

**WELCOME  
TO  
CMO-BIRS  
2015**

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to CMO-BIRS 2015. I hope your stay with us will be stimulating and enjoyable.

On the following lines, you will find a brief outline of the BIRS project and how the initiative of Casa Matemática Oaxaca came to be:

Inaugurated in 2003, the Banff International Research Station (BIRS) is a joint Canada-US-Mexico initiative emerged as the result of a remarkably concerted effort led by the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Science (PIMS, Canada) and the Mathematical Science Research Institute (MSRI, Berkeley, USA), along with the support of the Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems Network of Centres of Excellence (MITACS, Canada).

In 2005, Mexico National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) joined Alberta Innovation, the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and Canada's Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) in becoming a BIRS sponsor. In 2009, BIRS became an incorporated, not-for-profit society with a Board of Directors that has the overall responsibility for all aspects of the BIRS operations.

Later, in 2013 CONACYT decided to support the creation of Casa Matemática Oaxaca, as a BIRS affiliated research Centre, upon the initiative of three of the main mathematical institutions in México: the Instituto de Matemáticas and the Centro de Ciencias Matemáticas, both from UNAM and the Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas (CIMAT), a CONACYT research center. With CIMAT in charge of conducting this project, it is now materializing in the CMO-BIRS 2015 program, held in its temporary headquarters of Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles, in the beautiful city of Oaxaca.

There were many reasons to select Oaxaca as the seat of the new international station: Oaxaca is a cultural capital, with a base of academic institutions that offer a propitious environment for the confluence of mathematical researchers; its multiple historical, gastronomic and artistic attractions with deep roots in the ethnic richness of its original cultures, in addition to its geographical location and climate makes it an ideal place to receive scientists of the whole world and stimulate their collaborative work.

With my very best wishes for a fruitful experience in this CMO-BIRS 2015 workshop, I hope that you will also have an opportunity to explore the splendor of Oaxaca.

Dr. José Antonio de la Peña  
Director General  
Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas, A. C.  
and Casa Matemática Oaxaca Interim Director

## **CMO-BIRS FACILITIES**

### **Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles**

Address: Hidalgo # 21 San Felipe del Agua; Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca, 68020, México.

### **Check-in / Check-out:**

All check-in/check-out procedures are handled at the Front Desk of the Hotel. Check-in is 2:00 pm and check-out is 12:00 noon. If you need to store luggage at the time you check-out, please leave it at the Front Desk of the Hotel.

Lodging and meals are provided free of charge during the workshop dates (Sunday night to mid-day Friday), for invited participants only. Accommodations are located at the Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles, Hotel Angel Inn and Hotel Las Cúpulas, in Oaxaca City.

### **Conference Room:**

All lectures will be held in the *Conference Room San Felipe* at Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles. An LCD projector, one projection screen, a laptop, a digital document camera, chalkboards and wireless internet access are available to presenters. Capacity: 50.

### **Meeting Room:**

The meeting room is for informal group discussions. A printer, laptops, chalkboards, water and wireless internet access, are freely available in the meeting room. Capacity: 25. This room has been furnished and stocked for your convenience and enjoyment and you are invited to come and go as you please.

### **Conference Office:**

For your convenience there will be a CMO office at Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles and CMO-BIRS 2015. Program Assistant Claudia Arias will assist you with all your questions.

### **Coffee Breaks:**

Tea, coffee and small snacks are provided during coffee breaks and are complimentary.

**Chalkboards** are available at each hotel (check at the front desk in your hotel for location) for your convenience—feel free to use them.

### **CMO-BIRS Computer System:**

Four laptops are located in the Meeting Room and Conference Office.

### **Printer:**

For your convenience there is a printer located in the Meeting Room and one inside the CMO office.

**Nametags:** can be found in your hotel room.

**Workshop Schedules:** You will find these at the entrance of the conference room and at the entrance of the Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles.

**Meals:**

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included for the 5-day workshop. The meals included in your workshop start with dinner on Sunday evening and end with lunch on the last day of the workshop.

- Breakfast 7:30 – 9:00 am, Restaurant Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles, Monday – Friday
- Lunch 13:30 – 15:00 pm, Restaurant Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles, Monday – Friday
- Dinner 19:00 – 21:00 pm, Restaurant Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles, Monday – Thursday
- Dinner 19:30 – 22:00 pm, Restaurant Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles, Sunday only.
- Continuous Coffee Breaks: Conference Room San Felipe, Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles

**Note: Workshop organizer may suggest a different schedule**

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

CMO-BIRS Program Coordinator:

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**CMO Mailing Address:**

CMO OFFICE  
Calle Hidalgo #21 Col. San Felipe del Agua  
C.P. 68020  
Oaxaca, Oax.  
Mexico

**Your family and friends can reach you at:**

Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles - Tel: (52) 951 501 5300 or (52) 951 520 0890

Hotel Angel Inn - Tel: (52) 951 133 6128 or (52) 133 6129

Hotel Las Cúpulas - Tel: (52) 951 520 1116

## FOR YOUR ARRIVING: AIRPORT TO HOTEL TRANSPORTATION

### ❖ Shuttle service offered by the Airport.

There is only one company for transportation from the Xoxocotlán International Airport (OAX), by shuttle service.

#### Shuttle (Airport-Hotel)

# Passengers	Cost
1	120.00 Pesos p/p

p/p= per person

#### Private Transportation (Airport-Hotel)

# Passengers	Cost
1 - 4	410.00 Pesos

**No reservations are accepted in advance.**

### ❖ Private Service offered by Turismo El Convento (Airport-Hotel)

# Passengers	Cost
1	400.00 Pesos p/p
2	200.00 Pesos p/p
3	150.00 Pesos p/p
4	130.00 Pesos p/p
5 - 12	110.00 Pesos p/p

p/p= per person

Please note that for arrivals before 7 am, from 1 to 5 passengers, there is an extra cost of \$ 70 Mexican Pesos.

To book this service, please contact directly Ms. Fanny Santillan from Turismo El Convento at: [paquetes.oaxacaexpertos@hotmail.com](mailto:paquetes.oaxacaexpertos@hotmail.com)

Or reserve online at: <http://oaxacatours.mx/transporte/Oaxaca-Airport-Hotel-Transfers>

**FOR YOUR DEPARTURE: HOTEL TO AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION**

❖ **Public Service**

**Public Taxi (Airport-Hotel)**

# Passengers	Cost
1 - 3	200.00 Pesos

You can make a reservation at your hotel.

❖ **Private Service offered by Turismo El Convento (Hotel-Airport)**

# Passengers	Cost
1	350.00 Pesos p/p
2	180.00 Pesos p/p
3	130.00 Pesos p/p
4 - 12	100.00 Pesos p/p

p/p= per person

Please note that for departures before 7 am, from 1 to 5 passengers, there is an extra cost of \$ 70 Mexican Pesos.

To book this service, please contact directly Ms. Fanny Santillan from Turismo El Convento at: [paquetes.oaxacaexpertos@hotmail.com](mailto:paquetes.oaxacaexpertos@hotmail.com)

Or reserve online at: <http://oaxacatours.mx/transporte/Oaxaca-Hotel-Airport-Transfers>

- To go down town you may take the bus across the street of the Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles and it will take you to Independencia Street in downtown. The fee is \$6.00 Mexican Pesos.

### **Taxis:**

Sitio Alameda	Tel: 516 2190
Sitio Villa del Marquez	Tel: 513 9036
Sitio 5 de Febrero	Tel: 515 6575
Sitio Reforma	Tel. 518 7484

### **Car Rentals**

Europcar - Matamoros #101 Local B, Oaxaca, Oax. Tel: +52 (951) 143 8340.  
Alamo Rent a Car – Oaxaca Airport Self Service Kiosk. Tel: +52 (951) 511 5332.

### **Pharmacy:**

Farmacia del Ahorro (home service) - Tel: 51 5 50 00

### **Doctors and Specialists**

NAME	TELEPHONE	CELULAR
JOSE ARMANDO JIMENEZ (GENERAL DOCTOR)		951 1173077
GARCIA CABALLERO (GENERAL DOCTOR)		951 1 18 67 28
SAMUEL TAPIA (GENERAL DOCTOR)	5 15 68 00, 5 18 53 84	951 1308730
ALBERTO ZAMACONA (GENERAL DOCTOR)	5 13 64 22	
SOCORRO DE JESUS MARTINEZ	5 16 44 96	951 5481680
RODRIGO CASTRO MTZ (IENT. SPECIALIST)		951 570 3832
GASTROENTEROLOGO (STOMACH SPECIALIST)	5 15 59 63	
CECILIA MARTÍNEZ VASCONCELOS (DENTIST)	5 15 28 49	
OSCAR JARQUÍN REYES (GENERAL DOCTOR)	1 32 58 29	
ALETA HAYTON ( EYE)	5 16 53 18	951 5481896
BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTER	51 34222	

### **LIBRARIES IN OAXACA**

#### **BS Biblioteca Infantil de Oaxaca (BS Children's Library)**

José López Alavez 1342, Barrio de Xochimilco Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68040.  
Tel. (951) 502 6344, 502 6345. Mon-Sun, 10 to 19 h. Free Entrance.

This space is part of the Alfredo Harp Helu Foundation. It aims to integrate reading into children's daily life in a recreational, playful and joyful way. In past years, it has implemented workshops, concerts, exhibitions and other tools that enable little ones to learn the arts and how to take care of the environment.

**Biblioteca Pública Central Margarita Maza** (Public Central Library)  
Macedonio Alcalá 200, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 516 4128  
Mon-Fri, 9 to 20 h, & Sat, 9 to 15 h. Free Entrance.  
This building dates to the beginning of the 19th century. In the beginning it was used as private elementary school for girls. On September 14, 1985, the Public Central Library was established as a subordinate organization to the Education, Culture and Social Well-being office.

**Biblioteca Beatriz de la Fuente del IIE-UNAM** (Beatriz de la Fuente Library)  
Antonio de León 2, altos, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 516 1026, 516 0541  
Mon-Fri, 9 to 18 h. Free Entrance.  
In August, 2007, work started at the new branch headquarters of the Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas in the City of Oaxaca, which are lodged in an old domestic building in the Alameda de León, which dates from the eighteenth century and was received by the UNAM in commodatum in 2005. This branch is home to a library—comprising over six thousand volumes—which belonged to Dr. Beatriz de la Fuente, among which are some facsimiles of pre-Hispanic códices.

**Biblioteca Henestrosa (BH)** (Henestrosa Library)  
Porfirio Díaz 115 esq. Morelos, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 516 9750, 516 9715. Mon-Sun, 9 to 20 h. Free Entrance. Andrés Henestrosa Library has over 60 thousand books. Most of them are focused on Humanities and History of México. Its heritage also includes books on economics, accounting, management, politics, law, linguistics anthropology, archaeology, and many other subjects. This space is currently a forum for Oaxacan and Mexican culture. It organizes different exhibitions, concerts, readings, book presentations and workshops.

**Biblioteca Francisco de Burgoa (BFB-UABJO)** (Francisco de Burgoa Library)  
Tel. (951) 514 2559, 501 2299. Expositions room: Tue-Sun, 10 to 18 h. Free Entrance.  
Part of the Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca, this library has more than 30,000 titles derived principally from the collections of various religious orders that were active in Oaxaca: Augustinians, Jesuits, Carmelites, Bethlehemites, Mercedarians, and especially Dominicans. There exists a great variety of subjects in the collection—not only religious, but also history, geography, medicine, and art. The books themselves are in Latin, French, Spanish, German, Zapotec, Mixtec, Mixe and Nahuatl.

## **CULTURAL CENTERS IN OAXACA**

**Casa de la Cultura Oaxaqueña (CCO)** (House of Culture of Oaxaca)  
González Ortega 403 esq. Colón, ex convento de los Siete Príncipes, Centro. Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 516 2483, 516 1154. Mon-Fri, 9 to 20 h; Sat & Sun, 9 to 14 h. Free entrance. In the mid sixties, the ex-convent of the *Seven Princes* was restored and replaced by the School of Arts and Trades. In 1971 it became the House of Culture. The mission of the House of the Culture of is to promote art and culture with education and activities. The center encourages free cultural expression, and stimulates creation and research (scientific, literary and artistic).

**Centro de las Artes de San Agustín (CASA)** (San Agustín Arts Center)  
Independencia s/n, barrio de Vistahermosa, San Agustín Etla, Oaxaca.



Tel. (951) 521 2574, 521 3042 /43 Mon-Sun, 9 to 18 h. Free Entrance. The San Agustín Arts Center is the first ecological art center in Latin America. It is located in the ex-factory of Hilados y Tejidos La Soledad, founded in 1883 to make manta (a coarse cotton cloth). Their mission is to offer programs that link art, community and environment. CASA promotes high level artistic creation in conjunction with ecologic production that incorporates new technologies. CASA also develops art projects for the community aimed at encouraging creativity in children, youth and adults in San Agustín, emphasizing the use of natural resources.

**Centro Cultural Santo Domingo (CCSD) (Santo Domingo Cultural Center)**

Macedonio Alcalá s/n, Ex Convento de Santo Domingo, Centro. Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel: (951) 516 9741. Tuesday-Sunday, 10 to 17:30 h. The Cultural Center is located in the former convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán built by the Dominican order between the 16th & 17th centuries. It is one of the most important landmark buildings in Oaxaca. On December 19, 1972, it was inaugurated with the name of: Regional Museum of Oaxaca, and in 1998 changed its name after the recovery and restoration of the building.

**Centro Fotográfico Manuel Álvarez Bravo (CFMAB) (Photographic Center)**

M. Bravo 116 esq. García Vigil, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 516 9800 Wed-Mon, 10 to 20 h. Free entrance. Manuel Álvarez Bravo Photographic Center is a non-profit association founded in September of 1996 with the initiative of Francisco Toledo. Since its creation, the Photographic Center has been housed in two colonial buildings located in the Historic Center of Oaxaca de Juárez. This center hosts an ever-changing exhibition of work by Mexican and international photographers.

**Ex Convento de San Pablo (Ex Convent of San Pablo)**

Established by the Alfredo Harp Helú Foundation (FAHHO) in Oaxaca, their mission is to spread the work of the foundation that (since 1994) has invested time and economic resources toward the construction of a more humane world. The ex-Convent of San Pablo exhibits the achievements of various projects established by the Harp Helu Foundation. These exhibits include; rescue projects to preserve cultural heritage, health, ecology, and sports programs. In addition, social programs related to production, social assistance, education, and literacy have been implemented.

**MUSEUMS IN OAXACA**

**Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Oaxaca (MACO)**

Macedonio Alcalá 202, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 514 1055, 514 2818, 514 2228 Wed-Mon, 10 to 20 h. Entrance Fee: \$20. Sunday: Free entrance. Housed in a building known as the Casa de Cortés, this museum hosts exhibits of local and nationally recognized modern artists.

**Museo de Arte Prehispánico de México Rufino Tamayo (Pre-Columbian Art Museum)**

Morelos 503, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 516 7617, 516 4750 Mon-Sat, 10 to 15 h, & 16 to 19 h. Sun, 10 to 15 h. Entrance Fee: \$35 Inaugurated in 1974, this museum contains about 1,000 pieces of pre-Hispanic Mexican art originally collected and owned by artist Rufino Tamayo. The works are beautifully displayed in five exhibition rooms. The colors for each room were chosen by Tamayo, who frequently used them in his paintings.

**Museo Belber Jiménez (Belber Jiménez Museum)**

Matamoros 307 esq. Tinoco y Palacios. Centro. Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 514 5095  
Mon-Fri, 11 to 14 h, & 17 to 19:30 h. Sat, 11 to 14 h. Free Entrance.  
Founded in 2008 by Ellen Belber and Federico Jiménez, this museum exhibits the couple's impressive collection of Mexican gold and silver pieces, jewelry, textiles, and popular art, which spans the three major eras of Mexico's history—pre-Columbian, colonial, and Independence. The piece that usually excites visitors the most is a necklace worn by Frida Kahlo when she died—a gift from her husband, Diego Rivera.

**Museo de Sitio Casa Juárez (Juárez House Site Museum)**

García Vigil 609, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 516 1860  
Tue-Sun, 10 to 19 h Entrance Fee: 34 pesos  
This modest colonial building was remodeled and transformed into a small Historic Museum and opened its doors on December 28th, 1974. You will find antique objects and furnishings in the rooms, as well as a bookbinding workshop with its printing press and tools. There are also documents from the Independence War, the Reformation War, the Mexican-American War and personal artifacts from Benito Juárez.

**Museo de Filatelia de Oaxaca (MUFI) (Museum of Philately of Oaxaca)**

Reforma 504, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 514 2366, 514 2375, 516 8028  
Tue-Sun, 10 to 20 h. Free Entrance.  
The Museum of Philately is a non-profit civil association dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of postage stamps. The museum offers exhibitions and workshops. It has more than 200,000 pieces in the collection including stamps, envelopes, special franking, paper, postal art, and a great bibliographic collection. The museum is the only one of its kind in Latin America. The José Lorenzo Cossío y Cosío Library inside the MUFI, offers the public a specialized bibliographic philately collection where you can find catalogues, magazines, auctions, newspapers, philatelic pamphlets from Mexico and the world. There is space dedicated to research and reading open for the general public.

**Museo de los Pintores de Oaxaca (MUPO) (Museum of Oaxacan Painters)**

Independencia esq. García Vigil, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. CP 68000. Tel. (951) 516 5645, 514 3433  
Tue-Sat, 10 to 20 h, Sun, 11 to 18 h. Entrance Fee: 20 pesos.  
This late 17th-century building houses a collection of historic and modern Oaxacan art on two floors.

**Museo Textil de Oaxaca (MTO) (Textile Museum)**

Hidalgo 917 esq. Fiallo, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 501 1104, 501 1617, 514 9256  
Tues-Sat, 10 to 20 h, Sun, 11 to 19 h. Free entrance.  
The Textile Museum of Oaxaca offers an overview of textiles from Oaxaca, Mexico and the world. The museum showcases design, texture, techniques and creative processes. The aim of this museum is to link the past and present through craftsmanship by rural and urban artists. Visitors will be amazed with the many parallels the Mexican weavers share with international cultures.

**Instituto de Artes Gráficas de Oaxaca (IAGO) / Biblioteca del IAGO (Graphic Arts Institute)**

Macedonio Alcalá 507, Centro, Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 516 6980, 516 2045  
Exhibitions: Wed-Mon, 9 to 20 h. Free entrance.  
A small venue which hosts rotating exhibits of artwork by national and international artists.

### **Jardín Etnobotánico de Oaxaca** (Oaxaca Ethnobotanical Garden)

Reforma s/n esq. Constitución, south access from convento de Santo Domingo. Centro.

Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel: (951) 516 5325.

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 11-13 h. Entrance Fee: \$100

A former army base, converted to a large botanical garden in 1993. The garden was designed by Oaxacan artist, Francisco Toledo. This garden has the largest collection of living cacti and agave plants in Oaxaca. Pathways take visitors through the ever-changing beauty and biodiversity of Oaxacan plant life.

### **THEATERS IN OAXACA**

#### **Teatro Macedonio Alcalá** (Macedonio Alcalá Theatre)

Av. Independencia 900, esq. Armenta y López, Centro, Oaxaca, Oaxaca. C.P. 68000.

Tel. (951) 516 8312, 516 8344.

Construction began in 1903, engineered by Rodolfo Franco and inaugurated on September 5, 1909. Its original name was Mier and Teran Theatre, in honor of General Porfirista who ruled Oaxaca, and whose image appears in the archway at the top stage. The theatre is available to lease for events.

#### **Teatro Juárez**

Av. Juárez s/n, in front of El Llano Park, Centro. Oaxaca, Oax. C.P. 68000. Tel. (951) 502 5476

Teatro Juárez was previously used by the Oaxaca Congress. After remodeling, the building was turned into an ideal space equipped with state of the art technology. Once remodeling was completed, the building was formally inaugurated on March 21, 2006 as Teatro Juárez. Today this building houses a great amount of activity such as; concerts, plays, conferences and children's shows.

#### **About Oaxaca:**

- **Oaxaca's Altitude:** 1,557 msnm
- **Population:** 650,000 Oaxaca City. 300,050 Rest of Oaxaca.

### **ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND OAXACA:**

Previously called the Verde Antequera, Oaxaca de Juárez finds its meaning in the Nahuatl Language as *on the nose of the huajes*. Its Historic Center and the archaeological site of Monte Alban, are the reason it has been named a Cultural Heritage of Humanity site.

Since the sixteenth century, Oaxaca's Historical Center has preserved its original lay-out—perfectly designed—identical to that of a chessboard.

#### **What to do in Oaxaca?**

Oaxacan food is justifiably famous, and the city's many restaurants offer both traditional and creative new dishes to suit any taste and budget. Iconic Tlayudas and tamales will awaken your palate. Oaxaca is also famous for Mezcal (an alcoholic drink) and hot chocolate as well as its thriving coffee industry.

## Events

**Guelaguetza** festival takes place in July. The Guelaguetza highlights traditional practices of the various indigenous cultures from the state of Oaxaca. The main days are the Mondays following July 16 (Feast Day of Saint Carmen). The term Guelaguetza (an important custom of the Oaxacan people) derives from the Zapotec term *guendalezaa* which means offering, present, and fulfilment. During colonial times, wealthy Spaniards had the legal right to receive the first and best of the harvest collected by indigenous people.

**Day of the Dead** (Día de Muertos). October 31, November 1 and November 2. A Mexican holiday that takes place by candlelight at cemeteries.

**Night of the Radishes** (Noche de Rábanos) (December 23rd; Zocalo). If you happen to be in Oaxaca on December 23, you won't want to miss this unusual festival. Competitors create scenes using carved radishes. It's a long-standing tradition in Oaxaca, and was started as a formal competition in 1897.

## Markets

**Mercado de Artesanías** (Handcrafts Market), Ignacio Zaragoza (on the corner of JP Garcia street). A colorful handicrafts market focusing on hand-woven textiles, with additional shops selling alebrijes (creative wooden carvings) and alfarería (pottery).

**Mercado Benito Juárez** Calle Cabrera, one block south from the Zócalo. You will find everything from clothing, leather goods, mole, meat, fresh fruits, flowers, and bulk grains.

## Tours/Activities

If you are interested in taking a tour in Oaxaca you may book at:

1. **Online at Turismo El Convento webpage:** <http://oaxacatours.mx/cmo-birs>  
Use Code: CMO-BIRS for special discount.
2. **By phone or e-mail with Fanny Santillán:**  
Cel: +(52)1 9511420161  
E: [paquetes.oaxacaexpertos@hotmail.com](mailto:paquetes.oaxacaexpertos@hotmail.com)
3. **At the reception of Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles:**  
Book directly at the front desk of the hotel.  
**Note: There is a 10% charge for booking arrangements.**

**Monte Albán**—a UNESCO World Heritage site—is one of the most impressive ruins in Latin America. These large ruins are located near Oaxaca City. You can book tours through most hotels in Oaxaca City, or you can also take a bus or taxi there. Tour guides are excellent in Monte Alban, providing more than just standard information. Monte Alban is impressive for its huge plaza and northern and southern

platforms which can be viewed from much of the countryside. The Zapotec people built this site atop the highest mountains in the area.

**Árbol del Tule**—This tree has the largest base of any tree in the world and is over 1400 years old. It is located 13 km from the city of Oaxaca on the road to Mitla.

**Mitla**—is approximately 40 kilometers from the city of Oaxaca and was a very important Zapotec city and religious center—famous for its pre-Columbian Mesoamerican buildings. Inside Tomb #1 is the famous *Column of Life* that (legend has it) you can embrace to find out how many years you have left to live.

**Hierve el Agua**—is a two hours drive from Oaxaca by bus or taxi. Hierve de Agua boasts, warm, natural springs at an altitude of about 3000 m near a massive petrified waterfall. From the plateau you have a breathtaking view over the mountain ranges.

**Teotitlan del Valle**—famous for its weaving, this village is approximately 30 minutes outside of Oaxaca City. Be sure to check out the Vida Nueva women's cooperative in Teotitlan (one block east of the main square) that uses organic methods to make its dyes.

**Santiago Matatlán**—self-proclaimed *World Capital of Mezcal*, about a forty-minute drive south east of Highway 90.

### **Money**

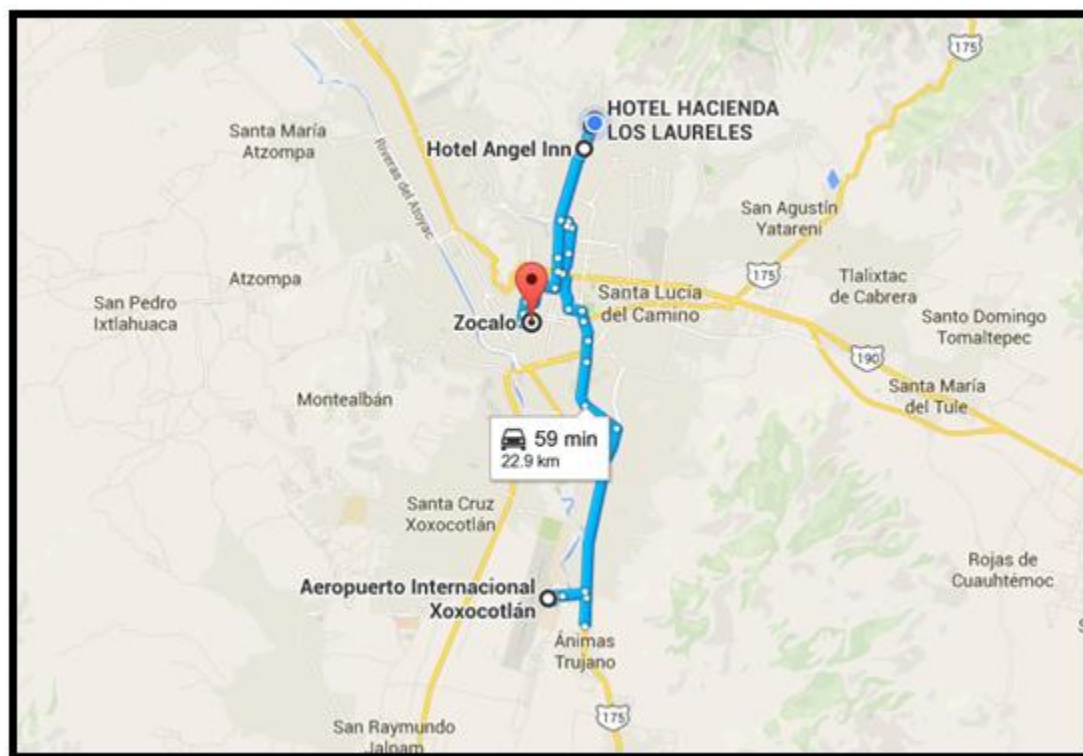
The currencies of other countries can be exchanged into pesos at banks or various currency exchange booths, both of which are common in the central part of the city. It pays to look around for the best rate of exchange.

### **Where to eat in Oaxaca?**

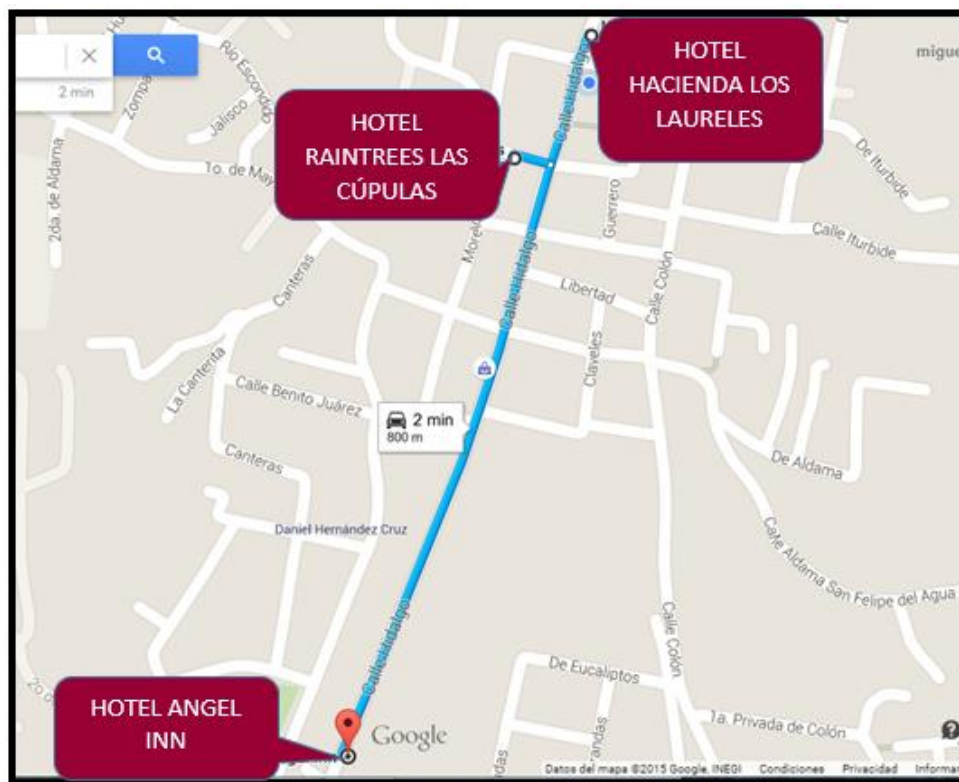
Serving traditional Oaxacan cuisine downtown Oaxaca:

- **Casa Oaxaca**  
Constitución #104 - 4, next to The Santo Domingo Cultural Center, Tel: 516 8889
- **Los Danzantes**  
Macedonio Alcalá #403, Tel: 501 1187
- **El Origen**  
Av. Hidalgo #820, Tel: 501 1764
- **Pitiona**  
Ignacio Allende #108, Tel: 514 0690
- **Restaurante del Hotel Casa Catrina**  
Manuel García Vigil #703, Tel: 514 5322
- **Restaurante Catedral**  
Manuel García Vigil #105, Tel: 516 3285
- **Hosteria de Alcala**  
Macedonio Alcalá #307. Tel: 514 0820
- **La Casa de la Abuela**  
Av. Hidalgo # 616 upstairs, in front of the Zócalo. Tel: 516 3544





Distance between Xoxocotlan Airport and the Hotel Hacienda Los Laureles  
as well as the Zocalo.



Distance between Hotel Las Cúpulas, Hotel Hacienda  
Los Laureles and Hotel Angel Inn.

