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For those who fancy nature and things organic, the state of Chiapas is a required stop on the Mexico adventure trail. Mother Nature went wild here; imagining and arranging for verdant caprices as nowhere else on the planet. You've never seen so many shades of green until you reached the state and its thick, highland and lowland forests, jungles in eye-popping hues or the brightest, bluest waterfalls. The state's magnificent tableaux also whisper stories, secrets and legends; you find yourself in a rich, contemplative mood with every step on your trip through time.





Chiapas is a melting-pot where thousands of lives come together to form one of Mexico's most fascinating cultural and social mosaics. Exuberance is a natural in everything from Mexico jaguars to spider monkeys; spectacular, impossible orchids and trees whose lofty boughs soar heavenward to touch the clouds. Chiapas flora and fauna are Mexico's gift to the world, and that nature gave birth to rich cultural life and deep, traditional roots. The fruits they bear are enjoyed to the present, coloring every aspect of far-south Mexico life.

And Chiapas is a whole lot more. The sum total of earthly bounty and infinite surprises as well as intriguing details. On a lazy day, life's best colors, flavors and aromas blend in a perfect triad that envelops you in pure pleasure; tomorrow you set out for bracing outdoor adventure, with thrills and personal bests you never knew you could hit. Back on earth **but connected to the sky** you'll marvel before centuries of history, carved in stone, part of now mythic archaeological ruins.





Chiapas cuisine is like no other—even in Mexico. For its richly seasoned and complex dishes, chefs insist on the freshest, regionally-grown ingredients, to create culinary journeys available only here and now. Chiapas handicrafts are stunning. Standouts include apparel dripping in bold, gaily colored embroidery; masterful pottery, in every expression and for every use or aesthetic; or the warmth you sense when trying on the region's baubles, bangles and beads in honey-hued amber. Chiapas artisans' wide-ranging expressions dazzle your eyes and call up enchantment as well as authenticity.

Get ready. Because with NUBA Incoming you take extraordinary paths that lead to rich folklore as well as deep dives into unparalleled adventure. Many say Chiapas is infused with a strong sortilege, charms that empower your deepest feelings. Before you know it, you're a part of something you can't shake—and that you never will.



C H I A P A S



AIRPORTS

TGZ - Tuxtla Gutiérrez International Airport **PQM** – Palenque International Airport



DRIVING DISTANCES

TGZ - Chiapa de Corzo (30m) TGZ - San Cristóbal de las Casas (1h) TGZ -Palenque (6h) TGZ -Oaxaca (8h)



CLIMATE

- In Tuxtla Gutiérrez, the climate is warm humid, between 25 ° to 36 °.
- San Cristóbal de las Casas is located 2200 meters above sea level so it is a cool environment that stays between 10 ° and 20 ° degrees. In winter temperatures are between 0 ° and 10 °.
- Palenque, Agua Azul, Misol-Ha, Yaxchilán and the Lacandona jungle there is a very humid tropical environment between 25 ° and 38 ° degrees.



TIPPING CUSTOMS (MXN)

High-end restaurants: 15% - 20%

Casual restaurants: 15%

Drivers: \$200-\$300 daily

Guides: \$300-\$500 daily

TIME ZONE (GMT)

BEST TRAVEL MONTHS

From November to May. If you visit Chiapas in June to September we recommend you bring your raincoat with you, since showers are unpredictable this season.

• GMT6





L O D G I N G S

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W H A T T O D O

I C O N O G R A F Í A







CAÑÓN DEL SUMIDERO AND CHIAPA DE CORZO

Nobody exactly knows which is the best entrance. Some say the dramatic formations at Sumidero Canyon are the fitting gateway to the state's most enchanting colonial town, Chiapa de Corzo. The theory's detractors naturally disagree and say that the town welcomes on the way to the canyon. However you hit them, the bottom line is they're now must-dos for every Chiapas wayfarer.

On one hand, as a pueblo mágico, Chiapa de Corzo has hit a stride supported by its spectacular architecture and deep cultural roots. You see it everywhere in town, especially at sites like La Pila, a central-plaza fountain whose waters remain pristine after centuries of use. Famed for peaceful symmetry and fabulous flying buttresses, its Moorish style **hearkening to Spain's centuries under Arab rule** relies on impeccable brickwork and all-Mexico materials as it pays elegant tribute to the potpourri that is the nation's mixed mestizo culture.



That said, walls at the colossal Cañón del Sumidero gorge rise 900 meters, below which the Grijalva River's waters run and rush freely. This geological fault is also home to abundant wildlife and plant species as it serves a base for other imposing geological formations. You'll thrill to it all, your eyes widening especially as you contemplate much-loved landmarks like Cueva de Colores and Árbol de la Navidad Falls.

It goes without saying that in addition to glorious Mexico nature and a beguiling colonial city, you'll also discover an impressive array of artisanal crafts, particularly carved woods and way-out but delicate embroidery. Be sure to make a date at least once in life with Los Parachicos, dancers who dazzle during big annual festivals that have been awarded UNESCO intangible-world-heritage status.



Includes:







Does not include:

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While Tuxtla Gutiérrez is the political capital, everyone knows San Cristóbal de las Casas is the state's dynamic cultural star and may be Chiapas's most dreamed-of destination. Downtown you'll wander some of Mexico's most appealing blocks; but the city also evinces unhurried peace and an intimacy that might encourage leaving your troubles behind for truly happy days. Stroll avenues lined with ancient mansions featuring wide eaves, roofed in terra-cotta, to shield passersby from blazing sun and chilly rains alike. Wind up at spectacular baroque churches like Santo Domingo or San Cristóbal Martyr Cathedral. Another romantic spot is the Arco del Carmen city gate that encloses a beautiful, welcoming corridor home to innumerable old-school shops that sell great local selections.

Notes: Duration: 2 hours Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:

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SAN JUAN CHAMULA AND ZINACANTÁN

Don't mess with San Juan Chamula. Time can't run it down, much less visitors and not even the arrival of modern-day lifestyles. This town in the Chiapas highlands is pure and perpetual, magic and mystical from its polysyllabic name to the wonders you encounter at every turn. It's an assertion we still have lots to learn about the real Mexico. Here, age-old customs and livelihoods reign supreme; you also find yourself reveling in a palpable experience of pre-Hispanic and Roman Catholic syncretism.

A 15-minute scenic hop takes you to Zinacantán, a village famed for indigenous nation Tzotzil heritage. The name comes from a well-known cave and its flying-rodent inhabitants; central Mexico's Nahuas and Spanish colonists were right to call it "place of the bats." The town, with its inspiring mountain vibe, features churches now made globally famous thanks to every August's lively Feast of San Lorenzo Mártir in honor of the town's patron saint.

Notes: In the Church of San Juan Chamula it is forbidden to take photographs

Duration: 4 hours

Recommended clothing:







Does not include:







The El Chiflón cascades are in fact a waterfall chain formed by San Vicente River currents and the topography surrounding the Tzimol municipal jurisdiction. These spectacular formations are surrounded by tropical forest and sugarcane plantations; the best way to explore is hiking past and dropping in on the state's fabulous jungle temples. For you, it means gorgeous outlooks onto cascades to which locals have attached quite amusing names; you'll see everything from "The Sigh" to "Angel's Wing," "The Rainbow," the "Quinceañera" as well as the Chiapas version of the inevitable "Bridal Veil." This last is the highest of them all, topping out at 70 meters up.





MONTEBELLO LAKES

Originally established in 1959, Lagunas de Montebello National Park is a nature compound largely made up of pine and encino-oak forests as well as home to bodacious orchids and bromeliads. You also explore some 50 petite natural pools, loaded with minerals that direct sunlight activates on the water's surface in fabulous shades of blue and green. In other parts of the park, you discover unique formations, in reality aquifers, that time's passage and centuries of rain have formed. Your visit leads to two principal lake zones; the first area is famed for "La Esmeralda," "La Encantada," "Bosque Azul," "Ensueño" and "Agua Tinta;" the second cluster includes "Pojoj," "Cinco Lagos," "Dos Cenotes" and "Tziscao."





Two hours out from San Cristóbal, the Toniná archaeological site discloses an imposing bastion of Chiapaneca history. This sacred ground occupies one of the highest points in Ocosingo Valley and its grand, unforgettable ruins speak to the entire region's former glory. Isolated from other famed pre-Hispanic capitals, Toniná is a bona fide, 100% Chiapas source of pride, the state's most ancient landmark. The name comes from the Maya-Tzeltal language and means "the stone house;" you'll climb 260 stairs to reach it. As you admire this Mesoamerican Acropolis, the site's shining star, your knees may start complaining. But somehow you get the idea this is a pilgrimage.

Notes: Duration: 8 hours **Recommended clothing:**



Includes:



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A R C H A E O L O G I C A L S I T E

Ruins of what was the most important Maya metropolis in what ultimately became Chiapas is rightly a UNESCO World Heritage Site, especially celebrated for its architecture's robust qualities and dazzling aesthetics. When you visit, you ascend to the purest essence of an imposing culture that left behind sundry treasure now hidden within thick jungles. Palenque's beauty and grandeur inspired other groups to erect settlements that still occupy the expansive Río Usumacinta Basin. For the love of zero time hassles and great, laid-back adventures, NUBA suggests you spend a full day at the marvelous, mysterious site.

Notes: **Duration:** 4 hours **Recommended clothing:**









Includes:





Does not include:





AGUA AZUL FALLS

There is no indigo blue in all of Chiapas as intense as the dazzling hue that surprises you at Agua Azul cascades. Three rivers the Otulún, the Shumuljá and the Tulijá feed this giant waterworks that flows through shallow canyons that reach dramatic, straight-down cliffs, creating the much-beloved and powerful falls. When these beautiful flows hit the ground, some of the water collects behind limestone ridges that in turn form natural pools known in Chiapas as gours. Take a dip or just marvel; go with the flow. You'll find it hard to stop looking.

Notes: Stop at Ocosingo for breakfast (not included) Duration: 6 hours **Recommended clothing:**



Includes:







Does not include:

8







MISOL-HA CASCADES

Chiapas jungles hold great secrets, like every rainforest on the planet. One such are the thickly moss-covered cliffs and waterfalls at Misol-Ha in the Salto de Agua municipal jurisdiction. A 45-meter drop that splashes down to natural pools 25 meters deep, nearby pre-Hispanic settlements felt the magic in this extraordinary sanctuary early on. It became a stage for important religious rites and cultural happenings. Close your eyes and fall silent; see how you're breathing in the magic?





Not nearly so popular (or crowded) as Agua Azul but the Roberto Barrios falls are not a whit less beautiful or majestic. You go especially when you want to get off the beaten path and meditate on the marvels nature so often weaves together. NUBA Incoming travelers love stopping to cool off after sun-drenched Palenque adventures.





There's only one way to reach Yaxchilán, and that's by boat; the fun and fascination start as soon as you're underway to this fantastic site. While the area is not huge, it's surrounded by immense, forbidding jungles; its remaining stone structures seem to take on a life of their own especially in ancient bas relief tableaux carved onto the rocks' faces that portray major concerns from the Maya worldview. Close by the Usumacinta River and not far from the Guatemalan border, the site whispers its heady secrets in abstruse ways. But isn't that what always happens when you travel back a thousand years?

Notes: Breakfast on the route (not included). Duration: 12 hours Recommended clothing:



Includes:



Does not include:

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At the beating heart of the Lacandona rainforest lies Bonampak, where Maya specters, they say, still hang out, amid its brilliant hues and age-old pre-Hispanic urbanity. It's also a guardian that protects the civilization's most splendid mural. Subtlety, balanced with genius design, attracts visitors for whom learning and long histories are well worth the trip. A must-see for understanding an empire that claimed the entire Yucatán and points beyond as its rich dominion.

Notes: Breakfast on the route (not included). Duration: 13 hours **Recommended clothing:**



Includes:



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Does not include:







Is there anything more fun for getting some culture than nosing around workshops for some fantastic, not-available-anywhere-else artisanal treasure? NUBA Incoming would especially love to take you to Amatenango del Valle, where painstaking Tzeltal-nation potters give life to characters from their dream lives, in the form of candy-colored jaguars and psychedelic doves who enjoy complete freedom (and might teach us a thing or two). These and dozens of other mythical beasties play a key role in the region's aesthetic history. The artisans also know how to throw clay into great everyday necessities like griddles, pots, casseroles, vases, candlesticks and pitchers...all great Chiapas souvenirs, with something for every taste.

Notes: Breakfast on the route (not included). Duration: 4 hours **Recommended clothing:**



Includes:





Does not include:

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When NUBA Incoming travelers crave deep, almost never-ending histories, we take them to one of Chiapas's most venerable towns, now an irresistible pueblo mágico. Comitán de Domínguez's enchantment connects you to exuberant nature, pre-Hispanic traces, delicious cuisines and, not least of all, deep, rich tradition centuries old. A handful of Tzeltal indigenous founded Comitán on what was then a swampy backwater. It rose in importance until the Spaniards' arrival brought with them abrupt changes not completely resolved even after five centuries. In 1915, the town took on a second name to honor a hometown boy **Belisario Domínguez** who had gone on to a brilliant career as physician and statesman and who is still remembered (at least on street signs) throughout Mexico.

Notes:
Includes:

Duration:
Recommended clothing:

Duration:
Does not include:



Slightly more than three hours from Comitán de Domínguez (i.e., deep within the Lacandona jungle) lies Las Nubes and its immaculate surrounding nature. An ideal ecotourism spot, there are adventures galore, including small falls loudly splashing that make for awesome rafting.





The red guacamaya parrot is a gorgeous Chiapas resident, now sadly in danger of extinction. To do our part, NUBA Incoming loves taking "woke" guests to the Las Guacamayas Ecotourism Center, where the team is not just helping conserve the birds but also support building awareness of just how key the avian species is to many Chiapas ecosystems.





Fans of hiking, rafting or even just communing with nature and its infinite surprises think Lacanjá is an ideal ticket. Unlike many spots, here the river waters are much calmer, ideal for friends and families looking for easier rafts-and-rapids moments.





The center is a landmark in the village at Frontera Corozal. This Chol indigenous community sits on the banks of the Usumacinta, the river that forms part of the border between Mexico and its southern neighbor Guatemala. It's an antechamber for crossing in or out, especially to see the marvelous archaeological site at Tikal. Take a break there before or after time in Yaxchilán.







E X P E R I E N C E S

C O F F E E C O O P E R A T I V E S

Chiapaneco coffees figure among only seventeen Mexican products that successfully claim appellation-of-origin, meaning its flavors are unlike any others on the planet. They merit a deep-dive into coffee culture that is right up NUBA Incoming's proverbial alley. Our biggest customers for the event are no-joke coffee aficionados (at least until they've had that first slug). And we're bully on the Tenejapa region cooperative, 40 minutes or an hour from San Cristóbal de las Casas. At the cooperative, we take advantage of a marvelous excursion that explains coffee from seed-sowing to boutique café shelves, passing through every cultivation and production phase. Knowing you're participating in fair trade and making things better for real people in a notoriously extractive industry makes it sweeter—even if you only take your coffee black. Just before reaching Tenejapa, we pop into Romerillo, in the San Juan Chamula municipal jurisdiction, especially in late October and the first days of November, when Day of the Dead observances illumined by the warmest and most poignant candlelight reach a zenith.

Notes:

Duration: One day or half day excursion.

Recommended clothing:



Includes:



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Does not include:







Tap into the Chiapas big-picture. Whether it's Comitán de Domínguez or even Palenque, NUBA Incoming offers you a custom-designed airplane excursion that lends you an entirely new set of eyes. Viewed from on high, you thrill to the real extent of favorite places like the Lacandona jungle and surrounding archaeological sites. All is revealed...but our beautiful Chiapas will always hold tight to some of its secrets.

Notes: Route to choose. Duration: It will depend on the route they choose. Recommended clothing:



Includes:





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