



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 Cristobal de las Casas, San Juan Chamula, Zinacantan, and Palenque, avoiding roads where blockades might be set up.

From our November 2022 tour, we can unreservedly say that with the presence of security forces in Chiapas, the group felt completely safe throughout. Multiple security checks along the roads lent to an overall sense of safety.

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

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 . . . ?

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 most 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.

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

The basics

There are currently no entry restrictions in Mexico and no obligation to carry a COVID test or to quarantine. Since March 2022, travelers to the country no longer need to fill out a health declaration form.

There may be health screenings at airports. More info: click [here](#).

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 it's not possible to socially distance or isolate.

Upon return home, travelers are subject to rules of their countries of residence.

Here is what we are doing to deliver as safe a tour as possible:

- We recommend travel medical insurance and trip interruption insurance. Travel repatriation insurance is optional but also recommended.
- We will assist in testing and medical care at your expense if needed.
- All guides and drivers are fully vaccinated, with most of them having a third booster.

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 required, 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.

Flights: Arrivals, Departures

Tour starts on January 14, 2024 at 1pm in San Cristobal de las Casas (Tuxtla Gutiérrez TGZ).

Tour ends anytime at Villahermosa (VSA) on January 29, 2024.

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).

Feel free to reach out to trip manager Chey Davis on assistant@eyhotours.com for specific advice.

Extra nights and airport transfers

If you are arriving early, feel free to book direct at [Casa Na Bolom](#), San Cristobal de las Casas. Or we can book for you (\$) as below. Booking deadline Oct 15.

Na Bolom extra nights (tour starts 14 Jan at 1pm. earliest check in 12 noon on request)	U	
Single occupancy in USD	100	includes breakfast and taxes.
Double occ. pp in USD	70	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 Oct 15.

Transfers (Per person) other than Group - Tuxtla Gutierrez to Casa Na Bolom (Spanish speaking driver only)	USD pp
1 pax	70
2 pax each	70
3 pax	65
4 pax	50
5 pax	45
6 pax	40

Questions? Chey Davis assistant@eyhotours.com or shila@eyhotours.com