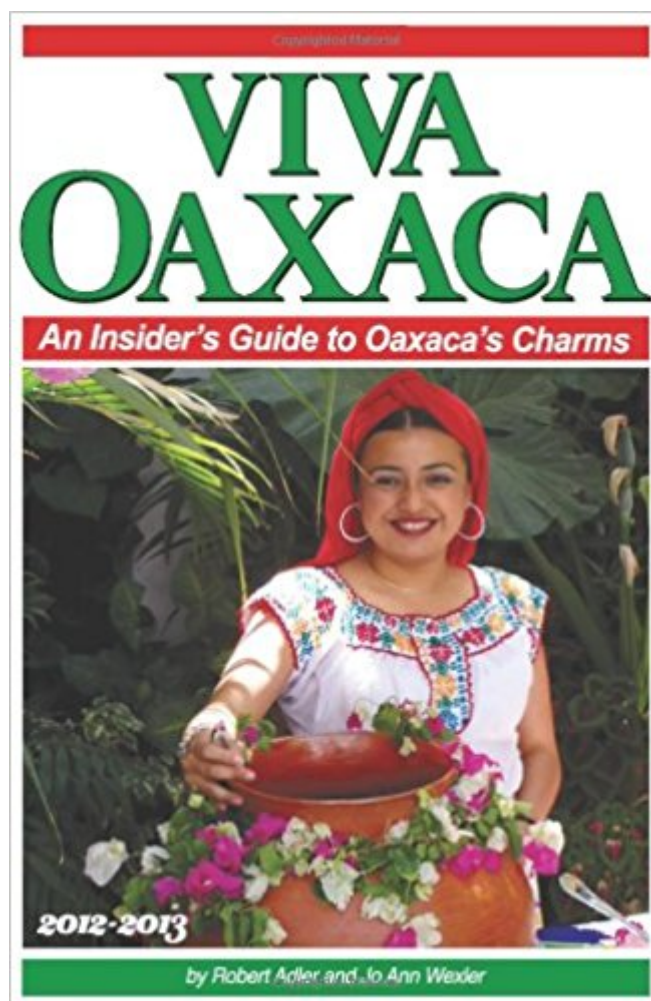


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Viva Oaxaca: An Insider's Guide To Oaxaca's Charms: 2012-2013



Synopsis

Viva Oaxaca is the guidebook that we wish had been available before our first trip to Oaxaca. It's the perfect guide for first-time visitors, and it provides in-depth information for repeat visitors as well. We started Viva Oaxaca as a short introduction to Oaxaca and nearby attractions. It's grown over the years into 100-plus pages that include just about everything helpful and interesting that we've learned during our ten years in Oaxaca. We believe that it provides visitors with the most useful, insightful and up-to-date information available anywhere about the city of Oaxaca and its surroundings. The guidebook gives travelers detailed information about when it's best to visit Oaxaca, how to get there and get around, and describes hundreds of attractions from magnificent Monte Alban to where to taste mezcal. It also lists and reviews what we consider to be the best places to stay, eat, snack, and shop, the best Spanish schools and tutors, the most enjoyable cooking and dance classes, the best guides and English-speaking doctors, eco-tourism opportunities, plus dozens of other helpful tips. We know that travelers want to make the most of every minute of their time. Viva Oaxaca provides clear descriptions and up-to-date, reliable recommendations that let visitors find exactly the hotels and B&Bs, restaurants and cafes, and destinations and activities that suit them best. We want to make sure that readers of our guidebook don't waste an hour at a boring event or an evening at a disappointing restaurant. One thing that sets Viva Oaxaca apart from many guidebooks, websites and other sources of travel advice is that we don't accept ads, favors, or promotions of any kind. As a result, we're free to provide accurate and unbiased recommendations based on our own firsthand experience and research. Viva Oaxaca includes everything a traveler needs in order to explore and enjoy this beautiful and magical place.

Book Information

Paperback: 116 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 3.4.2012 edition (April 3, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1475143273

ISBN-13: 978-1475143270

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #500,576 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #191 in Books > Travel >

Customer Reviews

In addition to co-authoring *Viva Oaxaca*, Robert Adler is the author of hundreds of popular articles about scientific and medical advances, as well as three books—*Sharing the Children*, *Science Firsts*, and *Medical Firsts*. *Science Firsts* and *Medical Firsts* have been translated into several languages. He and his wife, Jo Ann Wexler, are dedicated travelers, with Oaxaca being their favorite destination. They've spent the past many years in and around Oaxaca, giving them the insider's knowledge of Oaxaca that they share in *Viva Oaxaca*. Co-author Jo Ann Wexler spent many years as a public-sector human resources director, and is an avid and experienced world traveler. She has been visiting Mexico since she was a child, speaks fluent Spanish and French, and has a talent for making lasting friendships wherever she goes. She also has a deep interest in folk art and crafts, which are among Oaxaca's many attractions. She and Robert share their in-depth knowledge of everything Oaxaca has to offer with the readers of *Viva Oaxaca*.

I truly admire the entrepreneurial spirit of the authors of this book, but this is not the book for me. They overly focus on restaurants, shopping and dentists, while under-focusing on bars, things to do, and useful details, especially for those of us without a car. After 3 weeks staying in central Oaxaca, I still don't know how far away Colonia Reforma is (or why I would ever go there except for maybe one special corn restaurant). I hope the authors take my feedback into account and can appeal to a wider audience with the following tips:

- * Have a bar section in your book
- * Have consistent details for every museum/church (including price, hours, and location). There really aren't that many, and they all deserve a paragraph of their own.
- * Have specific, consistent details as to how to get to each out of town location without a car (or with a car) as well as how much it will cost and how long it will take
- * When giving addresses always reference cross-streets and/or general location

This small but concise and delightfully written guide provides a trove of information about Oaxaca. Like other travel guides it guides you to the best places to dine and stay (at various price ranges), excellent suggestions on what to see and when, and the times of year when Oaxaca's most interesting religious and cultural events take place. What really sold me on this guide was the very personal approach the authors take to their readers. It is clear that they have not only scoped out

the variety of places and events they recommend, but that they have talked to and in many cases come to know the dozens of artists, chefs, hotel owners, guides, etc. that they introduce you to. You will come away not only with why you should go to a certain place or event, but the depth of what you can get out of it and who you can talk to in order to get the most out of it. The authors also provide the reader with a discussion of some of the cautions one should keep in mind when visiting any place in Mexico, although they also explain that Oaxaca has not experienced the kind of drug related violence that makes for frightening headlines. They provide some historical and political background, alert you that you undertake any political activities at your own risk, place Oaxaca in the context of Mexico's problems (yes, it is a poor state, but tourists do not face the level of danger they would in notorious border towns), discuss the safety of food from vendors on the streets, and they even (after some thought on the subject) list a few places they do not recommend, such as over-rated restaurants. The authors point out that they base their recommendations on up-to-date personal experience, allowing them to give readers unbiased advice. As you read this you can imagine a well-informed couple leading you through the streets of Oaxaca and its nearby villages, introducing you to a wide range of interesting people, and pointing out fascinating aspects of art and culture. In short, it feels like the authors are at your side at all times throughout this guide. The book fully lives up to its subtitle, "an insider's guide to Oaxaca's charms."

Written by a local, clearly on his own, and I was hoping because of that I'd find a bunch of diamonds in the rough. It has those, but it's really geared towards an expat moving down there who needs to know recommendations for local services such as a dentist, vet, grocery store, etc. If you're a tourist, it doesn't have enough detail or enough coverage of the things I wanted, and I found I was better served by <http://www..com/gp/product/1598809245/> instead.

Is this really an insider's guide? Not sure. We found it useful on a recent trip to Oaxaca (a city in which we have spent a good amount of time, though not in 17 (!) years) though more as a supplement to our own knowledge, the knowledge of friends, other resources. It's good to have on the iPad Kindle for a few minutes of browsing but I wouldn't want to take up even minimal space for it in my packing. Maps are awful. Fortunately, there are good ones out there for free (and if you know the address, well there's Google maps).

I purchased this as a present for a friend considering a trip to Oaxaca. I have been there several times and find it a magical place. This book is wonderful as a guide with links provided for

continuous update. I was able to use the maps to find things which I recalled and wanted to mention. The Kindle version is a dream as using the links is so much easier. Would recommend to anyone.

Kindle edition is terrible. There is no easy way to find your way back to a certain page. So it's just a jumbled mess. I would never again buy a travel book on Kindle. It's better to have the paper copy that you can flip through quickly and easily and bookmark, etc.

This was our introductory guide to Oaxaca in December of 2013. The information we used was all up-to-date and the tips were excellent. The information on travel suggestions (using colectivos) was very helpful as was the information on the markets and cultural festival times. Went on an ecotour with Ecoventura led by one of the co-owners Yve that is mentioned in the book- what an incredible experience.

We were only in Oaxaca 3 days before driving down to Huatulco so really did not take advantage of some of the insider knowledge but we did find a great restaurant, Abuela in the Zocalo, with fabulous mole and so enjoyed the Santo Domingo Cultural Center. Monte Alban was fascinating. We will be back!

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