



MEXICO VOLCANOES TRILOGY

Central Mexico

9-Day ITINERARY

() Parentheses designate what meals are included. Everyone is responsible for their own lunch food to allow for personal tastes; we will stop at supermarkets along the way to shop for lunch and snacks. IAG will supply group bottled water for the duration of the trip.

Day One: Arrival in Mexico City. We spend the night in a 4-star hotel near the Zocolo in the heart of the city's historic district. Everyone is responsible for their own airport transfers, which is very easy (we will provide you information on airport transfers). If you arrive early enough, there is much to see within walking distance of the hotel such as the National Cathedral, the ancient Aztec temple, and the presidential palace with the famous Diego Rivera murals. For those arriving before dinner time, you will meet your guide for dinner this evening.

Day Two: We will have a breakfast meeting at the hotel, meet our local driver, and leave Mexico City by private van transportation for La Malinche. On the way, we will visit the famous pyramids of Teotihuacan and the Pyramide del Sol, the world's 3rd largest pyramid and then have lunch in a 100 year-old restaurant located in a cave at the edge of the pyramids. Early in the evening we arrive at the resort at 10,000 feet on the slopes of La Malinche to begin our acclimating. We stay in comfortable cabins with bunk beds and hot showers. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Three: Today is summit day on La Malinche, one of the best acclimating peaks in Mexico and one of the higher peaks in central Mexico. We will have a morning climb of La Malinche (14,600 ft) which is a gradual hike with just a little talus at the top. Afterwards, we drive over to the slopes of Iztaccihuatl where we will spend the evening at a rustic resort with a great restaurant located at a trout hatchery. (Breakfast)

Day Four: Today we take an easy acclimating hike higher up on the slopes of Itza to about 15,000 ft. We spend the night in a climbers lodge with dorm style bunk beds located at about 13,000 ft and rest up for our summit attempt. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Five: Summit day on Iztaccihuatl. We wake up very early for our summit attempt and climb the “knees” route up to the Arista del Sol and on the summit. It is a long day, but rewarding and very scenic with views of the smoking volcano Popo across the way. The climb involves steep scree climbing, just a little scrambling and perhaps some use of crampons near the top depending on conditions. After descending from the summit we drive in the late afternoon to the colonial city of Puebla and check into a 4-star hotel near the main square of this beautiful city known for its fine cuisine and architecture.

(Breakfast)

Day Six: A well deserved rest day in Puebla. Activities will include a short drive to nearby Cholula to visit the largest pyramid in the world, a traditional Mexican market or just walking around downtown Puebla. In the evening we will sample some of Puebla’s fine food, the birthplace of Mole Poblano.

(Breakfast)

Day Seven: In the morning we drive over to the small town of Tlachichuca to switch to 4 wheel drive vehicles for our next objective, Pico de Orizaba. We will stay at or near the hut at Piedra Grande base camp at 14,000 feet in either the hut or in tents if the hut is crowded.

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Day Eight: Our acclimating complete and all rested up, we awake to another very early alpine start for our Orizaba summit attempt. The climb involves moderate (up to 38 degrees) terrain, and crevasse-free glacier travel with ice axe and crampons. At the top of North America's third highest peak (18,491 feet) we are rewarded with spectacular views of central Mexico. A strenuous, yet very rewarding climb! We then descend all the way back to Tlachichuca and then drive back to a 4-star hotel in the city of Puebla for a well-deserved dinner and rest. (Breakfast)

Day Nine: Travel back to Mexico City airport for afternoon flights home. We will drop you off at the terminal at the airport or in central Mexico City if you plan to stay longer. Please do not schedule any flights before 1 pm.

Itinerary subject to change