

## **DISCOVERY**



## **Mexico,** The colonial cities north of Mexico City: San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Queretaro, Morelia



**Directed by Jacques Vichet** 

A documentary of 52'

French version English version High Definition HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

The architectural evidence of the fusion of indigenous and Spanish cultures, Mexico's colonial towns are concentrated in the central region.

San Miguel de Allende cumulates masterpieces of baroque architecture.

An extremely hybrid city, it mixes Spanish, Creole and Amerindian cultures. Most of its religious and civil monuments were erected during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, such as the Atotonilco sanctuary.

Classified as a World Heritage Site, its calm and colours attract many visitors.

The main square and its paved streets are bordered with cafés, shops and galleries. The particularly beautiful 17<sup>th</sup> century church, the "Parroquia", should be noted for its bright colours combined with its Gothic style.

Guanajuato is the symbol of a free town. It was here that the first victory was won in the fight for independence.

Located in a setting of incredible natural beauty, the romantic atmosphere of the town is enhanced by its little alleyways and plazas.

It was in Queretaro that the preliminary drafts for the project of Mexican Independence were laid out in 1810. A profoundly historic town, its streets and monuments send you 200 years back in time.

One example is the San Francisco convent, one of the oldest colonial buildings in Mexico, but there are many other sites: the Square of Independence, the Palacio Municipal, the Casa de la Cultura, Santa Clara, San Augustin and Santa Rosa de Viterbo.

Morelia is the most artistic of all of the colonial cities. The baroque cathedral, which dominates the main square, is considered to be one of the most elegant religious structures in Mexico.