

Savor the magic of Mexico - its colors, flavors, and variety of people and landscapes - on this spectacular workshop! From Zapotec ruins to colonial cities, artisan villages to cooking class, and deserts to rainforests, each day of this workshop brings a vibrant piece of Mexico to life. Oaxaca is one of Mexico's most beautiful and diverse states with an abundance of culture, a rich history and stunning natural areas.



## The International Experience

We are based in the city of Oaxaca – one of Mexico's most beautiful and traditional urban centers. Students visit markets, collect food, and cook a traditional Oaxacan meal. They learn how to create handicrafts such as alebrijes and black pottery from some of Mexico's finest artisans. Mexican history comes to life as they visit the spectacular Zapotec ruins of Monte Alban and embark on a historical tour of Oaxaca city. Visiting students also join Mexican students in a day of activities and service projects that help both cultures understand the lifestyles of the other.

Leaving the city behind us, we study conservation issues in Oaxaca's amazingly diverse tropical cloud forests. We visit a coffee cooperative and learn about fair trade and sustainable coffee. This cultural experience helps students draw direct parallels between consumer decisions in the United States and the effects those decisions can have abroad. Next, students learn about ecotourism efforts in the region. Conservation organizations around the world are racing to protect Oaxaca's fragile forests.

Finally, the students wrap up their experience at the town square, or zocalo, sharing what they have learned about conservation, culture and themselves.

**Please check our website for sample day-by-day itineraries and photos!**



## The Curriculum

Our Discover Classroom Earth Curriculum helps prepare students for their international experience *before they travel* with a series of ten hands-on, age-appropriate and user-friendly lessons. The two-hour lessons explore everything from culture to language and travel tips to leadership skills. Your workshop fee includes this curriculum as well as staff support in implementing it with your participants. Among other things, Oaxaca curriculum explores ancient Zapotec history, today's culture and traditions and Mexican conservation efforts.



## The Service Leadership Project

Following the international workshop, we work with students back in their home communities to develop student-designed service projects that bring personal and community meaning to their international experience. Some students focus their energy on making a difference in their own home community. Projects may include initiating a recycling program at school, participating in an on-going stream clean-up project, supporting disadvantaged members of the community, or educating others about local conservation issues. Other students focus their attention on the region they visited. Projects may include raising funds to support the school they visited, educating others at home about conservation issues abroad, or supporting conservation organizations working in the region visited.



## A Taste of Oaxaca

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### **Recommended Age and Maturity Level**

This program is specifically designed for middle-school and high school students. However workshop activities can be modified for college or adult participants. Maturity level should be considered when determining whether students are appropriate candidates for this program.

### **Group Sponsors and Group Size**

Global Explorers includes one complimentary spot for every 12 full-paying participants. The complimentary spots are generally reserved for the educators who organize the group locally with Global Explorers' support; they are referred to as Group Sponsors. Our minimum group size is 12 paying participants. Please contact us to discuss possibilities if you have a smaller group.

### **Included**

All travel expenses within Mexico, all meals (unless specified), all lodging, all ground transfers, airport departure taxes, basic level of tips for guides and other services, a program t-shirt, workshop journal, textbook(s), curriculum and service project materials (for Group Sponsor), travel insurance, year-long support, guidance and mentoring for local Group Sponsor, and an on-site Global Explorers Representative during workshop.

### **Not Included**

Airfare between your home city and Oaxaca City, Mexico, passport, and any personal items.

### **Accommodations**

Accommodations in Oaxaca are in a comfortable and modern hotel near the city center. Telephone and television are available in the hotel's group meeting room.

### **Flexibility**

We do everything we can to ensure a positive workshop experience. Because we can not control all aspects of our workshops, we may need to slightly alter the workshop itinerary on-site. We reserve the right to make these changes in the interest of enjoyment, education, logistics or safety. In order to make these changes smooth, we rely on your cooperation and flexibility.

### **Safety**

We take this topic seriously and ask that all workshop participants do the same. We take an enormous amount of care in preparing our workshops to minimize safety risks and we have created rules and regulations accordingly. It is very important that all travelers obey the rules and regulations set forth by Group Sponsors, on-site Global Explorers staff, guides and lodge managers.

### **Physical Fitness Level**

All of our workshops are designed for adventurous participants! We suggest participants prepare both physically and mentally for their workshops in order to get the most out of the experience. While the hikes and excursions included in this workshop are not strenuous, the conditions may be taxing for some travelers. Please call us for more details and discuss any concerns with your physician.

### **Cancellation and Refund Policy**

We are able to refund a portion of your payments if cancellation becomes necessary. A withdrawal schedule will be made available with a payment schedule so you will know the details before you begin payment. We sincerely regret having to strictly adhere to this schedule but we begin sending non-refundable payments for lodging and transportation and incur other costs long before the workshop begins.

**12-15 paying participants = \$1,995**

**More than 15 participants = \$1,970**

☆ Teacher travels free for every 12 ☆  
paying participants!

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Come Discover Classroom Earth!

[www.globalexplorers.org](http://www.globalexplorers.org)