

MEXICO

OAXACA

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ENGLISH VERSION

 CONACULTA



Instituto Nacional
de Antropología
e Historia

Oaxaca



The Historic Center of Oaxaca, a city founded in 1529, is one of the most beautiful and best preserved in all of Mexico. The harmonious grid layout is a superb example of colonial period town planning. Named a World Heritage Site, Oaxaca has some 1200 historical monuments of diverse types reflecting the city's evolution from the 16th to early 20th centuries. It has major religious buildings such



PHOTO: GERARDO GONZÁLEZ RUIZ/FRANCES

Genealogical tree. Former Convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán.

as the **Metropolitan Cathedral**, dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption; the **Basilica of Nuestra Señora de la Soledad**; the former **Convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán** housing the **Oaxaca Museum of Cultures**, the **Historical Ethnobotanical Garden**, and the **Fray Francisco de Burgoa Library**; the **Church of San Felipe Neri**; the **Church of San Juan de Dios**, and the former **Convent of Santa Catarina de Siena**, the second monastery in New Spain. Other monuments include the **Church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves** and its important collection of religious art; the **Church of La Merced**; the **Church** and former **Convent of El Carmen Alto**; the **Church of the Preciosa Sangre de Cristo**, and the **Church of San Cosme y Damián**. Oaxaca also has many cultural spaces, such as the **Santo Domingo Cultural Center**, **Macedonio Alcalá Theatre**; the **Rufino Tamayo**



PHOTO: EDITH GONZÁLEZ

Former Convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán.

Pre-Hispanic Art Museum; the **Juárez House Museum**; the **Museum of Contemporary Art of Oaxaca**; the **Graphic Arts Institute of Oaxaca**; and the **Macedonio Alcalá Tourist Corridor**. Other sights of interest are the **Xochimilco Arches**, the **Plaza of the Dance**, the **Socrates Garden**, the **Benito Juárez** (folk art) and **20 de Noviembre** (food) markets. At **Cerro del Fortín** the annual **Guelaguetza** music and dance extravaganza is held.

Monte Albán



Declared a World Heritage Site, Monte Albán was one of the most important cities in ancient Mesoamerica. During its peak, the city of Monte Albán housed a population of some 35,000 people. Other Zapotec archaeological zones open to the public are **Mitla**, **San José Mogote**, **Dainzú**, **Lambityeco**, **Yagul**, and **Zaachila**. In fact, **Mitla** was the Zapotec religious capital at the time of the conquest and its building complex is regarded as one of the most beautiful examples of pre-Hispanic architecture.



PHOTO: EDITH GONZÁLEZ

Monte Albán.

Santa María del Tule



The home of the Tule Tree, an enormous cypress said to be more than 2000 years old, and the Church of **Santa María de la Asunción**.



PHOTO: JESUS GONZÁLEZ/FRANCES

Santa María del Tule.

Ocotlán



Visit the **Church** and former **Convent of Santo Domingo**, built in the 16th century with its magnificent **Chapel of the Señor de la Sacristía**, decorated with plant motifs, and the **Rodolfo Morales Cultural Foundation** dedicated to the eminent 20th century painter born in this town.



PHOTO: SECTUR OAXACA

Ex Convento de Santo Domingo, Ocotlán.

Cuilapan



It houses an impressive, although incomplete, 16th century Dominican convent complex dedicated to **Saint James the Apostle**. Another highlight is the **Martín Cortés Country Estate**, where General Vicente Guerrero was held prisoner and was shot in 1831.

Hierve el Agua



An unusual natural spot featuring **fossilized waterfalls** towering some 12 and 30m (39 and 98ft.) high that were formed by water from springs on the cliffs above.

San Miguel Amatlán



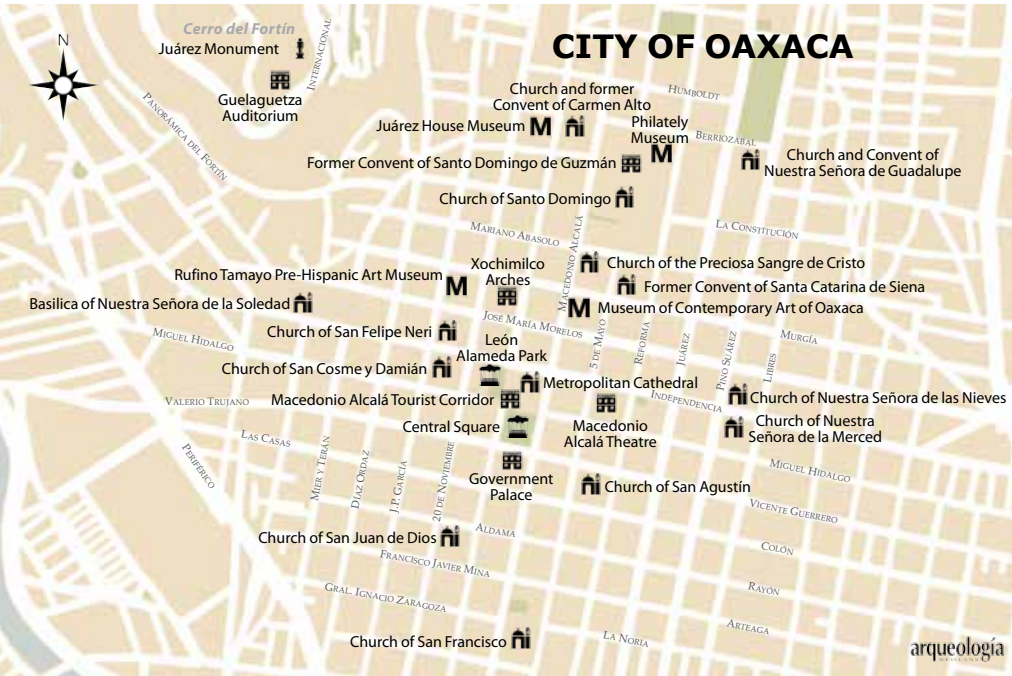
Surrounded by a zone of natural wealth, it's a great option for ecotourism. Visit the former **Ha-**

cienda Cinco Señores, **Las Minas**, the **Peña Blanca Lookout**, and the **Santa Ana River**.

Guelatao



A small Zapotec town, the birthplace of Benito Juárez, the Father of the Nation. Go to the local **Museum** chronicling Juárez's work; nearby **Miguel Alemán Dam**, the most important in Oaxaca; and the **Laguna Encantada** (Enchanted Lake), marked by a bronze sculpture of Benito Juárez.



OAXACA



- TOURIST ATTRACTIONS**
- ★ CAPITAL
 - TOWN
 - 🏛️ ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE
 - 🌿 NATURAL AREA
 - 🏖️ BEACH
 - ✈️ AIRPORT
- TWO-WAY HIGHWAY
— FEDERAL HIGHWAY
— SECONDARY HIGHWAY
— ROAD

- HIGHLIGHTS**
- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 🌍 WORLD HERITAGE SITE | M MUSEUM |
| 🏛️ MAGICAL TOWN | 🗿 MONUMENT |
| 🏠 CIVIL ARCHITECTURE | 👤 INDIGENOUS TOWN |
| 🏰 RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE | 👤 FOLK ART |
| 🏠 CENTRAL SQUARE | 🍴 CUISINE |
| | 🌟 LOCAL FESTIVAL |
- Nota: These symbols refer to the spots described in this guide

Women from Juchitán.



PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAICES

Juchitán



One of the main cities on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, famed for its traditions. Its attractions include the **Municipal Palace**—its thirty-one arches make it the widest in the country—and the **Church of San Vicente Ferrer**.

Salina Cruz



An important port with attractions such as the **dockyard**, the **salt-works**, the **pier**, the **House of Culture**, and the **Cortés Lighthouse**. Visit its nearby beaches.

Tehuantepec



Renowned for its deeply rooted indigenous traditions, it is a city with various colonial buildings such as the former **Convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán**. Nearby is the archaeological zone of **Guiengola**, a Late Postclassic (AD 1200–1521) Zapotec site.

Huatulco



A modern beach resort that consists of nine bays and more than thirty-six beaches. Visit the boardwalk, the **Teatro del Mar** (Ocean Theatre), and the **Rufino Tamayo Ecological Park**. Nearby is the archaeological zone **Bocana del Río Copalita**, a Preclassic and Classic period settlement.

Puerto Escondido



A beach resort with beaches such as **Zicatela** (ranked the fourth best in the world for surfing), **Puerto Angelito**, **Bachoco**, **Carrizalillo**, **Manzanillo**, and **Embarcadero**.

Puerto Escondido.



PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Mazunte



With fine beaches (e.g., **Bermejita**), it is home to the **Mexican Turtle Center**, created for researching and protecting this species, and the **Sea Turtle Living Museum**, where seven of the eight marine species that exist in the world are on display.

FOLK ART

Its vibrant indigenous population makes it an area with a wealth of folk art traditions, rooted in pre-Hispanic cultures. The vast craft production of Oaxaca includes **black pottery** from San Bartolo Coyotepec; **wool rugs** from Teotitlán del Valle; fantastic **alebrijes** (imaginary creatures) from San Martín Tilcajete and San Antonio Arrazola; **fine metalwork** from Juchitán and Tehuantepec; **copal wood furniture** from San Antonio Arrazola; **orange pottery** from Tavehua; **green pottery** from Atzompa; **flower pots and receptacles** from Tehuantepec; **brownware** from Acatlán; **basketry** from Etlá and Tlacolula; and **cutlery** from Tlaxiaco and Juquila.

PHOTO: SECTUR OAXACA



Blackware from San Bartolo Coyotepec.



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Delicacies from Oaxaca.

CUISINE

Oaxaca cuisine is famed in Mexico for a simple reason: it's delicious! Many say its seven varieties of **mole** sauce, based on different chilies (black, yellow, red, etc.) are its finest dish. Other delicacies include **tasajo** (dried beef), **tlayudas** (huge tortillas), **quesillo** (string cheese), **chileajo** (vegetables marinated with chili, garlic, and herbs), **tamales wrapped in banana leaves**, **iguana tamales**, **filled peppers**, **filled tortillas** with tomato sauce. Try the tiny **grasshoppers** with salt and lemon and **agave worms**. For dessert have **turrones** (nougat), **fruit sherbets**, **pinole**, **buñuelos** (fritters with syrup), **marquesote** (cake), and egg cake. Don't forget to try **mescal**, **hot chocolate** made with water or milk, **tejate** (a pre-Hispanic cacao beverage), and **pozol** (made from corn).

Tlaxiaco



Among the oldest colonial cities in Oaxaca, it houses the **Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción** and is known as a traditional commercial center.

Huamelulpan



One of the most ancient cities in the Mixteca Alta. It stands out for its architecture, monumental sculpture, and calendrical inscriptions. Another archaeological zone in the Mixteca open to the public is **San Juan Yucuita**, an important Preclassic city.

Teposcolula



Home of the **Convent of San Pedro y San Pablo**, one of the most interesting 16th century Dominican convents in the Mixteca for its blend of styles and impressive dimensions.

Yanhuitlán



A major silk-raising town in the Mixteca that drew Spaniards and Dominicans, who founded the former **Convent of Santo Domingo** in the 16th century.



Convent of San Pedro y San Pablo, Teposcolula.

Coixtlahuaca



Built in the 16th century by Dominicans, the former Convent of San Juan Bautista is one of the finest examples of religious architecture in the Mixteca.

Huajuapán



One of the principal cities in Oaxaca. Its attractions include the **Cathedral of the Virgen de Guadalupe** and the **Huajuapán Regional Museum**. Go hiking in the nearby rocky formations known as **Las Campanas**.

Tlacolula



With a traditional Sunday market and the **Church of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción**, it houses the **Chapel of the Santo Cristo**, one of the gems of the Mexican baroque.

Ixtlán



Nestled in Oaxaca's Sierra Norte, it is known for its pine and oak forests, fine wood furniture craftsmanship, and ornamental flower and wild orchid cultivation. The **Church of Santo Tomás**, exemplary of the baroque in Oaxaca, preserves the baptismal font used to baptize Benito Juárez.



Ixtlán.

PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

Capulápan.



PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Capulápan



Named a "magical town" by the Mexican Tourism Ministry, it is a mining center in the Sierra Norte, the country's best preserved evergreen cloud forest. It has handsome wood folk art and its attractions include the **Church of San Mateo**, which retains its original tile-covered wood roof. Nature lovers can visit nearby rivers, waterfalls, and grottoes on foot or by mountain bike.

Tututepec



It is the home of the **Yucu Saa Museum**, the nearby hot springs of **Atotonilco**, and lakes **Zapotalito** and **Manialtepec**, with turtle, crocodile, and iguana breeding grounds.

Chachagua Lagoons



A national park with many tropical and migratory birds, leatherback sea turtles, alligators, and iguanas, which are endangered species. It's an ideal spot for camping.

And don't miss ...

- Exploring Monte Albán
- Breakfast, lunch, or dinner in a traditional market
- Sunbathing on its beaches
- Strolling in the Historic Center of Oaxaca
- Attending the Guelaguetza
- Visiting Dominican convents in the Mixteca
- Buying folk art
- The former Convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán
- Admiring the Sierra Norte and its towns
- Going to the archaeological zones

Tourist Information

www.oaxaca.travelinfo@oaxaca.travel
informacionturisticoaxaca@gmail.com

OAXACA

Central Tourist Information Booth: Av. Juárez, no. 703, Centro Histórico, C.P. 68000, Oaxaca, Oax., 951-502 1200 ext. 1506, alma.diegoperez@hotmail.com

ADO Terminal Information Booth: Calzada Héroes de Chapultepec, no. 1036, Centro Histórico, C.P. 68000, Oaxaca, Oax.

Oaxaca Painters Museum Information Booth: Independencia, no. 607, Centro Histórico, C.P. 68000, Oaxaca, Oax.

Macedonio Alcalá Theatre: Independencia, no. 900, Centro Histórico, C.P. 68000, Oaxaca, Oax.

HUATULCO

Tourist Information Booth: Boulevard Benito Juárez, no. #, Bahía de Tangolunda, C.P. 70989, Bahías de Huatulco, Oax., 958-581 0176 and 581 0177, delhuatulco@prodigy.net.mx

PUERTO ESCONDIDO

Tourist Information Booth: Primera Poniente, no. 111 Altos, Sector Hidalgo, Col. Centro, C.P. 71980, Puerto Escondido, Oax., 954-582-4463, microcosta@hotmail.com

SALINA CRUZ

Tourist Information Booth: Carretera Transistmica km 1.1, entronque Carretera Costera, Col. Lomas de Galindo, C.P. 70630, Salina Cruz, Oax., 971-720-2062, styde_diristmo@hotmail.com, delistmo@prodigy.net.mx

TEHUANTEPEC

Tourist Information Booth: Carretera Transistmica km. 283+400, Col. Centro, C.P. 70760, Tehuantepec, Oax., 971-714-3566, styde_diristmo@hotmail.com, delistmo@prodigy.net.mx

JUCHITÁN

Tourist Information Booth: Av. Vicente Guerrero and Angélica Pipi, 1a. Sección Juchitán, Juchitán, Oax., 971-714 3552, styde_diristmo@hotmail.com, delistmo@prodigy.net.mx

National Chamber of the Restaurant and Prepared Food Industry (CANIRAC): Calzada de la República, no. 1111, Col. Centro, C.P. 68000, Oaxaca, Oax., 951-514-9374 and 045-951-106-4018, caniracoaxaca@prodigy.net.mx, www.caniracoaxaca.com.mx

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FRONT: FORMER CONVENT OF SANTO DOMINGO DE GUZMÁN.

PHOTO: GERARDO GONZÁLEZ RUL / RAÍCES. BACK: WOMAN FROM JUCHITÁN.

PHOTO: GUILLERMO ALDANA / RAÍCES

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Oaxaca: 066

Fire Station: 951-516-2231 and 514-9000

Red Cross: 951-516-4455; 516-4803 and 516-4809

Police: 951-516 0400 and 516-0455

Civil Protection: 951-144-8287

Emergencies: 060

Puerto Escondido

Red Cross: 954-582-0550

Emergencies: 060

Huatulco

Red Cross: 958-587-1188 and 587-1548

Emergencies: 060



Vivir Mejor

