

Oaxaca's Pacific Coast Exploration Tour

Adventure Tour to Explore the Tropical Southern Coast of Oaxaca, México

Huatulco • Puerto Escondido • Mazunte • Zipolite • Laguna Ventanilla

8 Day / 7 Night Guided Tour (includes day of arrival & departure)

The Pacific coast of Oaxaca is one of México's most relaxed beach destinations

You won't usually find the crowded beaches here like you might in Cancun and the Riviera Maya

Tour Highlights

- **Catamaran Excursion** to view the many bays of Huatulco
- **Snorkel** over coral reefs
- **Shopping** in Huatulco
- Swim among **millions of plankton & GLOW**
- View sea turtles & **release baby turtles** back to the sea
- **Relax** on tropical Pacific coast beaches
- Visit a **Mexican National Park by boat**
- **Watch surfers** tackle tall waves in Puerto Escondido
- Learn **Salsa dancing**
- View **iguanas, crocodiles & dolphins in the wild**
- *Optional activities* - surfing, kayaking, Spanish class

This tropical laidback soft adventure tour is filled with many outdoor back-to-nature activities yet has free time built in to relax & enjoy your warm surroundings

2018 Trip Dates: May 12-19 / August 8-15 / November 4-11

Trip Difficulty: Moderate

Group Size: 4-12

Minimum Age: 6 years old

Trip Prices: \$1427 USD/adult & \$740 USD/child (6-11 years)

Single Supplement: add \$345 USD

Trip prices are subject to change until the date your deposit is received

Includes: Local bilingual host guide, all ground transportation, all entrance fees, tours per itinerary, 7 nights of lodgings, 7 breakfasts, 1 dinner, all taxes

Not included: Airfare, airport transfers to & from hotel, meals not listed above, alcoholic drinks, activities not listed, travel interruption insurance, travel medical insurance, and gratuities for your guides and other helpful people



Trip Itinerary

- Day 1:** Arrive at the Huatulco Airport (HUX)
Evening - Meet your guide at your hotel
- Day 2:** Catamaran / Snorkel Tour
- Day 3:** Huatulco city tour
Free afternoon to relax, shop, enjoy
Travel to Puerto Escondido
- Day 4:** Ocean boat ride to view dolphins & sea turtles
Free day with optional tours & activities
Evening - Swim among millions of plankton
- Day 5:** Free day to relax & enjoy
Optional tours & activities available
- Day 6:** Baby turtle release
Boat Ride at Chachagua Lagoon National Park
Salsa Dance Lesson
Salsa dancing at a beach club bar
- Day 7:** Boat ride to view iguanas & crocodiles in the wild
Visit the National Mexican Turtle Center/Mazunte
Learn how cosmetics are made naturally
Beach time on Zipolite beach
Farewell dinner in Huatulco
- Day 8:** Travel day home from the Huatulco Airport



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Make plans to reserve your trip TODAY!

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Oaxaca's Pacific Coast Exploration Tour

Detailed Itinerary



Day 1: Arrive at the Huatulco Airport

Upon your arrival to the Huatulco Airport (HUX), one of our local tour representatives will meet you and then take you to the Hotel Quinta Bella Huatulco (or similar). Enjoy!

Day 2: Ocean Catamaran Tour / Snorkel over Coral Reefs

Welcome to your first full day of "Tropical Laidbackness." Ok, so that's not a real word but it does fit well. No rush! No hurries! No worries! We trust that you left that all back home. Today is a day of acclimation to the more *mellow tropical easygoing life*. And what better way to get into the Margaritaville Mood than to relax on an ocean day cruise out on the warm Pacific waters.

The deep water port of Huatulco has a plethora of golden beaches; 36 in all. They are located around 9 picture postcard tropical bays or in Spanish, *bahías*. The deep blue Pacific ocean glistens in the background under the tropical southern sun.

On this morning you will **head out to sea in a spacious catamaran** for a day of exploring the many *bahías*, look for marine life, and marvel at the sandy and sometimes rocky coastline. You will also have an opportunity to jump in the warm clear water to **snorkel around a bit over the nearby coral reefs**. Lunch will be at a beachside restaurant. You can sample and savor the mouthwatering seafood choices as well as other delicious fares.

The evening is free to explore and relax. Overnight in Huatulco. **(B)**

Day 3: Huatulco City Tour / Road Trip to Puerto Escondido

Before you officially start your second full day of exploration on Oaxaca's tropical coast, go ahead and indulge in a leisurely breakfast. Enjoy another cup of coffee. Take a refreshing swim in the pool or ocean. Relax! You're now on "*México Time*."

In the late morning, **your local host guide will show you around Huatulco**. Nothing heavy! He won't inundate you with lots of historical facts to remember. It's just an orientation of the town and also to **see the many bays from some beautiful overlooks in the higher hills** around the city. Get ready for some great selfies! The early afternoon is free to wander around on your own, visit some of the shops, and have a few cold drinks and lunch at one of the local restaurants. How's that for laid-back tropical casual?

In the late afternoon, everyone will take off on a short two hour road trip south down the coast. Your next destination . . . the seaside town of Puerto Escondido! There you will check in at the Hotel Arcoiris (or similar). This iconic hotel faces Zicatela Beach which is the longest beach in "Puerto." **(B)**

Day 4: Boat Ride to View Sea Life / Road Trip to Puerto Escondido

Rise and Shine! This will be the earliest wakeup call during your coastal exploration tour. This morning you will embark on another **cruise into the blue Pacific**, but this time in a smaller boat. Your exploratory mission today will be to **look for schools of dolphins, manta rays, and sea turtles**. If you are lucky, you may see dozens of dolphins or perhaps a hundred or more. The manta rays are a little harder to find but they are there. Bring your swim suit as you will have the opportunity to hop in the water to see up-close, the slow-moving sea turtles you encounter. If you have a waterproof camera, you may want to bring it to capture images of these adorable sea creatures. On this boat cruise, your guide will also point out from your watery vantage point, **the different bays of Puerto Escondido** and the best beaches to go swimming in the ocean.

Upon your return to your hotel, it will be time for a hearty breakfast with the rest of the morning and afternoon to keep practicing your *Tropical Laidbackness*.

In the evening, **get ready for an experience of a lifetime!** We have done our research and found that on this night there will be no moon (New Moon). There is a phenomenon of nature here on the Oaxaca coast which can only be seen when it is a moonless night. You will go on a night boat ride into a nearby lagoon where there will be millions of tiny plankton in this fresh/saltwater lake. In other words, **when you move your arms and hands around, you will GLOW!**

And if it is a cloudless evening on this moonless night, you should also be able to see millions of stars and quite possibly, the outline of our Milky Way Galaxy. Later, you will return to your hotel in Puerto Escondido. **(B)**

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Detailed Trip Itinerary

Day 5: Free Day

Today is a "free day." You are welcome to relax at the hotel pool, stroll on the beach, read a book, take a siesta under a shady beach palapa, watch the surfers, checkout the town, or sign up for one of our optional activities listed below.

For the early morning joggers and walkers, the beach is the place to go. Zicatela Beach is almost 2 miles long (3 km) so you will have plenty of "trail" for your morning exercise. For those of you who opt for a more relaxed morning, breakfast at your leisure will be in the hotel restaurant with a beautiful view of the beach and ocean.

FYI - **Zicatela Beach** is recognized as **one of the top beaches in the world for surfing**. The waves can get as high as 30 feet (10 meters). So you can eat your breakfast while watching some of the surfers out there doing their thing.

Optional Activities - You can also opt to go on one of 4 specialized tours.

- Early morning **Birding Tour by Boat or Kayak** (3 hours / \$49 UDS / min. 4) to a nearby lagoon with a knowledgeable birding guide. There you can spot many endemic and migratory birds.
- **Ocean Sport Fishing** (6 hours / \$250 USD per boat / max. 5 pax) trip is another option you may want to sign up for. The start of this tour is only a short taxi ride away from your hotel and also leaves in the early morning.
- **Surf Lesson for Beginners** (2 hours in the late afternoon / \$25 USD pp)
- **Spanish Language Survival Class** (2 hours in the afternoon / \$25 USD pp)

Overnight in Puerto Escondido **(B)**

Day 6: Turtle Release / Tour a National Park / Salsa Dancing

Today you will become an official conservationist. This morning (if baby turtles have hatched the night before), you will have the opportunity to help release them into the ocean. With your assistance, they will then be less likely to be snatched up by sea birds as you will be there to guide and protect them until they reach the surf.

Continuing on, you will travel to México's **Chachagua Lagoon National Park**. This protected park is 53 square miles in size and actually consists of 5 lagoons connected by channels with mangrove trees on either side. Wildlife thrives in this park. Your group along with your host guide will travel by small motorized boat to explore this watery wonderland all the way to the sea. Along the way, you will learn about the different species of mangroves, view many birds, and learn about how the people who live in this environment, survive.

In the latter part of the afternoon back in Puerto Escondido, it will be time to put on your dancing shoes. **Get ready for a lesson in Salsa dancing!** An instructor will assist you in learning some of the basic moves.

You may ask, "Why learn Salsa Dancing?"

Because today is Saturday and on Saturday evenings, it's **Salsa Dancing in Puerto Escondido!** Now you can try out your new-found dancing skills at one of the local beachside restaurant/bars. And if you don't have a partner, there are always singles looking for a dance partner. It will be a night of great music and dancing under the warm night sky.

Overnight in Puerto Escondido. **(B)**



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Day 7: ATV Beach & Sand Dunes Ride / Beach Time

After breakfast, it will be time to say "Adios" to Puerto Escondido. But the fun is not over yet. Today you will visit several smaller seaside villages with some excellent views and pristine beaches.

Your first stop will be ... yep ... another boat ride. Get your cameras out as you search for **great photo-opts to "shoot" iguanas and crocodiles in the wild**. Don't worry, you're in the boat and the crocs are in the water. There is no swimming on this boat tour. This all happens in Laguna Ventanilla.

Next on the itinerary is a stop to visit the laid-back town of Mazunte. Here you will visit the **National Mexican Turtle Center** to learn even more about the research going on regarding the different species of turtles. There are 7 different kinds of turtles and you can find 4 of them here on the Oaxaca coast.

Also in Mazunte, there is a co-op of a group of **local families who produce cosmetics using only plants and natural oils**. You will get to meet them and learn how they make these items with all natural ingredients. Of course, if you would like to purchase some, they would be most happy to let you take home a few of their products.

Ready for a cold drink? Hungry? Then it's time to do some **"Hangin on the Beach."** There are rustic beachside restaurants where no one is in a hurry to go anywhere. On most days, you can also swim in the waters of this beach.

When everyone is ready to continue, your guide will show you one more picturesque beach in another small nearby town called, Zipolite. Beware, the long stretch of beach here is "swimsuit optional." Your choice! ;)

Finally, you will arrive back to the port of Huatulco and check in at the Hotel Quinta Bella Huatulco (or similar). A nice **Farewell Dinner** will be the time to reminisce about your trip and also to say good-bye to your host guide as your Oaxaca Pacific Coast Exploration Tour comes to a close.

Overnight in Huatulco. **(B,D)**

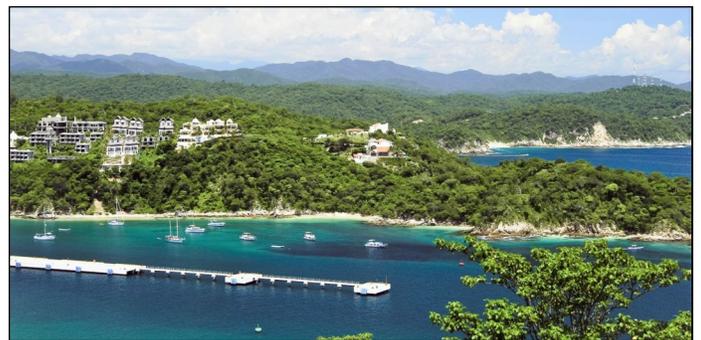


Day 8: Travel Day Home

Today is your travel day back home or to your next travel adventure. If you are catching a flight, the front desk can arrange for a taxi to take you to the Huatulco Airport.

And if you would like to stay a few days longer in Huatulco, just let us know. We can help make your hotel arrangements for a longer stay.

iBuen Viaje! **(B)**



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