

Mexico City

Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Mexico City is the capital of Mexico and one of the oldest continuously inhabited capitals in the Americas. It sits on the site of Tenochtitlan, the former Aztec capital, over 2,200 meters above sea level. Aztec ruins, colonial buildings, and modern skyscrapers all sit within a few blocks of each other.

The city rewards travelers who want museums, food, and history in one trip, and who don't mind a slower pace at altitude. Painters *Frida Kahlo* and *Diego Rivera* both lived and worked here, and their murals and former homes are now among the city's biggest draws.

When to visit

The dry season from November to April brings sunny days and cool nights. The rainy season runs from June to September, with short afternoon downpours rather than all-day rain.

Plan around **Día de Muertos** (Day of the Dead), held around November 1-2, when the city fills with marigold altars, sugar skulls, and a large parade down Paseo de la Reforma.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25°	7° / 3°	22 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 28°	8° / 4°	22 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
March	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 30°	9° / 6°	24 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme)
April	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 32°	11° / 8°	Dry air · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme)
May	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 33°	13° / 10°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
June	Fair Fair for sightseeing	26° / 31°	13° / 10°	23 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	24° / 27°	13° / 10°	28 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	24° / 26°	13° / 10°	28 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Fair Fair for sightseeing	23° / 26°	12° / 9°	26 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
October	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 26°	11° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
November	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26°	9° / 4°	20 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
December	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25°	7° / 4°	23 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: January, February, March, April, November, December

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

Ⓐ Constitution Square is the historic heart of the city and one of the largest public squares in the world. A giant flag flies at its center, and the square hosts everything from military ceremonies to Day of the Dead installations.

On its north side, B Sagrario Metropolitano / Metropolitan Cathedral is the largest cathedral in the Americas, built over two centuries on top of a former Aztec temple site.

C National Palace houses the offices of the Mexican president and a series of murals by *Diego Rivera* that trace the country's history from the Aztec era to the 20th century.

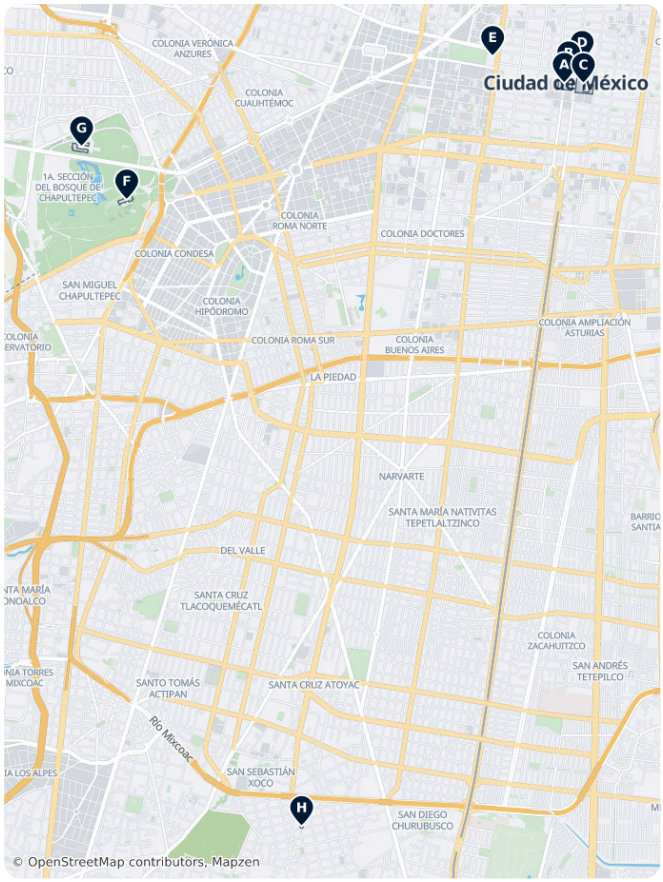
Next to the square, D Templo Mayor is the excavated ruins of the main Aztec temple, uncovered by accident in 1978 and now an open-air museum.

A short walk away, E Palacio de Bellas Artes is a concert hall and museum known for its Art Nouveau exterior, Art Deco interior, and more Rivera murals.

In Chapultepec Park, F Chapultepec Castle is the only royal castle in the Americas and gives wide views over the city from its hilltop.

Inside the same park, G Museo Nacional de Antropología holds the country's finest collection of Aztec, Maya, and other pre-Hispanic artifacts, including the famous Aztec Sun Stone.

In the Coyoacán neighborhood, H Frida Kahlo Museum is the childhood home of painter *Frida Kahlo*, kept much as she left it, with her art, clothes, and personal objects on display.



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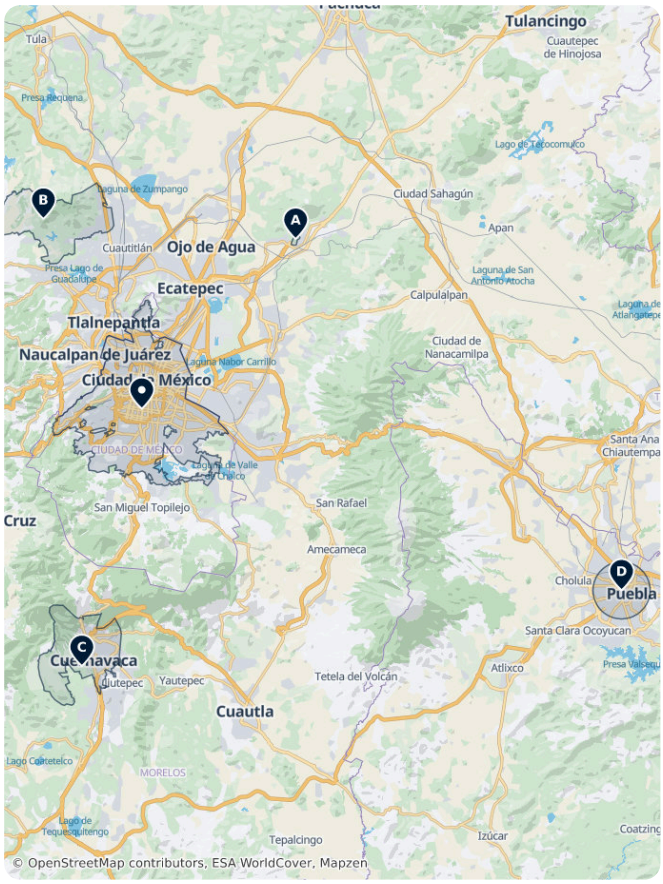
What to experience

- Take a **trajinera** boat ride through the canals of Jardines Flotantes de Xochimilco, floating gardens that are one of the last traces of the lake the Aztecs built the city on.
- Join the crowds at Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe around December 12, when millions of pilgrims arrive for the country's biggest religious feast.
- Watch the flag-lowering ceremony at sunset in Constitution Square, when soldiers fold the giant flag in a formal drill.
- Catch a lucha libre wrestling match, Mexico's masked, acrobatic take on professional wrestling, at one of the city's dedicated arenas.

Day trips

Several worthwhile destinations sit within a few hours of the city.

- Ⓐ Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan — about 1 hour by bus or car. Home to the Pyramid of the Sun and Pyramid of the Moon, the ruins of one of the largest cities of the ancient Americas.
- Ⓑ Tepotzotlán — about 1 hour by bus or car. A colonial town built around a Baroque former Jesuit monastery, now a museum of religious art.
- Ⓒ Cuernavaca — about 1.5 hours by bus or car. A hillside city known for its mild climate, gardens, and Hernán Cortés's former palace.
- Ⓓ Puebla — about 2 hours by bus or car. A UNESCO-listed colonial city known for its tiled buildings, Talavera pottery, and mole poblano.



Getting there

- **By air**: Mexico City International Airport (AICM) is the main gateway, about 8 km east of the historic center. The metro (Line 5, changing to Line 1) and the Metrobús both reach downtown in around 30-40 minutes; a licensed airport taxi from the official booth takes about 20-30 minutes depending on traffic. Felipe Ángeles International Airport (NLU), north of the city, handles some domestic and low-cost flights but is farther from the center.
- **By bus**: four long-distance terminals (North, South, East, and West) connect Mexico City to nearly every major city in the country.
- **By train**: Mexico has almost no long-distance passenger rail; most travelers arrive by air or bus.

Getting around

- **Metro**: the subway is the fastest way to cross the city and one of the cheapest in the world. Buy a rechargeable card at any station and tap in; a single ride costs only a few pesos regardless of distance. Avoid the rush hours around 7-9am and 6-8pm, when trains get very crowded.
- **Metrobús**: dedicated-lane buses cover routes the metro doesn't reach, including along Paseo de la Reforma. Uses the same rechargeable card as the metro.
- **Taxi and ride-hailing**: ride-hailing apps are widely used and generally a safer choice than hailing a taxi on the street.
- **On foot**: the historic center and Chapultepec Park are walkable, but the city as a whole is too large to cross on foot. Sidewalks can be uneven, and the altitude makes uphill walking more tiring than usual.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The historic center and Chapultepec Park are walkable and pedestrian-friendly, but the city is too vast to explore on foot alone. High altitude and uneven sidewalks can slow visitors down.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Heavy traffic and limited bike infrastructure make cycling impractical for most visitors, aside from a car-free Sunday morning ride (Muévete en Bici) along Paseo de la Reforma.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** No. Traffic is heavy most of the day, and the metro, Metrobús, and ride-hailing apps cover the city better than a rental car. A car becomes useful mainly for day trips outside the city.
- **Restrictions**: the Hoy No Circula program bans many cars from driving on certain weekdays based on license plate number and emissions sticker; foreign rental cars are usually exempt, but check with the rental company.
- **Parking**: paid parking garages are common in the historic center and Polanco; street parking is limited and not always safe for an unattended car.

Food & drink

Mexico City's food ranges from street tacos to some of the world's most acclaimed restaurants. Street stalls sell tacos al pastor, carved from a spinning spit of marinated pork, alongside quesadillas, tortas, and tamales. Look for stands with a long line of locals rather than the ones closest to tourist sights.

For something more formal, Café de Tacuba has served traditional Mexican dishes in a grand early-20th-century dining room since 1912. The Roma and Condesa neighborhoods cluster many of the city's best restaurants and cafés, from casual spots to fine dining.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Cochinita Pibil
Slow-roasted, citrus- and achiote-marinated pork, a Yucatán specialty traditionally cooked in an underground pit.

DINNER

Mole
A complex sauce, often built from chiles, spices, and sometimes chocolate; mole poblano and Oaxaca's several moles are the best known versions.

Chiles en Nogada
A Puebla dish of stuffed poblano chiles topped with a walnut cream sauce and pomegranate seeds, in the colors of the Mexican flag.

Pozole
A hominy stew with pork or chicken, topped with shredded cabbage, radish, and chile, traditionally eaten on special occasions.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Tacos
Corn or flour tortillas filled with meat, fish, or vegetables, with endless regional and stall-to-stall variation.

Tamales
Corn dough filled with meat, cheese, or vegetables, wrapped in a corn husk or banana leaf and steamed.

Elote/Esquites · Elote / Esquites
Grilled or boiled corn on the cob (elote) or served off the cob in a cup (esquites), topped with mayonnaise, cheese, chile, and lime.

DRINKS

Mezcal
A smoky agave spirit from Oaxaca and several other states, distinct from tequila, traditionally sipped neat.

Tequila
An agave spirit from the region around the town of Tequila in Jalisco, Mexico's best-known export spirit.

Horchata
A sweet, cinnamon-spiced rice-based drink, popular as a non-alcoholic accompaniment to spicy food.

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Safety & health

Mexico City is generally safe for tourists who take common-sense precautions, though petty crime like pickpocketing and phone snatching happens in crowded places such as the metro, markets, and busy sights. Use only licensed pink-and-white taxis or ride-hailing apps rather than hailing a cab on the street, and keep phones and bags close in crowds.

Tap water is not safe to drink; stick to bottled or purified water, including for brushing teeth. The altitude, over 2,200 meters, can cause shortness of breath or headaches for the first day or two — take it easy and stay hydrated after arrival.

History

The city stands on the site of *Tenochtitlan*, the Aztec capital founded around 1325 on an island in Lake Texcoco. At its height it was one of the largest cities in the world, centered on the temple whose ruins are now Templo Mayor.

Spanish conquistador *Hernán Cortés* captured the city in 1521 and had it rebuilt as the seat of colonial New Spain, largely on top of the Aztec ruins and the filled-in lake. Independence came in 1821, and the city has been the country's capital ever since.

The 20th century left its own mark: painters *Diego Rivera* and *Frida Kahlo* turned the city into a center of modern Mexican art. Rivera's murals inside National Palace and Kahlo's former home at Frida Kahlo Museum are now among the city's most visited sights.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY

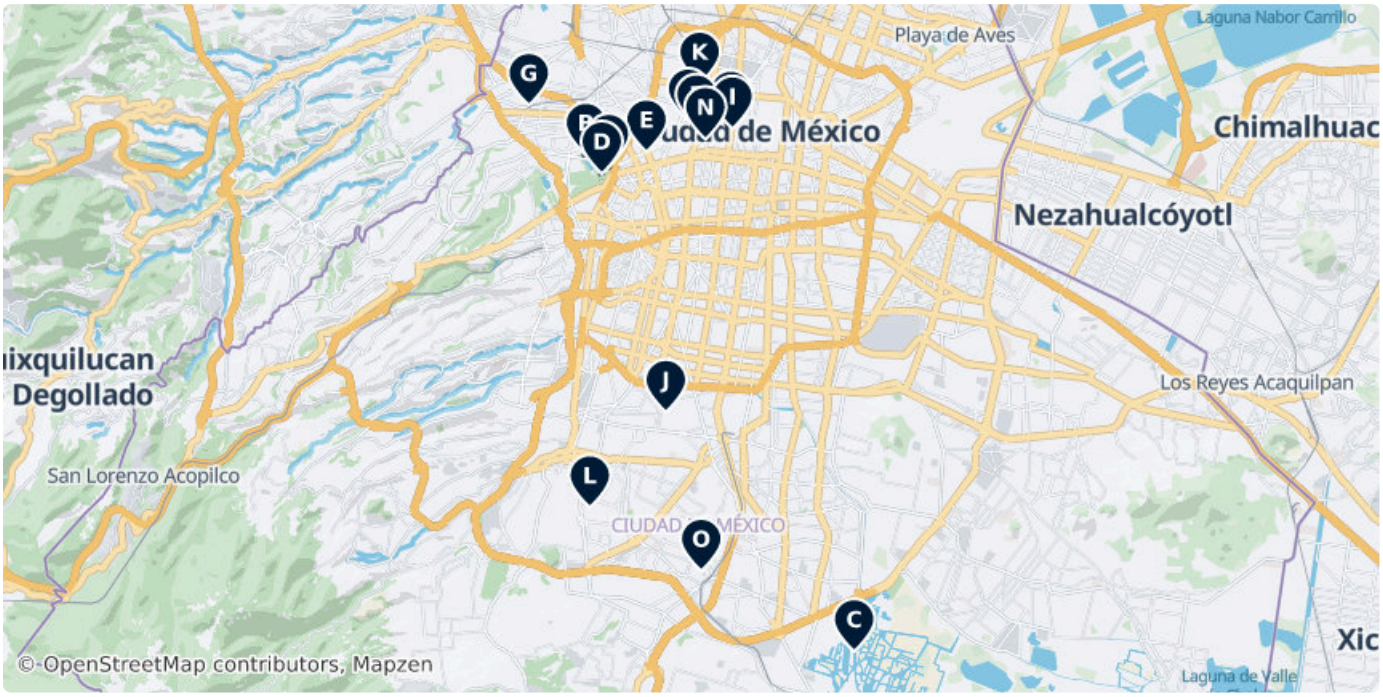
Type A / Type B
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LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Mexico City Essentials

Mexico City's landmarks span centuries of architectural and cultural evolution. The National Museum of Anthropology houses the world's largest collection of ancient Mexican art, while the Palacio de Bellas Artes showcases iconic murals within its Art Nouveau and Deco frame. From the Aztec-era canals of Xochimilco and the hilltop Chapultepec Castle to the futuristic Soumaya Museum and the 1950s Latin-American Tower, these sites represent the city's transformation. The collection also features the modernist Biblioteca Vasconcelos, the historic Coyoacán borough, and the legendary Estadio Azteca stadium.





Ⓐ Palace of Fine Arts

The Palacio de Bellas Artes is a prominent cultural center in Mexico City.

Col. Polanco Chapultepec, 11560 Mexico City, Mexico (19.43550, -99.14124)

Mo–Su 10:00–19:00

museopalaciodebellasartes.gob.mx, +52 55 5283 4600



Ⓑ National Museum of Anthropology

The National Museum of Anthropology is a national museum of Mexico. It is the largest and most visited museum in Mexico.

Av. Paseo de la Reforma y calzada Gandhi, 11560 Mexico City, Mexico (19.42606, -99.18667)

Tu–Su 09:00–17:00

mna.inah.gob.mx, +52 55 4040 5300



C Floating Gardens of Xochimilco

A popular spot for tourists and locals alike, the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco are settled in canals that were left here by the Aztecs...

Xochimilco, Distrito Federal, Mexico (19.27910, -99.10247)



D Chapultepec Castle

Chapultepec Castle is located on top of Chapultepec Hill in Mexico City's Chapultepec park.

Calle del Cerro, Miguel Hidalgo 11580, Mexico (19.42052, -99.18168)

mnh.inah.gob.mx



E Independence Column

The Angel of Independence, most commonly known by the shortened name El Ángel and officially known as Monumento a la Independencia, is a...

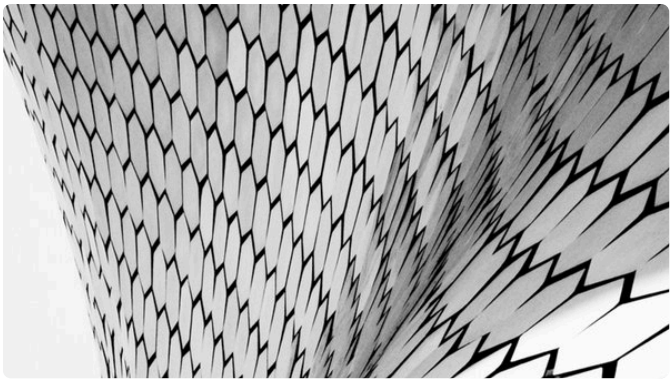
Paseo de la Reforma, Ciudad de México 06500, Mexico (19.42700, -99.16767)



F Paseo de la Reforma

Paseo de la Reforma is a wide avenue that runs diagonally across the heart of Mexico City.

27 Paseo de la Reforma, Ciudad de México 06030, Mexico (19.43444, -99.15194)



G Soumaya Museum

The Museo Soumaya is a private museum in Mexico City and a non-profit cultural institution with two museum buildings in Mexico City — Plaza...

Boulevard Miguel de Cervantes (19.44077, -99.20464)

Mo–Su 10:30–18:30

soumaya.com.mx, +52 55 5616 3731



H Monument to the Revolution

The Monument to the Revolution is a memorial arch commemorating the Mexican Revolution.

Plaza de la República (19.43617, -99.15462)

mrm.mx, +52 55 92 2038 5591



I Latin-American Tower

The Torre Latinoamericana is a skyscraper in downtown Mexico City. Its central location, height, and history make it one of the city's most...

Eje Central Lázaro Cárdenas 2, 06000 Mexico City, Mexico (19.43387, -99.14066)

torrelatinoamericana.com.mx, +52 55 5518 7423



J Coyoacán

Coyoacán is a borough in Mexico City. The former village is now the borough's "historic center".

Coyoacán, Distrito Federal, Mexico (19.35000, -99.16159)



K José Vasconcelos Library

Mexico City's Biblioteca Vasconcelos, also known as la Biblioteca Vasconcelos or la Vasconcelos and labeled by the press as the...

Mosqueta s/n, 06350 (19.44709, -99.15099)

Mo–Su 08:30–19:30

bibliotecavasconcelos.gob.mx, +52 (01 55) 91 57 28 00



L National Autonomous University of Mexico

The National Autonomous University of Mexico, is a public research university in Mexico.

Coyoacán 04510, Mexico (19.32174, -99.18546)



M Museum of Modern Art

The Museo de Arte Moderno is a museum dedicated to modern Mexican art located in Chapultepec Park in Mexico City.

Paseo de la Reforma, 11560 Mexico City (19.42276, -99.17948)

Mo–Su 10:15–17:30

mam.bellasartes.gob.mx, +52 55 86 47 5530

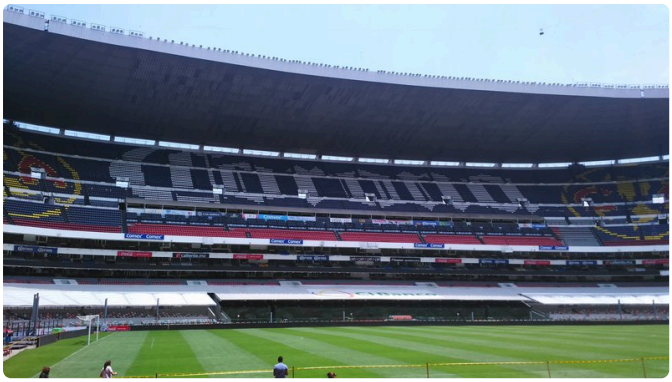
N Ciudadela Crafts Market

An often-missed market offering great deals on all sorts of crafts. The perfect place to pick up a souvenir to take home.

Avenida Balderas, 06040 Ciudad de México (19.43075, -99.14917)

Mo–Sa 09:00–19:00
Su 09:00–18:00

laciudadela.com.mx, +52 55 5510 1828



Estadio Azteca

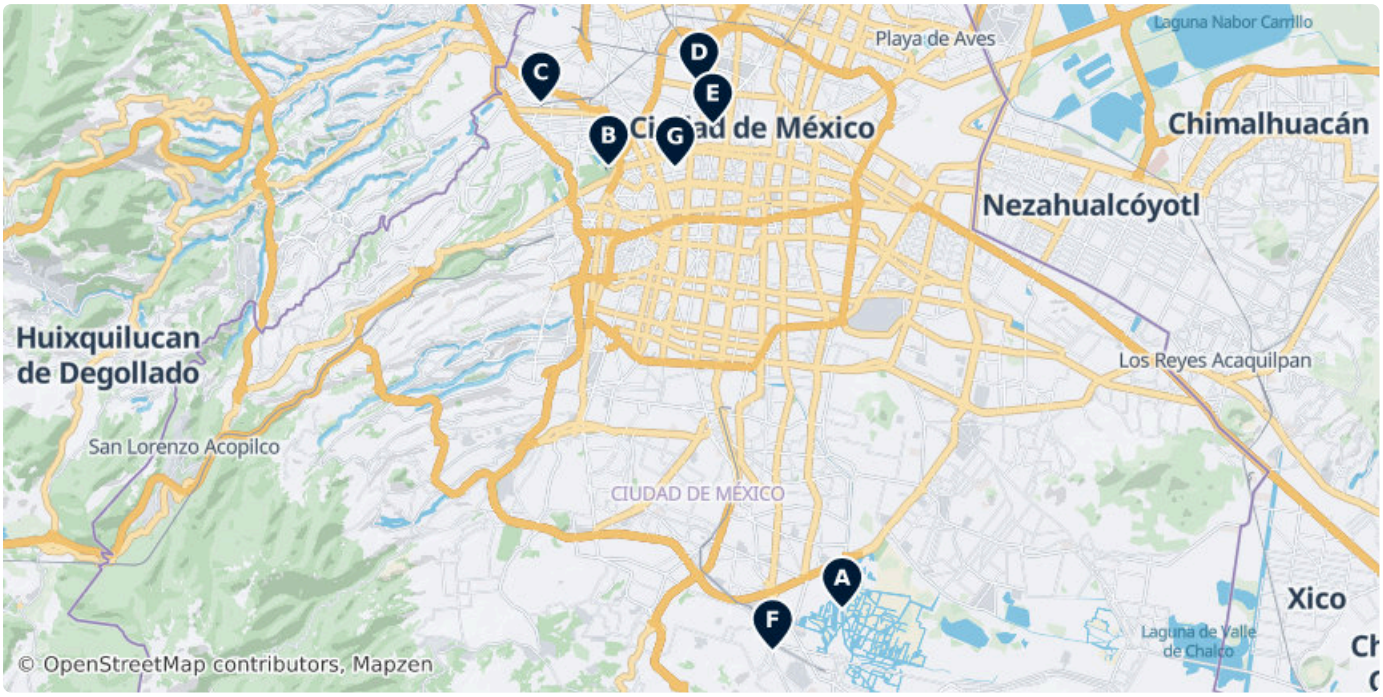
Estadio Azteca is a multi-purpose stadium located in Mexico City. It is the official home of football clubs Club América and Cruz Azul as...

3465 Calzada de Tlalpan, 04650 Mexico City, Mexico
(19.30293, -99.15047)

estadioazteca.com.mx, +52 55 5487 3100

Editor's Choice

Mexico City's diverse landscape features the ancient Aztec canals of Xochimilco and the historic Chapultepec Castle, which overlooks the city from a volcanic hill. Architectural innovation is showcased at the Soumaya Museum, known for its silver-tiled facade, and the Vasconcelos Library, where hanging steel bookshelves create a futuristic atmosphere. Cultural heritage is preserved through the folk art of the Museum of Popular Art, the design-focused MODO, and the Dolores Olmedo Museum, which houses significant Mexican art within a colonial-era estate.





A Floating Gardens of Xochimilco

A popular spot for tourists and locals alike, the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco are settled in canals that were left here by the Aztecs...

Xochimilco, Distrito Federal, Mexico (19.27910, -99.10247)

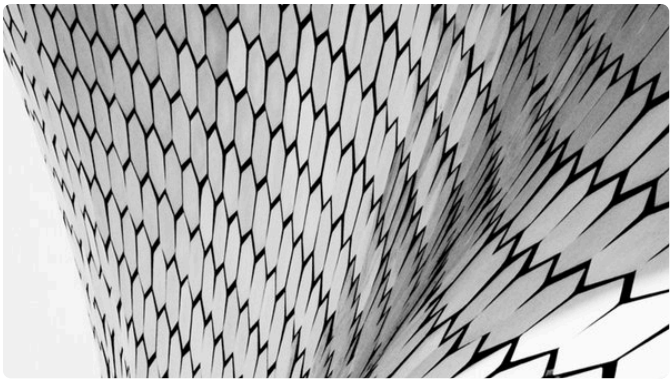


B Chapultepec Castle

Chapultepec Castle is located on top of Chapultepec Hill in Mexico City's Chapultepec park.

Calle del Cerro, Miguel Hidalgo 11580, Mexico (19.42052, -99.18168)

mnh.inah.gob.mx



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Boulevard Miguel de Cervantes (19.44077, -99.20464)

Mo–Su	10:30–18:30

soumaya.com.mx, +52 55 5616 3731



D José Vasconcelos Library

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Mosqueta s/n, 06350 (19.44709, -99.15099)

Mo–Su	08:30–19:30

bibliotecavasconcelos.gob.mx, +52 (01 55) 91 57 28 00



E Museum of Popular Art

The Museo de Arte Popular is a museum in Mexico City, Mexico, that promotes and preserves part of the Mexican handcrafts and folk art.

Revillagigedo 11, Ciudad de México (19.43394, -99.14633)

Tu	10:00–18:00
We	10:00–21:00
Th–Su	10:00–18:00

map.df.gob.mx, +52 55 55102201



F Dolores Olmedo Museum

The Museo Dolores Olmedo is an art museum in Xochimilco, Mexico City, based on the collection of the Mexican businesswoman Dolores Olmedo.

Av. México 5843, La Noria, 16030 Mexico City, Mexico (19.26570, -99.12605)

museodoloresolmedo.org.mx, +52 55 5555 1221



Museo del Objeto del Objeto

The Museo del Objeto del Objeto, or MODO, is a museum in Mexico City and the first museum in Mexico dedicated to design and communications.

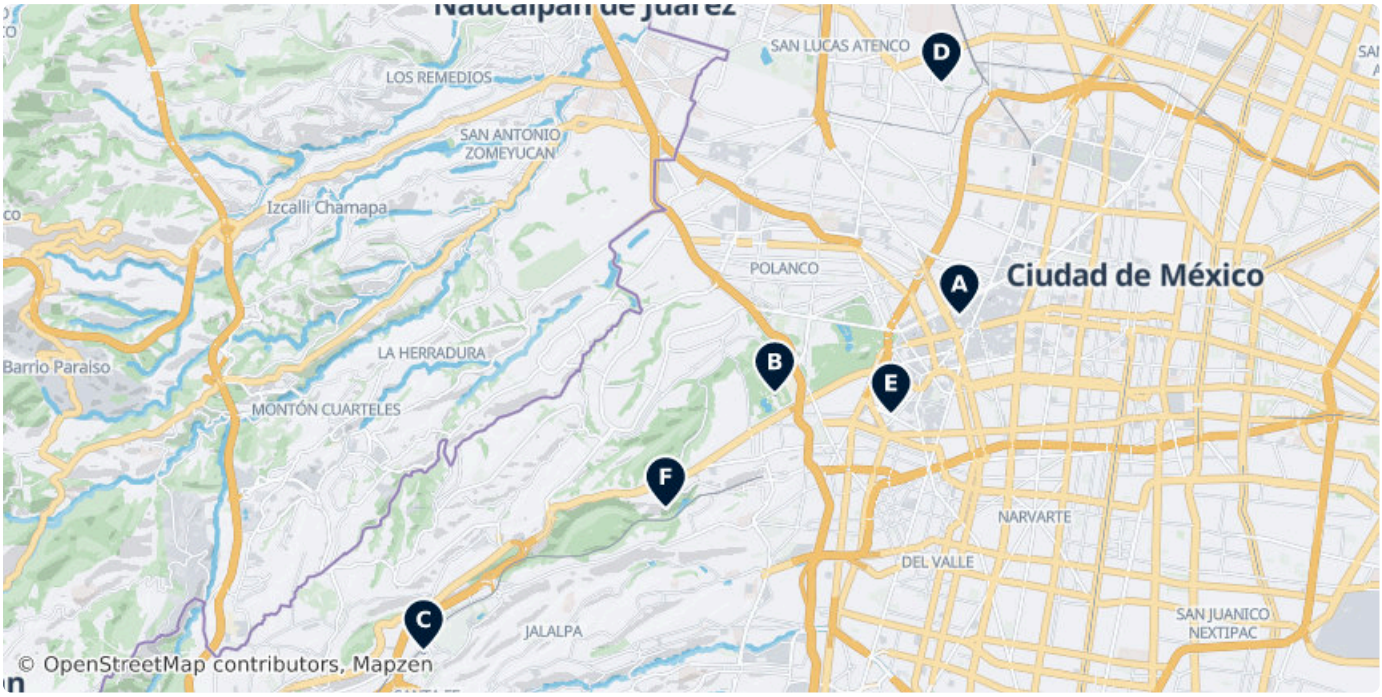
Colima 145, Ciudad de México (19.42021, -99.15907)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

elmodo.mx, +52 55 5533 9637

Hidden Gems of Mexico City

Escape the typical tourist circuits to explore Mexico City's diverse architectural and cultural landscape. This selection includes Diego Rivera's massive tiled fountain in Chapultepec Park, the experimental modernist architecture of the Calakmul building in Santa Fe, and the recycled-art interiors of Minichelista. From the traditional small-batch mezcal offerings at La Botica to the multi-level greenery of Cafebrería El Péndulo and the historical archives of the Federal Police Museum, these locations highlight the city's blend of artistic legacy and bohemian subcultures.



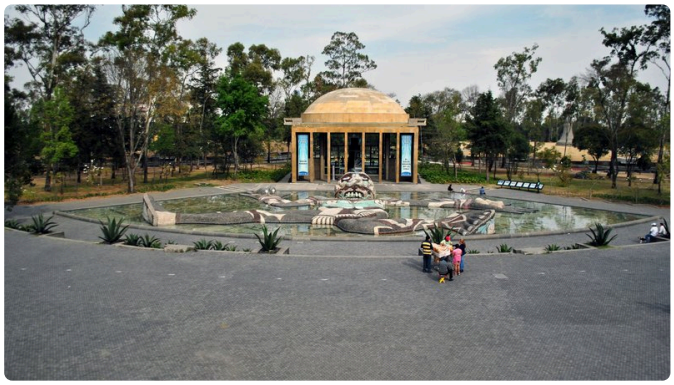


A Cafebrería El Péndulo

A multi-level space combining a bookstore, café, and bar. The interior features curved wooden balconies and lush indoor plants, often hosting live jazz sessions and breakfast service.

Calle Hamburgo, Roma, 06600 Mexico City, Mexico
(19.42601, -99.16491)

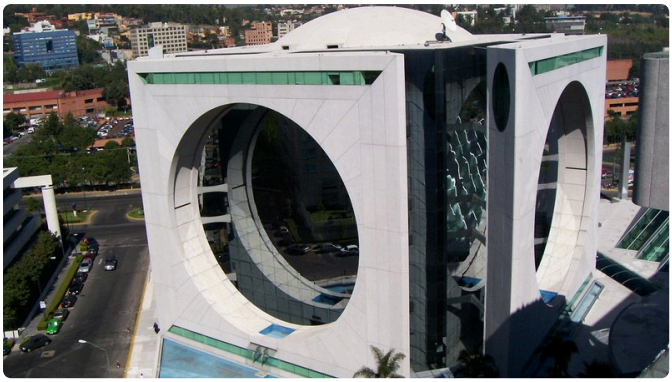
pendulo.com, +52 55 5208 2327



B Fuente de Tláloc

A massive outdoor tiled sculpture by Diego Rivera representing the Aztec rain god. Part of the Cárcamo de Dolores, the artwork was specifically designed to be viewed by passengers in planes flying overhead.

(Unnamed Road), Miguel Hidalgo 11100, Mexico
(19.41274, -99.19832)



C Edificio Calakmul

Designed by architect Agustín Hernández Navarro, this Santa Fe landmark is known locally as 'El Lavadero' for its distinctive shape. The structure represents a fusion of Mayan symbolism and high-tech contemporary architecture.

223 Calle Guillermo González Camarena, Álvaro Obregón 01376, Mexico (19.36875, -99.26184)

D Minichelista

A bohemian restaurant and cultural space decorated with industrial scrap metal and recycled materials. The menu features artisanal teas and snacks served within an avant-garde, labyrinthine interior.

201 Calle Guanábana, Azcapotzalco 02800, Mexico (19.46555, -99.16815)

E La Botica

A traditional mezcalería modeled after an old-fashioned pharmacy. It specializes in artisanal mezcals from small regional producers, typically served with orange slices and worm salt.

(19.40907, -99.17728)

labotica.com.mx

F Museo de la Policía Federal

Housed in a historic 19th-century building, this museum displays the evolution of Mexican law enforcement through collections of uniforms, equipment, and forensic science exhibits.

24 Privada de Belén de las Flores, Álvaro Obregón 01110, Mexico (19.39309, -99.21805)

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