

SOUTH

FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST

STATE OF OAXACA AND CHIAPAS.

Oaxaca and Chiapas (along with Guerrero) are the states with the highest diversity and population of indigenous people in the country —approximately 20 different ethnic groups who call it home. Its varied ecosystems make it a land of contrasts: steep mountain peaks, lush jungles, and mixed forests create unique landscapes for unparalleled incentive trips. Event and meeting planners will love the off-the-beaten path locations offered by these destinations, as well as its inhabitants' closely-held traditions.



STATE OF OAXACA

► Oaxaca

The capital city of Oaxaca de Juarez is the state's commercial and tourist center, with streets lined with exquisite colonial buildings made from volcanic rock or adobe. Many have been restored and serve as boutique hotels, museums, or galleries. Agriculture and livestock are the main economic activities; there is also excellent fishing along its coast as well as some activity in the petroleum sector.

■ **WHERE TO STAY.** The Hotel Quinta Real Oaxaca is right in the heart of the city and has an architecture that reflects the days of the viceroyalty of New Spain. The hotel's convenient location just one block from the tourist corridor lined with museums, galleries, and upscale handcraft shops make it an excellent option for meeting planners, as does its lovely La Capilla space, which can welcome anywhere from

120 to 600 attendees depending on the montage. The Quinta Real also boasts a business center and another six rooms for meetings indoors and out with a capacity of anywhere from 10 to 150 persons.

A boutique hotel and gallery, Azul Oaxaca offers a blend of modernity and traditional style that lends itself to small group meetings or upscale cocktail parties in its gardens and terrace. Planners might want to consider taking advantage of its cooking classes for their groups to immerse themselves in the regional gastronomy.

El Callejon Boutique Hotel is another excellent choice for C-suite meetings: the property has adobe walls paired with a contemporary décor and its rooms are decorated with upscale traditional handicrafts from Oaxaca.

If a beach event is on the itinerary, there are nine bays in the beachside destination of Huatulco on the Pacific just a short flight from the city with over 2,300 four-star and above hotels rooms available.



■ **WHERE TO MEET.** **Monte Alban Convention Center:** This venue is located in the city's historic district and can welcome up to 6,000 attendees; it offers 10 rooms with differing dimensions ideal for events.

Alternative venues for events for anywhere from 150 to 1,200 guests include the **Oaxaca Popular Art Museum** in San Bartolo Coyotepec, the **Oaxacan Painters Museum**, the **Macedonio Alcalá Theater**, the **Palace Museum**, the **Ethnobotanic Garden**, the **Juarez Theater**, and the **Alvaro Carrillo Theater**.

■ **WHAT TO DO.** The State of Oaxaca is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the historical center of the city of Oaxaca, Monte Alban, and the Prehistoric Caves of Yagul and Mitla in the Central Valleys.

The Archaeological Zone of Monte Alban—just 20 minutes from the capital—is the destination's most iconic attraction. It was once the capital of the Zapotec empire and is today a favorite with visitors to Mexico. DMC Monte Alban Tours is a good pick to take groups on tours of the ruins and the on-site museum.

Other ad hoc tours for groups can be organized along the different tourist routes in Oaxaca: the Mescal Route, the Sierra Juárez Route, the Mixteca Route, the Magical Handicraft Route, the Juquila Religious Route, and the Oaxacan Coastal Route.

Any visitor to Oaxaca should never leave without tasting at least one of the region's seven mole sauces, the Oaxacan-style chicken livers, a pozole mixteco stew or the very popular grasshoppers

—a specialty of the area. Its gastronomy is exquisite and very traditional, a gift for any event attendee's palate.

For more area hotels and convention facilities, please visit our website at: www.meetingsalliance.com

STATE OF CHIAPAS

► Tuxtla Gutierrez

Chiapas is one of five Mexican states that were home to the Maya empire and it still conserves its pre-Hispanic cultural legacy, majestic monuments, festive ambiance, and delicious gastronomy. Its varied landscape of waterfalls, lakes, rivers, beaches, and mountains make it the second most biologically diverse destination in the country, and, thanks to the strong currents of its rivers, it's also the most important supplier of electricity in Mexico. The capital city of Tuxtla Gutierrez is the state's transportation hub and home base to visit the area's many attractions. Its economic development is fueled by agriculture, livestock, and commerce, with an incipient petroleum industry underway.

■ **WHERE TO STAY.** The capital of Chiapas has two five-star hotels—its accommodations are mainly four-star—and both have excellent facilities for meetings and events. One of these is the Marriott Tuxtla Gutierrez Hotel, a resort with 210 guest



CLIMATE

SOUTH

The climate in the southern region is predominantly warm humid and warm sub-humid. The average high temperature in the summer is 87°F (31°C) and the average low in the winter is 59°F (15°C). Rainy season is quite intense during the summertime; it rains year round in the northern part of the region.



HOW TO GET HERE

OAXACA

Oaxaca International Airport (OAX)
United States: Dallas.



rooms and 12 rooms that can welcome up to 1,000 people at a time, with a total of 6,544 ft² (608 m²) for meetings. The other five-star venue is the Holiday Inn Tuxtla Gutierrez, with 219 guest rooms and 8 meeting spaces that together can welcome up to 1,200 attendees in 8,266 ft² (768 m²) of space.

■ **WHERE TO MEET.** **Chiapas Convention Center and Polyforum:** This venue has eight rooms and an auditorium; the Gran Salon Maya and its foyer together comprise the largest space with a total of 26,629 ft² (2,474 m²) and a capacity of 1,500 attendees. The Polyforum has 3,875 seats available for the same amount of people.

Three of the best alternative venues are: the **Dr. Manuel Velasco Suarez Convention Center** with room for 1,200 people in auditorium style; the **Emilio Rabasa Theater** with 1,130 seats; and the **Chiapas Fair Palapa**, which can host banquets of up to 1,200 attendees.

There are six other outstanding venues ready to host corporate events in this destination, including **Gluck Eventos** with a capacity of 1,500 people in the auditorium, and **Country Royal**, where planners can host a banquet for up to 1,200; the other four can welcome smaller groups from 150 to 500 attendees.

Aside from Tuxtla, Chiapas is also home to Tapachula—where a new convention center is under construction—and the Magical Towns of San Cristobal de las Casas, Palenque, and Comitán, all of which also offer adequate infrastructure for small to mid-size meetings and events.

■ **WHAT TO DO.** Relaxing pre- or post-event options include walks through the historic center in search of handicrafts such as the famous lacquer, or “laca,” used to paint different artifacts, the traditional hand-embroidered dresses, and beautiful amber jewelry, not to mention the local and very tasty hand-made candies. There are over a dozen museums in Tuxtla for tours, including the Chiapas Coffee Museum, the Marimba Museum, and the Laca Museum.

Planners with more adventurous groups might want to check into a pre- or post-event tour to the Cañon del Sumidero National Park for a boat ride—just 17 minutes outside of the city of Tuxtla—or a more adrenaline-pumping visit to one of its lookouts for a different perspective. Both Senda Maya and Chiapas Touring are well-prepared to offer this particular tour and others near the capital including the Sima de las Cotorras sinkhole inhabited by thousands of green parrots, the El Aguacero or the El Chorreadero waterfalls, the Zoomat zoo, the Christ of Chiapas or a trip to the Magical Town of Chiapa de Corso. The archaeological zone of Palenque is one of the country’s most important sites; however, it’s at a fair distance from the capital. One recommendation would be to include a visit as a pre- or post-event add-on by plane with a minimum stay of five days to take advantage of the trip and tour other attractions such as the Agua Azul waterfall.

For more area hotels and convention facilities, please visit our website at: meetingsalliance.com

AT-A-GLANCE

OAXACA

- ▶ **CONVENTION CENTER**
Monte Alban Convention Center
- ▶ **AIRPORT**
Oaxaca International Airport (OAX)
- ▶ **TYPE OF DESTINATION**
Colonial • Culinary
- ▶ **NUMBER OF HOTEL ROOMS 4★ AND ABOVE**
1,800+

▶ **CVB CONTACT**
www.oaxaca.travel

Karina Garcia
Department Head Association Services
karina.ocvoaxaca@gmail.com

Misael Cortez
Department Head Group Services
atmgrupos.ocvoaxaca@gmail.com

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ

- ▶ **CONVENTION CENTER**
Chiapas Convention Center and Polyforum
- ▶ **AIRPORT**
Tuxtla Gutierrez International Airport (TGZ)
- ▶ **TYPE OF DESTINATION**
Urban • Adventure Travel • Ecotourism
- ▶ **NUMBER OF HOTEL ROOMS 4★ AND ABOVE**
1,453

▶ **CVB CONTACT**
www.ocvchiapas.com

Roberto Alabat Albores
CVB Director
ralabat@ocvchiapas.com

José Luis Pichardo Rosales
Director, Convention Center
lpichardo@ocvchiapas.com

WHAT'S NEW

OAXACA

Grand Fiesta Americana Oaxaca (2019)

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ

Hotel City Express Plus en Tapachula (2019)
Tapachula Center (2019)