

Travel with The Met

February 15–20, 2019

**Ancient Cultures
in Mexico Revealed**
with James Doyle,
Assistant Curator
for the Art of the Americas



THE
MET

Ancient Cultures in Mexico Revealed

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

Mexico City is a dynamic urban center that beguiles visitors with endless options. The city has become a world-class center for art and design that rivals New York and Paris, yet is equally acclaimed for its deep appreciation for indigenous heritage and tradition. Please join me next February to discover the best of Mexico City's great classical and modernist landmarks, with special access to exceptional collections. We will consider the most recent developments in Mesoamerican archaeology as we immerse ourselves in the expressive culture and history of Mexico from its earliest civilizations to its vibrant present.

Stay at the luxurious Four Seasons Hotel on the Paseo de la Reforma, close to Chapultepec Park. Admire iconic landmarks spanning centuries, from the ruins of the Aztecs' capital, to colonial Spanish buildings, to the home of the high priest of Mexican modernism, Luis Barragán. Marvel at great murals inside major buildings, tour the Museo Soumaya with a curator, and see the Museo de Arte Moderno. Visit the "machine for living" where Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera lived and worked, both together and separately. Along the way, discover first-hand why Mexico City's culinary scene is every bit as exciting as its art.

Consider arriving early to join me for the optional prelude in Palenque, which promises to be extraordinary. We will visit lesser-known pyramids, murals, and other treasures of Maya culture surrounded by the lush jungle of Chiapas.

I hope you will join me for this unique look at Mexico City's past, present, and future.

Sincerely,

James Doyle
Assistant Curator for the Art of the Americas
The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Traveling with You

James Doyle

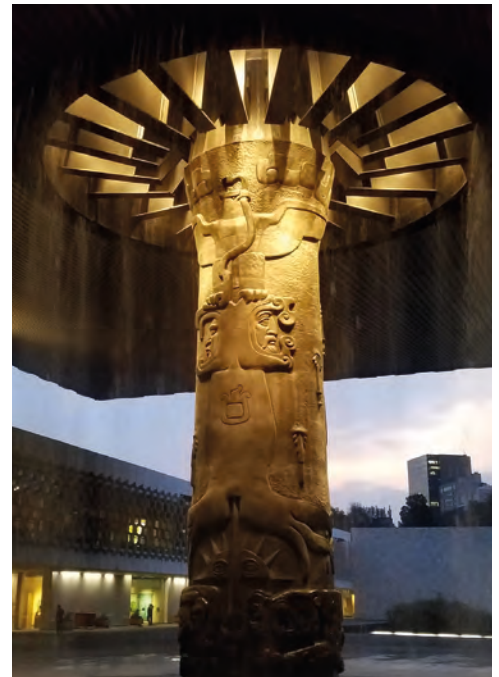
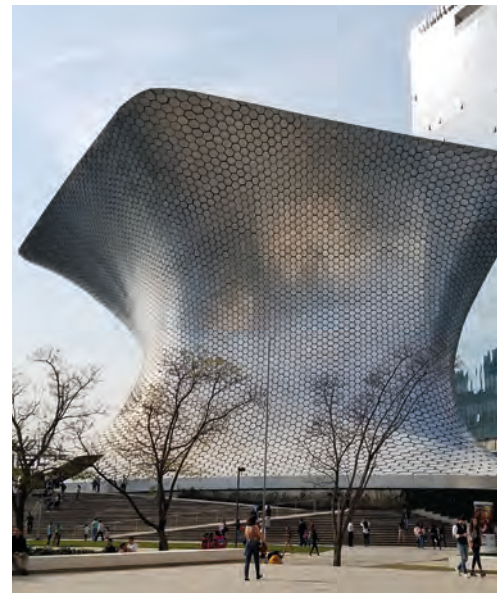
James Doyle, Assistant Curator for the Art of the Americas, oversees The Metropolitan's collections from Mesoamerica and Central America. His specialty is the ancient Maya, and he conducted archaeological fieldwork on the Preclassic period (1000 B.C. – A.D. 150) in northern Guatemala. Before joining The Met, he held a postdoctoral appointment in Pre-Columbian Studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection and taught art historical and archaeological seminars at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Doyle received his BA from Vanderbilt University and his MA and PhD from Brown University.

Trip Highlights

- Enter the National Museum of Anthropology and the Museo Nacional de Arte (MUNAL) on after-hours visits
- Discover Teotihuacan, which the Aztecs revered as the "birthplace of the gods," during a day-long excursion outside the city
- Take a curatorial tour of the Museo Soumaya, the eclectic collection of telecommunications magnate Carlos Slim
- Enjoy a private visit to the Luis Barragán House and Studio, dedicated to the Pritzker Prize-winning architect
- Savor exceptional lunches and dinners in some of Mexico City's most acclaimed restaurants



Blue House, photo by José Eduardo Silva



Photos clockwise from top right: Aztec Calendar Stone, Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City; Soumaya Museum, Mexico City; Fountain, Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City; Courtyard, Teotihuacan Pyramids; Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City; Coat of Arms of Mexico Sculpture depicting a golden eagle devouring a rattlesnake, Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City. All photos except Palacio de Bellas Artes by Ute Keyes. Front cover: "Smiling" Figure, Remojadas, 7th–8th century, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Michael C. Rockefeller Memorial Collection, Bequest of Nelson A. Rockefeller, 1979, [1979.206.1211v]. Back Cover: *Kneeling Bearded Figure*, Olmec, 900–400 B.C., Serpentine. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of the Hope Collection, 2017, [1970.301.2]. (top) and Teotihuacan Pyramids, Mexico (bottom).

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Epic of the Mexican People mural by Diego Rivera, National Palace, Mexico City, photo by Chris Arts

An optional prelude is offered in Palenque
February 12-15, 2019.

Departure / Mexico City

Friday, February 15

Depart New York on a midday flight. Upon arrival in Mexico City transfer to the luxurious Four Seasons Hotel Mexico, D.F., located on the historic boulevard Paseo de la Reforma near Chapultepec Park. This evening a special after-hours visit and champagne toast is planned at one of the world's great museums, the spectacular Museo Nacional de Antropología, designed by Pedro Ramírez Vázquez in 1964. Admire the masterpieces of pre-Columbian art, including the great Aztec Calendar Stone—now one of Mexico's national symbols—and see the dazzling objects from the tomb of Pakal, a Maya lord who reigned at the site of Palenque in the 7th century. Our welcome dinner is at a celebrated restaurant in the heart of the city.

R, D

Mexico City

Saturday, February 16

Today we focus on the rise of the great Aztec Empire, beginning at the colonial and republican heart of Mexico City, Templo Mayor, which today is the greatest ongoing active archaeological site in the Americas. See the evolution of the Great Temple, from its simple beginnings to its spectacular florescence in the late 15th and 16th centuries. View the remarkable new discoveries at the site's museum, including

the colossal monolith depicting the fearsome goddess, Tlaltecuhli. Following lunch at El Mayor overlooking the ruins, continue to the National Palace, constructed over the remains of Montezuma's palace. The National Palace contains Diego Rivera's murals depicting the history of Mexico. Dinner this evening is at a restaurant downtown.

B, L, D

Mexico City

Sunday, February 17

Visit the historic Frida Kahlo Museum, also known as the Blue House, where Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera lived and worked for many years. Lunch will be at San Angel Inn, a hacienda-turned-restaurant, followed by a visit to the nearby House-Studio Museum of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, designed by Juan O'Gorman in the style of Le Corbusier. En route back to the hotel, stop at the Museo Soumaya for a curatorial tour of its vast collection of art from the pre-Columbian period to the 20th century. Dinner this evening is at leisure.

B, L

Mexico City

Monday, February 18

Rise early and drive northeast to the Basin of Mexico to the awe-inspiring pyramids of Teotihuacan, sometimes translated as "the birthplace of the gods." This World Heritage Site flourished in the first five centuries A.D., and later became a place of pilgrimage for the Aztecs. At the on-site museum, view the murals that once graced the luxurious houses and sacred temples of this great city and walk along the Avenue of the Dead, which connects the Pyramid of the Sun and Pyramid of the Moon. After lunch, stop at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a sacred site, visited by pilgrims and travelers from around the world, before returning to Mexico City. Dinner this evening is at a well-known restaurant in the Colonia Roma district.

B, L, D



Basilica of our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City

More Travels with The Met

Artistic Legacies & Historic Estates of the Hudson River Valley October 13-19, 2018

Bermuda: Exclusive Collections & Exotic Gardens December 6-10, 2018

Cuba by Sea Aboard *Variety Voyager* January 24-February 1, 2019

Castles & Collections of the Celtic Isles Aboard *Sea Cloud* July 6-17, 2019

For details please go to metmuseum.org/travel



Luis Barragán House and Studio, Mexico City

Mexico City

Tuesday, February 19

Enjoy a late morning visit to the Museo de Arte Moderno. After lunch at leisure, gather for a visit to the Palacio de Bellas Artes. Then walk to the Museo Nacional de Arte (MUNAL), for an after-hours viewing of its masterpieces of Mexican art from colonial to modern. Highlights include the majestic landscape paintings of José María Velasco, a contemporary of Frederick Church, and Diego Rivera's great Cubist portrait of Adolfo Best Maugard. Our farewell dinner is at a popular restaurant in the historic district.

B, D

Mexico City / Return

Wednesday, February 20

This morning enjoy a private visit to the Luis Barragán House and Studio before departing on a late afternoon return flight.

B

A Note on Travel to Mexico

Participants must be in good health and able to keep pace with an active group. They must be able to walk up to one mile a day on uneven terrain; walk and stand for periods of two hours at time; climb stairs at monuments (some without handrails) and other locations not handicapped accessible; and board a motorcoach unassisted. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. Participants are advised to bring "broken-in" walking shoes, a sun hat, and comfortable attire.

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

Program Rate

From \$6,999 per person, double occupancy

From \$8,149 single occupancy

Rate Includes

- Five nights accommodations at the Four Seasons Hotel Mexico City
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; local beer and house wine at lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service charges, and portage

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; trip insurance; optional Palenque prelude; baggage in excess of one suitcase; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Accommodations

Four Seasons Hotel Mexico City

The luxurious Four Seasons is located on the Paseo de la Reforma, a grand boulevard modeled after Paris' Champs-Élysées and Vienna's Ringstrasse. The hotel is just steps from Chapultepec Park and the trendy neighborhoods of Condesa and Polanco. Standard room features include LCD flat-screen televisions and wireless high-speed Internet access. The Four Seasons has two restaurants—one of which serves Italian food and the other Pacific Mexican cuisine—and a health club with fitness area, pool, whirlpool, and sauna.



Room (top); lobby (above) Four Seasons Hotel Mexico City

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Names in full as on passports. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Optional Prelude

☐ I/We wish to join the optional prelude in Palenque

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

Form of payment

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

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The Metropolitan
Museum of Art

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New York, NY 10028

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