

HUASTECA POTOSINA

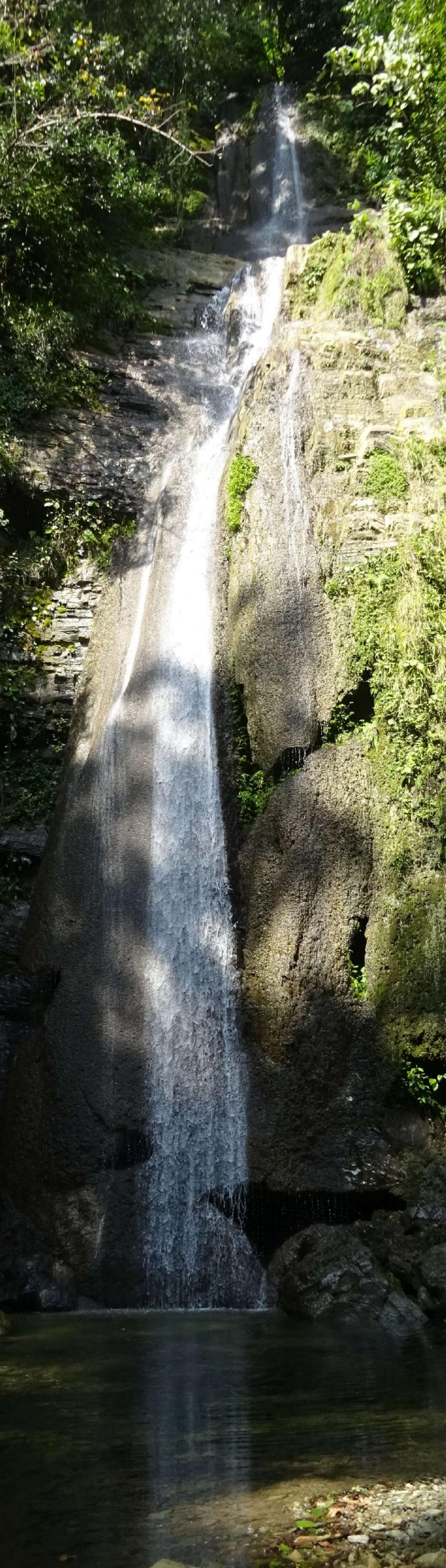


SÚKHA
LA FELICIDAD ESTÁ DENTRO

A photograph of ancient stone ruins, possibly Mayan or Aztec, nestled deep within a lush tropical jungle. The ruins feature several tall, fluted columns supporting a series of arches. A stone staircase leads up to the structure. The scene is filled with vibrant green foliage, including large heart-shaped leaves in the foreground and dense trees in the background. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect.

VISIT
HUASTECA

AN INFORMATIVE GUIDE TO THIS BEAUTIFUL REGION



— OUR SUGGESTIONS

- Pueblo Mágico de Xilitla
- Cascada de Tamul
- Sótano de las Golondrinas
- Puente de Dios
- Cascadas de Minas Viejas, El Meco y El Salto
- Media Luna
- Grutas de La Catedral
- Tamtoc Archeological Site
- More to explore



— PUEBLO MÁGICO DE XILITLA

Surrounded by mountains and jungle, the historical town of Xilitla is a must visit. It is one of the Pueblos Mágicos in Mexico: towns with strong symbolic attributes such as history, culture and nature. And it certainly lives up to this title.

The main draw of Xilitla is the surrealist garden of Edward James. But there is more to this place: spend a couple of days exploring the historical city centre, see the Leonora Carrington museum, visit the nearby waterfall La Cebolla and cave El Salitre just outside the centre or go for a hike at La Trinidad. And make sure you are here on a Sunday: every week from 1 – 5 pm, locals gather to dance Huapango, a traditional dance from the Huasteca region. Enjoy this authentic piece of culture – or put on your dancing shoes and join!



Bus San Luis to Xilitla: between 04:30 - 12:30, several buses (Vencedor) depart from San Luis' Terminal Terrestre Potosina. Around 6:30 – 8 hours, 518 pesos. Bus from Ciudad Valles to Xilitla: between 04:00 - 19:30, several buses (Vencedor). 2 hours, 155 pesos. Timetables: ventas.grupovencedor.com.mx



Find our hostel just a few steps away from the main town square. Address: Hermenegildo Galeana 306A, Centro, 79900, Xilitla, S.L.P.



- Especially in summertime, protect yourself against mosquitos.
- There is only one ATM in Xilitla.



CASCADA DE TAMUL

Cascada de Tamul, the tallest waterfall of San Luis Potosí, rises over a hundred meters above the Tampaon River. The turquoise water, rock formations along the riverbanks and green colour of the jungle make it a wonderful place to visit.

There are two ways to explore the waterfall: by panga – a colourful wooden canoe - or by foot.

Start your canoe journey in the village La Morena. The trip takes around 2½ hours. Not only a beautiful but also sporty adventure, since you will paddle yourself! Along the way you stop at Cueva del Agua, a natural cenote inside a rocky cavern: the ideal spot to cool down. Whereas most people swim only at the very entrance, you can actually keep going into the darkness of the cenote.

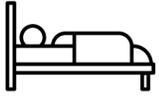
If you want to go by foot, the journey starts from El Naranjito. From there a 7 km-long bumpy dirt road leads you to the entrance. Make sure you go all the way down the stairs to the last lookout point: the view on the waterfall will be spectacular!



La Morena: from Ciudad Valles, taxi for 60 pesos that departs in front of the supermarket Arteli. From Aquismón, van from city centre that says La Morena for 60 pesos. To Aquismón, bus (frequent, 1 hour, 100 - 120 pesos) from Xilitla to Ciudad Valles. Ask driver to drop you at El Crucero de Aquismon. From there taxi to town, around 15 pesos.

El Naranjito: from Ciudad Valles, taxi to El Naranjito. From village, 7 km dirt road to entrance. The road is very bumpy: if you drive yourself, consider parking your car in the village or at the first gate after around 4 km. Another option is to hire a jeep with one of the tour operators in the area to bring you all the way to the entrance.

CASCADA DE TAMUL



Campsites on premises. The costs for camping depend on whether you have a small (50 pesos) or a big tent (100 pesos).



La Morena: 1,200 canoe (share with others), 30 pesos entry, and parking.
El Naranjito: 30 pesos entry, 10 - 20 pesos cross private land on dirt road.



- Best time to visit is November to mid March, when the water is at its lowest and it is not too crowded with tourists yet. In the rainy season around July - August the water may be too high and rough to go on the canoe trip.
- You can also start the canoe trip in Tanchachín. The tour takes longer, because the canoe trip starts further away from the waterfall, but will eventually lead you to the same spots.
- Take mosquito spray, especially if you are planning to camp.





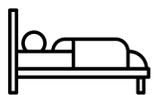
— SÓTANO DE LAS GOLONDRINAS

Sótano de las Golondrinas is one of the 13 Natural Wonders of Mexico. In the middle of the jungle, a 500 meters deep pit cave is inhabited by thousands of birds. Although the name Cave of Swallows suggests otherwise, the inhabitants are actually white-collared swifts and some green parakeets. At sunrise, the birds spiral out of the cave by flying in concentric circles and at sunset they return by diving back into the cave in small groups. An incredible natural phenomenon to watch.

The cave is also an excellent place for thrill seekers, since it is a popular vertical caving destination. During the day when the birds are out, you can rappel down.



From Aquismon, take a van to San Rafael or Tantzoc for 35 pesos which drops you at the entrance. Or take a van to Tamapatz 30 pesos. Goes more frequently, but drops you 3 km from entrance. To Aquismon, bus (frequent, 1 hour, 100 - 120 pesos) from Xilitla to Ciudad Valles. Ask driver to drop you at El Crucero de Aquismon. From there taxi to town, around 15 pesos.



After the entrance, a little walk down the stairs, you can find Cabañas de Doña Epifania. 200 - 300 pesos, depending on your negotiation skills - for 1 to 4 people per room. Bathroom, no shower or hot water. Basic but sufficient if you want to get up early to see the birds at sunrise. Halfway down the stairway to the cave, there is a camping area for 50 pesos a night.



Entrance 40 pesos. 4,500 pesos to rappel down the cave. More information and bookings, call the information desk: 482 113 5835 or 481 145 2226.



- With rain or very cold weather, the birds will not leave the cave.
- It is not worth going between sunrise and sunset; the birds will not be there. Visiting is not allowed during nesting season, from April to June.
- 500 steps to reach the pit cave: in the morning it can be slippery, so be prepared!
- Close to Sotano de Las Golondrinas, you can find two other places to rappel down a cave: Sotano del Tigre (1,600 pesos) and Sotano del Cepillo (2,500 pesos). At the last place you can also swim. Call the information desk for more info.



— PUENTE DE DIOS

Near the town of Tamasopo, surrounded by jungle, you can find Puente de Dios. The name comes from a natural bridge formed by rocks. Under the bridge a little aquatic cave formed: inside is a small filtration of light reflected in the extremely clear water, which gives the place an unusual bright blue colour. It has made people believe they were swimming in a portal to another world, towards God.

Besides the cave, the place has several natural swimming pools, small waterfalls, caverns and jumping rocks. It's a popular tourist spot: expect to find food and souvenir stands along the way down to the water. If you are looking for some more remote spots, you can take a walk along the river. The walk starts at Paso Ancho and leads you along the river to Puente de Dios. Return the same way.



No direct bus: taxi from Tamasopo for around 70 pesos. Bus from Ciudad Valles to Tamasopo for 74 pesos (Vencedor). Several buses from 05:00 – 13:30, around 1.5 hours. Timetables: ventas.grupovencedor.com.mx



Entrance 50 pesos. Parking lot 50 pesos. Hire life jacket around 30 pesos.



- Best time to visit is from November – June when the water is low. From mid March it can get crowded with Mexican tourists on holiday.
- Life vest is mandatory.
- Guarded storage near the water; pay on donation.
- Ground can be slippery, consider wearing water shoes.

— CASCADAS DE MINAS VIEJAS - EL MECO - EL SALTO

Did you know that San Luis Potosí is an excellent place to visit the most diverse waterfalls? Some are best for swimming and relaxing, others lend themselves for more adventurous activities. In the municipality of El Naranjo, you can find three waterfalls in a distance of around 40 km from each other: Minas Viejas, El Meco and El Salto. Visiting the three waterfalls at once makes a perfect day trip around the northwest of the Huasteca region.

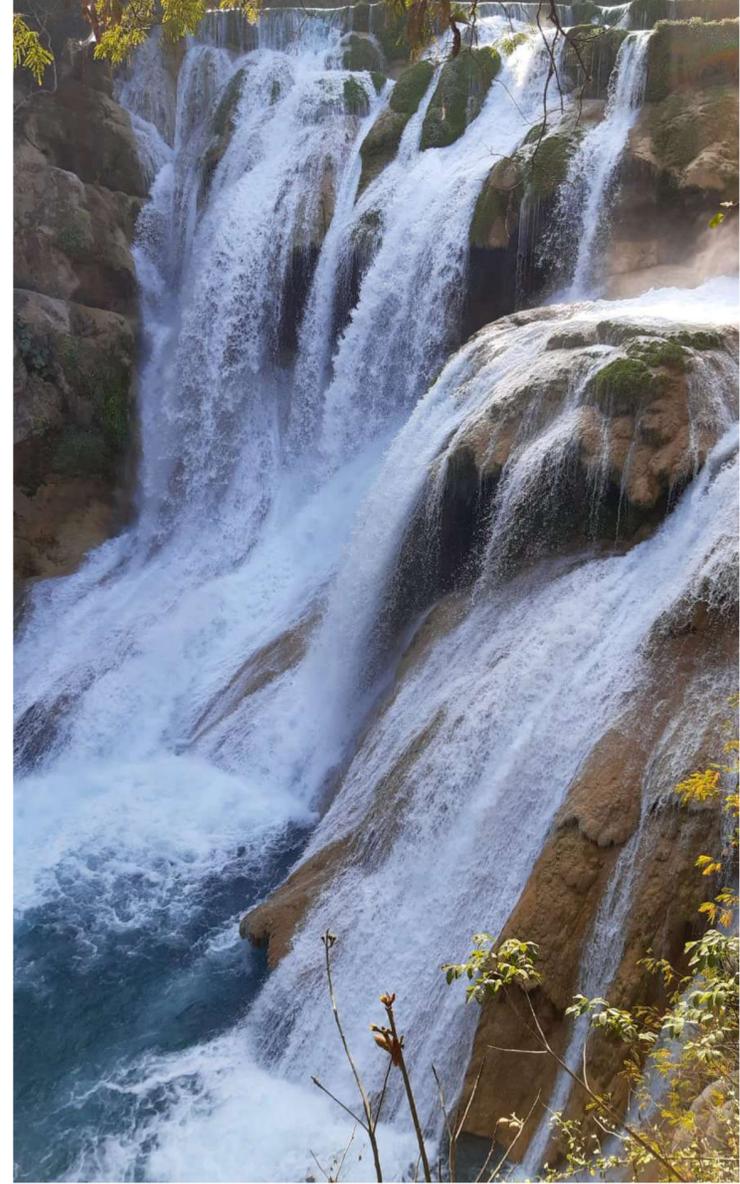
With its 50 meters, the highest one is Minas Viejas. The cascade ends up in a series of turquoise pools ideal for swimming. There is enough green around to put down your picnic blanket and relax. Especially in the weekends, the place can get pretty crowded: expect to find several food stands and souvenir shops when descending the stairs to the waterfall.

MINAS VIEJAS



EL MECO

On your way from Minas Viejas to El Salto, make a stop to see the 35 meters high El Meco. You cannot get into the water, but you can get close to the waterfall by boat. Just before you reach the main lookout point, you can find several tour operators. Most operators offer a boat trip for around 100 – 200 pesos a person (depending on the season): it takes 45 min – 1 hour and you will come across spots where you can jump into the water. You can also go on a one hour hiking tour around the area for around 100 pesos a person.



EL SALTO

Looking for a more remote spot without all the tourist fuss? Then El Salto is probably the place for you. This 70 meters high waterfall only has water in the rainy season, but do not listen to stories that say it is not worth going any other time: El Salto is still a beautiful spot even when there is no water falling down. The turquoise pools surrounded by rock formations and quietness of the place make it a great spot to swim and just spend some hours away from everything.

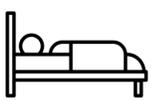


CASCADAS DE MINAS VIEJAS - EL MECO - EL SALTO



Bus: from Ciudad Valles to El Naranjo for 80 pesos. From there you need to take a taxi to all three waterfalls.

Car: be prepared for a short but bumpy dirt road when you drive up to El Salto.



50 pesos for camping at Minas Viejas. At El Meco you can camp at the Sundial Bar and Restaurant for around 50 pesos. There are also cabins for rent around the area: 800 - 1,200 pesos for 2 - 4 people.



Minas Viejas: 30 pesos entrance fee. 30 pesos parking. 20 pesos per 2 hours to rent a life jacket. No entrance fee at El Salto and El Meco.



- At Minas Viejas, a life jacket is mandatory. You can rent one at the waterfall for 20 pesos per two hours: if you are just there for a short amount of time, they may rent them to you for 10 pesos an hour.

- Up for a more adventurous experience? With tour operator Huasteca you can rappel off the slope right next to the waterfall of Minas Viejas.

— MEDIA LUNA

The 38 meters deep lagoon of Media Luna is fed by six ancient thermal springs. The water is very clear with a range of beautiful blue colours. The temperature of both the lagoon and water canals is around 25 °C: perfect to swim all year round. Up for some adventure? Media Luna is an excellent place for scuba diving, especially for beginners. The lagoon is known for a natural underwater cave-like opening created by water lilies and their roots. Expect to see colourful aquatic vegetation, crystalline thermal waters and if you are lucky even some turtles.



Bus to Río Verde, taxi to entrance for around 200 pesos. From Xilitla: buses between 05:00 - 18:00, 4.5 hours, 332 pesos. From San Luis: buses between 04:30 - 17:00, 2.5 hours, 216 pesos. Check ventas.grupovencedor.com.mx for timetables.



Camping on premises 70 pesos, including showers and restrooms.



Entrance 40 pesos. Entrance to dive is 80 pesos: you have to show your dive permit.



- You can rent snorkeling and diving equipment. Complete diving equipment is 400 pesos, separate items 50 – 100 pesos.
- Dive adventure package for 850 pesos including both theoretical and practical classes, pictures, and videos. Other operators that offer diving packages are Huaxteca and Buceo Media Luna.
- Life jackets are mandatory. You can rent them on the premises.



GRUTAS DE LA CATEDRAL

Reachable only through winding dirt roads and secured beneath the desert hills, the Cathedral Grotto is a hidden gem by definition. Its 150 meters of depth are enough to fit an actual cathedral. Even more impressive is the way stalagmites and stalactites created the shapes of an altar, a pulpit and an atrium, amongst others that wait to be discovered.

But do not think this is all there is to see. This grotto is accompanied by at least four smaller but also beautiful ones. El Ángel, Cristal, Agua Verde and Canoyita can be explored with the help of the local guides who discovered some of them.

None of these grottos take more than two hours to see. Be advised though that a certain degree of fitness will be necessary if you want to explore any of them besides the Cathedral. Narrow passages between rocks and climbing ropes will surely provide a thrilling adventure. Keep in mind that Agua Verde and Canoyita require gear and professional assistance that you need to get through tour operators beforehand. This spot is ideal for a day trip or even to spend a night. Whichever you choose, you will leave with the feeling of really having been in touch with the unknown.

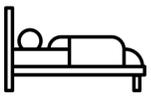




- By car: From Rio Verde, follow Highway 70 to San Luis for 13 km. Turn at the sign to “Grutas del Ángel” and keep driving through Cieneguillas and San José de las Flores. 12 km dirt road to entrance. From this point it is still 4 km to cave: we recommend parking the car here and walk on since the road is very rocky.

- Public transport: van or taxi from Río Verde to San José de Las Flores (around 200 pesos). From San José de Las Flores you can take another van, although there are no scheduled trips. Being a very small community, locals recommend asking around for a man called Don Eliseo Guevara, who arranges trips (around 60 pesos).

Bus Xilitla to Rio Verde, between 05:00 - 18:00, 4.5 hours, 332 pesos. From San Luis, between 04:30 - 17:00, 2.5 hours, 216 pesos. Check ventas.grupovencedor.com.mx for timetables.



Camping available on the spot, fees can vary. Ask for more information at the entrance. There are also cabins you can rent for 300 pesos a night.



Entry 35 pesos. Tour guides do not receive a salary and rely entirely on tips, so please do not forget to contribute.



Bring enough food and water, there are no shops along the road to the caves.





TAMTOC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

A must visit if you want to learn more about the history of the Huasteca region is Tamtoc: an important archaeological site in the municipality of Tamuín, representative of the pre-Hispanic Huastec culture.

Tamtoc – which means place of the water clouds in the Huastec language - is considered the epicenter of the Huastec civilization. Around the settlement's central square you can find a large number of archaeological buildings and other remains that allow you to imagine what the life of the approx. 4,000 inhabitants must have been like. Judging by the artifacts discovered, it was a well-organized society based on agriculture with a strong emphasis on practicing fertility cult. Remarkable is the large feminine presence: 90 percent of the human remains discovered in the zone are women's, and the great majority of the clay and ceramic figures that have been found represent females.



There is no bus going to Tamtoc. The site is 18 km from Tamuín, so you can best take a taxi.



75 pesos entry. No fixed price for a guide.



- There are no signs with information along the route, so going with a guide is a must.
- Do not forget to bring mosquito repellent, you will need it!



— MORE TO EXPLORE

CUEVAS DE MANTETZULEL

Explore three caves during a 2-2½ hours guided walk in a beautiful - and hilly - green jungle area. The place is close to Sótano de las Golondrinas, so especially if you go by car, you can perfectly combine these two in one day.

Like Sótano de Las Golondrinas, this almost 500 meters deep cenote is inhabited by thousands of birds. At sunrise they leave and at sunset they return. The place is less touristy but probably just as beautiful and spectacular.

SÓTANO DE LAS HUAHUAS

SÓTANO DEL BARRO

Close to Querétaro, you can find another cenote inhabited by birds. In order to reach it, you have to go on a two hour guided hike through the jungle.

Only 3 km out of Tamasopo, this wonderful and green spot features a 20 meters high waterfall, rope swings, diving boards and several natural pools to swim in. A great spot to spend a day in and around the water.

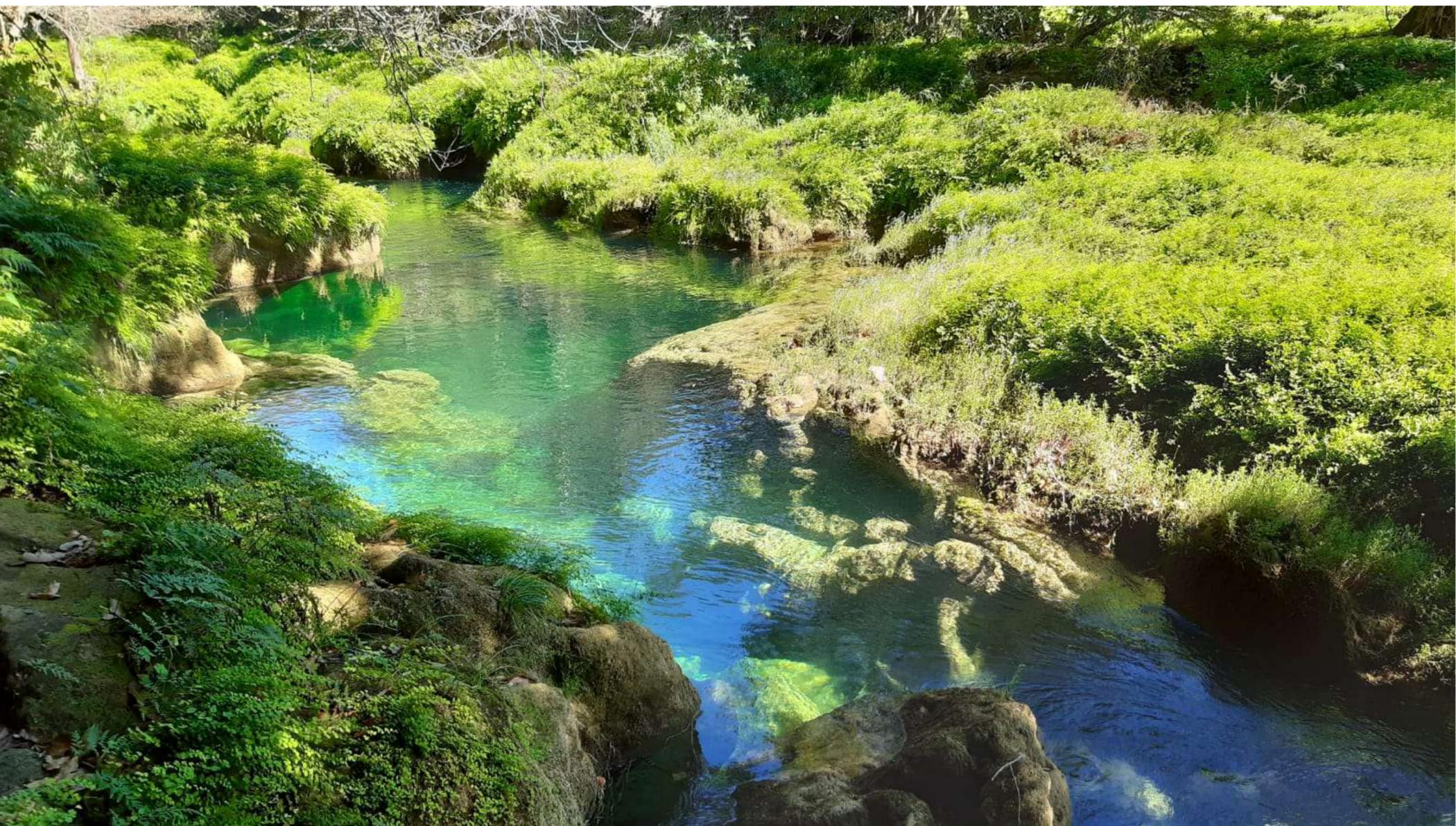
CASCADAS DE TAMASOPO

RÍO TAMPAÓN

The Tampaón river is the perfect spot for thrill seekers. Visit Cascadas de Micos where you can jump off all seven waterfalls or go rafting through the rapids; just to name some of the activities that can be done in the area. Tour operator Huasteca offers excellent adventure packages.

Near the state of Puebla you can find the beautiful 100 meters high waterfall El Aguacate. Surrounded by jungle and mountains this place is a hidden gem. It takes some effort to reach it, but both the waterfall and the way to it are stunning!

CASCADA DEL AGUACATE





**WE HOPE YOU WILL HAVE
AN AMAZING TIME IN HUASTECA!**

**ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?
DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US!**



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