



## **Riding Package: Magic of the Mexican Highlands**

13 days / 12 nights - Starts every 2nd Sunday of the month (ask for other dates)  
Extended progressive ride combined with sightseeing for horse lovers who would also like to get to know the rich culture of Mexico during their once in a lifetime riding holiday. Rides suited to ability.

Get immersed in the feelings, colors, vibes and flavor of this incredible place.

### **Sunday (Day 1): Arrival**

You'll be met at the airport and be driven directly to the ranch. Get settled into your room, explore this beautiful place and discover its many amenities. If time permits, the first afternoon ride takes you to our local village, San Agustin, with its ancient church from the 1700s. During this ride you will be able to familiarize yourself with your horse.

Afterwards relax in the hot tub overlooking the waterfalls with a margarita

or go for a swim in our infinity pool. Enjoy your first 4-course dinner - a fusion of Mexican and international cuisine – served in the ranch's dining room.



### **Monday (Day 2): Tula - Atlantes plus Western Apparel & Mexican Tack Shops**

Get to know the ranch. Take the morning to relax by the pool, go on a hike or enjoy a ride on one of our beautiful horses through this epic and diverse countryside.

In the afternoon, take a short drive to the archaeological site of the Atlantes of Tula. On top of one of the pyramids you will find the great Atlantes, four huge and impressive warrior statues of black basalt. Followed by a visit to the town center of Tula and some shops around it. Enjoy the vibrant colors and life of the main square before heading back for dinner.

### **Tuesday (Day 3): Cerro de las Caballos - Ex Hacienda La Goleta**

Start the ride today crossing the old stone bridge 'El Puente del Muite' (built in the late 17th century). The horses follow the beautiful green path towards the 'Cerro de los Caballos' the horses' mountain. The flat fields and quiet unpaved roads offer excellent gallops for confident riders, one of the great thrills on offer!

On the way back encounter ancient churches, lakes and rivers. At the end take a beautiful stroll to the hacienda (estate) called 'La Goleta' which was built around 1690 by the Spaniards. The wrought iron windows were brought from Sweden, the tiles covering the front porch from Spain and you can still admire part of the original blue wall paintings.



### Wednesday (Day 4): Teotihuacan - Archeological Site of the Sun & Moon Pyramids

Today, you'll visit Teotihuacan - the place where gods were born. The Aztecs believe that the gods created the universe here. This site will prove to be a fascinating and worthwhile experience! Many people today believe that Teotihuacán is a place of great energy, and it is quite common to witness people meditating at the top of the main pyramids.

Before an enjoyable lunch near the site, you will take a stop at a silver shop, where you will learn about a special drink known as Pulque (distilled agave liquor) made in honor of the god of fertility.

In the evening, enjoy another relaxing sunset at the Rancho followed by cocktails and dinner.



### Thursday (Day 5): Tandeje, El Fresno & The Waterfalls

This ride takes you to the old hacienda of Tandeje and to the waterfalls of Fresno with its breathtaking ancient oak trees. The climb on your horse takes you up to the little sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe from where you have a beautiful view into the canyon below.

This afternoon you have some time to relax at the pool or go for another ride.

### Friday (Day 6): Jilotepec - Local Market Tour

Today is Market Day and you will have the chance to get immersed in the feelings, colors, vibes and flavor of this incredible place. Mind-boggling arrays of chilies, an almost astonishing variety of Nopales (cactus paddles), aromatic herbs, spices, scrumptious Oaxacan cheese and so much more.

Markets aren't just for shopping, eating and drinking. They are a microcosm of society and therefore offer a fantastic insight into the culture and everyday life of the folk around here.



Back at the Rancho enjoy the infinity pool, go on a hike or take another ride.

### Saturday (Day 7): Xochitlan de las Flores – Ex Hacienda San Antonio



Today's ride takes you along a picturesque canyon to the village of 'Xochitlan'. You will be amazed by the sure-footedness of your four-legged friends. Now and then you will enjoy some easy canters between the corn fields.

'Xochitlan de las Flores' got its name from the many flowers that grow here due to the temperate climate. Experience the leisurely way of living, visit the beautiful old church and have a little rest and some refreshment.

On the way to San Antonio, you have a lunch stop in a local 'Fonda'. Heading back you cross countryside that is straight out of an old western movie. Then you follow the 'Camino Real' an old Spanish road used by the royal carriages.

### **Sunday (Day 8): Lake District & Local Sunday Market in San Juan Daxthi**

Start your ride crossing the Rio Rosas and passing through the quaint little village of 'Los Colorados'. Heading along country lanes you ride through the community of 'Heroes de Carranza' before entering the lake district, which offers incredible views and varied terrain for some delightful and diverse riding.



At the small town of 'San Juan Daxthi', enjoy a local Mexican lunch, before taking a stroll through the vibrant market.

In the afternoon, the open fields heading back to the ranch are perfect for a canter and the occasional gallop too, if you like. Local cowboys (charros) and farmers use the myriad of trails to tend to their farm plots and small herds.

### **Monday (Day 9): San Miguel de las Piedras - Organos - Peregrinos Petrificados**

Back into a more rugged landscape, you would think you were on a western movie set. Ride to 'Los Organos' a place forgotten in time. The trail, passing San Miguel de las Piedras leads into the canyon where wild horses roam. You'll visit the 'Peregrinos Petrificados' a natural rock formation, where it is said that "the Pilgrims turned into stone because they did not want to finish their pilgrimage".



Your lunchtime picnic will be taken by the river. Goats and sheep graze nearby. Here the river is mixed with a volcanic warm spring so it is quite nice for a swim while the horses are resting.

Homeward bound, you climb up the canyon and pass through the village of Carranza with its church dating from 1697. On to the Presa of La Goleta, where the soft flat lake shore offers you a final opportunity to canter or gallop, arriving at the ranch late afternoon.

### **Tuesday (Day 10): San Miguel de Allende – Architecture, Arts & Shopping**

Recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, the town of San Miguel de Allende is our stop for today. Without a doubt, it is an incredible place. Also called 'The Heart of Mexico', this will be a milestone during your visit.



A great trip for shoppers and a real treasure for architecture lovers, this amazing city boasts beautiful churches, small town squares, dreamlike alleys and many hidden patios (Mexican courtyards). You can find coffee shops, antiques, handicrafts, jewelry, paintings and many other things while you wander around this enchanted town.

We will be spending the night in San Miguel, ensuring you fall under the magic spell this city casts on you. Enjoy our special Sunset Surprise.

### **Wednesday (Day 11): San Miguel de Allende - La Aurora & Cactus Gardens**

Absorb the special atmosphere of San Miguel during breakfast in a lovely courtyard. Take time for a stroll through other parts of town. Visit the old street market and/or La Aurora - an old factory turned into an exclusive arts and crafts gallery.

Before heading back to the Ranch, you will visit the famous cactus garden which was sanctified as a peace zone by the Dalai Lama. Enjoy the many different species of native plants and animals and a beautiful final view of San Miguel.

### **Thursday (Day 12): Departure Day**

Enjoy a nice breakfast and some R&R before we bring you to the airport to catch your flight.

