



Oaxaca Times

Oaxaca's English Tourist Newspaper

Free

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San Ramon Day



This is an exceptionally fun day for children and the young of heart. On the 31st of August, regardless of the weather, the blessing of the animals takes place at 5:00 pm. in front of Nuestra Señora de la Merced Church on the corner of Manuel Doblado and Independencia Sts.

People bring their pets all dressed in costume. You will see dogs dressed as clowns, roosters dressed as mariachis, cats dressed as ballet dancers, cows dressed as brides, etc. You will also see monkeys, parrots, rats & even pigs all dressed up.

Typical Oaxacan sweets, corn on the cob, and other goodies are also for sale. Don't miss this!!!!

Enjoy learning SPANISH

Instituto de Comunicación y Cultura, A.C.
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ETHNIC GROUPS PART VI

The Chatinos



Their principal headquarters is Sta. Catarina Juquila and amongst other towns of the slopes of the Rio Verde, Zenzon tepec or Yaitepec that seems to have been their ancient capital; Jamiltepec. Huexolotlân and Tetepec.

The Chatinos are a strong race, very hard walkers. It is their custom to undertake long walks, even into Central America, either for trade or on pilgrimage to some Sanctuary.

There are very sparing in food, as the greater part of our poor Indians, being accustomed to tortillas, salt and chile and no more. The Chatino tongue is of the Zapotec family and there is a branch named Chocoe found among those more under the influence of the Zapotecs of Miahuatlân.

The principal festivity of the Chatinos and Chocoes is the 8th of December, as from Colonial times they revere the image of the Immaculate Conception, in her Sanctuary of Juquila, where people gather on that day from all over.

On the road again, goin' places where I've never been

A three hour 1st class bus trip takes you to TLAXIACO, a town of 80,000 nestled in the mountains about 180 kilometers west of Oaxaca City. During the journey the road winds through mountains covered with pine forests and pleasant valleys planted with frijol and maize. People are few and towns far and inbetween. You can see for miles and in the distance rain creates giant rainbows. You close your eyes, open them again, and you have visions of Northern Idaho or the Basque Country, but here you are in Southern México. The main plaza boasts a large clock tower ringed by one story buildings painted white and maroon, all with porticos. Two blocks away is the small zócalo whose kiosk is flanked by gilt lions. The beautiful church and elegant city hall both face the zócalo. The rest of the town is rather plain, but the air is clean, the weather cool and the people friendly and curious. There are no limpiabotas, no mendigos and no dirty city buses. There are 3 hotels, the best being the El Portal,



which faces the main square. It's an old colonial building with a sunny, flowerfilled patio, complete with fountain. However, hidden behind all this charm is a newer annex, very closely resembling a Motel Six in Akron, Ohio! But the hotel is very clean with ample hot water and

modern bathrooms. It also houses the best restaurant in town, which, unfortunately has a big color TV in constant use.

It was a very worthwhile trip, if just for the scenery.

TRAVEL INFO

MARKET DAY:

Saturday

TRANSPORTATION:

Bus leaves from the 1st class bus station. Check for schedule. A OW trip is 6,000 pesos. Return tkt must be purchased at other end.

HOTELS:

Hotel El Portal 15,000 pesos single, 18,000 pesos double,

RESTAURANTS:

The restaurant in the Hotel El Portal has a varied menu, efficient service and low prices. Restaurant "Juanita" has a very limited selection, has indifferent service and is painted a garish yellow and orange with plastic flower

The Monte Alban Society

Monte Albán is situated on a mountain top, (easily accessible by car or bus) six miles from the City of Oaxaca. It was founded 500 years BC and abandoned around AD 750 although continued to be venerated as a sacred place and was used for occasional burials.

Monte Albán was the capital of the Zapotec culture and the Zapotecs still inhabit the Valley of Oaxaca and the surrounding mountains. Archeological explorations at Monte Albán have revealed palaces, temples, elaborate tombs and over 500 carved stone monuments. However, less than 5% of the site has been explored.

Each year the weather and thousands of visitors take their toll on Monte Albán. It is for this reason, and the fact that more excavation work needs to be done, that three years ago the Monte Albán Society was founded by Phillips B. Freer. The non-profit Monte Albán Society solicits funds from private sources to support further exploration and protection of the archeological remains. Further information regarding the Society may be obtained by requesting a free brochure addressed to: The Monte Albán Society, Apartado 646, Oaxaca, Oax., C.P. 68000, México.

Mr. demille would be proud

His formula seems to work. Make it grand, make it colorful, make it dramatic, make it fun and the crowd will come. And they did!

Held in the open air theatre on the hill at EL FORTIN, overlooking the city, the Guelaguetza was a technicolor spectacle not to be missed. Representative groups of the seven regions of Oaxaca performed their respective folkloric dances all dressed in their traditional finery of brilliant colors, masses of flowers and sparkling jewelry.

It was a beautiful day and the audience was very animated. A mass of people with straw hats and bright parasols,

drinking soda pop, they clapped, cheered and sang along with the music. Each group had a cache of products from their own region, which they threw out to the audience at the conclusion of their performance.

Soon masses of mangos, oranges, tortillas, limes, small bags of coffee and sugar, even pineapples, went flying through the air.

The crowd went wild! After the conclusion of the entertainment the crowd descended the wide staircase to the street below lined with vendors selling all kinds of food and drink. A fine time was had by all.



How to choose a language school

In the summertime there seem to be a lot of schools offering Spanish classes to foreigners. Beware!! Many of these schools are out to make a fast buck. Low prices do not necessarily mean quality education. When choosing a school, be sure to select one where the teachers are university trained to teach Spanish as a second language.

In México university degrees are very much a status symbol, but having a degree in Foreign affairs, Chemistry or Anthropology does not qualify one to teach Spanish. The Instituto de Comunicación y Cultura meets all the requirements for quality education at a fair price. Please contact us at 6-34-43 or visit our school at V. Guerrero # 311.

POSADA LOS REYES

The new luxury Posada Los Reyes situated in a historic neighborhood of Oaxaca, is just blocks from the Zocalo with all it's charm. It offers you tastefully decorated rooms that can be reserved on a daily,

weekly, bi-monthly or monthly basis. There is a substantial saving on the long term. Morelos #101, Esq. Callejon de los Reyes, C.P. 68000 Centro, Oaxaca, Oax.
Reservations: 6-04-81
6-56-68

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SURVIVAL HINTS

1.- Xerox your passport ID page or birth certificate and your Mexican tourist visa and use these copies when you cash travels checks or pick up tickets this way you can.

2.- For major purchases/hotels, always ask for paid receipts (notas).

3.- If possible do not make international telephone calls from México one to the exorbitant charges in an emergency dial 09 ask for collect call & have the person you are calling call you back. Besare & have your tel. number handy. If you call dial direct on Mon-Fri. from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. all day sat or Sunday from midnight to 5 p.m. you will save 33.3 %.

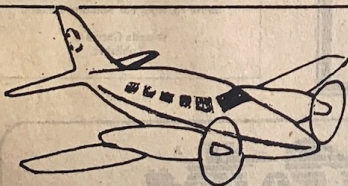
4.- The Zocalo and major streets in the central part of Oaxaca are aligned pretty much on the four points of the compass: Be aware that many streets in Oaxaca change their names as they cross the main avenues. City maps are available at hotel desks, the tourism office, and handicraft shops.

5.- The present going rate for visits to Monte Alban, Mitla, Yagul, Dainzu, Teotitlan del Valle y Lambityeco, is 25,000 pesos per person min. 5 to 6 persons.

6.- Since change is hard to come by in Oaxaca try to pay for things using the smallest bills possible.

7.- Schedule for shopping. Open from 9 am. to 2 pm and because dinner & siesta time they go home at 2 pm and they open again at 4:30 - 8 pm.

8.- Night walks. Don't be afraid walking around alone at night. The city is very safe.



¡Let's go South!



We can fly you direct to Tuxtla Gutiérrez every day at noon with connections to Palenque, Villa Hermosa and Tapachula by

AVIACSA

The airline of Chiapas.

Tels: 6-27-00, 6-92-19, 6-65-22 y 5-37-03

Valdivieso # 2. Near Zócalo.

TOURISTIC PRECAUTIONS

Welcome to the state of Oaxaca. You have chosen without doubt one of the most exciting tourist destination México has to offer. Oaxaca is famous for its charming people, its culture and colorful tradition. However a word of caution must be given. Like anywhere, if you act carelessly you'll probably end up crying on the shoulder of your consular representative, complaining bitterly. Take note and enjoy your vacation.

- 1.- Don't accept invitations lightly, however tempting they might appear.
- 2.- Don't deal, carry or consume any kind of drugs. Mexican jails are notoriously known to assure you the worst time of your life. Stay away from anyone who tries to sell drugs to you, those Zócalo boys, as they are known, are also informants. Dealing with that kind of persons is your first step into trouble.
- 3.- Don't leave valuables unattended. It takes only a second to turn your vacation into a nightmare. Make copies of your passport, visa and if you carry travelers cheques, keep a record of the numbers and report any loss as soon as possible.

When confronted with an attempt of robbery, don't resist. Valuables can be replaced, not so your health.

If taken to prison, don't despair. Insist of seeing your consular or your embassy representative. They will send someone over to see about your rights.

- 6.- Don't walk around the beaches during the evening, not even company. This goes especially for ladies. This is something you should not forget, ever. This is serious.

- 7.- Don't trespass on any property and by no means shoot pictures close to military installations or of persons who resent pictures taken.

BEYOND THE CITY

Attractions are listed according to their direction from Oaxaca.

MONTE ALBAN: 10 km. (6 mi) west, on an artificially flattened mountaintop. One of the most important archaeological sites in México. Large ceremonial plaza surrounded by the ruins of religious and public buildings. Small museum, cafeteria, shops. Tues-Sun. 8 am - 6 pm

SANTA MARIA ATZOMPA: (Or Atzompa) About 8 Km (4½ mi) northwest, a short distance off Hwy. 190. The village produces a green-glazed pottery and unglazed pottery figures.

Note: Here, and at other craft-oriented villages, stop at any home or shop that gives indications that the craft is practiced within, or simply ask the way to artisans' homes

CUILAPAN DE GUERRERO: About 14 km (9 mi) southwest on the Zaachila road. Contains what was once the Dominican Monastery of St. James the Apostle, begun in 1555 but never finished. Much of the structure stands roofless. Daily 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

ZAACHILA: 5 km (3mi) beyond Cuilapan, Zaachila was the Zapotec capital when it fell to the Spanish in 1521. Little of the archaeological Zone has been explored, but a palace and 2 tombs can be visited. Daily 8 am - 6 pm.

SAN BARTOLO COYOTEPEC: (or Coyotepec) About 15 km (9½ mi) south, on Hwy. 175. The village is famous for its potters and their black pottery. Valente Nieto, the son of Doña Rosa, who is credited with having originated the black pottery, still practices the craft and gives demonstrations for visitors Fri. 9am-2pm.

SANTO TOMAS JALIEZA: About 10 km (6 mi) beyond Coyotepec, off Hwy. 175. A center for the weaving of cotton belts, sashes, table runners, place mats, and other items. The products are sold from a central location across from the village church.

OCOTLAN DE MORELOS: About 17 km (10 mi) beyond Coyotepec on Hwy. 175. Market town and the home of the Aguilar

Family, producers of clay figures painted in bright colors.

SANTA MARIA DEL TULE: About 14 km (8½ mi) east-southeast of Oaxaca on Hwy. 190. Its main attraction is a gigantic Ahuehete, or Mexican cypress, in front of the village church. The tree is estimated to be about 2,000 years old.

TLACOCHAHUAYA: About 23 km (14 mi) east-southeast of Oaxaca, off Hwy. 190. Sixteenth-century Church of San Jerónimo, decorated by native artists,

TEOTITLAN DEL VALLE: 2 Km (1½ mi) beyond Tlacochahuaya, about 3 km (2 mi) from the highway. Main wool weaving center of the area. Local crafts people produce ponchos, rugs, and tapestries in traditional and modern designs.

LAMBITYECO ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE: About 2 km (1½ mi) beyond the Teotitlan turnoff the site contains the ruins of various structures, including 2 tombs.

TLACOLULA DE MATAMOROS: About 6 km (3½ mi) beyond Lambityeco. Principal attraction is the 16th-century Church of Our Lord of Tlacolula.

YAGUL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE: About 3 km (2 mi) farther along Hwy. 190 and 1½ km (1 mi) off the road. Large archaeological zone. Includes a large ball court and the Palace of the Patios. Daily 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

SAN PABLO VILLA DE MITLA: (or Mitla) about 5 km (3 mi) beyond Yagul along Hwy. 190, Then 4 km (2½ mi) down a turnoff. A center for lightweight woolen and cotton weavings, which are sold in a large market area behind the church, and for the production of mezcal, an intoxicating drink distilled from the leaves or the maguey plant. Also in Mitla.

MITLA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE: Remains of a large Zapotec population center that had been influenced by the Mixtec culture by the time of the Spanish conquest. Of several groups of ruins, the most interesting are the Group of the Columns across the street. Group of the Columns open daily 8:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OAXACA

THE OAXACA TIMES offers you the opportunity to keep in touch with the activities in Oaxaca with a subscription. One year (twelve issues) sent to the U.S. or Canada by surface mail costs \$12 U.S. annually (\$18 by air mail). Arrange for subscription in person or by mail in our office at the Instituto de Comunicación y Cultura, 311 Guerrero, Oaxaca, Oax. c.p. 68000