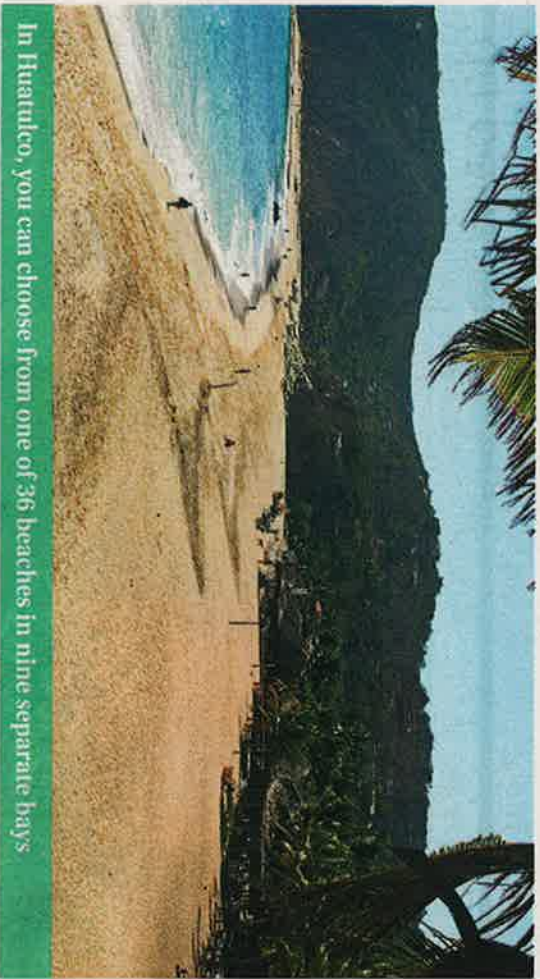


# The undiscovered beauty of Huatulco



In Huatulco, you can choose from one of 36 beaches in nine separate bays

*Y tu mamá también!* Do you remember this movie, with Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna? It's the story of two teenage boys and a beautiful woman on a roadtrip in Mexico, arriving in one of the most extraordinary landscapes in Mexico: Huatulco! The combination of unspoiled beaches and tropical forests, white sand and sun, this place will convince anyone they've arrived in paradise!

Why did they choose this remote place in Mexico? To answer this question, we need to go back 20 years, when this area consisted of 34,000 hectares of largely uninhabited forest reserve and nine pristine bays of soft brown sand, whose shores were gently kissed by the sparkling, clear blue waters of the Mexican Pacific. The sole inhabitants lived in a humble fishing village known as

fact, several of the bays are still completely undeveloped today and can only be accessed by boat.

This paradise is located on the southern coast of the Mexican Pacific in the state of Oaxaca and boasts nine incredible bays along 35 kilometres of coast: San

Agustín, Chachacual, Maguay, El Organo, Santa Cruz, Chahué, Tangolunda, Conejos and Cacaluta.

In total, there are 36 beaches with brilliant, crystalline water bounded on the north by the impressive Sierra Madre del Sur and on east and west by the Copalita and Coyula rivers. Tangolunda Bay has deluxe hotels, an 18-hole golf course,

deep-sea fishing, reef diving and five lovely beaches. There's no big city here, but the two small towns of La Crucesita and Santa Cruz make for a pleasant outing with their cafés and colourful

annual Torneo de Pesca de Vela (sailfish fishing tournament) in April and May.

During November, there are all kinds of amazing cultural events in and around Huatulco. First of all, Huatulco hosts an impressive Sea Music festival with live concerts featuring international artists, movie screenings and so on. Every one foreign country is invited to showcase its cultural specialities.

Huatulco also has an incredible film and food festival, attracting filmmakers, visual artists and writers. After watching the films, the actors and audience engage in lively discussions. Depending on the program, visitors can also sample traditional Mexican dishes.

**Beach paradise scuba diving**  
Huatulco's fascinating coasts

residential subdivisions. In its expanding commercial zone, you can enjoy numerous recreational, athletic and dining adventures. One of Mexico's most complete golf courses is in Tanguilunda, with spectacular vistas of the ocean.

**Cacaluta: Place of the black bird**  
Exuberant vegetation frames this ecological reserve of beautiful, completely untouched scenery and an abundance of vegetation and wildlife. Cacaluta is ideal for relaxing, thanks to its subtropical climate and cool breezes.

**Chachacual:** This natural reserve has stunning coral reefs. Acacias, fig and mangrove trees edge its two beaches, Chachacual and La India. It is a favourite breeding spot for golfina turtles. Each year, more than 100,000 of these turtles lay their eggs in the sand here.

## Ecotourism

A subtropical climate with an average year-round temperature of 28°C (83°F) and 330 days of sunshine are responsible for the luxuriant vegetation here, which includes the main species found in low jungles. During the rainy season, the dry forest areas turn from tan to green. This ecosystem is unique because it combines jungle and forest with subtropical animals and abundant flowers. Coastal marine life is characterized primarily by coral reefs, purple-dye-producing sea conchs and golfina turtles that breed in the area.

To round out a visit to Huatulco, a visit to a coffee plantation such as El Pacifico, La Gloria, or Monte Carlo is a must. Head into the mountains of Oaxaca surrounding Santa Maria Huatulco to a 19th-century coffee plantation founded by German immigrants. You'll learn about the harvesting and processing of the areas' delicious *pluma* coffee. Spend time with the family owners and enjoy a typical meal. The tours include

the breeding season and millions of hatchlings then try to reach the ocean. The Center houses a museum, turtle farm, cactus garden and research centre dedicated to protecting marine turtles.

It is open from Tuesday to Sunday, and admission is by donation. Mazunte is also home to a women's cooperative factory that produces natural-ingredient cosmetics sold around the world through the Body Shop. Take advantage of super low prices!

## Green Globe 21 for Huatulco

Huatulco is the first tourism community in America to receive the Green Globe 21 sustainability certificate. In fact, this is a fully planned centre developed by the Mexican Fund to Foster Tourism (Fonatur) in the 1980s. It was certified in early 2005 as the first Sustainable Tourism Community in the Americas and third in the world. The people and authorities of Huatulco are committed to a vision of long-term sustainability and have set themselves the goal of keeping it at the forefront of Mexican and international beach destinations in environmental matters.

## Places to stay

Huatulco's accommodations are located in one of five areas: Tanguilunda Bay, Conejos Bay, Chahue Bay, the city of Santa Cruz, and the town of La Crucecita.

Huatulco has an upscale urban infrastructure that adheres strictly to international quality and environmental standards with respect to the architecture and its natural surroundings. There are 2,300 hotel rooms—ranging from modest inns to hotels ranked "Gran Turismo," five-star hotels and even an above-rating special category—that offer accommodation alone or operate on an all-inclusive basis.

## Traditional food for lovers of fine dining

Huatulco reflects the surprising flavours of Oaxaca's cuisine and the marvels of its culture. Even the most discriminating palates will be satisfied in the restaurants in Tanguilunda, Chahué and Santa Cruz, as well as in the town of La Crucecita, a great place to enjoy fresh fish and seafood. Try the *Molito de camarón seco* or the *Tamales de pescado seco*. And be sure to sample Mexican lobster: you'll love it!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com) and [www.magicofmexico.com](http://www.magicofmexico.com)

## ECO-ADVENTURE OPERATORS

Buceo Sotavento: 958-581-0051

Gaalho: 958-587-0087

Turismo Conejo: 958-587-1559

Zona de Aventura Extrema: 958-587-1264

## World Wildlife Fund Natural Habitat Adventures

This travel provider offers trips to Mazunte's National Mexican Turtle Center. All-inclusive trips are limited to approximately 10 travellers and are accompanied by WWF-trained guides. [www.nathab.com](http://www.nathab.com) 1-800-543-8917

## HOTELS

To find the perfect place for a relaxing vacation

[www.huatulco-hotels.com](http://www.huatulco-hotels.com)

## RESTAURANTS AND BARS