

Foodorama

Letter # 16: From Mexico to Oaxaca

By Foodorama, February 13, 2019



Hi everybody! We hope you are fine and that winter is not too rough! We arrived yesterday in Oaxaca in southern Mexico after passing through incredible natural parks. We continue to alternate camping in nature, homestay and hotels now that prices have dropped significantly (150 pesos the cheapest).



Lately we had very interesting discussions with several people who welcomed us. We showed them pictures of where we went and where we slept, and very quickly they tell us that these pictures remind them of the journey they made in the opposite direction to illegally cross the border of the United States.



As you know living conditions in small villages in Mexico can be very difficult, there is little work and life is relatively expensive compared to wages (the minimum wage is 104 pesos a day or about \$ 4). Many people are trying to come to the United States illegally and thus be able to earn a little more to send money to the family remained in Mexico. We met several children who lived with their grandparents because their parents had gone to work in the United States.



It is quite disturbing for us to imagine that they too slept in the desert and took the same route to reach the border but in much more difficult conditions with the risk of dying of thirst, being attacked and to be arrested by the police. We are doing this trip for pleasure without any problem to cross the borders and with the security of being able to return home easily ... and yet with Mexicans openness and curiosity we can talk freely about our experiences. Mexicans are not only welcoming but are terribly curious about everything that comes from abroad, American, French, German etc. It's always easy and a pleasure to interact with them. With a smile and more 😊



On this trip to Oaxaca we were able to reconnect with wild camping in incredible places among cactuses, mountains, canyons and ... tiny gnats that we would have liked never to meet...



We find ourselves being harassed by little flies without paying attention. The next day we discover the extent of the damage. More than a hundred bites each, which itch enormously. The impression of having caught chickenpox ... With tan marks of bad taste, scars, bruises and these buttons, we are ready for a beauty contest!! Cream of arnica, lemon, menthol, diprosone nothing helps. We do not stop scratching!



We have learned that this little fly bears the sweet name of chaquiste. We now know everything there is to know about our enemy and how to protect ourselves. A good baby cream or even sunscreen normally prevents them from biting. We will try the next time we meet them. The other little beast that we must be wary of now is the mosquito. We are now in an area where they transmit many diseases including Dengue. Awareness campaigns on village walls are everywhere to inform people about the risks of Dengue fever. It is especially important to beware of mosquitoes at sunset.



