

Oaxaca Odyssey

Weaving South of the Border



**Zapotec Weaving, Ancient Ruins,
Mescal, Mole & More...**

December 1 – 10, 2011

**With 5 Days of
Hands-On
Weaving &
Natural Dyeing
Workshops!**



Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

"Weaving Together Uncommon Journeys with Hands-On Experience"

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*"Weaving together uncommon journeys
with hands-on experience"*

Dear Fellow Adventurer,

As an avid explorer and a weaver, I feel there is a timeless connection between these two passions. For the past 19 years, with my adventure travel company, NatureQuest, we have shown countless travelers the many treasures of this planet. I decided to combine my travel industry expertise with my love for, and appreciation of, weaving to create affordable hands-on weaving workshops around the world.

Each odyssey focuses on, and explores in depth, the various weaving centers of the world. These journeys offer the discovery of colorful destinations combined with an opportunity for a "hands on" weaving experience in the style and tradition of that country with a master weaver. These are small group, intimate travel experiences limited to just a handful of weavers. I will lead each odyssey so I invite you to join me for the weaving experience of a lifetime!

In the Spirit of Adventure and Creativity,

Cari Ann Sample Malver
Director



Meet Our Local Weaving Mentor...

Demetrio Bautista Laso

One of the most renowned weavers of Zapotec rugs, Demetrio, like most of the younger weavers of the community, grew up at his parents' knees weaving rugs. While this weaver looks forward with his designs, he is looking back generations for the rich hues and dyeing techniques of his ancestors. The results are rugs that seem to embrace both the future and the past. For Demetrio the process of making a rug begins far above the village. It is in the high meadowlands that he gathers the flowers and herbs that he uses to make many of the dyes he employs in the gorgeous *tapetes* that are earning this young weaver an international reputation and clientele.

The Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1: Arrive Oaxaca City

Day 2: Exploring Colorful Oaxaca City

Day 3: The Ancient Ruins of Monte Alban, Markets and Teotitlan

Days 4-8: Weaving and Natural Dyeing Workshops

Day 9: Local Markets: Ceramics, Textiles, Embroidery, Wooden Carvings and much more...

Day 10: Flight Home



Thursday, December 1 To Oaxaca

Today you fly from your home to Oaxaca. We will be happy to help you arrange your flights. Upon arrival, you will be greeted and transferred to the charming hotel, Parador San Miguel. This hotel is a colonial-era home that has been transformed into a lovely hotel. With only 19 rooms and filled with Old World details, a tranquil leafy inner patio, stained glass and an elegant restaurant, it is an oasis in the city. Overnight at Parador San Miguel. (Meals on flights) www.paradorsanmigueloaxaca.com

Friday, December 2 Free Day in Oaxaca City

Today you have a free day to explore this fascinating city at your leisure. Oaxaca City literally overflows with handicrafts. There are a variety of colorful native markets which are considered the city's heart and soul. The Mercado de Artisanías is often considered a Mecca for textiles and woven masterpieces. You might also wish to visit the cathedral, museums and enjoy its fine restaurants. You will have ample opportunities to sample the infamous mescal of the region as well as the rich chocolate that Oaxaca is so famous for at one of the many factories that line the streets. The choices of activities and sights in the colorful city are endless. Overnight at Parador San Miguel. (No meals included)

Saturday, December 3 To the Valle de Teotitlan

Zapotec civilization, one of the earliest complex societies in Mesoamerica. This area is a beautiful treasury of colorful markets, bucolic handicrafts villages, and ancient archeological sites; some of which we might choose

to explore. East, west, and south of the city lies countless artistic wonders. East is known as the **Textile Route**; west is the **Archeological**

We will be picked up by our private driver and driven into the Valley of Oaxaca. This mountain-rimmed patchwork of fertile fields, rivers and streams located within the Sierra Madre Mountains, was home to the **Route** while the south is the **Crafts Route**.



En route, we will visit **Monte Albán**, considered the “must-see” archeological site in Oaxaca. Mount Albán ranks among Mesoamerica’s most regally magnificent ruined cities and reigned from 500 BC – 750 BC.

In the afternoon, we have another cultural treat in store; this time the ancient Zapotec ruins of



Mitla (“*Place of the Dead*” in Zapotec) which features five ruins clusters and was at its height at AD 1350. We will see the stone carvings that are found in the designs of traditional Zapotec Weavings. You might want to photograph them for inspiration in the weaving you will begin tomorrow.



Our ultimate destination today is **Teotitlán del Valle**, which means “Place of the Gods” and is world famous for its weavings. Weaving in this village dates back to 500BC. Currently there are more than 100 weaving workshops here. Our host will be Demetrio Bautista Lazo, master weaver and part of a family that has been weaving for generations. We will stay at his B&B on the outskirts of town. La Cúpula is a quaint Moorish-style villa with incredible views of the Sierra Juarez Mountains and will be our home for the next 6 nights while we weave and explore. www.teotitlan.com



Sunday, December 4 Teotitlan, Tlascaloula Market & Weaving

Early this morning, we will visit the colorful local square in Teotitlan and its daily market. It is unlikely we will see any tourists at this quaint traditional shopping mecca where the locals come to shop and socialize. It is alive with traditional sights, smells and sounds of this charming small village. We will pick out the breads for our breakfast to follow.

After our feast, we will depart for another colorful market experience, Tlascaloula Market, one of Oaxaca's largest and oldest markets. Locals from all around the region come to this market for daily supplies and food. They can purchase everything from a yoke for their ox to live turkeys for their Sunday dinner. We'll spend a couple of hours wandering around this lively venue.

In the afternoon, we will return to La Cúpula to begin our weaving workshop. Overnight at La Cúpula. (B,D),



Monday – Thursday, December 5 – 8 Weaving & Natural Dyeing Workshops with Demetrio

We will spend four glorious days weaving in this incredible setting. Working on two and four heddle looms, Demetrio will teach us the Zapotec style of weaving *tapetes*. Using Demetrio's naturally dyed wool, we will each create a piece of our own. Each morning and afternoon we will be treated to a delicious breakfast and lunch prepared by Demetrio's wife. She is an amazing chef and teaches cooking classes featuring traditional Zapotec dishes. The rest of the

day is ours to weave. We will have a kitchen at our disposal to cook our own dinners if so desired. We might wish to venture out to some of the local eating establishments as well.



Some days might include an opportunity to visit some of the colorful local sites (optional, additional cost). Right in our backyard, nearly every Teotitlán house is a mini-factory where the families card, spin and dye wool. We can visit a local cooperative shop, **Mujeres Que Tejan** (*Women Who Weave*) which features the work of 28 women weavers. **La Union** is one of the three villages known for their woodcarving. Overnight at La Cúpula. (B,L Daily)

Friday, December 9 Ocotlán and More

On our way back to Oaxaca City we have a variety of treats in store en route. The biggest attraction is the huge Friday Market at **Ocotlán** where a riot of color, hordes of merchandise a symphony of Zapotec language surrounds us. From here we will visit **San Antonia Castillo Velasco** which is famous for its lovely embroidery. A stop at **San Martín Tilcajete** introduces us to *alebrijes*, the prime source for fanciful wooden creatures found the world over. **San Bartolo Coyotepec** is renowned for its black pottery (*barro negro*) which is sold throughout Mexico. In the evening we will return to Oaxaca City and Parador San Miguel, where we may enjoy a farewell dinner and overnight. (B)



Saturday, December 10

Flight Home

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. (B)

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Most airlines arrive into Oaxaca City in the late evening and depart for the US in the early morning.

As with all true adventures, these itineraries are subject to change without notice based on a variety of factors. Although NatureQuest/Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys will do our best to adhere to the scheduled itinerary, we are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions. As is the case with all true adventures, your itinerary should be considered an approximation of activities only. The itinerary may be changed subject to unexpected and worthwhile opportunities, weather, group desires, and circumstances beyond our control, etc. NatureQuest/Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys and its guides reserve the right to alter the itinerary without prior notice. Also please be aware that any voluntary changes on your part to your itinerary while in Mexico will be made at your own expense.

Land Costs Include:

- 9 Nights Accommodation based on double occupancy; single accommodations available with supplement
- Meals as designated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- 4 Days of Textile Workshops including use of the loom and all materials and equipment!
- Airport transfers as indicated
- Private sightseeing tours with bilingual guide—entrance fees
- All applicable service charges and taxes (excluding some international or domestic airport departure taxes)
- Pre-departure materials including a customized Travel Guide containing destination information, travel tips, and cultural primer

Land Costs Exclude:

- International air transportation
- Any item not specifically included in your program including all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Tips for your guide, ground staff, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional Insurance of any kind: including trip cancellation/interruption/delay, air ticket cancellation, additional medical, and lost baggage insurance; any and all expenses resulting from delays arising beyond our direct control due to bad weather, trail, river, sea, and/or road conditions, sickness, civil unrest, government action; or any other transportation delays for any reason beyond our direct control; optional activities, free-day activities, including any additional stopover arrangements not specifically included in the itinerary. We can make additional arrangements for you. Extra charges will apply.

Cost:

\$1,495 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy

For those wishing single accommodations:

Single Supplement \$300



Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain or “ordinary” tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the discerning and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. Our typical group size is limited to 10-12 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

We invite you to join us;
be a traveler, not a tourist.



We highly recommend purchasing additional insurance, including trip cancellation. We recommend Access America. To be eligible for maximum benefits, you must purchase within 2 weeks of paying your initial deposit. Please call our office for details.



Our group's wonderful weavings created on our May 2010 departure

Please call us with any questions
800-369-3033



Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys

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