

IXTAPA-ZIHUATANEJO

TRAVEL GUIDE



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Ixtapa Zihuatanejo



You may think in Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo as the twin paradises, both towns are just a short drive from one another. This double destination has 16 miles of coast and satisfies totally different needs, from authenticity-seeking adventurers to languorous sun worshippers. Among the things this destination has to offer are: stunning white-sand beaches, crystal clear waters for all kind of water sports, luxury hotels, placid bays, and the taste of small-town Mexican life.

Ixtapa is one of Mexico's most compact planned resorts created in the 1970s, with a hotel strip along the Playa del Palmar, a two- mile long stretch of beautiful white sand. Here you will find world-class resorts equipped with enough restaurants, pools, and activities to keep families occupied for weeks. There is also a pair of golf courses and a modern marina with slips for 600 vessels and upscale seafood restaurants. Ixtapa also offers shopping malls, excellent boutiques, jewelry stores, handicraft shops and a nautical atmosphere.

On the other hand, Zihuatanejo is a fishing village in a lovely bay that offers visitors the opportunity to see the more traditional side of Mexico. The original name was Cihuatlán which means "land of women" in nahuatl, because the social organization was a matriarchy. This place was a sacred sanctuary for the prehispanic nobility, and there are vestiges of very old civilizations as the Olmecs who lived 3000 B.C. The quaint and pleasant village features single-story white houses and

cobblestone streets lined with nightspots, shops, hotes, and restaurants that run the gamut from casual to ultraluxurious. This nice environment combine with the traditions and charm of local people, is always an invitation to get around the town. Visitors have the option to stay in one of the inviting little hotels in the center of town, or in one of the small luxury hotels nestled along its lovely beaches.

More than 150 restaurants offer plenty of delicious choices, but Zihuatanejo is the best place to try regional fish specialties like "Tiritas", made of thin fish strips marinated in lemon with red onions and sliced hot peppers, the regional favorite, the "pescadillas", "ceviche", fish and shrimp tacos, and "pescado a la talla".

The average temperature is 82° F and sunshine 300 days a year. Even during the June-September rainy season showers are brief and usually in the late afternoon or evening.

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is just three-hour drive from Acapulco and 40-minute flight from México City. The superhighway Century XXI that connects Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo with Morelia, Michoacán, conveniently facilitates quick access by car: from Mexico City in 6 hours, from Toluca, Querétaro and León in 5 hours, and from Morelia in only 3 and a half to 4 hours.



Getting to Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo International Airport has recently expanded and several of its areas are under renovation. It has multiple facilities including car rental desks, a restaurant and "duty-free" shops. There are non-stop flights from Mexico City, Toluca, Guadalajara, Acapulco, Los Angeles, Houston, Phoenix, Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary, among others. During the winter season the number of flights increases.

The airport is located only 15 minutes far from Zihuatanejo and 25 minutes far from Ixtapa, both are connected by a modern four-lane highway.

By Plane



Federal highway 200 connects Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo with Acapulco, where modern "Autopista del Sol" connects with Mexico City. The driving distance between Mexico City and Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is 637 kilómetros (396 miles). An alternate route and relatively faster between Mexico City and Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is through Morelia with 667 km (414 mi), in the Autopista Siglo XXI.

There are first class bus services between Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo and the rest of the main cities in the country.



By Car

Weather Forecast

MONTH	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANUAL
Average temperature (°C)	25.4	25.1	25.5	26.5	27.4	28.0	27.8	27.8	27.5	26.9	26.9	26.1	26.8
Average Maximum Temperature (°C)	31.4	31.4	31.3	32.1	32.7	32.4	32.4	32.4	31.7	32.3	32.0	31.7	32.0
Average Minimum Temperature (°C)	20.0	20.0	20.0	22.0	24.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	24.0	23.0	23.0	21.0	23.0
Average Precipitation (mm)	23	2	4	1	17	186	154	190	216	112	17	8	1030
Average length of day (hrs)	11.7	12	12.4	12.9	13.4	13.6	13.5	13.1	12.6	12.1	11.7	11.5	12.5

Fuente: Weatherbase

Current weather conditions



Map of the Coast



Fun Attractions In Ixtapa- Zihuatanejo

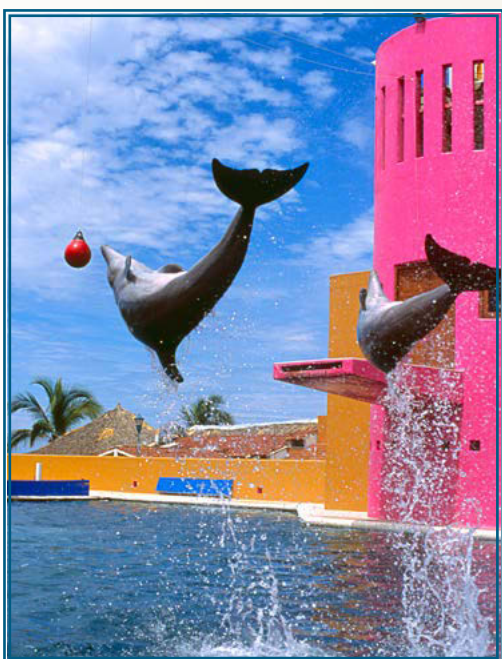


Museo Arqueológico de la Costa Grande (Archeology Museum)

This small but highly recommended archaeology museum has 6 rooms set around a central courtyard that illustrate human evolution from prehistory to pre-Hispanic era. It provides the most relevant information about the 54 archeological sites discovered in the "Costa Grande" area where there are traces of the Olmec, Teotihuacan, Tarascan and Mexica cultures. Schedule: Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs.

Parque Aventura (Adventure Park)

This is a ranch surrounded by lush vegetation with exotic animals in their natural habitat. The adventure consists in a walk in the trees from 4 to 9 meters (13 to 26 feet) altitude, going through by different techniques: a hung bridge, a liana, a footbridge, rocking trunks, to finish flying through the trees by zip-line. Open daily in high season and during the weekends the rest of the year, from 10:00 to 17:00 hrs.



Delfinario "Delfiniti"

It gives visitors the chance to swim with dolphins and know these animals better. It has several programs: Swim with dolphins, Encounter with dolphins, Delfiniti Kids, and Baby Dolphin. All activities are carefully designed and monitored by marine biologists, veterinarians and qualified personnel.





Crocodile Reserve

Surrounded by lush vegetation, this lagoon-estuary next to Playa Linda is home to native wildlife, like iguanas, birds and the amazing crocodiles which can reach up to 6 meters (20 feet).

Park Bio La Escollera

The park main objective is to conserve and protect native species. It includes an Insectarium, a botanical garden with over 100 varieties of plants, flowers and fruit trees, an impressive waterfall of more than 37 meters (121 feet) high, and the Iguana Sanctuary with a unique atmosphere. The journey ends at the reserve where you can watch animals in their natural habitat. Schedule: Monday to Sunday from 9:00 to 17:00 hrs.



"Magic World" Acuatic Park

It has a number of swimming pools, waterslides, a pirate ship, a village, toboggans, jacuzzies and many other fun things to do for kids. Schedule: Daily from 10:30 to 17:30 hrs.

Attractions In The Area



Petatlán

Picturesque town with a beautiful plaza and the Padre Jesus de Petatlan Church, a world-famous religious center. In front of the church is an important jewelry market, where the craftsmen sell attractive gold pieces. In Petatlán you can enjoy authentic Regional Cuisine, delicious local sea food dishes.

La Barrita Beach

Beautiful beach located 15 minutes from Petatlán. You will find several restaurants where you can enjoy the taste of regional cuisine. It is one of the better places for surfing along this coast of Guerrero.



Calvario Beach

Located 20 minutes south from Petatlán. It has a large veranda with many seafood restaurants. The surf is strong and swimming is not recommended, however, is excellent for just enjoying the view while sunbathing.

Lacos Beach

This quiet beach is an ideal camping destination. Located in Juluchuca, south to Petatlan. The pristine beach is a nesting spot for the Garapacho and Golfina turtles protected by the "La Tortuga Feliz" turtle camp. Here you can participate in the liberation of turtles throughout the year. There are some restaurants and you should try the sweets produced out of coconut.





Xihuacan Archeological Site

The largest site excavated in the coast of Guerrero and considered a treasure of the Costa Grande, located in a small community named Soledad de Maciel, 20 minutes north of Zihuatanejo. It is believed that this was a ceremonial center used by various cultures including the Tomiles, the Cuitlatecos and the Tepoztecas. According to the finds, the site had been occupied for more than 3,000 years and had contact with a number of other Mesoamerican cultures. It has a site museum with 800 archeological pieces. One of the most important pieces is a glyph, which is believed to relate to the original name of the city, Xihuacan.

Cerro de los Brujos (Witches Hill)

The name refers to the clay pieces found in the place, because it is believed that they belong to the ancient shamans. From a point named "Piedra del Encanto" (Charming Stone), you can enjoy a panoramic view of the Lagoon of Potosí. On the top of the hill, there is a flat rock engraved with what seems to be a map of the town. There is a cave under the Stone, where explorers have found traces of quartz and jade, in the background there is ample space with cave paintings. However, it should be noted that access to the cave is complicated.



In this region, you can buy the tobacco by kilo, or buy a great cigar full of flavor.



Valentin Lagoon

This is one of the few places in the country where both, a river and a lagoon, meet the sea. An excellent place for fishing, where you can catch snook, snapper and mackerel. There is a turtle camp in this beach.

Barra de Potosí

This small fishing village is located at the far tip of Playa Blanca's seemingly endless, palm-fringed sandy-white beach and at the mouth of the Laguna de Potosí, a saltwater lagoon, home to different kinds of birds and the sanctuary of local wildlife. Locals offer 90-minute boat tours or kayak tours of the lagoon.

The unspoiled beach backed by an almost unbroken line of palm trees is a beautiful place to enjoy a horseback riding and beautiful sunsets. The beachfront is lined with small restaurants that serve marvelous freshly-caught sea food along with traditional Mexican dishes. In front of this beach are the impressive Morros de Potosí, a cluster of massive rocks about 20 minutes offshore, a favorite place for divers.



Beaches in - Zihuatanejo



Beaches in Zihuatanejo

P laya Principal (Main Beach)

The beach borders the edge of town, flanked by the pedestrian Paseo del Pescador ("fisherman's walkway") which extends about a half kilometer from the Municipal Pier to the Archeology Museum. The charming, tree-shaded Paseo is lined with shops, craft stands and restaurants. Along the beach there are restaurants with fresh seafood. Next to the beach, there is the Pier where you can take a boat to Las Gatas Beach, rides run continuously until the 18:00 hrs. You can also charter a small panga boat or a large, luxury fishing yacht for fishing or snorkeling trips.



P laya la Madera (Wood Beach)

This beautiful beach is ideal for swimmers, sunbathing and there is usually a small group of boogie boarders and surfer on the east end enjoying the surf. The beach has an eclectic range of restaurants and small inns.

P laya Blanca

Located 10 minutes from Zihuatanejo, is a beach overlooking the open sea. A pristine stretch of beach with few rustic seafood restaurants, beach houses and small hotels. It is ideal for running and horseback riding.



P laya la Ropa (Clothes Beach)

The longest beach in the area, and the most beautiful beach on Zihuatanejo Bay and the Costa Grande. A wide selection of fresh seafood restaurants, and water sports are available along the beach, but you can just lay down on the beach. Conditions and waves are usually fairly mild, and there is not a large risk of undertow here, so it is a great place for a swim. There are also hotels and residential properties both in the beach and in the hills of La Ropa area. It is a perfect place to watch the sunset and moonrise place, which sometimes occur simultaneously, especially when the moon is full.



P laya las Gatas (The Cats Beach)

The name “Las Gatas” is a reference to the harmless nurse sharks that used to swim here. The shallow water is especially tranquil because of a legendary protective “breakwater” of sunken boulders just offshore. The small coral reef just offshore is a nice spot for snorkeling and diving, and a little dive shop on the beach rents gear. The waters at Las Gatas are exceptionally clear, without undertow or big waves.

Admire the wall King Calzontzin had built when he chose the area as a retreat for the royal family. The beach is also popular for its casual restaurants specializing in grilled lobster and other exotic dishes of Guerrero, including iguana and armadillo. This lovely and secluded beach is only accessible by “panga. Small pangas or lanchas (boats) with shade run to Las Gatas from the Zihuatanejo town pier, a 10-minute trip.

Map of Zihuatanejo



Beaches in Ixtapa

Playa El Palmar

The waves are usually moderate but can become quite strong. The beach is in the Ixtapa hotel area and offers excellent facilities, including gear rental for all kinds of water sports, and fine eateries. Ixtapa's main beach, Playa Palmar, is a lovely white-sand arc on the edge of the Hotel Zone, with dramatic rock formations silhouetted in the sea. A broad stretch of pleasantly-soft sand, a walkable 2.3 kilometers (1.5 miles) long. It is known as the "Ixtapa Hotel Zone" because the majority of the hotels in Ixtapa are in this zone. The surf can be rough; use caution, and don't swim when a red flag is posted. The seascape here is punctuated by Ixtapa's signature islets called Los Morros, just offshore. It is important to mention that beside from being one of the most beautiful beaches is the longest beach in Mexico and has been certified by the National Environment Commission as one of the cleanest beaches in the country.

At its west end, Las Escolleras has waves that attract surfers from around the world, while on the opposite end (toward Zihuatanejo) waters are protected by large rocks and the water is very calm.



Playa Quieta

The waters in this beach are calm year-round and excellent for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking. It is across Isla Grande (Big Island), also known as Isla Ixtapa. Three major beachfront hotels are located here, making this area a "second hotel zone".



Playa Linda

A 10-minute drive from the Ixtapa Hotel Zone. Set in the middle of a splendid landscape, this beach offers pleasant and tranquil surf. There are inexpensive water taxis ferry passengers to Isla Ixtapa. Playa Linda is the primary out-of-town beach, with watersports equipment and horse rentals available. Beside the road is a beautiful mangrove and the famous Crocodile Farm, where you can see crocodiles swimming and resting in the sun.



Isla Grande or Isla Ixtapa

This is a worthwhile day trip. This is a small island with 4 beautiful beaches, a great place for snorkeling, relaxing on the beach, or sitting under shade supplied by the seafood restaurants lining the shore. Playa Cuachalalate, is the arrival point and the most popular beach in the island. It has a selection of papala-topped restaurants where you can enjoy a cold drink or delicious seafood; you can also rent kayaks or snorkel equipment, or just swim in the clear waters of this natural cove. Playa Varadero, with calm clear waters is the favorite for snorkeling, sailing and windsurfing; it also has restaurants and is one of the best places to enjoy the sunset. Playa Coral, which true to name, offers the most varied groupings of underwater coral in the area, is an excellent choice for snorkeling and diving, especially in a place called "Morro Colorado" with beautiful crystal clear waters; there are some informal restaurants. Playa Caey, to the left of the Playa Cuachalalate dock is this secluded beach where you can sunbathe with privacy or have an unforgettable picnic. The ten-minute boat ride to Ixtapa Island leaves from Playa Quieta. There is also the option to take a boat from the municipal pier of Zihuatanejo, which will take about 30 minutes. Both routes offer frequent departures starting from 10:00, with the last return at 17:00 hrs.

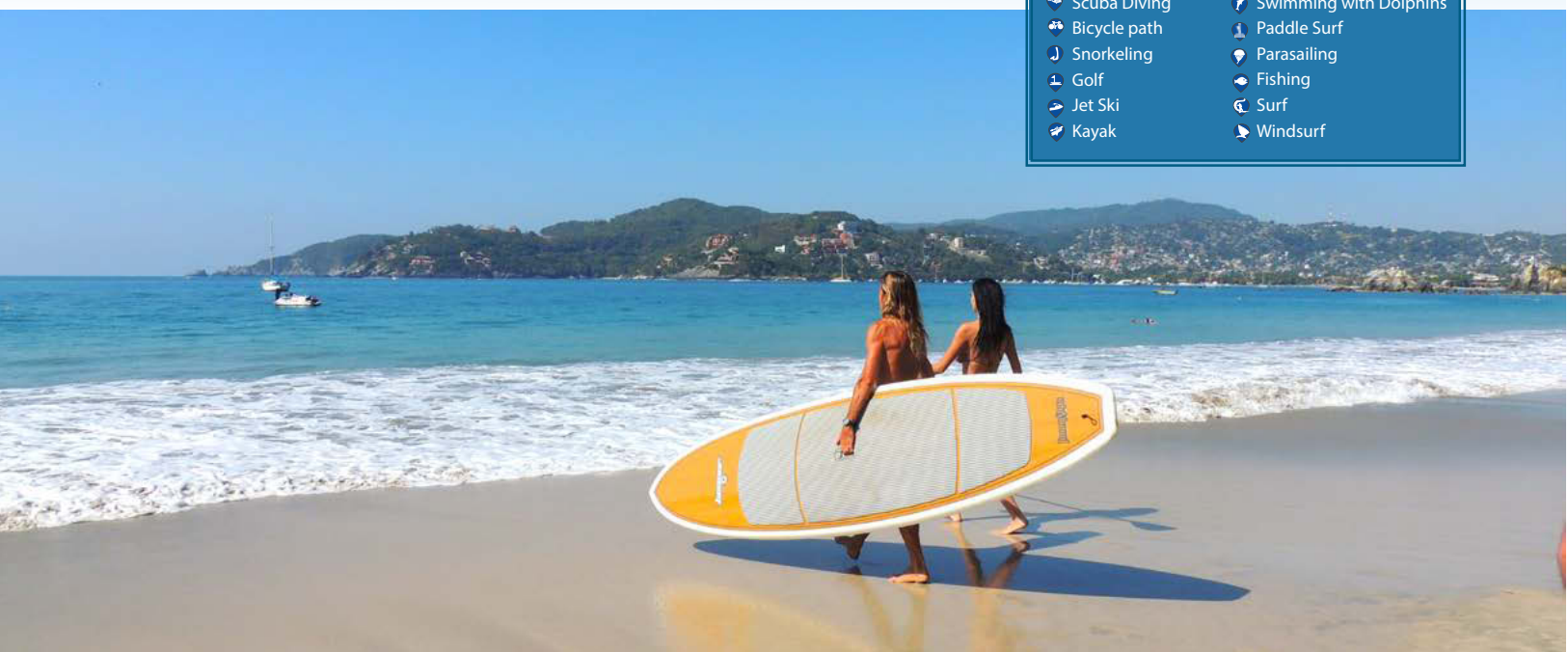


Map of Ixtapa



Symbols

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Handcrafts | Marina |
| Shopping Malls | Swimming |
| Scuba Diving | Swimming with Dolphins |
| Bicycle path | Paddle Surf |
| Snorkeling | Parasailing |
| Golf | Fishing |
| Jet Ski | Surf |
| Kayak | Windsurf |



Activities what to do in - Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo

Endless Fun



Palma Real Golf Course

The 18-hole Palma Real Golf Course was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. This par 72- 6,898 yards golf course is in perfect harmony with the environment. The manicured rolling fairways run through a jungle and coconut plantation with natural lakes, lagoons and lush tropical vegetation along the Pacific coastline. It is also a wild reserve with a variety of birds and some alligators in the lakes. Golfers see and hear a variety of exotic birds such as parrots, macaws, cardinals, and a rare and peculiar species of eagle called pescador ("fisherman") because it feeds exclusively on fish from the lakes. Seen but not heard are rabbits and "giant" iguanas. Do not attempt to retrieve balls from the water hazards because crocodiles live in some of them! They usually repose submerged and out of sight, however they do stroll around at dawn. This is a complete golf club, including pro shop, driving range, locker facilities, club house, five lighted tennis courts, swimming pool, restaurant and bar.



Marina Ixtapa Golf Club

The golf course at Marina Ixtapa is an 18-hole course designed by Robert Von Hagge. It has been rated as one of Mexico's top courses by Golf Digest. The course is par 72, 6793-yard course with, 12 bridges, dunes-style topography and three kilometers of canals that snake their way through the landscape, creating a challenge for even the best of golfers. This spectacular course requires skill and precision in order to navigate the rolling terrain, expansive sand traps and the wide saltwater inlets that come into play on 13 of the 18 holes. Should you hit your ball into one of the inlets or lagoons, take heed: these are crocodile habitats. The Golf Club also offers a pro shop, a Mediterranean-style club house, shower and locker facilities, bar, restaurant and lounge, tennis courts, meeting rooms and an on-course beverage cart.

Young children, as well as their parents, can enjoy minigolf at Golfito Ixtapa. The course features 18 holes of 6 to 10 meters long. The facilities include video games, pool table and a cafeteria. Schedule: Daily from 17:00 to 22:00 hrs.



Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo fue nombrado por la Revista Saltwater Sportfishing como el segundo destino más popular de pesca. En sus costas hay pez vela, atún, barracuda, robalo, mero y dorado casi todo el año, así como wahoo, marlin negro y azul en los meses de otoño e invierno. A lo largo de todo el año se puede pescar pargo, macarela, barracuda, pez gallo y wahoo. Se puede escoger desde una panga hasta un moderno yate de lujo. Estas aguas llegan rápidamente a una profundidad mayor a 1,000 brazas, por lo tanto, la acción puede comenzar en cualquier momento después de zarpar. El destino se ha dado a conocer por sus torneos como "El Torneo Internacional de la Pesca del Pez Vela" en mayo. Se pueden contratar embarcaciones desde el muelle en la Bahía de Zihuatanejo, o bien desde Marina Ixtapa.



Fishing Calendar

SPECIES	ENE	FEB	MAR	ABR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AGO	SEP	OCT	NOV	DIC
Pez Vela	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉
Marlin azul	☉	☉	☉							☉	☉	☉
Atún Aleta Amarilla	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉				☉	☉	☉
Wahoo	☉	☉	☉								☉	☉
Pez Gallo						☉	☉	☉	☉			
Robalo	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉
Mero	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉			☉	☉	☉	☉
Barracuda	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉
Dorado	☉	☉	☉	☉		☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉	☉



Recently it was discovered that the coral reefs around Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo are some of the richest in biodiversity in the Pacific Ocean and there are some endemic species. Due to the confluence of two major currents, the biodiversity here is extraordinarily rich. The fauna includes everything from sea horses to humpback whales. It is not difficult to find giant manta rays and whale sharks. From June to October you can also admire the olive ridley sea turtle.

Visibility in the late months of the spring, summer, fall and into the winter is 21 metres/70 feet, in the summer the average is 30 meters/100 feet. The average water temperature during the year is 79° F. Currents here are minimal compared to the Caribbean. Therefore, you can swim comfortably by the coral reefs, a real paradise for the underwater photographers.

The resort offers about 30 different spots for a great diving experience, ranging from deep canyons to shallow reefs, and even sunken ships. Among the best places are:

Islas Blancas, it is an excellent place for snorkelling; in this dive site you will find depths of 20 feet to 70 feet (6-21 m) and the area is teeming with flora and fauna.

Playa Manzanillo, Rey de Reyes (King of Kings), submerged below the ocean waters of Las Gatas Beach is a bronze statue of Christ named King of Kings. The four-metre bronze statue weighs a ton and a half, and it was made of keys donated by the town-people, and created by the sculptor Antonio Rivero





Guerrero. In the heart there is a key and key replicas are granted to all the distinguished visitors.

Sacramento, northeast from Zihuatanejo pier traveling for about 20 minutes, there is a chain of rock formations. Beside the large rocks, including a rock in the form of a pyramid, there are tunnels and little caves to explore. Schools of angelfish will follow you during your dive. This is a great place for beginner divers and for underwater photography.

Piedra Solitaria, a place with a wide variety of sea life. It is only 2.5 miles away from Zihuatanejo Pier. Its walls drops off to 132 feet (40 m) depth , and you can dive around the rock at various depths. This site is ideal for deep dives, multi-level dives and specialty afternoon dives.

Caleta de Chon, a reef outside Zihuatanejo Bay, it is just around the lighthouse in a small cove named Caleta del Chon. Great numbers of fish, provides an ideal environment



both for photographers and fun in this calm waters. This shallow waters are one of the best places to look for sea horses in the area.

Los Morros de Potosi, one of the most spectacular diving zones of the Mexican Pacific. This white granite rocks that emerge from the ocean, are full of fascinating surprises like caves, cliffs, vertical walls, canals and tunnels. The currents around the Morros are very strong, so this site is only for experienced divers; but there are protected areas that offers a range of experiences for both the beginner divers and snorkelling adventures. This site offers a variety of depths ranging from 30 feet to 130 feet -perfect for all kinds of divers. The minimum number of divers required for this trip is 5. There are varying depths on this site which go from 30-130 feet (9-39 meters).

Kayak



One of the best options is the trip from Playa Linda to Isla Ixtapa, the journey takes about 15 minutes.

Skimboard

The beaches in Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo are ideal for skimboard. But the best options are: Playa Principal, Playa La Ropa, and Playa El Palmar at the point known as Las Escolleras.



Surf



One of the best places for surfing is right at the mouth of the Zihuatanejo Bay, where waves can be perfect within walking distance to the edge of the rocky tip of Playa Las Gatas. In Playa Las Gatas, a left that breaks on the coral reef with a fast break and with tubes, a Perfect Wave, although it doesn't break very often.

Playa Palmar, especially in the area called Las Escolleras. It breaks off of a rock jetty built to protect the marina. This wave is a very hollow wave, it is one of the few right handers in the area, short but very sweet.

The best surf enclaves in the region lie slightly north of Ixtapa, for example Playa Linda, a long beach and the best place is at the river mouth, this spot can be fun for both beginners and advanced surfers.

Troncones, a left-point break with many waves.

La Saladita, a long and perfect left point-break that breaks all year, albeit very small in the winter but still perfect for a long board.

Petacalco, this is the largest wave in the region, a very powerful beach break with perfect gigantic tubes.

Other recommended places are: Pantla, Juluchuca, Loma Bonita and Barrio Nuevo.



Paddle Surf



Ixtapa Zihuatanejo is a tropical SUP paradise. The sunny weather all year long, the amazing beaches, and the sea conditions make this destination the ideal place to enjoy this sport. SUP in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo is suitable for all levels and styles of paddling. There are many different SUP-friendly beaches like: Playa Linda and Troncones. But maybe one of the best spot is the Zihuatanejo Bay, sheltered from the open ocean, the water is perfect for paddle board activity and you can visit all the beautiful beaches in the area like Playa Madera, Playa la Ropa and Playa las Gatas.

Acuatic Sports

La Ropa beach is ideal for water-skiing and wind surfing, while Las Gatas and Isla Ixtapa are popular for snorkeling. The best places for other activities like parachute gliding, sailing, wave runners and banana rides are La Ropa Beach, Las Gatas Beach, Quieta Beach and Del Palmar Beach.



Windsurfing



There are a few nice sandy beaches for windsurfing, especially along the Zihuatanejo Bay. At Playa La Ropa you can find the equipment and instructors. In Ixtapa, the best option is in the Hotel Zone 2, in Playa Quieta.

RV Park & Camping

The RV Park and Camping Ixtapa is a place for visitors who wish to camp either with a trailer house or just with a tent. It has 534,572 m2 to camp by the sea with drainage facilities, water and electricity. It is located in Playa Larga.



ATV's



ATV Tours is a must-do in the destination. There are different options: you can drive along the scenic and pristine beach of the Pacific Ocean. Other options are to visit the small town of Troncones, or enjoy a magnificent sunset, driving along tropical plantations.

Horseback riding

You can have a nice ride in Rancho Manzanillo located near La Ropa Beach, or you can enjoy a beautiful sunset while you are riding in Linda Beach. Explore the breathtaking surroundings as you ride through the lush coconut groves and onto the tropical beach of Playa Larga.



Bird Watching



In the area of Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo there are more than 320 different species. Among the more common are: Golden Vireo, Great-Tailed Grackle, Grayson's, Black Vulture, Orioles, Cormorant, Northern Cardinal, and Great Blue Heron.

Turtles

From June to December, liberating marine turtles is one of the most interesting activities in the destination. The turtles that arrive to Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo's beaches to reproduce are mainly Olive Ridley Sea Turtles, "Laud" and "Carey" turtles also come to lay their eggs here, although in smaller numbers.



Biking



There is a bicycle path for cycling, jogging and roller-skating. It is also a nice place for birdwatching and nature appreciation.

The first route has 8-kilometer/5-mile. It starts at Marina Ixtapa and heads west (counterclockwise) to circle the perimeter of the Marina Ixtapa Golf Course, for a distance of 4.3 kilometers/2.7 miles. Then continues up to the coast, passing alongside the Parque Aztlán, an ecological reserve with crocodiles, iguanas, and exotic birds, until it reaches Playa Linda.



In the opposite direction, the other route covers 3.8 kilometers/2.4 miles. It runs between Ixtapa and Zihuatanejo. It begins at Paseo de los Viveros (located behind the Palma Real Golf Course). The route goes through lush tropical vegetation with majestic trees, some over 115 feet tall. It is an excellent place for bird lovers, since it is very easy to spot a myriad of species such as: woodpecker, calandria, magpie, chacalaca, parrot, eagle, white heron, hawk, among others. Along the way you will have the chance to see crocodiles, lake turtles, armadillos, green iguanas, badgers, squirrels and raccoons. The path continues southeast, flanking the highway between Ixtapa and Zihuatanejo, and ending at the Technological Institute of Costa Grande located just before the entrance to Zihuatanejo.



Dinning in Ixtapa - Zihuatanejo

*Diverse ways to
delight your palate*

To talk about dining at this beautiful destination, is to talk about pleasure. Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo offers over 200 restaurants to suit all tastes and budgets, where you can enjoy the best international cuisine, or regional dishes. All dishes are prepared with the freshest and most delicious delicacies of the coast.



Zihuatanejo is known for its "Fish Strips" (strips of fish marinated in lemon finely chopped with onions and peppers), the dish was created by a fisherman on the dock of this picturesque village. Other typical dishes are: Zihuatanejo Red Clams, Oysters, Octopus, Snapper and the "Seafood Plate Special" (specialty of some restaurants, usually for 2 people, including a little of all seafood delicacies offered in the destination).



Weddings and Romance in Ixtapa - Zihuatanejo

The destination offers original and magical weddings on the beautiful beaches of Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, with the best year-round weather. In addition, there are a variety of hotels and restaurants that offer various facilities and trained personnel to carry out the entire wedding without any problem.

This is one of the most romantic destinations where you can stroll hand in hand on the warm sand watching a breathtaking sunset, or go horseback riding together into an oasis of palms.

If paradise is your idea of a dream honeymoon, you can fly to Ixtapa Zihuatanejo.



Nightlife in Ixtapa - Zihuatanejo



Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo offers entertainment 24 hours a day. You can choose from small and cozy bars in Zihuatanejo, to a sophisticated lounge bar overlooking the bay, or a picturesque bar in downtown Zihuatanejo that offers live salsa music and dancing, or romantic boleros. Whatever you choose, you will have an unforgettable experience.

For those who love the intense nightlife, there are several clubs and bars that are located next to the Boulevard. In addition, there are also sites that offer live music to dance the night away.

Shopping in Ixtapa - Zihuatanejo



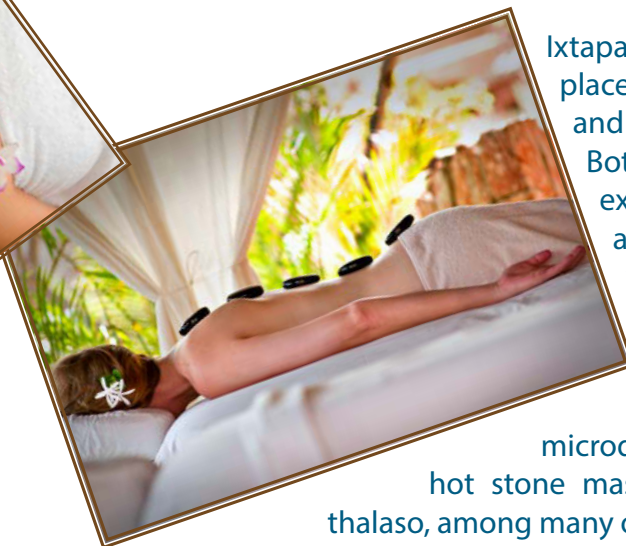
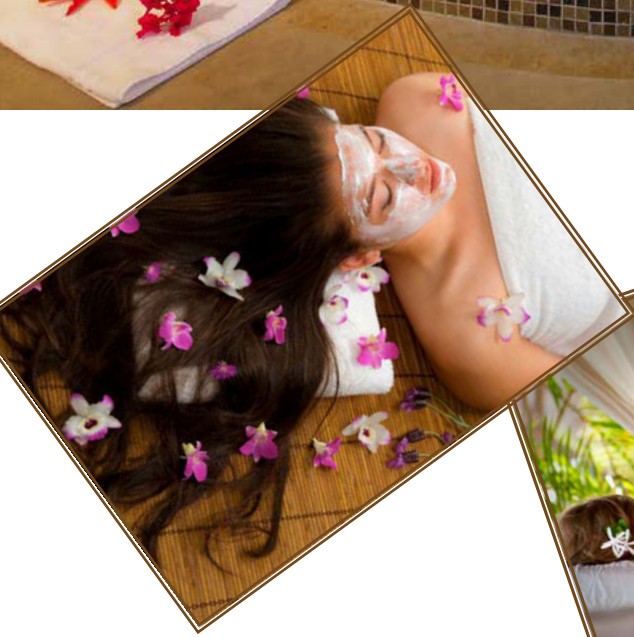
Both, Ixtapa and Zihuatanejo, offer irresistible and wonderful opportunities for shopping and have a very wide selection in terms of items and prices.

There is a handicraft market located in Ixtapa (in the eastern part of the Hotel Zone) and one in Zihuatanejo (next to the church, on the street Cinco de Mayo). In each one of them, there are hundreds of stalls with an irresistible array of colorful handicrafts made in ceramic, brass, wood and mats, hammocks and beautiful textiles.



In downtown Zihuatanejo and in Ixtapa's shopping area, there are fine boutiques with quality beach wear, traditional clothing, art pieces including traditional hand-painted masks, as well as fine decorative items. There are also multiple silverware with exquisite designs brought from the neighboring city of Taxco, famous for its silver crafts.

Spas in Ixtapa - Zihuatanejo



Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is certainly the ideal place to indulge in some of the best and most exclusive Spas in Mexico. Both Ixtapa and Zihuatanejo offer exquisite spas, all within amazing and exclusive hotels that will make your stay an experience full of peacefulness.

Most of these spas offer services that combine facials, hydration, microdermoabración, radio frequency, hot stone massage, thai bai, vinotherapy and thalaso, among many others.

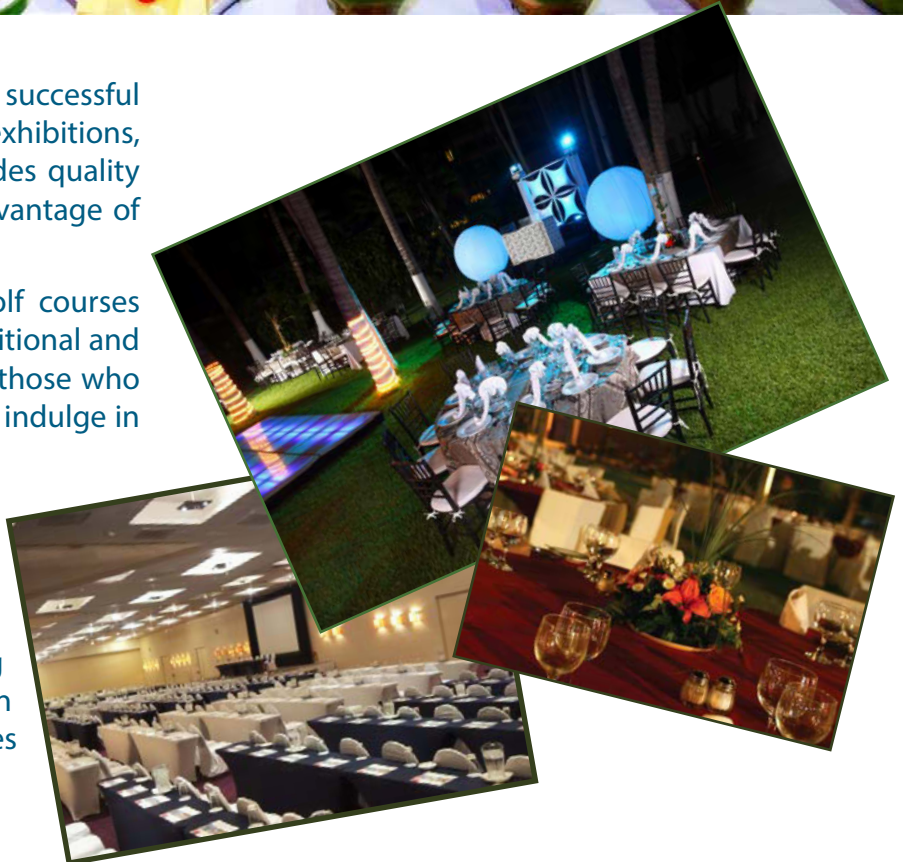
Groups and Convention in Ixtapa - Zihuatanejo



Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is the ideal place for successful organization of conventions, conferences, exhibitions, and all kind of events. The destination provides quality services and infrastructure. It also has the advantage of offering two destinations in one.

It features spectacular oceanfront hotels, golf courses surrounded by natural beauties, excellent traditional and international cuisine, recreational options for those who like adventure and those who enjoy relax and indulge in beautiful scenery.

It is also important to mention direct air connectivity from major cities in Mexico, USA and Canada. Ixtapa Zihuatanejo is very well connected for those who travel by car, with the new "Autopista Siglo XXI" connecting this destination with Mexico's central region and the federal highway 200 which facilitates connection to Mexico City.



Map of Guerrero



Trace your route

App for route planning. Free route planner with information of: roads, bridges, costs and everything you need to enjoy your trip.

Symbols

- Camping
- Swimming
- Airport
- Horseback Riding
- Hot Springs
- Boat Ride
- Handcrafts
- Fishing
- Colonial Architecture
- Bird Watching
- Scuba Diving
- Sea Turtles
- Waterfall
- Rafting
- Biking
- Rappel
- Typical Restaurants
- Trail Hiking
- Snorkeling
- Surf
- Grottos
- Archeological Site
- Museum
- Zoo

