

San Cristobal de las Casas

Chiapas · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

San Cristóbal de las Casas is a colonial mountain town in the highlands of Chiapas, at about 2,200 m. It has red-tiled roofs, cobbled streets, baroque churches and a strong Indigenous Maya culture. Markets are busy with Tzotzil and Tzeltal people from villages nearby.

It suits three to four nights. Visitors come for the town itself, village visits and day trips to Sumidero Canyon and waterfalls.

When to visit

The dry season from November to April is sunny by day but cold at night, and frost is possible. May to October is the rainy season, with afternoon showers. The air is cool all year.

Pack warm clothes for evenings.

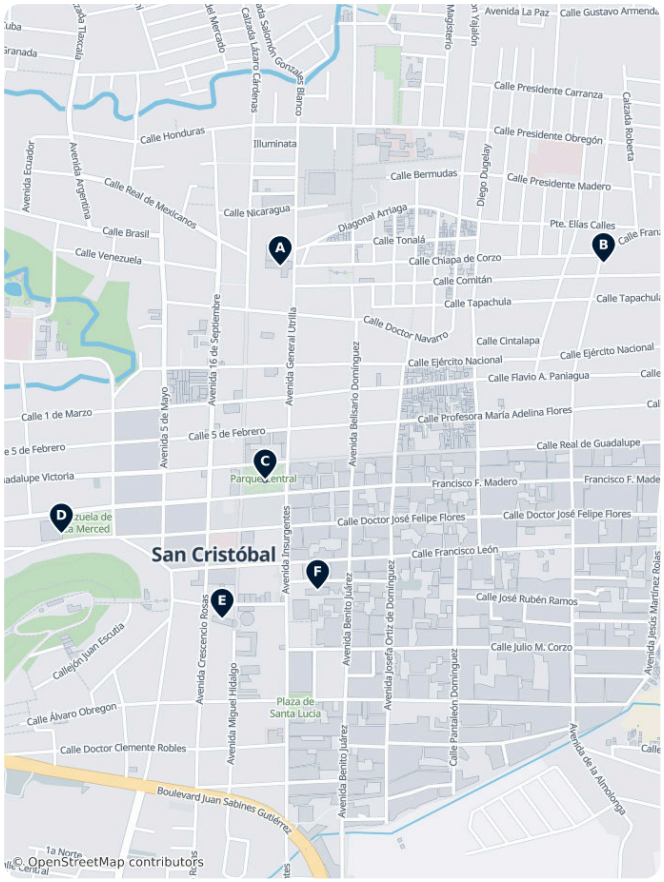
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for hiking	20° / 24°	7° / 3°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26°	8° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
March	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 29°	9° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
April	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 30°	11° / 7°	Dry air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
May	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 30°	12° / 10°	20 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
June	Fair Fair for sightseeing	21° / 26°	12° / 10°	26 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	21° / 24°	11° / 9°	23 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	21° / 24°	11° / 9°	26 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Fair Fair for sightseeing	20° / 23°	11° / 10°	28 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
October	Fair Fair for sightseeing	20° / 22°	10° / 7°	21 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
November	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 22°	8° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for hiking	19° / 22°	7° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds

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

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

Top sights

- A Iglesia de Santo Domingo is a baroque church with a carved golden front, beside a large craft market.
- B Na Bolom is a house museum about the Lacandon Maya and the forest, with a garden and library.
- C Kiosco Central is the central square with a kiosk, a cathedral and cafes.
- D Museo del Ámbar de Chiapas shows amber from Chiapas, which is among the best in the world.
- E Templo del Carmen is a small church and former convent on a pedestrian street.
- F Iglesia de San Francisco is a church in the south of the centre.
- Kakaw is a small museum of cacao and chocolate.



San Cristobal de las Casas – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

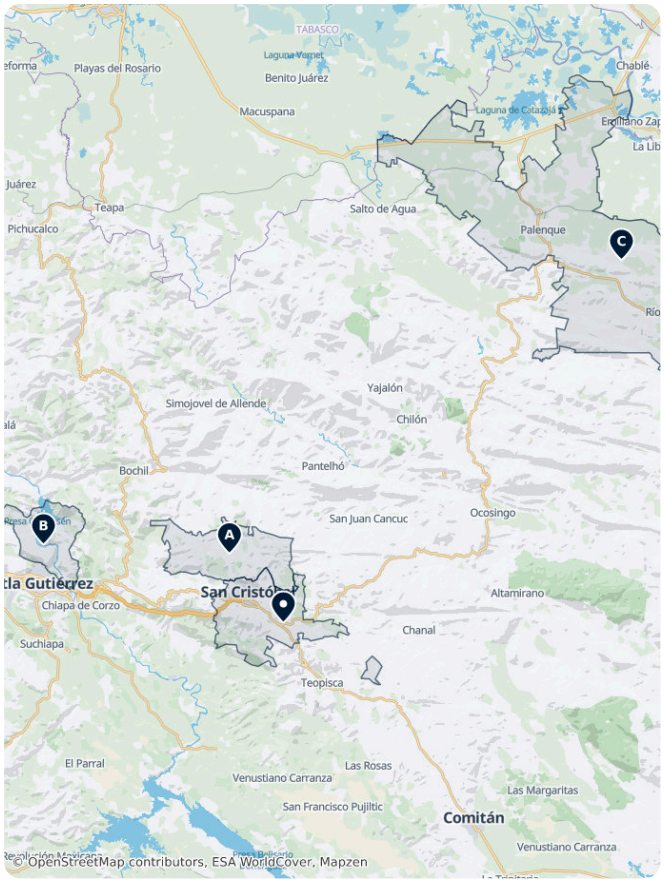
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Browse the craft markets for textiles, amber and pottery.
- Join a guided visit to a Tzotzil village.
- Try Chiapas coffee in a small cafe.
- Take a boat trip through Sumidero Canyon.

Day trips

- A San Juan Chamula: about 20 minutes by car. A highland village known for its unique church and ceremonies.
- B Sumidero Canyon: about 1.5 hours by car. A deep canyon with boat trips.
- C Palenque: about 5 hours by road. Maya ruins in the jungle, with waterfalls on the way.



Where to explore

- San Juan Chamula for Tzotzil Maya culture.
- Sumidero Canyon for a canyon boat trip.
- Palenque for Maya ruins.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest large airport is Tuxtla Gutiérrez (TGZ), about 1.5 hours by road. Shuttles and taxis run to San Cristóbal.
- **By bus**: Buses connect to Tuxtla, Palenque, Oaxaca and Mexico City. The main bus stations are on the south edge of the centre.
- **By road**: Mountain roads have many bends and speed bumps. Allow extra time.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is compact, with pedestrian streets and cobbles.
- **Taxi and colectivo**: Colectivo vans go to nearby villages from the market. Taxis are cheap in town.
- **Tours**: Guided trips to villages and Sumidero are easy to book in town.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The colonial centre is compact, with pedestrian streets. Streets are cobbled and slope gently.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Cobbled streets and the altitude make cycling tiring.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not needed in town. Useful for remote waterfalls, but tours and colectivos are easier.
- **Roads**: Mountain roads are winding, with fog and speed bumps. Avoid driving at night.
- **Parking**: Parking is limited in the centre. Use paid lots.

Food & drink

Chiapas food includes tamales, pozol (a drink of maize and cacao), sopa de pan and cochito (roast pork). The state is known for coffee and for chocolate. Many cafes and small restaurants line the pedestrian streets. Markets sell cheap local meals.

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.

San Cristobal de las Casas – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

Safety & health

The centre is generally safe by day. Take usual care with bags and phones at night. Check local news before travelling by road in Chiapas.

- The town is at 2,200 m. Take it easy on the first day.
- Nights are cold. Bring warm clothes.
- Ask before taking photos of people and inside churches. In Chamula, photography in the church is forbidden.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

The Spanish founded the town in 1528. It was the colonial capital of Chiapas until the 1890s. In 1994 it was the centre of the Zapatista uprising, which drew attention to Indigenous rights in the region.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



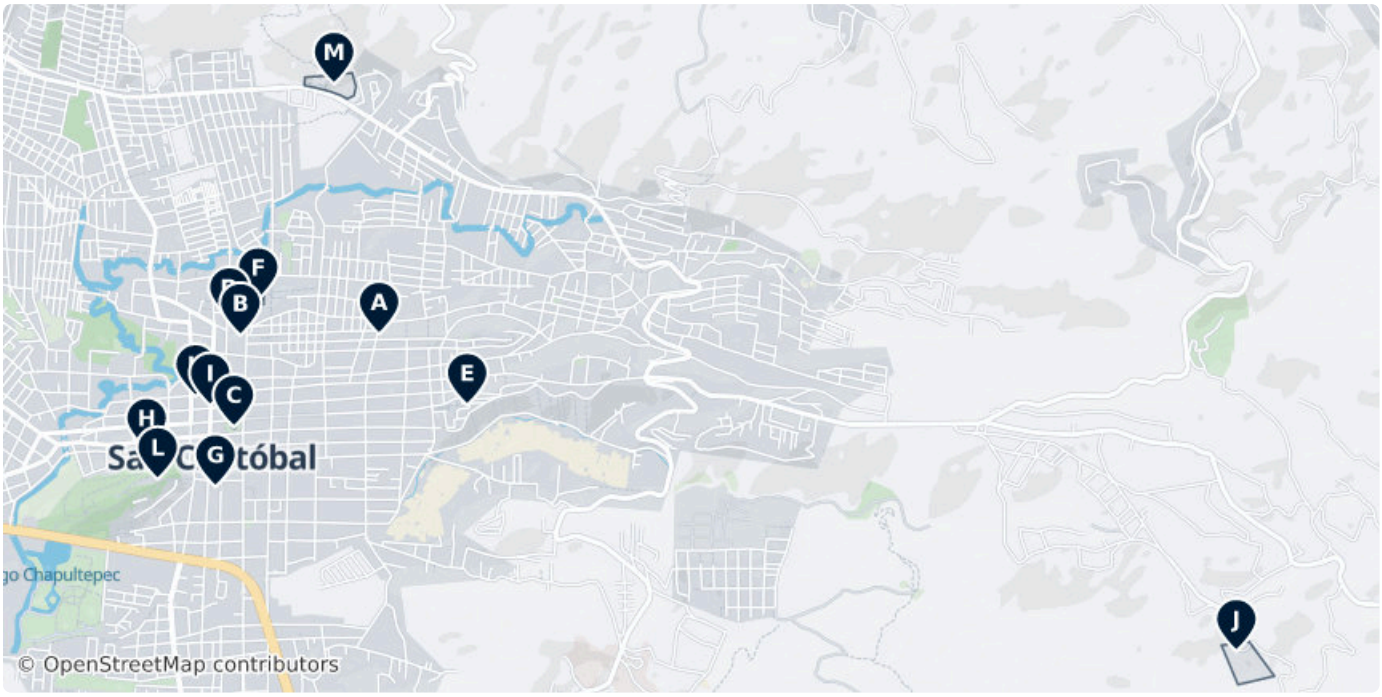
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

San Cristóbal de las Casas Essentials

San Cristóbal de las Casas serves as the cultural heart of Chiapas, characterized by 17th-century Spanish colonial architecture and deep-rooted Maya traditions. This selection includes the yellow-facaded Cathedral and the ornate baroque Santo Domingo Church. Cultural institutions like Na Bolom and the Textile Museum Mundo Maya preserve regional history, while specialized museums showcase Chiapan amber and jade. Beyond the historic center, the list features the natural limestone arch of El Arcotete and the botanical collections at Orquídeas Moxviquil.





A House of the Jaguar

Casa Na Bolom is located in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.

Vicente Guerrero 33, 29220 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.74169, -92.62994)

Mo–Su 09:00–19:00

nabolom.org, +52 967 678 1418



B Saint Domingo Church

The beautiful 17th-century church is a natural dominant of the charming colonial center. What a beautiful monument!

41 Avenida General Utrilla, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29220, Mexico (16.74162, -92.63723)



C Cathedral of San Cristobal

The colorful Baroque facade of this church stands out from its surroundings. It survived many earthquakes and still retains its splendor.

13B Calle 5 de Febrero, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29200, Mexico (16.73701, -92.63757)

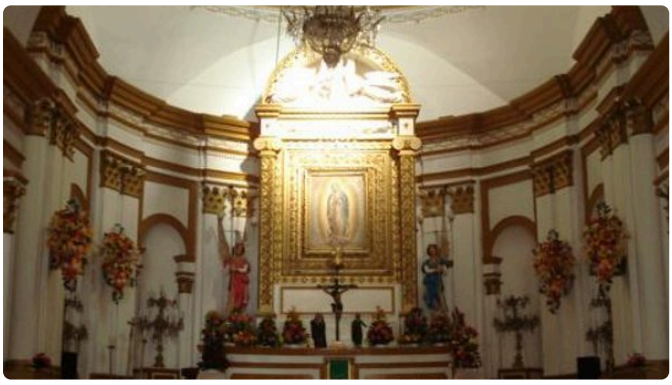


D Textile Museum Mundo Maya

The top floor of the convent is occupied by this amazing museum dedicated to traditional local textile techniques.

Av. 20 de Noviembre s/n, 29216 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.74242, -92.63781)

fomentoculturalbanamex.org/ctmm/, +52 967 631 3094



E Iglesia de Guadalupe

Located atop a hill at the end of Real de Guadalupe street, this 19th-century church is reached via a long stone staircase. It offers panoramic views across the city's rooftops and surrounding mountains.

1A Calle Cumbre de Guadalupe, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mexico (16.73811, -92.62531)



F Municipal Market

Busy, colorful, noisy - all this and much more characterizes this municipal market with various foodstuffs as well as practical goods on...

1 Avenida Belisario Domínguez, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mexico (16.74342, -92.63630)



G Carmen Temple

This 17th-century structure clearly stands out from its surroundings thanks to its faithful adaptation of the Mudejar style.

3A Avenida Miguel Hidalgo, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29250, Mexico (16.73400, -92.63854)



H Amber Museum

Beautiful museum carefully documenting the local tradition of amber mining and crafting: there are some really amazing pieces on display!

35 Calle Isauro Rossete, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29250, Mexico (16.73584, -92.64216)

museodelambardechiapas.org.mx, +52 967 67 89716



I Jade Museum

If admiring replicas is enough for you, then a visit to this museum can definitely be recommended.

16 de Septiembre 16, 29200 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.73810, -92.63882)

Mo–Sa	09:00–20:00
Su	09:30–17:00

+52 967 678 2557

J El Arcotete

A beautiful natural recreational park with a rock archway as its main draw. Come here for a pleasant walk.

(Unnamed Road), Mexico (16.72572, -92.58487)

K Kakaw Museo del Cacao y Chocolateria Cultural

This museum explores the history and cultural significance of cacao in Mesoamerica. Exhibits detail traditional processing methods and the role of chocolate in indigenous rituals, with an on-site shop selling regional artisanal bars.

(16.73855, -92.63958)

M Orquídeas Moxviquil

This botanical garden is a real stunner - it preserves beautiful orchids that originate in Chiapas. A must do!

Periférico Norte 4, 29216 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.75427, -92.63231)

orchidsmexico.com, +52 967 678 5727

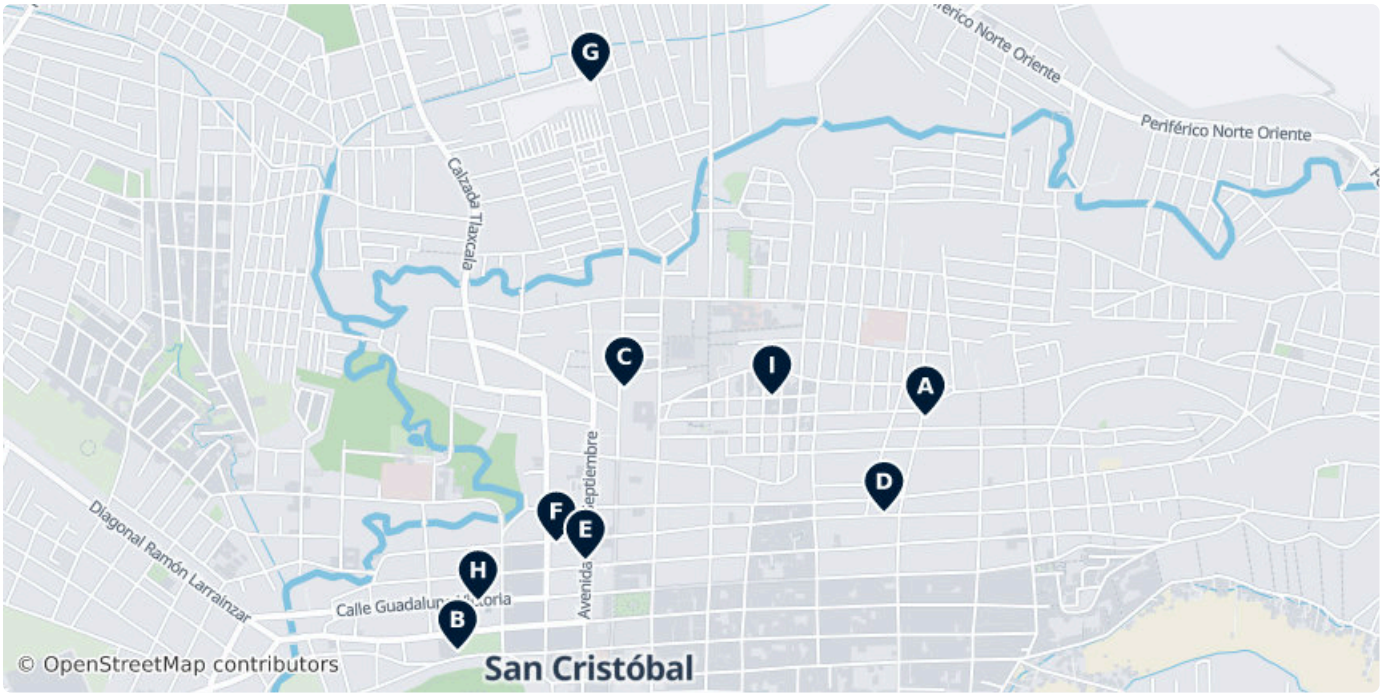
L Scenic lookout Viewpoint

Situated on the hill of San Cristóbal, this viewpoint provides an elevated perspective of the valley and the city's red-tiled roofs. It is accessible via a steep stone staircase leading up to the church of San Cristobalito.

(16.73437, -92.64158)

Museums & Art Galleries

San Cristóbal de las Casas hosts a diverse range of specialized museums documenting the cultural and artisanal heritage of Chiapas. Highlights include the Centro de Textiles del Mundo Maya, featuring intricate indigenous weaving, and the Museo del Ambar, dedicated to local amber mining and carving. Na Bolom preserves the history of the Lacandon Maya, while the Mayan Medicine Museum explores traditional healing rituals. Other venues showcase jade replicas, contemporary Mexican art, and the historical significance of cacao in Mesoamerican culture.





A House of the Jaguar

Casa Na Bolom is located in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.

Vicente Guerrero 33, 29220 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.74169, -92.62994)

Mo–Su 09:00–19:00

nabolom.org, +52 967 678 1418



B Amber Museum

Beautiful museum carefully documenting the local tradition of amber mining and crafting: there are some really amazing pieces on display!

35 Calle Isauro Rossete, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29250, Mexico (16.73584, -92.64216)

museodelambardechiapas.org.mx, +52 967 67 89716



C Textile Museum Mundo Maya

The top floor of the convent is occupied by this amazing museum dedicated to traditional local textile techniques.

Av. 20 de Noviembre s/n, 29216 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.74242, -92.63781)

fomentoculturalbanamex.org/ctmm/, +52 967 631 3094



D Taller Leñateros

Unique art collective working with and evolving various traditional art techniques - come here for an exhibition or other event!

Flavio A. Paniagua 54, 29230 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.73930, -92.63102)

tallerlenateros.com, +52 967 678 5174



E Jade Museum

If admiring replicas is enough for you, then a visit to this museum can definitely be recommended.

16 de Septiembre 16, 29200 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.73810, -92.63882)

Mo–Sa	09:00–20:00
Su	09:30–17:00

+52 967 678 2557

F Kakaw Museo del Cacao y Chocolateria Cultural

This museum explores the cultural and historical significance of cacao in Mesoamerica. Exhibits detail traditional preparation methods, the evolution of chocolate production, and its ritualistic importance to the Maya people.

(16.73855, -92.63958)

G Mayan Medicine Museum

Embark on an exciting learning journey - the world of Mayan healing and beliefs is awaiting you here.

Salomón González Blanco 10, 29215 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.75003, -92.63869)

Mo–Fr 09:00–17:00

I Studio Cerrillo Gallery

Truly non-conventional art gallery showcasing the best of contemporary Mexican art - from realism to conceptual works.

Tonalá 19, 29220 San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.74221, -92.63395)

studiocerrillo.com, +52 967 678 5727

H Museum of Textiles

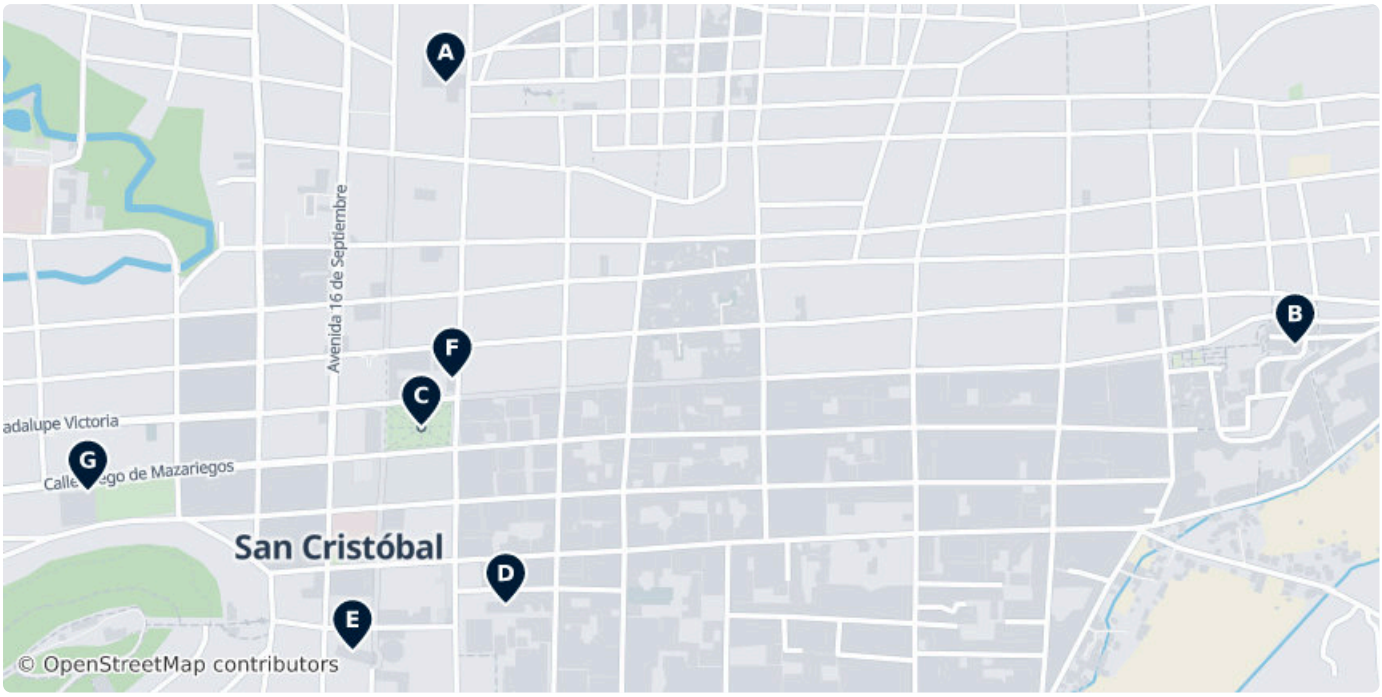
Museo de Trajes Regionales is located in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.

Guadalupe Victoria 38, 29240 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.73708, -92.64163)

yokchij.org/the-collection.html, +52 967 678 4289

Historic Churches

San Cristóbal de las Casas is home to a collection of colonial religious structures dating back to the 16th century. This list highlights the city's architectural evolution, from the 1537 construction of La Merced Monastery to the ornate 17th-century Baroque facade of the Templo de Santo Domingo. Notable features include the unique Mudejar-style tower of the Carmen Temple and the original 17th-century state of the San Nicolás Temple, located behind the central cathedral. These sites represent the Franciscan and Dominican heritage that shaped the city's historic center.

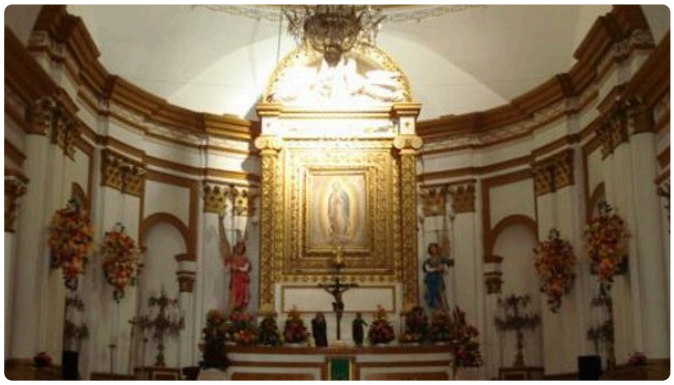




A Saint Domingo Church

The beautiful 17th-century church is a natural dominant of the charming colonial center. What a beautiful monument!

41 Avenida General Utrilla, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29220, Mexico (16.74162, -92.63723)



B Iglesia de Guadalupe

Built in 1834, this church sits atop a hill at the end of Real de Guadalupe street. It is reached by a long flight of stairs and offers panoramic views of the city and surrounding mountains.

1A Calle Cumbre de Guadalupe, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mexico (16.73811, -92.62531)



C Cathedral of San Cristobal

The colorful Baroque facade of this church stands out from its surroundings. It survived many earthquakes and still retains its splendor.

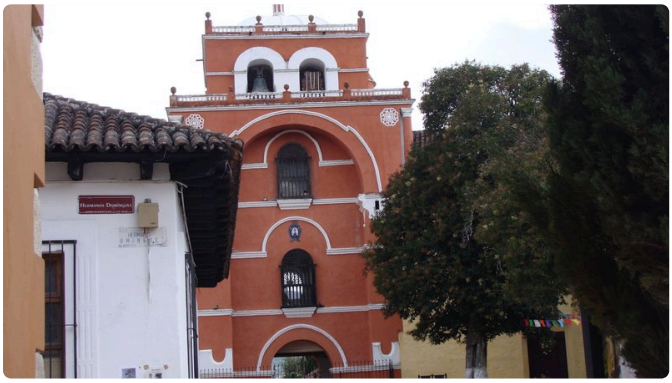
13B Calle 5 de Febrero, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29200, Mexico (16.73701, -92.63757)



D San Francisco Church

This church is all that's left from a monastery built by the Franciscans in the 16th century. A hidden gem with beautiful interior.

2 Calle Pedro Moreno, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29200, Mexico (16.73462, -92.63639)



E Carmen Temple

This 17th-century structure clearly stands out from its surroundings thanks to its faithful adaptation of the Mudejar style.

3A Avenida Miguel Hidalgo, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29250, Mexico (16.73400, -92.63854)



F San Nicolás Temple

What a peculiar church! Built at the back of the cathedral in the 17th century, it still remains in its original state which is quite rare.

12 Calle Real de Guadalupe, San Cristóbal de las Casas 29200, Mexico (16.73765, -92.63714)



La Merced Monastery

Being one of the first sacral buildings in the city, this monastery was built in 1537. It still retains its simple but striking beauty.

Diego de Mazariegos 48, 29240 San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico (16.73614, -92.64225)

+52 967 678 1035

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- House of the Jaguar — "Gravure sur pierre représentant un jaguar. La photo a été prise à San Cristobal..." by Jami Dwyer, CC BY-SA 2.0
- Saint Domingo Church — "Templo y Antiguo Convento de Santo Domingo" by GameOfLight, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Cathedral of San Cristobal — "San Cristobal de las Casas Cathedral" by Daniel Armesto, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Textile Museum Mundo Maya — "Traditional fiesta huipil from the village of Tenejapa, woven by Petrona Pérez..." by StellarD, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Iglesia de Guadalupe — "Interior de la iglesia de guadalupe en san cristobal" by Talegafrita, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Municipal Market — "San Cristobal de las Casas. Municipal Market" by Wolfgang Sauber, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Carmen Temple — "Una vista de la torre del carmen en san cristobal de las casas" by Leogeograph, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Amber Museum — "Sign Tower at the La Merced monastery/Museum of Amber in San Cristobal de las..." by AlejandroLinaresGarcia, GFDL
- Jade Museum — "View of the entrace to the Museo Mesoamericano de Jade in San Cristobal de las..." by AlejandroLinaresGarcia, GFDL
- House of the Jaguar — "Gravure sur pierre représentant un jaguar. La photo a été prise à San Cristobal..." by Jami Dwyer, CC BY-SA 2.0
- Amber Museum — "Sign Tower at the La Merced monastery/Museum of Amber in San Cristobal de las..." by AlejandroLinaresGarcia, GFDL
- Textile Museum Mundo Maya — "Traditional fiesta huipil from the village of Tenejapa, woven by Petrona Pérez..." by StellarD, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Taller Leñateros — "Taller Leñateros at San Cristóbal de las Casas" by beatricecoron.com, CC BY 3.0
- Jade Museum — "View of the entrace to the Museo Mesoamericano de Jade in San Cristobal de las..." by AlejandroLinaresGarcia, GFDL
- Saint Domingo Church — "Templo y Antiguo Convento de Santo Domingo" by GameOfLight, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Iglesia de Guadalupe — "Interior de la iglesia de guadalupe en san cristobal" by Talegafrita, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Cathedral of San Cristobal — "San Cristobal de las Casas Cathedral" by Daniel Armesto, CC BY-SA 3.0
- San Francisco Church — "Interior de la iglesia de san francisco en san cristobal de las casas" by Leogeograph, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Carmen Temple — "Una vista de la torre del carmen en san cristobal de las casas" by Leogeograph, CC BY-SA 3.0
- San Nicolás Temple — "San Nicolás Temple on the side of the San Cristóbal cathedral in San Cristobal..." by AlejandroLinaresGarcia, GFDL
- La Merced Monastery — "El templo de La Merced al anochecer" by Jorge Correa Sandoval, CC BY-SA 3.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 23, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.