

The Culture and Hand Arts of Mexico, from Antiquity to the Present

Friendship Force Cincinnati Trip to Mexico – May 2012

Exchange Director – Barbara Ross: Assistant Exchange Director - Bob Derge

Day		May	Activity - 13 days – 12 Nights
1	W	16	Arrive Mexico City – Transfer to <u>Holiday Inn Zocalo</u> . If arriving early, time to visit the Metropolitan Cathedral & see Diego Rivera Murals at National Palace, both on the Zocalo (Plaza). Dinner * in Hotel Roof Garden and Group Meeting
2	Th	17	Teotihuacan – Pyramids: Climb them if you want! Lunch * and entertainment at Posada del Jaguar. Then drive to Plaza de Tres Culturas : Aztec, Colonial, & Contemporary . Dinner on your own – possible to visit Plaza de Garibaldi
3	F	18	Early departure for a full day excursion to Cuernavaca and Taxco , the Silver City. After shopping & visit to Taxco Cathedral, Lunch* at Posada de la Mision. Return to Mexico City and dinner on your own.
4	S	19	Anthropological Museum : One of the finest in the world. Time for either a stop in the café, or to shop in the museum store. Then to Xochimilco , the floating gardens, Lunch * on a boat cruising the canals, & a visit to an outdoor market. Then visit to Dolores Olmedo Museum : Diego Rivera & Frida Kahlo paintings. Dinner on your own (if you are hungry after that great lunch)
5	S	20	2 hr drive > Puebla , lunch on your own at one of the many restaurants around the plaza. Continue to Perote and meet Filobobos hosts for 5 nights of ‘homestay’ arrival time 1730 approx. Carmen Ponton is their Exchange Director
6	M	21	homestay – schedule by our hosts, includes visit to Xalapa [Jalapa] and their Anthropological Museum ; pre-Hispanic Cultures, focus on the Olmecs.
7	T	22	homestay
8	W	23	homestay
9	Th	24	homestay
10	F	24	Early morning pick up in Perote and drive to Oaxaca : Rufino Tamayo Museum , Basilica de la Soledad (church & museum) and church San Felipe Neri . Our hotel is <u>Casa Conzatti</u> . Dinner* & show: Guelaguetza at hotel Camino Real
11	S	26	Monte Alban fascinating, large historical site with pyramids and ball courts, and lunch in museum café. Then visit Mitla , Tule , and Teotitlan del Valle . Visit a weaver who dyes his own wool. Dinner* at Casa de la Abuela in Oaxaca.
12	S	27	Morning visit in Oaxaca: visit to San Bartolo Coyotepec , famous for it’s black pottery. Leaving about 1030 by bus for Mexico City (drive of about 6 hours). Lunch en route. Evening Folkloric Ballet at Palacio de Bellas Artes . A light Dinner* at our hotel before the ballet
13	M	28	End of Trip - Individual transfers to airport & departure.
			7 * Meals, as above: cost & tip covered. The other 7 meals are paid by you.
			All costs for 7 nights accommodations covered, inc tips and all entrance fees to above listed activities covered. All transportation in private coach/van, covered
			7 Mornings: Breakfast Buffet, covered
			Our guide, Aldofo Cortes, will make a variety of stops not listed above for us to see arts, crafts, local sights, and buildings; he will also give a running commentary on the bus about history, culture, architecture, and the countryside of Mexico. There will be more opportunities for shopping than you can manage!
			If you wish to explore on your own, plan to use “shanks mare” [your own two feet] or take a taxi [take a business card for the hotel with you]

			You will be making your own airline reservations; you must have a current <u>passport</u> with 6 months left before expiration, and as usual, <u>trip insurance</u> is required. You could plan to arrive earlier, or stay in Mexico longer.
			baross88@hotmail.com or 513-310-8561

Basic Costs

Club Fee *	\$ 25
FFInternational	150
Host Club	100
Contingency +	25
ED fee - approx	80
Total	\$380

ED fee is one round trip air fare, divided by # of participants.

* Non-Refundable

+ If not used will be either applied to tip for bus driver and guide or donated to Filobobos, group's choice. All other tips included in Pre-Post Tour prices, i.e. bellboys and porters, tips on included meals.

Cost of Pre-Post Tours

# Participants >>>	10/11+ ED	12/13 + ED	14 + ED	15 + ED
PP in double room	1433	1299	1204	1165
PP in single room	1664	1530	1434	1396

Note: Airfare to and from Mexico City is not included. At present [November] it appears unlikely that we will have more than 12 participants plus the Exchange Director.

Deposit

The deposit of \$250 is due along with your application. Mail to Barbara Ross, P O Box 15216, Cincinnati, OH 45215 prior to December 10th and after January 10th. Between December 10th and January 10th, mail to Bob Derge, P O Box 1036, Covington, KY 41012. Print the application from the Friendship Force International web site www.friendshipforce.org – on the home page, go down and click on forms, policies – then click on Exchange Documents – select Ambassador Application.

11/19/11