

***A VISIT TO
MATA
ORTIZ,
Chihuahua
Art and
Archaeology!***



***A Custom tour for Border Community
Alliance***

**Sunday 9 February to Wednesday 12 February, 2024 (3 nights,
4 days)**

Stay in the village of Mata Ortiz and enjoy the atmosphere of this small Mexican village, staying in the simple but clean & comfy rooms of La Posada de Adobe . Enjoy the charming home of Gloria Hernandez and her delightful family as they demonstrate how pottery is created in Mata Ortiz. Watch the magic of clay coils being pinched into a graceful form. Observe how the fine lines are painted with a brush made from a child's hair. Feel the excitement of firing the finished work and watching as it is finally uncovered from the ashes. We'll also visit the homes of several other artists and observe their personal artistic touches.

Explore the fascinating **Paquime Ruins at Casas Grandes**. The culture of the Paquimé thrived from AD 900 to 1450 and their recovered pottery inspired the revival at Mata Ortiz. Walk through the delightful museum and then tour the massive ruins.

Visit **Hacienda San Diego**, built in the early 20th century by Governor Luis Terrazas. Learn about the history of Chihuahua, a little about the Apache history, and the Mexican Revolution as it occurred right there, also enjoy a gourmet luncheon prepared by the current owner of the Hacienda.

RESERVE your space at BCA, www.BorderCommunityAlliance.org

The tour is purposely small in size - 8 to 10 people. Reserve early!

A VISIT TO MATA ORTIZ, CHIHUAHUA

DAY ONE: Sunday 2/9th 7:30 A.M. depart Tubac, Arizona. We'll cross the international boundary into Mexico at Columbus, NM into Palomas, Chihuahua. **YOU NEED YOUR PASSPORTS** (Not a SENTRI, Global Pass, or Enhanced Driver's License)! We will get our immigration permits here. Next stop is Janos, MX to visit a colonial church and the ruins of a 17th century presidio, and have our picnic lunch (please pack/bring your own) on the patio. On to Mata Ortiz to check into our simple but clean & comfortable accommodations, the Posada de Adobe. All rooms have private baths and hopefully hot water! Dinner family style at the lodge. Enjoy a fireside discussion on how pottery-making became an industry in Mata Ortiz.

DAY TWO: Monday 2/10th: Breakfast at the lodge and depart for our fascinating round of demonstrations at the home of Gloria Hernandez and Goyo Silveira. They will explain the steps of pottery making so you can begin to understand the process involved. Some activities will be outdoors and others will be indoors. Enjoy a home-cooked luncheon at the Silveira/Hernandez household. Afternoon visits to other potters in the village to see how the pottery-making styles differ. Let us know if you have a favorite potter you would like to find. Dinner back at the hotel this evening.

DAY THREE: Tuesday 2/11th: Enjoy another terrific breakfast at the lodge. Today we will head to the nearby grand Hacienda San Diego, built in the early 20th century by Governor Luis Terrazas. Learn about the history of Chihuahua, a little about the Apache history and the Mexican Revolution as it occurred right here. Enjoy a gourmet luncheon prepared by the current owner of the Hacienda. This afternoon, head for Casas Grandes to visit the ruins of Paquime and learn the "prehistory" of the area, and about the pottery found there which inspired the revival of the style at Mata Ortiz. Visit the gift store for books, and other art objects, and another artist of the area who will demonstrate his sculpture art. When we return to the village, you will have time to pack your pottery purchases. Final dinner at the lodge this evening, with a special talk about the archaeology of the area.

DAY FOUR: Wednesday 2/12th: Be ready to depart for home after breakfast. Picnic lunch from the hotel along the way. Arrive Tubac between 4 and 6:00 P.M.

COST OF TOUR: \$1,100 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY members/ \$1,250 non-members. \$180.00 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.

INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR: Round trip transportation from Tubac, Arizona, lodging & taxes, all meals in the village, recommended reading list and information packet, accompanied by Cathy and Marshall Giesy, bilingual guides,

NOT INCLUDED: One "pack your own picnic" lunch for Friday travel day, various tips to chambermaids and waitresses, pottery purchases. There is a \$40.00 visa permit fee at the border. A five dollar entry fee to Paquime Ruins. (might be waived)

DEPOSITS: A payment of 50% is required to secure your reservation. The balance is due 60 days before departure. Make payments online www.BorderCommunityAlliance.org

REFUNDS: 60 days or more in advance of departure – \$150.00 cancellation fee, 0-60 days in advance - no refund can be issued.

TRIP CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL ACCIDENT INSURANCE is available and recommended at www.allianzetravelinsurance.com using ACCAM number Z014617.

THINGS TO BRING AND TO THINK ABOUT

DEPARTURE: Meet at 7:00 to depart by 7:30 A.M.

RETURN: Usually between 4:00 and 6:00 P.M. We ask that you not make major plans for our night of return as sometimes delays occur.

REST STOPS will be made frequently along the way, but we cannot guarantee the cleanliness of the bathrooms. Bring tissue, hand sanitizer, and some “wash ‘n wipes” at all times.

WATER: Bring a one liter bottle for your personal use along the way. Bring an extra liter for the days in Mata Ortiz or exploring archaeological sites. The hotel will provide purified water in the dining room for refills.

PROOF OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP must be a passport. We will obtain a Mexican Tourist Card at the border. There is a \$40.00 permit fee payable at the border – sometimes it is waived.

BRING SOME MUNCHIES! We may have long stretches between meals - snacks come in handy and are fun to share. Remember, we cannot bring fruit back into the U.S.

PESOS: Chances are good you will not need pesos. The potters quote dollars for their pottery. (pottery costs anything from \$2.00 to \$8,000.00 - some potters take checks, but most request cash) Take along a pack of \$35.00 single dollar bills for tips and small purchases. Some galleries now receive credit cards. Bring your checkbook for unexpected purchases! However, the customs agents at the border will restrict us to \$800.00 per person in purchases.

WEATHER will be similar to southern Arizona. Mata Ortiz is 5,000ft elevation. Be prepared for cold nights and a possibility of wind or rain, but mostly the days should be sunny and warm. Wear light weight slacks to the village instead of shorts. Be prepared to layer your clothes.

DRESS CODE is strictly casual! Bring comfortable slacks or skirts, hiking or walking shoes, hooded sweatshirt, windbreaker, sun hat, sunglasses, washcloths (Mexican hotels do not provide!), personal necessities, camera, with lots of memory and a charger, extra camera batteries, small flashlight, calculator to convert pesos, possibly binoculars.

PERSONAL MEDICATIONS should be in bottles with prescriptions labeled. Consider bringing traveler’s aids... Pepto Bismol, Alka Seltzer, aspirin, chapstick, antihistamines, and sunscreen.

LIMIT YOUR LUGGAGE to one duffel type bag plus carry on.

PACKING MATERIAL FOR POTTERY: Sometimes the potters provide plastic bags, boxes, and newspapers or bubble wrap. Sometimes you buy pottery from the people in the street, and they usually do not provide packing material. Bring boxes, broken down for traveling, and bubble wrap. Be sure to wrap your pottery in a plastic bag to protect it before wrapping it in newspaper or bubble wrap.

FOOD: If you have a stomach susceptible to foreign bacteria while traveling, please be careful of the following foods: fresh vegetables, unpeeled fruit, poorly cooked pork, milk products, and of course the water. Our kitchen staff has been trained in food preparation for travelers and are very careful with cleanliness.

DRINKS: The hotel does not have a license to sell liquor, and it is a little difficult to find in town - but possible. You are welcome to bring your own drinks - including sodas - for cocktails in the dining room. Just remember you cannot bring open bottles of liquor across the international boundary into the US.

CATHY'S RULE OF THUMB: never travel with anything you don't mind losing.