



Thursday, November 2- Monday, November 6, 2023

Itinerary

Draft as of 5.17.23

Thursday, November 2nd

Individual arrivals and check into the JW Marriott hotel in Polanco

- Landing by 4pm is highly recommended
- Check into Hotel begins at 3pm

3pm- 6pm Stop by ORT Welcome Desk at the hotel

7:45pm Depart for dinner

8:00pm **Opening Dinner** with local leadership

10:30pm Return to the hotel

Friday, November 3rd

7-8am Breakfast in a private room

8:15am Depart the hotel

9 – 12:45pm Visit including lunch at the **OLAMI ORT School**

Celebrate kabbalat shabbat with kindergarteners!
 Meet administrators, educators, school leadership, and students.
 Explore the school that is the product of the merger of the Colegio Israelita de México ORT (CIM-ORT) and the Colegio Hebreo Sefardí, in August of 2022. The new school represents a union of the Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities and will create new opportunities for Jewish life in Mexico.

12:45pm Depart for Mexico City's Central Square

2-3pm Learn about Mexico City's history and culture at **Zócalo**

Zocalo, or Plaza de la Constitucion, is one of Mexico City's most popular spots that dates back to the Aztec era. It's a large and historic public plaza that never sleeps, always buzzing with activity.

3:30 – 4:30pm Visit the two **first synagogues in Mexico**

Mount Sinai Synagogue was built in 1918 by Jews who came from the Middle East.

Justo Sierra Synagogue was founded in 1941 for Orthodox Jews coming from Poland, Russia, Hungary, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria during the Second World War.

5:30pm Return to the hotel

7:00pm Depart on foot to **Bet El Synagogue** for Kabbalat Shabbat services followed by dinner with community leaders

Bet El Congregation of Mexico was established in 1961 prompted by the desire of mostly first-generation Mexicans of Ashkenazi descent to maintain their Jewish identity by living the traditions and customs in a more dynamic way. The current building was opened in Polanco in 1966.

11:00pm Return to the hotel

Saturday, November 4th

8-8:45am Breakfast in a private room

9am Visit the famous Museo Nacional de Antropologia or **National Museum of Anthropology**

12:30pm Lunch at a local restaurant

2-4pm **Option 1: Experience Chapultepec Park**

Chapultepec is one of the largest city parks in the Western Hemisphere, and the oldest and largest urban parks in all of Latin America. Walking tour to Chapultepec Castle.

2-5pm **Option 2: Frida Kahlo's Blue House** (Bus/45 min drive)

Also known as **La Casa Azul**, this is where Kahlo was born, grew up, and lived with her husband, Diego Rivera, for a number of years. It is a treasure trove of Frida's artifacts and belongings, from personal letters to the corset she wore due to her disability.

4:30/5pm Return to the hotel

6:30pm- 7pm Havdalah

Dinner on your own

Sunday, November 5th

- 7 - 7:45am Breakfast in a private room
- 7:45am Depart the hotel for the Teotihuacan Pyramids
- 9:00am Explore the **Teotihuacan Pyramids**, “the place where the gods were created”
- This vast archaeological complex was once a flourishing pre-Colombian city and a center of culture and artistic influence. Built between the 1st and 7th centuries A.D the pyramids are characterized by their vast monuments – most notably the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, the Temple of Quetzalcoatl; the Avenue of the Dead runs down the middle and links the major monuments.
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm Depart Teotihuacan
- 3:00 pm **CDI- Centro Deportivo Israelita** (Israeli Sports Center)
- Visit the center that serves 18,000 members of the diverse Jewish community with diverse social, recreational, cultural, and artistic activities.
- 5:00pm Return to the hotel
- 7:00pm Depart for **Farewell Dinner**
- 9:30pm Return to the hotel

Monday, November 6th

- 7-8am Breakfast in a private room
- 8:30am Visit **Universidad ORT México**
- Meet Moises Salinas, President of the University
Wrap-up of mission program
- 9:30am Depart for the airport or continue touring
- Note: most flights back to the US depart around 1pm*
- 11am Optional Tour of **Frida Kahlo’s Blue House**
- 2pm Depart for the airport for evening departures