous interiors, San Miguel is considered the prettiest town in Mexico. Each year it celebrates, over 4 days and nights, the festival, Day of the Dead. An experience, not to be missed!

### **THE DAY OF THE DEAD FESTIVAL**

In Mexico, the **Day of the Dead** is one of the most colourful and charming holidays of the year. It is the time when Mexicans welcome the dead back to earth for a visit, even while mocking death itself. It is a participatory arts festival that brings together interactive arts installations. Tour through the wealth of art installations, hear a variety of music, and celebrate the dead along with the community. Daytime events immerse participants in cultural activities, such as live art installations, creative workshops, and tours of cemeteries and traditional altars. The evenings are dominated by costumed processions, musical performances and parties that last until sunrise.

### **GUANAJUATO**

Just over an hour by bus from San Miguel is the colourful city of Guanajuato, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and charming colonial city situated in a picturesque valley surrounded by the Sierra de Guanajuato mountains. The historic centre has a distinct European flavour with its vibrant streets and hundreds of narrow cobblestone callejones (alleyways) running up and down the hillside. Shady plazas are dotted with sidewalk cafes, museums, art galleries, theatres and markets.

## PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP

We will be staying with artist Hugo Anaya in his charming B&B with its beautiful décor and great views of the city from the rooftop terrace, right in the heart of Guanajuato's historic centre. The rooms are large, with high ceilings and walls decorated in exotic textiles and beautiful Mexican art. Each morning we will enjoy a delicious breakfast on the rooftop terrace while at night, sip a margarita as the sun sets over the town.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hugo Anaya is a master printmaker and Guanajuato local. He studied his craft while living and working in Portland, Oregon for over a decade. His work has been featured in galleries across Mexico and in the United States. The workshops are held in his rooftop studio, where he makes creating artworks great fun! No experience is necessary.

## THE WORKSHOP

Roll up your sleeves and get ready to create artworks in the Mexican tradition. Hugo combines mono printing with dry point and mixed media, so everything you create is totally original. While all the printmaking materials are supplied; you will need to bring your own watercolour brushes, a selection of 2 or more acrylic paints, a sketch pad, pencil and paper. We spend the morning in the workshop, followed by a delicious lunch on the terrace. The workshop hours are entirely flexible. The late afternoon is for wandering around, popping into one of the many galleries, shopping and exploring.



## **14 DAY ART WORKSHOP & DAY OF THE DEAD FESTIVAL, MEXICO 2024 – ITINERARY**

**IMPORTANT:** Travelling from Australia, you will fly to Mexico City via the USA. Returning, you can fly via the US from Leon (BJX), an international airport close to where the workshop ends. We strongly suggest arriving in Mexico City a couple of days before the tour, to get used to the altitude and avoid jetlag.

### **DAY 1 - ARRIVE MEXICO CITY (2 NIGHTS) – MONDAY OCTOBER 28**

Welcome to Mexico!. You will arrive at Benito Juárez airport in Mexico City, where a taxi can take you to the hotel. Check-in is around 2pm and at 6pm you will meet up with your tour host at reception and escorted out for a Welcome Dinner. (D)

*2 nights at Casa Comtesse*

### **DAY 2 - MEXICO CITY – TUESDAY OCTOBER 29**

This morning after breakfast, your host and a local tour guide will take you on a walking tour of the hidden side of Mexico City and its colourful Street Art. This is a highly original and alternative way to explore the City and completely off the tourist trail. The afternoon is at your leisure. (B)

### **DAY 3 - SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE (4 NIGHTS) – WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30**

Today, after breakfast, we travel by private minivan to the beautiful colonial town of San Miguel de Allende, famous for its art scene and fine dining (Approx 3.5hrs). After settling into your accommodation, we will take a walk around the town to soak up the atmosphere where preparations are underway for the Day of the Dead festival. Despite its name, this is a vibrant and fun festival. The streets are alive with music, giant puppets, costumed locals and buildings decorated with fresh marigolds. Tonight we will enjoy a group dinner together. (B, D)

*4 nights at Villa Mirasol Hotel*

#### **DAY 4 - SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE – THURSDAY OCTOBER 31**

After breakfast we will go on an historic walking tour (Approx 2hrs) around town. Your English-speaking guide will walk you around the many historical buildings and churches, including an in-depth look inside the famous Parroquia. This afternoon you are free to wander round and explore. You may wish to visit the local market, participate in an activity related to the festival, or explore the many interesting boutiques. Later in the afternoon we will meet back in the courtyard of the hotel to sketch in preparation for the workshop. Less experienced artists will be guided through this process. (B)

#### **DAY 5 - SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE – FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1**

Tonight is the Day of the Dead procession where the whole town comes alive to celebrate with singing and dancing. Locals and tourists get together to parade through the town, in fabulously elaborate costumes, while Mariachis sing in the streets. It's great fun and the atmosphere, intoxicating. You may wish to spend the afternoon in a salon, where professional make-up artists transform your face into an artwork, participate in various activities related to the festival or just relax, hang out and watch the town and its people. (B)

#### **DAY 6 - SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2**

The Day of the Dead festivities continue. Today the locals continue the celebrations in the local cemetery. They take a picnic, sing and party in memory of their dead relatives. Unlike in the West, this is joyous celebration. We have a number of options; visiting the fabulous Fabrica Aurora, an old textile mill housing art galleries, cafes and shops or perhaps a walk through the Botanical Gardens or exploring the Galeria Atotonilco. (B)

#### **DAY 7 - GUANAJUATO - (7 NIGHTS) – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3**

Today after breakfast we will drive to the colourful colonial town, Guanajuato, by private minivan (Approx 1.5hrs) After checking into Alma del Sol, a 17<sup>th</sup> century hacienda and home to our artist, Hugo Anaya, we will be welcomed with a traditional Mexican lunch. This afternoon we will take you on an orientation walk around the town. And in the evening we will have a welcome cocktail reception on the rooftop bar, followed by a group dinner. (B,L,D)

*7 nights at Alma del Sol*

#### **DAY 8 - 12 – GUANAJUATO – MONDAY NOVEMBER 4**

Each day will begin with one of Hugo's famously delicious traditional Mexican breakfasts. Hugo and his staff delight in presenting something different each morning for your enjoyment.

At around 10am we will meet in Hugo's printmaking studio on the roof terrace. Hugo is a very patient and experienced teacher, expert in drawing out your inner artist. No printmaking experience is necessary, just a creative spirit and sense of adventure.

Each day the workshop goes from 10am to around 2pm, followed by lunch prepared by his staff. Your afternoons are free to explore the town, shop, have a massage, check out the art galleries, hang out in a coffee shop, sketch or return to the studio to continue developing your prints.

At the end of each day, around 6pm, we meet up on the rooftop bar for Happy Hour and to plan the evening's activities. (B,L)

#### **DAY 13 - FREE DAY – SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9**

Today is a free day at your leisure to enjoy the many sights and activities available around the town. Tonight, our last evening together, we will enjoy a group dinner (B,D)

#### **DAY 14 - TRAVEL DAY – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10**

Today after breakfast, we say goodbye to the group. From Guanajuato you can either fly to Mexico City or to the States directly from Leon airport or take a bus to locations around Mexico. The buses in Mexico are first class and very comfortable. We will arrange taxis to take you to Leon airport or the bus station for your onward journey.

TWIN SHARE	AUD5,420.00
SINGLE	AUD6,465.00
PARTNERS (EXCLUD WORKSHOP)	AUD4,940.00

**Cost based on a minimum of 6 participants and a maximum of 8. Fully supported tour, with one-on-one tuition**

**INCLUSIONS:**

- 13 X NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION + BREAKFASTS
- PRIVATE TRANSFER FROM MEXICO CITY TO SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE
- PRIVATE TRANSFER SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE TO GUANAJUATO
- ROOFTOP COCKTAILS EACH NIGHT (GUANAJUATO)
- 5 DAYS PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP IN ARTIST'S STUDIO (
- PRINT MAKING MATERIALS
- 6 X LUNCHESES
- 4 X GROUP DINNERS
- 3 X HISTORIC WALKING TOURS (MEXICO CITY, SAN MIGUEL & GUANAJUATO)

**EXCLUSIONS:**

- FLIGHTS TO MEXICO
- AIRPORT TRANSFERS
- VISA FOR USA (ESTA)
- TRAVEL INSURANCE (COMPULSORY)
- SERVICES NOT MENTIONED IN THE ITINERARY
- DRINKS (EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFIED IN INCLUSIONS)
- LUNCHESES & DINNERS NOT SPECIFIED
- WATER COLOUR BRUSHES & ACRYLIC PAINTS, SKETCH PAD, PENCIL, ERASER & PAPER.
- EXPENDITURE OF A PERSONAL NATURE
- TIPS (DRIVER, GUIDES, MAID ETC)

**NOTE:**

No drawing, painting or printmaking experience is necessary, just a creative spirit and sense of adventure. You will be gently guided through the process by both the artist and your host. For partners who don't wish to participate in the printmaking workshop, there are plenty of activities in each location of interest. These are great places to just wander, explore, photograph and hang out.

**Because of the uneven nature of the cobblestone streets and frequent walking tours, this trip is not suitable for anyone with mobility issues.**

**A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$500 IS REQUIRED TO CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING**



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