

Mushroom Festival in Oaxaca Mexico July 17-24 2018

Always a host of cultural and environmental splendor, Oaxaca has two important festivals that coincide the end of July. The *Feria de los Hongos*, or 'festival of mushrooms', directly followed by the Guelaguetza and Mezcal festivals. Crooked Trails- a non-profit travel company will bring you behind the scenes for a close up personal experience of these colorful events.

Hongo festival

At 10,000 feet in the heavily forested Sierra Norte Mountains, the ground is thick with pine needles and wild flowers, the trees are covered in epiphytic growth and succulents tower over trekkers. In this incredible fairyland, grows over 340 varieties of mushrooms. Every July, the Zapotec community of Manos Comunados celebrates the Hongos (mushrooms) with a festival and hunt. Locals and tourists go out together to collect as many as possible, followed by seminars on mycology as well as the joy of cooking the hongos in many typical meals including moles, empanadas and tamales.

Guelaguetza

The festival of *Guelaguetza* can be compared in importance to the Day of the Dead. This festival has pre-Hispanic roots within the indigenous cultures of Oaxaca, in which all communities of the state gather in celebration with parades, traditional dancing, and artisanal crafts and goods. As luck would have it, the Mezcal festival immediately follows the dances. It is a magical time to be in Oaxaca, when this beautiful colonial city comes alive with the pride of the indigenous people.

- Search for and collect mushrooms while learning from local Zapotec guides and mycology experts
- Participate in a myology classes and workshops at the annual wild mushroom festival
- Explore the fascinating colonial city of Oaxaca and experience traditional festivals
- Trek in the spectacular Sierra Norte Mountains

JULY 2018 \$1895

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