One of the world’s largest cities, Mexico City offers a wide variety of attractions, activities and experiences for all visitors to its vast expanse.

This guide focuses on the essential neighborhoods, museums, parks and other sights that are not to be missed, and which show the city’s great ethnic, architectural, topographical and ecological diversity.

It also presents a glimpse at the long and rich history of the Mexican capital, from pre-Hispanic times and the Colonial era to contemporary life in a city that never ceases to surprise.

With this guidebook in hand, you will be able to visit the most avant-garde neighborhoods in terms of fashion and current trends, as well as the most important museums that are most representative of Mexican culture, its art and history, as well as seeing artistic and cultural manifestations from other countries. You can go shopping in the most exclusive areas, visit the markets offering the country’s most diverse range of handcrafts and try the best food on offer across the length and breadth of the city.

The guide is divided into five zones: Historic Center; Roma, Condesa and Zona Rosa; Reforma, Chapultepec and Polanco; Coyoacán, San Ángel and Tlalpan, and Xochimilco, Milpa Alta, Tláhuac and Cuajimalpa.

With this essential guide you will be able to make the most of your stay. No matter how long you plan to stay, this guide will help you to experience the best that the city has to offer.
The word ‘Mexico’ comes from the náhuatl words meztli, ‘moon,’ xictli, ‘center’ or ‘navel,’ and co, ‘place.’ Mexico means ‘in the navel of the moon.’

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

The main square is the political, economic, social and religious center of the country. Here is the Templo Mayor, the remains of the Aztec temples, and a statue of an eagle perched on a cactus, which the Aztecs interpreted as the chosen place to build their city: Tenochtitlan. The Palacio Nacional, which houses five murals by Diego Rivera, faces the square, as well as city hall and the Cathedral, the largest and oldest in Mexico. For a panoramic view of the square, head for a drink on the terrace of the Hotel Majestic.

WHAT TO SEE

MUSEO DEL ESTANQUILLO
Isabel la Católica 26 at Madero; 5521 3052; www.museodelestanquillo.com. Displays the personal collection of late writer and intellectual Carlos Monsiváis. The museum is a treasure trove of more than 12,000 objects of Mexican memorabilia, from posters and postcards to books, cartoons from newspapers, and film posters that serve as a chronicle of the city.

PALACIO POSTAL
Tacuba 1; 5340 3300; open daily 10 to 18 hrs. Perhaps the world’s most palatial post office, and the most opulent place from which to send a letter home. The Pachuca quarry stone façade gives way to a cool enclave of marble and wrought ironwork imported from Florence. There are elegant elevators and the third floor houses the Postal Museum.

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its beautiful Colonial-era buildings and monuments, the Historic Center is the heart of the city and where all visits should begin.
MUSEO NACIONAL DE ARTE
Tacuba 8; 5130 3400; www.munal.mx. This was the Palace of Communications at the turn of the 20th century, and is fronted by an equestrian statue. Now the National Art Museum housing a permanent retrospective of Mexican art from the 16th century to the present, as well as rotating exhibitions from around the world.

LATIN AMERICAN TOWER
Eje Central 2; 5518 7423; www.toreelatino.com. Once the city’s tallest building, and still a distinguishing feature on its skyline. It housed an insurance company in the 1950s, and which gave the tower its name. There is a bar and restaurant at the top and the observation deck on the 41st floor affords stunning, panoramic views of the city.

PALACIO DE BELLAS ARTES
Av. Juárez at Eje Central; 5512 2593; www.museopalaciodebellasartes.mx. The jewel in the crown of downtown, the palace of fine arts has a dazzling marble exterior and an art deco interior. The interior is decorated with paintings by Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Álvaro Siquieros and Rufino Tamayo, while the galleries host visiting exhibitions, and the auditorium, with a Tiffany curtain, hosts concerts, opera and ballet.

LA LAGUNILLA
Eje 1 at Reforma. Divided into three sections, of clothes, antique furniture and bric-a-brac, but you can find almost anything here. On Sundays, close to Reforma, there is an antiques market, with furniture from different eras as well as LPs, crockery, vases and even paintings by famous artists.
TWO SQUARES WORTH VISITING

LA CIUDADELA
Plaza de la Ciudadela 1 and 5. One of the largest arts and crafts markets in the city, where scores of stalls sell wares from across the country: embroidered garments from Michoacán or Chiapas, ceramics from Puebla and Mexico state, black pottery from Oaxaca, and silver from Taxco.

Look out for the alebrijes, brightly painted fantastical creatures fashioned from paper maché and which make a fun souvenir.

PLAZA TLAXOAQUE
José María Izazaga at Pino Suárez. Couples, skaters and dog-walkers gather here in the afternoons and, although the square is sandwiched between busy streets, it has a pleasant atmosphere of isolation. The area was remodeled as a park as part of the bicentenary of independence celebrations in 2010.

— WHERE TO EAT —

LA CASA DE LAS SIRENAS
República de Guatemala 32, Centro; 5704 3345; www.lacasadelassirenas.com.mx; Mon-Sat, 11 to 23 hrs, Sun until 18 hrs. Mexican dishes served in a Colonial-era townhouse with a terrace boasting the best view of the Cathedral and Zócalo.

CAFÉ DE TACUBA
Tacuba 28, Centro; 5518 4950; www.cafedetacuba.com.mx; daily, 8 to 23:30 hrs. A traditional meeting place since 1912 for politicians and artists. It still serves its Puebla mole enchiladas, stuffed chilies, tamales, cakes and delicious Spanish hot chocolate.

SALÓN CORONA
Bolívar 24, Centro; 5512 5725; www.saloncorona.com.mx; daily, 8 to 3 hrs. One of the center’s best bar/restaurants to spend an afternoon with a beer and tacos or octopus sandwiches, this cantina’s specialty, amid a lively atmosphere.
— NIGHTLIFE —

PASAGÜERO
Motolinía 33, Centro; 5521 6112; daily, 12 to 3 hrs. The downtown’s indie venue par excellence, attracting a young crowd in search of something different, whether it be a jam session of emerging musicians, a famous DJ, a performance or an art exhibition.

ZINCO JAZZ CLUB
Motolinía 20 at Cinco de Mayo; 5512 3369; www.zincojazz.com; Wed-Sat, 21 to 2 hrs. A classic jazz club, located in what were the vaults of the Bank of Mexico. Local and international musicians play on its small and intimate stage.

PLAZA DE LA REPÚBLICA AND REVOLUTION MONUMENT
The recently remodeled Revolution Monument – with a museum, shop, cafeteria and enormous esplanade – is part of the Paseo Revolución-Zócalo corridor. You can take a glass elevator to the monument’s viewing deck, while the basement houses a museum with photographs, videos, flags, weapons, documents and art from the Mexican Revolution.

PLAZA GARIBALDI
Eje Central at República de Honduras. The mecca of mariachis in the city: itinerant musicians in their traditional garb play for clients that come here to celebrate anniversaries, baptisms, weddings or the result of a soccer match, or to serenade their partner and have a drink, either on the square or in one of the bars that face it, such as Salón Tenampa, the most emblematic and with the best ambiance.
The neighborhood’s main drag is Álvaro Obregón, with both new and legendary restaurants, taco joints and diners, second-hand bookstores and alternative boutiques. There is also the Casa Lamm cultural center. On Orizaba street there are two squares, Luis Cabrera and Río de Janeiro, both surrounded by cafés, art galleries and restaurants, while Colima street has boutiques and stores. The Tonalá Cinema, on the street of the same name, has a bookstore and a bar-restaurant.

--- WHERE TO EAT ---

**BROKA**
Zacatecas 126, Roma; 4437 4285; www.brokabistrot.com; Mon-Fri., 14 to 18 hrs, tapas bar from 20 hrs to midnight. A small and inviting bar and restaurant with a fixed-price gourmet menu at lunchtimes. The interior patio is the perfect place for evening drinks and tapas.

**CONTRAMAR**
Durango 200, Roma Norte; 5514 3169; www.contramar.com.mx; Sun-Wed., 12 to 18 hrs, Thur-Sat until 21 hrs. Without a doubt one of the city’s best seafood restaurants, attracting a lively crowd at lunchtimes. The tuna and leek tostadas alone are worth the wait for a table.

**ROSETTA**
Colima 166, Roma; 5533 7804; Mon to Sat, 13 to 23:30 hrs. Italian food that differs from the usual dishes. Chef Elena Reygadas opened her restaurant in a remodeled early 20th century mansion, and where you’ll find some of the best dishes in town.
**COVADONGA**
Puebla 121; 5533 2922; Mon-Sat 1pm-2am, Sun until 9pm upstairs only. A traditional Spanish-style bar and restaurant, popular among journalists, intellectuals and bohemians, with a good menu, and where men meet to play dominos.

**SALÓN SAN LUIS**
San Luis Potosí 28, Roma; 5574 1442; Mon-Sat., 20 to 3 hrs. A bar with a live orchestra playing salsa and frequented by office workers and local residents with the desire for a dance, and where girls will happily be your dance partner - for a fee.

**— NIGHTLIFE —**

**TROPICAL FLAVORS**
The extreme south of the Roma neighborhood is a favorite haunt of the South American and Caribbean community, who don’t miss their food or music and dances. The Medellín Market has stalls selling Cuban ice cream and Colombian food, and there are restaurants nearby serving arepas and South American beers. For dancing, head to Mama Rumba or La Embajada Jarocha.

**CONDESA**
The streets of Michoacán, Nuevo León, Tamaulipas and Mazatlán are the most-trodden due to their dozens of cafés, taco joints, bars, ice cream parlors and restaurants. The former Bella Época cinema is now the Rosario Castellanos bookstore, with a cinema, and which hosts book presentations. Ámsterdam, a street that was once a horseracing circuit, is one of the most pleasant in the city and at its center is Parque México.

**ROMA, CONDESA AND ZONA ROSA**
WHERE TO EAT

AZUL CONDESA
Nuevo León 68; 5286 6268; Mon-Wed 1-11pm, Thur-Sat until 2pm, Sun until 6pm. A trendy hangout serving both traditional and innovative Mexican cuisine, created by chef Ricardo Muñoz Zurita, inspired by dishes from across Mexico.

MEROTORO
Amsterdam 204; 5564 7799; Mon-Sat 2-11:30pm, Sun until 6pm. Specializing in cuisine from the Baja California peninsula using organic ingredients.

MEROTORO

XEL-HA
Parral 78; 5553 5968; Mon-Sat 1pm-2am, Sun until 7pm. A cantina with the accent on Yucatán cuisine, serving dishes such as cochinita and lime soup, and where there is always a lively lunchtime and evening atmosphere.

AMONG THE ILLUSTRIOUS FORMER RESIDENTS OF THE ROMA ARE US WRITER WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS AND ITALIAN PHOTOGRAPHER TINA MODOTTI.

— NIGHTLIFE —

FELINA
Ometusco 87; 5277 1917; Tue-Wed, 18 to 1 hrs., Thur-Sat until 2 hrs. A place without pretentions that is tranquil and relaxed and where the music is not too loud for conversation. Weekends see it fill up, with a good selection of music.

EL DEPÓSITO
Baja California 375 at Camargo; 5271 0716; Mon-Wed 12 to midnight, Thur, Fri and Sat until 2 hrs., Sun until 22 hrs. A trendy bar and craft beer store, with a wide variety of Mexican and imported brews and snacks, such as crispy French fries and tasty pizzas.
ZONA ROSA

The triangle formed by the crossing of Reforma and Insurgentes avenues is flooded with hotels, bars, boutiques and restaurants and was named the Zona Rosa in the 1960s. Since then it has been famous as one of the city’s liveliest nightlife hubs, especially among the gay community. It’s also famous for its shops and the Bazar del Ángel, a small mall with art galleries and an antiques market held on Saturdays.

— WHERE TO EAT —

BELLINGHUASEN
Londres 95; 5207 4978; daily, 13 to 19 hrs. A Zona Rosa stalwart that boasts a beautiful garden, serving delicious and hearty breakfasts and lunches, and which is a favorite haunt among the city’s political classes.

BISTRO MOSAICO
Paseo de la Reforma 316 at Estocolmo; 5514 0450; www.bistromosaico.com.mx; Mon-Wed 12:30-11pm, Thu-Sat until 12am, Sun until 6pm. Serves up delicious bistro fare, including generous salads and cold meats, all in a lively and elegant but casual and relaxing atmosphere.

TEZKA
Amberes 78; 9149 3000; Mon-Fri 13 to 23 hrs, Sat and Sun until 18 hrs. Succulent signature cuisine created by Spanish chef Juan Mari Arzak and now in the capable hands of chef Francisco Flores. The food is a rarity in this city, and among the best you’ll find.

— NIGHTLIFE —

BAR MILÁN
Milán 18; 5592 0031; www.barmilan.com.mx; Thur-Sat 21 to 2:30 hrs. A diminutive discotheque famous for its cocktails, good music and for having its own currency, called ‘miracles,’ and which you can use to buy mojitos, negronis and Manhattans.

LIPSTICK
Amberes 1; 5514 4920; Thur-Sat 22 to 3 hrs. A lively and friendly gay club spread across three floors, and with a terrace affording a view of Paseo de la Reforma, where DJs play to an eclectic crowd. Check for special themed nights.

ANGEL OF INDEPENDENCE

The city’s icon and logo, a 130ft column hewn in quarry stone from Chiluca crowned by a bronze angel bathed in gold leaf, and the work of architect Antonio Rivas Mercado. Unveiled on September 16, 1910, on the 100th anniversary of Mexico’s independence. It’s the gathering point for mass celebrations, such as a victory by Mexico’s soccer team.
PASEO DE LA REFORMA

Built on the orders of emperor Maximilian of Hapsburg to link Chapultepec Castle with the downtown area, and which today is lined with some of the city’s most iconic statues and sculptures: the Angel of Independence, Diana the Huntress, and Sebastián’s ‘Horse.’ It is also the city’s backbone of culture, finance, tourism, media and politics. It also features five-star hotels, the Torre Mayor, and the Senate.

WHAT TO SEE

CHAPULTEPEC PARK
The city’s largest park, with a boating lake, a zoo, restaurants and museums. Chapultepec Castle, which was the presidential residence until the 1930s, now contains the National History Museum, with a permanent collection chronicling Mexico’s history, from the Aztecs to the Porfirio Díaz regime, and exhibits coins, armory and weapons, furniture, jewelry and decorative arts.

MODERN ART MUSEUM
Paseo de la Reforma at Gandhi; 5553 6233; www.mam.org.mx; Tue-Sun, 10:15 to 17:30 hrs. Hosts a permanent collection of modern Mexican art that includes works by the country’s most celebrated artists, such as David Alfaro Siqueiros, Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, Dr. Atl, María Izquierdo and José Luis Cuevas. The gardens also contain sculptures by renowned artists.

One of the city’s most beautiful avenues, Paseo de la Reforma links the downtown area to Chapultepec Park. The elegant Polanco neighborhood is an exclusive enclave of fashion boutiques, restaurants and art galleries.
TAMAYO CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM
Paseo de la Reforma at Gandhi; 5286 6529; www.museotamayo.org; Tue-Sun, 10 to 18 hrs. Exhibits a collection by Mexican artist Rufino Tamayo as well as temporary exhibitions of international contemporary art.

NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGY MUSEUM
Paseo de la Reforma at Gandhi; 40405300; www.mna.inah.gob.mx; Tue-Sun, 9 to 19 hrs. One of the jewels of the city and a must-see, although one visit won’t be enough to see it all. Contains the archaeological legacy of the Mesoamerican civilizations up to the arrival of the Spaniards, including beautiful and extraordinarily complex pieces found at archaeological sites across the country, such as colossal Olmec heads from Tabasco and Veracruz, smiling figurines from the Totonac culture of the Gulf coast.

PAPALOTE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
Constituyentes 218; 52371773; www.papalote.org.mx. An interactive museum for children, with games and activities to stimulate the five senses. Each game, apparatus and space is designed for learning while having fun. The ADO Megapantalla IMAX has the largest cinema screen in Latin America and shows movies on wildlife, geography and history in 3D. The area of giant bubbles is a kids’ favorite.

POLANCO
A neighborhood of luxury-brand shops, avant-garde designers, five-star hotels and some of the city’s best restaurants. One of the main streets, Presidente Masaryk, is lined with stores whose brands grace the world’s capital cities, as well as those showcasing Mexican designers. There are many art galleries and, in the evenings, the glamour migrates to the bars, such as those inside the hotels on Campos Elíseos.
PUJOL
Francisco Petrarca 254, Polanco; 5545 4111; www.pujol.com.mx; Mon-Sat 12 to 16 hrs., and 18:30 to 23 hrs. Considered one of the world’s best restaurants, and the brainchild of chef Enrique Olvera, who experiments with ingredients to reinvent Mexican dishes.

EL BAJÍO
Alejandro Dumas 7, Polanco; 5281 8245; Mon-Sat 8 to 23:30 hrs., Sun 9 to 22. Authentic Mexican cuisine that is tasty but can be quite heavy. Don’t order too much, but do try the house specialties, such as marrowbone soup, plantain gorditas with beans and black sauce or pork tacos.

BIKO
Plaza Zentro. Presidente Masaryk 407, Polanco; 5282 2064; www.biko.com.mx; Mon-Sat 13:30 to 17 hrs., and 20 to 23 hrs. Chef Mikel Alonso prepares Basque food with much creativity and imagination of great visual beauty.

— NIGHTLIFE —

BAR ÁREA
Hotel Habita. Presidente Masaryk 201, Polanco; 5282 3100; Mon-Wed 19 to 23 hrs., Thur-Sat until 2 hrs. A bar with a small pool on the rooftop of the Hotel Habita, with spectacular views and tunes spun by resident and guest DJs.

IVOIRE
Emilio Castelar 95, Polanco; 5280 0477; www.ivoire.com.mx; Mon-Sat 18 to 1 hrs. Café, restaurant and, on the rooftop terrace with a view of Parque Lincoln, the bar is a good place for a drink to start the night. Famed for its attentive service.

A walk around Polanco should include Polanquito, an area of cafés and restaurants around Parque Lincoln, which has a theater, a lake and a children’s playground.
COYOACÁN

A delightful neighborhood of Colonial-era houses and cobblestone streets, the center of Coyoacán is famous for its two squares, Jardín Hidalgo and Jardín Centenario, the centerpiece of which is a fountain with a sculpture of two coyotes, after which the neighborhood is named. The squares are surrounded by bars, restaurants and cafés. On the evening of each September 15, a huge celebration takes place outside the town hall, or Casa de Cortés (which dates from 1755), to commemorate Mexico’s independence.

— WHAT TO SEE —

MUSEO NACIONAL DE CULTURAS POPULARES
Avenida Hidalgo 289; 4155 0920; Tue-Thur 10 to 18 hrs., Fri-Sun until 20 hrs. Exhibits folk art from all of Mexico’s regions. The museum shop is a great place to buy souvenirs.

LA CASA AZUL
Londres 247; 5554 5999; www.museofridakahlo.org.mx; Tue 10 to 17:45 hrs. Wed from 11 hrs., Thur-Sun from 10 hrs. This beautiful house and garden, where the artist Frida Kahlo lived (and died) with fellow artist Diego Rivera, contains a rich collection of works by both artists, as well as part of the latter’s collection of pre-Hispanic vestiges, and some of their personal effects and original furniture and fittings, providing an insight into their lives there, and that of their influential circle of friends.

CENTRO CULTURAL Y SOCIAL VERACRUZANO
Miguel Ángel de Quevedo 687; 5659 8538; www.centroveracruzano.blogspot.mx. Dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of Veracruz culture. Boasts gardens, a restaurant, café, theater and an art gallery, and organizes cultural events such as concerts, dance, theater and book presentations.

These neighborhoods will make you feel as if you were in a little town in Colonial times: brick and mortar houses with large gardens on cobblestone, tree-lined streets, and squares with little churches.
UNAM, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE
The campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), one of the world’s largest, with more than 300,000 students, is located just south of Coyoacán. The Central Library is wrapped in a mural by Juan O’Gorman, and the dean’s tower in a mural by David Alfaro Siqueiros. The nearby Olympic Stadium features artwork in stone by Diego Rivera.

MUSEO CASA DE LEÓN TROTSKY
Rio Churubusco 410; 5554 0687; Tue-Sun, 10 to 17 hrs. The fortified house where the Soviet revolutionary León Trotsky lived, exiled by Stalin, and where he was murdered by a Stalinist agent in 1940.

DIEGO RIVERA ANAHUACALLI MUSEUM
Museo 150; 5617 4310; www.museoanahuacalli.org.mx; Wed-Sun 11 to 17 hrs. In the San Pablo Tepetlapa, this building houses Diego Rivera’s collection of pre-Hispanic artifacts and was constructed out of volcanic rock and inspired by the Teotihuacan architectural style. Hosts temporary exhibitions, workshops, dramatized visits and an art bazaar.

MUSEO UNIVERSITARIO ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO (MUAC)
Insurgentes Sur 3000; 5622 6972; www.muac.unam.mx. An impressive new museum showcasing contemporary art, dance and performance, The museum forms part of the Centro Cultural Universitario, which includes the Nezahualcóyotl and Miguel Covarrubias concert halls, the Juan Ruiz de Alarcón theater and the Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz forum.
— WHERE TO EAT —

**LOS DANZANTES**
Jardín Centenario 12, Coyoacán; 5658 6054; www.losdanzantes.com; Mon-Fri 13:30 to 23 hrs., Sat 9 to 12, Sun until 23 hrs. Great Oaxaca cuisine and offering a good selection of mezcal varieties.

**EL TAJÍN**
Centro Cultural y Social Veracruzano. Miguel Ángel de Quevedo 687, Coyoacán; 5659 5759; www.centroveracruzano.com.mx; daily, 13 to 18 hrs. Veracruz-style cuisine with a contemporary twist. Famous for its duck enchiladas and seafood.

**CORAZÓN DE MAGUEY**
Jardín Centenario 9-A, Coyoacán; 5659 3165; www.corazondemaguey.com; daily, 13 to 1 hrs. Traditional Mexican cuisine and some seasonal dishes such as chilies in pomegranate sauce, acociles (river shrimps), and chicatana ants.

— NIGHTLIFE —

**EL HIJO DEL CUERVO**
Jardín Centenario 17, Coyoacán; 5658 7824; www.elhijodelcuervo.com.mx; Mon-Wed 14 to 23 hrs., Thur 13 to 1 hrs., Fri and Sat until 2:30 hrs, Sun 12 to midnight. One of the most emblematic bars in the area that also organizes cultural events, such as concerts, poetry readings and book presentations.

**MUSEO ESTUDIO DIEGO RIVERA**
Diego Rivera at Altavista, San Ángel; 5550 1518; www.estudiodiegorivera.bellasartes.gob.mx. Diego Rivera lived and worked in these two functionalist houses designed by Juan O’Gorman during the 1930s with Frida Kahlo. The museum houses works by both artists, as well as pre-Hispanic artifacts and a collection of decorative Day of the Dead skeletons.
LA BIPO
Malitzin 155, Coyoacán; 5484 8230; Thur-Sat 13 to 2:30 hrs., Sun-Wed until 23:30 hrs. A bustling cantina on the ground floor with metal tables and a free jukebox, while upstairs is a well-frequented dance club. Serves delicious Mexican dishes, such as mushroom soup and fish tacos.

SAN ÁNGEL
A neighborhood of elegant Colonial-era houses that used to be a separate village, and which is now a vibrant area of artists and artisans, especially on Saturdays, when the Bazar del Sábado is set up and transforms the main square, Plaza San Jacinto, into a sea of stalls selling paintings, sculptures and handcrafts. There is also an indoor bazaar, in front of the square, housing a labyrinth of shops selling clothes and good-quality handcrafts.

— WHERE TO EAT —

ALAIA
Canoa 80, Tizapán, San Ángel; 5616 6336; www.alaia.com.mx; Mon-Sat 13:30 to 23 hrs., Sun until 18 hrs. Contemporary Basque cuisine with an extensive Spanish wine list, either to enjoy with tapas or with a full meal.

CORAZÓN DE ALCACHOFA
Camino al Desierto de los Leones 15, San Ángel; 5550 5003; www.corazondealcachofa.com; Mon-Wed 13:30 to 23 hrs., Thur-Sat until midnight, Sun until 18 hrs. Local ingredients combine on a menu specializing in salads, fine cuts of meat and seafood.

SAN ÁNGEL INN
Diego Rivera 50, San Ángel Inn; 5616 1402; www.sanangelinn.com; Mon-Sat 13 until 1 hrs., Sun until 21:30 hrs. Located in a beautiful country mansion with expansive interior patios, specializing in traditional Mexican cuisine.
CUICUILCO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
Av. Insurgentes Sur; Mon-Sun, 9 to 17 hrs.
The Cuicuilco archaeological site, just to the south of the UNAM, was an important ceremonial center and, dating from the 7th century B.C., was the first major settlement in the valley now occupied by Mexico City. A grassy knoll conceals a large pyramid and the site is surprisingly tranquil despite being sandwiched between two major thoroughfares.

TLALPAN
Once a pre-Hispanic settlement, this is another enchanting enclave of narrow cobbled streets, elegant houses and a central square that serves as the venue for live music on the bandstand on weekends. A good selection of cafés and restaurants surround the square, including a traditional cantina, and there’s a good bookstore and a children’s playground in a small park on one corner.

— WHAT TO SEE —

TLALPAN FOREST AND AJUSCO
Part of a national park system popular with picnickers on weekends and where you can play gotcha, rent quad bikes or race around go-kart tracks, go horseback riding and mountain biking, or simply enjoy the fresh air and a traditional Mexican meal at one of the rustic restaurants in the area.

CASA FRISSAC
Plaza de la Constitución at Moneda; 5485 3266. Located inside a 19th-century mansion, the Javier Barros Sierra Science and Culture Institute houses an art gallery that organizes exhibitions and workshops.

SIX FLAGS
Carretera Picacho-Ajusco; www.sixflags.com.mx. For theme park fans, this is the city’s premier place for white-knuckle rides. Located in Talpan forest, the park includes The Joker spinning rollercoaster, and seven other hair-raising rides, including Superman, Hurricane and Boomerang, guaranteed to give young and old alike an unforgettable adrenaline rush.

COCYOAACÁN, SAN ÁNGEL AND TLALPAN
— WHERE TO EAT —

LOS GOLIARDOS
Plaza de la Constitución 17, Tlalpan Centro; 5573 1039; Mon-Wed 14 to 23 hrs., Thur until 23hrs., Fri and Sat until 1hrs., Sun until 22hrs. Try the house pizza, with goats’ cheese, black olives, peppers, capers and tomato.

ARROYO
Insurgentes Sur 4003, Tlalpan; 5573 4344; www.arroyorestaurante.com.mx; daily, 8 to 20 hrs. The house specialty is lamb barbacoa, cooked with the traditional method, in a hole in the ground, and other Mexican dishes. Cowboys put on displays of horsemanship and diners can even get in the ring with the bull-ocks. Olé.

LA RAYUELA
Madero 107, Tlalpan Centro; 5655 8456; daily, 8 until midnight. In a Colonial-era mansion with tables outside under the arches and serving a European-inspired menu featuring pas-ta, salads and a decent wine list.

— NIGHTLIFE —

BEER FACTORY
Av. San Fernando 649 Int. 6, at Av. Insurgentes, Peña Pobre, Cuicuilco; 5606 0612; Mon-Thu 12 to midnight, Fri and Sat until 2 hrs. Sun 12 to 22 hrs. The Tlalpan branch of a chain that brews its own beer, a popular spot for an early evening drink and frequented by a young and lively crowd.

— WHERE TO EAT —

Spend a morning or afternoon in the center of Tlalpan and enjoy its excellent restaurants, cafés and ice-cream parlors.
XOCHIMILCO

A network of ‘floating gardens’ dating back to pre-Hispanic times and plied by trajineras, gondola-type boats, their (female) names emblazoned across their sunshades in letters of flowers. Mariachi musicians paddle by and will play to visitors, and food is served from passing boats. From the Cuemanco embarkation point, visit the more tranquil canals and enjoy the beautiful countryside views. In some areas you’ll see the traditional ‘rafts’ of soil in which the plants grow, an agricultural practice dating back to the Toltecs and which has been declared UNESCO World Heritage. Xochimilco is famous for its flower markets and its food market, the perfect place to stop and eat some snacks before taking to the water.

— WHERE TO EAT —

CASA DON NETO
Margarita Maza de Juárez 41, Barrio de San Pedro; 5334 9465; daily, 09:30 to 19 hrs. Extensive menu of traditional Mexican dishes, including fish, and all variety of snacks. A favorite among locals and visitors alike.

SABOR DE LUNA
Guadalupe l. Ramírez 180; 5489 6407;www.sabordeluna.com; Tue-Sun, 12 to 18 hrs. Culinary time travel with a full menu of authentic pre-Hispanic dishes, from snail ceviche to venison.

LA HERENCIA DEL GALLO
Av. Tabachines 58, Xochimilco; 5675 9004; Tue-Sun, 11 to 19 hrs. Serves classic Mexican dishes and offers a friendly, fun atmosphere popular among families with children.

Mexico City boasts a rural area of ecological reserves that is worth seeking out. To the south and southeast of the center are picturesque and tranquil towns surrounded by open countryside and agricultural land where 84 different varieties of crops are grown.
MILPA ALTA
A rural borough of small towns on the edge of the city, famous for the Mole Fair held every October in the village of San Pedro Acto-pan. More than 500 exhibitors, producers from the area and from other states such as Oaxaca, Puebla and Michoacán, set up stalls where you can taste the 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, in a wide variety of dishes. Milpa Alta also has beautiful plant markets, including a market of nopal and prickly pears. It is also home to the Centro de Educación Ambiental Tepenahuac.

— WHERE TO EAT —

DON PANCHO
Av. Hidalgo 68, San Pedro Ato-pan; 5844 2455; daily, 9 to 19 hrs. More than 50 years serving a wide selection of mole, and the ideal place to try this delicious sauce in all its varieties, one of the most exquisite dishes in Mexican cuisine.

QUINTA SAN DIEGO
Venustiano Carranza 1, San Pedro Ato-pan; 5844 3927; Tue-Sun, 9 to 18 hrs. Typical Mexican cuisine in a place popular with families, with a playground and kids’ workshops.

LOS COMALES
Av. Hidalgo 117, San Pedro Ato-pan. Grandma’s hearty home cooking; typical Mexican staples and a fabulous dessert made with mescal and prickly pear.

TLÁHUAC
Tláhuac is famous for the colorful Day of the Dead celebrations that take place on the first two days of November in the small town of San Andrés Mixquic, when the parishioners celebrate the lives of those no longer with us. Mass is held, people decorate the tombs of their relatives and erect colorful altars in their homes, all decorated with orange marigold petals.

MUSEO DOLORES OLMEDO PATIÑO
Av. México 5843; 5555 0891; www.museodoloresolmedo.org.mx; Tue-Sun, 10 to 18 hrs. Located in the former house of a Mexican socialite and patron of the arts whose extensive collection of Mexican art decorate the house. Houses the largest collection of Frida Kahlo paintings in the city, and there are also works by Diego Rivera, Pablo O’Higgins and Angelina Beloff, as well as pre-Hispanic works of art. Close by is the village of Tepepan, the Santa María Tepepan church and the former Convent of San Bernardino de Siena.
The fiesta of the patron saint San Andrés on November 30 includes processions, street stalls and fireworks. The Casa de Cultura de la Parroquia de San Andrés houses a small archaeological site, Mixquixtlí, in the interior patio, and which includes various figurines and sculptures found during excavations here. 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. Designed to resemble the Aztec rulers’ summer residence on the shores of Lake Texcoco, the Lago de los Reyes Aztecas is a park built around a lake and you can take a ride on a gondola-style boat for bird watching. There’s also a small museum exhibiting pre-Hispanic artifacts.

**CUAJIMALPA**

The center of Cuajimalpa, with its square and bandstand, maintains its small-town charm. A mostly rural borough and the ideal place for a day out to enjoy nature, the curiously named Parque Nacional Desierto de los Leones is, rather than a desert or home to lions, a densely forested hill topped by the former Convent of the Barefoot Carmelite monks. The convent’s cloisters contain galleries that play host to exhibitions of contemporary art, and there are guided tours of the building and the tunnels that burrow beneath it. The forested areas of the park are ideal for hiking and horseback riding, and you can satisfy your hunger by ordering a freshly fished trout prepared to your taste at Los Peteretes, or traditional Mexican snacks at La Venta food market. Another park ideal for hiking or practicing sports is Parque El Ocotal.

**WHERE TO EAT**

**EL PUENTE**
Av. Tláhuac 4285, Tláhuac; 5842 7096; Mon-Fri, 9 to 17 hrs., Sat, 8 to 13 hrs. Mexican snacks and staples, such as the classic chi-laqüiles and golden fried tacos.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Fun is guaranteed in Mexico City. A day hardly goes by when there isn’t an event or a show of some kind. The city is firmly on the tour route of world-renowned musicians and artists, and the host of big sporting events such as the marathon, with more than 20,000 runners, and is also the home of first-division soccer teams such as América, Pumas and Cruz Azul. Theater, music, dance, soccer, motor racing and horseracing; the city always has a venue with the floodlights blazing.

The Aztec Stadium plays host to soccer matches, of local tournaments as well as the national soccer team in international engagements. With a 104,000-capacity, the stadium is also the perfect stage for large-scale concerts, and there are guided tours. In the Foro Sol and the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez, a car racing circuit, there are large-scale concerts and live music festivals, such as the Vive Latino and Capital Corona events. The Auditorio Nacional, on Paseo de la Reforma, is the city’s premier concert venue, while its Lunario is a smaller space hosting concerts in a more intimate ambiance. Plaza Condesa, in the Condesa neighborhood, is another live music venue and whose stage is graced by indie and alternative musicians from around the world.

One of the city’s most popular soccer teams, Cruz Azul, has its stadium in the Nochebuena neighborhood, close to Plaza México, the world’s largest bullring.

Film lovers must visit the Cineteca Nacional, a cinema complex screening both commercial and art-house films, as well as hosting film festivals and premiers, often with director and cast in attendance.
Challenge your imagination