

Privileged Nature: Playa Viva welcomes guests with its philosophy of regeneration



With yoga and meditation, your stay becomes even more enjoyable.

New sustainable destination: Juluchuca, Guerrero

by Ivett Rangel □ Petatlan, Guerrero.

In Juluchuca, where people live with the sweet taste of the coconut candies and savory taste of the salt flats, there is a new treat to relish: Playa Viva, an ecological boutique hotel which allows you to shut off the noise of



everyday life and reconnect to other ideas for enjoying an unpolluted environment.

Located in a nature Private Reserve with 86 hectares, it is

located 40 minutes from the airport in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo in the direction of Acapulco; this place is inserted into an ecotourism trend that each day has more fans around the world.

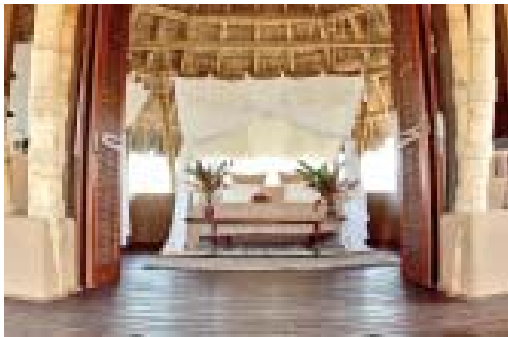
"Being green is to do less damage; sustainable building is to do no harm, but to have a philosophy of regeneration is to improve and preserve the ecosystem and that's what we are doing here, we are in the midst of nature with nothing around for at least 8 miles" explains David Leventhal, owner of Playa Viva.

After crossing through the small town and a creek, the dirt road enters into the rainforest until you run into a heavy wooden

gate that, when opened, promises a paradise facing the Pacific Ocean.

A kilometer later there are three houses with thatched roofs and wood floors “huapinol” and “bocote”, mud walls with straw, sea shells and turtle egg shells, and details decorative in copper that are the new secrets – to which we will return- as gourmets and lovers of nature.

There are no windows so the breeze runs free, the sheets and towels are organic cotton, soaps are biodegradable, each room has their own treatment plants for gray and black water, all energy electricity comes from solar panels and the shower water is heated by the sun.



Wood, straw, clay and shells. The architect Michel Lewis used natural materials for the first three houses of the hotel.

After a welcome glass of “aguas frescas” (fresh fruit with water), made with the flavor of the best fruit of the day, your guide provides the basic rules: throw paper in the garbage, not in the toilet; check for scorpions in the room with the blacklight flashlights provided, meals are ready when the bell rings and please do not feed Ceiba and Manchas, the house dogs who provide loving company during your stay. And because Playa Viva operates under the motto of “luxury all-inclusive”, guests enjoy personalized service, which includes food prepared with some organic crops from Playa Viva’s own gardens. Grown in the gardens this season were tomatoes, peppers, mangoes, papayas and watermelons, and they expect to have many other foods for the next season.

Odin Ruz, who is responsible for “permaculture” (working the land sustainably), has enough space to give life to inspiration: to grow vegetables and thriving orchards, and re-forest the area for timber, to create materials required

by the location for his own function and maintenance. Odin is also responsible for regenerating ecosystems of this area, including wetlands with mangrove and lowland deciduous forests.

Thus, the guests share breakfast, lunch and dinner at the table of the communal house served family style which invites conversation and the meeting of new friends. Then find rest submerged in private spaces in the night surrounded by the sounds of the jungle.

A hotel, a whole community

Besides being an eco hotel Playa Viva aims to create a complete experience by involving the inhabitants of Juluchuca and surrounding towns to develop a culture of sustainability and regeneration in the area.

Although the staff which includes Daniel, Gloria, Serafin, Carmen, Alex and Olga are known directly by the guests, there are other locals involved who are not known, these are the producers of locally harvested salt and organic basil farmers who continue to do their work of organic farming in the community.

David, the owner, is promoting that the community create its own enterprises such as making their own organic products for sale at the hotel such as shampoos and insect repellent, among other things. “If we help each other, we all win” and that is precisely what he concludes with certainty. www.playaviva.com

Be Advised: Key Characteristics for Making Your Decision

Ideal for: Those who want to disconnect from the daily routine and enjoy nature in an environment of exclusivity.



Not for those: Who cannot survive without television and air conditioning, or it kind of scares you to be in a different environment.



With its unique approach: Getting involved with the ideas of regeneration is a rewarding and encouraging experience.

What impresses: Enjoy the sunrise or sunset in the hammocks. Enjoy the night show that is the stars when all the lights are out.

What you appreciate: That you like it so much here you don't want to go home.

The plus: The sounds that lull each night, from the waves of the sea to the crickets in the grass.

The minus: Mosquitoes. Do not forget to bring light long sleeves and pants for the night.

Photo Credit: Turtle Photo Courtesy of Playa Viva, Daniel Camarena
www.playaviva.com

Additional photos: Yvette Rangel

La Tortuga Feliz – The Happy Turtle



Photo by Daniel Camarena

If there are eggs in the sanctuary and you're lucky enough to see them born, you can participate in returning them to the sea.

Half a mile away from the hotel, within the same private nature reserve, there is a turtle sanctuary called "La Tortuga Feliz", in which turtle nests are protected. The purpose: to preserve and protect turtle species including Leatherback (Laud) and Olive Ridley (Golfina) turtles which come ashore along the coast Pacific.

So if you're lucky to be staying when baby turtles hatch, you can help free them back to the sea, or for that matter, each night you can go in search of turtles laying eggs on shore.

This week in the turtle camp, a team (from SunPower – not mentioned) worked at the turtle sanctuary adding an electric fence for protection and a hydration system all working 100% off power generated by solar panels. You can see turtles all year, and this time of year, you can also see whales on the horizon. And a little closer to shore, just where the waves break, you might see dolphins. Although there are other inhabitants as well including: pelicans, hawks, raccoons, badgers, and more.