

APPLE VACATIONS®



Pacific Coast, Mexico

NON-STOP FLIGHT TIMES (in hours)

Chicago	4.75
Los Angeles	3.5
Milwaukee	4.5

average temperatures



What once was a coconut plantation and mangrove estuary is now the sun and sand retreat of Ixtapa. Offering a large marina, top hotels, restaurants, nightclubs and 16 miles of golden beaches, while still maintaining it's small town charm is what Ixtapa is all about. Golf enthusiasts have two world-class courses to choose from.

Head down the coastline 3 miles to the quiet village of Zihuatanejo. This town has evolved from a quaint fishing village to a backpackers' hotspot and getaway for honeymooners and adventurers. The town is lined with galleries and folk art shops and palapa-style seafood restaurants serving the catch of the day.

Ixtapa and "Zihua" boast postcard-worthy scenery of rocky cliffs, sand and sea.

A special fund was created for the tourist developments of Ixtapa and Cancun in the early 1970s. Ixtapa remained relatively quiet even though the area is the third most visited destination in Mexico, behind Cancun (#1) and Puerto Vallarta (#2).

The final scene in the popular film *Shawshank Redemption* has Andy (Tim Robbins) and Red (Morgan Freeman) living out the rest of their lives in Zihuatanejo as "free men".

Aside from tourism, fishing is one of the main industries and a way of life for locals. Catch-of-the-days include tuna, marlin, red snapper, shark, sailfish and grouper. Marlin are known to put up quite a challenge for sport fishermen, where a 1,100 lb. black marlin was caught only 1/4 mile off shore!

TOP TOURS!

Ixtapa Island

A day of fun and relaxation in paradise where you can adventure at four different beaches. Snorkel, sail or just kick back and enjoy the sun!

Adventure on the Island

Experience eco-tourism with a four mile bike ride through an ecological park. Visit the crocodile pit at Playa Linda, then kayak or snorkel at Isle Ixtapa. Eat, relax and then bike back to the starting point!

Magical Sunset Cruise

Sail around the bay of Zihuatanejo and into the Pacific sunset, plus keep your eyes open for the green flash (an optical phenomenon)!

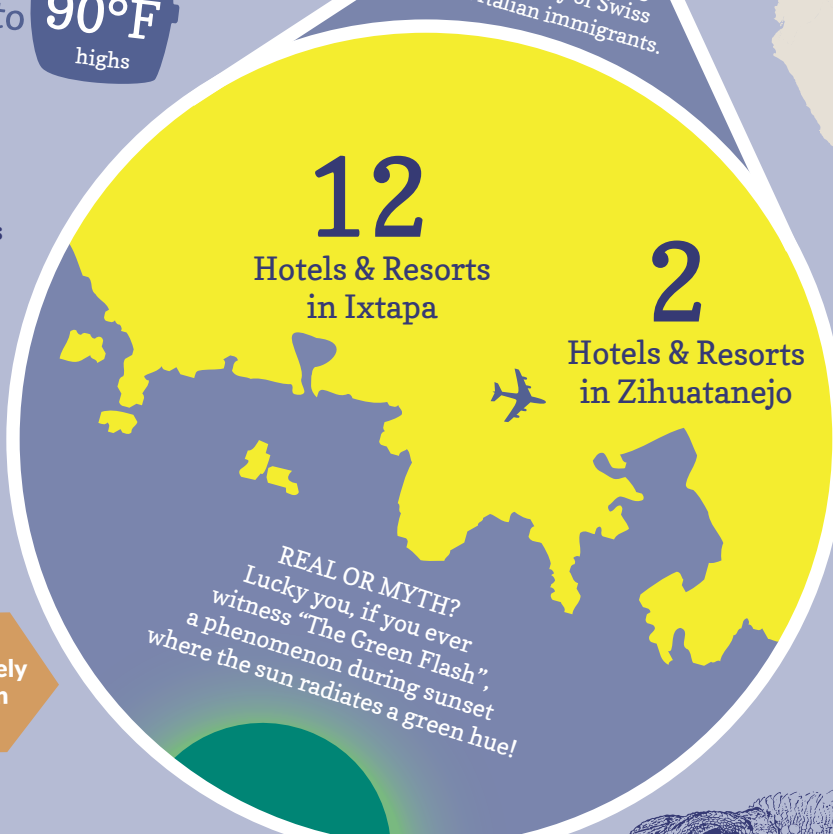
Sail n' Snorkel Picante

Cruise along Zihuatanejo's coastline and an unforgettable snorkeling experience on a section of coral reef. Then take a deep breath before flying high over La Ropa beach on the spinnaker sail - an adventure not to be missed!

Fishing

The mecca for fishing both game and pleasure, cruise offshore or sail the deep sea. Feeling sea sick? Stroll along the Paseo del Pescador in Zihuatanejo and watch local fisherman returning from sea with fresh merchandise.

The town of Zihuatanejo has a long-standing community of Swiss and Italian immigrants.



Huatulco follows Central Standard Time (CST).



La Sirena Gorda, translated as "The Fat Mermaid" is a local hot spot in Zihuatanejo known for their excellent breakfasts and fresh fish daily specials. Colorful illustrations and paintings of mermaids make this casual sidewalk café a great experience.

Moravian Tile and Pottery Works is a sight you'll want to see. Visit the restored factory and see how the locals build tiles with just their hands and tools. Tiles can then be purchased and framed!

Zihua Guitar Fest is held every March to bring international music, culture and tourism to this destination, helping support many small family owned businesses.

