

Morelia

Michoacán · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Morelia is the capital of Michoacán, a colonial city of pink stone in the highlands of western Mexico. Its historic centre is a World Heritage Site, with a large cathedral, an aqueduct, plazas and old convents. The city is a university town and has a lively food and cultural scene.

It suits two nights. It is also a base for Pátzcuaro and, in winter, for the Monarch Butterfly Reserve.

When to visit

The climate is mild at about 1,900 m. November to April is dry, with cool nights. May to October is rainy, with afternoon showers.

Monarch butterflies stay in the nearby mountains from about November to March. The International Morelia Film Festival is held in autumn.

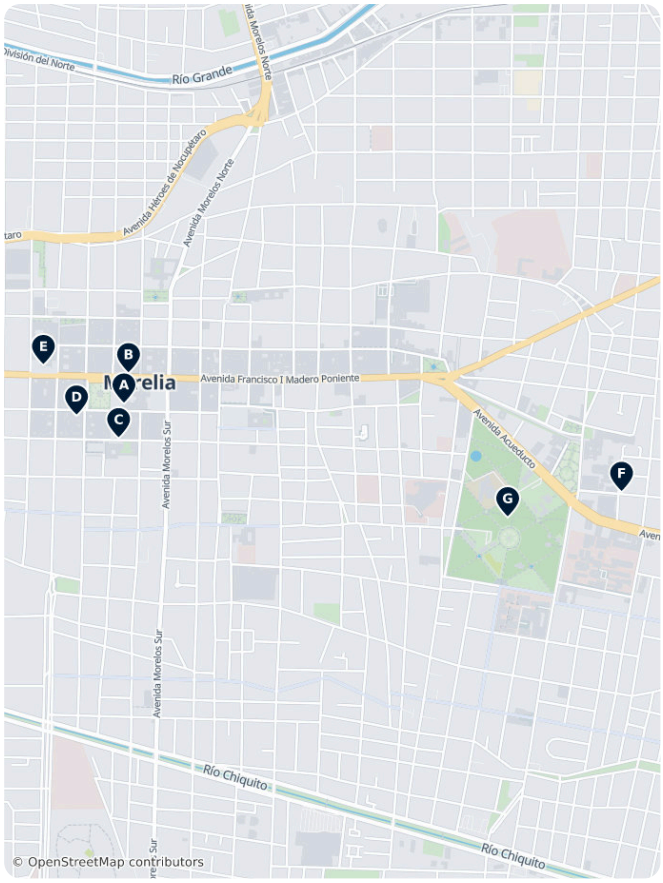
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27°	9° / 5°	22 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 30°	9° / 6°	23 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
March	Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 31°	11° / 7°	26 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
April	Great Great for sightseeing	30° / 33°	13° / 10°	26 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 13 (Extreme)
May	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 34°	15° / 12°	Dry air · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme)
June	Fair Fair for sightseeing	27° / 33°	15° / 13°	21 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	25° / 28°	15° / 13°	28 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	25° / 28°	15° / 13°	28 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
September	Fair Fair for sightseeing	24° / 27°	14° / 12°	24 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
October	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 28°	13° / 8°	Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
November	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 27°	11° / 7°	22 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
December	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	9° / 6°	23 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds

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

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

Top sights

- A El Centro Histórico de Morelia is the historic centre, built of pink stone, with arcades and a main square.
- The Cathedral of Morelia is a baroque and neoclassical landmark with two tall towers, lit up at night.
- B Palacio de Gobierno de Michoacán is a government palace with murals of Michoacán's history.
- C Casa Natal de Morelos is the house where independence leader José María Morelos was born.
- D Museo Regional Michoacano shows the history and art of the region.
- E Biblioteca Pública de la Universidad Michoacana is the library of the state university, in a former Jesuit church.
- F Acueducto de Morelia is an 18th-century aqueduct with 253 arches.
- G Bosque Cuauhtémoc is a large park near the centre, with fountains and a lake.



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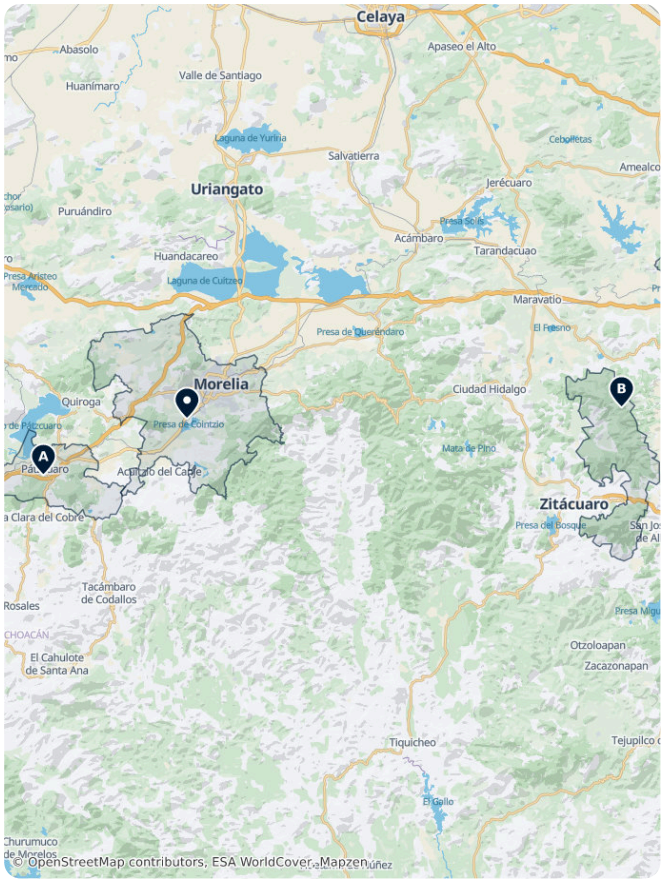
What to experience

- Walk the Calzada Fray Antonio de San Miguel to the aqueduct in the evening.
- Try local sweets in a candy shop on the Calle de los Dulces.
- Watch the cathedral light show on weekend nights.
- Take a day trip to Pátzcuaro for Day of the Dead, if you visit in early November.

Day trips

- A Pátzcuaro: about 1 hour by car. A colonial town near a lake, known for crafts.
- B Monarch Butterfly Reserve: about 2.5 hours by car. A mountain reserve where monarchs spend the winter.
- Cuitzeo: about 40 minutes by car. A lake town with a large convent.



Where to explore

- Pátzcuaro for a lake town with Purépecha culture.
- Monarch Butterfly Reserve for winter butterflies in the mountains.

Getting there

- **By air**: Morelia International Airport (MLM) is about 30 minutes north of the centre. It has flights from Mexico City and from several US cities.
- **By bus**: Coaches run to Mexico City (about 4.5 hours), Guadalajara, Pátzcuaro and Uruapan. The bus station is west of the centre.
- **By road**: Toll roads link Morelia to Mexico City and Guadalajara.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The historic centre is flat and compact.
- **Taxi and app**: Taxis and ride apps are cheap.
- **Local buses**: City buses serve outer areas.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The historic centre is flat and compact, with pedestrian streets.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The centre is flat, and a cycle route runs along the aqueduct.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Useful for Pátzcuaro villages and the butterfly reserve. Not needed in the centre.
- **Roads**: Toll roads are fast and in good condition. Mountain roads are winding.
- **Parking**: Paid lots are close to the centre.

Food & drink

Michoacán food includes carnitas (slow-cooked pork), corundas (triangular tamales), uchepos (sweet corn tamales) and morisqueta (rice with beans and sauce). Local candy, such as ate (fruit paste) and chocolate, is famous.

Restaurants and portal cafes around the main square serve regional dishes.

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 historic centre is generally safe and well policed. Take usual care with bags and phones at night. Check local advice before you travel on rural roads in Michoacán.

- The city is at 1,900 m. Take it easy on the first day.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

The Spanish founded the city in 1541 as Valladolid. In 1828, it was renamed Morelia in honour of José María Morelos, a leader of the independence movement who was born here. The historic centre has been a World Heritage Site since 1991.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



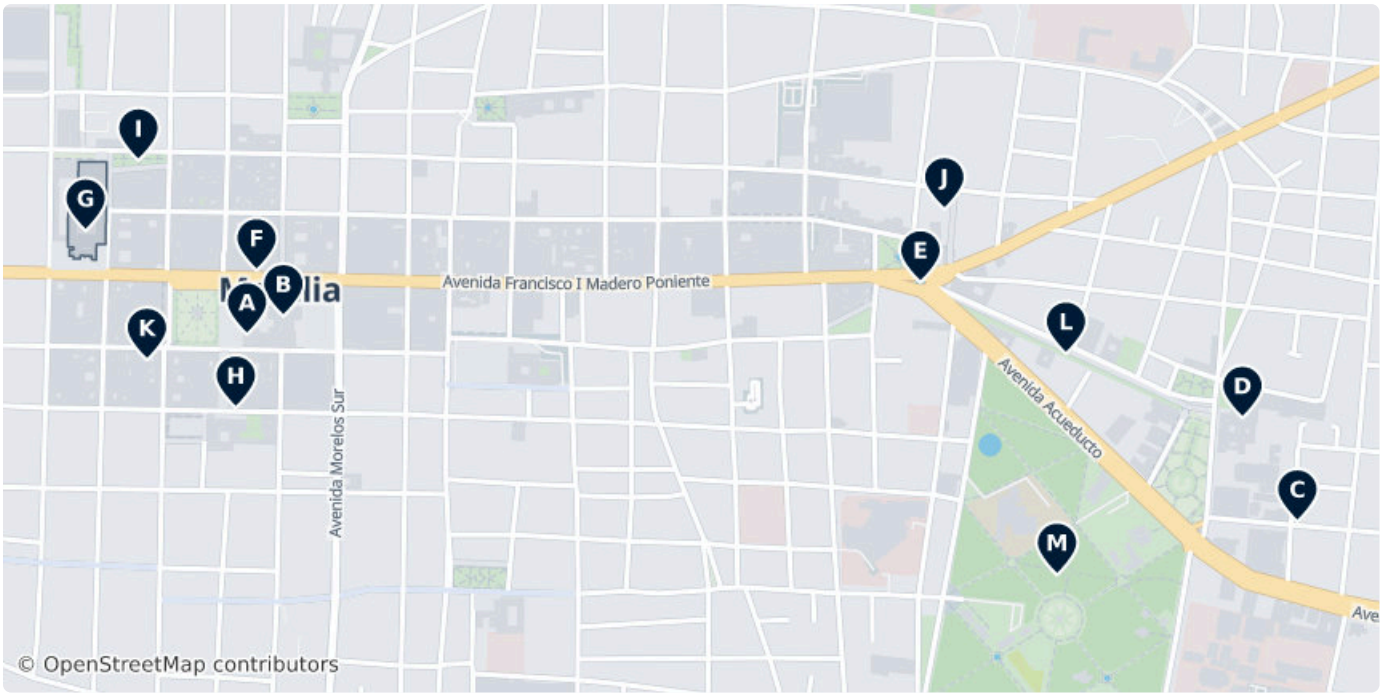
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Morelia Essentials

Morelia's UNESCO-listed historic center is characterized by its uniform Spanish Renaissance and Baroque architecture crafted from local pink quarry stone. This collection highlights the 18th-century cathedral with its towering spires, the massive 253-arch stone aqueduct, and the birthplace of revolutionary leader José María Morelos. Notable sites include the Clavijero Palace's expansive courtyards, the Conservatory of the Roses—the first music conservatory in the Americas—and the ornate, gold-leaf interior of the Guadalupe Shrine.





A Historic Center of Morelia

Admire the historical city center with a number of buildings which are real architectural gems. A stunning UNESCO World Heritage Site.

145 Calle Allende, Morelia 58000, Mexico
(19.70209, -101.19289)

whc.unesco.org/en/list/585



B Catedral de Morelia

An 18th-century Baroque masterpiece built from pink quarry stone, featuring twin 62-meter towers. The interior houses a monumental German pipe organ with over 4,600 pipes and a silver neoclassical font.

105 Calle Allende, Morelia 58000, Mexico
(19.70236, -101.19232)



C Aqueduct

This stone aqueduct from the end of the 18th century will charm you with its beautiful arches. A great place for a day or night stroll.

127A Calle Hospitales, Morelia 58230, Mexico (19.69936, -101.17658)

D Guadalupe Shrine

Go through the unique portal and discover the colorful and gold-plated interior of this beautiful Baroque church.

200 Avenida Tata Vasco, Morelia 58230, Mexico (19.70087, -101.17743)

E Fuente Las Tarascas

The bronze replica of a beautiful fountain consisting of 4 Tarascas - women sculptures dating back to 1960s. It is a symbol of Morelia.

944-A Avenida Francisco I. Madero Ote, Morelia 58000, Mexico (19.70285, -101.18243)



F Government Palace in Michoacan

When in the city center, take a walk around the mid 18th-century colonial building, the seat of the executive power of Michoacan state.

Avenida Madero Poniente, Centro Histórico, 58000 Morelia, Mexico (19.70302, -101.19273)



G Clavijero Palace

One of the most beautiful palaces in Morelia, nowadays a cultural center helping spread the local cultural and artistic heritage.

Nigromante 79, Centro Histórico, 58000 Morelia, Mexico (19.70360, -101.19539)

+52 443 317 48 83



H Birth House of Jose Maria Morelos

The house where the revolutionary leader Jose Maria Morelos was born. Nowadays this Neoclassical building serves as a library and museum.

Corregidora 113, 58000 Morelia, Mexico (19.70102, -101.19306)

+52 443 312 27 93



I Conservatory of the Roses

Visit the first American conservatory founded in 1743 where you can hear its famous boys choir. Several art festivals are held here as well.

Santiago Tapia No. 334, Centro Histórico, 58 000 Morelia, México (19.70463, -101.19457)

conservatoriodelasrosas.edu.mx, +52 443 312 18 64

J Callejon del Romance

A narrow street full of flowers, where you can sit on a nearby fountain, read poems or chat with your darling. A popular lovers' place.

19 Andador del Romance, Morelia 58000, Mexico (19.70391, -101.18206)



K Regional Museum Michoacan

A museum focused on Hispanic cultures of the Michoacan region, housing archaeological artifacts, art and pottery.

Ignacio Allende 305, Centro Histórico, 58000 Morelia, Mexico (19.70172, -101.19444)

+52 443 312 04 07

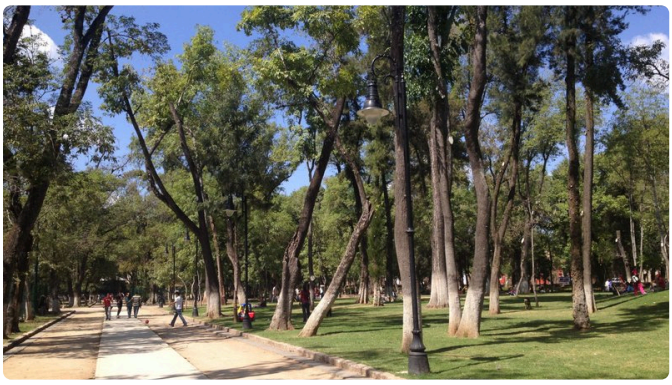


L House of Handicrafts

A museum run by public cultural organisation, housing folk art and craft as well as a shop, where you can buy traditional hand-made goods.

Fray Juan de San Miguel 129, 58020 Morelia, Mexico (19.70181, -101.18017)

casart.michoacan.gob.mx/index.php, +52 443 312 12 48



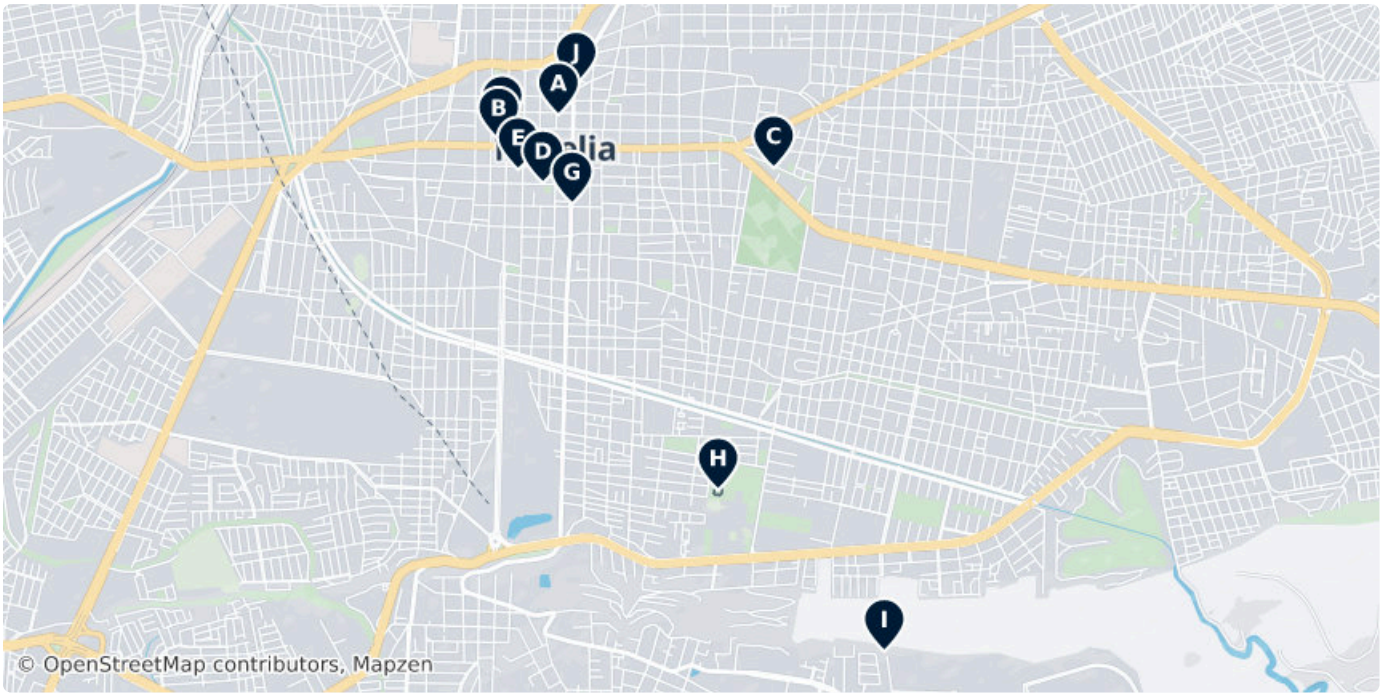
M Bosque Cuauhtemoc

Enjoy a peaceful atmopshere of this well-designed park, perfect for relaxation. Have a picnic surrounded with flourishing plants and trees.

120 Rafael Carrillo, 58000 Morelia, Mexico (19.69858, -101.18031)

Cultural Highlights of Morelia

Explore Morelia's history through its concentrated collection of colonial architecture and specialized museums. This list features the 17th-century Baroque library of the Universidad Michoacana and the birth house of revolutionary leader José María Morelos. Visitors can examine viceregal religious art at the Museo de Arte Colonial, traditional Michoacán crafts at the House of Handicrafts, and ethnographic mask collections. The selection includes the Centro Cultural Clavijero, a former Jesuit college, and the Regional Museum, which houses archaeological artifacts and regional pottery.



A Museo de Arte Colonial

Housed in an 18th-century residence, this museum displays viceregal religious art, including a collection of Christ figures crafted from traditional corn cane paste and oil paintings from the colonial era.

(19.70459, -101.19219)



B Public Library

A university library located in a 17th-century Baroque house, housing a valuable collection of old manuscripts and documents.

416 Avenida Francisco I. Madero P, Morelia 58000, Mexico
(19.70328, -101.19552)

dgb.umich.mx, +52 443 312 57 25



C House of Handicrafts

A museum run by public cultural organisation, housing folk art and craft as well as a shop, where you can buy traditional hand-made goods.

Fray Juan de San Miguel 129, 58020 Morelia, Mexico (19.70181, -101.18017)

casart.michoacan.gob.mx/index.php, +52 443 312 12 48



D Birth House of Jose Maria Morelos

The house where the revolutionary leader Jose Maria Morelos was born. Nowadays this Neoclassical building serves as a library and museum.

Corregidora 113, 58000 Morelia, Mexico (19.70102, -101.19306)

+52 443 312 27 93



E Regional Museum Michoacan

A museum focused on Hispanic cultures of the Michoacan region, housing archaeological artifacts, art and pottery.

Ignacio Allende 305, Centro Histórico, 58000 Morelia, Mexico (19.70172, -101.19444)

+52 443 312 04 07

F Centro Cultural Clavijero

A mid-17th-century Baroque building that formerly served as a Jesuit college. It features a large central courtyard and hosts temporary art exhibitions, cultural workshops, and significant murals.

79 Calle El Nigromante, Morelia 58000, Mexico (19.70390, -101.19533)



G Morelos House Museum

A former house and a museum of Mexican revolutionist José María Morelos who was executed in 1815.

José María Morelos 323, 58000 Morelia, Mexico (19.69993, -101.19143)

+52 443 913 26 51

H Planetario "Lic. Felipe Rivera"

Established in 1975, this facility uses a Mark IV Zeiss projector to display celestial shows and provides astronomical education within the city's convention center grounds.

Morelia 58070, Mexico (19.68488, -101.18328)

ceconexpo.com/planetario/, +52 443 314 2465

I Monumental Flag

The banderas monumentales are a collection of tall flagpoles containing large flags of Mexico located throughout Mexico.

Morelia, Mexico (19.67640, -101.17400)

J Mask Museum

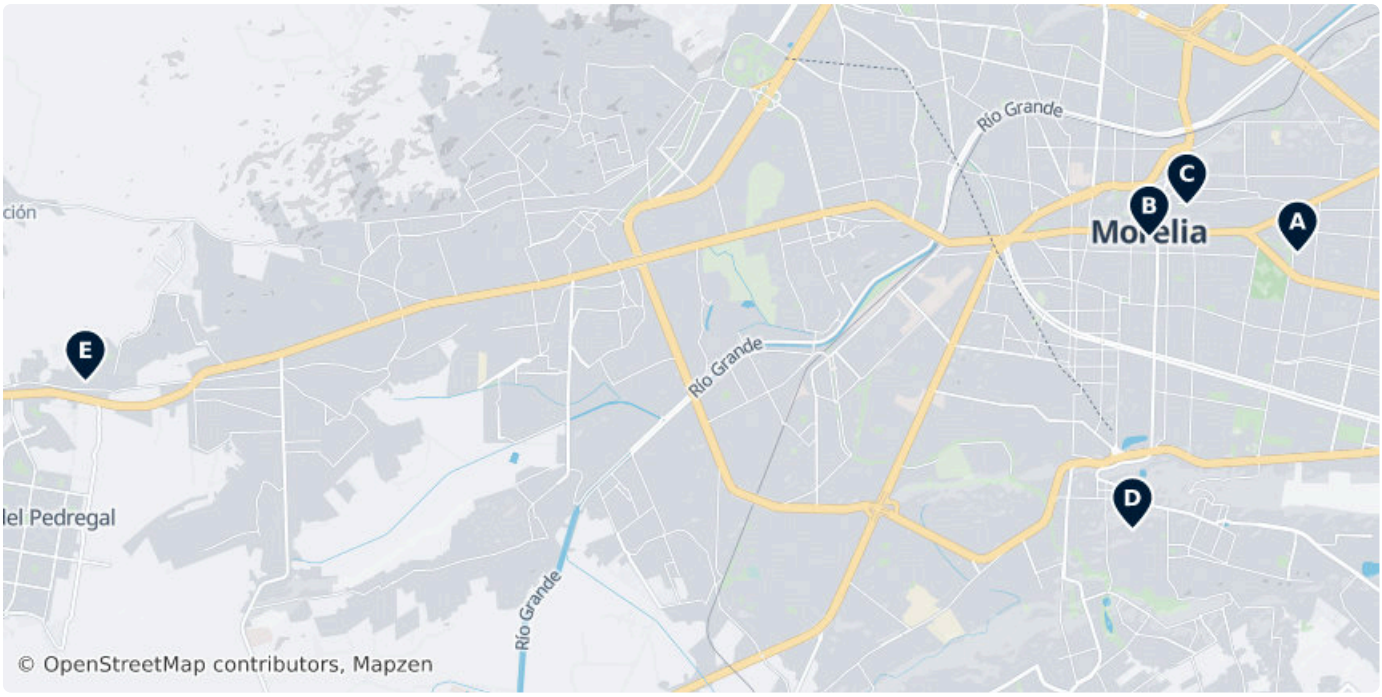
A museum located in the 'Casa de Cultura', where unique collections of masks and other etnographic artifacts are exhibited.

Av. Morelos Norte No. 485, Centro Histórico, 58000 Morelia, Mexico (19.70621, -101.19120)

+52 443 313 13 20

Historic Churches in Morelia

Morelia's religious landscape is defined by its distinctive pink quarry stone architecture and rich colonial history. This collection features the 17th-century Cathedral, known for its towering spires and monumental organ, alongside the Santuario de Guadalupe, which showcases a highly decorative interior of gold leaf and clay flowers. These sites represent various architectural styles from Baroque to Neoclassical, reflecting the city's development as a major spiritual and cultural center in central Mexico.



A Guadalupe Shrine

Go through the unique portal and discover the colorful and gold-plated interior of this beautiful Baroque church.

200 Avenida Tata Vasco, Morelia 58230, Mexico
(19.70087, -101.17743)



B Catedral de Morelia

Built between 1660 and 1744, this pink stone landmark features 60-meter twin towers and a monumental 1905 German organ with 4,600 pipes. The interior houses a massive silver font and neoclassical altars.

105 Calle Allende, Morelia 58000, Mexico
(19.70236, -101.19232)

C Templo de San Jose

An 18th-century Baroque church featuring a distinctive yellow-accented facade and a single bell tower. It serves as a prominent landmark in the northern part of Morelia's historic center.

258 Calle Belisario Domínguez, Morelia 58000, Mexico
(19.70537, -101.18854)

D Monasterio de la Visitación

A convent and place of worship for the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary. The complex maintains a quiet, traditional atmosphere reflective of the city's monastic history.

57 Calle Fray Luis de León, Morelia 58090, Mexico
(19.67475, -101.19401)

E Templo de Cristo Rey

A 20th-century Catholic church serving the local community. It features modern architectural elements compared to the colonial sites found in the historic city center.

(19.68871, -101.29911)

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