

Alternative Tourism in Mexico

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<https://vinculando.org/en/alternative-tourism-in-mexico.html>

There are always other ways of doing things. This includes our recreational activities. For example, travelling and getting to know places (tourism) is not without new alternatives.

In recent years a worldwide stream of people has emerged who seek to promote and practice as well as offer services related to a different way of doing tourism. In this concept the most important thing is the contact with nature and the autochthonous cultures, that is to say to soak up the own of the region to visit.

Through a series of activities (see GUIDE below) we seek to impact or alter nature as little as possible. This includes respecting wild flora and fauna, as well as local cultures (their uses and customs) who, thanks to their way of life, have remained respectful of their natural environment without depleting it.

An alternative traveler now dispenses with the boring, monotonous comforts of mass tourism devoid of respect for biological diversity and ancestral cultures.

This globetrotter seeks more learning and excitement to experience the new and enjoy all that this vast natural and cultural world has to offer. It moves away, albeit for some time, from the routine way of life it usually leads in its place of residence or work.

In addition to helping, either with their economic contribution or in kind, to local people participate in conserving the wild spaces and benefit in some way thanks to the fact that we recognize how they live and why they are.

This alternative traveller is aware of the effects of his activity and demands that it be the most respectful of the environment. For example, it is established that in the place where it will be housed, the water used will be recycled or treated appropriately, and that the waste generated in the place where it is housed will be minimal or disposed of in a responsible manner.

If properly targeted, alternative tourism activities can become a beneficial option to conserve wild areas, such as Mexican Protected Natural Areas, which are areas that enjoy some protection status by the Mexican federal government through the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) or those Priority Terrestrial Regions, which are areas proposed by the National Commission for the Use and Knowledge of Biodiversity (CONABIO) unique for their important ecological and cultural value to Mexico and the world.

Of course there is a range of alternative travelers, from the "casual" (who are not very demanding and their visit is part of the itinerary of a trip of general or conventional interests) to the "heart or radical" who seek the most ecologically pristine places and / or "wild" culturally speaking, because they are involved in trips designed with scientific, educational, environmental and / or conservation orientations.

Below is a guide to what many of them involve so you can get an idea of what the issue is all about.

GUIDE OF ALTERNATIVE TOURIST ACTIVITIES

Adventure tourism.

Trekking

which refers to hiking in the mountains.

	Climbing	in their different modalities such as: rock, ice or combining both (mixed)
	Descent by parachute or paraglider	throwing oneself from an elevated place in free fall
	Flight	hang-gliding, ultralight or balloon gliding
	Camp	to spend the night using tents or tents
	Horseback Riding	is said to ride animals such as horses, camels, llamas, etc.
	Cannonism	activity consisting of following the course of ravines and their watercourses
	Diving	either <i>self-contained</i> (with artificial respiration equipment -SCUBA-) or <i>free</i> (with snorkel -simple breathing tube)
	Rappelism	go down a cliff or walls using rope
	River descent	by means of inflatable rafts or in kayaq
Ecotourism	Environmental education workshops	teaching and learning of ecology and environmental sciences topics
	Observation	includes: ecosystems, fauna, flora, fossils, geological phenomena (volcanic eruptions...) and celestial or sidereal phenomena (star showers...).
	Photo Safari	with a view to exercising nature photography
	Educational trekking	there are signs that inform and guide about ecological aspects of the site (flora, fauna and other points of interest...)
	Others: such as academics-conservationists	participation in wildlife rescue programs and biological research projects
	Swimming in pools.	

		swimming in water pools, i.e. <i>lentic</i> waters (with no apparent movement)
Rural tourism.	Ethnotourism	in contact with the native, local or original culture of the site
	Agritourism	get involved in field-related activities, how sowing and harvesting takes place
	Gastronomic workshops	preparation or creation of food and dishes for tasting
	Mystical experiences	in contact with the magical world of subjectivity involving some special ritual (e.g. temazcal or steam bath)
	Language learning	the one commonly spoken in the region or the ancestral one
	Eco-Archaeology	the past of a culture and its natural environment
	Preparation and use of traditional medicine	know about the cure of diseases through herbal medicine and others
	Handicraft workshops	participate actively in the manufacture of handicrafts
	Rural photography.	take photographs of everything that is involved in the activities of this branch of alternative tourism

Source Dirección de Fomento al Turismo Alternativo, Sector México, modified by Jorge Neyra.

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