

Santiago de Querétaro

Querétaro · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Querétaro is a large, prosperous colonial city in central Mexico, with a historic centre on the World Heritage List. It has pedestrian streets, baroque churches, shaded plazas and a giant 18th-century aqueduct. The city is cleaner and calmer than many cities of its size.

It suits one to two nights, or a day trip from Mexico City. It also works as a base for San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Bernal and the Sierra Gorda.

When to visit

The climate is mild and dry for most of the year. November to March has warm days and cool nights. May to September is the rainy season, with afternoon storms. The city is at about 1,800 m.

The Independence Day celebrations on 15 and 16 September are lively, because Querétaro played a key role in the independence movement.

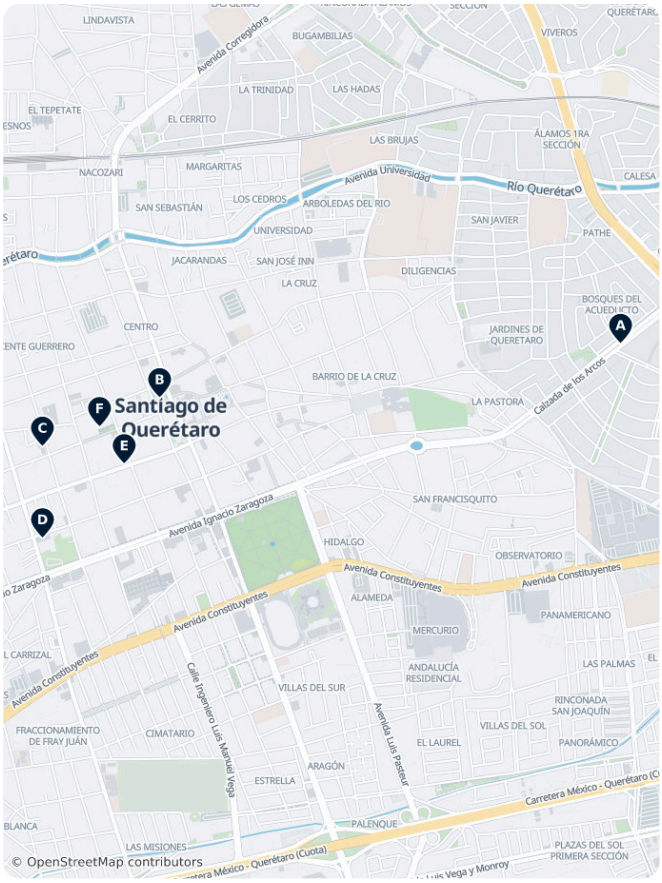
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 27° Feels like 21°	8° / 3°	23 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 31° Feels like 23°	9° / 5°	24 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
March	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 33° Feels like 26°	11° / 7°	27 sunny days · Dry air · UV 12 (Extreme)
April	Great Great for sightseeing	32° / 35° Feels like 29°	13° / 10°	25 sunny days · Dry air · UV 13 (Extreme)
May	Good Good for sightseeing	32° / 36°	15° / 12°	21 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 12 (Extreme)
June	Fair Fair for sightseeing	30° / 35°	15° / 13°	18 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	27° / 31°	15° / 13°	24 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	27° / 30°	14° / 12°	22 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 30°	14° / 11°	18 rainy days · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 30°	12° / 7°	Dry air · UV 9 (Very high)
November	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 29°	10° / 5°	23 sunny days · Dry air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
December	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 27°	9° / 4°	24 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 Acueducto de Querétaro is a 74-arch aqueduct from the 18th century, a symbol of the city.
- B Zenea Garden is the main garden of the historic centre, with a bandstand and cafes.
- C Catedral de Querétaro is the cathedral with a baroque front and towers.
- D Santa Rosa de Viterbo is a baroque church with a gilded interior, a masterpiece of the 18th century.
- E San Agustín is a church and former convent with a carved baroque courtyard.
- F Templo de Santa Clara is a convent church with a richly decorated interior.
- Casa de la Corregidora is the former town hall, linked to the independence story.



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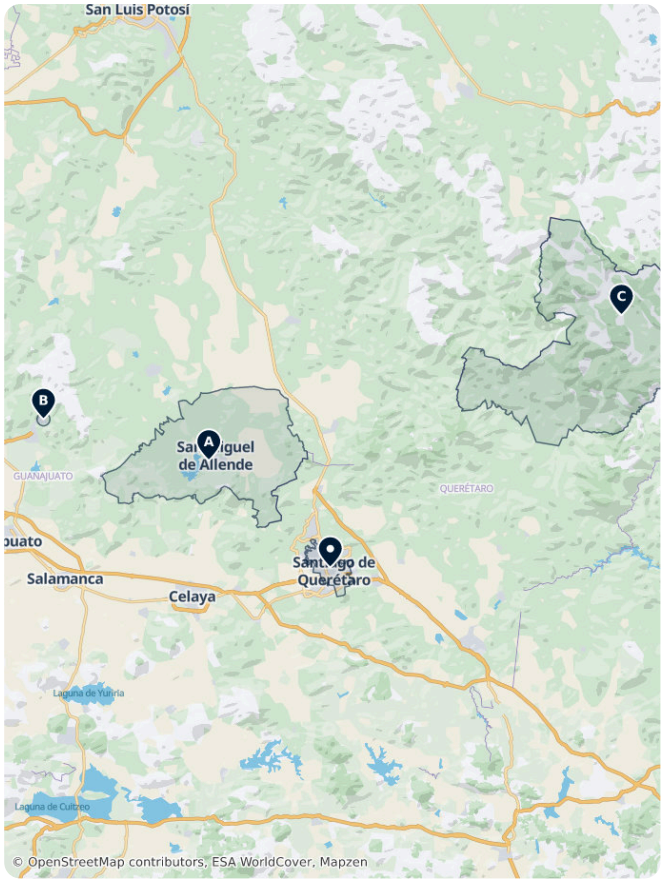
What to experience

- Walk the pedestrian streets and plazas in the evening.
- Visit the aqueduct, then walk along its arches.
- Taste local wine and cheese on a day trip to Bernal.
- Climb to the viewpoint of a church tower in the centre.

Day trips

- A San Miguel de Allende: about 1 hour by car. A colonial town with a pink church and many galleries.
- B Guanajuato: about 1.5 hours by car. A colourful university city with tunnels and alleys.
- C Reserva de la Biósfera Sierra Gorda: about 3 hours by car. A mountain reserve with old missions.
- Bernal: about 1 hour by car. A village below a giant rock, popular for cheese and wine.



Where to explore

- San Miguel de Allende for a colonial town with many artists.
- Guanajuato for a colourful historic city.
- Reserva de la Biósfera Sierra Gorda for mountains and missions.

Getting there

- **By air**: Querétaro Intercontinental Airport (QRO) has flights from Mexico City, the US and other cities in Mexico. Taxis and shuttles run to the centre.
- **By bus**: The main bus station (TAQ) is east of the centre, with frequent coaches to Mexico City (about 3 hours), San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato and Guadalajara.
- **By road**: The toll highway from Mexico City is fast and in good condition.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The historic centre is flat, compact and mostly pedestrian.
- **Taxi and app**: Taxis and ride apps are cheap in the city.
- **Local buses**: City buses reach the outer areas.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The historic centre is flat, compact and largely pedestrian.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycle lanes exist, but traffic is heavy outside the centre.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Useful for the wine region and day trips. Not needed for the centre.
- **Roads**: Toll roads are fast. Traffic is heavy at rush hour.
- **Parking**: Use paid lots near the centre. Street parking is limited.

Food & drink

The region is known for enchiladas queretanas, gorditas, nopales and local cheeses. Querétaro also produces wines in the nearby wine region. Restaurants around Jardín Zenea and the plazas serve regional food and international cuisine.

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.

- The city is at 1,800 m. Drink water and take it easy on the first day.
- The sun is strong at altitude. Use sun protection.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

Querétaro was founded in the early 16th century on the site of an Otomi settlement. It grew rich from textiles and silver trade. In 1810 a conspiracy for independence met here, and the plot was discovered before the uprising began. The historic centre has been a World Heritage Site since 1996.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



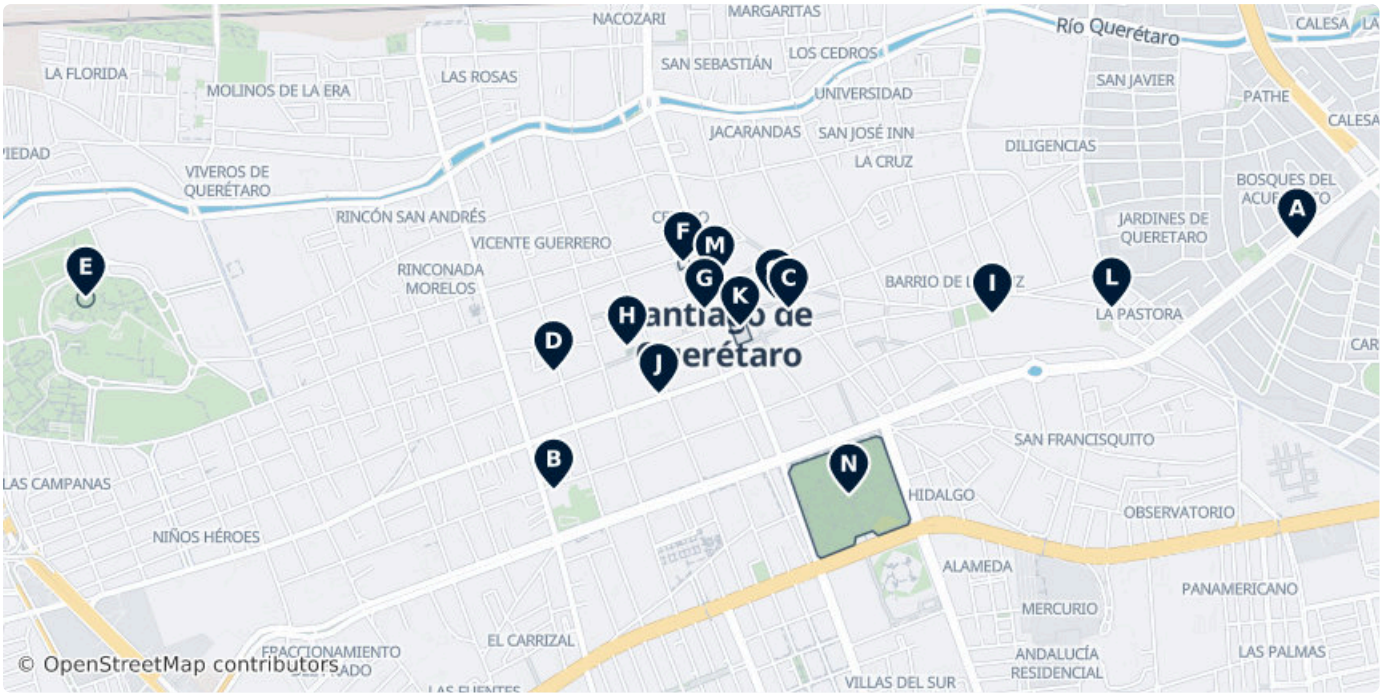
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Santiago de Querétaro Essentials

Santiago de Querétaro's UNESCO-listed historic center is defined by its 18th-century aqueduct and a high concentration of Baroque architecture. This collection includes the Santa Rosa de Viterbo Church, known for its ornate silver and ivory interior, and the Hill of the Bells, the site of Emperor Maximilian I's execution. Significant revolutionary landmarks like the Republic Theatre and the House of the Corregidora sit alongside tranquil colonial squares and 16th-century convents, reflecting the city's pivotal role in Mexican history and independence.





A Aqueduct in Querétaro

The aqueduct of Querétaro is an 18th-century aqueduct in the Mexican city of Querétaro.

100 Calzada de los Arcos, Santiago de Querétaro 76050, Mexico (20.59494, -100.37472)



B Santa Rosa de Viterbo Church

Admire the beauty of the Baroque temple. See its unique portal as well as remarkable interior decorated with silver and ivory ornaments.

887 Calle de José María Arteaga, Santiago de Querétaro 76000, Mexico (20.58805, -100.39658)



C Plaza de Armas

A peaceful square with a statue of Marqués y Arana located in the heart of the historic center. It's a popular meeting place.

13 Calle Luis Pasteur, Santiago de Querétaro 76000, Mexico (20.59303, -100.38968)



D Cathedral of Queretaro

The St. Philip Neri Cathedral, also Querétaro Cathedral, is a Catholic church that was built by the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri.

Calle Melchor Ocampo, 76000 Querétaro, QUE, Mexico (20.59130, -100.39659)



E Hill of the Bells

The Cerro de las Campanas is a hill and national park located in Querétaro City, Mexico.

Santiago de Querétaro 76017, Mexico (20.59334, -100.41035)



F Republic Theatre

Teatro de la República is a theater in the historic center of the city of Querétaro, México.

Juárez 22 Norte, esq. Ángela Peralta, 76000 Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (20.59431, -100.39278)

+52 442 212 0339



G Zenea Garden

Enjoy some rest in the garden of a former Franciscan temple. Green foliage and a statue of the Greek goddess Hebe makes it a great...

11 Calle Benito Juárez S, Santiago de Querétaro 76000, Mexico (20.59302, -100.39216)



H Santa Clara Church

Visit a church dating back to the 17th century. Its beautiful interior offers much to see: paintings, sculptures and an altar.

44A Andador Francisco I. Madero, Santiago de Querétaro 76000, Mexico (20.59199, -100.39443)



I Church and Convent of Santa Cruz

A temple and a monastery dating back to the 16th century which was used as the seat of US troops two centuries later.

Calle Independencia, Querétaro (20.59289, -100.38369)

+52 442 212 0235



J Saint Augustin Church and Former Convent

Admire the beauty of the 18th-century temple - an architectural gem of Queretaro. The unique Baroque interior is worth seeing as well.

Calle Vicente Guerrero and Av. Pino Suárez, 76000 Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (20.59068, -100.39350)



K Regional Museum

A museum where you can admire artifacts such as sculptures, ceramics, weapons, paintings and clothing from the Queretaro region.

Corregidora 3 Sur, 76000 Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (20.59254, -100.39110)

+52 442 212 4888

L Mirador

This elevated viewpoint offers panoramic vistas of the 18th-century aqueduct's 74 stone arches and the surrounding city landscape.

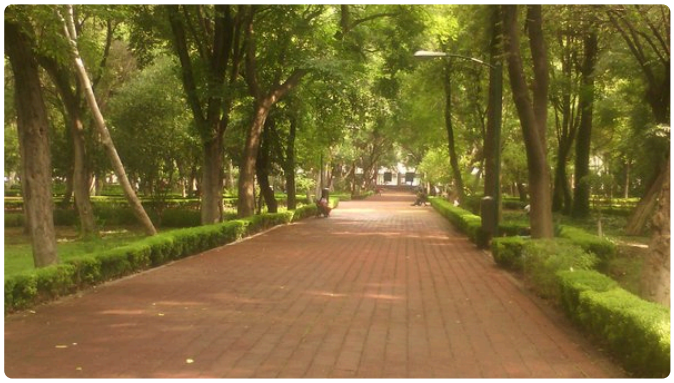
(20.59305, -100.38017)



M The Magistrate's Wife's Garden

María Josefa Crescencia Ortiz Téllez–Girón, popularly known as Doña Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez or La Corregidora was an insurgent and...

18 Calle Corregidora N, Santiago de Querétaro 76000, Mexico (20.59392, -100.39185)



N Hidalgo Park

Visit a peaceful park established more than two centuries ago and relax in the shade of its trees. Notice the sculpture in the middle, too.

Santiago de Querétaro 76000, Mexico (20.58792, -100.38791)

Mo–Tu	06:00–19:30
We	Closed
Th–Su	06:00–19:30

O House of the Corregidora

See a former royal palace and jail, nowadays serving as the seat of Querétaro government. It's still a symbol of Mexican independence.

Plaza de Armas, Centro Histórico, 76000 Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (20.59328, -100.39009)

Historic Monuments

Explore the historical narrative of Santiago de Querétaro through its significant civic monuments. This collection includes the Capilla a Maximiliano and the Monumento a Benito Juárez on the Cerro de las Campanas, the site where the Second Mexican Empire ended in 1867. Other landmarks include the 1910 monument to Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez, a key figure in the Independence movement, and the Francisco I. Madero monument commemorating the Mexican Revolution. These sites represent the pivotal events and figures that shaped the nation's identity.



A Monumental Flag

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

Carretera Querétaro-México, Santiago de Querétaro 76063, Mexico (20.58381, -100.36010)

B Monumento a la Corregidora

Erected in 1910 for the centenary of Mexican Independence, this bronze statue honors Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez. She was a key conspirator who alerted rebels that their plans were discovered, effectively triggering the start of the 1810 uprising.

(20.59395, -100.39180)

C Busto a Francisco I. Madero

Monument dedicated to the leader of the 1910 Mexican Revolution and former president, recognized for his role in challenging the Porfirio Díaz dictatorship and advocating for democratic reform.

(20.58931, -100.40081)

D Capilla a Maximiliano

A neo-Romanesque expiatory chapel built in 1901 on the Cerro de las Campanas. It marks the site where Emperor Maximilian I was executed in 1867, ending the Second Mexican Empire.

(20.59311, -100.40958)

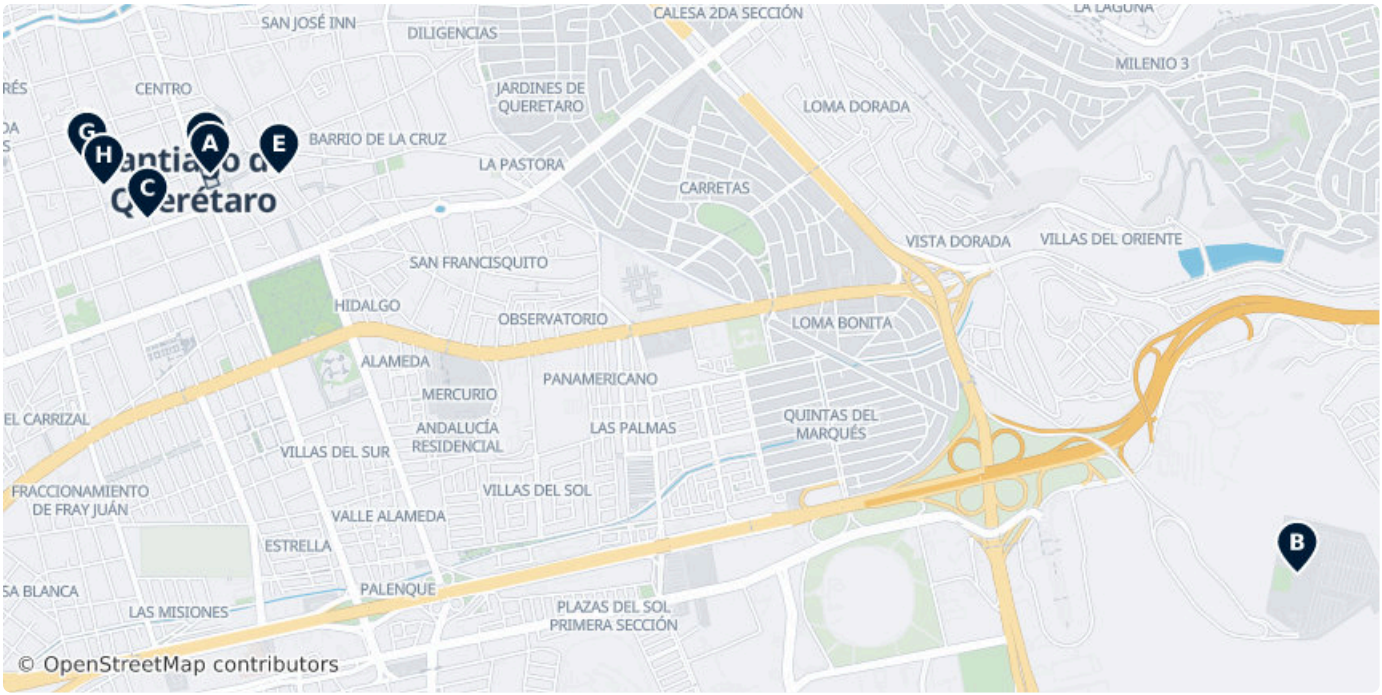
E Monumento a Benito Juárez

A colossal stone monument situated on the Cerro de las Campanas. It honors the president who led the Republican forces against the French Intervention and oversaw the restoration of the Mexican Republic.

(20.59328, -100.41052)

Museums & Art in Querétaro

Santiago de Querétaro's cultural heritage is displayed across colonial cloisters and modern venues. The Regional Museum and San Francisco Church showcase pre-Hispanic artifacts and religious art within Baroque surroundings. Specialized history is found at the Museum of the Restoration, covering the Second Empire, and the Zacatecana House, which features 12 rooms of antique furniture. Visual arts are highlighted at the Museum of Arts and the open-air Garden of Artists, while the City Museum and the modern Convention Center provide spaces for photography and large-scale contemporary exhibitions.





A Regional Museum

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Corregidora 3 Sur, 76000 Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (20.59254, -100.39110)

+52 442 212 4888



B Convention and Congress Center of Queretaro

Visit a recently built venue intended not only for cultural events, but also for exhibitions. You can enjoy a cup of coffee in the café.

Paseo de las Artes #1531-B, Col. Centro Sur., C.P. 76090 Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (20.57848, -100.35016)

qcc.mx

C Museum of Arts of Queretaro

Visit the museum which is located in the beautiful building of a former cloister. Admire the Baroque architecture as well as artworks.

Ignacio Allende 14, 76000 Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (20.59096, -100.39346)

museodeartequeretaro.com, +52 442 212 2357

D San Francisco Church

Visit a monastery and a Baroque temple located in the historic city center. See the exhibition inside and notice its original interior.

Calle Corregidora, Calle 5 de Mayo, 76000 Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico (20.59294, -100.39126)

E Zacatecana House Museum

Make a stop in this legendary house museum where there is an exhibition of old furniture. 12 rooms of beautiful pieces.

Independencia 59 (20.59252, -100.38850)

Th–Su 10:00–17:00

museolazacatecana.com, +52 442 224 0758

F City Museum

Learn about the history of the city, explore several temporary exhibitions featuring photographs or take your kids to the Children's...

Vicente Guerrero 27 norte, 76000 Querétaro (20.59302, -100.39579)

museodelaciudadqro.org, +52 442 224 3756

G Museum of the Restoration

A museum focusing on the history of Restoration of the Republic and Second Empire. A great place to learn more about history.

Vicente Guerrero 23 (20.59293, -100.39574)

+52 442 212 3004

H Garden of Artists in Queretaro

All lovers of public art shouldn't miss this garden where artists display their works of various topics, materials and sizes.

2 Calle Andrés Balvanera, Santiago de Querétaro 76000, Mexico (20.59213, -100.39511)

jardinqueretano.org

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