



Oaxaca

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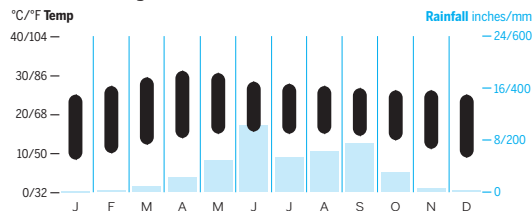
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Why Go?

The state of Oaxaca (wah-*hah*-kah) has a special magic felt by Mexicans and foreigners alike. A redoubt of indigenous culture, it's home to the country's most vibrant crafts and art scene, some outstandingly colorful and extrovert festivities, a uniquely savory cuisine and varied natural riches. At the center of the state in every way stands beautiful, colonial Oaxaca city, an elegant, fascinating cultural hub. Nearby, the forested Sierra Norte is home to successful community-tourism ventures enabling visitors to hike, bike and ride horses amid delicious green landscapes. To the south, across rugged, remote mountains, is Oaxaca's fabulous coast, with its endless sandy beaches, pumping Pacific surf, seas full of dolphins, turtles and fish, and a string of beach towns and villages that will make any traveler happy: lively Puerto Escondido; planned but relaxed Bahías de Huatulco; and the hedonist's delights of Zipolite, San Agustínillo and Mazunte.

When to Go

Oaxaca City



Jan–Mar The driest months: a lively coastal winter-escapee scene, best hiking conditions in the Sierra Norte.

Jul–Aug Guelaguetza festival in Oaxaca city; summer-vacation fun time on the coast.

Late Oct–Nov Día de Muertos celebrations in and around Oaxaca city; Fiestas de Noviembre in Puerto Escondido.

