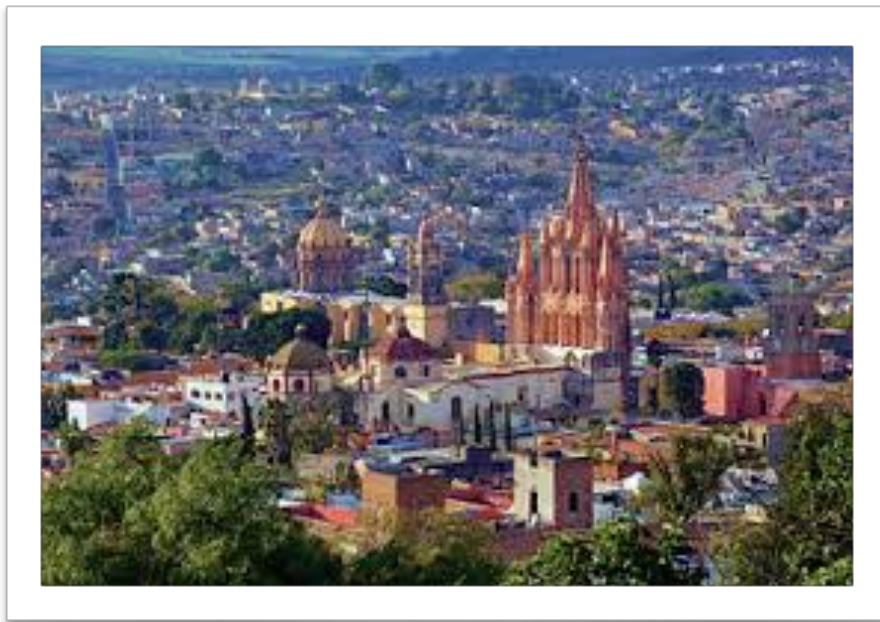


**JOHNS HOPKINS ALUMNI COLLEGE**  
**SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE:**  
**CULTURE, CUISINE, AND HISTORY OF**  
**COLONIAL MEXICO**

**WITH PROFESSOR EMERITUS FRANKLIN KNIGHT**

**OCTOBER 25-29, 2017**



***Conde Nast Traveler's #1 Travel Destination in the World  
in 2013 and a Stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site***

*The most beguiling city in Latin America...  
Fall in love on your first visit...decide to stay forever.*

## YOUR DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### Wednesday, October 25: ARRIVE IN SAN MIGUEL \* DINNER AT BUGAMBILIA

Your adventure begins when you depart your home town for the flight to central Mexico (airfare not included). Upon arrival, transfers will be provided from Leon/Guanajuato Airport (BJX) or Querétaro (QRO) airport to San Miguel, a stunning mountain town with gorgeous spring-like weather year round! You'll check into brand-new Casa 1810 Boutique Hotel in the historic center of San Miguel, just 50 yards from the main square.



The ageless Spanish Colonial charm of San Miguel de Allende is reflected in each of the 15 elegantly appointed rooms at Casa 1810 Hotel Boutique. With a design and décor accented by the sophisticated colors, textures and fabrics of a private estate, the authentic spirit and character of old-world Mexico are evident throughout. Seamlessly incorporated modern amenities include complimentary wireless Internet, flat-screen televisions with cable channels, and deluxe bath amenities.

Welcome drinks will be served on the hotel's gorgeous rooftop patio where you'll get your first birds-eye view of the iconic salmon-colored dome of the Parroquia (parish church).



This evening get to know one another over dinner at the lively local favorite, Bugambilia. Housed in a hacienda-style home in the center of town, it is known for its *chiles en nogada*, a specialty of San Miguel. Perhaps more importantly its margaritas and guacamole are some of the best in town.



Just a block and half from the hotel it's the perfect spot for our arrival dinner. After dinner take a stroll through the main square (el jardín—pronounced el har-DEEN) and listen to dueling mariachi bands under the laurel trees or sip a nightcap at a cafe under the stone arches of the square. [D]



**Franklin W. Knight** is the Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Professor Emeritus of History and Academy Professor at Johns Hopkins University. He joined the Johns Hopkins faculty in 1973 and

retired in 2014. In a career of more than fifty years he offered courses on Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean. He has researched and lectured widely across the hemisphere and written and edited eleven books as well as contributing more than 104 journal articles and book chapters on Latin America and the Caribbean. He served as president of the Latin American Studies Association, the largest professional association of scholars in the world, between 1998 and 2000. He has been honored by academies in Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.

### **Thursday, October 26: WALKING TOUR OF SAN MIGUEL \* LUNCH AT LA POSADITA \* VISIT TO ATOTONILCO**

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This morning over breakfast you'll enjoy a lecture by Franklin Knight, an esteemed Johns Hopkins University professor with more than 50 years teaching the history of Mexico from pre-Hispanic culture to present day. Professor Knight will make a presentation, with time for Q&A, each morning of the tour. Today's topic is **"The Peoples and Cultures of Pre-Hispanic Mexico."**

At the lecture's conclusion you'll be picked up at the hotel for a guided walking tour of San Miguel by one of the town's most noted historians and best-loved guides, Angelica Juarez. Angelica grew up in San Miguel in a large, impoverished family, yet she and her sisters have all become local entrepreneurs and successful

businesswomen. Fully fluent, charmingly enthusiastic, and highly knowledgeable about her native home town and her country's history, Angelica will give you a great insider's view of a very different life in colonial Mexico just two decades ago.



After the walking tour Angélica will show you to your lunch spot, the lovely rooftop restaurant La Posadita (*left*). This local favorite has 270-degree views of the surrounding countryside in the distance and the crumbling stone facade of the Parroquia across the

street. It also boasts one of the best margaritas in town, so relax with some fresh guacamole and a drink while you soak in the views.



After lunch you'll depart for the countryside about 25 minutes north of Centro. Here you'll enjoy an informative lecture and guided visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Santuario Atotonilco church. You'll learn about the role of Atotonilco, San Miguel, and nearby Dolores Hidalgo in Mexico's 1810 Independence movement, as well as receive a tour inside the church itself and see its iconic religious statues that are carried through town during Easter and Semana Santa processions.



Afterwards you'll enjoy a private visit to Galeria Atotonilco, the private home and art collection of Mayer Shacter, featuring crafts and artwork from all over Mexico (all for sale). The setting and his contemporary, colorful home, which you can wander through to admire the personal collection of him and his writer wife Susan Page, are sensational. Whether you take home nothing but photos of his spring-fed swimming pool or ship home a hand-painted gourd, you'll find it a wonderful stop.



After returning to town there's time to freshen up before this evening's cocktail reception. You'll get a chance to peek behind one of those magical doors of San Miguel when you enjoy drinks and *botanas* at the home of local host and Baltimore native, Ann Schlott Hillers. Ann lived full-time in San Miguel for six years

with her family and both she and her husband have close ties to Hopkins—her father was a physician there for 52 years and her father-in-law a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Near Eastern Studies.

A labor of love that they built on an empty lot and finished in 2015, the house represents some of the great building talent and artisanal mastery found in San Miguel, from hand-crafted iron furniture and lighting to specialty weavings and stone arches.



If you're in the mood to strike out for dinner on your own afterwards, try one of three restaurants on Calle Correo, just a block off the *jardin*: Casa Chiquito with a stunning view of the city from its small rooftop pizza garden; El Pegaso, a very casual local favorite with a second-floor outdoor terrace; or Cumpanio, a more upscale choice featuring international dishes in a cosmopolitan setting. [B,L, cocktails]



## Friday, October 27: PRIVATE TOUR OF THE BOTANICAL GARDEN \* LUNCH AT FABRICA LA AURORA DESIGN CENTER

This morning Professor will discuss **The Mexican Revolution (1910-1917) and Its Impact on the Americas** over breakfast at the hotel. Afterwards you'll depart for the town's Botanical Garden.



Located in the heart of the central highlands of Mexico, at the highest point of San Miguel de Allende, El Charco del Ingenio Botanical Garden includes more than 170 acres of nature preserve and indigenous plants. An extraordinary natural monument, its name comes from a legendary spring-fed pool nestled in an impressive canyon, where an old reservoir extends on wetlands frequented by birds and surrounded by vast slopes of native scrubland. Here you'll find a remarkable botanical collection of cacti and other succulent Mexican plants.



In 2004 El Charco del Ingenio was proclaimed a Peace Zone by the Dalai Lama, Tibetan leader and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, during his visit to Mexico. Five Peace Zones were designated in the country, places free of violence and arms, dedicated to the conservation of nature and community development.

You'll enjoy a walk through the gardens and private talk with the garden's General Director, Mario Hernandez. While there is some walking involved the grade is gentle and the views are spectacular!

Afterwards you'll have lunch in town at a café at the Fábrica Aurora, an amazing refurbished art and design center that was a textile mill until the mid-70s. It now



houses studios and shops showcasing the work of local artists, sculptors, woodworkers, jewelry designers, and antique collectors. There's free time to wander the studios and shops, or you can head off on your own as the center is walking distance to the hotel.



This evening you'll enjoy a special four-course tasting menu at Aperí, a gourmand's paradise set in an intimate courtyard of a boutique hotel converted from several adjoining town homes. This extraordinary restaurant was voted "Best Hotel Restaurant" by Travel & Leisure's Gourmet Awards in 2015.

Aperí, Latin for "open," perfectly describes the restaurant's vision and concept, featuring a unique culinary experience, prepared with the region's freshest ingredients and the passion that characterizes chef Matteo Salas. [B,L,D]

### **Saturday, October 28: FULL-DAY TOUR TO GUANAJUATO \* DINNER AT THE RESTAURANT**



This morning you'll travel about 70 minutes to Guanajuato, a former silver mining town and the birthplace of famous artist Diego Rivera. Capital of the state of Guanajuato and the largest university town in the region, it is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a charming colonial-era city situated in a picturesque valley surrounded by the Sierra de Guanajuato mountains. En route, Dr. Knight will have a fitting seminar: **The Role of Mexican Silver in Transforming the World.**

Founded in 1559, Guanajuato is a home to the Valenciana mine, where silver was discovered in the mid-1600s. La Valencia was opened a century later and quickly became one of the richest and most productive silver mines in the world. The adjacent Templo de San Cayetano (San Cayetano Church) stands as a monument to the wealth and riches extracted from the mine.



The historic center of Guanajuato has a distinct European flavor with hundreds of narrow cobblestone *callejones* (alleyways) running up and down the hillside. Shady plazas are dotted with sidewalk cafés, museums, theaters, and historic monuments. The buildings throughout the city are fine examples of neoclassical- and baroque-style colonial architecture. An underground network of tunnels runs beneath the city helping to control the flow

of traffic. You'll visit the Diego Rivera Museum, the striking Teatro (Opera House), and the mirador for a panoramic view of town. You'll enjoy lunch before returning to San Miguel.



Dr. Knight will provide a cultural lecture on the ride home, highlighting the sometimes precarious relationship between Mexico and the States: **"Poor Mexico! So Far from God and so Close to the United States."**

Tonight you'll enjoy a farewell dinner at The Restaurant, the most elegant dining venue in town. Its outdoor courtyard (*left*) is stunning with a rose-filled fountain, hand-crafted chandeliers, and often live music. A gourmet, three-course dinner with beverages is included. [B,L,D]

### **Sunday, October 29: DEPART SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE**

After breakfast you will return you to the airport for your homeward flights. Return transfers to León and Querétaro Airports are provided. [B]

#### **WHAT'S INCLUDED:**

Accommodation for 4 nights at the boutique Casa 1810 Hotel

Daily breakfast

Three lunches at La Posadita, in the Fábrica Aurora, and in Guanajuato

Three dinners at Bugambilia, Aperi, and The Restaurant

One cocktail party in a private home

Roundtrip shuttle transfers from León or Querétaro Airport to hotel

Guided walking tour of San Miguel center

Walking tour, private lecture, and admission to Botanical Gardens

Half-day tour with transportation to Atotonilco Sanctuary and folklore gallery

All transportation as required by itinerary

**Gratuities to all guides, bus drivers, and wait staff during group meals**

**Price per person: \$1,995, double occupancy, studio room**

**Price per person: \$2,125, double occupancy, deluxe room**

**Single supplement: \$650, studio room**

**Single Supplement: \$775, deluxe room**

**There are limited numbers of each room category and limited rooms for single travelers.**

**Rooms will be assigned by preference on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**[www.casa1810.com](http://www.casa1810.com)**

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### **FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

**Roundtrip airport transfers by shuttle are provided from Leon/Guanajuato (BJX) and Querétaro (QRO) Airports. Airfare not included.**

There are two airports that service San Miguel: Querétaro (QRO) and León/Guanajuato (BJX). Querétaro is about one hour from town; Leon is about an hour and a half. United and American Airlines service these two cities through Houston and Dallas. If you are able to book an early morning flight from your home town you will arrive at your hotel mid-afternoon with time to enjoy the evening's planned dinner.