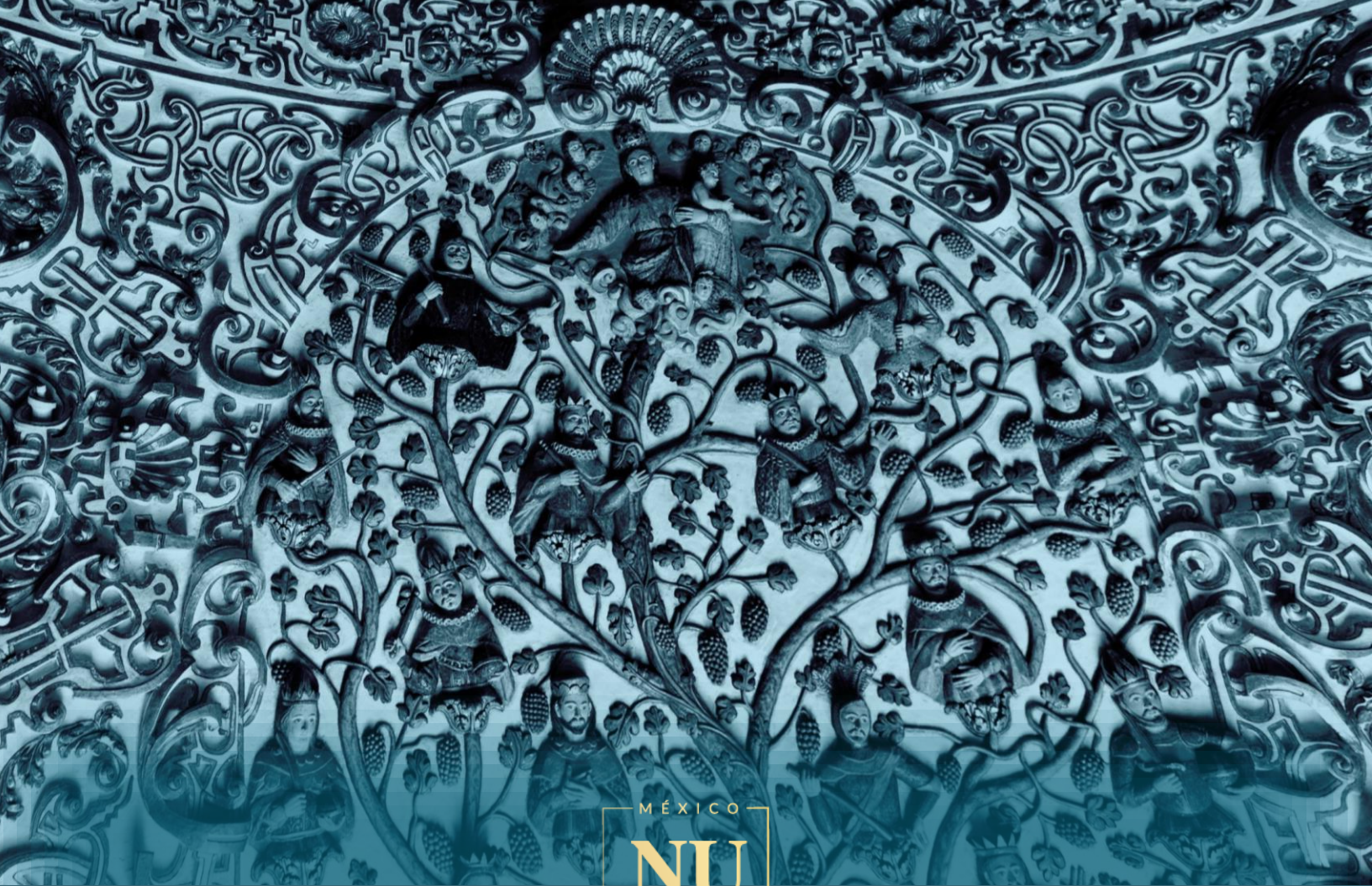


MÉXICO

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O A X A C A



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Between the deep sea and mountains that scrape the sky; Mexico's most ancient spirits, in colonial architecture that looks better than ever. Nature meets modern times at a point between past and present. Oaxaca is a land of epochs, fantasy and miracles made real. A state so replete with color and culture, it's become one of Mexico's most authentic and essential places. It's home as well to the country's widest variety of indigenous groups; and is a never-ending crossroads featuring artisanal crafts like alebrije monster figurines, dazzling embroidery and shiny black barro negro pottery (and that's just the start). There are marvelous cuisines and a cloud-9 of irresistible towns nicknamed pueblos mágicos, including Capulálpam de Méndez, Huautla de Jiménez, Mazunte, Mitla and Teposcolula. In each, Oaxaca condenses its rich, ancient cosmology, traditions and natural riches that include everything from highlands more than 3000 meters up to caverns that plunge remarkably close to the center of the Earth.



Besides those bits of heaven, the state contains all manner of attractions; you'll see virgin beaches, hidden jungles and incredible valleys where life seems slower and lighter. The state capital, Oaxaca de Juárez, is a shining star (also a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site), the state's most important urban center, that's a winsome mix of harmonies; grand, green-limestone architecture and a thousand peaceful corners that enjoy the deliciously temperate weather.



At NUBA Incoming, we know Oaxaca wouldn't be what it is today without mentioning its long, wondrous coastline, where the ocean is a blue-blanket of surf and, sometimes, surprisingly calm. Here reign charming towns, like Puerto Escondido, a surfers' hideaway; or Huatulco **"place of the nine bays"** just two of many sun-and-sand hotspots where you'll discover wide-ranging accommodations including everything from romantic bungalows to elegant, all-inclusive resorts. Oaxaca is a gorgeous setting for adventures, hikes into the sierra, every seaside diversion; exploring lost cultures and everything wise travelers are looking for in Mexico's vibrant soul.

O A X A C A



AIRPORTS

OAX - Oaxaca International Airport
PMX - Puerto Escondido International Airport
HUX - Greater Huatulco Bay International Airport



DRIVING DISTANCES

Oaxaca - Puerto Ángel (5h 30m)
Oaxaca - Puerto Escondido (6h 20m)



CLIMATE

- Warm year round
- Frequent rains in July and August



TIPPING CUSTOMS (MXN)

High-end restaurants: 15-20%
Casual restaurants: 15%
Drivers: \$200-\$300 daily
Guides: \$300-\$500 daily

TIME ZONE (GMT)

- GMT6

BEST TRAVEL MONTHS

Year round and November to April highly recommended.



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L O D G I N G



YOUR HIGHLY
CURATED TOP
HOTELS LIST



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A C T I V I T I E S

I C O N K E Y



Comfortable shoes



Bathing suit



Light jacket



Camera



Hat



Bring cash



Certified guides



Tips expected



Beverages



Food



Sun-block



Tickets needed for admission



Transportation



C I T Y T O U R

Your stroll through Oaxaca's capital leads to history, spirit and indeed, to the essence of the entire Mexican south. Paths reach discoveries and experiences NUBA Incoming believes are a real map, whose points include architectural dazzle in carved, grey-green limestone; exquisite, appetizing aromas; and a tender climate that embraces you at all times. When you reach this UNESCO World Heritage site's main plaza, you'll thrill to the city's throbbing heart; it's a crossroads that never stops moving. Duck into to the Metropolitan Cathedral just before strolling the landmark arcades that frame an adorable gazebo and shade dozens of shops and restaurants.



Along the way, you'll see all kinds of people who celebrate Oaxaca's urban calm over a cup of rich, thick chocolate or even the world-famous regional tippie, mescal. Release inhibitions and try it with orange wedges and sal de gusano, a piquant salt-and-powdered-bug (!) seasoning.

Just when you think you've "done it all," Oaxaca surprises you culturally, at museums and a long list of galleries. Your trip is not complete unless you spend some time poking around raucous, for-the-people markets where you'll find some of the most exquisite dishes Oaxaca cuisine knows, alongside kicky artisanal crafts that exemplify Mexico's millennia-old talents and tastes.

Notes: Walking tour; museums closed Mondays.

Duration: 4 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





MUSEO DE LAS CULTURAS

Sited in the splendid landmark that is the former Santo Domingo Convent, Oaxaca's museum of cultures is today the finest of its class in the state. Its fourteen galleries frame ten centuries of the region's past in a rich collection including archives, objects and displays, alongside dozens of exhibitions that recount histories from discrete cultures that came together to form the state's fascinating mosaic.

Notes: Closed Mondays.

Duration: 2 hours

Recommended clothing:

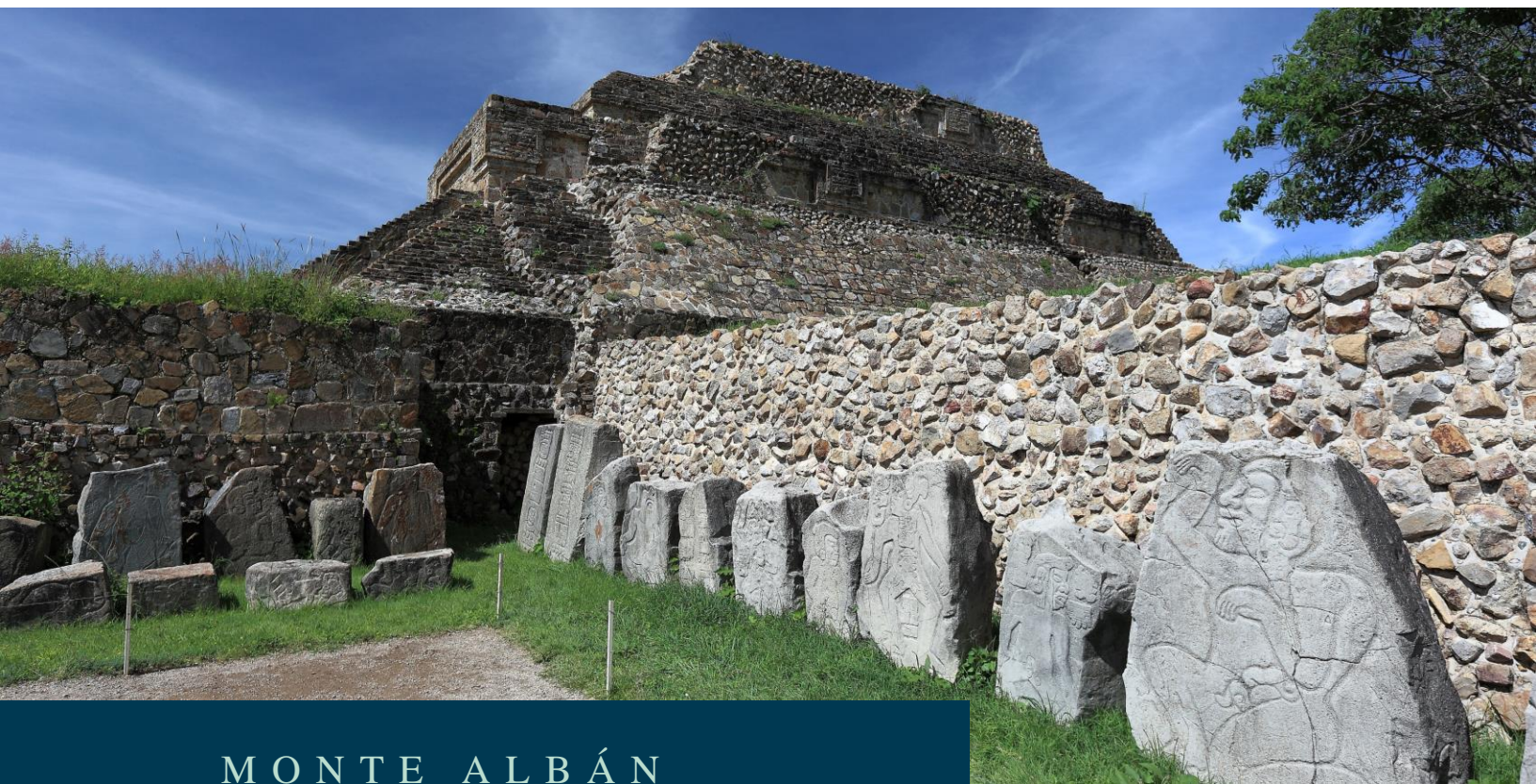


Includes:



Does not include:





MONTE ALBÁN

An immense esplanade more than 2000 meters above sea level is the staging ground for the ancient Zapotec capital, Monte Albán, Oaxaca's most extraordinary archaeological site. A designated UNESCO World Heritage, the beautiful city in the sky holds on to an air of grandeur and silent strength thanks to marvelous temples, ball courts, tombs and oratories.

Notes:

Duration: 4 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





MONTE ALBÁN AT DAYBREAK

Pick your spot beneath the sun's first rays as Monte Albán returns to its past and the great Zapotec metropolis discloses its splendor and imposing architecture. The excursion makes you part of a once-in-a-lifetime experience that lets you dream the pre-Hispanic era, far from all madding crowds. Don't miss out; it's a must-do; and NUBA Incoming takes care of everything. We dare you not to be deeply moved.

Notes:

Duration: 3 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





SAN MARTÍN TILCAJETE / ARRAZOLA

At San Martín Tilcajete, we're eternally thankful for a town that's the very cradle, and home, to some of Mexico's most outstanding and renowned artisanal handicrafts, known as alebrijes. These fantastic creatures were originally fashioned in nopal wood, with versions in papier-mâché, inspired by fantastic notions of shape-shifting nahual ghouls plus every other creature from ancient Mexico legend. The sculptures combine different animals' anatomical features and are painted in irresistible, eye-popping hues. Thanks to the enormous tradition at San Martín Tilcajete, the town has become ground-zero for adorable alebrije workshops (we love Jacobo y María) and the landmark Feria del Alebrije, held every December, that we at NUBA think is one of the loveliest times to visit.

Notes:

Duration: 3 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





CUILÁPAM DE GUERRERO

This site made famous in Mexico's war of independence from Spain is the sad locus of national hero Vicente Guerrero's murder at the hands of a firing-squad. A baroque gem, it's also a sanctuary for legends and architectural wonders. Wandering the ruins of what was once a sixteenth-century Dominican convent, you'll happen on marvelous relics like its open chapel, the fundamentals of a never-completed basilica and the former convent itself. Moody and thought-provoking even in its current avatar of museum and church.

Notes:

Duration: 3 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





SAN BARTOLO COYOTEPEC

Just as San Martín Tilcajete is famed for its alebrijes, San Bartolo Coyotepec has become a mecca for those who love the gleaming silver-black pottery known as barro negro. Since pre-Hispanic times, this little Oaxaca town has been producing chic, compelling pieces using a variety of techniques. We suggest checking out the impressive level of detail that requires both a long soak and painstaking burnish.

Notes:

Duration: 3 hours

Recommended clothing:

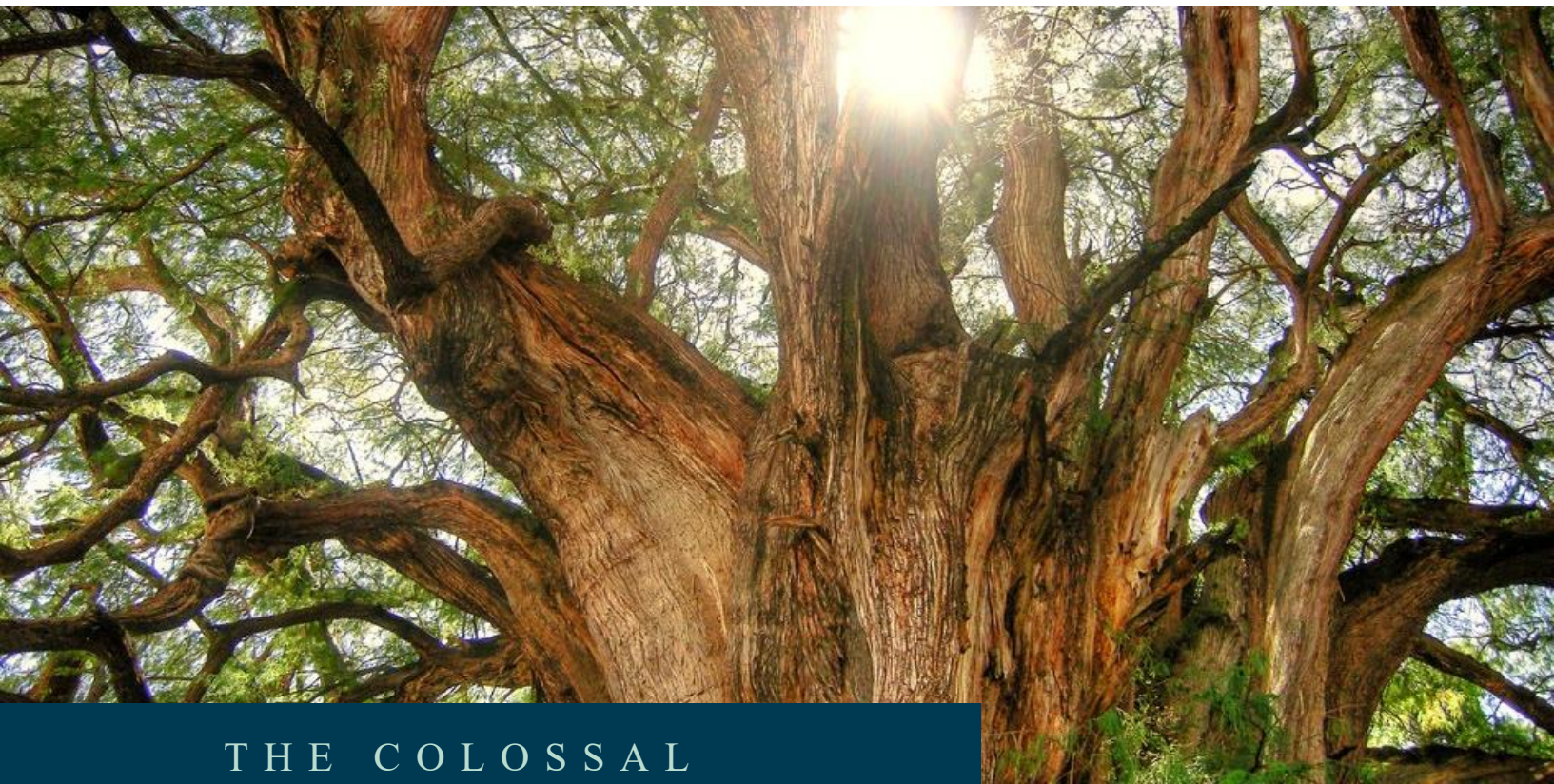


Includes:



Does not include:





THE COLOSSAL TULE TREE

Considered the planet's widest tree, at 52.8 meters stout, the Montezuma cypress or sabino at Santa María del Tule is a divine, natural artwork that never stops conjuring marvel and magic. At some 2000 years old and soaring to 40 meters, tipping the scales at 683 metric tons, this is the most majestic, spectacular and legendary tree in all of Mexico.

Notes:

Duration: 2 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





HIERVE EL AGUA

Like a figment from a surrealist's wildest fancy, Hierve el Agua (the name translates to "the water boils") is surely one of Oaxaca's most peculiar and extraordinary marvels. In line with numerous scientific studies, it's believed that this varying, 30-to-12-meter fossilized waterfall cluster was born of the carbonated water that falls from springs at the top of nearby boulder-covered hills. Over time **presumably the Zapotecs used it as a religious site** it completely petrified to create today's fantastic tableau. Now it's a peaceful, beautiful and natural hot spring where you can take the waters, relax and savor the region's most breathtaking vistas.

Notes:

Duration: 5 hours

Recommended clothing:

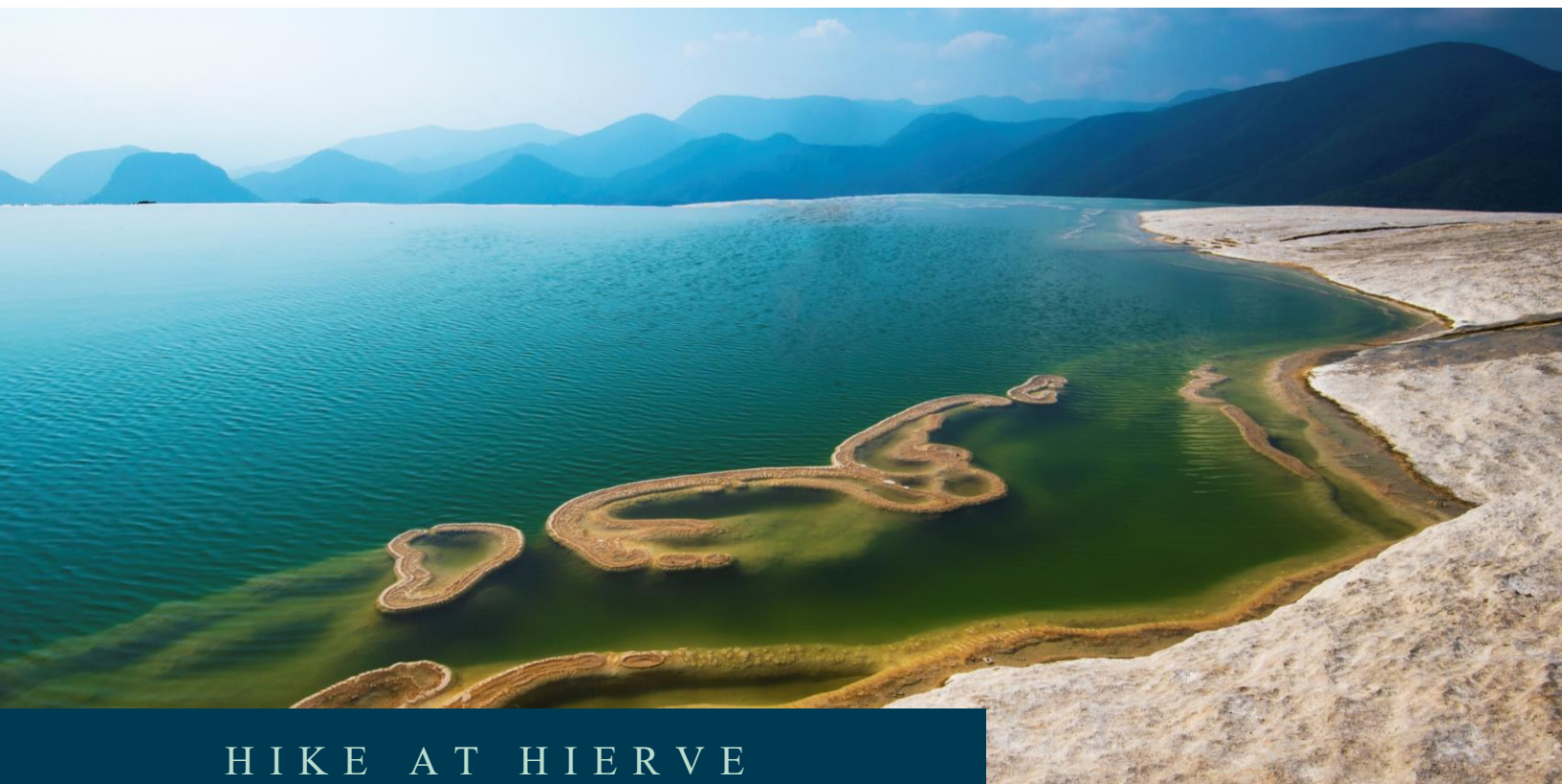


Includes:



Does not include:





HIKE AT HIERVE EL AGUA

Our first steps are blessed by the sun's breakthrough rays at 6h30 as NUBA Incoming kicks off in Hierve el Agua, an extraordinary spot that features unparalleled valley views as well as unspoiled nature. In the pueblo of San Isidro Roaguía, Emelia and Reynaldo welcome you with a delicious, authentic, big-valley breakfast. Then you can dip into the springs and swim or take some swimwear selfies (you look fit and happy, after all). The next phase is a five-km, low-impact walk through a beautiful Oaxaca valley until we reach a splashy cascade for a recharge. Rougher trails at this altitude call for sturdy tennis or hiking shoes. We press on to a kicky box lunch, tastier than you'd imagine, courtesy of our breakfast hosts. At last we return to Oaxaca and wrap the day at Palenque de Mescal, a marvelous distillery where you learn more about mescal varieties and production. It's a day of the never-before experienced, great food, quality time with Mother Nature and heady liquors as delicate as they are exquisite.

Notes: Reasonable fitness recommended; no sandals, please.

Duration: 11.5 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





MITLA

Mitla is unique among all Oaxaca archaeological sites a sumptuous palace that time seems never to have altered. The name Mitla translates to “place of death,” and for many years it was home to powerful Zapotec priests. Today, wandering amid its stately patios and extraordinary structures, their walls bedizened in runaway Greek-key motifs, you’ll reach a new understanding of Oaxaca cultural heft and just plain grandeur.

Notes:

Duration: 4 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





TLACOCHAHUAYA CHURCH

Dominican brothers founded and maintained the Church at Tlacochahuaya in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; it is a structure like no other in the state. This has to do with the fact it was to serve as a place of meditation, reflection and indeed, penitence among the friars. They deliberately chose a site with immaculate nature all around, as far as possible from the chaotic and dangerous royal road known as the Camino Real.

Notes:

Duration: 3 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





TEOTITLÁN DEL VALLE

The textile-weaving tradition is in the DNA at beautiful Teotitlán del Valle, a town in the middle of Oaxaca's Central Valleys. The pre-Hispanic tradition of tapete style rugs is alive and well here, wools are woven on hand-driven-looms at home. With natural dyes doing their part, you find yourself at the center of a brightly colored realm full of extraordinary figures and design. NUBA Incoming bets you won't leave empty-handed.

Notes:

Duration: 4 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





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M E S C A L D E M A T A T L Á N

Drinking mescal is like sipping Oaxaca itself; we can't think of another element that better represents the power of its fertile fields. The spirit comes from a distillation of various agave varieties' fermented nectar. No discussion of mescal excludes mention of Matatlán, the town that understands the region's firewater best, so much so it's been nicknamed "Mescal's Global Capital." You'll visit several workshops to witness every stage of the production process—but not without trying a little nip and laying hands on a full bottle to take home. It's a stop-in NUBA Incoming recommends for those looking to tickle the palate with different experiences and new sensations.

Notes:

Duration: 3 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





SIERRA NORTE

The bold, meandering lines of Oaxaca's Sierra Norte feature deep canyons as well as lofty peaks and it is one of the state's bonanza habitats for a wide array of plants and animals. Here, every breath you take (you'll often be breathless) is a rainforest caress. The zone's 700 square kilometers are ideal for exploration on hikes, ziplines, bike rides; birdwatchers go nuts as they find ideal perches to check out their endemic feathered friends.

Notes:

Duration: 5 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





MOUNTAIN BIKE EXCURSIONS

NUBA Incoming designed one-of-a-kind life experiences for avid bikers or anyone looking for an up-close nature trip. Trace an extensive route to Oaxaca's best hideaways as you blaze a deep groove with breathtaking scenery on all sides, a green-gray landscape that calls to mind the capital city's patinaed stones.

Notes:

Duration:

Recommended clothing:

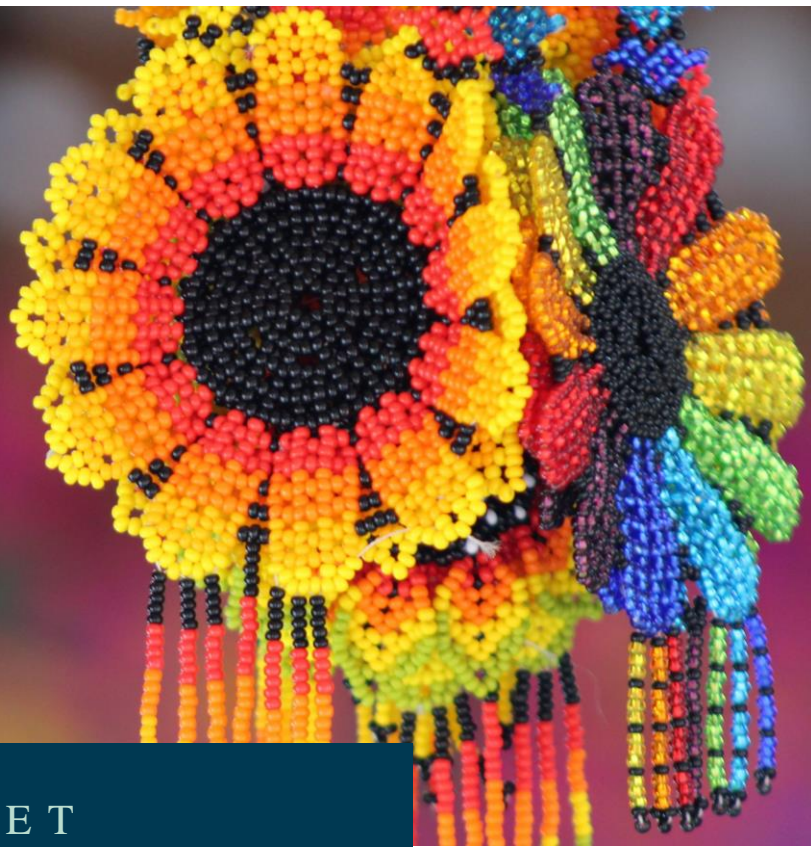
Specialized gear by activity.

Includes:



Does not include:





ETLA MARKET

Like a village of voices, hues and infinite shapes, you're at the Oaxaca heart when you get to Etna Market. A few steps in any direction make you an honorary member among local and regional vendors who peddle an overwhelming array of everything from clothes to spices and other ingredients. They fill this part of the world with color, perfume and rich sazón, every single day.

Notes: Wednesdays only

Duration: 4 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





OCOTLÁN MARKET

Every Friday women and men from nearby Valley of Oaxaca pueblos walk to the very special Ocotlán de Morelos market. This sleepy, gaily-colored town gathers entire indigenous communities selling wide-ranging products.

You'll love lots, especially artisanal craft, mescals, textiles and even street cuisine just a few steps into this ocean of colors and forms. You'll also see stalls with merchants selling burro-belly hats (the name says it all) and huaraches made only in bustling Ocotlán.

Notes: Fridays only

Duration: 4 hours

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





HUATULCO

With its nine shimmering bays, beaches the bussed-in hordes have yet to find, and its leisurely pace, Huatulco has become one of Oaxaca's most perfect Edens. The NUBA Incoming way of looking at things connects you to the best niche for basking in turquoise seas, Pacific sun and soft, golden sand.

Notes:

Duration:

Recommended clothing:



Includes:

Does not include:



PUERTO ESCONDIDO

Sunshine over surfers and sea turtles **both toddling to the shore** are among the many postcard views that make Puerto Escondido a petite, earthly paradise stolen from heaven. You'll pass days tanning and dipping into some of Mexico's most savage waves (above-average caution highly recommended). You've also got brilliant, romantic sunsets; quirky, yummy fish-shacks and that touch that comes only from the sea.

Notes:

Duration:

Recommended clothing:



Includes:

Does not include:



MANIALTEPEC LAGOON

Every night the lagoon at Manialtepec comes alive in vibrant, hypnotic colors that seem to illumine the entire coast. But it's no electric light show or any other publicity stunt. The lights are bioluminescence that microorganisms trapped in the shallow water activate when they have contact with a human body. NUBA Incoming also hands over even more unforgettable spectacle on sunset launch excursions that greenery enthusiasts will love. The lagoon is home to numerous mangroves and habitat to marvelous birds and beasts.

Notes:

Duration:

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:





CHACAHUA

Lagunas de Chacahua National Park is a simultaneous refuge and activities center, made up of numerous thick-mangrove islets where you'll easily spot feather-bearers like pink spoonbills, storks, darters and innumerable herons. Hop on a launch excursion that floats down these unique water boulevards that lead to region's top everything; take in the calm that fills space between marvelous plant life and blazing azure skies.

Notes:

Duration:

Recommended clothing:



Includes:

Does not include:



COOKING CLASSES

Your Oaxaca journey cannot end without getting to know and sampling Oaxaca's gastronomic soul; the region is one of Mexico's top two or three culinary capitals. Do your learning where all great food begins—in the kitchen. Your experience starts at the market and moves on to a beautiful setup where you have a chance to give free rein to the food-love we all have inside. A recipe system and great tips from experienced chefs have you cooking Oaxaca's greatest gastronomic hits as you refine your technique through familiarity with these ancient dishes. A laid-back workshop NUBA Incoming devised to leave you with the best souvenir of all—beautiful memories you'll never forget, in heart and in head, for the rest of your life.

Notes:

Duration:

Recommended clothing:



Includes:

Does not include:



Contacto:



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