

## Tangos, Tequila & Xocolate - January 2020

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I am excited to officially announce QuinTango's next Fans & Friends trip – Tangos, Tequila & Xocolate. In January 2020 we will be visiting the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico, known for haciendas, *cenotes*, and Mayan archaeological sites. Our bonus trip will be four days in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato. I have just returned from 10 days finalizing details for the trip and I can promise an amazing adventure with great tango concerts, stunning ruins, and many surprises.

**SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE: January 9 - 13** (optional pre-trip). San Miguel de Allende is a UNESCO World Heritage site, a colonial gem in Mexico's historic *Bajío*, and an ex-pat magnet three hours north of Mexico City.

### DAY ONE: Thursday, January 9 -

Your first impression: narrow streets plunging to a town center dominated by a Gothic cathedral, intriguing shop windows, history everywhere. If you are like most of us, you immediately fall in love! Our home for the next four days is [Hacienda Santuario](#), a series of colonial *casonas* cobbled together with art-filled arches and stairways; every room is named (no room numbers), every room is different. Overnight: Hacienda Santuario, San Miguel de Allende



San Miguel street scene.

**DAY TWO: Friday, January 10 - QUINTANGO CONCERT** tonight at the historic [Angela Peralta theater](#). During the day, a walking tour of San Miguel with a local guide and free time. We can arrange optional trips to the hot springs/caves, an olive farm, or an archaeological site (*Cañada de la Virgen*). Overnight: Hacienda Santuario, San Miguel de Allende

**DAY THREE: Saturday, January 11 - QuinTango** is a participant in the One Heart Celebration, an event exploring the ways in which we bond through music, food, and art. There will be One Heart activities all weekend that you may attend - cooking, yoga, music, a *charra* event at a local ranch. Our guests will have an all-event pass. Since there is



Hotel Santuario - San Miguel

always something going on in the streets of San Miguel, you may prefer to just hang out and watch what happens. Overnight: Hacienda Santuario, San Miguel de Allende

**DAY FOUR: Sunday, January 12 - CONCERT at [ZANDUNGA](#) -**

This jazz brunch in the country is organized by guitarist Gil Gutierrez and his wife Rebecca. Chill vibe, great jazz, and on this Sunday the added attraction of a QuinTango performance! In the evening we are invited to the local *milonga* at a biker bar (no leather required). Then it's time to pack up for our trip to the Yucatan where we will meet the rest of our travelers and experience an entirely different Mexican vibe. Travel arrangements for SMA guests to get from SMA to Merida will be made by QuinTango. Overnight: Hacienda Santuario, San Miguel de Allende



[Rancho Zandungo](#)

**YUCATAN: January 13 - 22**



[Mansion on Paseo de Montejo](#)

**DAY FIVE: Monday, January 13** - After settling into our [hotel in Merida](#), we will have [dinner on Calle 47](#), an energetic hub of new restaurants and bars near the [Paseo de Montejo](#), the luxurious central boulevard inspired by the Champs Elysees. Yucatecan cuisine is a far cry from TexMex - get ready for pumpkin seeds, *pibil* (Mayan-style BBQ), great seafood and tropical fruit reductions. [Micaela's](#) - the restaurant in the link - is my current choice for our opening dinner, but there are other contenders. It's a great neighborhood! Overnight: Fiesta Americana Hotel, Merida

**DAY SIX: Tuesday, January 14** - QUINTANGO CONCERT tonight at the [Palacio de la Musica](#). During the day we will get to know Merida, including the historic market and the [world-class Maya Museum](#) (this link will also give you an idea of the number of

great museums in Merida that you can explore on your own). *La Oficina de Cultura del Estado de Yucatan* is hosting a dinner for us tonight – QuinTango and you all are the honored guests. Overnight: Fiesta Americana Hotel, Merida

**DAY SEVEN: Wednesday, January 15 -**

Beach day (Gulf side) at the [Celestun biosphere](#), known for its flamingo colony, mangroves, and ancient salt mining. We'll take boats into the mangroves in search of flamingos. The adventure ends on the beach - cold beer (or *Micheladas*, the current Mexican favorite of lime juice and beer in a frosted, chile/salt-rimmed mug) and great food under a *palapa* (thatched roof) at [los Pompanos](#) (this link is a fun read about how you would have traveled here if you were much younger; there's a photo of Pompanos and some astute observations - but we've upgraded your accommodations for this trip). Dinner on your own back in Merida - so many restaurants to explore! QuinTango rehearsal with students from the local music school tonight - Escuela Superior de las Artes de Yucatan - open rehearsal; you are invited. Overnight: Fiesta Americana Hotel, Merida



Palacio de la Música

**DAY EIGHT: Thursday, January 16 - QUINTANGO CONCERT** tonight at the city's most popular auditorium right in the city center, *el Centro Cultural Olimpo*.

Both Merida concerts are part of the month-long Festival de Merida, a celebration of the city's founding on January 6, 1542 by Francisco Montejo. This is our last day in Merida; we are leaving you time to shop, visit a few more museums, pack and rest up for the concert. Dinner on your own. Overnight: Fiesta Americana Hotel, Merida



el Centro Cultural Olimpo

**DAY NINE: Friday, January 17 -**

Today we time travel. First we visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of [Uxmal](#), a Mayan site of great beauty. Our guide has promised some surprises en route (if we have time) - a chocolate museum, a tortilla maker and an artist. We lunch at Uxmal and then take up residence in a 16th century



henequen hacienda, [Hacienda Temozon](#). Bill Clinton and George Bush both overnighted here with their wives (If anyone is interested in upgrading to the [Casa del patron](#), talk to me - it's an amazing suite with a private terrace, its own pool, and of course bragging rights).



[Chicxulub \(circle\)](#)

QuinTango will host a cocktail hour with a talk by Dr. Singer on the geology of Yucatan, including the story of the [Chicxulub](#) asteroid that left a 100-mile wide cenote-ringed crater, plunged the earth into an ice age and most likely caused the demise of the dinosaurs, paving the way for mammals (that would be US!). And this happened 25 km from our hotel! You must hear this story. Dinner at Temozon. Overnight: Hacienda Temozon

**DAY TEN: Saturday, January 18** - QUINTANGO CONCERT tonight at an 1833 opera house in the city of Campeche. The [historic center of Campeche](#), the Yucatan's first port (1521) and now a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a grid of narrow streets and multi-colored facades ringed by the wall the Spanish built to keep out marauding pirates. The Puerta de Tierra opens onto the modern city and the Puerta de Mar exits onto the stunning



[historic center of Campeche](#)

*malecon* (equivalent of a boardwalk). We will have time to wander, lunch on our own and then relax with drinks and munchies on



[Teatro Paula Toro](#)

the roof of the 16th century *Hacienda Puerta Campeche* before strolling to the theater for the concert. Bus ride back to Temozon – a long but memorable day! Overnight: Hacienda Temozon

**DAY ELEVEN: Sunday, January 19** - Today we kick back and enjoy the grandeur and history of Hacienda Temozon. We have use of the [private cenote \(watch video\)](#) and possibly a brunch with a QuinTango CONCERT (under negotiation). We will tour the old henequen machinery shop and learn how sisal made this the wealthiest state in Mexico, a distinction that ended in the mid-twentieth century. Overnight: Hacienda Temozon

**DAY TWELVE: Monday, January 20** - You can choose between the Mayan archaeological sites of [Chichen Itza](#) and [Coba](#) today on our way to Valladolid. Both



Mayan restaurant



Casa de los Venados



sites are spectacular, but in very different ways. (We can talk about these differences and help you decide). Dinner at a Mayan restaurant, with an explanation of the ingredients and cooking techniques. You will want to bring a camera to catch the tortilla maker patting out her perfect circles with precision and speed. Overnight: Meson del Marques, Valladolid

**DAY THIRTEEN: Tuesday, January 21 -** QUINTANGO CONCERT tonight at the home of [Dorianne & John Venator](#), owners and creators of the [Casa de los Venados](#). The Venators have generously offered to host our last night, with a concert and gala reception in their beautiful colonial home/museum. During the day QuinTango will be doing an outreach program for the US Embassy - to be organized by the US Consul General in Merida. We'll fill you in when we get our "orders." You can come with us or hang out in Valladolid shopping and sitting in the cafes. Overnight: Meson del Marques, Valladolid

**DAY FOURTEEN: January 22 -** Valladolid to Cancun. Home! Return flights mid-afternoon (Valladolid is 2 hours from airport).

## DETAILS

**WEATHER:** San Miguel - the weather will be beautiful (sunny and '70's), but cool at night (it's 6000 feet); the Yucatan will be warm, sunny and divine - 80's by day and high 60's at night.

**TRIP COST:** \$2600 Yucatan trip (double occupancy) with \$700 single supplement; \$1400 San Miguel (double occupancy) with \$300 single supplement

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:**

- September 15 - \$2000 due for Yucatan trip
- November 1 - \$1400 due for San Miguel pre-trip
- December 1 – single supplements due (\$300 San Miguel; \$700 Yucatan)
- January 1 – balance due \$500 (= \$600 for Yucatan minus pre-paid \$100 deposit)
- REFUND: 50% refund until November 1
- TRAVEL INSURANCE strongly recommended

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS:**

QuinTango will handle all travel from your arrival at the airport in Mexico to your departure. That includes transfers to hotels and transport to activities. PLANE TICKETS: You are responsible for purchasing your round-trip air ticket. San Miguel travelers will fly into Queretaro (QRO) and out of Cancun (CUN). (QuinTango will take care of flights from central Mexico to the Yucatan for these travelers.) Travelers going to the Yucatan only will fly in and out of Cancun. We have arranged with Gene Lily of Travel Resources to make these reservations for you. You of course can make your own arrangements, but I suggest you start by talking to Gene, as he is best able to get us all in and out of the airports at similar times. He is handling all QuinTango's tickets. His email is [gene@travelresources.biz](mailto:gene@travelresources.biz). Now is the time to arrange the tickets – from DC the fare, as of 19 August 2019, is less than \$500 for our dates.

**OUR MISSION:** Fans & Friends started 17 years ago with a group of concert-goers who wanted to accompany QuinTango to Buenos Aires. We are now on our tenth trip and have visited nine countries. Our Fans & Friends have become our family. When we meet with locals at receptions, concerts, and dinners, stereotypes on both sides are smashed. Our consul general in Merida said, after I described our trip, "You are reaching people in a way we cannot - we talk about immigration and papers; you bring your art. This is invaluable diplomacy." You all - our Fans & Friends – are a huge part of this diplomacy and our mission. Together we can make a difference

To save a place on the trip, please send a deposit of \$100 (check to QuinTango, 812 W Braddock, Alexandria VA 22302) with your name as it appears on your passport, your home address, email address and cell number. Call me if you have questions (571-241-7683). So excited about this trip!

*Joan*

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