

San Miguel de Allende Municipality

Guanajuato · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

San Miguel de Allende is a small colonial city in the Bajío highlands. It has cobbled streets, pink-stone churches, courtyard hotels and many galleries. Artists and retirees from other countries have settled here for decades, so English is widely spoken.

It suits a relaxed stay of two to four days for walking, shopping, food and events. The historic centre and nearby Atotonilco sanctuary are World Heritage sites.

When to visit

The city is at about 1,900 m. Spring and autumn are the most pleasant. Days are warm and dry from October to May, and nights are cool.

Plan around the Fiestas of San Miguel in late September, with parades and fireworks. Holy Week in March or April and the Day of the Dead in early November are also busy and colourful.

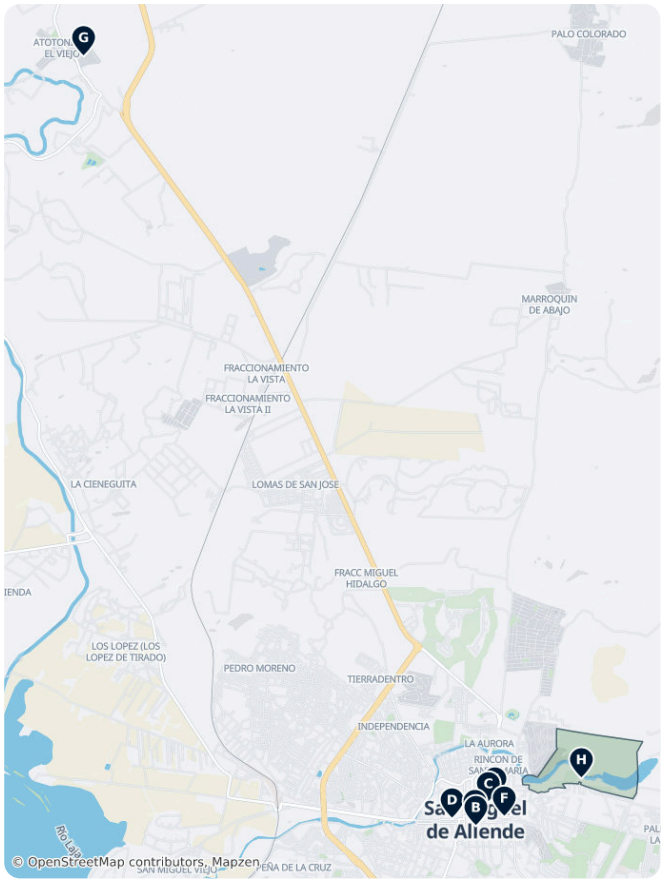
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26° Feels like 19°	6° / 2°	23 sunny days · Dry air
February	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 29° Feels like 21°	8° / 3°	24 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high)
March	Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 32° Feels like 24°	9° / 5°	27 sunny days · Dry air · UV 12 (Extreme)
April	Great Great for sightseeing	30° / 34° Feels like 27°	12° / 8°	25 sunny days · Dry air · UV 13 (Extreme)
May	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 36°	14° / 11°	21 sunny days · Dry air · UV 12 (Extreme)
June	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 34°	15° / 12°	16 rainy days · UV 11 (Extreme)
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	27° / 30°	14° / 12°	21 rainy days · UV 11 (Extreme)
August	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 30°	14° / 12°	18 rainy days · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 29°	13° / 10°	16 rainy days · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 29°	11° / 6°	Dry air · UV 9 (Very high)
November	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 28°	9° / 3°	23 sunny days · Dry air · UV 8 (Very high)
December	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26° Feels like 19°	7° / 2°	24 sunny days · Dry air

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

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

Top sights

- A Constitution Square is the main square, with benches, trees and evening crowds.
- B Parroquia San Miguel Arcángel is the pink neo-Gothic church on the main square and the city's best-known landmark.
- C Oratorio de San Felipe Neri is a baroque church with a quiet interior, a short walk from the square.
- D Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción is a church with a large dome, known as Las Monjas.
- E Mercado de Artesanías sells crafts, ceramics, tin work and textiles.
- F Museo la Esquina is a small museum of folk art and craft.
- G Santuario de Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco is a pilgrimage sanctuary with painted interiors, about 15 km north of the town.
- H El Charco del Ingenio Botanical Garden is a botanical garden and nature reserve with trails and a canyon.



San Miguel de Allende Municipality – 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

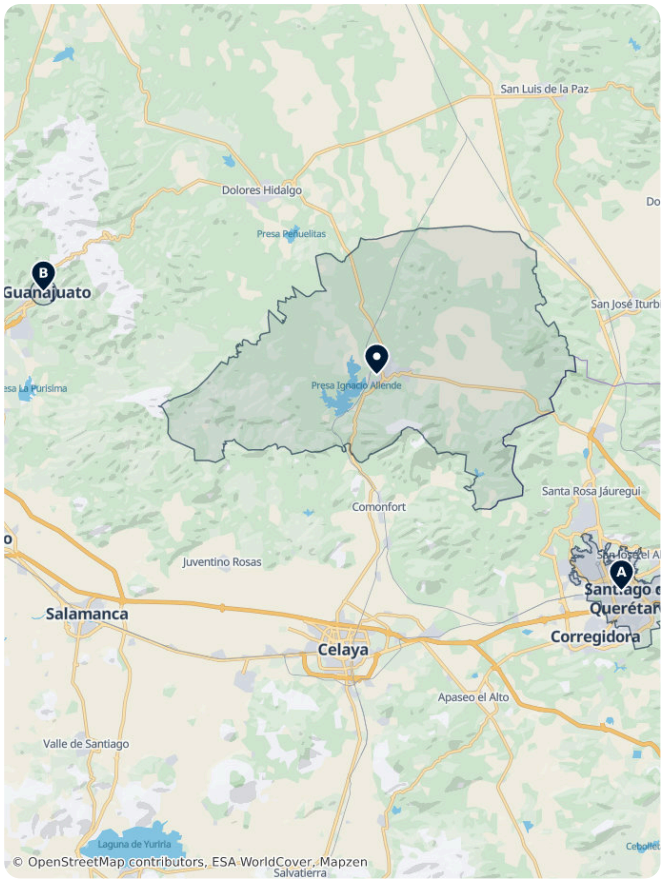
Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Watch the evening crowd on the main square, when families, musicians and vendors gather.
- Soak in a thermal spring pool outside town, about 20 minutes away.
- Visit a rooftop bar at sunset for views of the church towers.
- Take a craft or painting class from a local artist.
- Join the local festival or procession if one falls during your visit.

Day trips

- Dolores Hidalgo: about 45 minutes by car. Known for painted ceramics and the place where the independence movement began.
- A Santiago de Querétaro: about 1 hour by car or bus. A historic city with an aqueduct and a pleasant centre.
- B Guanajuato: about 1.5 hours by bus. A hillside silver city with tunnels and alleys.



Where to explore

- Guanajuato for a steep, student-filled colonial city.
- Santiago de Querétaro for a larger historic city on the route to Mexico City.

Getting there

- **By air**: Most visitors fly to Querétaro (QRO), about 1 hour 15 minutes away, or to Del Bajío (BJX) near León, about 1.5 hours away. Shuttles run to the town. Mexico City airport is a longer transfer.
- **By bus**: Coaches link San Miguel with Mexico City (about 3.5 to 4 hours), Querétaro, Guanajuato and León. The bus station is on the edge of town, a short taxi ride from the centre.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is small and compact, but streets are cobbled and uneven. Wear flat shoes.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are cheap for rides outside the centre. Agree the fare first.
- **Car or tour**: A car or tour helps for Atotonilco and hot springs outside town.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The historic centre is compact and walkable, but cobbled streets are uneven.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Hills and cobbles make cycling hard.

Food & drink

The food scene mixes Mexican dishes with international cooking. Many restaurants use courtyards and rooftops. Try local cheese, handmade tortillas, mole and craft mezcal.

The streets around the main square have many restaurants. The Mercado de Artesanías and nearby stalls are good for cheap tacos. Book ahead at popular places on weekends.

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 Miguel de Allende Municipality – 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

San Miguel de Allende is a safe, tourist-friendly town. Take usual care with bags in crowds.

- The town is at 1,900 m. Use sunscreen and drink water.
- Cobbled streets are uneven. Watch your step at night.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

Spanish settlers founded San Miguel in the 16th century. Its wealth came from silver and from trade on the road to the mines.

Ignacio Allende, a leader of the 1810 independence movement, was born here, and the town carries his name. In the 20th century, art schools drew foreign artists, who shaped the town's present character.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



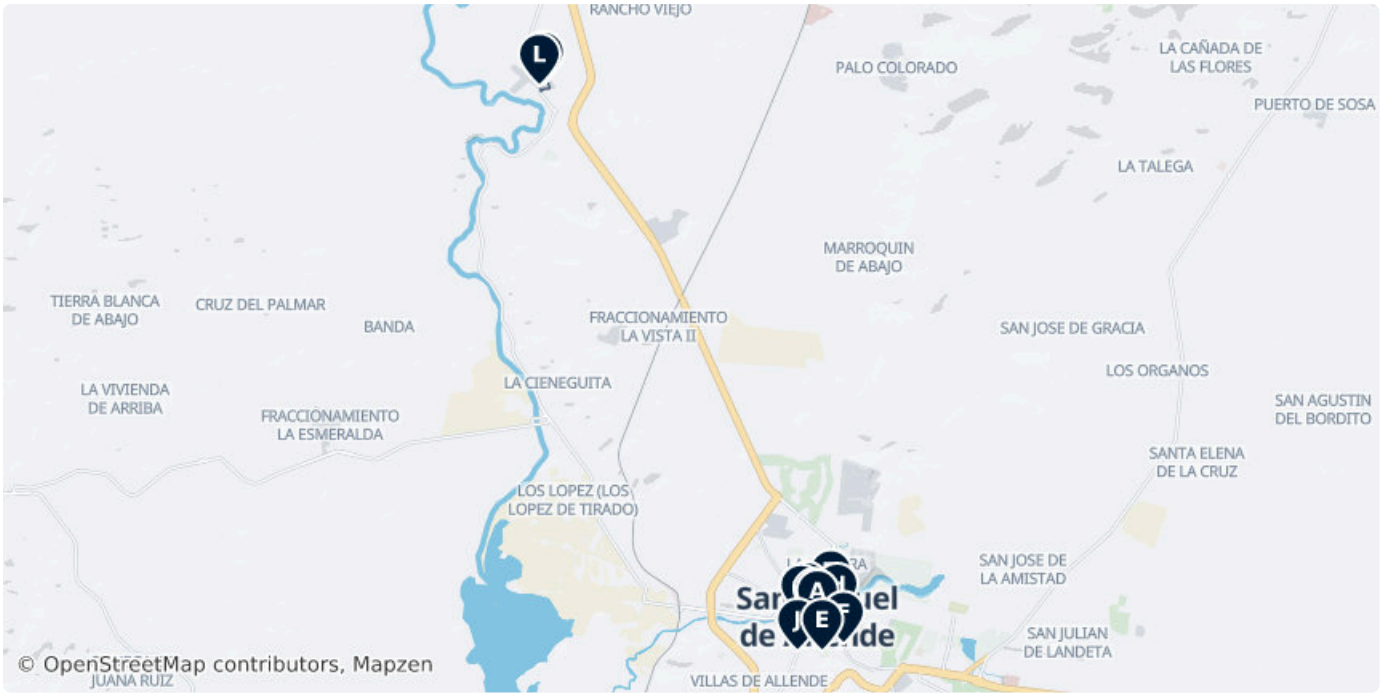
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

San Miguel de Allende: Essential Highlights

San Miguel de Allende is a UNESCO World Heritage site defined by its 17th and 18th-century Spanish colonial architecture. This collection features the iconic pink-sandstone Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel and the "Sistine Chapel of Mexico" at the Sanctuary of Atotonilco. The list also includes the birthplace of independence hero Ignacio Allende, the 18th-century Church of the Immaculate Conception, and significant art centers like El Nigromante. For local culture and panoramas, explore the traditional craft market, Benito Juárez Park, and the city's primary Mirador viewpoint.





A St. Michael the Archangel Church

The neo-Gothic gem adorns the city - and stands out from the distance. Distinctly beautiful, with many details to behold.

6 Calle Cuna de Allende, San Miguel de Allende 37700, Mexico (20.91357, -100.74373)



B Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco

The Sanctuary of Atotonilco is a church complex and part of a World Heritage Site, designated along with nearby San Miguel de Allende,...

Santuario de Atotonilco 37893, Mexico (21.00470, -100.79339)

C Protective town of San Miguel and the Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco

UNESCO World Heritage designation encompassing the historic urban center and the nearby Jesuit sanctuary. The site highlights 18th-century Mexican Baroque architecture and the cultural exchange between Spanish and Amerindian traditions.

(21.00470, -100.79339)



D Craft Market

Whether you want to shop or not, do visit this charming market. Busy with activity and so many great artworks and crafted stuff to see.

1173 Calle Lucas Balderas, San Miguel de Allende 37700, Mexico (20.91695, -100.74131)

E Benito Juarez Park

Enjoy the tourist-less everydayness of the urban life here in this park: pleasant shady area full of people.

San Miguel de Allende 37700, Mexico (20.90865, -100.74286)

F Mirador

Elevated lookout point providing panoramic views across the city's historic center, the spires of the Parroquia, and the surrounding mountains.

(20.90993, -100.73899)

G Church of the Immaculate Conception

Dating back to the 18th century, this convent chapel is off the beaten path despite its central location. Do not miss out on it, though.

25 Calle Conde de la Canal, San Miguel de Allende 37700, Mexico (20.91447, -100.74675)



H La Esquina Mexican Toy Museum

A playful museum dedicated to the history of childhood in Mexico. Wide collection of toys and way more than that.

Calle Núñez 40, San Miguel de Allende (20.91469, -100.74014)

Tu–Sa	10:00–18:00
Su	11:00–16:00

museolaesquina.org.mx, +52 415 152 2602

I El Nigromante Ignacio Ramirez Cultural Center

The art school is well worth art connoisseurs' attention: there are several exhibition halls dedicated to different media.

Calle del Doctor Ignacio Hernández Macías 75
(20.91493, -100.74561)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

elnigromante.bellasartes.gob.mx, +52 415 152 0289



J Allende Institute

Interesting art center that offers intriguing exhibitions and a great view of the city - apart from running long-term art classes and...

Ancha de San Antonio 22, Ruta Centro, 37750 San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico (20.90870, -100.74731)

instituto-allende.edu.mx, +52 415 152 0190

K Ignacio Allende House

Visit the house where one of the important figures of Mexican fight for freedom was born. Bilingual, with lots of interesting information.

Calle Cuna de Allende 1, 37700 San Miguel de Allende, MX
(20.91381, -100.74425)

Tu–Su 09:00–17:00

inah.gob.mx/museos/historico-casa-d... , +52 415 152 2499



L Atotonilco

The Sanctuary of Atotonilco is a church complex and part of a World Heritage Site, designated along with nearby San Miguel de Allende,...

(Unnamed Road), Santuario de Atotonilco 37893, Mexico
(21.00432, -100.79414)

Museums and Cultural Centers

San Miguel de Allende's cultural landscape includes the Museo Casa de Allende, the 18th-century birthplace of the Mexican independence hero, and the art galleries of the Allende Institute and El Nigromante Cultural Center. La Esquina Mexican Toy Museum displays a vast collection of traditional handmade playthings from across the country. Specialized venues like the Prehispanic Astronomy Museum focus on ancient celestial observations, while the Museo de Sitio at San Juan de Dios preserves local funerary history and architectural heritage.





A La Esquina Mexican Toy Museum

A playful museum dedicated to the history of childhood in Mexico. Wide collection of toys and way more than that.

Calle Núñez 40, San Miguel de Allende
(20.91469, -100.74014)

Tu–Sa	10:00–18:00
Su	11:00–16:00

museolaesquina.org.mx, +52 415 152 2602

B El Nigromante Ignacio Ramirez Cultural Center

The art school is well worth art connoisseurs' attention: there are several exhibition halls dedicated to different media.

Calle del Doctor Ignacio Hernández Macías 75
(20.91493, -100.74561)

Tu–Su	10:00–18:00

elnigromante.bellasartes.gob.mx, +52 415 152 0289



C Allende Institute

Interesting art center that offers intriguing exhibitions and a great view of the city - apart from running long-term art classes and...

Ancha de San Antonio 22, Ruta Centro, 37750 San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico (20.90870, -100.74731)

instituto-allende.edu.mx, +52 415 152 0190

D Ignacio Allende House

Visit the house where one of the important figures of Mexican fight for freedom was born. Bilingual, with lots of interesting information.

Calle Cuna de Allende 1, 37700 San Miguel de Allende, MX (20.91381, -100.74425)

Tu–Su 09:00–17:00

inah.gob.mx/museos/historico-casa-d... , +52 415 152 2499

E Prehispanic Astronomy Museum

Situated near the Cañada de la Virgen archaeological zone, this museum features exhibits on ancient Mesoamerican astronomical alignments and celestial observations.

Calle Principal #10, Augustin Gonzalez, Guanajuato Mexico (20.85841, -100.85096)

Mo–Su 12:00–18:00

+524151030003

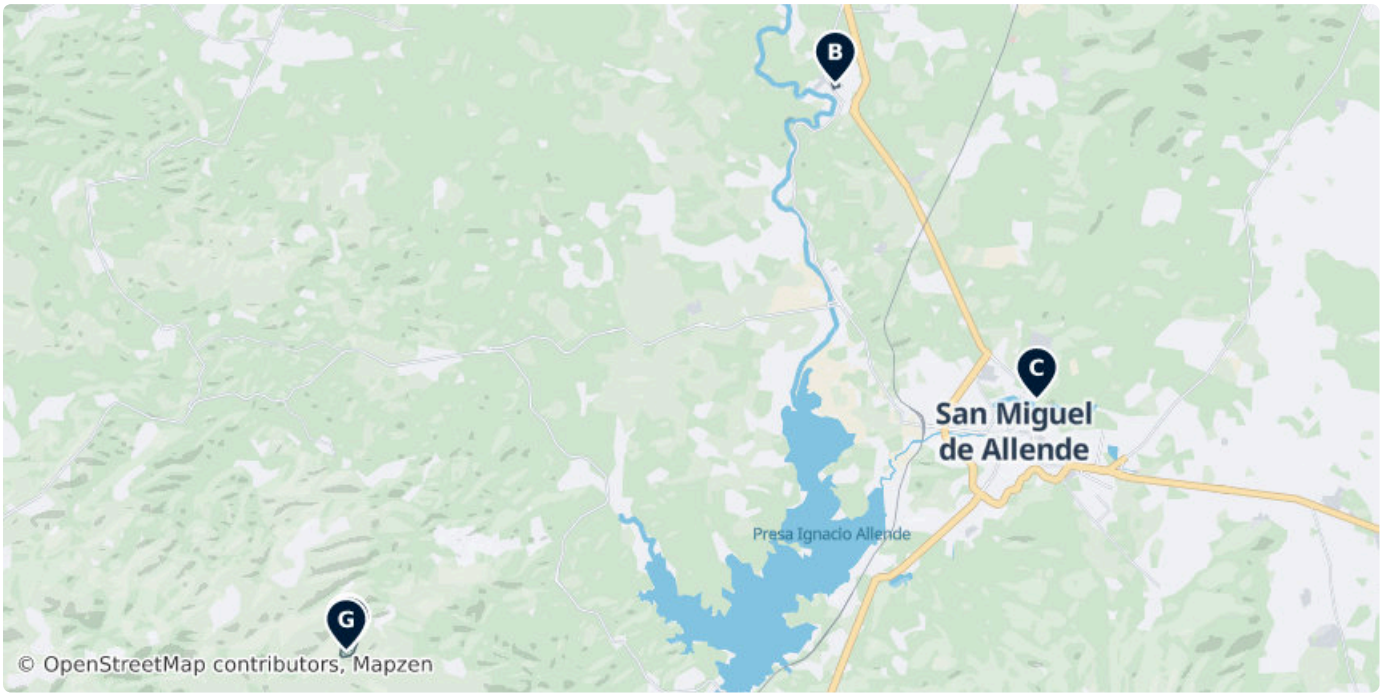
F Museo de sitio

Located within the San Juan de Dios cemetery, this site museum explores local funerary traditions and the history of the city's oldest burial ground.

(20.92095, -100.73888)

Historic Sites & Heritage

This collection highlights the cultural landscape of San Miguel de Allende, a region defined by colonial architecture and pre-Hispanic roots. It features the UNESCO World Heritage town center and the Sanctuary of Atotonilco, famous for its 18th-century murals. The list also includes the Cañada de la Virgen archaeological site, an Otomi ceremonial center where structures like the House of the Thirteen Heavens and the House of the Wind were built to align with celestial movements and seasonal solstices.





A Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco

The Sanctuary of Atotonilco is a church complex and part of a World Heritage Site, designated along with nearby San Miguel de Allende,...

Santuario de Atotonilco 37893, Mexico
(21.00470, -100.79339)

B Protective town of San Miguel and the Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco

A UNESCO World Heritage site comprising the 16th-century colonial town and the 18th-century Sanctuary of Atotonilco. The designation recognizes the integration of European and Latin American architectural styles and the preservation of New Spain's cultural heritage.

(21.00470, -100.79339)

C Antiguo Acueducto

A historic stone aqueduct that once channeled water from the El Chorro spring to the town's residents and public fountains.

(20.92289, -100.73745)



D Canada de la Virgen

Cañada de la Virgen is an Otomi archaeological site in Mexico. Located in the state of Guanajuato, the site was first excavated in 1995,...

Mexico (20.85831, -100.92834)

canadadelavirgen.com, +52 415 154 8771

E Zona Arqueológica Cañada de la Virgen

An Otomi archaeological site occupied between 540 and 1050 AD. It served as a sophisticated ceremonial center and celestial observatory, featuring pyramids and plazas designed to track astronomical events.

Mexico (20.85836, -100.92858)

F Casa del Viento

Also known as Complex B, this circular structure within Cañada de la Virgen was used for astronomical observation and is believed to be associated with the wind.

Mexico (20.85892, -100.92881)

G Casa de la Noche más Larga

Part of the Cañada de la Virgen archaeological complex, this structure is named for its specific alignment with the winter solstice.

Mexico (20.85764, -100.92918)

DATA SOURCES

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

IMAGE CREDITS

- St. Michael the Archangel Church — "Foto de la fachada de la parroquia san miguel arcangel en San Miguel de Allende" by Luis Enrique Moreno, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco — "Image of painted dome of Atotonilco" by Jlrsousa, CC-BY-SA-3.0
- Craft Market — "Crafts market in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico" by AlejandroLinaresGarcia, GFDL
- La Esquina Mexican Toy Museum — "Quito, Ecuador, 06 dic (ANDES).- En el Museo de Arte Colonial ubicado en las..." by Agencia de Noticias ANDES, CC BY-SA 2.0
- Allende Institute — "Instituto Allende." by Sanmiguelito, GFDL
- Atotonilco — "Santuario Atotonilco", CC BY-SA 2.0
- La Esquina Mexican Toy Museum — "Quito, Ecuador, 06 dic (ANDES).- En el Museo de Arte Colonial ubicado en las..." by Agencia de Noticias ANDES, CC BY-SA 2.0
- Allende Institute — "Instituto Allende." by Sanmiguelito, GFDL
- Sanctuary of Jesús Nazareno de Atotonilco — "Image of painted dome of Atotonilco" by Jlrsousa, CC-BY-SA-3.0
- Canada de la Virgen — "San miguel de allende, guanajuato, méxico" by Roseknopp, 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.