JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE MEXICO: DAY OF THE DEAD

9 days from **£3,300pp**

MEXICO / MEXICO CITY / OAXACA



WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE, NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

Head for Oaxaca and observe Mexico's biggest annual cultural event, the Day of the Dead celebrations.

DAY 1	**26 Oct 2026: Arrive Mexico City.**
DAY 2	**27 Oct 2026: Day of the Dead traditions at the Mercado de Jamaica flower market**
DAY 3	**28 Oct 2026: At leisure in Mexico City with optional excursions.**
DAY 4	**29 Oct 2026: Fly to Oaxaca: rest of day at leisure**
DAY 5	**30 Oct 2026: Explore Oaxaca on a guided walking tour**
DAY 6	**31 Oct 2026: Zaachila, Day of the Dead altar, Xoxo Cemetery**
DAY 7	**01 Nov 2026: Day of the Innocents: guided visit to Xochimilco and Jalatlaco neighbourhoods.**
DAY 8	**02 Nov 2026: Day of the Dead. At leisure in Oaxaca, evening cemetery visit.**
DAY 9	**03 Nov 2026: Return to Mexico City**

ITINERARY

Our Day of the Dead tour invites you to observe the colourful traditions and rituals of this iconic celebration in Mexico. Spend some time in Mexico City before moving on to Oaxaca which, with its airy patios and graceful arcades, is famed for its colourful market, sarapes, crafts and dances. The celebrations are particularly animated in this devout region of southwestern Mexico.

The Day of the Dead (*Día de los Muertos*) involves a traditional ritual, both vivacious and contemplative, during which Mexicans pray for and remember friends or family members who have passed away and assist them on their spiritual journey.

Death is not to be feared: this is a celebration of the lives of those who have died. The so-called Day of the Dead – actually three days – gets under way on Halloween, 31 October and extends into 1-2 November, coinciding with All Saints Day and All Souls Day in the Catholic calendar. Exuberant parades with rumbustious music, where participants wear ghoulish costumes and skull-masks in vibrant colours take place alongside calmer, quieter celebrations featuring anecdotes, many amusing, about the lives of the departed. Observe local families and learn about the fascinating Zapotec culture, an indigenous pre-Columbian civilisation which thrived in the valley of Oaxaca.

Although at heart this is a Mexican family occasion, the Day of Dead has become a festival of iconic importance internationally, now attracting many thousands of visitors from all over the world to Oaxaca. Hotels fill up well in advance and early booking is essential.

DAY 1

26 Oct 2026: Arrive Mexico City.

Transfer to your hotel in the historic centre of Mexico's storied capital.



DAY 2

27 Oct 2026: Day of the Dead traditions at the Mercado de Jamaica flower market



Mexico City has evolved over the centuries into a modern day metropolis from its founding as the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán in the 14th century. A history of agricultural cultivation, religious ritual, and warring tribes took a seismic turn with the arrival of the Spanish conquistadores and the development of the city was fuelled by silver mining. This is all reflected in the cultural vestiges apparent all over the modern day city which you will glimpse during your guided walking tour.

Visit the Mercado de Jamaica, to the east of downtown. Mexico City's most important flower market is an aromatic spot to watch the buying and selling of blooms and other crafts to mark the Day of the Dead. In the days running up to this important occasion spectacular floral displays arrive at market by the truckload, making Jamaica an essential stop during this period. You'll explore the market accompanied by a guide and small group, accompanied by not only by the fragrance of freshly cut flowers but also the aroma of tasty snacks being prepared to entice local shoppers sure to make stomachs rumble, even just after breakfast (Mexicans love to eat during the morning). You'll be able to sample some of these during the tour if you are feeling peckish.

DAY 3

28 Oct 2026: At leisure in Mexico City with optional excursions.



Preparations for the Day of the Dead festivities around Mexico City will already be underway. You can expect things to be very busy out and about. Today is free to explore on your own. If considering an optional excursion we advise you to arrange this with us at the time of booking.

Our tours of Mexico City typically includes the vast main square (Zócalo) including Aztec Templo Mayor and the 16th century Metropolitan cathedral. You may spend the rest of the day exploring independently, or consider an optional excursion the magnificent Museum of Anthropology. In our view this is one of the continent's best museums, with presentations representing different regions, each featuring exhibits manifesting society in pre-Hispanic history and the colonial period as well as showing how life is lived in contemporary Mexico.

Other possibilities include the magnificent pyramids at Teotihuacan, which dates from the time of Christ and was once one of the largest cities in the world. Teotihuacán is hugely influential in the historic narrative of modern Mexico and, although it had already been abandoned by the time of the Aztecs, even this great empire held it in awe. Soak up the history as you stroll along the imposing Avenue of the Dead, leading to the vast Pyramid of the Sun, and take the opportunity to climb its vertiginous, ancient steps for a panorama of the ruins and the surrounding countryside.

Alternatively a visit to the 'floating gardens' of Xochimilco, a network of canals lined by fruit and flower gardens and markets, can be great fun – as residents of Mexico City flock to be transported in one of the colourful gondolas where they are serenaded by a mariachi band. You too will have the opportunity to glide through the canals at a lazy pace on one of these 'trajineras'. Xochimilco was once connected to the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City) and was where they grew much of their food. Combined with a visit to Coyoacan and the Frida Kahlo Museum this is a great day out.

DAY 4

29 Oct 2026: Fly to Oaxaca: rest of day at leisure



Transfer to the airport for your 1-hour flight to Oaxaca, in southern Mexico. This magnetic city is at the heart of the state of Oaxaca, where the Day of the Dead is marked with a heady combination of solemnity and joy. Stay at a simple hotel closed to the city centre for the next four nights.

Preparations for Day of the Dead celebrations should be well under way by today. The afternoon is yours to wander through Oaxaca, observing the festivities as you please.

DAY 5

30 Oct 2026: Explore Oaxaca on a guided walking tour



Walking through Oaxaca during the Day of the Dead is a sensational, if full-on, experience. From the early hours of the day, the air smells of copal and freshly baked bread. Stroll through the streets of the colonial city centre, admiring the Cathedral with its attractive baroque façade and the Iglesia de Santo Domingo, a church with a breathtaking interior that dazzles with gold ornaments. Explore the colourful markets, which are a feast for the eyes during these days and soak up the bustling atmosphere of the Zócalo, the city's main square.

The streets are dressed in colour: the intense orange of the cempasúchil guides the way like a river of petals, while altars sprout in corners and courtyards, laden with photographs, lit candles and everyday objects that tell stories of love and absence. There is no heavy sadness, but rather a sweet nostalgia, a deep sense of reunion. The city will be very busy: expect crowds and last-minute changes of direction.

At the energetic Day of the Dead *tiangus* at the Abastos Market. In an open-air bazaar you'll browse the stalls piled high with Day of the Dead ornaments and decorations including colourful strings of beads, bunches of vibrant marigolds and the iconic illustrated sugar skulls. Watch families buying decorations to adorn their home altars in tribute to their loved ones.

DAY 6

31 Oct 2026: Zaachila, Day of the Dead altar, Xoxo Cemetery



Visit Zaachila, six kilometres from the city of Oaxaca. In the pre-Columbian era, it was the main city-state for the Valley of Oaxaca after the fall of Monte Albán. A deeply traditional town, it has preserved its indigenous music, dance and gastronomy. The town is well known for its open air market on Thursdays, which occupies most of the town centre and which is little changed since pre-Hispanic times. The town will be preparing for the Day of the Dead, capitalising on the murals which adorn the walls, many of which are Day of the Dead related. You'll get to see the main square which features a simply decorated Spanish-style church, tombs of the Mixtec culture which dominated the region after the fall of Monte Alban. You'll also be taken to one of the local day of the Dead altars.

In the late evening head off to the village of Xoxocotlán, one of the oldest towns in the Valley of Oaxaca. The Xoxo cemetery, a short drive outside of town, is one of the most important sites of the annual Day of the Dead celebrations. Families gather to sit alongside the tombs of their loved ones, and the atmosphere is one of a solemn and dignified vigil combined with joyous remembrance. The decorations in the old cemetery include marigolds, candles, and copal incense. An abundance of flowers decorates the graveyard where the people of Xoxocotlán hold a vigil by candlelight at the decorated tombs. Return to Oaxaca and overnight.

DAY 7

01 Nov 2026: Day of the Innocents: guided visit to Xochimilco and Jalatlaco neighbourhoods.



During the Day of the Dead, the neighbourhoods of Xochimilco and Jalatlaco are transformed into scenes full of symbolism, colour and tradition, each with its own distinct personality. Xochimilco, north of the city centre, is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Oaxaca and during the Day of the Dead it takes on a solemn, spiritual, and communal atmosphere. Its cobbled streets are filled with the aroma of copal, cempasuchil and pan de muerto. Houses and altars are decorated with flowers, candles and papel picado, maintaining a more traditional and respectful aesthetic. Jalatlaco, in the eats of the city, offers a more colourful, artistic, and festive experience. Known for its young and bohemian spirit, during the Day of the Dead its streets are filled with art installations, sand carpets, temporary murals, and decorated skulls. Although it retains the traditional elements — altars, offerings, and flowers — Jalatlaco stands out for its more creative and contemporary approach, blending tradition with modern expressions.

DAY 8

02 Nov 2026: Day of the Dead. At leisure in Oaxaca, evening cemetery visit.



As festivities roll into their final day you are will have free time to soak up the atmosphere in Oaxaca. Although the Day of the Dead festivities span several days, 2nd November is the most important day for Mexicans to spend time in the cemeteries or at home with their families. Spend the day exploring independently. However, we can organise an optional side trip to Monte Alban, perhaps the most significant archaeological site of the region.

During the Day of the Dead celebrations, hundreds of families gather in cemeteries throughout the Oaxaca region. On this solemn occasion, people clean, decorate, and pray at the graves of their deceased loved ones. Keeping vigil in the cemeteries during these days is a deeply rooted family commitment, as it is believed that neglecting this tradition would sadden the spirits. During the evening we'll visit a cemetery 10 km from the city, to witness these meaningful celebrations.

DAY 9

03 Nov 2026: Return to Mexico City

It's time to continue your journey, with a transfer to the airport for your flight back to Mexico City.

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Mexico City: floral displays and street snacks at Mercado de Jamaica
- Oaxaca: Explore the city & markets and the traditional town of Zaachila
- Observe Day of the Dead vigils in one of Oaxaca's local cemeteries

ESSENTIALS

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS
7 days, 6 nights: Mexico City 3; Oaxaca 5.

We use a mix of hotel standards from mid-range upwards, choosing accommodation we think is great value, comfortable, well-located and which showcases a touch of local character. Properties will vary in heritage from modern to traditional-style countryside properties (haciendas).

TRANSPORT
2 domestic flights.

MEALS
Breakfast daily.

GUIDES
Our local, trusted and carefully selected partners understand the expectations of our customers very well, and their staff and guides are consistently singled out for praise by clients on their return. On this holiday, you will be joined by different guides for each activity and or region, ensuring you benefit from specialised expertise and knowledge, often from someone local to the area.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS
As well as any included activities, this Private Journey includes some free time for optional excursions. As this is a very busy period in Mexico, optional excursions are subject to availability. We recommend you discuss and arrange them with your Travel Expert as early as possible before you depart.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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