



SPANISH ON THE ROAD

A CULTURAL JOURNEY TO THE MEXICAN MASTER ARTISANS OF PÁTZCUARO, Feb 27-Mar 7, 2018



Nine days with two nights in Morelia and six nights in Pátzcuaro

Language Link has a long history of successful On The Road trips, and often we have taken you to places you may not have known or are difficult to do on your own. We're very excited to offer this unique cultural journey. You will see, experience and learn through outstanding *English speaking guides* **in a small, group of 12, traveling in a comfortable 20 passenger van.** There will be many opportunities to practice your Spanish, including optional daily classes from 8:30 – 9:30 am at all levels of Spanish. Others not taking classes can start their day a little later. The trip will be accompanied by Kay Godfrey of Language Link and classes will be given Maru Ramos, the superb academic director of the Spanish Language Institute in Cuernavaca. Maru will also provide conversational practice on the road.

You will arrive into Morelia, Michoacán (easy flights – some direct from the U.S. and others through Mexico City) or by bus from Mexico City. Morelia and Pátzcuaro are safe areas for tourists and travelers.

We call this a cultural journey, as it covers a long sweep of history, beginning in the Pre-Colombian era. Around Pátzcuaro we will be in the area of the Purépecha people, who were called Tarascan by the Spanish. They flourished from 1100 A.D. to 1530 A.D. While learning of this ancient civilization, we will have an included picnic lunch at an actual *yácata*, the unusual, key-shaped, Tarascan pyramid. The ancient Tarascan capital city was Tzintzuntzán, sacred to the pre-Hispanic hummingbird deity, its name depicting the sounds of the rhythmic wingbeat. The conquest under

Hernán Cortés in 1519 led to the end of this Tarascan Empire in 1522. And what became of its people? They were fortunate to have the Spanish crown appoint Don Vasco de Quiroga (a Bishop) to govern the Tarascan villages. Quiroga was a Humanist who believed in a utopian society. He realized that the indigenous Purépecha would never be free of Spanish rule unless they had a skill or craft to support themselves. To accomplish this he organized each village around the lake, with each community to be known for a specialized art form. His vision is what created a legacy of master artisans of all types, continuing to this day.

Six of our days will be centered in Pátzcuaro, a small colonial gem, in a land of immense natural beauty...rolling hills, deep lakes, winding rivers and green valleys. Pátzcuaro is found on hills above one of the lakes, Lake Pátzcuaro. Its original indigenous name means "the door to heaven". ***The climate is lovely at 7,000'. Cool evenings and early mornings, but gloriously sunny and warm days.***

What will give great significance to our visits is that the Pátzcuaro area is a renowned cultural and artisan center for all of Mexico. You will be visiting these master artisans, many of whom are nationally recognized in books such as *Great Masters of Mexican Folk Art* and with pieces in major Mexican museums, not even mentioning the competitions they have won. Many are the original creators of well-known art such as the Catrina skeleton ladies. You will be in their actual studios and workshops and see the production through age old methods, transforming natural materials into exquisite objects. It is fascinating! We will visit fine artists, silversmiths, furniture makers, copper masters, cane artists, wood carvers, ceramicists, mask makers, and more. And did we mention that you will have the opportunity to buy these exquisite creations directly from the artists at bargain prices? We suggest that you pack an empty bag to take home, filled with treasures.

Day 1 (Feb 27, Tues) MORELIA



Arrange your own flight into Morelia (we will help with suggestions), where there are well priced taxis to take you to the Hotel de la Soledad. This is a gorgeous hotel, rated #1 in the city. We will have an evening meeting to meet each other and to review the program over a glass of wine or a cocktail.

Day 2 (Feb 28, Wed) MORELIA, Breakfast

Breakfast Buffet in the hotel starting at 7:30 am. Spanish class from 8:30 to 9:30. After class a guided city tour of historic Morelia, with lunch on your own at a top restaurant in the city, Tata Mescalería. It's a haven for regional specialties and most enjoyable. Continued city tour after lunch. Back to the hotel for dinner on your own.

Day 3 (Mar 1, Thurs) PATZCUARO, Breakfast, Lunch



After breakfast, class and checkout at 9:30 we depart for Pátzcuaro. We will stop en route at a yácata to learn of the Tarascan history and enjoy an included picnic lunch on the archaeological site. Taking the scenic route we will stop in several small villages. Arriving in Pátzcuaro and checking into the Hotel Pueblo Mágico, a small colonial hotel located just off the plaza. Next a walking tour of "downtown" Pátzcuaro. Dinner on your own with a choice of many restaurants on the plaza.

Day 4, 5, 6, 7 (Mar 2 Fri, Mar 3 Sat, Mar 4 Sun, Mar 5 Mon), VILLAGES, Breakfast

Each day (with exception of Sunday with no Spanish class) Breakfast at 7:30 followed by Spanish class at 8:30. At 9:30 we will tour a variety of villages, artists' studios, and artisans' workshops. Just imagine seeing this maskmaker at work and having the chance to buy a piece of his art directly from him at an incredible price! On these days (our longest drive is 2 hours), we will also stop at a local place for lunch for you to order on your own. These are a fun part of the local life. We will have at least one free afternoon during these days and will always return to the hotel by 4:30 or 5:00 pm. Dinner on your own.



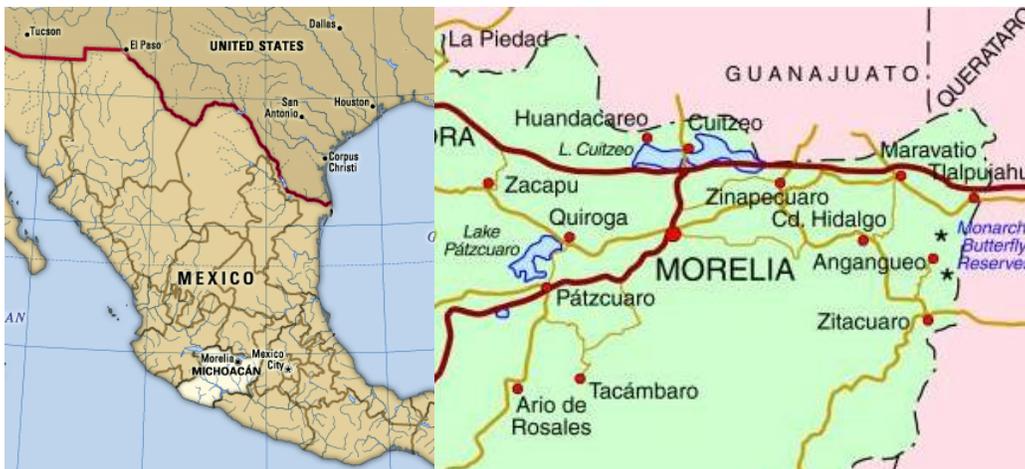
Day 8 (Mar 6, Tues), Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Today you will have free time on your own to return to favorite places in Pátzcuaro. Or we may come up with an unplanned activity. We're going to "hang loose" and see what may develop Mexican style. But at 5:00 pm you will be transported to a truly magical place for our included Farewell Dinner at Hacienda Ukazanatakua in Tzintzuntzán. It is in a magnificent setting with a spectacular view of Lake Pátzcuaro. Just imagine the sunset. Have a look at this amazing place!



Day 9 (Mar 7, Wed), Breakfast

Check out of our hotel for your return to home from Morelia. We can help arrange airport or bus station transport.



Cost per person \$1,495 – Included: shared double room in hotels as indicated, meals shown in itinerary with breakfast every day, all tours and excursions including transport and guide, Spanish classes with Maru Ramos, escort services of Kay Godfrey of Language Link, bottled water distributed in the van. Deposit of \$400 per person due at the latest Jan 5, balance due Jan 25. Private room (very few available) supplement is \$350. We can take payment by credit card through calling our U.S. office.

Please register as early as possible. This is a unique and well-priced trip, and we expect it to fill quickly to full capacity.

Not included – RT airfare from your departing point to Morelia or airport transport. For any questions or a PDF of all information please call Meredith at Language Link's toll free number, 800.552.2051, email her at info@langlink.com or Kay at kay@langlink.com. Please also contact us for a registration form which you will need to reserve your place.

Hoping you can join us in Pátzcuaro! Kay and Maru

**Language Link, 2008 W. Kellogg Ave., Peoria IL 61604, 800.552.2051, 309.673.9220,
info@langlink.com, www.langlink.com**

Meredith Butler, U.S. Office / Kay Godfrey, Mexico Office