Day of the Dead: Princeton Young Alumni

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 3, 2019

alumni.princeton.edu/journeys
During the Día de los Muertos celebrations in Mexico, it is said that departed ancestors may pass into the world of the living to meet with their relatives, in exchange for goods that are offered to them. Join us in Mexico City (with optional extension to Tulum) for a whirlwind of festivities and insider access as we celebrate this colorful and spiritual day.

Explore the former Aztec capital and modern-day metropolis of Mexico City for an unrivaled mix of deep cultural traditions and contemporary delights. Wander ancient pyramids and ruins, privately tour world-class museums, and savor delicious Mexican cuisine.

We look forward to welcoming you and your fellow young alumni on an insider’s journey to explore the magical fabric of this famously vibrant capital city and nearby tropical wonderland.
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Art in the Streets**
  From Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera to an impressive assortment of up-and-coming artists, Mexico City showcases a deep artistry on every corner. During the Day of the Dead, the city is transformed into a colorful showcase of local crafts – from alfeñique to papel picado.

- **A Local Touch**
  Connect with local experts, families, and young professionals, weaving tales that bring to light legendary histories and modern life as colorful as the flowers and flags of a Día de los Muertos altar.

- **A World of Treasures**
  From ancient Aztec pyramids to white-sand beaches, these regions of Mexico offer a truly kaleidoscopic experience for those up for the adventure.
ITINERARY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31
¡BIENVENIDO A MÉXICO!

Arrive at Mexico City’s Aeropuerto Internacional Benito Juárez (MEX) in the early afternoon on Halloween Day. Our welcoming team will be there to greet you and assist with your transfer to Barceló Reforma, our boutique, 5-star hotel in the heart of Mexico City. After settling in, explore the Zócalo—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and learn about the unique Day of the Dead decorations that adorn the wide square. Visit the beautiful National Palace to admire the murals of Diego Rivera, walk through the grand Metropolitan Cathedral, and explore the Templo Mayor, the excavated main temple of the Aztecs which now sits mere steps from the bustling center of the city. Enjoy a welcome reception and special Halloween dinner, feasting on Mexican favorites such as tacos, tamales, and of course, tequila and mezcal, before heading out for the evening. Salud!

Meals: Dinner

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1
DAY OF THE INNOCENTS

After breakfast, head south of the city to explore the cobblestone streets and cozy plazas of Coyoacán, one of the city’s “Barrios Mágicos” or magical neighborhoods. Visit Casa Azul, home of Mexico’s legendary artist Frida Khalo. Next journey to San Andrés Mixquic, a neighborhood that has long preserved the Day of the Dead traditions. Wander the village streets transformed with ornate altars called ofrendas and colorful paper decorations known as papel picado. Meet with a local family who will teach us the significance of these holiday rituals which are rooted in both Catholic and Aztec traditions. After dark, it is time to pay tribute to your ancestors; our group will join a local gathering to decorate the cemetery with flowers, foods, and alebrijes. It is said that the souls of the departed will come to share this night with us all.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2
DAY OF THE DEAD

After breakfast and a morning lecture, take a private tour of the majestic Teotihuacán, one of the best preserved archeological sites in Mexico. At its height, this was the sixth largest city in the world, now a ghost of its former self. Stride down the Avenue of the Dead and gaze at the tomb-like mounds that give the Avenue its name. Then climb the 248 steep steps to the top of the Temple of the Sun to be rewarded with a soaring view of the city.

Upon our return to Mexico City, enjoy a lunch and discussion with leaders from Centro Vitoria, a local non-profit directed by young professionals, focused on empowering women and one of the longest running advocacy groups in the country. Learn about the challenges and opportunities facing young people in Mexico today. The afternoon is free to explore the city-wide Day of the Dead Celebrations. After our farewell dinner, those who are interested can head to one of the iconic Day of the Dead themed lucha libre matches held in Arena México. Masked wrestlers bound off the top rope as we sip micheladas— Mexican beer, rimmed with a delectable tamarind-based hot sauce.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Farewell Dinner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
¡HASTA LUGO, MEXICO CITY!

At breakfast, savor the last of your pan de muerto (sweet rolls decorated with Day of the Dead bones), calaveras (sugar skulls), and other sweets unique to this holiday. Then transfer to Mexico City’s Aeropuerto Internacional Benito Juárez (MEX) for flights home, or continue on to the majestic beaches of Tulum!

Meals: Breakfast
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
WELCOME TO THE YUCATÁN

Take a short flight to Cancún and drive two hours south to Tulum in the early afternoon. Once settled at Cabañas Los Lirios, our ocean-side hotel, explore the Tulum Ruins perched atop beachside cliffs on the east coast of the Yucatán Peninsula. Meet a local anthropologist for dinner and discuss the rich Mayan history of the Yucatán before heading out to enjoy the abundant nightlife.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4
LOS CENOTES

After breakfast, travel to one of the many cenotes—small cave-like lagoons—that dot the coast. Swim in one of Mexico’s most beautiful, Cenote Dos Ojos and dive into the light and shadows of its sinkholes. After lunch, meet with a local Shaman and participate in a traditional Mayan Tezmacal ceremony, which is said to help purify the mind, body, and spirit. The evening is yours to explore on your own.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5
THE COBÁ RUINS

Early risers can head to the beach for a pre-breakfast yoga session and find out why Tulum is a world famous health and wellness destination. After breakfast, head to Cobá, the Mayan temple tucked between two hidden lagoons. Upon our return from the morning adventure, enjoy a final swim in the sparkling Caribbean Sea before a final lunch together and transfer to Cancun International (CUN) for flights home.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
PROGRAM DETAILS

THIS PROGRAM INCLUDES

- All activities, sightseeing, and entry fees listed in the itinerary.
- Accommodations as described in the itinerary.
- All meals listed in the itinerary.
- Transportation by private, air-conditioned motor coach.
- Bottled water during all excursions.
- Comprehensive cultural information and reading materials.
- The services of an exceptional, bilingual local guide.
- The services of an Insider Expeditions tour manager.
- All gratuities for drivers, wait staff at group meals, guides, and tour directors.

THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International flights to and from Mexico.
- Expenses of a purely personal nature (including cab fares, laundry and other personal items, room service charges, passport application fees).
- Airline fees associated with overweight or excess luggage.
- Travel insurance (we strongly advise that each participant arrange for their own travel insurance).
- Food and beverage other than that specified in the itinerary.

Rates

4-Day Day of the Dead
Main Program Rate
$2,199

Single Supplement
$375

3-Day Extension to Tulum
Program Rate
$1,199 (including domestic flight)

Single Supplement Extension
$229

CONTACT US TO SAVE YOUR SPOT:
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Register Here