MEXICO PROFUNDO – SILVER, STONE & SKY

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TOUR ITINERARY

DATES: January 19-30, 2027
NIGHTS/DAYS: 11 Nights / 12 Days

DAY ONE: TUESDAY JANUARY 19, 2027 - BIENVENIDOS
HOTEL LOCATION: TEPOZTLAN, MORALES

AFTERNOON:
Please meet us by 9:00 AM in Mexico City at Restaurant Vuela Carmela, located right outside Termanal 2, Sala B, Gate 75 on Av. Capitán Carlos León. We will have a quick breakfast/brunch before departing Mexico City for the ancient UNESCO designated city of Xochicalco.

Flourishing between 650 and 900 CE after the decline of Teotihuacan, Xochicalco became an important political, commercial, and ceremonial center known for its impressive architecture, astronomical observatories, and intricate stone carvings. Its name means "Place of the House of Flowers" in Nahuatl.

Xochicalco is especially famous for the Temple of the Feathered Serpent, whose detailed reliefs reflect the influence of several Mesoamerican cultures, including the Maya and Zapotec civilizations. Today, Xochicalco is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and offers valuable insight into the cultural and scientific achievements of ancient Mesoamerica.

We will arrive at approximately 12 PM, and will spend approximately 45 mins to 1 hour in the museum. At 1 PM, we will enjoy a lovely charcuterie lunch in the lounge area before heading out into the archaeological site. Following lunch, we will spend about 2 hours exploring this fascinating city, departing at approximately 4 PM for our hotel in the nearby Pueblo Magico of Tepoztlan.

EVENING:
We will check into our hotel and enjoy free time until dinner, which is scheduled for 6:30 PM in the hotel garden.

MEALS:
Picnic is included. All other meals are separate.

DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20, 2027 – PLACE OF COPPER
HOTEL LOCATION: TEPOZTLAN, MORALES

MORNING:
We will meet in the garden this morning by 8:30 AM for a lovely breakfast before we head out on a morning walking tour. Tepoztlán is a picturesque mountain town in the state of Morelos, Mexico, known for its rich indigenous heritage, cobblestone streets, and vibrant artistic culture. Surrounded by dramatic cliffs and lush forests, Tepoztlán is considered a spiritual and cultural destination, attracting visitors with its traditional markets, colonial architecture, and peaceful atmosphere.

The town is most famous for the Tepozteco Pyramid, an ancient Aztec temple perched high on a nearby mountain, which offers panoramic views of the valley below. Tepoztlán is also recognized as a "Pueblo Mágico" by the Mexican government for its historical significance, natural beauty, and preservation of local traditions. The name Tepoztlan loosely translates as place of copper or place of the copper axe, with a linguistic connection to Tepoztécatl, the Aztec deity of pulque, fertility and wind. For those who wish to challenge themselves with the laborious climb up the cliff to the temple, you will want to go early in the AM. It is a very difficult climb with steep paths and loose gravel, rendering it slippery. Please let us know ahead of time if you would like to try so we can make arrangements.

AFTERNOON:
Tepoztlan has a bustling downtown full of little boutique galleries, many health and wellness shops focused on alternative healing, coffee shops, restaurants and a vibrant market. After our walking tour, we will have lunch and break for free time so you can explore.

EVENING:

This evening we have a 7 PM reservation at Mesa de Origen, which is a fantastic Michelen-recognized restaurant inside the Amomoxtli boutique hotel. They offer a farm to table experience that showcases the best of the regions produce and culinary beauty. Their menu features pre-Hispanic and fusion cuisine, incorporating many vegetables, fruits and herbs grown on-site. We will have a set-menu this evening, so will send you a questionnaire about any allergies or food preferences you have.

MEALS:
Breakfast included. Dinner includes one cocktail. Please bring pesos for additional beverages, as they will only issue one bill for our group.

DAY THREE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2027 – CEREMONIAL PLACE
HOTEL LOCATION: TAXCO DE ALARCON, GUERRERO

MORNING:
We are not scheduling a formal time for breakfast this morning, as we are not departing until Noon. Please have your luggage in the lobby by 11:45 AM and remember to bring your key to the lobby for check-out.

AFTERNOON:
From Tepoztlan, we will transfer to Grutas de Cuachuamilpa, which is Mexico's most treasured cave system. Formed over millions of years by underground rivers carving through limestone, the caves are famous for their enormous chambers, towering stalactites and stalagmites, and dramatic rock formations. The site has been used since pre-Hispanic times for ceremonial purposes and today is a popular destination for hiking, exploration, and guided tours.

The name "Cacahuamilpa" comes from the Nahuatl language and is commonly translated as "place of the peanut fields" or "land fertile for growing peanuts." Indigenous peoples once knew the caves by another name, "Salachi," meaning ceremonial place.

We will depart Grutas de Cuachuamilpa at around 3:00 PM for the Pueblo Magico of Taxco de Alarcan, where we should arrive at around 4 PM. For lunch, we are going to bring baguettes from one of the bakeries in Tepoztlan so guests can eat whenever you feel hungry.

EVENING:
We will meet in the hotel lobby at 5:00 PM to visit one of the local galleries for a special presentation about local silver. This will include information about some of the famous artists from this region, as well as what questions you should ask when purchasing silver. This evening we will have dinner at 7:00 PM at Del Angel Inn, enjoying panoramic views of the Santa Prisca Cathedral.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Lunch included. All other meals are separate.

DAY FOUR: FRIDAY JANUARY 22, 2027 – TURQUOISE PARADISE
HOTEL LOCATION: TAXCO DE ALARCON, GUERRERO

MORNING & AFTERNOON:
We will have breakfast at 8:00 AM at our favourite breakfast spot, El Americano. Our guests didn't want to go anywhere else after eating here, for their menu has so many delightful options to try and the quality and service is impeccable. We will ask Oscar to make us bag lunches today, as they also have excellent bread and sandwich options.

After breakfast, we will depart for the mystical Pozos Azules for some coldwater swimming in beautiful azure waters. Pozas Azules de Atzala is a beautiful natural attraction located near Taxco in the mountains of Guerrero, Mexico. The site is famous for its series of turquoise-blue pools and small waterfalls formed by crystal-clear streams flowing through limestone rock and lush vegetation. Surrounded by cliffs and forest, Pozas Azules is a popular destination for swimming, hiking, picnics, and ecotourism.

The name "Pozas Azules" means "Blue Pools," referring to the vivid blue and turquoise color of the water. The nearby community of Atzala comes from the Nahuatl language and means "in the middle of the waters." Visitors are drawn to the peaceful atmosphere, cool mountain water, and scenic waterfalls that make the area feel like a hidden paradise near Taxco. We will stay in the park for the afternoon, departing at around 5 PM to visit El Cristo look-out point, with panoramic views of Taxco. We will return to Taxco at approximately 5 PM, so we will pack a bag lunch today so you can eat when you get hungry between the different pristine swim holes.

EVENING:
Our dinner reservation this evening is set for 7:00 PM in the elegant courtyard of Sotavento Restaurant.

MEALS:
Breakfast included. All other meals are separate

DAY FIVE: SATURDAY JANUARY 23, 2027 – THE WHITE CITY
HOTEL LOCATION: TAXCO DE ALARCON, GUERRERO

MORNING:
Breakfast at El Americano is set for 8:30 AM, followed by a magical walking tour of Taxco's enchanting cobblestone streets. We will visit the William Spratling Museum to learn about his bold and powerful silver designs, explore the opulent symbolism of the Santa Prisca Church and more.

AFTERNOON:
You will have free time this afternoon to explore your own. Taxco has a plethora of silver workshops, art galleries, interesting churches and lots of coffee shops and boutique clothing stores.

EVENING:
This evening we will have dinner at Casa Spratling, which is housed in the historical colonial home of William Spratling. Featuring Mexican-Italian fusion, stand-out dishes include their Lasagna de Mole. Their ornate indoor dining room is full of artefacts, and the garden patio is cozy.

MEALS:
Breakfast Included. All other meals are separate

DAY SIX: SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 2027 – HOPE FOR THE MONARCHS
HOTEL LOCATION: ZITACUARO, MICHOACAN

MORNING:
Please have your luggage in the lobby by 8:00 AM this morning so we can get the van loaded before breakfast. Please remember to bring your key to the lobby for check-out. We will have our final breakfast at El Americano at 8:30 AM, and we are going to ask them to prepare us another bag lunch today for the road, as we will have a four-hour commute with no notable restaurants. Following breakfast, we will visit the Pre-Hispanic Mine Museum before our departure from Taxco.

AFTERNOON:
Most of our day will be spent commuting and enjoying some local music and conversation as we ascend into the pine forests of Michoacan's highland area, most famed for the most phenomenal, unexplained natural mystery – the intergenerational migrating Monarch Butterfly. We hope to arrive at our hotel by 4:00 PM, on time for check-in.

EVENING:
Originally from Ecuador, Dr. Jaramillo completed his PhD in Ontario, Canada and now resides in Morelia as a Professor at UNAM. Dr. Jaramillo is an award-winning research scientist who has dedicated his career to rendering solutions for Monarch Butterfly habitats. Working with soil amendments, his passion is for eradicating the use of pesticides that kill the very milkweed monarchs require for laying their eggs, as well as assisting communities with avocado crops that do not require harmful fertilizers. It is an honour to work with such a passionate leader. This evening, we will meet with Dr. Jaramillo at 5:30 PM for a glass of wine and fascinating lecture entitled "Hope for the Monarchs." This lecture covers amazing ground and is a truly important introduction to this component of our tour, as Dr. Jaramillo discusses the migration route, hibernation, obstacles the monarchs face, such as illegal logging, pesticides, the eradication of milkweed from agricultural lands and more. The uplifting conclusion covers ways in which we

can personally contribute to helping these monarchs maintain their endangered migration, which includes attending tours like this, considering you are helping us raise money for valuable scientific research in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere.

Following our lecture, we will have dinner and a chance to ask questions and discuss what we have learned.

MEALS:
Breakfast Included. All other meals are separate

DAY SEVEN: MONDAY JANUARY 25, 2027 – THE PRIDE OF THE MAZAHUA
HOTEL LOCATION: ZITACUARO, MICHOACAN

MORNING:
Please meet us for breakfast at 8:00 AM. We will order the night before, so the kitchen can get our meals out quickly this morning. We are bound for an amazing adventure that involves four-wheel drive vehicles and a rugged logging road through the pine and oyamel forests in search of the roosts that have been migrating here over the past four years. The reserve is closed to the public and requires special logistics to visit, due to the road conditions. Anyone with a real love of adventure can sit in the back of the pick-up trucks with yours truly and our Mazahua guides. We will be entering the ejido of the Mazahua, who manage the lands we will travel through. If you are less mobile, you may want to sit inside one of the trucks, as the commute takes about an hour each way.

AFTERNOON:
Upon reaching the monarch butterfly colony, we will have plenty of time to observe. If you are not flexible or mobile and do not want to hike down the steep embankments, please be warned that most of the group will spend about 1.5-2 hours observing the monarchs. Unlike the public reserves, small groups are permitted to spend more time with these colonies, allowing us much closer encounters than most ever experience.

We will have a bag lunch today, which you can enjoy at your leisure. That said, when we do return to the community, we will have a chance to visit a small but incredible cultural centre where we will get to try the indigenous regional cuisine. The cultural centre also showcases magnificent wool embroidered textiles featuring zoomorphic motifs with anthropomorphic features signifying the cosmic worldview of Mazahua spirituality. You will find blankets, capes, bedspreads, clothing, table runners and more.

MEALS:
Breakfast, Lunch and Mazahua Cuisine Included. Dinner is separate

DAY EIGHT: TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2027 – SACRED MIGRATION
HOTEL LOCATION: ZITACUARO, MICHOACAN

MORNING:
As the monarchs have been moving in recent years, we will wait until November to announce what reserve we will visit today. This past season, the Monarchs landed in yet another reserve that is closed to the public, but our Mazahua guides can take us. If this opportunity returns for the next season, we will be thrilled to bring you here for another close encounter experience with very few other visitors.

AFTERNOON:
We will bring a bag lunch for everyone to enjoy at leisure, and should return to our resort at around 5:00 PM.

EVENING:
This evening we will have dinner at 7 PM.

MEALS:
Breakfast and Lunch Included

DAY NINE: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2027
HOTEL LOCATION: GRUTAS DE TOLANTANGO, HIDALGO

MORNING:
Please have your luggage by the lobby for 7:45 AM. We will load the van before breakfast and depart at 9:00 AM for Tollan-Xicocotitlan. Arriving at 11 AM, we will visit the site first, which takes approximately 2 hours. Before departing, we will have about ½ hour to visit the small museum. Tollan-Xicocotitlan was the Toltec Capital and is an impressive city.

AFTERNOON:
Departing by 2:00 PM, we should arrive at our destination at around 4:30 PM. Guests need to be prepared to wait about 20 mins while we check in, due to the way the resort is organized. Your guides will head down to get the room keys. Once we return to the van, the guards will open the lower parking lot so we can unload. We will have a bag-lunch today for you to enjoy at leisure.

EVENING:
This evening we will have dinner at the restaurant and enjoy the pools until they close at 11 PM.

MEALS:
Breakfast and Lunch included.

DAY TEN: THURDAY JANUARY 28, 2027 – A CAVE AND A WATERFALL

HOTEL LOCATION: GRUTAS DE TOLANTONGO, HIDALGO

MORNING:
This morning we will meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM, then pile into the van for a day adventure out at the Cave of Tolantongo! There are lockers near the park entrance, but we recommend just keeping it simple. We can purchase water socks and waterproof cases for our cell phones near the entrance. Hats and towels must be left on the fence by the cave entrance. Please do not bring your cameras, as there is nowhere safe to leave them by the cave. If you want to run back to the entrance and purchase a locker, you could bring your camera to take some photos, then return to join the group. If you are using a smart phone, the plastic cases work surprisingly well! As we will be gone for the bulk of the day, please pack a day-pack to leave in the van with anything you may want for comfort.

AFTERNOON:
This afternoon your hosts will prepare a picnic for you down by the river. Guests can swim in the pools, read a book, or just relax. We will rent chairs and tables for our meal. If you would like to bring beer or wine for the cooler, we will have ice. We will return to the hotel at around 4:30 or 5:00 PM.

EVENING:
This evening we will meet for dinner at 7 PM and enjoy relaxing in the pools this evening.

MEALS:
Breakfast and Picnic are included

DAY SIX: FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2027 – CARNE ASADA TRADITION
HOTEL LOCATION: GRUTAS DE TOLANTONGO, HIDALGO

MORNING: We will have breakfast this morning at 8:00 AM, departing by 9:00 AM for an area across the river called La Gloria. For those who do not wish to climb up, there is a lovely waterfall pool not far from the bridge. Guests can enjoy soaking in the pool by the waterfall or swim in the river. Others who decide to hike up will find more pools and a more tranquil swimming area. As La Gloria costs another $150 MXN (included), many tourists tend to stay on the Tolantongo side.

AFTERNOON: Free time to enjoy La Gloria or return to the Cave, which is walking distance from La Gloria bridge. There are restaurants to find tortas and cold drinks.

EVENING: This evening your hosts are preparing a Carne Asada Feast for everyone. We will rent tables and chairs by the river, so you can still swim or relax while we are cooking. We will enjoy a nice bonfire this evening and return to the hotel at 8:00 so everyone still has time to enjoy the beautiful pools for one last tranquil evening.

MEALS:
Breakfast and Dinner included.

DAY SEVEN: SATURDAY JANUARY 30, 2027 – HOME SWEET HOME
HOTEL LOCATION: N/A

MORNING:
Please have your luggage ready before breakfast. We will meet at 8:00 AM. In order to get our luggage back up the hill, we will need to haul it all. If you are not strong enough, the guides will help you, so it may take us longer than usual to check-out.

We hope to depart Tolantongo no later than 10 AM, making our way to Mexico City Airport to drop everyone off for afternoon flights. As the commute takes approximately 4.5 hours, please do not book your afternoon flights until after 5 PM. You may also choose to stay out by the airport and opt for a daytime flight the next morning. We will look for a lunch option while in Tolantongo, so we can find something to bring for the commute.

MEALS:
Breakfast Included.

TRAVEL HOME SAFELY AND PLEASE JOIN US AGAIN!