



MYSTERY IN OAXACA'S DAY OF THE DEAD
WITH MAGGIE STEBER

This workshop is about finding mystery in the Day of the Dead celebrations in Oaxaca and surrounding villages. This ancient ritual regards life and death through personal relations between the the living and their dead ancestors. It is an intimate relationship that pays honor and keeps the memory of loved ones alive in the most intimate of emotional tributes to ancestors to support their spiritual journey.

TRIP DURATION:
8 days, 7 nights

PRICE: 1,995 Pricing for the workshop is for a minimum of 9 participants. For a group of 7-8 participants, a supplement of \$295 USD/person might be required.

DATES:
Oct 29 - Nov 5, 2017

ACCOMMODATIONS:
Hotel Marques del Valle. Please make reservations directly with them. Be sure to mention you are part of the class.

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Our aim is to look for the mystery that takes us past the postcard photos of Day of the Dead gatherings in overcrowded cemeteries. We want to see what we have not seen before and using mystery as a way of thinking gets us closer to what this ritual means to individual families or people, how it is interpreted by each family or village, how it is a holiday that is celebrated in both light and shadow, where day falls into the night. We will visit the many cemeteries around Oaxaca as well as nearby communities. But our aim is to visually explore all facets of this ritual more deeply.

Leading up to the two main days we will work in surrounding villages as people prepare altars in their homes and go to the small cemeteries in their villages to clean and decorate the gravesites. Families gather to reminisce and help with preparations. People go to church. Usually on Oct. 31, families build altars to the children who have passed. That day is called Dia de los Angelitos or Dia de Los Inocentes. On the second day, dead adults are honored and that is called Dia de los Muertos. In taking a closer more intimate look at the meaning of the Day of the Dead, we look at the larger relationship of life to death, a powerful backdrop of thought for this fascinating celebration

In preparation we will look at the work of photographers who have woven an air of mystery into their photographs, including my work from *The Secret Garden of Lily LaPalma*. We will do a couple of class exercises on the first day of class when we all meet that will help set the tone for the workshop. We will also have guest photographer presentations in the evenings.

Each participant meets with Maggie for one-on-ones each day by appointment to look at your work and discuss your approach. These one-on-one meetings are extremely helpful and exciting and move you further and faster toward your visual goals. There might be one or two days when the class gathers but most of your time should be spent shooting and editing with me. On some days we will

also go to some areas as a group but break up when we arrive to go shoot.

We have contacts in surrounding villages to help participants find families or events, as well as guides and interpreters. We also have many contacts in the larger communities and can help introduce you to the places you want to photograph.

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Participants should bring 10 to 15 images of their own which we will review as a class that first day. In these images, Maggie will look for how you shoot and to see what you find interesting so she can decide how to be of the most assistance to you during the week. We will discuss ideas and focus them. Focusing an idea is one of the hardest things to do and this will be a helpful lesson. The remaining days will be spent shooting photos and coming to meet individually with Maggie to class to edit and discuss your progress and what might come next. We will meet as a class in midweek to share how everyone is progressing. We will also discuss the business aspects of photography. If participants are working on longer term projects, please bring them for Maggie to review with you.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This workshop is for intermediate to advanced photographers.

REQUIREMENTS

Participants must own their own camera equipment, including laptop for digital shooters, a backup drive, memory stick and sufficient memory cards and batteries to shoot for an entire day. Film shooters must bring their own film since film is difficult and expensive to purchase in Oaxaca.

DATES & LOCATION

The workshop starts the evening of Sunday, October 29th and ends in the evening of Sunday, November 5th.

Oaxaca, Mexico is served by Aeromexico and Continental Airlines, among other local airlines like Viva Aerobus. Connection through Mexico City, Cancun, Houston, or Atlanta is usually required.

ABOUT MAGGIE STEBER



Maggie Steber is a documentary photographer known for her humanistic stories of people and cultures. She is a National Geographic Woman of Vision and has worked in 66 countries, producing cultural stories as well as significant work on Haiti, Native Americans, and the sciences of sleep and memory loss. She has photographed for 30 years in Haiti. Aperture published her monograph entitled *DANCING ON FIRE: Photographs from Haiti*. She also published work on her mother's dementia in *Rite of Passage* which was also made onto a multimedia project for MediaStorm.

Steber's photographs are included in many private and public collections including the Library of Congress. She was Assistant Managing Editor for Photography and Features at The Miami Herald from 1999-2003 and has served as judge on many competition and grant panels including the Pulitzer Prize Committee for Photography for 2015, World Press Photo, the Alexia Grant, the Alicia Patterson Grant, Pictures of the Year, and the Getty-Instagram Grant.

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She regularly teaches workshops at the World Press Photo Master Classes in Amsterdam, the Foundry Workshop, LOOK3 Photo Festival, Bursa Photo Festival in Turkey, and the Leica Akademie USA. Clients include National Geographic Magazine, The New York Times, Smithsonian, The New Yorker and many American and European publications

Honors include:

- Leica Medal of Excellence
- The Overseas Press Club's Rebbot Award for Best Reporting from Abroad
- Medal of Honor for her Contribution to Journalism from the Univ. of Missouri
- First Prize in World Press Photo
- First Prize in World Press Photo and Pictures of the Year
- The Ernst Haas Grant
- The Alicia Patterson Grant
- The Knight Foundation Grant

www.maggiesteber.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

To reserve space in this workshop, a \$500 per person deposit is required at the time of making the reservation. Deposits are due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Final payment is due no later than 60 days prior to departure unless indicated otherwise in the description of the tour or workshop. All payments must be made by credit card or wire transfer to PhotoXpeditions, LLC, and instructions for payments will be mailed upon confirmation of participation.

PhotoXpeditions reserves the right to cancel a reservation if full payment has not been received by 60 days prior to departure. For reservations made within 60 days of the departure date, full payment is required when the reservation is accepted. All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of the postmark. If you cancel 90 days or more prior to departure, a refund less an administrative fee equal to 50% of your deposit will be made. Per person charges for

cancellations that occur less than 90 days prior to departure are as follows:

60–90 days prior to departure: 100% of your deposit amount;

45–60 days prior to departure: 50% of the expedition cost;

45 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of the workshop cost.

PhotoXpeditions reserves the right of canceling the workshop at any time if the minimum amount of students required for the workshop is not reached. If a workshop needs to be cancelled for this reason, a full refund will be given to all participants.

If you need more information or have questions, give us a call or drop us an email, we will respond promptly.

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