

## **OAXACA**

With a layout established since 1529, which is preserved today as an invaluable heritage, safeguarding one of the richest sets of civil and religious architecture on the continent.

It is worth admiring its civil and religious buildings, among which the Ex Convent of Santo Domingo, the cathedral and the Macedonio Alcalá Theatre stand out. For this reason, UNESCO has recognized and inscribed on the World Heritage List, on December 11, 1987, the Historical Center and the Archaeological Zone of Monte Albán.

### **City Heritage**

Any color, any aroma, any idea we have imagined, are captured in the architectural ensemble of great ancestry that from the sixteenth century to the present day remains perfectly delineated and retains the original stroke of the city of Oaxaca, its Historic Center, which is of incalculable value and exceptional significance.

## **EXPLORE THE CITY**

### **Handicrafts**

Oaxaca is an emblematic place for its beautiful handicrafts, among which we can find thealebrijes, black mud (San Bartolo Coyotepec is famous for the production of various black mud products, executed by hand and baked in an underground oven), pottery, textiles (there is a great textile tradition that goes back to pre-Hispanic times and is diversified and enriched with the arrival of the Spanish and the

### **Basilica of the Virgin of Solitude**

The construction of the temple, now a basilica, was begun in 1682 by the chaplain Don Fernando Méndez with the authorization of Viceroy Don Tomás Aquino Manrique de la Cerda. It was completed in 1689 and consecrated in 1697 by Bishop Isidro Sariñana y Cuenca, the year in which the convent was completed. It is a sumptuous temple with a rich quarry front in the shape of a screen, richly carved in various quarries. The interior of the temple houses an image of the Virgin of Solitude, who is recognized as the Spiritual Patroness of the people of Oaxaca and who is worshipped and devoted in a manner similar to that of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

At the back of the basilica you can access the historical and religious museum, where, as you enter, you will find sheet metal sculptures of the history of the muleteer and mule who brought the Virgin of Solitude and a small hall with religious objects from that time.

At one side of the basilica is a former convent that currently functions as the municipal palace of Oaxaca de Juarez.

It also has an esplanade outside the atrium of the basilica (Socrates garden), where you can eat delicious traditional snow and regional sweets.

## **Temple of San Agustín**

The work, as a whole, belonged to the order of the Augustinians who arrived in the city of Antequera de Oaxaca in 1576. This religious community was distinguished in the city by the educational activities they initiated; they opened a school of humanities, where they taught from the alphabet to the arts and theology. At least, until the arrival of the Jesuits, they covered high school and higher education covering the chairs of the newly founded university.

Fray Juan Adriano founded the Augustinian mission of Oaxaca; the bishop of Oaxaca, Fray Fernando de Albuquerque, donated the land, where the religious built their convent.

The first works of the temple and convent did not correspond to the current design. As in other cases, they were built with adobe walls and roofs of beams and tiles. The temple, of these characteristics, was consecrated in 1586, although it was completely finished in 1596.

Location: Vicente Guerrero and Armenta y López Streets, Oaxaca, Oaxaca.

## **Skirting board**

The Zócalo of the city of Oaxaca is located between the streets Hidalgo, Trujano, Bustamante, Flores Magón and Vicente Guerrero, in the heart of the historic center, from where you can leave to any destination in the city: One block away is the Benito Juárez market and on November 20th, one block away is the tourist walkway, a few meters away is the Oaxaca Cathedral, 6 blocks up the Santo Domingo de Guzman temple and 4 blocks to the Basilica of La Soledad.

This square was built in 1529 by Juan Peláez de Berrio, later Alonso García Bravo took as reference for the urban layout of the town of Antequera.

On September 15, 1885, the statue of Don Benito Juárez was unveiled.

In 1901, the statue of Benito Juárez was removed and the current kiosk was built in an art nouveau style.

## **Former Convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán**

This architectural complex was built between the 16th and 17th centuries in an original area of 24 lots, expanded through acquisitions to more than 40,000 m<sup>2</sup>. In 1552, construction work began and continued until the middle of the following century. Although it was not finished, it was fitted out by the friars in 1608 after the collapse of the Convent of San Pablo due to an earthquake.

Bro Gonzalo Lucero and Bro Bernardino de Minaya were the first Dominicans to arrive in Oaxaca in 1529. The order grew and in 1543 had its first vicar. St. Dominic was the center of the vast task of Dominican evangelization throughout the state, whose work was carried out in constant conflicts with the diocese and several bishops.

Between 1608 and 1857 the convent functioned as such; it was the seat of the province of San Hipólito Mártir. From Independence onwards, several troops were occasionally stationed there. As a result of the Reform Laws, the Dominicans had to leave the building and occupied it permanently by the armed forces. For this reason, the temple remained closed to worship from 1866 to 1902; it was used as a cavalry, and around 1869 its rich altarpieces were looted and destroyed.

The majestic Ex-convent of Santo Domingo is beautiful and magnificent, even bigger and more sumptuous than the Oaxaca Cathedral, also a Dominican work. To its greatness is added the extraordinary beauty of its altarpieces and decorations. The façade of its temple is a large stone altarpiece, framed by two tall towers, unusual in Oaxaca, because in this seismic zone they used to be built lower. The magnificence of the temple can be admired in the choir, in the main nave, in its chapels and in the High Altar.

Currently the Temple and Ex-convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán is part of a cultural complex that includes the Museum of Cultures of Oaxaca and the Historic Ethnobotanical Garden, as well as the Fray Francisco de Burgoa library and the Néstor Sánchez Public Newspaper Library of Oaxaca.

### **Guelaguetza**

The "Fiestas de los Lunes del Cerro" are held in the city of Buenos Aires. of Oaxaca, the two Mondays following July 16. The Guelaguetza is an event in which all the people participate, without distinction of social status.

Apparently, this festival has its origin in the viceroyalty and is related to the so-called feast of Corpus Christi of the Church of Carmen Alto, a temple that the Carmelites built on the slopes of a hill that the Zapotec had called the Bella Vista, and was held on the Sunday following 16 July and repeated eight days later in the so-called "octave".

Guelaguetza is a Zapotec word that denotes the act of participating in cooperation; it is a free gift that carries with it no obligation other than that of reciprocity.

### **Universum Palace Museum (Former Government Palace)**

This building has Renaissance characteristics, based on the classical Doric order. Its main façade faces north, i.e. towards the Plaza de la Constitución or Zócalo of the city. All the work is of green quarry; the first level has a good number of openings with semicircular arches, between paired columns. At the entrance to the museum, the palace hall presents, from a general panorama, "the state of Oaxaca and its historic center as a cultural heritage of humanity".

Inside the palace, in 1980, Arturo García Bustos painted the walls of the main staircase leading to the upper floor. This mural represents three epochs; in the left wall the pre-Hispanic era is expressed, reflecting the customs and the type of life of the Mixtecs, Zapotecos and Mexicas; in the right wall passages from the time of the conquest; finally, in the central wall, the

independent era. In the latter, José María Morelos y Pavón is represented with the printing press and the first newspaper in Oaxaca called "El correo del sur". Other characters appear, such as: Benito Juárez, Margarita Maza, José María Morelos and Ricardo Flores Magón.

Schedule: monday from 9:30 to 17:00 hrs, tuesday to saturday from 9:30 to 18:00 hrs. and Sundays from 9:30 to 16:00 hrs.

Location: Plaza de la Constitución, S/N, Col. Centro Histórico, 68000 Oaxaca, Oaxaca.

### **Temple of San Felipe Neri**

One of the most remarkable 17th century viceroyalty monuments, whose construction began in 1633, when the founders arrived under the direction of the priest Don Juan de Aragón, who organized the "Pious Union" or "Concordia" from Europe in 1661. But the one who distinguished himself for consolidating and strengthening this oratory, for having requested and obtained the authorization of Pope Clement XIII, back in the years from 1728 to 1729, was the Lic. and priest Don Juan Saenz de Leyva Cantabrano y Zorrilla.

However, formal construction began until 1733 and was completed on January 17, 1773, except for the bell towers that date from the 19th century, when they were consecrated to the Virgin of the Sponsorship and, of course, to the founder of the San Felipe Neri congregation, whose image is admired in the main altar, a work of art of the first magnitude in which the purest style of Mexican Churriguería stands out.