

INFOSHEET

NAT 21

MAYAN MEDICINE MUSEUM 2

03/10-16/10

NATATÉ



PROJECT

The Museum of the Mayan Medicine jointly with the Organization of Indigenous Doctors of the State of Chiapas A.C. (OMIECH, A.C.) handles a place where the different aspects from the Mayan traditional medicine are shown: Women and Midwives, Herbolaria. This center lodges the different areas from the association: Museum of the Mayan Medicine, Communication, Administration and the general Consultancy



office. The museum is instructive and it has a pharmacy where medicines made with plants typical of the region are sold. The place needs an improvement of its garden of traditional plants as well as of other areas of the center. One workcamp has already taken place this year and some works have been realized.

The attendant of the museum will welcome you and do an introduction about indigenous traditions and customs, in order that volunteers have an approach to the current context of the museum and other activities.

The volunteers will carry out different works:

* rebuilt the Temazcal's shelter which is made out of dry grass but is in bad conditions The idea is to tear down the current shelter and construct a new one in order to give a better aspect to the temazcal being shown in the garden.



* build dry toilettes in one of the areas of the land occupied by the museum. The toilets will be constructed partially with ecological techniques.



* will work on the improvement of the section in the museum dedicated to the Biopiracy. The museum has for a long time wished to dedicate a section to the biopiracy situation which affects the communities and its ancestral practices. This section of the museum aims at raising the awareness of the visitors to the problem and show the impact of it as well as to show the different regions in the world where there exists similar situations. The volunteers will work in the creation of a mural newspaper or collage where newspapers, magazines, reviews articles from different parts of the world inform about the situation; they will also work in the creation of a ship that would sit in the middle of the room to depict the problematic, some graphical material could be proposed by the volunteers in order to be presented to the board of the OMIECH which is composed by 5 members from different indigenous communities. The volunteers will be asked to investigate beforehand about this subject in their respective countries and asked also to bring some material that can be used in the set up of the museum and if time allows it, it would be interesting to create a small exhibition about traditional medicine in the world. We invite you to bring some pictures and research from your country.



In addition, the volunteers will be able to contribute to the translation from Spanish to English and other languages of the Museum's magazine.

Finally, they will be able to design promotion and information material of the museum in their own languages, if time allows for it. The volunteers will experience as well some indigenous traditions and ceremonies.

ABOUT THE OMIECH

The OMIECH (Organization de Medicos Indígenas del Estado de Chiapas), is a civil association with traditional healers, midwives, technicians, and Tzeltal bilingual



Tsotsiles and crafty counsel.

This association is dedicated to recovery, training, advocacy, promotion, development and provision of services within the field of Mayan medicine. It has 6 areas of work: women and midwives, museum of Maya medicine, herbal medicine, communication, administration and general counseling.

The recovery and socialization of ancient medical practices, the preservation and protection of natural resources, the interrelation of official medicine, the struggle for the rights of women midwives, as well as links with organizations and independent groups of health and productive are essential part of this organization.

ABOUT THE MAYAN MEDICINE MUSEUM

The museum opened in 1997, since its inception has been the main objective: to spread the traditional Indian medicine in different social environments, conducting training activities with indigenous and mestizo children.

Earlier this year, the museum has taken on the task of correcting and systematizing the training program with children to make it more dynamic, with the intention of enriching the museum visit.

In the year 1997, install a demonstration garden of medicinal plants, in order to make this museum an educational, training, promotion and awareness of indigenous culture in general and traditional medicine, aimed at schoolchildren, teachers, indigenous and non indigenous communities.



ACCOMMODATION: In the museum's premises in San Cristóbal de las Casas.

LOCATION : San Cristóbal de las Casas.

NEAREST STATION : San Cristóbal de las Casas.

PARTICIPATION FEE: 2700 pesos to be covered upon arrival.

MEETING POINT : It will be on **Sunday the 3rd of October, 2010** in the Office of Nataté : Calle Diego de Mazariegos N° 90, Barrio de La Merced, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas between 11 am and 5 pm. Tel. : +52 967 6316918. If you arrive late please call us to +52 967 1025947 or just go to the Nataté's office or to the Mayan Medicine Museum situated in Avenida Salomón González

Blanco No. 10, Colonia Morelos, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, México. Telephone: +52 967 6784538. We advice those volunteers coming from other continents to arrive one or two days earlier in order to get accustomed to the Mexican time.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING WITH YOU : light clothing and cold weather clothing, because the weather in San Cristobal is varied and it changes throughout the day. In addition, we recommend you to bring waterproof, games, recipes or anything you want to share in your country and above all enthusiasm and motivation.

INSURANCE: the volunteers will have to get their own insurance

DRUG USE :Drug use is strictly prohibited in the house where volunteers are hosted or any of its projects. Nataté will not tolerate drug use. Disregard of this rule will be reason enough to be asked the volunteer to leave the project.

PLACES OF INTEREST : There are many possibilities within San Cristóbal de las Casas to discover the local and regional culture and traditions. Being here gives you the opportunity to visit natural attractions, ecotourism parks, museums, indigenous communities, among other things.

Note : *Nataté encourages volunteers to do activities together during the weekend. Try to plan to visit places that are far away from San Cristóbal either before you arrive to the project or after it has finish.*

LANGUAGE It is not required a complete Spanish language ability, but some basic knowledge of it would be very helpful for this project and hopefully the interest of the volunteers to learn it.

CAMPLEADERS:

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Complementary information

México: officially the Mexican United States. It has 32 federal states and has a surface near the 2 million km², being placed in the fourteenth position at world-wide level, ordered by surface; it counts with 107.1 million inhabitants, which makes it the largest Spanish-speaking nation.

It is a country with a great climatic diversity, is also one of the 18 megadiverse countries of the world. Due to its geography, history, gastronomy and climate; Mexico is one of the world-wide powers in the tourist branch, is located in the eighth position of the countries with more tourism in the world. Besides being a country with the great range of ethnic groups in all the territory, in contrast to other countries of Latin America, where the indigenous towns correspond in their majority to a single linguistic group; in Mexico there exist around 62 indigenous groups that speak approximately 72 different languages.

More information on Mexico in <http://www.sectur.gob.mx/index.jsp>

Chiapas: It is located in the south-east of Mexico; it limits to the east with Guatemala, is divided in 118 municipalities. The State is known by its tourist zones that include attractive natural places, like Agua Azul cascades, archaeological zones like Palenque, colonial cities where direct contact with the human warmth of its inhabitants certainly enrich your experience in this state.

You'll be surprised no doubt, of the cultural wealth available to the state to have more than a ten indigenous languages: Chol, Tojolabal, Tzeltal, Tzotzil, Mam, Lacandon and Zoque, most of these coming from the trunk Mayan, you will also discover a impressive array of costumes full of tradition and history.

Within local economic activities are the production of coffee, honey and sugar cane; development of unique pieces of amber, clay, wood, cotton and most of these activities are still carried out using traditional methods.

The city's major tourist attraction in the state is without doubt San Cristobal de Las Casas, multicultural city where social groups converge from different indigenous communities.

Today the city of San Cristobal de las Casas is one of the most beautiful and original in the region, something to which we must add the evocative colonial image that has kept the passage of centuries. This also has a traditional daily life, with its market and its people.

CURRENT CONTEXT.

One of the most spoken issues is about swine flu A H1N1, however, although in previous months this was a barrier to travel to Mexico, today, this disease is controlled through preventive measure taken by both the government federal and state levels, coupled with this, the distribution of vaccines for treatment of influenza, so that traveling to Mexico is much safer now.

In regards to the southeast of the country (Chiapas, specifically), we can say that is one of the safest states in comparison with other states. In particular, San Cristobal, a distinction is part of being a colonial city to be a fairly safe place to walk both day and night, except for those areas far from downtown.

Lodging in Mexico: several hostels are located in different zones of the city, the prices oscillate between the 5 € and 11 € by person/per night.

Lodging in Tuxtla Gutierrez: the state capital offers endless hotels, prices vary depending on your location and services at their disposal.

National Transport: To go to the San Cristobal de las Casas is possible to do it by :

Airplane: the “Ángel Albino Corzo” International Airport is about 1 and 1/2 hours flight from Mexico City. From the airport it's possible to catch a shuttle to San Cristobal de las Casas.

By land, San Cristobal de las Casas, It is a long trip of around 14 hours. In Mexico, the buses leave from the Autobuses Poniente Oriente Terminal (TAPO), located in Ignacio Zaragoza Road 200, Colony 10 of May, telephone (52) 5762-5983. Most of the buses are equipped with air conditioning, toilet services, television and services.

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS

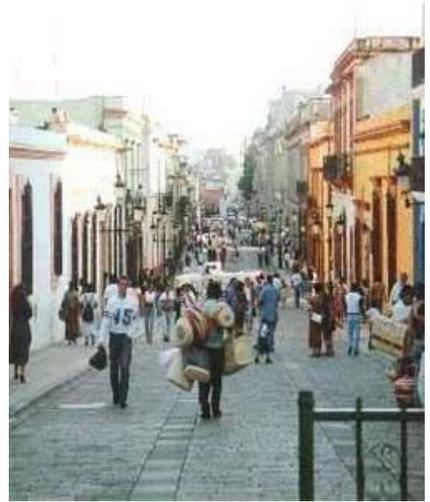
San Cristóbal de las Casas is the main city of the “Los Altos de Chiapas”, region located in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas’ mountain range. San Cristóbal de las Casas is located in the center of the state, 85 Km east of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, the state’s capital. The area is characterized by a temperate and humid climate, with summer rain and a yearly average temperature of 15° C.



The city borders on the north side with Chamula and Huixtan; to the east with Teopisca; to the south with Totolapa and San Lucas; and to the west with Zinacantan.

San Cristóbal de las Casas is the principal tourist place of all the state of Chiapas and it is considered the Cultural Capital of Chiapas.

Since 2001, San Cristóbal de Las Casas is the site of the Festival Cervantino-Barroco, now called “Festival de las Culturas” held between the last week of October and the first one of November.



**WE AT NATATE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEET YOU HERE IN SAN CRIATOBAL
AND MAKE THIS AN EXCITING AND ENRICHING EXPERIENCE.**

**WELCOME TO
SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS**