

Boyce Thompson Arboretum and Bon Voyage Travel present Colonial Cities and Gardens of Mexico: Hacienda Style

March 8-16, 2008 ♦ 9 days ♦ from Phoenix ♦ *\$2,589 BTA member ♦ *\$2,689 Non-member

This tour, which is designed for a small group, is rich in the tradition, culture and history of colonial Mexico.

Manuel Renteria, our tour director, has been leading tours to Mexico for 25 years and has an in-depth knowledge and insight of the historical and cultural background of this colonial area.

The hotels Manuel has selected for our lodging accommodations are wonderfully restored and elegantly appointed colonial homes including 1800s mansions, historical buildings and private villas.

Your journey will include Guadalajara, Tequila, Morelia, Patzcuaro, San Miguel de Allende and Guanajuato.

You'll wander through private and public gardens, stroll along cobble stone streets that meander from fountains to gardens and back and learn about the harvest of the agave. You'll walk in Old World downtown plazas and streets lined with stately old buildings and visit richly decorated churches that are evidence of the Spanish legacy in Mexico.

Boyce Thompson Arboretum members share a love of nature and/or gardens and are friendly. Anticipation and preparation are half of the fun: your experience begins as soon as you sign up for the tour. We take care of the details and provide you with travel information, such as weather, tips on packing and local etiquette.

This tour is limit to just 22 participants. With all it offers at this affordable price, it's sure to fill up quickly.



Included Features:

- ♦ Round-trip airfare from Phoenix or Tucson
- ♦ Eight nights first class hotel accommodations and transfers
- ♦ 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 2 dinners
- ♦ Escorted by Manuel Renteria, top rated tour director
- ♦ All tours mentioned in the itinerary
- ♦ Entrance fees to Museums and attractions
- ♦ Pretrip information and educational materials



BOYCE THOMPSON
ARBORETUM



Day 1 - USA / Guadalajara

Upon arrival in Guadalajara, the Florence of Mexico and the birthplace of mariachi music, you'll be met at the airport by tour director Manuel Renteria, and accompanied to the five-star hotel Mansion del Sol, a boutique hotel. This evening meet your fellow travelers at a welcome reception and dinner. (D)

Day 2 - Guadalajara

Depart after breakfast for a tour of Guadalajara, the second largest Mexican city, and the artisan town of Tlaquepaque, a shopping paradise. Lunch on your own with a mid-afternoon return to the hotel. Evening is yours to enjoy. (B)

Day 3 - Tequila

Travel to the heart of Tequila country where the landscape begins to turn blue from the vast fields of Agave. Visit farms and a working distillery to learn about Jima, the harvest of the agave, and all the traditional processes of this most Mexican drink. Evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 4 - Guadalajara / Morelia

Depart after breakfast for the regal city of Morelia, capital of the state of Michoacán, one of the most beautiful and well preserved colonial cities in Mexico. Visit the restored 16th-century Convent of Santa Ana. Check into Villa Montana, a beautiful hotel and spa. (B, L)

Day 5 - Morelia / Patzcuaro / Morelia

Depart after breakfast to the colonial town of Patzcuaro by the lake of the same name. Early inhabitants believed the lake was the doorway to heaven where the gods ascended and descended. Located at 7,000 feet elevation, the highest in the country, the rich volcanic soil supports lush jungle-like vegetation, with spectacular mountain landscapes and velveteen pastures. Stroll the cobble stone streets of Patzcuaro and browse in the small and large market places lining the plazas and ancient side streets. Shop for Tarasco Indian handicrafts, such as copper items from the nearby town of Santa Clara, as well as lacquer ware, sisal mats, rugs, silver jewelry, fabrics, pottery, wooden-ware and gold laminated handwork. Enjoy a Mexican country lunch. (B, L)

Day 6 - Morelia / San Miguel de Allende

Travel to the picturesque town of San Miguel de Allende, a city designated a national monument. In the afternoon visit the botanical garden, El Charco del Ingenio, located in a canyon and wetland with vestiges of aqueducts and waterworks from the past. The botanical collection contains a variety of Mexican cacti and succulents, many endangered. The garden has a network of well-maintained trails leading to outlooks such as the Plaza of the Four Winds, Conservatory of Mexican flora, and the dam, which attracts many migratory birds. Villa Jacaranda is the hotel for the night. (B, L)

Day 7 - San Miguel De Allende / Guanajuato

Spend the morning exploring San Miguel de Allende. Discovery and curiosity await you around every corner whether it's the extravagant beauty of sheltered inner patios, cool retreats filled with trees, bubbling fountains or the intricate stone carvings that adorn the doors and windows of buildings. Afternoon tours of Homes and Gardens before departing to the city of Guanajuato, then check into Camino Real. Evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 8 - Guanajuato

Today enjoy Guanajuato, UNESCO heritage designated city, known for its silver mining history, colonial architecture, and winding streets. Visit the old mining hacienda of San Miguel de Barrera, with its beautiful gardens. Lunch is at the Conde de la Valenciana. The afternoon is at your leisure. Wander along the unique layout of streets that wind around each other and through subterranean tunnels, find hidden away plazas in this city designed around its landscape of sloping hills or visit Museo Diego Rivera, the birthplace of this famous artist. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at Jardin de la Union that marks the end of a sensational journey. (B, L, D)

Day 9 - Guanajuato / USA

Transfer to the airport for the flight back to Phoenix or Tucson. (B)

B=BREAKFAST / L=LUNCH / D=DINNER

Limited to just 22 participants. Book early – this tour will fill quickly!

Call Leandra Lewis for Reservations: 520-689-2723 480-343-7060 - llewis@cals.arizona.edu or visit our website at <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu> for a Travel Reservation Form

Terms and Conditions

Responsibility: A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Boyce Thompson Arboretum and the tour operator for loss of property, injury, illness, or death will be provided to passengers prior to final payment and is available to prospective travelers upon request.

Cancellations & Refunds: All deposits are refundable, less a \$100.00 per person handling fee, with written notice of cancellation received at least 60 days prior to departure. Cancellation received within 60 days prior to departure will result in NO REFUND.

As these cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we recommend you purchase trip cancellation insurance for your protection.

Notice: While it is extremely rare that itineraries must be altered, or trips delayed or canceled due to insufficient sign-ups or acts of nature, Boyce Thompson Arboretum reserves the right to do so. If the program is canceled by Boyce Thompson Arboretum, a full refund will be issued. **Trip price to be paid in full by January 1, 2008. (Note: credit cards cannot be accepted as final payment.)**

TRAVEL RESERVATION FORM

Colonial Cities & Gardens of Mexico/ March 8-16, 2008/ 9 Days /* \$2,589 BTA Member pp/ *\$2,689 Non-member pp/do from Phoenix or Tucson

Mail to: Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Members Travel, 37615 US Highway 60, Superior, AZ 85273-5100

I/ we want to make reservations for the Colonial Cities & Gardens tour. Legal name as it appears on birth certificate or passport:

(1) _____

(2) _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone:Day _____ Evening _____

Email address _____

* I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$500. (Please note: singles are limited and may not be available.)

Enclosed is a deposit of \$____ (\$600 per person). Make check payable to Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

To make your deposit by credit card, complete the following: Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit card number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature of card holder _____