

Mexico, where you can find the most colorful, diverse and wonderful open markets in the world.

Pablo Neruda

Cloudforest Initiatives will be sponsoring, in January and February of 2010, two educational/experiential travel programs to the states of Chiapas and Oaxaca in southeastern Mexico. These two travel programs will focus on the broad theme of food sovereignty/security within the context of the Mexican bicentennial commemorating the 1810 War of Independence and the centennial celebration of the 1910 Mexican Revolution. Chiapas and Oaxaca encompass the two most indigenous, poorest and most agrarian states in Mexico yet they are the richest in ethnic and biological diversity. In addition, these two states now produce the most coffee in Mexico with production coming largely from small family producers. Furthermore, the two states in recent years have been the scene of large, organized social movements led by indigenous communities demanding an end to free trade policies that divide families, splinter communities and devastate the environment, while struggling for greater autonomy, democracy and full recognition and participation in regional and national life.

1) Travel Program in Chiapas, Mexico

Dates: January 22-31, 2010

Theme: Going to the Source: the Struggle for Food Security and Social Change by the autonomous Maya communities (Zapatistas) of Chiapas, Mexico

Cost: \$1150.00 This fee includes airport pick-up at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, on the afternoon/evening of the 22nd and air departure on the 31st, all double occupancy lodging in tourist appropriate hotels or guest houses with two main meals per day, all program transportation, interpretation of speakers and presentations, honorarium for speakers, and all entrance fees for museums, archaeological sites and park reserves. Travel program participants are responsible for their own transportation expenses to and from Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, and for personal expenses and purchases during the course of the program.

Join us for an exciting and enriching travel program to hear the words and experience the sights, tastes and smells of the movement for social change led by the autonomous Maya communities in Chiapas, Mexico. This travel program will focus on native plants and seeds, markets, food preparation and recipes from the region, and the struggle for land and food sovereignty by the people who have given the world such foods as corn, beans, tomatoes, peppers, squash, peanuts, avocados, cocoa and vanilla. In addition, this program will have a broad array of presentations, visits and experiences that include the following:

- program schedule, orientation, frequent group reflections and final debriefing/evaluation
- visiting Mayas in their homes and communities for presentations about food sovereignty
- visit organized groups of artisans, weavers and open markets
- cooks/kitchen visits for food processing techniques and food preparation demonstrations
- listen to Maya presentations on community organization and their struggle for a more peaceful, just and better world
- visit autonomous Maya schools, health clinics and development projects
- visit with human rights workers, woman's groups and nonprofits
- visit with small coffee producers and co-ops that export fair trade/organic coffee
- visit an important ancient Maya archeological site
- presentations from academicians and religious leaders about regional challenges and conflict
- visit a cloudforest reserve and witness the diversity of flora and fauna

2) Travel Program in Oaxaca, Mexico

Dates: February 19-28, 2010

Theme: Going to the Source: the Struggle for Food Sovereignty/Security and Social Change in the City and Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico

Cost: \$1350.00. This fee will cover all expenses listed in the Chiapas program with the same exceptions—participants are responsible for arriving on the afternoon or evening of the 19th of February to the Oaxaca airport for pick-up or to the hotel/guest house. And participants will be transported to the airport for departure on the 28th of February. Again, program participants will be responsible for their own personal expenses.

The Oaxaca program will include the following visits, presentations, and experiences:

- program schedule, orientation, group reflections and final debriefing/evaluation
- a variety of visits and presentations focused on food sovereignty issues
- cooks/kitchens for food preparation and processing techniques
- small coffee producers, artisan chocolate workshops, local markets and crafts
- visit with indigenous organizations working for a better world
- visit significant ancient archaeological sites.
- visit human rights, women's and nonprofit organizations
- hear presentations from academicians and religious leaders about the historical moment
- visit reserves to experience the great bio-diversity of the region

To secure a place in either of these scheduled travel programs we must receive a non-refundable deposit of \$150.00 by December 15, 2009 and payment in full by December 31, 2009. Participation will be limited to 12-14 participants in each program. If you want further information don't hesitate to contacting us at:

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