

Zacatecas

Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Zacatecas is a silver-mining city in the high desert of north-central Mexico, at about 2,400 m. It has pink-stone buildings, an ornate baroque cathedral, steep streets and a cable car over the old town. The historic centre is a World Heritage Site.

It suits two nights. Visitors come for the baroque architecture, museums, a former silver mine and views from the hill above the city.

When to visit

The climate is dry and cool at altitude. Days are warm from March to October, and nights are cold in winter. Summer has afternoon rain. Pack warm clothes for evenings.

The Festival Cultural in spring and the Morisma de Bracho, a mock battle in August, are major events.

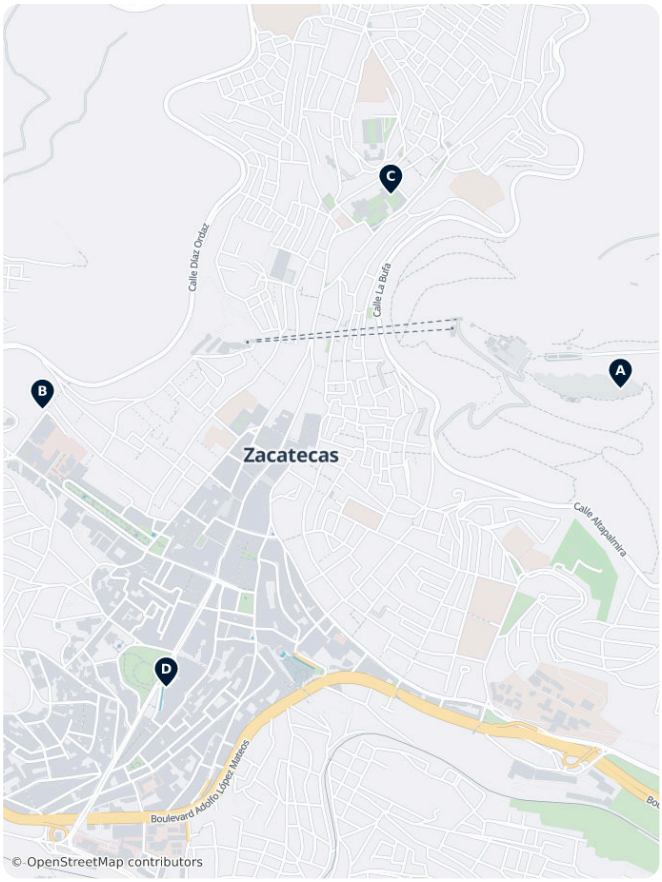
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 22° Feels like 13°	2° / -3°	24 sunny days · Dry air
February	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 26° Feels like 16°	3° / -2°	24 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high)
March	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 28° Feels like 18°	5° / -1°	28 sunny days · Dry air · UV 11 (Extreme)
April	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 30° Feels like 21°	8° / 3°	26 sunny days · Dry air · UV 12 (Extreme)
May	Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 32° Feels like 24°	11° / 7°	25 sunny days · Dry air · UV 12 (Extreme)
June	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 32° Feels like 24°	13° / 10°	Dry air · UV 12 (Extreme)
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 29°	12° / 9°	15 rainy days · Dry air · UV 11 (Extreme)
August	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 28°	11° / 9°	Dry air · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 27°	11° / 8°	13 rainy days · Dry air · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27° Feels like 20°	8° / 3°	22 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high)
November	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 25° Feels like 17°	5° / 0°	25 sunny days · Dry air
December	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 22° Feels like 14°	3° / -3°	24 sunny days · Dry air

Best months: February, March, April, May, June, October, November, December

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

Top sights

- The Cathedral is a baroque landmark, with a carved pink-stone front.
- A Cerro de la Bufa is the hill over the city, with a chapel, a museum and a monument, reached by cable car.
- B Mina El Edén is a former silver mine that visitors can walk through, and a train takes them in.
- C Museo Rafael Coronel is a museum of masks and puppets in a former convent.
- D El Cubo Acueducto is a 19th-century aqueduct and fountain in the old town.
- Ciudadela del Arte is a cultural centre in an old building, with galleries and events.



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What to experience

- Ride the cable car at sunset for views of the city.
- Walk through the old silver mine.
- Wander the old streets and hear music in the plazas.
- Try a mezcal tasting in a local bar.

Day trips

- Guadalupe: about 20 minutes by car. A town with a large convent and a museum of colonial art.
- La Quemada: about 45 minutes by car. A hilltop Maya-era site with columns.
- Sombrerete and Jerez: about 1 hour by car. Small colonial towns.

Where to explore

- Guadalajara for a major city to the west.
- Puebla for another colonial city in central Mexico.

Getting there

- **By air**: Zacatecas has a small airport (ZCL) with flights from Mexico City and the US. The airport is about 30 minutes from the centre.
- **By bus**: Coaches run to Mexico City (about 8 hours), Guadalajara, San Luis Potosí and Aguascalientes.
- **By road**: Highways link Zacatecas to Mexico City and to the north.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is compact, with steep, cobbled streets.
- **Cable car**: The Teleférico crosses from the centre to the hill above.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are cheap. Agree the fare first.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

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

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Steep hills and cobbles make cycling tiring.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Useful for La Quemada and nearby towns. Not needed in the centre.
- **Roads**: Highways are in good condition. City streets are narrow and steep.
- **Parking**: Use paid lots near the centre.

Food & drink

Zacatecas food includes asado de boda (a pork stew in chile sauce), tacos de cabeza and gorditas. Local sweets include cocadas and fruit paste. Mezcal and local beer are common.

Many restaurants in the centre 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.

- The city is at 2,400 m. Drink water and take it easy on the first day.
- Evenings are cold. Bring warm clothes.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

The Spanish founded Zacatecas in 1546 after silver was found in the hills. It became one of the richest cities in the colony, and its wealth built the baroque cathedral. The historic centre has been a World Heritage Site since 1993.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY

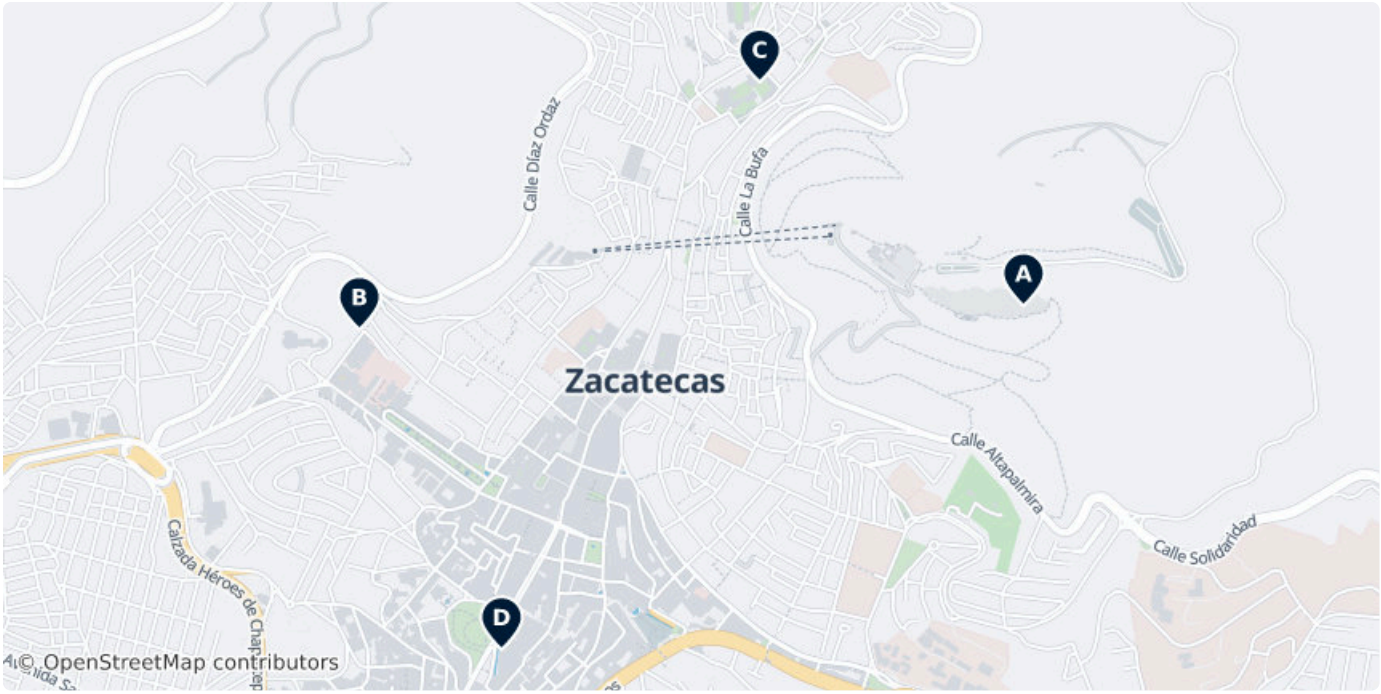


Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Top sights





A Bufa Hill

Bufa Hill or El Cerro de la Bufa is a hill found east of historic downtown area of the Mexican city of Zacatecas and is of historic and...

Mexico (22.77722, -102.56250)



B Mina El Edén

Take a ride in a small train on a guided tour through the former silver mine and explore its collections of rocks and minerals.

Dovalí Jaime S/N, 98000 Zacatecas, Mexico (22.77666, -102.57964)

minaeleden.com.mx, +52 492 922 30 02



C Rafael Coronel Museum

Rafael Coronel was a Mexican painter. He was the son-in-law of Diego Rivera.

Callejón de San Francisco s/n, 98000 Zacatecas, Mexico (22.78254, -102.56931)

zacatecastravel.com/museos.php, +52 492 922 81 16



D El Cubo Aqueduct

Admire the arch-buttresses of the 18th-century aqueduct built of pink lime stones. It's considered to be one of the city symbols.

307 Avenida José de Jesús González Ortega, Zacatecas 98000, Mexico (22.76905, -102.57597)

DATA SOURCES

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- Rafael Coronel Museum — "MonasterySanFranZacatecas 01" by Thelmadatter, cc-by-sa-3.0
- El Cubo Aqueduct — "Acueducto - panoramio - Alejandro Ags (1)" by Alejandro Ags, cc-by-3.0

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