

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE MEXICO

Like a living museum, this hillside city abounds with architecture and art you can truly immerse yourself in.

stay At the Arcos del Atascadero bed-and-breakfast, five rooms, each named for a local flower, surround a lush multilevel garden and a small solar-heated swimming pool. The morning meal may include tamales and fruit plucked from trees on the property (301/591-4129, bedandbreakfastinmexico.com, doubles with private bath from \$80).

eat Drop by Mama Mia, where the stiff drinks and eclectic menu—everything from fajitas to prosciutto pizza—have made it a favorite with locals since 1975 (011-52/415-152-3679, mamamia.com.mx, entrées from \$9). Or snag a rooftop table at the pricier La Capilla for worth-it views of La Parroquia cathedral (011-52/415/152-0698, entrées from \$15).

do For more than 50 years, the public library has sponsored a weekly house and garden tour, granting access to some of the prettiest private residences in the city (011-52/415-152-0293, bibliotecasma.com, \$15).

splurge Sign up for a five-day plein-air painting class with American expat Frank Gardner, and learn how to capture the picturesque landscapes of San Miguel on canvas (frankgardner.com, \$530 including instruction, transportation, and lunch, but not lodging). —Lena Katz

