

VERACRUZ

Tlacotalpan, a pearl in the middle
of the river



Consejo Nacional de Exportadores de Servicios Turísticos A.C.



SECTUR
Secretaría de
Turismo y Cultura



The days in Tlacotalpan begin at 6 in the morning when the women clean and fix the front of their house. This is a town of poets, musicians, and dancers, who live at a different pace than the big cities: in Tlacotalpan life is peaceful and people enjoy it better.

Tlacotalpan is better known as the defending land of Son Jarocho; however, the history of this town built on the banks of the Papaloapan River and located in the tourist region of Primeros Pasos de Cortes, is deep and interesting.

This town was a Totonac settlement, which later became the land of the Toltecs and Mexicas. The latter were the ones who baptized it as Tlacotalpan, which means “land between waters”. In 1518 it was discovered by the Spanish and several years passed for the consolidation of maritime trade.

By the 19th century, it was an important port known as the "Mexican New Orleans" due to the shipyard of deep-draft ships that were built in Tlacotalpan. However, activity declined during the Porfiriato due to the investment made in the Port of Veracruz and the transfer of goods by rail.

The economy was based on livestock and fishing and the town became famous for the February 2 festival in honor of the Virgen de la Candelaria. At present it is a great religious and popular festival; The people of Tlacotalpeños prepare their best costumes and hold a vigil for the Virgin inside the sanctuary to later take the famous tour on rafts.

The religious procession of the Tlacotalpeños is unique. The tour is inside the river and is carried out in large rafts adorned with colored flowers and garlands; the town is filled with tourists who enjoy horseback riding, the fandangos, and the gatherings of popular poets.



For the defense of its traditions, in 1968 the Government of the State of Veracruz declared it a Typical City, and, thirty years later, on December 2, 1998, UNESCO declared Tlacotalpan a World Heritage City for the defense of its architecture and traditions.

Through its streets, you can see the 631 buildings classified as patrimonial assets of the city. If you visit Tlacotalpan, it is important to visit the Zaragoza Park, the Municipal Palace, the sanctuaries of San Cristobal, and the Parroquia a la Virgen de la Candelaria.

Walking through the streets of Tlacotalpan refers to a Spanish and Caribbean tradition. Those houses with arches in front, bright colors, and large windows make this town recognizable anywhere in the world.



Within the center of Tlacotalpeño is the Casa de Cultura "Agustín Lara", the imposing Nezahualcóyotl Theater, and the Zaragoza, Hidalgo, Colon, and Doña Martha squares. The simple walk through its streets is a sight to behold: the houses are colorful and from their windows you can see beautiful furniture carved in fine wood.

The Papaloapan Basin has a great gastronomic tradition. Tlacotalpan has an endless number of dishes, but desserts such as Sopa Borracha stand out, which is a delicious marquesote (a dry and porous bread from the region) bathed in sherry wine. In addition, the products of the river can be turned into delicious portions of Stuffed Fish, Chilpachole de Jaiba, Camarones al acuyo, or a Robalo broth.

On the small boardwalk there is a wide range of seafood restaurants and small restaurants where you can see the species of birds that survive on the banks of the river. Another offer is a ride on the Cuenqueño, a catamaran that takes a tour of the butterfly river and tells the story of the town.





Activity languishes at sunset and in the Tlacotalpeña houses the women take out their armchairs and rocking chairs to cool off in the blizzard that the river brings.

In other homes, the grandmothers set their tables with frayed tablecloths to offer milk sweets, cocadas, marquesotes, or guava empanadillas. The fishermen and peasants return from their wages, the children rehearse their tapping, the women embroider or weave, and the lovers take a snow cone at the foot of the Candelaria sanctuary.

An hour and a half from the city of Veracruz, there is a population that awaits its tourists with a table set and a smile on its lips. Tlacotalpan, known as the Pearl of Papaloapan, waits behind the river among lilies and a chorus of white herons.





Consejo Nacional de Exportadores de Servicios Turísticos A.C.

RECEPTIVES COMMITTED TO MEXICO!



veracruz.gob.mx



SECTUR
Secretaría de
Turismo y Cultura

VISIT OUR WEB PAGE
www.conexstur.com

