

# Chiapas

Map and Information  
about Mexico

Palenque, San Cristobal de las Casas,  
Tuxtla Gutiérrez



**México**

Tourism Board



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# Tuxtla Gutiérrez



Is the capital city of the State of Chiapas.

Its climate is hot and semi-humid with an average temperature of 72°F.

A modern city where the stories, languages and traditions of the Mexican tableland blend together. The streets in Tuxtla contain a combination of past and present. It is a beautiful city surrounded by lush vegetation. In downtown there is the civic square and the Marimba park. During the evenings you can stroll around the park and enjoy the marimba music played in the gazebo.

There are many natural wonders nearby Tuxtla and the city offers very good tourist infrastructure, but most of all the warmth and kindness of the people.



# Tuxtla Gutiérrez

## Key Attractions

**Callejón del Sacrificio** - Located behind the cathedral with nice sidewalk cafes.

**Teatro de la Ciudad** - The city's principal theatre, one of the best examples of contemporary architecture in the city.

**San Marcos Cathedral** - The tower holds a carillon of German manufacture with 48 bells that every hour intone a melody to accompany the figures of the twelve apostles that parade across an platform. The asp is colonial.

**Chiapas Regional Museum**- It has two permanent exhibition halls: the first dedicated to the Pre-Hispanic towns of Chiapas, and the second dedicated to the history, art and ethnography of the 15th century with an important collection of colonial art. A third hall is devoted to temporary exhibitions. Schedule: Tuesday to Sunday from 09:00 to 18:00 hours.

**Botanical Garden** - Has a great variety of flora from different regions of the State.

**Miguel Alvarez del Toro Zoo** - Located inside a natural reserve zone called El Zapotal. Species of local fauna are exhibited, preserved, protected and studied in an ambiance similar to their natural habitat. This zoo is considered one of the best in the world of its kind. Schedule: Tuesday to Sunday from 08:30 to 16:30 hours.

**Casa de las Artesanias (Craftsmen's House)** - Chiapas local crafts are sold here and there is also an ethnographic museum. Schedule: Monday to Saturday from 08:00 to 20:00 hours. Sunday from 09:00 to 14:00 hours.

**La Marimba Garden and Park** - At the central kiosk every night, there are serenades with marimbas from different municipalities.

**Joyyo Mayu and Caña Hueca Parks** - Beautiful green



# San Cristóbal de las Casas



San Cristobal de las Casas is one of Mexico's most beautiful colonial towns. Through its peaceful cobblestone streets, flanked by houses with slanted red tiled roofs and patios full of flowers, one discovers religious monuments with influence from Mexican and Central American colonial art, giving it a peculiar frontier town character.

Indigenous people come to its busy markets from the surrounding hamlets to offer textiles, ceramics, fruits and vegetables.

The city is in the process of being declared "World Heritage Site" by UNESCO. The climate is mild and sub-humid with a year average temperature of 68° F.



# San Cristóbal de las Casas

## Key Attractions

House of the Mermaid - Is an outstanding example of domestic colonial architecture still standing in the city. It was probably built during the 16th century.

Puente Peje de Oro - A wooden bridge from colonial times, supported by four stone masonry posts.

San Cristóbal Cathedral- It was built in 1528. It has a magnificent Baroque style decoration. Many are the treasures that the cathedral holds, deserving a careful visit. The pulpit is covered with gold leaf and beautiful Juan Correa paintings.

Temple and ex-Convent of Santo Domingo- The church dates from the 17th century. The façade is exquisitely decorated.

Church of Mercy and Amber Museum - The Church of Mercy was the first convent established in San Cristobal.

Today the convent houses the Museum of Amber, which exhibits more than 350 exceptional pieces. Open everyday from 10 a.m. to 14:00 hrs. and from 17:00 to 20:00 hrs.

Church of San Nicholas - Built between 1613 and 1621. The construction exhibits the mudéjar style, and it currently houses the Diocesan Museum.

Temple of Charity - Its construction dates from 1712.

It has a splendid salomonic main altarpiece.

Na-Bolom Museum (House of the Jaguar) - Located in a building from the end of the 19th century. The house is decorated with regional crafts, exhibiting Mayan ceramics and everyday objects of the Lacandones (inhabitants of the Lacandon jungle) in one of its halls. Another hall is devoted to the archaeological zone of Moxviquil, and yet another displays traditional textiles. Prior reservation is required for lodging and meals. Open daily from 10 am to 5 pm.

Museo Sergio Castro e Hijos - More than 90 original outfits are displayed here.

It also has a collection of musical instruments made and currently used by natives in Chiapas' mountains.



# Chiapas

## Natural Wonders

National Park Cañón del Sumidero - Formed by a geological fault millions of years ago, the canyon that through which the Grijalva River runs is one of Mexico's most spectacular. On its vertical walls rising up to 3000 ft. are caves and a fabulous waterfall. Ecotourist Park Cañón del Sumidero offers a new dimension with many activities such as: Crocodile Swamp, Butterfly Path, Aviary, Jungle Path, Zip line, mountain bike, and more. Laguna Verde (Green Lagoon) - The color of the water changes according to different conditions throughout the day and on different days. There are tourist services. El Aguacero Waterfalls - A natural park with a series of caves among which is the outstanding "El Encanto" with an underground river and a waterfall. Sima (Chasm) de las Cotorras- The chasm is 300 ft. deep, and one can see petroglyphs painted on its walls. In addition, the area is the nesting ground for thousands of parrots.

Cañón Río La Venta (La Venta River Canyon) - It is a geological fracture with vertical walls, caverns, rapids and waterfalls.

Misol-Ha waterfall - With a height of approximately 90 ft. among lush jungle vegetation with tall mahogany, Palo de Agua, chicozapote, and canshanes trees. Below the waterfall is a pool suitable for swimming. There are tourist services.

Agua Azul (Blue Water) Waterfalls - The Tulija River tumbles down natural limestone steps, forming a series of amazing cascades with pools in calcareous depressions. There are tourist services.

Montebello Lakes National Park - Its beauty is without a doubt among Mexico's most spectacular, framed in lush pine & mixed forests full of bromeliads and orchids. The lakes are ancient natural wells that have become joined through time due to the corrosion and collapse of the limestone floor.



Montebello Lakes National Park - Its beauty is without a doubt among Mexico's most spectacular, due to the surface and underground waters arising from the calcareous soil, framed in lush pine & mixed forests full of bromeliads and orchids. The lakes are uvalas or ancient natural wells that have become joined through time due to the corrosion and collapse of the limestone floor.

El Arcotete - A natural stone arch, located in a wooded area, which has been carved by Fogótico river over hundreds of years.

Grutas de Rancho Nuevo - A light-walking path leads to an enjoyable one kilometer tour of capricious stalagmites and stalactites.

Agua Clara - An eco-tourist center on the banks of the turquoise waters of Shumulja River. Suitable for swimming, it counts with touristic services.

Las Nubes (The Clouds) - Part of the swift Santo Domingo River where there are many turquoise-colored waterfalls and in many sections rapid currents ideal for rafting.

Chucumaltic Lagoon - For its deep and crystalline waters is ideal for scuba diving.

Las Guacamayas - It was created to preserve this species of Red Guacamaya birds. It has touristic services.

Lacandona Jungle - It is still the largest example of high jungle in Mexico. Its richness in flora and fauna is considerable, and so is its archaeological bounty. In order to explore the jungle you will need the gear, training, guides and permission. The Montes Azules (Blue Mountains) Reserve is the best-preserved area of the Lacandon Rain Forest.





# Chiapas

Chiapas, one of the areas with the greatest biodiversity in the world. The lush green fields, forests and jungles, the unique flora and fauna, rare species and much more, are some of the attractions of this beautiful state. Travelling from one destination to another is a real adventure. The Chiapas territory is reminiscent of the Rocky Mountains in some locations and the Amazon Rainforest in others.

In Chiapas many ethnic groups have kept their traditions, languages and folklore alive. The colorful costumes of the ethnic groups in Chiapas are as varied as the countryside that surrounds them. A large number of their mythological figures are woven into their clothes. The traditions are shown in the famous handcrafts, the festivities and the local gastronomy.



# Chiapas

## Places

Chiapa de Corzo - A peaceful colonial town famous for its handcrafts. There are various interesting things to see here: colonial fountain, called La Pila, and the Temple and Ex Convent of Santo Domingo San Cristbal de las Casas -A peaceful and beautiful town, the colonial streets and alleyways lined with red-roofed and white-washed houses beg wanderers to explore and discover; alleyways open up into small arcades and plazas. The key attractions are: San Cristóbal Cathedral, the Temple and ex-Convent of Santo Domingo, with a pulpit of remarkable beauty; Iglesia de la Merced and Amber Museum; the Church of San Nicholas that currently houses the Diocesan Museum; the Church of Carmen; the Templo de La Carida; the Church of San Francisco, its pulpit is one of the three that comprise the premiere group of San Cristobal's pulpits; and Na-Bolom Museum.

Amatenango del Valle - The colonial church dominates the traditional village and orchards of this indigenous Tzeltal community, renowned for the fantastic clay pieces, made with Pre-Hispanic techniques.

Tenejapa - The church of San Ildefonso, the gracious 19th century fountain in the plaza, and the ruins of the San Sebastian Church are part of its cultural heritage. Its Sunday market is one of the more colorful in the region.

Zinacantán - In this place sacred spaces are marked by the hills around the small valley, and the group formed by the San Lorenzo church, the Esquipulas Chapel and San Sebastian chapels.

Comitan - Among the main attractions of the city we can mention: Temple of Santo Domingo, built in the 16th Century, Junchavín City Theatre, Belisario Domínguez House Museum, and Junchavín Archaeological Zone.

Tonala - One of Chiapas oldest coastal towns with a colorful architecture. The place, offers diverse attractions, from visits like archaeological zones and wonderful beaches.

Unión Juárez - It is located on the slopes of Tacana volcano. This colorful coffee-growing town is outstanding for its wooden architecture.

Tapachula - The tropical vegetation and varied ecosystems, create a wonderful mosaic of cultural expressions, produced by the immigration of settlers from North-America, Asia and Europe.

