



GOBIERNO DE
MÉXICO

TURISMO

SECRETARÍA DE TURISMO



MEXICAN NATIVE WEDDINGS

Oaxaca
CREAR • CONSTRUIR • CRECER



Gobierno del Estado

OCV

Oficina de Convenciones
y Visitantes de Oaxaca

INTRODUCTION

Native weddings are important for destinations in Mexico as they seek to rescue the cultural identity, traditions and customs of the indigenous population and of the ethnic groups that still exist. In order to perform these ceremonies, respecting and highlighting the local culture, we need a correct integration of the entire community with vendors. In this way, the local community and companies are tied economically, adding value to the cultural resources, and seeking sustainability and a balance in social inclusion in each of the destinations.

The native people of Mexico are part of its vast cultural wealth, conveyed in its traditions, music, dance, beliefs, symbols, ancestral techniques, clothing, gastronomy, etc. The latter combined with its natural resources, and its specialized vendors, make it possible to perform different types of native weddings. This variety can satisfy the needs and desires of each couple, particularly the new generations that are eager to find, in ancestral traditions, unique experiences worthy of being remembered for a lifetime.

Therefore, the Ministry of Tourism of Mexico [SECTUR] through its General Direction of Tourism Product Innovation division, promotes local culture in Romance Tourism. The focus is not only on the indigenous weddings, but seeking the integration of tourism wedding services and experiences around that special moment. With this initiative, the incorporation of the local community contributes to raising their quality of life.

These catalogs are the result of a coordinated effort between the Destination Wedding Specialist Association (DWSA), local Tourism Boards, Ministries of Tourism of several Mexican states and specialized tourist destination vendors, together with the Ministry of Tourism of Mexico. These entities took on the concerted effort to preserve native weddings and create innovative tourism services aimed at Romance Tourism, differentiating the value that gives them a distinctive touch and identity. This included seeking the benefit to small and medium-sized companies, as well as social development with gender, inclusion and diversity perspectives.

It is important to mention that this work responds directly to the new tourism policy which seeks to have these new activities benefit and strengthen the communities, and to reach more sectors of the population, with balanced development in these regions of the country.

We hope that these documents are not only useful but interesting, and that they contribute to your experience of living, enjoying and falling in love with Mexico.

CEREMONY

Zapoteca Wedding

DESTINATIONS

Oaxaca de Juárez

Huatulco

Puerto Escondido

Zipolite

Mazunte

ETHNICITY

Zapoteca



The Zapotec culture is the third most important of Pre-Hispanic Mexico. Zapotec weddings are officiated by a grandparent of tradition or a being of wisdom of an ancestral lineage descendent and that recognizes the community. In Zapotec ceremonies the connection with the universe and spirituality is achieved with an offering called Tlalmánalli, which is represented by flowers, seeds and fruits, that define elements such as earth, wind, fire and water; all these elements are on a petate that symbolizes that the couple will preserve during their lives. The earth element is about patience, renewal and the deep effort that as human beings we must work from within, the wind symbolizes communication and speech, where thought and feeling achieve agreements of respect and growth in the relationship, fire represents the passion, warmth and shelter that must exist, water symbolizes the fluidity with which we must walk in life, even in adversity with deep peace and harmony.

During the ceremony, the present Sahumadoras welcome the guests and family members. Through this act, there is a purification of the spirit that will connect with the couple; likewise the sounds of pre-Hispanic instruments such as the drum, conch and ocarina embrace this ritual, other elements present are: the rebozo, mezcal, chocolate and corn.

In a meeting with the bride and groom before their wedding, there is an interview with the grandfather or officiant and they talk about their tonal, which is the energy since each one of them were conceived, in order to learn what they need to work on to have a better understanding.





OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Place: Open spaces in contact with nature.

Duration: 45 minutes to an hour

Requirements / Formalities: None

Elements used: Water, wind, earth and fire represented with flowers, copal, drums, flutes, ocarinas and offerings such as corn, tobacco, cocoa, birdseeds and amaranth.

Dress code: White manta, red wrap and red shawls.

This ceremony can be offered to the LGBTQ+ market and it is accessible for people with motor, psychosocial and intellectual disabilities.



Other information

- There is an exchange of rings and vows if the couple wishes.
- There are element godparents if they wish to include them.
- There can be bridal procession if the couple wants to, where relatives or loved ones can participate.
- We always seek to have this ceremony in spaces connected with nature, which our State has a great diversity of mountains, waterfalls, beaches, forests.
- The elements to be use in the ceremony come from communities and artisans of several generations who have been making these objects. With this practice we work for fair trade and preservation, as well as recognizing the legacy of several generations. For the couple, the energy of everything that is used in the offerings and the ritual now become a moment of love, energy and spirituality.



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