



COPPER MOON
TRAVELS

DIA DE MUERTOS – A CULTURAL ODYSSEY LAKE PATZCUARO REGION

Emergency Contact:

Please leave contact information for your family or friends in case they need to reach you for an emergency.

Tour Coordinator: Jennifer Bjarnason

Email: coppermoontravels@protonmail.com

WhatsApp & Cell: +52 443 639 2782

DATES: October 27 – November 3, 2024

NIGHTS/DAYS: 7 Nights / 8 Days

AIRPORTS: Morelia is the closest airport. Contact us for more information.

PRICE: \$22,000 MXN (Approximately \$1300 USD)

DETAILED ITINERARY:

Day 1. Sunday October 27, 2024 – Bienvenidos

Hotel Location: Patzcuaro, Michoacan Mexico

Arrive in Patzcuaro today by around 4 PM to check in and get ready for dinner. We will have our Welcome Dinner at Lupitas Restaurant at 6:30 PM to go over our itinerary for the week and answer any of your questions.

Dinner is included

Day 2. Monday October 28, 2024 - Copper & Catrinas

Hotel Location: Patzcuaro, Michoacan Mexico

This morning we will depart Patzcuaro at 9:00 AM for the nearby Pueblo Magico Santa Clara del Cobre. We will work with two different families to offer guests a unique opportunity to work in a traditional studio with a local coppersmith. You will be fashioning a copper bracelet or small copper bowl this morning. You do not need to be artistic for this project, as the artists will prepare your project and help you forge the metal in an open fire before hand pounding it into shape. This is a fun introduction to the preliminary skills behind this incredible medium that our region is so famed for. After our workshop, we depart for lunch at Los Molcajetes in Quiroga, before heading to the whimsical and cute village of Capula, where the locals host an annual Catrina festival of art and handicrafts. If there are serious art collectors among our group, we can take you to visit the enchanting estate of Juan Torres while in town. We will return to Patzcuaro at around 5:30 PM.

Copper workshop and lunch are included

Day 3: Tuesday October 29, 2024 – La Fiesta de las Catrinas

Hotel Location: Patzcuaro, Michoacan Mexico

This morning we will depart Patzcuaro at 9:30 AM for the nearby village of Santa Ana Chapitiro to visit the Temple of Santa Muerte. A controversial and misunderstood religious icon, Santa Muerte is one of the most intriguing saints celebrated in Mexico, as she is the Patron Saint of Death. From Santa Ana, we will head for a mezcal tasting at Hacienda Oponguio, followed by lunch at a very traditional restaurant, where you will taste the flavours of our region. We return to Patzcuaro at around 3.30 PM. **Please note:** you may take pictures at the Temple of Santa Muerte, but please refrain from taking photos of anyone engaged in ritual.

You might see people being smudged with copal incense and eggs and it is crucial to respect their privacy and dignity.

This evening, we ask guests to arrive at Bistro Monarca Restaurant by 5:00 PM for our 6th Annual La Fiesta de las Catrinas! This fun party is a chance to don your favourite outfit and have your face painted by a professional make-up artist, face-jewels and all. Live music, great food and a fun crowd await! Please bring a photo of a loved one who has passed, as we will have an altar here for guests to honour a loved one over this beautiful observation. (Please bring a copy that you don't need back, as you may not be able to retrieve your photograph).

Lunch and mezcal tasting included. Catrina party includes face-painting and dinner. Please bring money if you would like to purchase a crown or sombrero for your costume, or contact us to purchase one ahead of time.

Day 4: Wednesday October 30, 2024 – Follow the Marigolds

Hotel Location: Patzcuaro, Michoacan Mexico

This morning we will depart Patzcuaro at 9:00 AM for a short boat ride that takes us from the docks of Ucazanaztacua to the Isla de Pacanda. Today we will be in close contact with indigenous families to learn about their traditional preparations for Dia de Muertos, which includes making Pan de Muertos (a special bread placed on the graves) and crafting beautiful and symbolic marigold altars. We will return to Patzcuaro by 4 PM today.

Boat ride and lunch are included

Day 5: Thursday October 31, 2024 – Remembering Souls of Innocence

Hotel Location: Patzcuaro, Michoacan Mexico

This morning we will meet at 9 AM and head for the boat docks in Patzcuaro for the 30-40 mins boat ride to the iconic Isla de Janitzio! We will enjoy the local preparations taking place in the cemetery, on the cusp of upcoming celebrations. The locals will be clearing away former decorations and preparing the cemetery, which overlooks Lake Patzcuaro. We will have lunch on Janitzio today before returning to Patzcuaro at around 1:30-2:00 PM. Enjoy an afternoon of free time.

This evening, we will meet at 8 PM to depart for a nearby village where the locals celebrate a unique tradition called the Vigil del Angelitos. This observation is to honour the lives of innocent children and virgins who have died over the past year. We will be visiting two families here, and adhering to local protocol, we will bring them each a host gift including a bottle of mezcal and special altar, which we will put together in the central plaza before visiting them. This is a very special and memorable observation that can be quite emotional and overwhelming. **Please Note:** the families allow guests to take photos, but we always ask permission first. Please do NOT use your flash. The candles will provide plenty of light for those with a steady hand. We will be given spirits (tequila and mezcal) and tamales,

atole (a hot corn-based drink) and other treats to eat and drink. Even if you do not want to partake, please accept these offerings, as it would be considered disrespectful to refuse. You can discard the items at a later time, once we are out of sight.

Boat ride & lunch included. Mezcal gift for family included. Please bring \$150 pesos each to purchase flowers, candles and fruit in the plaza, for our host gift. We will assist you with the purchases and assembly.

Day 6: Friday November 1, 2024 – A Journey of Remembrance

Hotel Location: Patzcuaro, Michoacan Mexico

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Due to the low availability of rental vans, and extremely inflated costs associated with our busiest day/night of the year, we are combining two groups this year to mitigate the price increases, as they have more than tripled since the Pandemic. We will have a large bus with 40 seats, and a maximum of 34 guests and 4 guides to assist everyone. As this group is spending more days on tour than the second group, **the front of the bus is reserved for our group. Due to traffic, the city closes the centro of Patzcuaro, so we will need to walk several blocks to meet our bus.** After our night tour, the bus will be permitted into the centro to drop everyone off, and we will help you get a taxi if your hotel is not within the centro (though we recommend finding accommodations in the centro).

Our Day Tour:

This morning we will meet at Bistro Monarca Restaurant by 9:45 AM, then walk to the Bodega together to meet our bus. Depart for the Pueblo Magico Tzintzuntzan. Guests can explore the archaeological site, convent grounds or vibrant art market. Expect to smell copal incense and see a

plethora of color, flowers, and locals in traditional regalia, accompanied by fantastic brass bands serenading families as they begin their altar processions to the cemetery. You are welcome to take photographs and video during this incredible celebration, but once in the cemeteries, please ask before taking any close-up photos or video of the locals. We will have lunch at Las Yacatas Restaurant at Noon and will depart Tzintzuntzan at 2 PM to return you to Patzcuaro by around 3:00 to rest for about two hours.

Our Night Tour:

We will meet in the Plaza at 5:30 PM and walk several blocks to where our bus will be waiting for us.

Once we board the bus, we will be off to experience something you will never forget, starting with a traditional dinner at the home of an indigenous family, and ending with candlelit cemeteries and an unforgettable scene. We do not announce our route, as we work hard to avoid the tourist crowds. Due to our respect for local protocols, we are fortunate to be giving invitations to private vigils, so our guests are expected and received by the local families. There is no need to worry about being intrusive.

If you would like to personally honour the families, please feel free to bring a host gift. This could include a special box of chocolates from home (something they haven't had before), a gift for the kids (something universal like a puzzle, colouring books with crayons, etc.), a nice picture frame, a bottle of red wine, mezcal or tequila, etc.

Please Bring: A comfort bag with a change of socks, a warm sweater or poncho, an umbrella, snacks, refillable coffee mug and a water bottle. Some guests like to bring a change of shoes, and rain gear is also recommended. Please wear sturdy shoes or a casual hiking boot with good grips, as it commonly rains during Dia de Muertos, and the cemetery mud is very slick when it rains. Come prepared and enjoy a more comfortable experience.

Lunch and early-morning boat ride on Lake Patzcuaro is included. Dinner with traditional family is included. Night boat ride is included.

Day 7: Saturday November 2, 2024 – Rest for the Wicked

Hotel Location: Patzcuaro, Michoacan Mexico

While some guests choose to depart this day, we highly recommend sleeping and enjoying a lot of rest and time to process everything you've experienced over the past week. For some, Dia de Muertos can be an emotionally overwhelming and even triggering time, as we remember our own loved ones who have died. This is not always the case, but it is good to be prepared and to keep in mind that some guests may also be in the process of grieving a loved one, as many who come for this observation are on a healing journey.

If you do stay today, please let us know if you would like to meet for dinner, and we will make a reservation at Al Forno Restaurant, which is a wonderful Italian restaurant that we highly recommend for delicious and healthy comfort food.

Meals are not included

Day 8: Sunday November 3, 2024 – Day of the Dearly Departing

We recommend leaving today, unless you are staying for further exploration of our area. We can assist you with your travel plans if you let us know where are flying in and out of. For more information, please scroll down!