

JOURNEY TO THE COLONIAL CITIES OF MEXICO

BY TRAIN & SHIP FROM ALL CALIFORNIA POINTS

10 DAYS | LOS ANGELES, CA TO LEÓN, MEXICO

2023 DEPARTURE: NOVEMBER 5 | 2024 DEPARTURES: MARCH 24 & NOVEMBER 3

2025 DEPARTURE: MARCH 23

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Uncommon Journeys has always specialized in unique itineraries to fascinating places, almost always with a train or ship component to make the holiday more interesting. Our new Journey to the Colonial Cities of Mexico by train & ship is one of the more brilliant programs we have put together in years. At its heart are six nights in three of Mexico's greatest colonial cities beginning with Guadalajara, the City of Roses and a showcase for culture, history, art and architecture. With extraordinary museums, plazas, murals and markets, Guadalajara is a delight from every angle, and you'll enjoy two full days and evenings in this marvelous city with an excellent hotel in the historic zone.

We next move on to historic Guanajuato, founded in 1679 and a UNESCO World Heritage site. By the 18th century, Guanajuato was the leading center of silver mining in the world and was incredibly wealthy, which led to the magnificent churches and historic buildings that still grace this historic old town. It is a city of great charm filled with galleries, shops and impressively good restaurants. Saving the best for last, your final destination is gorgeous San Miguel de Allende, considered by many the prettiest village in all of Mexico. With markets and artisans galore, a vibrant wine scene and some of the best dining in Mexico, San Miguel de Allende is a treat for all of the

senses. Towering over this small town is the iconic pink Church of San Miguel Arcángel, a historic church that is the centerpiece of this charming town. Here too, like everywhere, our guests enjoy comprehensive included sightseeing and two nights in a well-chosen hotel.

At Uncommon Journeys we have long felt that how one gets somewhere is almost as important as the destination and this trip is superlative in this regard even by our standards. Enjoy complimentary train travel from any California city to Los Angeles. At historic Union Station, your tour manager meets you for the short drive to the lovely Norwegian *Bliss* of Norwegian Cruise Line for a sailing to Puerto Vallarta. With no fewer than 21 restaurants onboard such as a superb steakhouse, La Cucina for Italian food and even a Japanese teppanyaki restaurant, Norwegian *Bliss* is a magnificent ship with countless amenities including 12 bars and lounges. For comfort, staterooms are superbly outfitted and most feature private balconies along with 24-hour room service.

With a superb ship, three monumental colonial cities and towns, comprehensive included sightseeing, fine hotels and sumptuous dining, this showcase holiday is certain to sell out. We invite you to join us. All Aboard!



GUANAJUATO is a showcase of pastel-colored buildings and narrow alleyways, many of which are car-free. A highlight is the funicular to El Pipila monument which offers fantastic views of the town and the surrounding mountains. With its colonial heritage and architecture, museums and small shops, Guanajuato is a favorite of many of our passengers.

GUADALAJARA is a pretty and exciting city that celebrates its colonial heritage. The historic quarter features a multitude of museums and art galleries known for glassblowing, ceramics and leather goods. Experience sumptuous colonial architecture, craft markets, casual cafes, live music (mariachi was invented here!) and friendly residents.

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE is consistently voted the prettiest town in Mexico. With extraordinary Spanish colonial architecture, car-free cobblestoned streets, artisan craft shops, vibrant local markets and some of the best dining in Mexico, there are few more enchanting towns in Mexico. Natural splendor includes a series of hot mineral springs and the stunning sunsets.

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DAY 1 | LA/NORWEGIAN BLISS

Arrive at LA's historic Union Station, meet your tour manager and board a coach for the short ride to your ship, the Norwegian *Bliss*. Later tonight, enjoy our casual welcome reception, a nice way to meet your fellow travelers, followed by dinner in a choice of 21 onboard restaurants. (L,R,D)

DAY 2 | AT SEA OFF THE COAST OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

This segment off the coast of Baja is well known for whale and porpoise sightings. Enjoy the day relaxing, and in the evening, a huge array of dining and entertainment venues await. One of our favorites spots is the Observation Lounge high atop the ship, facing forward just as if you were on the bridge. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 | CABO SAN LUCAS

At the very tip of Baja California lies the resort town of Cabo San Lucas, your port of call today. With shopping, a host of activities from sport fishing to paragliding, Cabo is great fun. El Arco, the landmark dramatic rock formation, is a popular gathering spot for sea lions. (B,D)

DAY 4 | GUADALAJARA

Disembark in Puerto Vallarta after breakfast and enjoy a scenic drive to the greatest colonial city in all of Mexico, Guadalajara. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore the historic center of town, just a short walk from your superbly located hotel. Tonight is a special welcome dinner with the balance of the evening free to enjoy the historic district with its sidewalk cafés and artisan stalls. (B)

DAY 5 | GUADALAJARA

Begin with a guided tour of the main plazas that surround the historic district, with a highlight being the Metropolitan Cathedral featuring Gothic vaults, gold leaf pillars and 11 richly decorated altars. Admire the stained glass windows and a huge working pipe organ. Later, visit Tlaquepaque, an art lover's paradise with its galleries, ceramics, pottery and mariachi music. After lunch at the celebrated El Patio Restaurant, browse

the Mercado Benito Juárez, some of the best shopping in Mexico. Enjoy all evening at leisure to dine when and where you like. (B,L)

DAY 6 | GUANAJUATO

Depart on a short drive to Guanajuato, which is rich in colonial history and where the first battle of the Mexican War

built using pink or green sandstone. Enjoy a short walking tour of the Plaza Mayor, the main cathedral and the Juárez Theatre. An excellent casual dinner is included at the hotel tonight. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 | GUANAJUATO

This morning is a special treat, a walking tour that includes the remarkable Museum of Don Quixote de la Mancha, with a great collection of books, paintings and figurines, and the fascinating Museum of Mummies, the town's most famous tourist attraction, the genesis of which was a cholera outbreak in 1865. Later today, there is free time to explore the historic quarter or browse the charming shops. We have intentionally left the evening at leisure for you to enjoy as you wish. (B,L)

DAY 8 | SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Travel to the small colonial town of Dolores Hidalgo, another UNESCO World Heritage site and the birthplace of Mexico's independence. There is time to visit the Plaza Mayor, the Church of our Lady of Sorrows and the massive Independence Statue. Continue to San Miguel de Allende, where lunch awaits before a walking tour that visits the Institute Allende, the main cathedral and the galleries and boutiques around the plaza. There is time to enjoy the nice patio at the hotel tonight before your dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 | SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Visit the acclaimed Fábrica La Aurora Art Center, a former textile factory that today houses the paintings, sculptures and handmade products of local artists. After a tour of the center, with demonstrations on painting or sculpture, continue through town. This is one of the finest art and design centers in the world and our guests always rate it a highlight of their trip. Enjoy lunch and the afternoon on your own and join us this evening for our farewell dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

DAY 10 | WELCOME HOME!

A short drive brings us to León and its international airport for easy connections back to all US points on a choice of US carriers. Welcome home. (B)

HIGHLIGHTS

Rare four-day/three-night Pacific voyage from LA to Puerto Vallarta aboard the wonderful Norwegian *Bliss* with a stop in Cabo San Lucas

Six-night Mexico land program with deluxe coach and local guide to Guadalajara, Guanajuato and San Miguel de Allende with relaxed two-night superbly chosen hotel stays in each destination, plus extensive and included sightseeing throughout

An expert American guide starting from LA and a native Mexican guide with 'insider' local knowledge

With two nights in each city, enjoy plenty of free time in addition to scheduled tours and events

Carefully selected restaurants in Mexico with most meals included, with three evenings open for you to dine wherever you wish

Special meals, events and bonuses ashore and aboard including a specialty dining package, prepaid gratuities and free Wi-Fi aboard Norwegian *Bliss*

A professional tour manager from start to finish to handle all of the details

of Independence was fought in 1810. Guanajuato is picturesque, nestled in a valley with narrow winding lanes, some of which are even underground. This UNESCO World Heritage site offers up many charming small plazas and grand colonial era buildings



NORWEGIAN BLISS® OBSERVATION LOUNGE



EL ARCO IN CABO SAN LUCAS



DELECTABLE & AUTHENTIC FLAVORS OF MEXICO

B: BREAKFAST | L: LUNCH | D: DINNER | R: RECEPTION

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DISTINCTLY UNCOMMON

NORWEGIAN BLISS | A great itinerary needs a great ship or train, and we begin on a perfect note on day one aboard the superb Norwegian *Bliss*. With a stunning layout, excellent dining options, entertainment and amenities there is simply no finer way to travel to Puerto Vallarta and the start of our colonial cities adventure. With a wide array of restaurants, lounges, bars, duty-free shopping and one of the finest spas afloat, the only criticism may be that there isn't enough time to do it all. All staterooms are supremely comfortable with every amenity one could desire. Our favorite is the spacious Club Balcony Suite with two lower beds that can convert to a Queen bed, a sofa bed, a sitting area and a private balcony. These rooms also offer a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine, complimentary laundry and pressing service and the ability to pre-book months in advance specialty dining and entertainment aboard the ship.

PROFESSIONAL TOUR MANAGER | Our holidays are always fully hosted by a professional tour manager from start to finish to handle all the details and make your dream vacation the trip of a lifetime.



TRAVEL IN COMFORT AND STYLE







THOUGHTFULLY PLANNED

Free train travel from any California point to Los Angeles and the ship on sailing day

Easy air or train connections from all points in the US, with the option to arrive early in California, perhaps visiting San Diego, Santa Barbara or San Francisco before traveling to LA by train on sailing day

Easy flights home from nearby León (transfer from San Miguel de Allende is included) to all US points, with carriers serving León including American, Delta and United

FARES & ACCOMMODATIONS

STATEROOM CATEGORY	2024/2025
 <p>CLUB BALCONY SUITE Wonderful spacious suites measuring 259-299 square feet with private balcony, 24-hour room service, luxury bed linens, sitting area, the ability to pre-book dining and entertainment options early and much more, the ideal choice aboard Norwegian Bliss.</p>	\$4,795
 <p>STATEROOM WITH PRIVATE BALCONY Floor to ceiling glass doors open to your private balcony and fantastic views at any time of the day or night. Measuring 214-289 square feet, these popular rooms offer a private balcony, 24-hour room service, a sitting area and coffee maker.</p>	\$4,495
 <p>OCEANVIEW WITH PICTURE WINDOW These comfortable staterooms offer an ocean view, measure 160-194 square feet and offer 24-hour room service.</p>	\$4,295
 <p>INSIDE STATEROOM Comfort with economy, these rooms offer plush bedding, a small sitting area, measure 135 to 159 square feet and also offer 24 hour room service.</p>	\$3,995

PORT TAXES & FEES ARE \$199 PER PERSON

FOR TERMS & CONDITIONS PLEASE VISIT WWW.UNCOMMONJOURNEYS.COM | UNCOMMON JOURNEYS: 2744 E 11TH STREET, SUITE J-01, OAKLAND CA 94601 | CALIFORNIA SELLER OF TRAVEL NUMBER: CST#2044749-40
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