

The Friends of History of the New Mexico History Museum
invite you to join us in following...

The Route of Hernán Cortés: The Collision of Two Empires & the Forging of the New World

FEBRUARY 21 – MARCH 8, 2018



Travel to the land where the ancient cultures of Mexico met the vanguard of the Spanish Empire. We travel from **Veracruz** to Tenochtitlán following the land route of Hernán Cortés, as we explore the ancient Olmec and Totonac cultures of the tierra caliente, and the great civilization of the Nahua emperor Moctezuma. We will visit archaeological sites that marked the great civilizations of pre-Columbian Mexico, and lay along the route of Cortés—**Zempoala** and **Quiahuiztlan**, the great pyramids of **Cholula**, the holy city of **Teotihuacán** and the Aztec ceremonial site of Tenochtitlán. The beauty of central Mexico awed the Spanish; its fertile soils yielded rich spices and exotic plants, described in the early chronicles of contact. We will see coffee plantations in **Coatepec**, the fragrant gardens of **Xalapa** and the Hacienda El Lencero established by a soldier of Cortés' Army of conquest. In **Tlaxcala** we will visit the forts and missions that were the home base for some of the native peoples, who a generation later accompanied Coronado on his exploration of the American Southwest. **Puebla's** tiled buildings and colonial architecture are the living traditions of majólica pottery brought to the New World by Cortés. Our last stop—**Mexico City** with its world famous museums, shops and cuisine—will take us to the heart of the Aztec world. Central Mexico is the foundation of our own history. Join us as we explore and savor this journey where empires met, sometimes in conflict, but always in the path of forging a New World.

Meet Our Tour Director...



Rosa R Carlson, owner of Journeys International, Inc, will lead participants on this insightful tour along the incredible march of Hernán Cortés. Join us as we delve into the history of the Spanish conquest from the Gulf of Mexico to Tenochtitlán, capital of the Aztec empire. With Rosa as our tour leader, we will gather unique cultural perspectives with insights into remote villages, sophisticated museums, delicious food, indigenous markets and beautiful geography. Along with established experts and passionate guides, Rosa's knowledge of Mexican history and archaeology will connect you with the historical background and related histories as we travel East to West along this incredible route.

Rosa has organized and led many tours on behalf of institutions, including the Denver Art Museum, the Friends of Archaeology, the Council on International Relations, El Rancho de las Golondrinas, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Spanish Colonial Art Society (Museum of Spanish Colonial Art), the Museum of International Folk Art and the New Mexico History Museum. She has been a docent and a volunteer for several years at the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, the Museum of International Folk Art and the NM History Museum and serves as an Associate Trustee of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation. Rosa looks forward to sharing and exploring Mexican history and culture with you on this unforgettable journey.

To learn more about Rosa and Journeys International, Inc you can visit her website at www.journeys-international.com.

Please see below for our full itinerary and booking information.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Feb 21 WED Veracruz

UA6017	Albuquerque	Houston	12.15PM	3.30PM
UA4379	Houston	Veracruz	6.05PM	8.19PM

Overnight Hotel Emporio Veracruz or similar

We will have a late arrival in Veracruz, Mexico's principal Atlantic port, where Cortés made his first landing in the Americas. We will be met and taken to our hotel.

Historical Arrival in Mexico

When the Spanish arrived, there was still a strong Maya presence in the Yucatán Peninsula. There had been two exploratory expeditions before that of Cortés. The first, under the command of Francisco Hernández de Córdoba, sailed from Cuba on February 8th, 1517. The second expedition, under the command of Juan de Grijalva, left Cuba in April of 1518. Grijalva sailed as far as the site of the future Veracruz and, in fact, named the rocky island of San Juan de Ulua. Cortés found one of the soldiers left in the Yucatan by these previous expeditions. His name was Jerónimo de Aguilar, who became an invaluable translator as he had learned to speak Maya.

Hernán Cortés had sailed from Havana on February 10th, 1519. By early March, the flotilla had reached the island of Cozumel and then sailed westward along the coastline. En route from Yucatán, on the 12th of March, the expedition found a great river delta, the mouth of the Río de Grijalva where they were met by a large mass of hostile natives. After days of battles, the Indians became allies and the chieftain gave Cortés a gift of twenty young damsels as proof of their esteem and loyalty. One of these was the famous Malinali or Malintzin called Marina by Cortés – later pejoratively nicknamed Malinche by the defeated Mexica (Aztecs). Originally she was from the central highlands of the Mexica, and spoke Náhuatl, her native tongue, but had, by now, also learned Maya. So with Jerónimo de Aguilar, who spoke Spanish and Maya, and now Marina, who spoke Maya and Náhuatl – she soon learned Spanish – Cortés had the means to communicate with all the natives that he would encounter.

Day 2 Feb 22 THR Veracruz

Guided tour historic center, the Baluarte de Santiago and the fort of San Juan de Ulua

Overnight Hotel Emporio Veracruz or similar (B L)

Our guided city tour will include the zócalo and the cathedral. We will continue to the Baluarte de Santiago, one of the nine forts that made a defensive wall around Veracruz. We will then board a boat and head to San Juan de Ulúa. From the beginning of the Colonial period, until the early 20th century it was a strong fort and a horrendous prison. It saw the arrival of Cortés, the shipping and commerce during the Viceroyalty and the occupation by many foreign forces including those of Spain, France and the USA.

Day 3 Feb 23 FRI Coatepec

Drive to La Antigua, Zempoala and Quiahuiztlan*

Overnight at Posada Coatepec or similar (B L)

Today we will drive to the small town of La Antigua, the exact place where Cortés founded La Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz – The Rich Village of the True Cross, before it was moved to its present location. We will visit the ruins of his home and La Ermita del Rosario church, probably dating from 1523, the first Christian church built on the American mainland and where the first Indian was baptized. The expedition landed close to this site on the 21st of April 1519. We will continue to visit the archaeological site of Zempoala. The town boasted defensive walls, underground water and drainage pipes, and, in May 1519 when Cortés arrived, it had a population of about 30,000 people. This was the home of the *Fat* Cacique, Chicomecoatl, an important ally in the fight against the Aztecs. * If time allows we will also visit the site of Quiahuiztlan. After lunch, we continue to Coatepec.

Day 4 Feb 24 SAT Coatepec

Full day tour of Xalapa

Overnight at Posada Coatepec or similar (B L)

Our excursion of the area will take us first to visit the Museo Ex-Hacienda El Lencero. Located on lands granted to a soldier of Cortés' army. It is a grand, superbly restored house, beautifully furnished with period pieces and with delightful gardens and a lake. The President and dictator, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, owned the property in the mid 1800s. We will also visit the highly regarded Museo de Antropología, which houses 2,500 artifacts including seven huge Olmec heads (up to 3,000 years old). After lunch we return to Coatepec.

Xalapa

Jalapa – or Xalapa – is the capital of the State of Veracruz. It is a bit more than halfway up the mountains to the central plateau of México City, which is at about 7,280 feet. It is the center of a rich and productive region with a cool and moist climate. Its products include a wide range of agricultural produce – from tropical fruits like mango, avocado, banana, through coffee, abundant flowers, to grains of all sorts and, in addition, livestock production, textiles, beer and liquors as well as modern industries. It has a highly regarded university and its Museo de Antropología de Veracruz is second only to the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City. It is a very busy, bustling city surrounded by beautiful mountainous country.

Day 5 Feb 25 SUN Coatepec

Tour of Naolinco

Overnight at Posada Coatepec or similar (B L)

We will head out to Naolinco, a picturesque town located in the mountain range of Chiconquiaco. This town of about 8,000 inhabitants is famous for its production of leather

goods of fine leather. You will have time to walk around and enjoy the peace and beauty of the red roofed colonial houses and charming squares. After lunch we will return to Coatepec.

Day 6 Feb 26 MON Tlaxcala

Travel to Tlaxcala

Overnight at Hotel Posada de San Francisco or similar (B L)

After breakfast and checking out of the Posada we will go to Huamantla, a town dating to 1534 and a national historic monument. We will continue to the town of Apizaco where we will enjoy the cuisine of Francisco Molina at his restaurant Evoka. After a relaxed meal we will continue to the town of Tlaxcala. Tlaxcala Indians built the San Miguel mission church in Santa Fe and inhabited the “Barrio de Analco” across the Santa Fe River from the Plaza.

Tlaxcala

Tlaxcala (Elev. 7,319 ft) is perhaps, historically, the most important stop on Cortés’ route. It was here, after several pitched battles aided by thousands of his first allies, that the Tlaxaltecas, who were mortal enemies of the Mexica, were defeated and were won over as the staunchest allies of the Spanish. The town is neat and pretty, with a lovely plaza (Zócolo). There are several colonial churches and buildings to see; notable among these is the Convento de San Francisco and its museum.

Day 7 Feb 27 TUE Tlaxcala

AM tour of Tlaxcala

Overnight at Hotel Posada de San Francisco or similar (B)

Our walking city tour will begin at the Ex-Convento Franciscano de la Asunción, built between 1537 and 1540; it has a beautiful Moorish-style wooden ceiling. We continue to the 16th-century Palacio Municipal, a former grain storehouse, and the Palacio de Gobierno, which houses more than 700 square feet of vivid murals of Tlaxcala’s history painted by Desiderio Hernández Xochitiotzin. We go to the outskirts of Tlaxcala to Ocotlán, to visit one of Mexico’s most spectacular churches, an important pilgrimage site where the Virgin appeared in 1541.

Day 8 Feb 28 WED Puebla

AM Cacaxtla, Calpan and Huejotzingo

Overnight at Hotel NH Puebla Centro Histórico or similar (B L)

We leave Tlaxcala to visit the hilltop ruins at Cacaxtla (600-1000 C.E.). These ruins – Olmec and Maya – were discovered in 1975 and have been meticulously excavated. The most important artifacts are the numerous, beautifully colored murals. They feature vividly colored and well-preserved frescoes showing, among many other scenes, nearly life-size jaguar and eagle warriors engaged in battle. On the way to Puebla we will visit Huejotzingo, known for its cider and serapes; it has a fine 16th century plateresque-style monastery, with old frescoes and excellent carved stonework and finally, the beautiful ex-convento de San Andres in Calpan.

Calpan

Calpan (pop. 8,000 – elev. 8,235 ft) is reached by a winding road, amid walnut groves at the foot of the Popocatepetl volcano (elev. 17,719 ft). Here the former Franciscan convent of San Andres, a combination of fascinating architectural detail and dating from 1548, creates a powerful impression. It has a large plaza, surrounded by walls with posas (chapels) at the corners, which have the most ornate indigenous carving in Mexico. These designs followed that of many native ceremonial sites.

Day 9 Mar 1 THU Puebla

Visit to Cholula, Tonantzintla and Acatepec

Overnight at Hotel NH Puebla Centro Histórico or similar (B L)

This morning we will head out of Puebla to visit the town of Cholula. In 1519, Cholulas's population had reached 100,000. Cortés, having made friends with the Tlaxcalans, traveled here at Moctezuma's request. Aztec warriors set an ambush, but unfortunately for them, the Tlaxcalans tipped off Cortés about the plot and the Spanish struck first. Within one day, they killed 6,000 Cholulans before the Tlaxcalans looted the city. We will visit the Cholultecan pyramid of Tepanapa – said to be the largest in the world. Later we will visit the small *Templo de Santa María* at Tonantzintla, one of the most amazing examples of poblano popular baroque and the *Templo San Francisco* in Acatepec, its façade brilliantly decorated with blue, green and yellow talavera tiles.

Day 10 Mar 2 FRI Puebla

AM Walking tour of Puebla

PM Museo Amparo

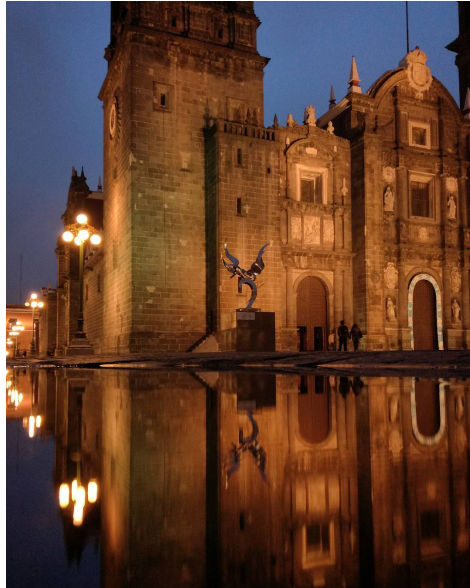
Overnight at Hotel NH Centro Histórico (B L)

Today our walking tour of Puebla will begin with the Cathedral of Puebla, consecrated 1649. It has the tallest towers in Mexico, an altar screen designed by the Spanish Baroque sculptor, Juan Martinez Montañés, sacristy paintings by the Mexican Baroque artist, Cristóbal de Villalpando, and a magnificent freestanding altar canopy in the neoclassical style. We will also visit the fabulous Capilla del Rosario, with sculpted and gilded gesso walks atop stunning tilework, located in a side chapel of the 18th century Santo Domingo church. We will also see the Palafox Library and learn about the many colonial and tiled building in the historic center.

Puebla

Puebla (Elev. 7,027 ft.) or La Puebla de Los Ángeles is famous for its colonial architecture, for having the best Mexican cuisine in all of México and for its refined Talavera Ceramics. It was founded in 1531; just ten years after the Spanish conquered Tenochtitlán (México City). It was the site of the famous battle of Cinco de Mayo (5th of May), 1862 in which a 6,000 strong French invading army was defeated by a mixed force of 2,000 Mexican military and peasant troops.

After lunch, we will visit the excellent Amparo Museum, which is housed in two linked colonial buildings. Their exhibits include a superb pre-Hispanic collection where we will learn about their production techniques, regional and historical context and anthropological significance. The next rooms are filled with the finest art and furnishings from the colonial period.



Puebla Cathedral

Day 11 Mar 3 SAT Cuetzalan

Travel to the town of Cuetzalan

Overnight Posada Cuetzalan or similar (B L)

Upon arrival in Cuetzalan, we will relax and enjoy the gardens of the Posada Cuetzalan. In the afternoon we suggest a stroll through the town and surrounding areas or an optional visit to the nearby archaeological site of Yohuachilan (House of Night). This site is located 4.5 miles from Cuetzalan and reached a cultural and political epoch during the Classic period (200 CE and 650 CE). It is believed to have been constructed and populated by the Totonac people.

Cuetzalan

Cuetzalan del Progreso (Elev. 3,250 ft.) is a delightfully vivid Nahua village, with narrow, winding streets and red-roofed houses, in a warm, humid region. The local Nahua and Totonac Indians, who speak Nahuatl like most of the indigenous people of the central highlands, set up a very colorful market on Sunday. You can find a wonderful variety of products including ripe plum tomatoes, guavas, black beans, tomatillos, bunches of cilantro and mint, pineapples, tiny dried shrimp, and many varieties of chilies. There are aisles of fresh flowers and fresh poultry and pork. All this right next to all the beautiful embroidered blouses, shawls, huipils and other woven goods made locally. Soon, in the atrium of the church, the “voladores” or Totonec flyers will set up to begin a ceremony declared by Unesco a World Heritage.



Market in Cuetzalan

Day 12 March 4 SUN Puebla

AM Visit to Market of Cuetzalan

PM Return to Puebla

Overnight at NH Puebla Centro Histórico or similar (B L)

This magical town (Pueblo Magico), a designation given to particular towns by reason of their natural beauty, cultural riches or historical relevance, offers wonderful opportunities for photography, drawing or painting. You will have plenty of time to enjoy the market and appreciate the Voladores ceremonies. After lunch we will return to Puebla.

Day 13 Mar 5 MON Mexico City

Drive to Mexico City, visit Teotihuacan

Overnight at Hampton Inn Centro Histórico or similar (B L)

After our early departure our first stop will be at the ancient city of Teotihuacán, one of the largest and most impressive archaeological sites in the Americas. Recently archaeologists completed the excavation of a deep underground tunnel closed for 1,800 years and containing over 75,000 artifacts. During the city's heyday it was Mesoamerica's most powerful social and political hub. The structures were built between 100 B.C. and A.D. 250, and accommodated 200,000 people at its height, rivaling its contemporary, Rome. Whatever civilization produced Teotihuacán lasted roughly until the 7th century A.D., but despite its technological complexity left behind no writing system. Around A.D. 750 the city was abandoned and set afire, perhaps in a war with a smaller rival city. The pyramids, citadel, temples, palaces, plazas and paved streets remained deserted and forgotten until the Aztecs arrived in A.D. 1200. We also visit the Sanctuary and Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Over 20 million people visit her annually and the new Basilica built in the 1970's holds over 50,000 people who can attend mass every hour on the hour, 24 hours a day.

Upon arrival and check-in at our hotel, if time allows Rosa will lead a brief orientation walking tour of the historic center, including the Zocola and the Plaza Santo Domingo.

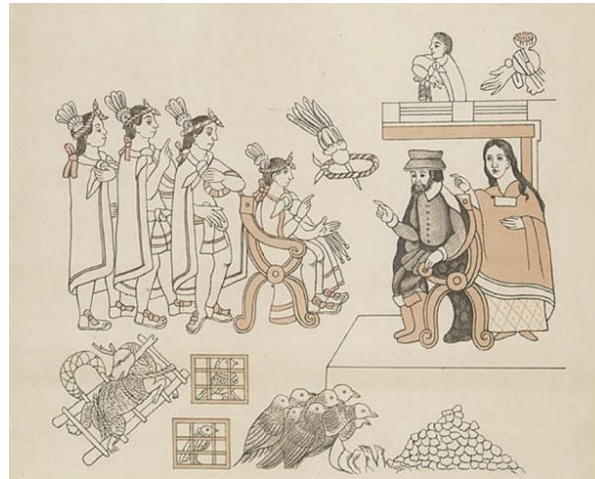
Day 14 Mar 6 TUE Mexico City

Full day tour of Mexico City

Overnight at Hampton Inn Centro Histórico or similar (B L)

Mexico City

Site of the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, Tenochtitlán was Mexico's biggest ancient city and the capital of what was probably Mexico's largest pre-Hispanic empire. Cortés finally arrived on November 8, 1519 to this great city of over 200,000 people. At that time the Valley of Mexico contained perhaps 1.5 million people, making it one of the world's biggest and densest urban areas.



On the 13th of August 1521, a brig, commanded by Captain García Holgín pursued a great canoe, which was carrying Cuauhtémoc (the Mexica leader after Moctezuma's death) and his family who were attempting to reach the shore of the lake. They were captured. After a siege of about three months, the city was totally destroyed and this ended the dominance of the Mexica and marked the beginning of the Spanish Colonial period. The National Palace (the official location of the Presidential offices), was constructed by Cortés immediately after the conquest was complete, built directly on the site of Moctezuma's principal Palace.

Our day starts close to our hotel where we begin the walking tour at the National Palace. Originally one of Hernán Cortés's many residences the palace was built on the site of Aztec Emperor Moctezuma II's castle and rebuilt in 1628. Here we will see one of Diego Rivera's best-known murals on the walls above the palace's central staircase, depicting his vision of Mexico's history. We continue to the Metropolitan Cathedral, the largest colonial cathedral in the Americas, built partially on the ruins of the Templo Mayor. The Cathedral took 2-1/2 centuries to complete, from 1573 to 1813, and the quantity of artistic detail is almost impossible to fully absorb. The Altar de los Reyes houses a 25-meter-high golden retablo of ornate baroque

complexity, and each of the 14 side chapels hold impressive artistic works. Next we will visit the Great Temple of Tenochtitlán. The excavated site of the holiest shrine of the Aztecs, which was razed by the Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century, has been partially reconstructed in the last 30 years. At one time it consisted of a walled complex of 78 buildings built on different levels, crowned with two tall pyramids. Today the excavated site covers four city blocks, and includes an archaeological museum with a display model of the Aztec city and some 7,000 artifacts found at the site.

Day 14 Mar 7 WED Mexico City

Full day tour of Mexico City

Overnight at Hampton Inn Centro Histórico or similar (B L)

We will take a delightful walk from our hotel through some of the streets of the historic center as we head towards the Franz Mayer Museum. The museum, located in an eighteenth-century building, houses the finest collection of decorative arts in Mexico. Mr.. Mayer was born in Mannheim, Germany, he moved to London and the United States before arriving in Mexico in 1905. In 1920, he married María Antonieta de la Macorra and later became a widower without descendants. He became a Mexican citizen on December 29th, 1933. One of the objects of the collection, of particular interest for our group, is a magnificent “biombo” or screen, depicting the scenes of the “The Night of Sorrows” when the Spanish and their native allies were driven out of Tenochtitlan.



Catedral Metropolitana

After lunch we will transfer to the National Museum of Anthropology where we see superb archeological exhibits from early Mesoamerican societies — beginning with the Teotihuacanos, Toltecs, Olmecs, Zapotecs, and others right up to the Aztecs — as well as ethnological displays on Mexico’s current Amerindian groups — including the Huichol, Cora, Purépecha, Otomi, Nahuatl, and different groups from the Sierra de Puebla, Oaxaca, and Gulf of Mexico regions.

Apart from its treasures, Pedro Ramirez Vasquez's building itself is an impressive work of art, with its understated exterior and dramatic central patio.

Day 16 Mar 8 THR – US DEPARTURES

After breakfast we will be taken to the airport for our midday departure to the US. (B)

UA1089 Mexico City Houston 12.15PM 2.27PM

UA786 Houston Albuquerque 6.15PM 7.35PM

NOTE: It is possible that changes in any of the above itinerary/program may be necessary. If so, whatever is altered will be replaced by its equivalent.

**TOTAL COST OF THE TOUR PER PERSON INCLUDING
INTERNATIONAL ROUND TRIP AIRFARE:**

PER PERSON SHARING A ROOM - DOUBLE OCCUPANCY **\$4,270.00**

ONE PERSON IN A ROOM - SINGLE OCCUPANCY **\$4,875.00**

To register for this tour you must be a member of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation and a member of the Friends of History. For information about membership, you can check the following link: <http://www.museumfoundation.org/friends/friends-of-history/>

PROGRAM INFORMATION

INCLUDED:

- \$250.00 tax-deductible donation to the Friends of History of New Mexico History Museum
- International airfare from Albuquerque to Veracruz returning from Mexico City
- Accommodations in Veracruz, Coatepec, Puebla, Cuetzalan and Mexico City
- Porterage (one suitcase per person) and maid gratuities at the hotel
- Tips to drivers and guides
- Breakfast daily and 13 lunches
- Transportation throughout by chartered bus, as indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites indicated in the itinerary
- English-speaking local guides

NOT INCLUDED:

- Items of personal nature

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS:

To register for this tour you must be a member of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation. Please call Rosa Carlson at (505) 310-1863 to confirm availability, as this tour is limited to 20 people. Please print and fill out our Booking & Release Form and return it to us with a copy of your passport and a deposit of \$500 per person no later than **October 10th, 2017**.

You can also email the completed Booking & Release Form along with a copy of your passport to: info@journeys-international.com or carlsonrosa@hotmail.com. Final payment will be due on **November 10th, 2017**.

Please send the required documentation and check to:

Journeys International, Inc.

49 Verano Loop, Santa Fe NM 87508

In case of cancellations, the following penalties will be applicable:

After deposit \$100.00 administrative fee

After November 10th, 2017 100% of the total tour price

Important: Purchase of trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. If you have any pre-existing conditions for which you would like coverage, most companies require that you must purchase the insurance within 14 days of your first payment for the tour. You can purchase coverage just for the amount of your deposit and later increase your coverage when the final payment is made. In addition, many health insurers, including Medicare, do not provide coverage for insured persons traveling abroad. Affordable health insurance for overseas travelers is readily available with companies such as Medex, Travel Guard, Allianz Travel Insurance and similar companies. For any questions or comments please contact Rosa Ramirez Carlson at **(505) 310-1863**