



mountain villages and during ceremonial celebrations and ancestral rites. The rich craftsmanship and colorful designs of these people are best expressed in yarn portraits and beaded collars, bracelets, necklaces, sashes and earrings, and in diverse ritual objects, votive gourds, etc, made of wood or clay and also covered with beadwork, such as the famous jaguar heads and entwined suns and moons. After this brief but enlightening experience of Huichol culture, we again returned to fishing in hopes of snagging some dinner.

### The Puga Sugar Mill

Fine sugarcane particles and a pungent aroma fill the sugar mill as, covered in helmets, goggles, and bandannas, we walk through the labyrinthine iron-encased passageways leading to the presses and ovens. We sit down on a small bench, finding temporary relief from the intense heat and smoke while gazing at the unusual shapes formed by criss-crossing iron buttresses. A nearby group of workers informs us about the sugarcane season (extending from January until the rains come in mid- or late June), as



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## INDUMENTARIA HUICHOLA (POTRERO DE LA PALMITA) HUICHOL ATTIRE

Los hombres visten calzón y camisa blancos, decorados con vistosos diseños, un paño finamente bordado que termina en una franja de color rojo, y una faja o ceñidor con diversos dibujos. Como complemento, portan morrales de lana y manta bordados, paliacate de vivos colores, que va anudado al cuello, y sombrero de paja. Las mujeres portan falda y camisa de tela estampada o de manta bordada, y *quechquémetl* (pañó triangular que cubre la blusa o *huipil*) de manta tejida, además de aretes, anillos y pulseras de chaquira.

Huichol men dress in white shirts and pants decorated with eye-catching designs. They sport large, finely embroidered handkerchiefs bordered in red, and sashes with various images. As accessories, they carry shoulderbags of embroidered wool or coarse cotton, brightly colored bandannas knotted at the neck, and straw hats. Women wear skirts and blouses of printed fabric or embroidered cotton, and a woven cotton *quechquémetl*—a triangular piece of cloth that covers their blouse or *huipil*—, in addition to beaded earrings, rings and bracelets.

## MANGLARES DE LA TOVARA MANGROVE SWAMP

La Tovará es un frondoso y exuberante manglar, enclavado en medio de la selva, que acoge a miles de animales silvestres, como garzas, guacamayas, iguanas, tortugas, mapaches, búhos y cocodrilos, además de innumerables especies de peces. Se puede hacer un paseo en lancha por su vasta red de canales de agua dulce, que culmina en un manantial convertido en un hermoso balneario.

La Tovará, situated in the middle of the jungle, is a leafy, vibrant mangrove swamp home to thousands of wild animals such as herons, macaws, iguanas, turtles, racoons, owls and crocodiles, in addition to innumerable species of fish. A motorboat tour takes you through its vast system of fresh-water canals which end in a large spring now turned into an attractive spa.



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