

TLALPAN

The central neighborhood of the borough, **San Agustín de las Cuevas**, is a charming area of Colonial-era houses whose main square has a bandstand that hosts concerts. The **Cuicuilco** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omKheWdV5KA> archaeological site, just south of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) campus, dates from around 700 BC and is believed to be the earliest city and ceremonial center in the area now occupied by Mexico City. An on-site museum exhibits finds from archaeological digs. Located inside a 19th century mansion, **Casa Frissac** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DMo5o1Me3Q> houses the **Javier Barros Sierra Science and Culture Institute**, with an art gallery that holds exhibitions and workshops. For nature lovers, the **Cumbres del Ajusco National Park** and **Tlalpan Forest** offer activities such as hiking and horseback riding.

VENUSTIANO CARRANZA

Home to the city's three major markets: **La Merced**, reputedly one of the largest markets in the Americas, is also the city's oldest, and is located to the east of the downtown area. Divided into sections, the food section is a colorful show of Mexico's vast variety of fruit and vegetables. The **Mercado de Sonora** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX9IUM4USGE> has all kinds of exotic plant remedies, as well as live animals, on sale. The **Mercado de Jamaica** is famous for its huge and colorful flower and plant market. For a glimpse at the nation's past, visit the **Archivo General de la Nación** and

the former prison of **Lecumberri Palace** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rr9PoHE-qOgg> which offers guided tours. You can also take a curative bath at **Peñón de los Baños**, famous for its thermal springs and where, every May 5, the Battle of Puebla is recreated.

XOCHIMILCO

Head to one of the embarkation points (embarcaderos) such as **Nativitas** or **Fernando Celada** and get paddled away on a colorful gondola through the city's floating gardens to the rhythm of the musicians that paddle down the canals. There are four flower and plant markets: **Cuemanco**, **Madre Selva**, **San Luis Tlaxialtemalco** and **Palacio de la Flor**, as well as plant nurseries at the **Centre of Environmental Education Acuexcomatl**. The **Museo Dolores Olmedo Patiño**, occupying a beautiful house and gardens, has an extensive collection of Mexican modern art and also hosts temporary exhibitions. Both the parish church of **Santa María Tepepan** and the **Ex Convent of San Bernardino de Siena** date from the 16th century and boast impressive altars, sculptures and paintings. Visit Xochimilco for cultural tourism: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSgeV3Pnz8&list=PL828366036EE40807>



XOCHIMILCO

MEXICO CITY THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Mexico City is currently home to around 9 million people. It has a vast amount of tourist attractions, including 177 museums, making it the city with the second largest number of museums in the world after London; four UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 1,500 tourism-quality restaurants.

- 1325** Founding of México-Tenochtitlan, capital of the Mexica empire.
- 1366 to 1519** Eleven *tlatoanis* (Mexica governors or leaders) govern the city of Tenochtitlan, from the Acamapichtli dynasty.
- 1450** Tenochtitlan's heyday. The Mexicas dominate much of Mesoamerica.
- 1519** Arrival of the Spaniards. Mexica leader Moctezuma Xocoyotzin meets with Hernán Cortés on November 8, 1519.
- August 13, 1521** México-Tenochtitlan falls to the Spaniards.
- 1522** Hernán Cortés establishes the Spanish government of the new colony in Coyoacán.
- 1535** The Colony of New Spain is officially established.
- September 15, 1810** The War of Independence begins after a call to arms by parish priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla.
- September 27, 1821** End of the Independence War. Mexico City invaded by the 'army of three guarantees' that fought against the Spaniards, headed by Agustín de Iturbide.
- 1822** Agustín de Iturbide proclaims himself emperor of Mexico under the name Agustín I.
- 1823** Iturbide's empire overthrown by insurgents.
- 1823 to 1854** Power struggle between liberals and conservatives.
- 1855 to 1863** Reform decreed by Mexico's president Benito Juárez, known as the 'distinguished of the Americas.'
- 1857** 1857 Constitution enacted.
- 1877 to 1911** Government of general Porfirio Díaz. Mexico experiences economic growth. Construction of the Palacio de Bellas Artes begins.
- 1910 to 1917** Mexican Revolution.
- 1917** Triumph of the Constitutionals. 1917 Constitution written. Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata emerge as leaders.
- 1920** Álvaro Obregón becomes president. Distribution of lands to the peasants as a result of the revolution.
- 1921** Obregón designates José Vasconcelos as Education Minister. A period of rich cultural output begins.
- 1922** Mexican muralism is born, with the emergence of painters such as Dr. Atl, Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros.
- 1938** Expropriation of the oil industry by President Lázaro Cárdenas del Río.
- 1950 to 1960** Mexico City enters a period of urbanization and the country enjoys an economic bonanza known as the 'Mexican miracle.'
- 1950 to 1970** Iconic public buildings open, including the UNAM campus and the Auditorio Nacional.
- 1968** Mexico City hosts the XIX Olympic Games.
- 1969** Inauguration of the METRO rapid transportation system.
- 1970** Mexico City hosts the soccer World Cup.
- 1976** The Basilica of Guadalupe, by architect Pedro Ramírez Vázquez, opens.
- 1986** Mexico City once again hosts the soccer World Cup.
- 1987** The Historic Center and Xochimilco are declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.
- 2002** The TURIBÚS (double-decker open-air bus) network opens.
- 2003** The Torre Mayor, the city's tallest tower, opens.
- 2004** The Casa Estudio de Luis Barragán, one of the 20th century's most important architects, is declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- 2007** The Campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) is declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- 2010** Mexican cuisine is declared Intangible World Heritage by UNESCO.
- 2012** The Alameda, the oldest park in the Americas, is remodeled.
- 2013** Mexico City's mayor declares tourism as a priority policy for his government.

BRIEF GUIDETO MEXICO CITY

BOROUGHS

ÁLVARO OBREGÓN
AZCAPOTZALCO
BENITO JUÁREZ
COYOACÁN
CUAJIMALPA
CUAUHTÉMOC
GUSTAVO A. MADERO
IZTACALCO
IZTAPALAPA
MAGDALENA CONTRERAS
MIGUEL HIDALGO
MILPA ALTA
TLÁHUAC
TLALPAN
VENUSTIANO CARRANZA
XOCHIMILCO



ÁLVARO OBREGÓN

Spend a Saturday browsing the bazaar, viewing the art on sale and exploring the restaurants around Plaza San Jacinto, the epicenter of San Ángel, a charming quarter of cobblestoned streets. The **Museo Casa del Risco** <http://youtube.be/9rosOJkkXGI> inside an elegant mansion, houses an art collection, while the **Museo del Carmen** tells the story of the Carmelite nuns in Mexico. The **Museo Casa Estudio Diego Rivera** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7H8kyjOqRk> designed by Juan O'Gorman, was home to the famous painter and Frida Kahlo. For contemporary art, the **Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil** on Avenida Revolución offers temporary exhibitions by local and international artists.

AZCAPOTZALCO

In the center of the borough, which still maintains the airs of a tranquil Colonial-era town, is the **Jardín Hidalgo**. Opposite is a former Dominican monastery, the **Parish Church of Felipe and Santiago**, while the **Casa de Cultura**, renowned for its beautiful gardens, hosts temporary art exhibitions, and the interior of the nearby **Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Library** boasts a fabulous mural by Juan O'Gorman. Once you've strolled around the neighborhood to take in the sights, head for one of the oldest cantinas in the city, **El Dux de Venecia**, for a drink accompanied by delicious snacks. Inspired by the gardens of the Aztec emperors on the shores of Lake Texcoco, **Parque**



POLYFORUM CULTURAL SIQUEIROS

Tezozómoc surrounds a lake and has an open-air theater, a children's playground and walking trails. Chronicles and stories of Mexico: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzmCxPPhVAU>

BENITO JUÁREZ

The world's largest mural, 'The March of Humanity,' by David Alfaro Siqueiros, measures 26,000 square feet and emblazons the interior of the **Polyforum Cultural Siqueiros**. The exterior walls also boast 12 murals, and the forum houses temporary exhibitions. For a panoramic view of the city, sit and eat at the Bellini revolving restaurant on the 45th floor of the **World Trade Center**. Also on Avenida Insurgentes, **Parque Hundido** is a sunken park with an audiorama, while the nearby **Mixcoac** neighborhood is a tranquil, Colonial-era enclave. Sports fans must not miss **Plaza México**, the world's largest bullring, and the **Estadio Cruz Azul**, home to one of Mexico City's most celebrated soccer teams.



SECRETARÍA DE
TURISMO

MEXICO CITY

mexicocity.gob.mx

COYOACÁN

The two central squares of this Colonial-era neighborhood, Jardín Hidalgo and Jardín Centenario, are a thriving scene of cafés, restaurants and art galleries. Frida Kahlo was born and died in **La Casa Azul**, which exhibits a large collection of works by the artist and by Diego Rivera. The vast campus of the national university, **Ciudad Universitaria**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, features a stunning museum, the **Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC)**, exhibiting the works of artists from around the world, and the **Espacio Escultórico**. You can also take a guided tour of the imposing **Aztec Stadium**, the scene of sporting encounters and concerts. Coyoacán, cultural tourism: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEnoBAI3yR8>

CUAJIMALPA

The highlight of this mostly rural borough is the **Desierto de los Leones National Park** <http://www.youtube.com/>



JARDÍN CENTENARIO

[watch?v=LRsDF6wz2BY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRsDF6wz2BY) a densely forested hill topped by the former **Convent of the Barefoot Carmelite** nuns, that also serves as a gallery for contemporary art exhibitions, and offers guided tours. The forested areas of the park are ideal for walking. Enjoy a freshly prepared trout at **Los Peteretes** or traditional Mexican snacks at **La Venta** food market. The **Bosque El Ocotal** is another ideal place for practicing sports or exploring, while the center of Cuajimalpa, with its square and bandstand, maintains its small-town charm.

CUAUHTÉMOC

Comprising the ancient heart of the city. **Templo Mayor** <http://youtu.be/Aji-CEg-RpeM> houses the remains of the Aztec temple that once stood here, adjacent to the **Metropolitan Cathedral** <http://youtu.be/CLjDdJ8d5N4> the largest in the Americas. The interior of **Palacio Nacional**, the seat of government, is decorated with murals by Diego Rivera, while the **Palacio de Bellas Artes** [\[youtu.be/o_tnBhHSTEU\]\(http://youtu.be/o_tnBhHSTEU\) astounds with the works of Mexico's great muralists, and which hosts concerts, plays, dance and art exhibitions. The **Alameda Park**, next door, is the largest in the downtown area. **Plaza Garibaldi** is the home of mariachi musicians and the place for celebrations of all kinds. **Paseo de la Reforma** is bedecked with monuments and statues, of Christopher Columbus and the **Angel of Independence**, among others. The **Revolution Monument** and its esplanade pay homage to the heroes of the nation's history, while **Roma** and **Condesa** are must-see neighborhoods for their multiple stores, galleries, bars and restaurants.](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

GUSTAVO A. MADERO

The **Basilica de Guadalupe** <http://youtu.be/hsSSm1vKsNY> honors the patron saint of Mexico, the dark-skinned virgin in 1551. The virgin is venerated on December 12, when it becomes a pilgrimage destination for millions, many of whom travel here from remote towns by



BASILICA DE GUADALUPE



PALACIO DE BELLAS ARTES

bicycle or on foot. The neighborhood is crowded with stalls and vendors selling objects of devotion, and the remains of the **Guadalupe Aqueduct** are still visible. Mexico's National Polytechnic University (IPN) houses the **Luis Enrique Erro Planetarium** <http://youtu.be/5ZAUbzjPABE> offering visitors a didactic view of the universe with the aid of cutting-edge technology, and also features a mural chronicling the history of astronomy. Visit the **San Juan de Aragón Zoo** to see a variety of animal species and enjoy outdoor activities.

IZTACALCO

The **Palacio de los Deportes** hosts concerts, music festivals, fairs and international expos, and forms part of the **Magdalena Mixhuica Sports City**, that includes a velodrome. The **Foro Sol** is also a sports and concert venue. The nearby **Parque Escuela Urbano Ecológico** is a green area conceived to raise environmental awareness. **Plaza San Matías** lies in the central **Barrio de la Asunción**, and whose **Church and Ex Convent** date from 1564. One of the city's

oldest and most traditional *pulquerías*, **Los Hombres Sin Miedo**, is located in the Santiago neighborhood. Chronicles and stories of Mexico: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6By2vEO5UY>

IZTAPALAPA

Famous throughout Mexico for its Good Friday passion play, when a 'fortunate' local plays the role of Christ and is 'crucified' on the summit of **Cerro de La Estrella** hill. Guided tours are available on the hill, where archaeological remains were recently discovered, and which you can learn more about at the **Museo del Fuego Nuevo**. On the slope of the hill is the **Ex Convent of Culhuacán**, built in 1607 on what was an important Toltec settlement, and its museum displays figures of deities. **La Nueva Viga** is one of the world's largest fish markets and a guided tour in the early morning will introduce you to an impressive number of species on sale. For open-air activities, visit **Parque Cuitláhuac**. Chronicles and stories of Mexico: http://youtu.be/_3VySKlcxew



NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGY MUSEUM

MAGDALENA CONTRERAS

Los Dinamos is an area of protected parkland on the city's southern perimeter, through which runs the Magdalena River, the city's only open waterway, which follows an 8-mile course through the valley and a series of canyons and rapids. It's the ideal place to hike, mountain bike or go horseback riding along the more than 20 miles of trails, and ride zip lines. The **Mazatépetl** archaeological site contains various monuments built by the Otomi culture. The small, baroque-style **Church of Magdalena Atlitic** is the setting for big celebrations every July 22. The temperate forest of **Parque Ejidal San Nicolás Totolapan** offers diverse sporting and recreational activities.

MIGUEL HIDALGO

Chapultepec Park contains some of the city's most important museums, such as the **National Anthropology Museum**, with a vast collection showcasing the country's pre-Hispanic civilizations; the **Museum of Modern Art**, with a permanent retrospective of 20th century Mexican art; the **Rufino Tamayo Museum**, showcasing contemporary art, and the **Papalote Children's Museum**, a wonderland for the younger visitors. The park is divided into three sections and also contains a zoo, **Chapultepec Castle**, which houses the **National History Museum**, and a large boating lake with boat rental. In **Polanco** you'll find the most prestigious boutiques for luxury goods on Presidente Masaryk, as well as art galleries, such as the **Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros**,



SOU MAYA MUSEUM

and some of the city's best restaurants, while **Polanquito** and **Parque Lincoln** are also pleasant places to explore. The **Museo Soumaya** houses an art collection, and the **Parque Bicentenario** boasts greenhouses that recreate different climates from across the world. Turismo Miguel Hidalgo: <http://youtu.be/GX863FPsBNk>

MILPA ALTA

Every October, the small village of **San Pedro Atocpan** holds its Mole Fair, when more than 500 exhibitors, both local and from other regions of the country, present different varieties of *mole*, a thick sauce prepared with a plethora of ingredients that include cocoa, sesame seeds, plantains and dried chilies, and which comes in a variety of colors, from black and dark brown to green, orange and red. You can sample all of the different varieties prepared in a number of ways, as well as purchase the paste to take home. Foodies should also visit the **nopal cactus market**. The **Centro de Educación Ambiental Tepenhuauc** organizes educational activities

concerning agriculture and the use of renewable energies. On the Day of the Dead, the **Cantoya Balloon Festival** is held. Chronicles and stories of Mexico: <http://youtu.be/wpGNXDKfGBM>

TLÁHUAC

The Day of the Dead celebrations in the town of **San Andrés Mixquic** <http://youtu.be/alhUuWc9UME> are among the most famous and colorful in the country. The patio of the **Casa de Cultura de la Parroquia de San Andrés** houses a small archaeological site, **Mixquixtli**, which includes various figurines and sculptures. The parish saint's day is on November 30. **San Pedro Tláhuac** is the largest town of the seven that comprise the borough, with a beautiful plaza in the shade of palm trees and dominated by the **Church and Ex Convent of San Pedro Apóstol**. At the **Lago de los Reyes Aztecas** (<http://youtu.be/iDxoqxrC04>) you can take a ride on a gondola-style boat for bird watching, and there's a small museum exhibiting pre-Hispanic artifacts.



MOLE FAIR