

# Día de los Muertos Heritage MEXICO

WITH DR TRAVIS STANTON



**FAR  
HORIZONS**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS

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# MEXICO: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

with Dr. Travis Stanton

**Explore UNESCO World Heritage Sites, experience the vibrant traditions of Día de los Muertos, and savor authentic cuisine, all while gaining insights from a renowned scholar and expert guides**

Join Far Horizons and a small group of just 13 others on an unforgettable 12-day journey through Mexico's most fascinating cultural and archaeological treasures. From the ancient ruins of Teotenango and Chalcatzingo to the vibrant traditions of Día de los Muertos, this tour is designed for the curious traveler eager to delve into Mexico's rich history and living culture.

Begin your journey in Cuernavaca and explore picturesque Malinalco. As we move to Puebla, you'll immerse yourself in the city's colonial beauty, exploring Cholula's grand pyramid and participating in the sacred Día de los Muertos festival at Huaquechula, where cemeteries come alive with color and remembrance.

Continue to Mexico City for a thrilling exploration of the ancient metropolis of Teotihuacan, wander through the world-renowned National Museum of Anthropology, and visit Frida Kahlo's famous blue house in Coyoacán. Along the way, savor authentic Mexican cuisine and enjoy accommodations at boutique hotels that reflect the unique character of each region.

Led by Mesoamerican specialist, Dr. Travis Stanton, this exclusive tour offers you special access to some of Mexico's most significant archaeological sites, providing insights that will deepen your understanding of this vibrant country. Perfect for travelers who value education, culture, and authentic experiences, this once-in-a-lifetime journey promises to leave you with cherished memories and a profound appreciation for Mexico's past and present.

# Daily Itinerary

## Day 1

### Arrive in Mexico City

Begin your journey with a warm welcome to Mexico as you arrive in bustling Mexico City. Upon arrival, you'll check in to our centrally located hotel, our home for two nights. Take the afternoon to relax and enjoy the elegance of this historic hotel in the heart of the capital, before our Welcome Dinner at Casa de las Sirenas, overlooking the Zócalo. (D)

## Day 2

### Mexico City's Anthropology Museum

Today we delve into the treasures of Mexico's National Museum of Anthropology, one of the world's leading institutions dedicated to pre-Columbian cultures. Here, you'll see iconic artifacts such as the Aztec Sun Stone and other relics that offer insight into Mexico's rich past. Dinner is on our own to discover Mexico City's renowned culinary scene. (B/L)

## Day 3

### Xochimilco, Transfer to Cuernavaca

Spend this morning cruising through the serene canals of Xochimilco, a UNESCO World Heritage site that offers a glimpse into the agricultural practices of ancient Mexico. The colorful trajineras (boats) and floating gardens create a peaceful and scenic experience.

After lunch, transfer to Cuernavaca, a charming town known as the "City of Eternal Spring" due to its temperate climate. Here we explore the Casa de Cortés Museum, where Mexico's colonial and prehispanic history comes to life through a beautifully curated collection of artifacts.

## Day 3 cont.

Walk through the centuries-old rooms and gain an understanding of how the Spanish Conquest shaped this region.

Settle into Hostería Las Quintas, a tranquil hotel surrounded by lush gardens and our home for two nights. Enjoy an evening stroll through Cuernavaca's historic streets, soaking in the town's laid-back atmosphere, before our festive welcome dinner. (B/L/D)



# Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

## Day 4

### Malinalco, Teotenango

After a refreshing breakfast, begin today with a visit to the picturesque town of Malinalco, where ancient temples blend seamlessly into the surrounding hillsides. Here we explore Cuauhcalli, or House of the Eagles, the stunning Aztec period temple carved into the living rock, dedicated to the ancestral warriors who reached celestial paradise after falling in battle.

Continue on to Teotenango, one of the region's most impressive ancient cities. The towering ruins and intricate stone carvings of this once-thriving Matlatzinca site will offer you fascinating insights into Mexico's pre-Columbian history. Return to Cuernavaca in the late afternoon with dinner on our own. (B/L)

## Day 5

### Chalcatzingo, Transfer to Puebla

Journey to Chalcatzingo, a lesser-known but deeply intriguing archaeological site. Here, you'll explore ancient rock carvings and ceremonial sites that offer glimpses into the region's pre-Columbian civilizations.

After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to the UNESCO-listed city of Puebla, renowned for its stunning baroque architecture and vibrant culture. Take a guided walking tour through the historic streets, where centuries-old churches and colonial buildings tell the story of this remarkable city.

Overnight for three nights at Hotel NH Puebla Centro Histórico, Puebla. (B/L/D)

## Day 6

### Puebla's Cultural Treasures

Spend the day uncovering the rich history and art of Puebla. Begin at the Museo Amparo, home to an extraordinary collection of pre-Hispanic and colonial artifacts. Then, journey to Cholula to visit the exquisite Capilla de la Virgen, followed by a stop at the indigenous church of Tonantzintla, known for its brilliantly colorful interior.

Enjoy lunch at the historic Hotel Colonial, and the afternoon is yours to explore Puebla's vibrant streets, markets, or nearby attractions. This day offers a deep dive into Mexico's colonial and indigenous past while still allowing for personal discovery. Dinner is on our own, but make certain to try Puebla's signature dish, mole poblano, during your free time. (B/L)



## Day 7

### **Día de los Muertos in Huaquechula**

Immerse yourself in the sacred traditions of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with a visit to Huaquechula, a village famous for its unique celebrations. Witness the powerful symbolism of this day as locals honor their ancestors with beautifully adorned altars, offerings, and ceremonies.

After lunch, return to Puebla for an evening of cemetery visits, where the vibrant colors, flowers, and candles create a poignant atmosphere. This day provides an unforgettable glimpse into one of Mexico's most cherished traditions, a true cultural highlight of the tour. Dinner is on our own. (B/L)



## Day 8

### **Xochitecatl, Cacaxtla, Transfer to Mexico City**

Begin the day by visiting the extraordinary archaeological sites of Xochitecatl and Cacaxtla, where ancient murals and pyramids tell the stories of Mesoamerican cultures that thrived centuries ago. These lesser-known but remarkable sites are a treasure trove for those fascinated by history and archaeology.

After lunch in Tlaxcala, visit the The Basilica of Our Lady of Ocotlán, easily one of the most important religious sites in the metro Tlaxcala region.

Transfer back to Mexico City in the afternoon and to our hotel at the beginning of the trip, our home for the next four nights. (B/L/D)

# Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*



## Day 9

### Teotihuacan, Lecture in Mexico City

Today, explore one of the world's most famous archaeological sites: Teotihuacan. Marvel at the grandeur of the Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon as you walk through the Avenue of the Dead, gaining a deep understanding of this ancient city's significance.

Enjoy a unique lunch at the Cave Restaurant, set within a natural cave near the ruins.

Return to Mexico City for a thought-provoking lecture that delves into the history and mysteries of Teotihuacan, providing a deeper context to your day's exploration. The scale and mystery of Teotihuacan are sure to leave you in awe of Mexico's ancient civilizations. Dinner is on our own to explore the myriad of restaurant options. (B/L)

## Day 10

### Templo Mayor, Chapultepec

Begin today at Mexico City's Templo Mayor and the Metropolitan Cathedral, both located in the heart of Mexico City's historic center. These monumental structures reveal the fusion of ancient and colonial influences that have shaped the city over centuries.

After lunch, stroll through the lively Zócalo Square and take in the vibrant city life of Mexico's capital. Our final stop will be Chapultepec, more commonly called the "Bosque de Chapultepec" (Chapultepec Forest), one of the largest city parks in Mexico. The area encompassing modern-day Chapultepec has been inhabited and considered a landmark since the pre-Columbian era, when it became a retreat for Aztec rulers.

Dinner is on our own. (B/L)

## Day 11

### Tlatelolco, Frida Kahlo Museum

We begin our final day at Tlatelolco. Founded in 1337, Tlatelolco was a powerful, independent sister city to Tenochtitlan with a massive market. The archaeological site features remnants of a large pyramid and a temple. It was the site of the last stand against Spanish conquistadors in 1521.

Continue on to Coyoacán, a bohemian district of Mexico City known for its cobbled streets and colonial architecture. Here we will tour the iconic Frida Kahlo Museum, housed in the artist's beloved Blue House (Casa Azul). We end the tour with a memorable farewell dinner at an elegant local restaurant. (B/L/D)



## Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

### Day 12

#### Depart Mexico

Depart the hotel and head to the Mexico City International Airport for our flights home. (B)

PLEASE NOTE: This is a sample itinerary that is typical of our trip offerings. In general, you can expect a very similar program, though days may be swapped depending on availability, opening hours, and other affecting factors.

#### Pre and Post Trip Extensions

Far Horizons offers pre or post extensions for many of our trips. We can also arrange extra nights at the arrival and departure hotel should you wish to arrive early or depart later. Please contact us for details.



# Why Take This Tour?

**Led by Mesoamerican specialist,  
Dr. Travis Stanton**

**Exclusive Access to  
Día de los Muertos  
festivities in  
Huaquechula**

**Enjoy several fine  
dining experiences in  
Mexico City, a city  
renowned for cuisine**

**Visit 4 UNESCO World  
Heritage Sites:  
Teotihuacan  
Cholula  
Puebla  
Xochimilco**

**Maximum of  
14 participants**



# Tour Information

## Pricing

For current pricing, please visit [farhorizons.com](http://farhorizons.com) and navigate to our trip page.

## Inclusions

### Price based on double occupancy and includes:

- Internal flights during the trip (if applicable/unless otherwise noted)
- The accompaniment of your scholar throughout the entire trip
- Local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodations (3 or 4 stars; or best available based in the area)
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers for arrivals and departures
- Most meals as noted in the itinerary
- Entry fees to all included sites and museums
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and restaurant and hotel staff
- Coordination for any private presentations or tours

*Trip prices are based on a minimum number of participants. If this minimum number is not met, trip prices are subject to change. Should the prices need to change, Far Horizons will reach out to registered guests to discuss directly.*

## Single Supplement

Should a roommate be requested and one not be available, the single supplement will be charged.

## Exclusions

- International round trip airfare
- A separate donation check of \$150.00 per person to a designated donation project
- Passport or visa fees
- Required vaccines or tests
- Airport or departure taxes
- Alcoholic drinks, beverages or food not included on set menus
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal tips and hotel incidental expenses
- Laundry or other items of a personal nature

## Donation Checks

As a tour company that benefits from the cultural and natural riches of our destinations, we have a policy of donating to the scientific and cultural sites and projects which we visit. This has created a bond between Far Horizons and the academic and local communities that has helped us establish an extensive list of lecturers and contacts in each of our destinations. We ask that each participant donate to the noteworthy project we designate. The donation amount is \$150.00 per person. Note that the donation is required as part of your registration for the trip and that it is non-refundable.

## Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Prices are based on currency exchange rates keeping below a projected level. While it is unlikely, if the exchange rates should change substantially, Far Horizons reserves the right to charge an additional amount to the trip cost.

## Registration

A deposit of \$1000 per person is required along with your registration & health forms, which will be linked in the email confirmation you receive once you pay your deposit on our booking platform. Final payment is due 120 days before departure. Prior to departure, you will be sent a reading list and a tour bulletin containing travel information.



# Tour Information *(cont'd)*

## Cancellation

Cancellations received in writing at least 120 days before departure will receive a refund less a \$500 per person administrative fee.

Cancellations received less than 120 days before the departure date will not receive a refund. If for any reason you are unable to complete the trip, Far Horizons will not reimburse any fees. Upon registering for the tour, the purchase of travel protection with both trip cancellation and emergency evacuation is strongly advised. Links to recommended insurance policies will be included in the email you receive confirming receipt of your deposit.

## Expectations During Travel

Our trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active, have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. We have designed this trip to be as comfortable as possible, while also aiming to visit some remote or unique sites that other companies do not attempt to include in their itineraries. There may be days where we have very long drives and the conditions of the roads may vary. Hotels and transportation in some remote areas may not be up to western standards. There may be times when no bellhops are available; please pack with the understanding that you need to be able to handle your own luggage at times. Sometimes we may be walking over uneven trails for a mile or more; hiking boots are strongly recommended. Not every meal will be haute cuisine and several lunches may be picnics or box lunches. By maintaining a flexible attitude we will soon be captivated by the beauty of the natural scenery, the hospitality of the local people, and the fascinating sites we will see. Your flexibility and patience will be appreciated.

## Air Ticketing

International round trip flights are not included in the cost of the trip. If Far Horizons must change the trip dates or cancel the trip for any reason, Far Horizons is not responsible for any air ticket you may have purchased. Please send your complete air schedule as soon as you have it. NOTE: Please contact Far Horizons if you would like for us to handle your air ticketing.

## Private Tours and Talks

The private tours of archaeological sites and talks by specialists are scheduled in advance and include a donation to each. Specialists working at these sites are excited about showing their work to interested enthusiasts. However, please be aware that there may be times when the director or a member of the staff may not be on site when our groups arrive due to other commitments.

## Walking and Standing

Far Horizons expects all participants to be physically active and able to walk and climb independently throughout the full touring days. This includes walking over uneven terrain (uphill and downhill) for 2 miles or more at each site. You should expect to be on your feet for much of each day, averaging as much as 5 miles of walking per day. **As such, each participant should be able to walk unaided at a pace of 3 miles per hour for at least an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 60 minutes.** Bearing this in mind, we suggest that, if you have not already done so, you begin walking several miles every day, ideally including stairs and hills. If you have questions about your ability to keep up with the group or the strenuous nature of this trip, please contact the Far Horizons staff.



## Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider purchasing travel insurance. Should illness or an unforeseen event force you to cancel your travel plans after your final payment or during your trip, it would be doubly unfortunate to incur a significant financial loss. Trip cancellation protection will enable you to be reimbursed for the loss of your payment if you are unable to travel for any of the covered reasons in the "Outline of Coverage" section, or should you have an accident or suffer from any medical conditions during the trip.

Far Horizons offers customized protection plans through Travel Insured International (a Crum & Forster Company) with the following benefits:

- Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption for covered reasons
- Trip Delay
- Baggage Loss and Baggage Delay
- Emergency Medical Expenses and Emergency Medical Evacuation
- 24-Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- 24-Hour Travel Assistance & Concierge Services
- Option to upgrade to 'Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR)

We recommend reviewing the language in detail so you are aware of specific parameters; Depending on the policy, to waive the Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion or to upgrade to CFAR coverage, the plan must be purchased within 14 to 21 days of the initial trip deposit, full trip cost must be insured, and traveler is medically fit at time of plan purchase. Otherwise, coverage may be purchased at any time prior to departure.

To obtain a personalized quote and/or purchase a plan through Far Horizons/Travel Insured International, simply click [HERE](#). For specific questions regarding the Worldwide Protector Plan, please contact Travel Insured International's Customer Care Center at 1-800-243-3174 or by email at [customercare@travelinsured.com](mailto:customercare@travelinsured.com), and refer to Far Horizons' account number: 54070.

## Itinerary Changes

Changes in our itinerary, accommodations, and transportation schedules may occur while traveling. While we are committed to keeping as close to the published details as possible, sometimes it is simply not possible. Weather events, government affairs, or other factors out of our control sometimes come into play. A good book to read as well as patience, flexible attitude, and a sense of humor are essential.





Meet Your Study Leader...

# Dr. Travis Stanton

**Travis Stanton is a Mesoamerican archaeologist and Full Professor at the University of California Riverside.**

With a Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University (2000) he has worked in Mexico since 1995, primarily directing projects in the states of Yucatan and Quintana Roo; his current field research is heavily focused on Chichen Itza, the great Early Postclassic city of the Maya and UNESCO World Heritage site, for which he has co-created the working 3D model of the site.

For nearly a decade (from 2004-2013), Travis was a professor at the Universidad de las Américas Puebla, located among the ruins of the ancient city of Cholula in Central Mexico, and has spent extensive periods of time in the Gulf Coast Region. These experiences give him a profound grounding across several regions of Mesoamerica, and Central Mexico, where he engages in iconographic, digital archaeology, and oral history projects, is his second home.

Among numerous journal articles and book chapters, Travis has published ten books, including a fundamental pedagogical text on the workings of archaeology and a wide-sweeping edited volume covering the Early Postclassic across Mesoamerica.





# Why Travel with Far Horizons?

With over forty years of experience, and an 85% customer return rate, we have stood the test of time. Remind yourself what makes Far Horizons so unique.

## ✦ Scholar Led Tours

Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

## ✦ Trusted Partnerships

Trusted Partnerships: Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

## ✦ Behind the Scenes Access

Our groups have private access to closed areas and on-site specialists.

## ✦ Unique Trips

Our itineraries are designed to showcase sites that are off-the-beaten path; we explore places that many travelers never see.

## ✦ Personalized Service

We love knowing our guests and helping with the decision process. We are here to assist you.

## ✦ Small Groups

Our tours have a maximum of 14 travelers. So you can trust that you will have a boutique experience every time.



READY TO TRAVEL?

Día de los Muertos Heritage

**MEXICO**

WITH DR TRAVIS STANTON

Email with Questions

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