

## **DISCOVERY**



## **Mexico,** The colonial cities south of Mexico City: Oaxaca, Puebla, Taxco, San Cristobal de las Casas and Monte Alban



**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.

Perched over 1500m in altitude, Oaxaca is one of Mexico's architectural gems. Its town-centre, in the colonial style, combines the liveliest colours, making it a warm and lively place.

As Mexico's cultural centre, theatre, arts and lithography schools dominate the city.

Puebla, city of angels, was created by the Spanish in 1531. This origin is made clear in the architecture of the buildings, the churches, the schools...

The zócalo, or Plaza de la Constitución, became a UNESCO world heritage site in 1987. Puebla's cathedral is the country's highest and regroups the essence of Mexico's architectural influences. From Renaissance to neo-classicism, the styles combine into a unique treasure.

San Cristobal de la Casa is Chiapas's oldest Spanish city. The Andador Eclesiastico street crosses the city from north to south, starting with the Templo de Carmen in the Moorish style and ending with Santo Domingo.

Colours are what set the city apart from others, and the famous San Cristobal de las Casas cathedral is no exception, showing its illuminated tinted faces.

Taxco is a colonial city filled with surprises. This charming verdant village seems peacefully lost in the mountains. Santa Prisca church is one of the town's treasures, with a pink face and its baroque style. Silverware is one of the city's traditions. It brought artisans to make jewellery, masks, plates and belts .

Monte Alban is an archaeological Zapotec site of great importance. Built by the Olmec around 500BC, it is mainly made up of step pyramids, steles and tombs, and overlooks the entire Oaxaca Valley.

Monte Alban was the political, economic and spiritual center of the Zapotec.