



The History of Oaxaca

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During his conquest of Mexico, Hernán Cortés declared himself the Marqués del Valle of Oaxaca, claiming province over the state's rich mineral deposits. Today, Oaxaca - pronounced "wah-haak-kah" has become a top tourist destination thanks to its miles of sandy beaches and fascinating archeological sites. While there are officially 16 indigenous groups in Oaxaca, every group actually has hundreds of subgroups, each distinguished by unique linguistic and social traditions. Oaxaca, like the nearby states of Guerrero and Chiapas, contains a startlingly diverse range of indigenous cultures with roots that reach back many centuries.

Early History

Between approximately 1500 and 500 B.C., the Zapotecan city of San José Mogote in what is now the state of Oaxaca was the largest and most important settlement in the region. Historians estimate that during the pre-colonial period, Oaxaca was home to 16 separate cultures, each with its own language, customs and traditions. However the Zapotecas and Mixtecas constituted the largest and most sophisticated societies with villages and farmlands located throughout the region.

San José Mogote, considered the oldest agricultural city in the Oaxaca Valley, was probably the first area settlement to use pottery. Historians also credit Zapotecas with constructing Mexico's oldest-known defensive barrier and ceremonial buildings around 1300 B.C.

Skilled in astronomy and excavation, the Zapoteca leveled the top of a local mountain around 450 B.C. and created the ceremonial center now called Monte Albán. One of the most densely populated cities in Mesoamerica, Monte Albán is estimated to have had 18,000 Zapotecan residents at its peak.

Before migrating to Oaxaca, the Mixtecas lived in the southern portions of what are now the neighboring states of Guerrero and Puebla. By the end of the 7th century, Mixtecas established themselves in the western and central parts of Oaxaca, building cities such as Apoala and Tilantongo. During the 13th century, the Mixtecas continued to move south and east, invading the Central Valley and conquering the Zapotecas.

By the 15th century, the Aztecs had arrived in Oaxaca and quickly conquered the local inhabitants, establishing an outpost on the Cerro del Fortín. Consequently, trade with Tenochtitlán and other cities to the north increased, but the basic fabric of living was unchanged by the Aztec presence.

Middle History

In 1519, conquistador Hernán Cortés set out to conquer central Mexico on behalf of Spain. Two years later, through mass killings and strategic alliances, he

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succeeded in overthrowing the Aztec Empire. Cortés promptly sent Pedro de Alvarado and Gonzalo de Sandoval to the Pacific and into the Sierra Madre region in search of gold. In Oaxaca, the comparatively few natives who survived the invasion returned to their remote villages and continued to cultivate the land and labor in the mines while some found work on haciendas.

During the 300-year colonial period, a rigid class hierarchy ensured that the best government posts were filled by Criollos (Spaniards and their descendants). Only near the end of the colonial period were Mestizos allowed to hold public office. Under Spanish rule, the region's social practices, politics and religion were Europeanized. Schools and churches were erected for the Indians, Mestizos and Criollos alike. However, with all the power and wealth concentrated in the hands of the Spanish landowners and clergy, most Oaxacans remained impoverished.

When the movement to free Mexico from Spanish rule began, Oaxaca was at the forefront. Bishop Antonio Barbosa Jordan encouraged Oaxacans to take up arms against the Spanish crown. In 1811, Valerio Trujano initiated guerilla action against Spanish forces and won several important victories. Besieged at Huajuapán, Trujano held out for 111 days until he received reinforcements sent by the revolutionary leader José María Morelos. With the help of the extra troops, Trujano won the battle of Huajuapán, giving the revolutionaries control of Oaxaca.

Recent History

Two Oaxacans played an integral role in Mexican history during the late 19th century. Benito Juárez became Mexico's first Indian president in 1858 and served several terms, one of which was interrupted by the French occupation from 1863 to 1867 after he refused to continue paying long-standing debts owed to France. The second major Oaxacan figure of the 19th century was Porfirio Díaz, who contended for the presidency several times before assuming power in 1877. He ruled initially from 1877 to 1880 and again from 1884 to 1911. When the Mexican Revolution began in 1910, Oaxaca, like many southern states, rallied around the revolutionary Emiliano Zapata who proclaimed that the land belonged to the workers.

After Díaz was removed from power, dissension among the revolutionary leaders continued to divide the people of Mexico. Venustiano Carranza, who opposed some of Zapata's populist positions, seized control of the federal government and eventually triumphed over the armed forces of Zapata and Pancho Villa. With Carranza in power, the relationship between Oaxaca and the federal government deteriorated. Oaxacans disliked the new president so much that Carranza's brother was assassinated in Oaxaca. The period from 1916 to 1920 was filled with constant struggle for control of the new government; in the end, federal troops won out.

Oaxaca Today

Tourism is the principal industry in Oaxaca. With more than 500 kilometers (310 miles) of Pacific Coast beaches, archeological ruins, colonial architecture, mountains, valleys and a mild climate.

A poor and underdeveloped state, Oaxaca relies mainly on the commercial value of its forestry products, fruit and vegetable crops and handicrafts created by indigenous artisans to support its economy. Past mismanagement has squandered some resources, and poor transportation systems have hindered the movement of produce and raw materials.

In recent years, Oaxaca has experienced considerable political and social upheaval. Governor Ulises Ruiz, accused of fraud in the 2004 elections, was subjected to protests and guerilla-style attacks during the summer of 2006, and federal forces were sent to quell the protests. Some tension still exists today among several segments of society, notably the teacher's union, which has allied itself with the agricultural union in an effort to remove Ruiz from power.

Interesting Facts & Figures

Capital: Oaxaca de Juárez

Major Cities (population): Oaxaca de Juárez (266,033); San Juan Bautista Tuxtepec (144,555); Juchitán de Zaragoza (85,869); Salina Cruz (76,219); Santa Cruz Xoxocotlán (65,873).

Size/Area: 36,275 square miles

Population: 3,506,821 (2005 census)

President's Article

Here we are in April ever closer to the time that our Taxco visitors will be here with us! The committee is working hard at finding wonderful things to do. I think that this committee has been the largest committee of planners we have seen in a long time. Each person is vying for their favorite activity or restaurant to be included in the final plans. I know with all of this hard work we will have a great time!! Our visitors are coming to Canoga on Saturday, May 19-Tuesday, May 29.



Barbara White

WE DO NEED ANOTHER HOUSE TO HOST A VISITOR! Please let Jo Lamoreaux know if you can host. ***AND PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST A "FAMILY DINNER"*** – that means having 1-2 Taxco visitors and their hosts to your house for dinner. This is a great way to get to know our Taxco friends!!

Our fundraiser this month is a Progressive Dinner – Saturday, April 14 at 6:00 pm. We will start at Bobbie Strelow's house for appetizers and cocktails and there receive our directions to the next house for salad, then entrée and finally dessert at MY HOUSE! Rush and I would love to see you there! Please come... it's only \$15 – a bargain at twice the price!

It looks as though our Fiesta Fling that has always been in May is being shifted to September this year. Plans are in the works to make this a big blow out party!! We need to make a lot of money this year that will fund our Education Project for Taxco. We will let you know the details later.

Thanks to all of our members who are working hard behind the scenes to keep our organization great! I appreciate all of your efforts! You make my job as president all the easier for your caring efforts and love!



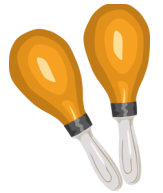
WELCOME PARTY
FOR THE
TAXCO DELEGATION!
SUNDAY, MAY 20TH @ 6PM

Help Us Welcome:
Alexia, Alicia, Elvira, Jorge, Lulu, Manual, Roberto & Toni

Appetizers, Tri Tip dinner, Dessert & Live Music!
Tickets: \$17 / \$21 after May 11th

Location: Van Nuys Reseda Elks Lodge - 14440 Friar Street Van Nuys 91401

General Meeting



May 6th - 1:00 PM

Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan Ave.

I heard they are having a Super Luncheon at the meeting!

Hey Tom, do you know any of the details about the Adult Exchange program next month?

Ya, and it is only \$12 per person. They need to call Bobbie Strelow for reservations at: (818) 388-7801



No, man, that's why I'm going to the General Meeting.



Details will be forthcoming so make sure to save this date!

US/Mexico Sister City Annual Retreat



Retreat Laughlin, Nevada

Tropicana Hotel & Casino

April 20 - 22, 2018

The hotel has set up a group block of rooms for us on that weekend and the rates are \$69.99 for 4/20 and 4/21 and \$35.99 for 4/22.

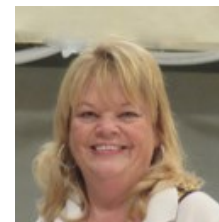
Want to get away for a few days of fun and excitement? Join the US/Mexico Sister City Association in Laughlin, Nevada for a few days of enjoyment! The USMSCA has held the past few retreats here and it is a really great place to meet. The Tropicana Hotel and Casino provides a wonderful venue along with nice rooms, great food and fun gambling. Last year they had a car show with over 300 entries from all over Southern California. It was fantastic! If you would like to check out their specials and events for this year just go to the website at:

<https://troplaughlin.com/> or call Randy Lewis if you want to attend. (818) 998-0983

2018 Taxco Adult Visitation Is Coming

Come Join the Fun with our Taxco Delegation!

We have many special events planned to expose our Taxco delegates to culture and fun of Canoga Park and the surrounding area! All members are welcome to attend any of the events. We'll have a reservation form available at the April Progressive Dinner and it will be in the May newsletter. You will also be able to access it online after April 15th.



Jo Lamoreaux

We kick off the visitation on Sunday morning (May 20th) at 9:30 with a visit to the Taxco mural here in Canoga Park on Remmet Avenue (were you aware there was one??), followed by a tour of the Canoga Park Children's Art Center & breakfast, next we will visit the Owensmouth Historical Society to see the history of Canoga Park and many of the Taxco gifts we have received over the last 50 years.

Sunday evening (May 20th) is the big **Welcome Party** at the Van Nuys/Reseda Elks lodge. Tickets are \$17 for tri tip dinner and live music. See the flyer in the newsletter for all the details. We hope you can join us as we give the delegation a big Canoga Park FOT welcome! Guests are welcome.

Below is an outline of events that we've completed arrangements for, we will have prices shortly, still trying to negotiate discounts were possible. There are additional events which we are still working on the details for. We will have a complete calendar at the April Progressive Dinner and in the May newsletter.

Any questions - please feel free give me a call (818-599-5843) or email me at: llamoreaux@sbcglobal.net. Mark your calendars to join us and we'll have all the details shortly.

Jo Lamoreaux, Adult Visitation Chair

2018 Taxco Adult Visitation Partial Schedule

21-May Monday	22-May Tuesday	23-May Wednesday	24-May Thursday	25-May Friday	26-May Saturday	27-May Sunday
San Fernando Mission 10:30 am	Anatola Elem. School Presentation 10 am	Mission College Lunch & Tour 11:30 - 3	Music Center Tour 10:00 - 12pm	Lunch Benihana's Encino 12 noon	Santa Anita Horse Races & Lunch 10:30 - 7	Agua Dulce Wine Tour & Picnic 11:30 - 2
Picnic Lunch/ Reagan Library 12 - 4	Lunch Golden Road Brewery 11:30 am			Getty Museum 1:30 - 4		Farewell party 6:30 Location TBD
	LA Natural History Museum 1:30					

This is a partial schedule and the exact program will be forthcoming. Prices and exact times will be printed in the May edition of the "El Amigo." We hope you will be able to attend some of the functions and enjoy our guests. Any members with questions are asked to call Jo Lamoreaux at: (818-599-5843) or email at: llamoreaux@sbcglobal.net. Come Join Us!

April Ways and Means Event

April 14th

I made reservations for us by contacting Bobbie at: 818.388.7801 or bobbiejoann2@gmail.

Were heading over to Bobbie Strelow's place to start the Progressive Dinner. It should be lots of fun just like the previous ones!



They said the dinner starts at 6:00 PM. I can't wait to find out where all of the other stops will be.

Ya, we will be making at least 4 stops before we are full. I don't know how they can do all of that for only \$15.00!

Calendar of Events 2018

- April 14** **Progressive Dinner - 6:00 PM**
\$15.00 Start at Bobbie Strelow Home - 20939 Lanark St.
- April 28** **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**
Reina & Tom Scuderi Home - 23527 Styles St.
- May 6** **General Meeting - 1:00 PM - Canoga Park Women's Club**
\$12.00 7401 Jordan Ave.
- May 19** **Taxco Delegation Arrives LAX**
- May 20** **Welcome Party - 6:00 PM**
\$17.00 Van Nuys/Reseda Elks Lodge - 14440 Friar St., Van Nuys
- May 28** **Joint Board Meeting - 9:30 AM - Brunch**
Barb & Rush White Home - 22619 Marlin Place
- May 29** **Taxco Delegation Leaves LAX**
- June 23** **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM**
Obdulio & Mary Galeana Home - 18813 Cantlay St.



FRIENDS OF TAXCO
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