

**Topic:** Festival

**Abstract:** Guelaguteza is the main festivals of Oaxaca. Also known as Fiestas de los lunes del cero (Festivals of Mondays at the hill). Its the meeting of seven regions, and each region performs a dance, and they have their own song. The dances show their old traditions. Its a huge festival. Go every summer summer with my family and just have a good time with our people.

**Key words:** mexico, festival, oazaca, trip, july, guelaguetza, traditions, the top of the hill, sacred plaza, sacfalice, young maiden, famly/families, seven region, dance, song, symbol

**Ethnic Designation:** Mexicana

**Cultural Category:** Festivals : Coming together to share

“Guelaguetza”/Fiestas de los Lunes del Cerro (Festivals of Mondays at the Hill)

Almost every year we take a trip to Mexico to visit family there. We go to my dads place in Nayarit and then to my moms at Oaxaca or vis-versa. My dad's place is great but when we go during the summer usually no festivals are occurring, only during the month of April and of course December. But in my moms place it happens on the month of June, July, and August. But the month I like the most is July because its when Guelaguetza happens. They prepare all year round to get ready for the month of July.

What is“Guelaguetza”? Guelaguetza is simply the main festivity of Oaxaca. Its also known as the Fiestas de los Lunes del Cerro (Festivals of Mondays at the Hill) is the major cultural event in the city, It is the meeting of the seven regions of the state at El Cerro del Fortin.

They meet two Mondays in July. It is celebrated on the top of El Fortin Hill, a place with a spectacular view of the city and the surroundings. The "Hill" is the Cerro del Fortin, which was the scene of the annual rites to the goddess of the corn. The hill had a sacred plaza, built by the Aztecs. The ritual would end with the sacrifice of a young maiden chosen to represent the goddess.

The word "guelaguetza" is from Zapotec and means offering, sympathy, caring and cooperation. It is also an reciprocal interchange of presents and services. This interchange is a strong tie among people of communities and families. The seven regions that meet at the Guelaguetza. Each region presents its most valuable traditions and heritage through dances, music, songs and costumes. At the end of their participation they give with presents such as hats, fruits, food, handcrafts to the public.

The town where my mom was born its called "Ejutla de creso" they're dance they have to present its called "Ya llegaron los de Ejutla"( the people from Ejutla have arrived). They dance the towns native old traditions. The young women are dressed with long wide colorful dresses (symbolizes the beautiful flowers that are grown in the town"and braided hair with colorful ribbon, where the man have white pants and silky shirts with "sarape con su red" a bag where they carry their grocery and a machete (symbolizing that they were farm workers) on their sides. In the street of "manuel sabino creso"(the main street of towns name) in where they meet up and dance all over the town. They would also practice and have a parades up and down the town. I would love coming out from my house just to see them dance ad all the free things they threw to the crowd.

In the song they dance it describes how the men back than will give a "flor de cafe" (coffee flower) to their lover so they can fall in love with them. A symbol of being romantic with them.

And once they fell in love they would start dating. Then the men would go to their houses to make out thinking that their mom wasn't there. In old traditions the man could not enter your house unless he was your father or husband or some one from the family. When the couple were making out, then the mother came out furious like a chicken would do when their chicks were in trouble. She would run after the predator and start pinching them with their mouth scaring it of. Well the mother of the young child did the same with the guy he found her kissing her daughter. Running after him and scaring him off her daughter.

One the Church of Santo Domingo de Guzmán, where regional bands come to play, dressed in colorful costumes as part of the opening ceremonies. They march from here to the Oaxaca Cathedral, where all the town's dancers would join.

Another major event, which takes place at the Jardín Socrates, is a beauty pageant for indigenous women from different regions of Oaxaca state. The winner represents the goddess and presides over the festivities along with public officials.

The closing of the Guelagueta is usually presented one of the most representative dances of Oaxaca, The Dance of the Feather or Danza de la Pluma. This folkloric dance is performed by men with colorful and huge, and also heavy, plumes. These plumes are decorated with mirrors and, in some cases, with religious images.