

# LIVING CULTURES

Witness History

Chiapas, México



Chiapas of Heart

## FESTIVITIES AND POPULAR ART



Photo: Dariz Aquino

In Chiapas, located in the southeastern of Mexico, the culture manifests itself in the most vivid expression in the form of small universes that encapsulate fascinating traditions of Chiapanecos. The holidays are as diverse as their native peoples and as strong as its roots, yet unbreakable by time. The rich variety of nature and culture reflected in one of the productions of the highest quality and diversity of folk art country through textiles, lacquer, pottery, metalwork, cordage, basketry and woodcarving, amber jewelry and other branches of craftsmanship. Encountering any holiday is an unforgettable experience.

## DANZA DE LOS PARACHICOS

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY BY UNESCO



The Danza de los Parachicos, declared Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, is part of the Fiesta Grande de Chiapa de Corzo, which represents the celebration of the most famous world half-castle integration of Chiapas.

With colorful costumes and fine carved wooden masks, the Parachicos transforms the streets in rivers of color and joy. Dancing, singing, and throwing "vivas" to catholic saints, these characters carry the spirit of the holidays to every corner of this magical town.

◆ *Chiapa de Corzo is located at 15 km from Tuxtla Gutiérrez.*

◆ *The Fiesta Grande de Chiapa de Corzo is performed every year since 8th to 23rd January*



## ZOQUE COITECO CARNIVAL



Photo: Nabor Yañez

Is the most popular celebration of Ocozocoautla and one of the most representative of the state. Carnival Zoque fuses elements of ethnicity, religion and Catholic traditions linked to the cycle of Moors and Christians, leading to a party that occurs between algarabía and devotion, and is distinguished by generosity to locals and visitors. A rite of reed flute and drum intercession Tajaj Jamá or "Father Sun" for obtaining good harvests.

◆ *Ocozocoautla is located at 36 km from Tuxtla Gutiérrez.*

• *The carnivals are held before the Christian Lent variable date in February and March.*

## CORPUS CHRISTI OF SUCHIAPA



Photo: Ariel Silva

Each year, the day of Corpus Christi, Suchiapa is painted in yellow, the color carried by dancers, dressed in costumes that simulate tiger skin, take to the streets to revive an ancient tradition of religious syncretism result. In this celebration is performed the "Dance of Calalá" which involved characters like The Giant, The Gigantillo and The Tiger. Musicians playing over 30 mysteries or songs at this event that is reminiscent of ancient rituals around the veneration of the jaguar.

◆ *Suchiapa is located at 16 km from Tuxtla Gutiérrez.*

• *The celebration of Corpus Christi is held between May and June (Variable date)*

## SAN JUAN CHAMULA CARNIVAL



The mysticism of Chiapas cultures manifests in the most traditional festival of this tsotsil community with Kinta-jimultik or "New Fire" in which Catholic elements are combined with pagan rites. This festival evokes mythical episodes of the sacred book of the ancient Maya, the Popol Vuh, on his liturgy, dances, costumes of the actors, among others. Involved characters such as "max" or "monkey men" whose attitude and appearance causes fascination among visitors.

◆ *San Juan Chamula is located at 10 km from San Cristóbal de Las Casas.*

◆ *The carnivals are held before the Christian Lent variable date in February and March.*

## TENEJAPA CARNIVAL



One of the most colorful traditions is the Tenejapa carnival. It is an ancient manifestation where one more time syncretic harmony blend with Christian values aged rituals of Tseltal people in a ritual to pray for the fertility of the land and good crops. One of the important days of the festival is on Thursday when the ensigns, in charge of carrying the flags, show off their flashy red outfit, giving life and color to the holiday.<sup>(1)</sup>

◆ *Tenejapa is located at 26 km from San Cristóbal de Las Casas.*

◆ *The carnivals are held before the Christian Lent variable date in February and March.*



## POTTERY FROM AMATENANGO DEL VALLE



Tseltal people from Amatenango valley is known for the pottery excelent mainly undertaken by women, who even used in this elaboration prehispanic methods. Pots, jugs, jars and zoomorphic figures as beautiful Jaguars, are the products of this ancient tradition. The Art to blend ground and water, modeling clay by hand, dried and burned opencast.

- ◆ *Amatenango del Valle is located at 35 km from San Cristóbal de Las Casas.*



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## AMBER FROM CHIAPAS



Amber is a fossil resin whose unique deposits in Mesoamerica known are located in Chiapas (areas of Simojovel, Huitiupán and Totolapa). Some pieces have small inclusions of prehistoric leaves or insects. The most common colors are honey, yellow and red, but also can find the blue. Purple blue and green. With amber occurs jewelry with superb quality which can be purchased in various cities of the state. It is recognized as the Amber of Chiapas as denomination of origin.

- ◆ *Simojovel is located at 89 km from San Cristóbal de las Casas.*



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## LACQUER FROM CHIAPA DE CORZO



Decoration with Lacquer from Chiapas stands out for the beauty and coloring, his designs are characterized by clusters of colors, foliage with ferns and birds. Traditional lacquer technique, dating back to the pre-Hispanic era, and still continues to be used in Chiapas is based axe, substance obtained of treatment "coccus axin" insect that lives in trees and local climates warm and humid. This substance mixed with other naturally occurring elements is used as paint for the decoration of objects such as vases, boxes or furniture.

- ◆ *Chiapa de Corzo is located at 15 km from Tuxtla Gutiérrez.*



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## TEXTILES



History, culture, traditions and legends of Chiapas are woven into textiles. Weaving on a backstrap loom has for centuries been a pillar of culture, each community has his distinctive dress. Designs have been worn by Mayan women for over a thousand years, although there have been constant innovations within the overall scheme of the old designs, which reflect the language through which their worldview, their beliefs, their own world is expressed. In the town of San Cristóbal de las Casas is the Centro de Textiles del Mundo Maya (Textile Center of the Mayan World) that promotes research and conservation of the textile tradition. Places of Chiapas who have distinguished themselves for their textile art are Zinacantan, San Juan Chamula, San Andres Larainzar, Tenejapa, Aguacatenango, Oxchuc, Venustiano Carranza, among others.



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# MAP OF CHIAPAS

Living Cultures



## CHIAPAS IN MEXICO



### SIMBOLOGY

CULTURAL FEATURES		NATURAL FEATURES	
	Principal Cities		Waterbodies
	Living Cultures		Principal roads
	Textiles and Crafts		
COMMUNICATIONS			
	Federal Routes		Carrizteras Estatales
	Free 2 extended lane		2 lanes
	Free 4 lane		Development
	Free 2 lane		Development
	Airport		International

puerto chiapas



Visiting Chiapas is to live history,  
tradition and legend.

It is a promised an unforgettable  
experience.



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