OAXACA
A WINTER CULTURAL GETAWAY IN MEXICO
January 11-17, 2016

with Rosi Song, Associate Professor of Spanish
Dear Bryn Mawr Alumnae/i, Family and Friends:

Join fellow alumnae/i travelers on an exploration of Oaxaca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Mexico’s most beautiful colonial cities. Located southeast of Mexico City and surrounded by the majestic Sierra Madre mountains, Oaxaca has a rich artistic legacy that stretches back for centuries.

Due to the remote location of towns in the Oaxaca Valley, many indigenous crafts still survive shielded from modernity. Meet with local craftspeople who will show you their ancient techniques. Embark on excursions through the countryside to craft-producing villages and explore wood-carvers’ workshops, artists’ studios, ceramicists’ homes, and weaving centers, and learn about the equipment and techniques that they use to create. Examine the architectural masterpieces of the city, including magnificently adorned convents, monasteries, and churches. At Monte Albán and Mitla, learn about Zapotec and Mixtec cultures and civilizations.

Leading our educational programming is Rosi Song, Associate Professor of Spanish at Bryn Mawr College. The tour is further enhanced by the leadership, insights, and camaraderie of our expert local guide, a cultural geography scholar with concentrations in colonial iconography and archaeology.

If you have any questions, or to make a reservation, please call 610-526-5316. You may also contact the tour operator, International Seminar Design, at 202-244-1448. Space is limited to 25 travelers, so sign up soon!

Warmest regards,

Wendy M. Greenfield
Executive Director
Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association

For Questions & Information:
ISDI (Tour Operator)
202-244-1448 or info@isditravel.com

Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association
Sarah Doody at 610-526-5316 or sdoody@brynmawr.edu
Mon, Jan 11 USA / Oaxaca
Fly to Oaxaca on independent flights. Take a private group transfer to the five-star Quinta Real Hotel. Formerly the 16th-century Convent of Santa Catalina, this luxurious hotel is a lovely colonial oasis situated in the heart of historic Oaxaca.

Tue, Jan 12 Oaxaca’s Colonial Center
Begin at Santo Domingo Church, described by Aldous Huxley as “one of the most extravagantly gorgeous churches in the world.” At the Museo Regional de Oaxaca, housed in a former Dominican monastery, see magnificent Zapotec jewelry discovered in “Tomb 7” of Monte Albán. Stroll along Oaxaca’s charming cobblestone streets to Oaxaca’s newest cultural attraction, a multi-story learning center and textile museum that is housed in the beautifully renovated Ex-convento de San Pablo. Following a welcome lunch, walk through the zócalo, the main plaza and heart of the colonial city. Visit the colorful city market, filled with mountains of flowers, hand-woven textiles, mounds of freshly ground Oaxacan chocolate, breads formed in every shape imaginable, and clusters of fresh produce, and taste Oaxaca’s world famous hot chocolate. (B, L)

Wed, Jan 13 Oaxaca & Mitla
Drive into the Oaxacan Valley to the palatial ruins of the Mitla archaeological site that features impressive stone mosaics. Original Mitla designs are incorporated into the patterns of distinctive textiles displayed in the textile market near the site. Continue to Teotitlán del Valle, a major Zapotec weaving village famous for its traditional weaving techniques and use of natural dyes. Meet one of the village’s most prominent families of weavers, and after being treated to a home-hosted lunch, learn the process of hand dying wool with natural dyes and weaving on treadle looms. (B, L)

Thu, Jan 14 Craft Villages
Travel to San Bartolo Coyotepec, known for its black ceramics, and see a private pottery demonstration in a renowned family studio. Continue to San Martín Tilcajete, home of the internationally famous Oaxacan woodcarvers. Meet a family of carvers in their home studio and examine the whimsical and imaginative styles produced by various craftspeople in the area. Oaxaqueños have carved masks and toys for hundreds of years, but recently their magical carvings have captured the imaginations of collectors.
Sat, Jan 16  Archaeological Treasures
Walk to Oaxaca’s Rufino Tamayo Museum of Pre-Hispanic Art and view this treasure trove of beautifully exhibited sculptures and artifacts. Then enjoy a free afternoon to explore Oaxaca independently. This evening, bid adiós to Oaxaca during a farewell dinner in one of Oaxaca’s best restaurants. (B, D)

Sun, Jan 17  Adiós Oaxaca
Following breakfast, join a private group airport transfer. (B)

Fri, Jan 15  Monte Albán & Craft Paper
Visit awe-inspiring Monte Albán, the ancient Zapotec capital that was inhabited for 3,000 years and became a leading center for artists and merchants. This archaeological site features a ceremonial plaza as well as a ballcourt, observatory, various tombs, and a number of pyramids. Special attention will be given to the building of Los Danzantes, one of the most evocative features of the site. Continue to Atzompa, renowned for its emerald green-glazed pottery. Following lunch, visit the Oaxaca Paper Workshop, the brainchild of famed Oaxacan artist Francisco Toledo. The main building was a textile mill from 1883 and has been beautifully restored. Observe paper being made by hand out of locally grown plants and trees before visiting the wonderful gallery. (B, L)

H. Rosi Song is Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish at Bryn Mawr College. She specializes in contemporary Spanish narrative and culture. She is co-editor of two books on politics and culture in Spain, Traces of Contamination: Unearthing the Francoist Legacy in Contemporary Spanish Discourse (Bucknell UP, 2004) and Towards a Cultural Archive of la Movida: Back to the Future (Farleigh Dickinson UP, 2014). She has published in numerous journals and critical collections about Spanish detective fiction, film, and the relationship between politics and cultural representation. She has recently completed a manuscript on the construction of memory around the Spanish political transition and is currently working on a new project on immigration and kinship in Spain.
Tour Price
Land Only: $3,595
Single Supplement: $895
Tour Price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants. Land prices are based on April 2015 quotes and are subject to change.

Quinta Real Hotel
A luxurious five-star hotel offering beautifully appointed rooms with authentic colonial touches and lovely views on the charming streets of the historic center.

Flights
Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements, round-trip to and from Oaxaca (OAX). Participants who are unable to take the group airport transfers are responsible for their own airport transfers.

Deposit & Final Payment
A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant is required to guarantee participation in the program. This may be paid by check, or by Visa or MasterCard. Final payment balance will be invoiced and is due on September 15, 2015 and must be paid by check to ISDI. Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on a space available basis with payment in full by check only.

Terms & Conditions
International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, the Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI and the Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

Cancellations & Refunds
All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and are subject to a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. Charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or by September 15, 2015: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between September 16 and November 24, 2015: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less $1,800 per person cancellation charge (includes administrative fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after November 25, 2015: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds can be issued for occasional missed meals or sightseeing tours. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors you are required to spend an additional night, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Tour cancellation-interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Trip Cancellation insurance is available through the Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association. An application will be sent to your from Bryn Mawr after your reservation is finalized. Please contact Sarah Doody with the Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association for further information on trip cancellation insurance at sdoody@brynmawr.edu or 610.526.5316.

Tour Price Inclusions
6 nights accommodations at the five-star Quinta Real: breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 1 dinner, 1 reception; lecture series; services of an ISDI tour manager; land transportation by private motorcoach; one group transfer to and from the hotel upon arrival and departure; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; expert local English-speaking guides; gratuities to local guides and drivers; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; two glasses of wine or beer with farewell dinner; bottled water daily; taxes, services, and portage fees.

Tour Price Exclusions
Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; individual transfers to and from the hotel for those not using the group transfers; airport portage; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; personal items; personal services; taxis; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for chambermaids.

OAXACA: January 11-17, 2016
Tour Registration

Name (as listed on passport)  Bryn Mawr Affiliation
Name (as listed on passport)  Bryn Mawr Affiliation

Address
Street Address
City  State  Zip

Daytime Telephone
E-mail Address
  please send mailings to my email to receive information more quickly
Number of Persons / Amount Enclosed
DEPOSIT BY:  VISA or MASTERCARD  CHECK (to International Seminar Design, Inc)
Card Number / Exp. (mm/yy)

Billing Zip Code (if different from above)

ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)
  Double Occupancy  (We prefer separate beds)
  Single Supplement ($895)
  I will share a room with ___________________________
  I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

Each participant must sign
Registration invalid without signature

SIGNATURE / DATE
SIGNATURE / DATE

Complete and return by mail or fax to:
International Seminar Design, Inc.
4115 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  Suite 101
Washington, DC 20016
Phone: (202) 244-1448 | Fax: (202) 244-1808
Email: info@isditravel.com
Tour Highlights

Enjoy specially crafted lectures by Bryn Mawr Spanish Professor Rosi Song.

Enjoy the grandeur of Spanish colonial architecture.

Experience the grandeur of Spanish colonial architecture.

Journey into the Oaxacan countryside to view firsthand traditional Mexican village life and learn about the vibrant craft traditions of the Zapotec and Mixtec cultures.

Enjoy a traditional lunch hosted by a family of weavers in their village home.

Observe chocolate making and taste authentic Oaxacan hot chocolate.

Meet with Oaxacan painters, sculptors and craftspeople at their homes and studios, and learn about the materials and methods they use to create their works.

Enjoy deluxe accommodations in Oaxaca's very best five-star hotel, a historic gem in itself.

Explore Monte Albán, an ancient Zapotec ceremonial center, and Mitla, a Mixtec palace complex.

Experience the grandeur of Spanish colonial architecture.

Observe chocolate making and taste authentic Oaxacan hot chocolate.

Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association
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Bryn Mawr, PA 19010