

Mexico City Fact Sheet

Location

Cradled by the mountains of Mexico's central highlands, the modern capital of Mexico City thrives atop ancient and colonial ruins. Originally established as Tenochtitlan (thought to mean "growing among the prickly pears and rocks") by the Aztecs in the 14th century, the city boasts four UNESCO World Heritage sites. The city's Federal District has 16 boroughs, together with 18 Mexico State municipalities, which together constitute the Valle de México Metropolitan Zone.

Geography

The capital city lies at an altitude of 7,350. The valley floor is mostly flat and extends 75 miles north to south and between 25 and 44 miles east to west.

Climate

Though geographically placed squarely in the tropics, the high elevation of Mexico City adds a chill to the air, giving the city one of the mildest climates in Mexico. The average temperature varies from 54°F in the western mountains to 61°F in the center of town. The dry season runs from November to May, and the rainy season June through October. The hottest months are usually April and May when the temperature can reach 86°F, and the coldest are December and January with temperatures at times dropping to 45°F.

Population

The metro area is home to approximately 21.2 million residents and hosts an average of 12.5 million visitors annually.

Accommodations

Mexico City is an international hub with more than 600 hotels with over 49,000 rooms of all categories, including prestigious international luxurious chains and full-service business hotels to chic, intimate inns in historic surroundings. Many hotels popular with visitors are located in the Reforma and Centro Histórico neighborhoods, not to mention Santa Fe for business.

Airline Service

Mexico City is serviced by Aeropuerto Internacional Benito Juárez (MEX), Latin America's busiest airport. Daily flights are offered to the U.S., Canada, mainland Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, South America, Europe and Asia. The airport is located in the eastern part of the city.

Domestic airlines flying from Mexico City include:

- Aeromar
- AeroMexico
- Interjet
- Magnicharters
- VivaAerobus
- Volaris

Airlines servicing the North American market include:

- Air Canada
- Alaska Airlines
- AirTrain Airways
- American Airlines
- Delta Airlines
- United Airlines
- US Airways

Recreation

- Museums: 152
- Art galleries: 183
- Activities include shopping; fine dining; cultural activities; historic ruins and artifacts viewing; architectural tours; outdoor activities in the parks, gardens and courtyards; arts and entertainment; colorful street markets and bazaars; neighborhood exploration
- Top sites: Palacio Nacional, Templo Mayor, Palacio de Bellas Artes, Xochimilco floating Gardens, Villa de Guadalupe, Bosque de Chapultepec and Catedral Metropolitana.

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Cultural Activities

- Mexico City offers a flourishing community of historic and modern fine art, music and theatrical venues, as well as a young art scene bringing vitality to the city. Cultural experiences include hundreds of exhibits, galleries and performances from the National Symphony Orchestra to Ballet Folklórico de México to Lucha Libre. Locals and travelers can enjoy hundreds of dance clubs, cantinas, cinemas and musical performances.
- The city hosts a number of world class festivals annually, including:
 - Material Art Fair (February)
 - Mextrópoli Architecture Festival (March)
 - Festival de Mexico featuring concerts and cultural events (two weeks in early April)
 - Día Intercional de los Museos celebration with more than 120 museums (May)
 - Distrital international film festival (June)
 - Macabro international horror film festival (August)
 - International Book Fair (October)
 - Carrera Panamericana classic car exhibition (October)
 - DOCSDF documentary film festival (October)
 - Día de los Muertos honors deceased relatives and ancestors (November 1)
 - ASVOFF fashion film festival (November 6-8)
 - Sabores Polanco gastronomic festival (November)
 - Abierto Mexicano de Diseño design festival (November 10-16)
 - Lorena Ochoa Invitational Presented by Banamex (November 13-16)

Historic Sites

UNESCO World Heritage sites include the Historic Centre of Mexico City, Xochimilco, Central University City Campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and Casa-Estudio Luis Barragán. Key pre-Hispanic sites include Tlatelolco, Templo Mayor, Zócalo, Pirámide de Cuicuilco, Xochimilco and Chapultepec.

Museums

With more than 150 museums, Mexico City is a mecca of fine art and treasures that speak to the city's vast history. Top museums include Museo Nacional de Antropología, Museo de Arte Moderno, Museo Dolores Olmedo, Museo Franz Mayer, Museo Frida Kahlo, Museo Nacional de Arte, Museo Rufino Tamayo, Templo Mayor, MUAC (University Museum of Contemporary Art), Museo Universitario del Chopo, Museo Soumaya and Museo Nacional de Historia.

Dining

The culinary scene in Mexico City attracts top international chefs and restaurateurs who serve gourmet food in settings from elegant, Michelin-star adorned dining rooms to casual carts manned by street vendors. Mexico City's chefs are fusing rich heritage with modern ingredients and techniques, which has led to an explosion in popularity among culinary aficionados.

Shopping

Dating back to its ancient stronghold in world trade, Mexico City is a shopper's paradise. Markets thrive around the city offering everything imaginable. High-end shops abound in Polanco featuring designer fashion. Specialty shops in the Centro stock books, electronics and musical instruments. Local Mexican arts and handicrafts are sold from all over the country.

Excursions

Mexico City's Turibús service provides public transportation to the most important places of interest around the city. Visitors can take the bus to explore two routes: through the main streets and attractions of the city center, or to the center and south areas of the city. Fare includes hop-on hop-off-style transportation throughout the day—including the ability to switch between the two routes—and pre-recorded audio guide in English, Spanish, Japanese, German, Italian and French, with details of each area and landmark which can be heard through headphones. Travelers can also choose between a diverse variety of themed tours:

- Turibús Night Tour
- Traditional Cantinas Tour
- Tour Palacios (City of Palaces)
- Tour "Turiluchas" (Lucha Libre)
- Circuit Tour Centennial of the Mexican Army

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