

Mexico

CHIAPAS

MUNDO MAYA



ENGLISH VERSION

 **CONACULTA**



Instituto Nacional
de Antropología
e Historia



PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAÍCES

The Pila, Chiapa de Corzo.

Tuxtla Gutiérrez



In this city, capital of the State from 1892, you can find either modern buildings or jungle spaces like the **Zoo of Miguel Alvarez del Toro** and the **Botanical Garden**. It also has several temples and historical monuments and has the **Regional Museum of Anthropology and History** with notable cultural collections of the State.

Chiapa de Corzo



Founded on the site that priory occupied, this colonial city was the first capital of the State. Its attractions include the archaeological site, the **former convent of Santo Domingo**, believed to be one of the first of its class in Chiapas, and the **Fuente de la Reina** or **the Pila**, both built in the second half of the 16th century.

San Cristóbal de las Casas



Founded in 1528 by Diego de Mazariegos, it is one of the most beautiful colonial cities of Mexico for its cobbled streets, its red tiled houses, its religious buildings, squares and civic buildings. These buildings, largely between the 16th and 19th centuries, are a true showcase of the artistic styles of the colony as the plateresque, baroque and neoclassical. Among its main buildings are the **Cathedral**, completed in 1533 and remodeled several times afterwards and the **former Convent and Temple of Santo Domingo**, an architectural jewel of the 16th century. The city also has several museums.



PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAÍCES

San Cristóbal de las Casas.

Cañón del Sumidero



Impressive natural formation, whose walls reach up to 800 m height. At the bottom of the canyon flows the mighty Grijalva River plentiful in water amidst lush vegetation. If you travel by boat you can see waterfalls, caves and a huge diversity of species of birds and reptiles.



Cañón del Sumidero.
PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAÍCES

Palenque



In this important Mayan city not only you can admire a vast and complex set of buildings of extraordinary quality, but enjoy the jungle atmosphere in which the site is located. The city reached its boom in the Late Classic Period (700 to 900 AD), when most of the buildings that are now were built. At that time it was a major center that spread its influence through the war and marriage alliances of its ruling group with the ones of other locations along the Usumacinta River. The site is amazing for its beautiful sculptural art, its rich heritage of hieroglyphic inscriptions and buildings such as the **Temple of the Inscriptions**, the **Palace** and the ones of the **Grupo de las Cruces** (Group of Crosses).



The Palace, Palenque.
PHOTO: MIGUEL AUTREY / RAÍCES



PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAÍCES

Tzotzil girl, Zinacantán.

Misol Ha



In this place, surrounded by rainforests and mahogany trees, chicozapotes and water sticks, is a waterfall of 30 m height.

San Juan Chamula



It is a small Tzotzil population. Its inhabitants preserved their original language and their ancient social system, whose hierarchy is reflected in the clothing. In February they celebrate the Chamula or *Kin taji-multic* carnival, which combines pre-hispanic elements with the Catholic religion.



PHOTO: BOB SCHALKWIK / RAÍCES

San Juan Chamula.

Toniná



It is a great Mayan City of the Classic Period (200-900 AD). The sacred space of Toniná is a huge artificial mountain built on a small natural mountain range, which was modified to create seven huge platforms on which were built temples and palaces, forming a monumental labyrinth of more than 70 m tall.

Around the great **Acropolis**, and throughout the valley, the areas for rooms and cultivation were distributed. Toniná is also remarkable for its large number of stone and stucco engraved monuments, which relates the history of the place, illustrating the complex cosmogony of the Mayans.

Zinacantán



It is a Tzotzil village which during pre-hispanic times was an important trade center. Following this tradition, today it is a major supplier and exporter of flowers, in addition to being recognized by its bright red textiles. Like other Tzotzil and Tzeltal people of the Highlands of Chiapas as **Tenejapa**, **Ocosingo**, **Oxchuc**, and **Amatenango del Valle**, the inhabitants of Zinacantán preserve their usages and customs inherited from their ancestors.

CHIAPAS



- TOURIST ATTRACTIONS**
- ★ CAPITAL CITY
 - POPULATION
 - 🏛️ ARCHEOLOGICAL ZONE
 - 🌿 NATURAL AREA
 - 🏖️ BEACH
 - 🛣️ DIVIDED HIGHWAY
 - 🛣️ TOLL MOTORWAY
 - 🛣️ SECONDARY HIGHWAY
 - 🛣️ ROAD

- PLACE OF INTEREST**
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 🏛️ HERITAGE OF HUMANITY | 🏰 LIGHTHOUSE |
| 🏛️ MAGICAL TOWN | 🏛️ MONUMENT |
| 🏛️ CIVIL ARCHITECTURE | 👤 NATIVE PEOPLE |
| 🏛️ RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE | 👤 HANDICRAFTS |
| 🏛️ MILITARY ARCHITECTURE | 👤 GASTRONOMY |
| 🏛️ SQUARE | 👤 FESTIVITY |
| 🏛️ ESTATE | 🛣️ ROUTE |
- Note: These symbols refer to places described in this guide.

Yaxchilán.
PHOTO: MICHAEL CALDERWOOD / RAICES



Yaxchilán

This site combines splendid monuments with a real jungle, exceptionally well preserved and formed by an enormous variety of plants and animal species. Yaxchilán is one of the great Mayan cities of the Late Classic (700 – 900 AD), noteworthy for its large and well-preserved stone sculpture, consisting of stelae and lintels. They show various events and activities, such as ritual self-sacrifice ceremonies carried out by the rulers of the place and by their families. The core of the settlement is known as the **Gran Plaza** and is comprised of two important sets: the **great Acropolis** and the **small Acropolis**, built - as other groups of the site - using and transforming the topography of the place.

Bonampak

Although all the cities of the Mayan area surely possessed murals, none have been preserved as in Bonampak, a settlement of the Classic Period (200-900 AD). The murals, found in **Building 1**, represent sev-



Building 1, Bonampak.

PHOTO: MICHAEL CALDERWOOD / RAICES



Las Nubes.
PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAICES

eral scenes that narrate a single story that includes a battle, its aftermath and the celebration of the victory.

Montes Azules

Huge natural reserve which covers 331 200 has. It is the largest tropical rainforest of Mexico.

Although it occupies less than 1% of the national territory, it is the home of about 20% of the country's biological diversity with around 500 species of vascular plants and many types of vegetation, as well as a wide variety of animal species.



PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAICES

Tzotzil textile, San Andrés Larráinzar.

HANDICRAFTS

The significant presence of indigenous population gives the regional handicrafts, elaborated in all sorts of materials, a particular character of authenticity. **Textiles** represent one of the best expressions, because not only are they made by abiding to traditional techniques, but are imbued with a worldview that goes back to pre-hispanic times. These textiles are made in virtually all the indigenous communities of the State. **Masks** as the **Parachicos** are mainly made with **wood**. It is a special place for the **lacquer technique**, because Chiapas is one of the few places where this craft tradition persists, and the use of amber, a material that is only found in this region.

Comitán de Domínguez.
PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO



Comitán de Domínguez

It is one of the most attractive cities of Chiapas. Its name in Mayan is Balún Canán –“nine stars or guardians”- and in Nahuatl Comitán means “place of potters”. This village keeps one important architectural heritage. Among the most interesting buildings are the **Temple of Santo Domingo**, built in 1678 and the **Temple of San Sebastian** of 1525. In the main square we can find the **Theater of the City Junchavín** and the typical wooden Comitacan gates.

El Triunfo

It is a biosphere reserve with an area of 119 000 has enclaved in the Sierra Madre (Spanish for “mother mountain range”). Due to its foggy forests and for the different climates, ecosystems and soil classes, besides of its abundant flora and fauna, it is considered one of the North American sites with the major biodiversity. Among its peculiar species are the pavon and the quetzal.

Tapachula

It is the principal city of the Mexican Southern border. It was the arrival point of European and Asian immigrants and has architectural monuments with details of art deco, wood, colors and pilasters. It is recommended to visit the **Palacio Municipal** or city hall, the **Parrish of San Agustín**, the **Hidalgo Park**, the **Archeological Museum of Soconusco**, the

Figueroa Theater and the Caiman Zoo, among other attractions.

The Coastline

Along the Pacific coast of Chiapas are several villages as **Puerto Madero** and **Puerto Arista**, and beaches surrounded by exuberant vegetation. Likewise, in this zone are located various ranches that produce the famous coffee of Chiapas.



PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

Traditional dishes.

GASTRONOMY

The cuisine of Chiapas is full of intense flavors. Its food is handmade as the **ball pucxaxé** of the Zoque people. The list of products is immense and includes the **tamale of chipilín**, the **bread** of San Cristóbal de las Casas and the sweets like the sigh or “**suspiro**” and the **pucxi-nú**, made with honey and corn.

San Cristóbal, the **sausage** of Comitán, the “**big food**” of Chiapa de Corzo or the **pucxaxé** of the Zoque people. The list of products is immense and includes the **tamale of chipilín**, the **bread** of San Cristóbal de las Casas and the sweets like the sigh or “**suspiro**” and the **pucxi-nú**, made with honey and corn.

YOU MUST...!

- Walk by San Cristóbal de las Casas
- Visit the Temple of the Inscriptions in Palenque
- Admire the paintings of Bonampak
- Climb to the Acropolis of Toniná
- Admire the lintels of Yaxchilán
- Go to the Church of San Juan Chamula
- Visit Zinacantán
- Buy embroidered textiles in Los Altos villages
- Visit Agua Azul and the Montebello lagoons
- Eat the sweets called “suspiros” and the bread of San Cristóbal de las Casas

Tourist Information

Tourist Information Booth at Plaza de las Artesanías, Av. Juárez corner with Abasolo, CP 29960, Palenque, Chiapas, +52-916 345 0356

Tourist Information Booth at the International Airport Angel Albino Corzo, Km 12.48 Highway Vergel-Aeropuerto without number, Col. Francisco Sarabia, CP 29176, Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, 01 800 280 3500, +52 967 678 6570/678 1467

Tourist Information Booth No. 201, Av. Insurgentes without number, Downtown, in front the Market of Sweets and Handicrafts, cp 29200, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, 01 800 280 3500/+52 967 678 6570/678 1467

Tourist Information Booth at Plaza de las Instituciones “Cabeza Maya”, Blvd. Belisario Domínguez No. 950, Building of Plaza de las Instituciones, Col. Xamaipak, CP 29060, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, 01 800 280 3500 / +52 961 617 0550, ext. 66323

Tourist Information Booth at “Torre Chiapas”, Blvd. Andrés Serra Rojas No. 1090, Paso Limón, CP 29045, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, 01 800 280 3500 / +52 961 617 0550, ext. 66323

Office of Conventions and Visitors of Chiapas, Convention Center and Polyforum of Chiapas, Calz. Andrés Serra Rojas, Libramiento Norte without number, Col. El Retiro, CP 29040, Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, +52 9616140976 - 79, ventas@ocvchiapas.com

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