

Novelist A.C. Frieden Searches for Scenes in Historical Mexican Town

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, Mexico (May 25, 2010) – Chicago-based novelist A.C. Frieden arrived in the central Mexican town of San Miguel de Allende, partly to research scenes for an upcoming thriller. San Miguel de Allende was founded in 1542 by the Franciscan friar Juan de San Miguel and remains one of the most well preserved examples of Mexico's colonial past. In its heyday, the town was an important stopover on the *Antiguo Camino Real*, part of the silver route from Zacatecas. "In addition to its history, it has its unique local vibe, unlike the rest of the country, something that would be interesting to blend into a novel," Frieden said.



Photo above: Author A.C. Frieden walks along the cobblestone streets of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

The town hosts several stunning colonial-era buildings, including *La Parroquia* (the Parish Church) and the *Templo de San Rafael*. An important site is *El Jardín*, the main town square facing the church. In 2008, San Miguel was designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, adding to its already well known historical significance. With its narrow cobblestone streets, colonial architecture, quaint shops and tranquil feel, San Miguel de Allende has become one of the most desirable retirement destinations for U.S. and Canadians, and it also has a growing tourism industry, all while preserving its splendid colonial heritage.

San Miguel de Allende is also one of the key sites in the Mexican Independence movement that began in 1810. In particular, it is the birthday of Ignacio de Allende, a captain in the Spanish colonial army who became one of the founders of the revolution. He fought along with Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla in the first stages of the struggle, eventually succeeding him in leadership of the rebellion. Following an ambush by Spanish authorities at the Wells of Baján (*Norias de Baján*) Allende, Hidalgo, and several other commanders were captured. Allende was tried and then executed by firing squad on June 26, 1811, before his dream of independence became reality. Today, the house where he was born, located at the Plaza Mayor, is a museum.



Photos above (left): Novelist A.C. Frieden found a convenient way to explore the historic sites of San Miguel de Allende; **(right)** In the center of town is the “Jardin” and the main church, La Parroquia.

Photo below: Author A.C. Frieden attended a bullfight in the Plaza del Toros Oriente, in the historic town of San Miguel de Allende.



About the author: A.C. Frieden is a Swiss-Brazilian novelist and lawyer living in Chicago. He is currently working on several political novels and thrillers, including a sequel to his latest thriller *Tranquility Denied*, as well as various non-fiction literary projects. For more information, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his literary travel blog.

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