



Mexico – Chiapas

Destination Guide and FAQs



First time in Chiapas?

You're in for a treat. Chiapas is Mexico's hidden cultural gem.

“Chilly pine-forest highlands, sultry rainforest jungles and attractive colonial cities exist side by side within Mexico's southernmost state, a region awash with the legacy of Spanish rule and the remnants of ancient Maya civilization.”
Chiapas travel guide

If you have been lucky enough to visit Chiapas, you're already in love. But do read on because a few things may have changed.

First off, is Chiapas safe for travellers?

Your perception of safety is important, and we urge you to visit your country's travel advisory consular site. These days, only a few countries do not carry an advisory.

For the most part, Chiapas is considered to be safe for travelers, although Chiapas locals have a history of clashes with the Mexican government. Recently, tensions have abated, though there are often *bloqueos* where locals shut down roads. We stick to the most visited places in Chiapas, also the safest for travelers: San Cristóbal de las Casas, San Juan Chamula, Zinacantan, and Palenque, avoiding roads where blockades might be set up.

From our January 2024 tour, we can comfortably state that the efforts of our long-time tour operator and the presence of security forces in Chiapas made our travellers feel safe throughout. Multiple checks along the roads contributed to overall security.

As with any destination, travellers should exercise caution in being out in the dark and carrying valuables. A bonus of group travel is you can always be with a travel companion. Our local office in Canada is on hand to address any concerns.

Do I need a Visa for Mexico?

Visitors from the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. do NOT need a visa to Mexico. Check [this guide](#) for more info. In order to gain entry, you will need a passport valid for 6 months.

If you do need a visa, bear in mind that processing can take 4 to 5 weeks. Please understand that it is your sole responsibility to possess a valid passport and visa prior to embarking on this tour.

What is the time zone in Chiapas?

Chiapas is on Central Standard time, same as in the U.S. (GMT -6, Eastern -1)

When is the best time of year to visit Chiapas?

The best time to visit the main travel destinations in the Central Highlands is in the dry season from late Oct to May. These regions have temperatures that hover around 60-70F all year long. However, jungle and rainforest areas such as Palenque can be much hotter with high humidity. Coastal Chiapas is best visited between Nov and March. January is also rich with festivals, particularly the Parachicos Festival and the Feast of San Sebastian.

How strenuous is this tour?

A good level of fitness is essential. Unless you enjoy unimpaired mobility, can cope with everyday walking and stair-climbing without difficulty, and are reliably sure-footed, this tour may not be for you.

You must be able to walk comfortably and without assistance at a moderate pace for one hour stretches. A moderate pace of walking is defined as 100 steps per minute. Visits to historical monuments and even some modern ones include stairs, as do some hotels. The ground may be uneven in older cities. There are some steep walks. Unruly traffic and the busy streets of larger cities require some vigilance. This tour involves private bus transfers on crowded urban roads. The longest transfer on this tour is 4hrs with two breaks.

Most sites have some shade, but the sun can be strong, even in the cooler seasons.

Secondly, our tours are group events. The presence of even one person who is not fit enough to cope can spoil the experience for

everyone else, in addition to placing stress on group leaders and guides.

We will take a boat ride in a spectacular canyon.

Please assess your fitness level as objectively as possible. Should you decide to join the tour and later develop immobility, please let us know immediately.



I hear only 5* hotels are good enough for travel in Chiapas. Correct?

Incorrect. One of the best ways to experience Chiapas is to stay in atmospheric small hotels for architecture, cultural relevance, comfort, safety, and personal service. In all cases, we select the best available. All hotels are clean, comfortable, and have private bathrooms and western-style toilets. But please be aware that

accommodations may be different to what you are used to in developed countries.



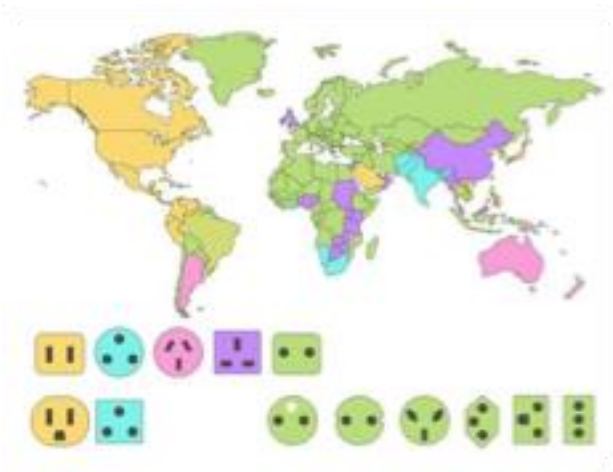
What about clothes and valuables?

A comprehensive packing list will be supplied. Consider layering clothes. Pack a light windbreaker and fleece hoodie, as well as warm socks and a shawl. Comfortable closed-toed walking shoes or sneakers are recommended, especially for archeological sites. Mexico is a conservative country and women travellers might feel more comfortable with dresses below the knees, and trousers, tops/dresses with some sleeve. Steer away from strappy tank tops and low-cut shirts. Wear a longer shirt if wearing pants.

It's best to leave expensive jewelry and valuables at home.

What is the voltage in Mexico?

The voltage in Mexico is 110-120 volts and the frequency is 60 Hz with either 2- or 3-pin flat plugs (yellow in the picture below). The primary outlet in Mexico is the 2-flat-pin plug. We recommend packing an international adapter so you can switch back and forth as needed



Where to fly in and out of? What are the best international flight options?

Our tour starts in Villahermosa (closest airport Carlos Rovirosa Pérez International Airport VSA), an international airport. It ends in San Cristóbal de las Casas (closest airport Tuxtla Gutiérrez TGZ) which is an easy connection to Mexico City (MEX).

Do give yourself ample time to settle in after your long flight. For early arrivals and late departures, we offer airport transfers for a fee.

How can I stay in touch with home? Can I get a local SIM card?

Most hotels have fairly decent wifi. In addition, you may wish to supplement wifi with a Mexico SIM card. The main network is the leader, Telcel. You can also get an AT&T Mexico SIM card or use the company Movistar, which is the last preference as calls are frequently dropped. SIM cards can be purchased for around \$10-15 in the agencies of the network operators and their sales outlets. Be prepared to show your passport.

My big fear is getting sick in Mexico.

The main reasons why travelers get sick in

Mexico is eating unwisely. Safe bottled water is readily available all over Mexico. The food in Mexico is delicious and generally well prepared. **Only eat foods that have been cooked, and are piping hot upon serving, and eat fruit that can be peeled**. The prices of meals on your own will range from \$3 - \$15, without alcohol.

Don't use ice cubes in drinks. Brush teeth with bottled water until your system is well adjusted to local micro-organisms.

Will drinking water be provided while travelling?

We provide bottled drinking water while on the road. In interests of reducing plastic waste, please consider bringing your own refillable water bottle. Hotels will supply bottled water.

What about the currency?

The Mexican Peso (MX\$ or MN) is the currency of Mexico.

One hundred *centavos* are in one Mexican peso (denoted as MX\$ or MN). Notes come in denominations of 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1000 MX\$. Coins come in denominations of 5-50 *centavo* pieces, and 1-10MX\$, although it's rare to use anything under 50 *centavos*.

USD are accepted in some parts of the country, though it's almost always more advantageous (less expensive) to pay with Mexican Pesos.

Change money at major airports or banks, exchange bureaus, and ATMs in major cities). Travellers' cheques are generally not accepted in Mexico.

ATMS that accept international cards are widely available in cities. It's usually better to withdraw large sums at one go than multiple smaller sums. Many businesses will accept

debit and credit cards, for which the foreign exchange charge is usually 4% of the transaction value.

Note: Makers (weavers, carvers etc.) and market vendors almost never have credit card facilities, so purchases need to be paid for in cash.

What about tipping?

We run a US \$150 tipping kitty for porters, hotel staff, drivers, and guides. You may supplement if you wish. Any unused amounts at the end will be democratically disposed of.

And shopping . . .? What about shipping home?

Markets and artisan workshops are the central hubs of most places we will visit. There, you can find all the clothes, jewelry, and dishware you could ever want. Chiapas is famous for (a) textiles and (b) its pottery. Do be sure to obtain a receipt for larger purchases, as it may be requested either on domestic flights or upon international departure. Most well-established artisans will arrange shipping for a fee.

Regarding bargaining, we suggest paying makers the price they ask with little or no haggling. In markets, where work is being resold by intermediaries, it is possible to bargain.

Do I need any vaccinations?

There are no vaccinations required for entry to Mexico but short-term travellers are recommended to receive vaccination cover for **Tetanus**, **Typhoid** (food and water-borne) and **Hepatitis A** (food & water borne)

Follow the recommendations of your travel health clinic. You may want to bring Tylenol, Immodium and/or Pepto Bismol, in addition to

prescription medications.



Travel Insurance

Travel protection is recommended for all our travelers and should be taken out at the time of booking.

If you choose not to purchase travel insurance, please sign off on registration form that you have been notified of the need for travel insurance.

E.Y.H.O. is not qualified to answer technical questions about the benefits, exclusions, and conditions of travel insurance plans. E.Y.H.O. cannot evaluate the adequacy of the insured's existing insurance coverage. If you have any questions about your travel protection, consult your insurer or insurance agent or broker.

Here are insurance companies our travellers have used in the past. Please note – this does not constitute an endorsement on our part.

[World Nomads](#)

[Travelex](#)

[Allianz](#)

Best value [Insure my Trip](#)

Please note: Failing to purchase adequate

travel protection plan could result in the loss of your travel cost and/or require more money to correct the situation. You also acknowledge that without adequate coverage, there may be no way to recoup any losses, costs or expenses incurred.

If you choose to travel without adequate coverage, E.Y.H.O. is not liable for any of your losses for which adequate trip protection plan coverage would otherwise have been available.

How do I navigate cultural sensibilities in Mexico?

Most Mexican families are happy to share their traditions with visitors. We will visit people's homes and studios. Photographs should not be taken until permission has been granted.

When entering churches and cathedrals, visitors are expected to show respect. Women should not wear shorts or skimpy suntops; it is not necessary to cover the head. Hats should be removed by men and women. Some churches forbid photography, and this rule should be obeyed.

Covid and Mexico

Currently there are no entry restrictions in Mexico and no obligation to carry a COVID test or to quarantine. Travelers no longer need to fill out a health declaration form.

As of May 2023, the WHO has downgraded Covid as ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a public health emergency of international concern. Should you develop symptoms and test positive during the tour, you will **not** be required to isolate.

On the other hand, if you are concerned about being exposed to contagion, please assess your comfort level to join the tour and/or consider remaining masked where not possible to socially distance or isolate.

Please note that E.Y.H.O. Tours is not responsible for covering the cost of any curtailment to the tour, missed transport arrangements, additional accommodation, expenses for testing and treatment or any other costs incurred by the traveller/s. Travellers **MUST** ensure that they have travel insurance that covers these costs. E.Y.H.O. will not undertake any administrative responsibility for a traveller's insurance claim.

Read on for Flights, Transfers, and extra nights.

Flights: Arrivals, Departures

Tour starts on January 11, 2025, at 5pm with a welcome briefing in Villahermosa (VSA).

Tour ends San Cristóbal de las Casas (Tuxtla Gutiérrez TGZ) on January 26, 2025.

Depending on where you are flying from and your plans pre/post tour, there are several flight options. Main international airport is probably Mexico City (MEX).

Extra nights and airport transfers

If you are arriving early, feel free to book direct at [Marriott Villahermosa](#) as hotels often offer promotional rates. Please note: a room change may be required for when tour starts. Or we can book for you for an additional fee. Deadline for extra nights bookings is October 30, 2024.

Villahermosa extra nights (tour starts 11 Jan at 5pm. earliest check in 2pm)		
Single occupancy in USD	140	includes breakfast and taxes.
Double occ. pp in USD	75	includes breakfast and taxes.

Airport transfer: a no charge group transfer will be arranged depending on maximum arrivals, probably on Jan14. For all other transfers see below. Booking deadline October 30.

Transfers (Per person) other than group – VSA to hotel	USD pp
1 pax	50
2 pax each	40
3 pax	30
4 pax	45
5 pax	40
6 pax	35

Questions? shila@eyhotours.com