

Monterrey

Nuevo León · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Monterrey is a modern industrial city in north-east Mexico, set among dramatic mountains. It has a large central plaza, good museums, a lively old quarter and parks. The Cerro de la Silla, a saddle-shaped mountain, is the symbol of the city.

It suits one to two nights, or a short stop on a road trip. Hiking, canyons and caves lie in the mountains nearby.

When to visit

Spring (March to May) and autumn (October and November) are the most pleasant seasons. Summer is very hot, often above 35 °C. Winter days are mild, but cold fronts can bring chilly nights.

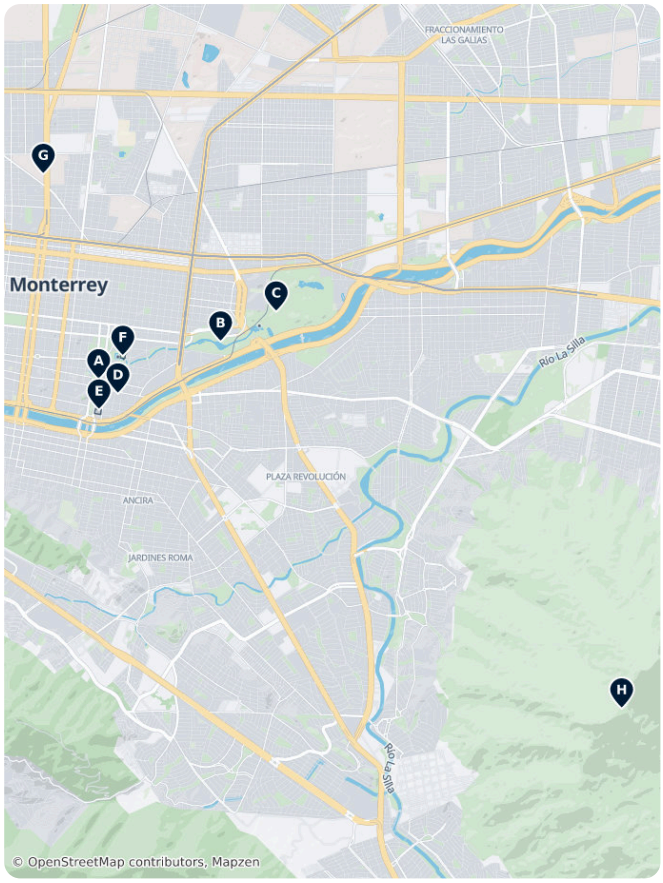
Hurricane remnants can bring heavy rain between June and October.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 32°	10° / 2°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 35°	11° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for sightseeing	30° / 38°	14° / 8°	20 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 6 days above 35°
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	34° / 41°	18° / 12°	Dry air · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 14 days above 35°
May	Poor Poor for sightseeing	36° / 42°	21° / 17°	Humid air · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 19 days above 35°
June	Poor Poor for sightseeing	36° / 41°	23° / 21°	Muggy, humid air · UV 11 (Extreme) · Up to 20 days above 35°
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	35° / 40°	23° / 20°	Muggy, humid air · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 19 days above 35°
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	35° / 39°	23° / 21°	Muggy, humid air · UV 11 (Extreme) · Up to 18 days above 35°
September	Poor Poor for sightseeing	32° / 37°	22° / 18°	15 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 6 days above 35°
October	Good Good for sightseeing	30° / 36°	18° / 12°	Humid air · Calm winds
November	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 33°	14° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	11° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: January, February, November, December

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

Top sights



- A Macroplaza is a huge pedestrian plaza in the centre, with fountains, a lighthouse and government buildings.
- B Paseo Santa Lucía is a canal promenade that links Macroplaza with Fundidora Park, with boats and cafes.
- C Parque Fundidora is a large park in a former steelworks, with museums, a lake and old furnaces.
- D Barrio Antiguo is the old quarter, with colourful houses, bars and galleries.
- E Museo de Arte Contemporáneo MARCO is a contemporary art museum with a large collection.
- F Museo de Historia Mexicana tells the history of Mexico, from early peoples to modern times.
- G Cervecería Cuauhtémoc Moctezuma is a historic brewery with a museum and a beer garden.
- H Cerro de la Silla is the saddle-shaped mountain that stands over the city, with trails for hikers.

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What to experience

- Take a boat ride along Paseo Santa Lucía.
- Eat cabrito (roast kid) and carne asada in a local restaurant.
- Hike a trail in Chipinque in the morning.
- Spend an evening in Barrio Antiguo's bars and cafes.

Day trips

- Chipinque Ecological Park: about 30 minutes by car. A mountain park with trails and views.
- Grutas de García: about 1 hour by car. A large cave system, with a cable car.
- Santiago: about 40 minutes by car. A small mountain town with a waterfall nearby.
- Horsetail Falls (Cola de Caballo): about 1 hour by car. A waterfall in the hills.

Where to explore

- Chipinque and the Sierra Madre mountains for hiking close to the city.
- Santiago and Cola de Caballo for a quiet mountain town and waterfall.

Getting there

- **By air**: Monterrey International Airport (MTY) is about 30 minutes north-east of the centre. It has flights from Mexico City, the US and many cities in Mexico.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches run to Mexico City (about 11 hours), Saltillo and the border towns.
- **By road**: Highways link Monterrey with the US border at Laredo, about 2.5 hours away.

Getting around

- **Metro**: Metrorrey has light-rail lines through the centre and suburbs. It is cheap and reliable.
- **Taxi and app**: Ride apps are easy and cheap.
- **On foot**: Macroplaza, Barrio Antiguo and Paseo Santa Lucía are walkable.
- **Buses**: City buses cover most of the city.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Parts of the centre are walkable, such as Macroplaza and Barrio Antiguo. The city is large and spread out.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Traffic and distances make cycling less practical, except in parks.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Useful for Grutas de García, Santiago and mountain parks. Not needed for the centre.
- **Roads**: Highways are in good condition. Traffic is heavy at rush hours.
- **Parking**: Paid lots are common in the centre. Hotels offer parking.

Food & drink

Monterrey is known for cabrito al pastor (roast kid), carne asada, machacado con huevo (dried beef with eggs) and flour tortillas. Regional sweets include glorias, a pecan candy from the area. Local beer is part of the culture.

Many restaurants are in the centre and in the San Pedro area.

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

The centre and the main tourist areas are generally safe. Take usual care with bags and phones at night. Check local advice for the area before you travel.

- Summer heat can be extreme. Drink plenty of water.
- Mountain trails can be steep. Take water and tell someone your plan.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

Spanish settlers founded Monterrey in 1596. It stayed small for centuries. In the late 19th century, industry, such as steel and beer, made it one of Mexico's main economic centres. Fundidora Park was built on a former steel mill that closed in 1986.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY

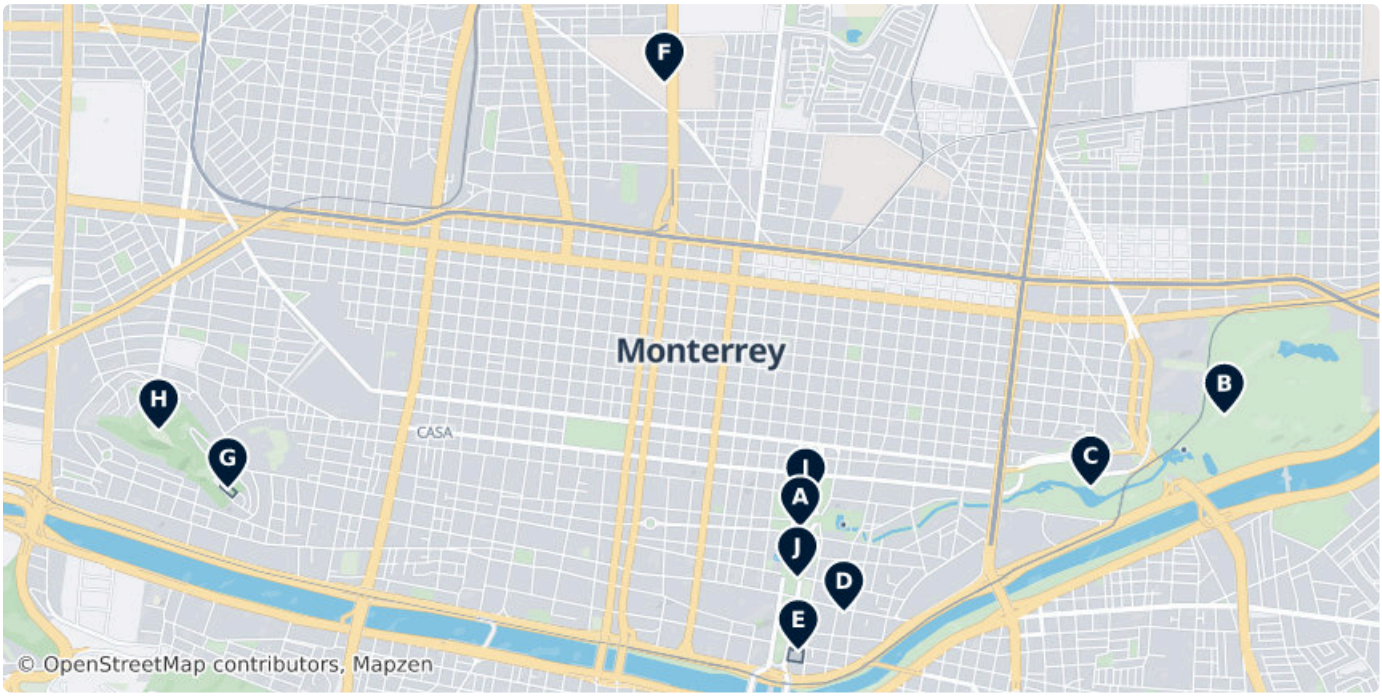
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Monterrey Must-Sees

Monterrey blends its industrial heritage with modern cultural landmarks. The massive Macroplaza serves as the city's central hub, housing the neoclassical Government Palace and the contemporary art museum, MARCO. Nearby, the Barrio Antiguo preserves colonial-era architecture and cobblestone streets. The Santa Lucía Riverwalk provides a scenic artificial waterway connecting the city center to Parque Fundidora, an expansive urban park built on the grounds of a former steel foundry. For historical perspectives and panoramic views, Bishopric Hill features the 18th-century Palacio del Obispado.





A Macroplaza

The Macroplaza or La Gran Plaza is a town square or plaza located in the heart of the city of Monterrey, Mexico.

560 Calle Ignacio Zaragoza S, Monterrey 64000, Mexico (25.67117, -100.30955)



B Fundidora Park

Fundidora Park is an urban park located in the Mexican city of Monterrey, built in what once were the grounds of the Monterrey Foundry,...

Ave Fundidora y Ave. Obrera s/n , Obrera, 64010 Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico (25.67698, -100.28539)

parquefundidora.org/en, +52 081 8126 8500



C Santa Lucía Riverwalk

The Santa Lucia riverwalk is an artificial river located in the Mexican city of Monterrey, Nuevo León.

Santa Lucia, Centro, 64000 Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico (25.67328, -100.29301)

turismo.monterrey.gob.mx/eng/things-to-do/santa_lucia...



D Old Town

Popularly known as the Barrio Antiguo comprise what is preserved from the historical quarter of the city of Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico.

Calle Fr. Servando Padre Mier 875 Centro, 64000 Monterrey, NL, Mexico (25.66684, -100.30707)



E Monterrey Museum of Contemporary Art

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, abbreviated as MARCO, is a major contemporary art museum, located in the city of Monterrey, in...

Zuazua y Jardón, Monterrey (25.66486, -100.30966)

marco.org.mx, 82624500

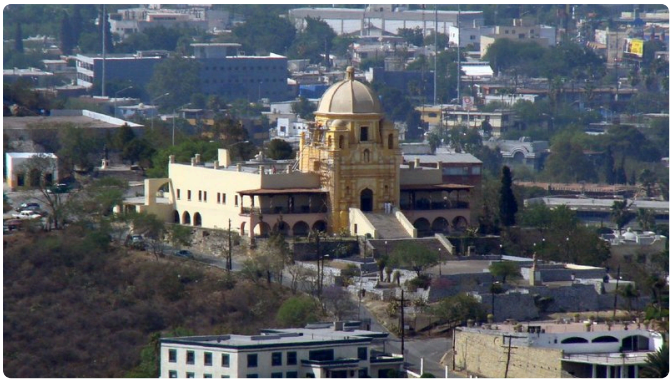


F Cuauhtémoc-Moctezuma Brewery

Cervecería Cuauhtémoc Moctezuma is a major brewery based in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico, founded in 1890.

Alfonso Reyes 2202, Colonia Del Prado, Monterrey, NL, Mexico (25.69398, -100.31730)

+52 081 8328 5000



G Palacio del Obispado

The Palacio del Obispado, Spanish for Bishop's Palace, also known as El Obispado or the Bishop's Museum, originally called Palacio de...

Fray Rafael J. Verger s/n, 64010 monterrey (25.67317, -100.34218)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

elobispado.inah.gob.mx/inicio.html



H Bishopric Hill

The Cerro del Obispado is a famous landmark in the city of Monterrey, Mexico, named after the building constructed in the middle of the...

Rafael J. Vergel 1730, Centro, 64000 Monterrey, NL, Mexico (25.67618, -100.34611)



I Governor's Palace

The Palacio de Gobierno, or the Government Palace of Nuevo León, is a state government building in Monterrey, the capital city of Nuevo...

5 de Mayo 545, Centro, 64000 Monterrey, NL, Mexico (25.67264, -100.30925)



J Macroplaza Square

The Macroplaza or La Gran Plaza is a town square or plaza located in the heart of the city of Monterrey, Mexico.The Macroplaza is the fifth...

Mariano Matamoros 520, Centro, 64000 Monterrey, NL, Mexico (25.66861, -100.30972)

DATA SOURCES

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