





## Huatalco

### THE BAYS

Because the Pacific Coast of Mexico actually runs northwest, in the resort of Huatalco, the bays actually lie east to west. As you travel from east to west, you come to Conejos Bay first. It is not yet developed and is protected by steep cliffs. However, if you hike down the mountainside to the small restaurant, you can feast on the catch of the day and a couple of cold beers, probably in almost total seclusion. This bay experiences some high waves, so swim here with caution or walk across the short ridge and snorkel on Playa Maguey, where you'll find a small beautiful coral reef and rock formations.



Tangolunda Bay is next and, together with Chahue and Santa Cruz Bays, represents the more developed area of Bahias de Huatalco. Tangolunda is one of the principal bays and home to five-star

resort hotels and shopping areas. The beautiful 18-hole golf course is located there in the midst of a natural setting of lakes and sand traps. This championship class golf course offers you both challenge and beauty and the last hole gives you a panoramic view of Tangolunda Bay.



The next bay, Chahue, pronounced Cha-way, is currently under development. You will find several new smaller hotels here, with more under construction. This is where I like to catch an early morning sunrise and, for sure, this bay is better for gazing than swimming, since the surf can oftentimes be dangerous. There is a beach club in Chahue with restaurant, palapa-shaded beach chairs, and large swimming pool. You can use these club facilities for a few hours or a day for under \$3.



Santa Cruz is a small bay on which the original fishing village of Santa Cruz was located. Today, it has several 3 and 4-star hotels, which are not built directly on the beach, but are a couple of blocks away. Upscale and palapa-style restaurants line the beach. Santa Cruz also has several small shopping areas and a marina, where you can

rent boats, hire a captain to take you to the various bays, or spend a few hours on one of the catamaran party boats that cruise the bays daily.



You will also find Playa La Entrega on this bay. The beaches here are great for swimming. La Entrega has a great coral reef just offshore for easy snorkeling. It's a short taxi ride from Santa Cruz.

Maguey Bay is about a 10-minute taxi ride from the Santa Cruz area. It also offers great snorkeling. This small bay is lined with restaurants and palapas, where you can find food and shade close to the nice swimming beach. Since facilities in the bay do not have electricity, they close at night.



Oregano, Cacaluta, and Chachacual bays are undeveloped, accessed only by boat or hiking. The development plan calls for much of this area to remain in its natural state.

San Augustin is the westernmost bay. It can be accessed only by boat or dirt road. It is well worth your time to visit the remote fishing village here and to visit Playa Coyote for a spectacular sunset.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Air

The flight to Huatulco from Mexico City is approximately one hour. Flights from Oaxaca City to Huatulco are half an hour. Beware of 'Musical Gates' at the Mexico City airport as gates are not assigned until sometimes fifteen minutes before loading.

All flights arrive at Bahias de Huatulco Airport, about 25 minutes from the main hotel area (\$10USD by cab).

The airport is a lovely open-air palapa-type structure. It is advisable to wear a hat to protect against bird droppings.

### Taxis

Taxis **from** airports are usually much more expensive than taxis **to** airports. \$48 USD per Frommmers 2004. *Those staying at the resort hotels will have transportation arranged and do not face this problem.*

Taxis are plentiful most places in Mexico. There is a double standard here with tourists paying more than locals. Be sure to ask how much it is going to cost before getting in and consider the reply. Also, you can hire a taxi for the whole day at reasonable cost. Locals don't tip, but it may be expected of tourists.

### Timeshare Sharks

A recent (02/03) impediment to passage through the airport is the timeshare sharks. These high-pressure salesmen will try to entice you to attend a presentation regarding the purchase of timeshares in a hotel, which at this time has allegedly not even been selected. Travelers report being delayed and ground transportation is sometimes missed. A firm NO should get you past this obstacle.

## RESTURANTS

### LA CRUCECITA

#### **bakery**

half block off the Zócalo across the street from the Oasis

**CATEGORY:** Bakery

The pastries and rolls were all 15¢- 25¢ US. One morning we ate a delicious breakfast of pastries and juice in the zócalo for less than \$3 US

#### **Bar La Crema**

**CATEGORY:** Pizza & Tex-Mex

Still in a class by themselves as far as pizza in Mexico is concerned. The especial la crema is well worth your time. And, saving the best news for last, our good friends at *Bar La Crema* have persuaded Ramon to move his taco business to their place. These really are great tacos! They also serve up the only Tex-Mex style cuisine in Huatulco, including Chilibeans, chili rellenos, and darn good nachos.

The most pleasant surprise had to be the pizza at **Bar La Crema**. Due to the difficulty of getting good Italian-style cheeses, pizza in Mexico has always been an automatic disappointment. But all that has changed. Bar La Crema has such a good pizza Edie and I kept going back for more! Lalo uses a heavy cream instead of the usual bad cheese - it sounds wierd, but ya gotta try it! He will tell you that the real secret is a wood-fired brick-and-adobe beehive oven he's brought in. Whatever the happy set of circumstances, it works! Try the Special "La Crema" and see if you don't agree!

#### **Café Dublin**

Carrizal 504 in La Crucecita, (1 blk E & 1/2 blk S from the SE corner of the Zócolo)

**T:** (52 9) 589-2633

**CATEGORY:** Irish Pub

It is reported that many university and english speaking people get together on Tuesday evenings. Up a spiral staircase to the second floor where we enjoyed the famous hamburgers We found them to be excellent and Victor, the owner, stopped by our table to visit

## **El Sabor de Oaxaca ★★ ★**

[menu](#)

Av. Guamuchil 206

T: (52 9) 587-0060

**CATEGORY:** Mexican

**OPEN:** 7 a.m. to midnight

**CLOSED:** Open daily

A highly recommended spot for regional Oaxacan cuisine, including chicken in Oaxaca's famed black mole sauce and tlayudas, large crispy tortillas topped with cheese and other ingredients.

Clearly the best in Huatulco - authentic, friendly service, relatively cheap, delicious and offers a wide variety of foods. This quaint restaurant is located in La Crucecita about a half block off the zócalo and across the street from the market. We ate here twice, lunch of enchiladas and lemonade was \$12 US with tip and dinner was \$22 US with a healthy tip. My best meal in Huatulco was a wonderful combo platter of about ten traditional Oaxacan items. Each item was unique and the meal provided a great way to sample a wide variety of local dishes. They advertise a couple of variations of this meal for two people (\$15-20 US) but they are willing to cut the price and the portions to serve only one.

The special Oaxacan platter has a bit of everything, including a great mole sauce - if you like mole. Their tamale is great; the enchilda fantastic; and the chile relleno is perhaps the best I've ever eaten. Unfortunately, the carne asada was a bit overwhelmingly spiced. All in all, try it once. It's a bit pricey for La Crucecita, but still really cheap compared to a fine restaurant back home.

We also stayed that night in the Las Palmas Hotel above the restaurant that evening and had a great breakfast at the El Sabor de Oaxaca before setting out on our road trip to the mountains and Oaxaca City.

## **Fonda Doña Tomasa**

701 Bugambilia (upstairs)

**CATEGORY:** Oaxcan

The décor is considerably more casual than the Oaxacan cuisine mainstay, Sabor de Oaxaca. But there is a nice view of the Zócalo. We tried an assortment of traditional Oaxacan dishes; I found the Empanada to be especially satisfying. The Caldo de Pollo was also quite good. They make a great mole. I don't think that Sabor de Oaxaca runs any risks of being supplanted as THE Oaxacan place, but with the more modest pricing, you may be able to eat here with more frequency.

## **Il Giardino del Papa ★★★**

Flamboyant 204  
T: (52 9) 587-1763  
**CATEGORY:** Italian

Italian chef Mario Saggese, who cooked for Pope John Paul II during his visits to Mexico, serves up tasty Italian cuisine. Try the fettuccini al giardino del papa and the authentic carpaccio.

Worth the visit. Ate a very fine risotto with mushrooms, also pastas, shrimp, etc. I'd say the whole menu is worth a try. Not a bad entree in the bunch. The friendly owner, Rosa, is a parttime resident of Huatulco, Mexico City, Rome, etc., and takes great pride in her restaurant and its international flavor. It's neat as a pin, service was a bit off (however the owner did make a point of letting us know that it might be, as she has trouble training and keeping good people), fun photos on the walls

## **Los Portales ★**

Calle Bugambilia and Calle Guamuchil southeast corner of the Zócalo (part of the **Iguana Bar** complex)  
**CATEGORY:** Oaxcan

Inexpensive. Has the best buy in breakfasts and very good tacos as well. Excellent ambiance! I would give the nod to Oasis and Los Portales as the best breakfast spots we ate at. The owner, Luis, speaks very good English and is one of the most outstanding personalities in Huatulco. I was pleasantly surprised that he's been able to hold onto his waiter Roberto after all these years. Roberto does as good a job of making you feel at home as any wait-person in town. Hit Luis up for his free sample of locally distilled mescal.

## **Marisqueria El Pata**

Chacah between Bugambilia and Carrizal  
**CATEGORY:** Oaxcan

Seafood stuffed pineapple. It was more than enough for two; was served with salad, guacamole, rice, and caldo de mariscos (seafood soup); and was just delicious!

The best meal I had during our too-brief stay. If you take a right coming out of the old Oasis, take another right at the next corner, go one block, and look across the street you should find it. Edie and I split the Pina Relleno de Mariscos. Half a pineapple was hollowed out and filled with a delectable mixture of fresh seafood and smothered in cheese. Damned good eats! Edie also had their Guacamole salad and liked it. Rick and Brook joined us for dinner that night and had good filets of fish. The jarrita de limonada was a good thirst quencher as well.



## **Oasis** ★★

Flamboyant 211 (Southeast corner of the square)

T: (52 9) 587-0045

**CATEGORY:** International

Noted for its sushi, fresh fish, and good salads.

Good breakfast on top of good people watching as this restaurant was located right on the zócalo. We had eggs, fruit, toast, two fresh squeezed OJs and chocolate milk for under \$9 US. The food and prices were comparable to Los Portales. The sandwiches are quite good. The *chiaquiles* are the best in town. It's a good place to meet folks.

## **Oasis II**

Bugambilia (quarter block off the zócalo and up the street from Oasis next to bakery)

The breakfast menu and the food was the same as the other one, although the white-washed walls and fountain at this restaurant added a little bit to the atmosphere plus new items cooked on outdoor grill.. Also not as busy as the Oasis on the zócalo.

## **Panaderia Alejandro**

Flamboyant just east of the Zócalo

**CATEGORY:** Sweets

This is one of the few places that demanded a second visit. If you have a weakness for sweets and/or a desire to restrict carbs, don't even look in their window. It can destroy the strongest of resolves and torpedo all thoughts of sticking to your diet!

## **Pollo Imperial**

Carrizal (between Guamuchil and Blvd. Chahue)

**CATEGORY:** Oaxcan

Generous portion of rotisserie chicken with charro beans and plenty o' pasta and ham salad at a very reasonable price. Those of you who have tried Pollo Imperial know it as a consistently good spot for Mexican-style roasted chicken.

## **Restaurante María Sabina** ★★

Flamboyant 306 (West side of the main square)

T: (52 9) 587-0219

**CATEGORY:** Mexican

Seafood, including grilled lobster steaks, and Oaxacan specialties; indoor and outdoor seating. The salads are large and good. Cute spot with good service. Food grilled right out front. Two very delicious entrees, fish and shrimp pochutla in a stone pot. The later of which was a very unique and tasty dish. It was sort of like a seafood veggie soup with a little bit of zing and had a little bit of cheese on the top like french onion soup. I would highly recommend it. Dinner was about \$29 including a couple of beers and a generous tip.

## TANGOLUNDA

### **Casa Real** ★★★

Barceló Huatulco Beach Resort

**T:** (52 9) 581-0055

**OPEN:** 7 to 11 p.m.

**CLOSED:** Open daily

**CATEGORY:** International

Fine international and Oaxacan fare accompanied by live piano music.

**NOTE:** Weekly Mexican Fiesta with Mexican buffet, mariachi and marimba musicians, folk dancing, contests and games, Wednesdays, 7 to 11 p.m.

### **Chez Binni** ★★★

Camino Real Zaashila hotel

**OPEN:** 7 to 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 to 11 p.m.

**CATEGORY:** International

Mexican-French cuisine served in elegant surroundings.

### **Don Portfinio's** ★

Calle Benito Juárez (across from the entrance to Gala Hotel)

**T:** (52 9) 581-0001

**OPEN:** Open for lunch and dinner

**CATEGORY:** International

Good, but not the rave we had expected. We had the large shrimp from the grill, cooked with garlic and butter. A bit on the overcooked side. As this is one of the few places that many people who stay on Tongalunda Bay seem to go when they leave their hotel premises, it was priced accordingly. Also, the large televisions don't add much to the decor. Grasshoppers. Dinner show.

[Photos.](#)

### **Las Cúpulas**

Hotel Quinta Real

**OPEN:** 7 a.m. to noon and 7 to 11 p.m.

**CLOSED:** Open daily

**CATEGORY:** International

Gourmet international and regional specialties accompanied by a spectacular view of the bay.

## **Miramar**

Casa del Mar Hotel

**T:** (958) 581-0203, (958) 581-0102

**OPEN:** 7 a.m. to noon and 7 to 11 p.m.

**CLOSED:** Open daily

**CATEGORY:** International

Located high on the eastern ridge of Tangolunda bay. Friends of ours recommended the restaurant due to fabulous views and romantic ambiance. The only restaurant in Mexico that has as breathtaking of a spot is in Manzanillo at Las Hadas. We went there with somewhat low expectations for the food as our friends had had mediocre food there the year earlier. To our delight, we found the food to be very good. We had a shrimp kabob, a grilled chicken dish and a couple of beers for \$34 US.

## SANTA CRUZ

### **Café Huatulco** ★

**CATEGORY:** Coffee shop

Sells a type of coffee produced by the local Coffee Producers' Association known as Pluma, because of the nearby famous coffee producing region of Pluma Hidalgo.

### **Doña Celia** ★★

On the beach

**OPEN:** Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**CATEGORY:** Seafood

A popular spot for seafood and two-pound lobsters. Try the lobster a la Doña, served with beans and wrapped in flour tortillas, or the Acapulqueña (shrimp and octopus fried in olive oil, chopped green chilies and onions).

WOW. Double wow. Maybe it was the perfect weather, maybe it was the great service, maybe it was the excellent margarita, maybe it was the incredible filete empapelado (fish filet baked with tomato, onion, and cilantro) or the the fabulous platillo a la huatulqueno (shrimp and octopus fried in olive oil with chile and onion), whatever it was, we thought this was a great restaurant. Like most of the beach restaurants it's open-air, directly on the little Santa Cruz beach with a nice view.

### **Meson de las Flores**

Monte Albán and Mitla just off the Zócalo

Fine dining, attractive décor attentive service, large menu, tablecloths, flowers, reasonable cost. Highly recommended. Superb décor. Great service. I had a delectable octopus dish. Ben had the frijoles-stuffed chicken breast, which was quite good. He had some regret over not having tried the frijoles-stuffed sea bass, but that just leaves something to try on the next trip! I had ordered the ceviche de caracol, but the waiter came back to warn that the conch (locally referred to as "snail") wasn't fresh and advised against it. I really appreciate wait staff that takes that kind of care.

### **Ve-El-Mar** ★

On the beach

A favorite for seafood and two-pound lobsters accompanied by a michelada, the favored local drink made of beer and lime juice on the rocks, served in a frosty salt-rimmed glass.

The friendly rival of Dona Celia. Excellent, too. Big ass margaritas (70 pesos!), friendly service, laid-back atmosphere. Ate fresh fish, shrimp al Diablo, octopus, etc.

There were some strolling musicians (something "**Hermanos**"). If they approach your table to play know that they play for tips. And from the look on the fellow's face when we gave them 3 dollars and purchased a CD, they'd appreciate even more..... :)

## SHOPPING

### LA CRUCECITA

#### **El Arte Mexicano**

Guamuchil 210

**CATEGORY:** Jewelry and Sterling Silver

Silver and gold jewelry, handicrafts

#### **El Museo de Artesanía ★★★**

Calle Flamboyant 216 (A block from the main square)

**CATEGORY:** Handicrafts

Woven rugs, alebrijes, black pottery, masks, embroidered textiles, silver, souvenirs. Museum, store and workshop in one; you can see artisans creating traditional Oaxacan arts and crafts.

#### **Mantelería Escobar**

Cocotillo 217

**T:** (52 9) 587-0532

**CATEGORY:** Handicrafts

Tablecloths, bedspreads, curtains

#### **Mercado de Artesanías**

**CATEGORY:** Market

Alebrijes, leather and woven goods

#### **Paradise ★★★**

Down the street from the Flamboyant hotel

**CATEGORY:** Handicrafts

Interesting selection of folk art from Mexico and Guatemala, and batik clothing brought from Isla Mujeres.

#### **Plata de Taxco ★★★**

Bugambilia 503

**T:** (52 9) 587-0818

**CATEGORY:** Jewelry and Sterling Silver

Sterling silver jewelry from Taxco. Sterling = .925; .800 is less quality.

#### **Plaza Oaxaca**

On the square

**CATEGORY:** Special

Handcrafted items, books, magazines, and beach wear

#### **Supermarket La Fuente**

East side Ave. Oaxaca

**CATEGORY:** Supermarket

Tangolunda

**Huatulkopka**

Plaza las Conchas

**CATEGORY:** Special

Pottery, jewelry, Mexican and Cuban cigars.

**Mexicanerías**

Barceló hotel

**OPEN:** Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m.; Sunday 'til 2 p.m.

**CATEGORY:** Art, Antiques and Decorative Items

Art and jewelry

## NIGHT LIFE

If you want intense nightlife, go to Cancún. Huatulco is smaller and more laid back, however there are some spots to enjoy a night out.

- **Acqua** (formerly Magic Circus) at the Hotel Marlin in Santa Cruz.
- **Bar La Selva** **Closed** located upstairs at the corner of Bugambilia and Flamboyant in La Crucecita. Open 8:30 pm to 2:00 am. (2/02)
- **Bar La Crema** North side of zócolo in La Crucecita.
- **Café Dublin** Carrizal 504 in La Crucecita, 1 blk E & 1/2 blk S from the SE corner of the zócolo. 044 (985) 589-2633. [victorginesi@hotmail.com](mailto:victorginesi@hotmail.com). Irish pub and restaurant, book exchange.
- **Salamandra** discothèque in Santa Cruz. (1/04)

### Enjoying the Huatulco Nightlife

The true five-star hotels are all in a section called Tangolunda, which is also the name for the [bay](#) on which they are located. The marina, banks, and four star hotels are located in Santa Cruz Huatulco. Santa Cruz has some historic importance but when I first saw it fifteen years ago, it was only a cluster of palapas. The final area of Huatulco under discussion is known as La Crucecita, which can best be described as the business district. It is in La Crucecita that you find the largest number and greatest variety of night spots.

First off, no one in Mexico starts their nocturnal pursuits until 10:00 P.M. or later; 11:00 or midnight is a more common starting time. The clubs stay open until 3:00 or 4:00 A.M. or later if customer demand is there. If you're taking an American style early supper--the locals often don't dine until 9:00 or later--and then immediately go out in search of nocturnal joys, you'll believe that the town is deader'n a doornail. So take up the local customs while you're here. Go do your [scuba diving](#) or other activities in the morning. Eat lunch and take a long nap in the early afternoon, say 1:00 to 3:00 or so, and then go shopping (or diving - face it, I'm going to plug my sole livelihood) and then take a late supper. Rest up a bit more after supper and then hit the streets. Don't skip that afternoon nap--you're going to need it!

So let's start out with the north side of the square in La Crucecita. In the northwest corner sits the bar/restaurant **La Tropicana**. This is one of the few 24-hour eateries in the area. Food prices will not send you looking for a plane home. It is one of the most reasonably priced places on the Zócalo. They have a big-screen TV, usually dedicated to English-speaking movies with subtitles in Spanish. There's a pool hall upstairs with long hours during the busy season, which is mid-November to Easter as well as July and August, and uncertain hours at other times.

A couple of blocks north of the Zócalo is **Seco's Bar**, home to probably the best juke box in Mexico. Lovely Maira from Pochutla will handle your drink orders unless Tico himself beats her to your table. Great ambiance.

On Bugambilias North of the Zocalo several blocks is **Bar Perico**. This is a traditional Centro de Botanos, meaning that as long as you're drinking, they keep you fed. If you're gonna drink anyway, might as well get a meal out of it, huh? Enjoy.

On the Northeast corner sits La Fogata. It is a pricey place by local standards, but they

do have fresh cabrito roasting on a spit. Is tender roasted goat worth 50 pesos? To me, only if I can rope someone else into paying! A more reasonably priced option for roasted meats (Alas! No cabrito.) is El Fogon, just around the corner and half a block north.

Also on the east side is **Bar La Iguana**. La Iguana offers rock and sports on the TV - a good spot to watch Monday Night Football. During the busy season La Iguana has live tropical music. They are associated with Restaurante Los Portales, a bargain spot for breakfast with fresh coffee, fresh juice, and fresh fruits. The restaurant opens at 7:00 A.M. and closes at 2:00 A.M. The bar is open from noon to 4:00 A.M. These folks are true entrepreneurs. They also operate Pesos Auto Rental, featuring VW's with fiberglass replicas of Fiat Topolino bodies and lots of brush guards. They rent for 250 pesos a day, somewhat negotiable. If you're adventurous, they also have a VW microbus equipped to sleep two. It rents for 400 pesos a day and is great for taking off to the mountains for a couple of days.

On the southeast corner upstairs is **Bar la Selva**, a nice place to view the goings on in the plaza while enjoying the music and having a drink. The doors open at 8:30 pm.

On the South side of the square, you'll find Zamora's. It offers superb fruit-flavored waters, ice cream, and paletas. However, just caddy-corner to the Northeast you'll find vastly superior **ice cream** at **Panificadora Alfredos**. They specialize in exotic regional flavors like Mamey, Rosa, and Tres Leches. Of course, since it is a panificadora (bakery) it has enough incredible Mexican baked goods--along with flan and pie de queso--to put fat on a beanpole!

Returning to the Zócalo, you'll pass Oasis Restaurant, a great place for a cup of coffee or some sushi. The sushi isn't the greatest and is often coated with something like crème cheese, Mexican style. But you can ask for it "sin queso" if you prefer.

The remainder of the south side of the Zócalo is dedicated to restaurants, all very good, and to shops. Of special interest to travelers are the two **Coconut's** stores, bracketing Side Out Sports. The one on the Southwest corner is the only place in town to find rolling papers. These are the ubiquitous orange packs of Zig-Zag cut-corners. If you incline towards the need to use such products and don't like this brand, bring a supply of your favorites from home and leave the leftovers for the guys on the beach! The other Coconuts carries all the latest popular American and Mexican magazines, a good selection of cassettes and CD's, and a well-stocked rack of paperbacks. Prices are somewhere between J. Daltons and the gift shop at the airport, so you may want to try to bring all the reading material you can from home. Leftover books are appreciated by your humble scribe if you want to lighten your bags for the flight home.

The west side of the plaza is religiously oriented. There is a very active Parroquia (Parish) as well as a church that seems to be taking longer to complete than even Washington's National Cathedral.

About four blocks south of the Zócalo, at the corner of Bugambilia and La Ceiba sits the **Reggae bar La Crema**. For those of us who would really just as soon be in Zipolite, this is an adequate substitute. Split bamboo wall coverings with batik hangings give that "just up from the beach" feel. The music leans towards hard rock from the 60's and 70's as well as Reggae. The booze is cheap; they even have Cerveza Superior on draft! (Ask for Superior barril to make sure). You're likely to find me at a corner table on nearly any given night. If you consider yourself to be "laid-back", or if people accuse you of being too laid-back, this is the spot for you, too.



For me, formal attire means a T-shirt without advertizing and a clean pair of shorts. But if you like to dress up and go out to boogie, there are a couple of nice discos in the area. In Tangolunda, across the street from the Barcelo Huatulco Resort and the Gala Resort, there is a nice disco called **Savage** (pronounced sa-BOSHsh). As well as tourists, Savage is popular with local lovelies in their black leather mini-dresses. The decor leans heavily towards black. The lighting devices are entertaining as is the multi-media. You'll save bucks in the long run by ordering a bottle of booze and mixers for your table. This is a disco; it is LOUD inside.

In Santa Cruz, upstairs in the Hotel La Marina, is Acqua (opening **4/5/01**), formerly the Magic Circus Disco. The clientel tends to more tourist than local--this is where the activity organizers from the major hotels bring groups. The dance floor is a little smallish for the size of the crowds. It has a good light show and effects. New music from around the world is featured for the dancers.

Around the corner from the Acqua is another lively little spot called **Bananas**. They're open from 8:00 P.M. to 2:00 A.M. or later if customer demand exists. Current rock is featured. Music and sports videos are usually on the tubes. Bananas offers a good time with friendly people who'll try to make you feel at home.

**Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings are Noches Oaxaqueñas** (Oaxacan Nights) at Guela Guetza. [Folkoric dances](#) characteristic of the 7 regions of the state of Oaxaca are performed by dance troupes touring from the folkoric school in Oaxaca City. Colorful, festive and well done. Show only, \$N100 pesos per person.

## Tour Operators

- **Agencia de Viajes Paraiso Huatulco D.M.C.** (958) 581-0218, 581-0055 ext. 788, 581-0200 (fax) Located at the **Barcelo Huatulco Resort** local 4. Tours of the bays, Puerto Angel, Turtle Museum, Oaxaca City (1 or 2 days), Local Villages & Traditions, Conventions and Incentive Groups, Charter Programs, Wedding Arrangements (Civil & Religious), etc. Email: [paraisohutulco@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:paraisohutulco@prodigy.net.mx) (7/03)
- **Aventuras Huatulco** (958) 587-0054 and (958) 587-1695 mobile. [erastorjas@hotmail.com](mailto:erastorjas@hotmail.com). Located on the second floor of Plaza Conejo, a half block from the zócalo in **La Crucecita**. Excursions include mountain biking, coffee plantation, bird watching, rock climbing, kayaking, horseback riding, hiking, deep sea fishing, bays tour, visit to the villages, and sunset cruise.
- **Explora México** Rafael Heredia and Alberto Treviño. [rafakayak@hotmail.com](mailto:rafakayak@hotmail.com) and [explomex@hotmail.com](mailto:explomex@hotmail.com). Rafting, kayaking. English and Spanish spoken. (4/01)
- **Outdoor Huatulco** (958) 587-1822, (958) 589-2303 mobile. Pedro Gasca [outdoor@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:outdoor@prodigy.net.mx). Operator of Virginia Yacht. Bays tour, sunset, moonlight tour, ocean kayak, snorkel, deep sea fishing, mountain biking, coffee plantations, bird watching, rock climbing, horseback riding, hiking, agrotourism & reforestation programs, environmental education programs. [www.geocities.com/outdoor\\_huatulco](http://www.geocities.com/outdoor_huatulco)
- **Servicios Turisticos Del Sur** (958) 587-1211, 587-0806. Fax: (958) 587-1986. Email [stshuatulcosdmc@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:stshuatulcosdmc@prodigy.net.mx) Located at the [Hotel Castillo](#), Santa Cruz. Rafting, **horseback riding**, 4-wheelers, **coffee plantation tours** ([La Gloria](#)), bicycle tours, neighboring towns, car rentals, conventions, charter flights.
- ★★ **Rancho Caballo de Mar** (958) 587-0366, (958) 581-0323 Located at Playa Punta Arena, Bahía de Conejos, office next to La Pampa Argentina. **Horseback** tour. Reservation required, English and French spoken.

## FISHING

From the end of **November until March** is the yellowfin tuna season and big dorado (mahi-mahi, bull-dolphin) season due to the coldest water during the year. From **March until the end of May** the fishing is very slow, some dorado, some wahoo, some small yellowfin tuna. Beginning in June is the sailfish season and this peaks in July and August. July is also good for blue marlin that you can catch just 5 miles from shore. The sailfish come at the beginning of the rainy season and the water becomes warmer day by day. Sometimes in this period you have 8-10 sailfish strike during the morning and it is very exciting to sometimes see the sailfish feeding just outside the bay. In this period the Copalita river is full of water and on the Ocean you will see a large area of dirty water where the river drains into the sea. At this time you will find a line dividing the brown dirty water from the blue one. At the edge you can fish for dorado, sailfish, and wahoo. Occasionally we have a strike from a small shark when trolling very slowly.



## DIVING

For information on scuba diving in Huatulco,.Oaxaca, you can call **Hector Lara**, who owns the dive shop [Buceo Sotavento](#) or "Leeward Diver", located at the Plaza Oaxaca, La Crucecita, on the [zócalo](#). The phone number is (958) 587-2166 (voice/fax).

Service	Aprox. Duration of Excursion	Price in Dollars see <a href="#">Rate of exchange</a>
1-Tank (Certified Diver)	2 hours	US\$55 per person
2-Tank Dive	4 hours	US\$75 per person
PADI Discover Scuba	4 hours	US\$75 per person
Night Dive	2 hours	US\$65 per person
Snorkeling passenger	2 hours	US\$18 per person
2-Tank to Cacaluta Island (35 min by boat each way)	5 hours	US\$80 per person (min. 2 divers)
2-Tank to San Agustin Island (1 hour by boat each way)	7 hours	US\$100 per person (min 2 divers)
Underwater pictures (roll of 12) for discover scuba		US\$26 per roll
Fishing Trip in Panga	per hour	US\$45 per hour (min. 3 hours)
PADI Open Water Certification	5 Days	US\$335
Adventure Diver	2 Days	US\$180
PADI Advanced Open Water	3 Days	US\$250
PADI Dive Master	15 Days	US\$500
PADI Referral Program Open W.	2 Days	US\$230

**Action Sports Marina** is the dive shop at the **Barcelo Huatulco** can be reached at (958) 581-0055, ask for extension 842, 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM CST. Or you can email **Carlos Ramos** [charlie\\_diver@hotmail.com](mailto:charlie_diver@hotmail.com). Carlos offers underwater photography and video services. See scuba diving [article](#) and [photos](#) by Carlos.

**Discover Scuba Diving** **for those who want to try it out**

**Hurricane Divers** (958) 587-1107 is located at the corner of Benito Juarez and Chahué in Huatulco, Oaxaca. They offer scuba diving and snorkeling excursions, packages, instruction. Also equipment sales and repair.

We start the day from the Marina of Santa Cruz with a tour along the coastline all the way to the Bay of San Agustin passing 7 of our beautiful 9 bays. We do one dive in the morning in a confined, shallow bay where you learn the basics and practice with the scuba equipment to prepare you for an exciting dive in the afternoon. In between we go to a little secluded beach where we have a light lunch and spend a couple of hours in which you can go snorkeling, swim, sunbath or simply relax.



- Times: 09.00 - 18.00
- Price: from \$1,530.00 Pesos per person
- Includes:

Tour of the Bays, PADI Discover Scuba Diving Program, Equipment, Instructor, Transportation, Drinks & Light Lunch.

## SAILING

Harness the wind and sail the sea on the 44-foot sailboat, Luna Azul. It's a one of a kind sailing experience found in Huatulco, where you can let soft breezes take you away.



What better way to enjoy a peaceful ocean sunset than on a relaxing sunset cruise, while enjoying a glass of wine and bit of cheese.

Day trips are also offered. The Luna Azul will take you to some of the quiet, scenic bays, not accessible by car, where you can swim, fish, or just lay out in the sun. Snorkeling equipment is also available if you want to view some of the beautiful coral that thrives in the area.

Day trips include your ice-cold beverages and cocktails. And, if you ask, maybe Captain Jack Hennesy will even let you take the helm. English and Spanish spoken. If you would like any further information about the Luna Azul you can contact Jack at [velerolunaazul@hotmail.com](mailto:velerolunaazul@hotmail.com).

## Santa Cruz Marina

**Prospero Reyes** offers economical boat tours by panga. 958-40632 (wife, Mariela). You may find others here as well. Next to the marina is the [Santa Cruz market](#) where you may find better deals than in La Crucecita. Behind the market is a lovely square and Playa Santa Cruz. Diagonally off the southwest corner of the square and near the beach is the Mesón de las Flores restaurant-highly recommended.



**Camino Real Zaashila  
Resort (Huatulco)**

Booked Through  
Zapotec Tours/Zapotel,  
Inc.

Bldv. Benito Juárez #5 /  
Huatulco, Oax.,  
UN 70989  
Mexico  
Phone: 1-800-  
HUATULCO  
Fax: 17735062445  
Reservations: 1-800-  
HUATULCO

**One-Bedroom Suite w/ pool**

**Room Description:**

Maximum 2 adults in this room type. 2 children (under 12) stay free with adults. One king bed in the bedroom (no double beds available). 2 sofas pulled out into single beds in the living room. Two T.V.s. Two baths (shower & tub and double vanity with hair dryer). Dining room (with table and 4 chairs) and kitchenette (with exhaust fan, stove, refrigerator and sink). Includes complimentary daily breakfast (buffet or ala carte ) for two.