

PRESS RELEASE

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IXTAPA-ZIHUATANEJO and YOUR ALTERNATIVE TOURISM

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo offers an interesting variety of activities for Alternative Tourism, which create an appreciation for the beauty and grand bio-diversity of this marvelous destination. As well this fascinating destination with its varied activities gives emotional life experiences charged with adrenaline, adventure and challenge.

Alternative tourism can principally be divided into two sub-groups: Eco-tourism and Adventure tourism. Eco-tourism consists of the observation and interaction with the natural environment, while Adventure tourism encompasses sporting activities, such as white water rafting or darting along the treetops on a tirolesa.

Among the many Eco-tourism activities that can be enjoyed in Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, are the sighting of the following species of animals which are iconic in this marvelous beach haven.

Crocodiles

One of Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo's many natural attractions, referred to as fauna, are the crocodiles. Their habitat lies among the estuaries of Ixtapa, Playa La Ropa, and the many lakes that line the golf courses, although the site of the vast majority of these species can be found in the inlet named "El Popoyote" which is located near Playa Linda. If you are a guest at a hotel in this area, most likely you will have the opportunity to observe these imposing reptiles, which may lead you to reflect on some of the more incredible action and adventure movies.

TURTLES

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is extremely fortunate to be one of the preferred sites for sea turtles to leave and lay their eggs. The Government, corporations, individuals, diving schools, hotels and scores of volunteers contribute to this important work through the harvesting of eggs that are deposited throughout different beaches within protected corrals until the eggs reach their hatching stage. Once the sea turtles are born, trained professionals care for the newborns until they grow large enough to fend for themselves and defend against natural predators. Thanks to this program tourists and locals alike, can witness and participate in the release of baby sea turtles. It's important to emphasize that of the eight different species of turtles that exist in the world today, seven come to the shores of our country, and three varieties arrive at the Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo beaches.

BIRDS

Mexico is recognized as being one of the top seven, most biologically diverse countries on the planet, being home to 10% of all the known terrestrial species, many of which can only be found in Mexico. Of the approximate 9000 species that exist throughout the world today, 1000 or just over 10% can be found in Mexico. In regards to the Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo area, there are documented sightings of more than 320 different species, which make up one third of the nation's total. This is due to the physical geographic characteristics of the region, which is comprised of various types of natural habitats, such as the coastal areas, rain-forest, and mangroves, each of them containing unique species.

Adventours (Bird-watching, snorkeling, kayaking, and bicycling)

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In reference to what is commonly known as Adventure Tourism, in Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo it's possible to carry out exciting activities that put you in touch with nature and the environment, such as:

SURFING

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo offers several points which are frequented as much by local surfers as they are by foreigners. Las Escolleras, Las Gatas, Playa Linda, Barrio Nuevo, Pantla, Juluchuca, Loma Bonita, La Saladita, and La Barrita, are some of the main beaches where you can surf and catch some great waves.

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo has several companies that offer surfing lessons, tours, surfboard rentals, equipment/ gear rentals, and surfboard repair. Among them are:

Catcha I'Ola

Teléfono:

Phone: (755) 5531384

www.ixtapasurf.com

catchalola333@prodigy.net.mx

Anfibios

sixtosurf@prodigy.net.mx

SCUBA

SCUBA diving in Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is excellent as it provides over 52 diving sites, such as reefs, corals, underwater mountains and promontories that project out from the sea. The bottom is volcanic, and one can see a great variety and assortment of organisms, which creates an ideal scene for divers. It's not rare to see large Manta Rays, whale sharks, enormous whales, sea horses, and hunch-back whales. Moreover, Zihuatanejo has two sunken ships, both of which are regularly visited, and of great interest for divers wanting to swim with sea horses.

Companies offering professional SCUBA diving services are:

Aquaparadise

Teléfono (755) 553 1510

www.ixtapaaquaparadise.com

Nautilus Divers

Teléfono (755) 554 9191

www.nautilus_divers.com

Ocean Adventure.

Tel. cel. (755) 101 96 72 y (755) 101 95 39

www.meroadventure.com

Zihuatanejo Dive Center.

Teléfono (755)554 8554

www.zihuatanejodivecenter.com

SPORT FISHING

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is known worldwide for its sports fishing and world class fishing tournaments, and Mexico's Pacific coast has become one of the world's hottest spots for deep sea angling. The "Zihuatanejo Annual International Sailfish Tournament" is highly regarded as one of the key competitions in sport fishing, which casts off the first weekend in May. Prizes for the lucky anglers landing the biggest Sailfish, Marlin, or Dolphin, range from automobiles and light trucks to fishing gear. Another important tournament due to its ecological significance is the "Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo Tag and Release Tournament."

"Tag & Release" is an annual event which takes place during the month of November. The prize for the lucky winner is a cash purse put together by the tournament sponsors. Saltwater Sportman magazine recently ranked Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo as the second most popular fishing destination in the world, judged on 11 different criteria. Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo has earned its recognition as a truly excellent destination for sport fishing.

In this magnificent haven one can also enjoy the lush landscapes from the unique perspective above the tree tops, descending at full speed from a tirolesa almost 10 meters high. In addition to the Canopy or the tirolesa, one can also try their hand at scaling, cargo nets, and rappelling, all of which not only provide a good workout to test and improve your physical conditioning, but also provides the opportunity to learn and discover more about the area's flora and fauna. Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo has two park preserves that offer these exciting services in accordance with the most rigorous safety and security standards.

A round of golf in Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo can be a remarkable experience in that it surrounds players with incredible views of nature's scenery. For example, the Palma Real Golf Course lies in the midst of an old coconut plantation, which has natural lakes and lagoons, and leafy tropical vegetation all beautifully

positioned along the Pacific coastline. Furthermore, for tennis enthusiasts the club boasts of four tennis courts. The “El Campo Marina Ixtapa” golf club also offers an opportunity to discover gorgeous birds, iguanas, crocodiles, and a variety of several other species, while players enjoy a challenging round of golf on this dune-style course.

If that wasn't enough, you can also swim with dolphins, go sailing, windsurf, ride wave-runners, water ski, snorkel, take four-wheeling tours through the rain forest, excursions to the caves, para-sailing, horseback riding, and more.

There's no doubt, that Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo is a great tourist destination, unparalleled in many ways, making it difficult to find in one place such great diversity in wildlife and vegetation. Moreover, Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo uniquely provides invigorating, alternative activities to conventional tourism, and the fact that it remains a tourist destination, makes it twice as attractive, or as we like to say it “doubly pleasant”.

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<http://parque-aventura.com>

Delfiniti

Teléfono: (755) 553 2707

www.delfiniti.com

Jaguar tours

Teléfono: (755) 553 2862

www.jaguartours.net

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