

# México

## Mexico City:

The following recommendations to tour Mexico can be combined as everything is fairly close and accessible. You can easily use the subway and walk in the most beautiful parts of Mexico City, to see all the recommended sites you need two to three days.

### Zócalo - Condesa:

Downtown you will find Bellas Artes, the Cathedral, the Zócalo, the museum of the Templo Mayor, Diego Rivera's mural in the National Palace, the Museum of Folk Art or Museo de Arte Popular (MAP, my favorite) and several other museums. Dine in the Café de Tacuba or the cantina La Opera (highly recommended). For breakfast try Sanborn's in the Casa de los Azulejos. After a long walk, the area "La Condesa" is the best choice to go to for drinks in one of the bars on the streets of Tamaulipas, Nuevo León and Michoacán. Our friend Rodolfo Andreu is keen on us recommending beer lovers to stop at: El Depósito (Av. Baja California 375) and La Graciela (Orizaba 163, Col. Roma).



### Chapultepec / Polanco:

Chapultepec Castle is a must-see. It has an incredible view of the city and the beautiful Chapultepec Park where you'll find the Zoo and pedal boats in the lake. After visiting Chapultepec go shopping and eat in one Polanco's National and International cuisine restaurants, here you'll also find many cafés and shops as well. Masaryk Street and the "Parque de los Espejos" are the areas you should go to.



### Anthropology Museum - Zona Rosa-Colonia Roma:



Learn more about the Mexican Pre-Hispanic Cultures in the world famous Anthropology Museum, where you can find the Sun Stone, erroneously called the Aztec calendar. Continue

by foot on Reforma, one of the main avenues of Mexico City and originally called the Empress's path when Maximilian and Charlotte were our Monarchs (1864-1867), heading towards downtown see the Winged Victory monument commonly known as the Angel of Independence. Continue walking to the "Colonia Roma" to have lunch, dinner or a drink in one of the good restaurants on Orizaba Street. Another good dining option is the Zona Rosa. Again Rodolfo's two beer places are a good choice.

### San Angel / Coyoacán:

Go for breakfast to San Angel in Plaza San Jacinto where you will find SAKS restaurant or pick another one on Avenida de la Paz. Then



head to Coyoacán (place of the Coyotes) to buy artwork and crafts. Visit the Frida Kahlo museum and the Parque Centenario. In Coyoacán have lunch in Los Danzantes restaurant, they might have crickets which are crunchy and great in a tortilla with guacamole or try escamoles... you are in for a distinguished culinary experience.

### Lucha Libre:

If you are adventurous go to one of our national spectacles "Lucha Libre" – Mexican wrestling – but be sure to let a local Mexican friend take you there, because the area around the Arena is not 100% safe.



Important: Mexico City has dangerous parts, so stay in Reforma, Condesa, Polanco and the historic center.

## Central Mexico:

- For the day: Teotihuacán, Metepec, Malinalco, Taxco and Tepoztlán these last two are closer to Cuernavaca.
- In one night: Valle de Bravo and Puebla.
- Two nights: San Miguel de Allende, Querétaro and Guanajuato.

Visit magical town Tepoztlán, the birthplace of Quetzalcoatl, the omnipotent feathered serpent and most important god of the Mexicas, commonly, but erroneously known as the Aztecs (45 minutes from Cuernavaca). See the lovely little town of Taxco (1.5 hours from Cuernavaca) and buy some relatively affordable silver jewelry

and enjoy the town. Valle de Bravo is also a magical town where people from Mexico City have country houses they enjoy during the weekends. It has a lake for water-skiing or jet-skiing and a nice little downtown (2 hours from Mexico City). Malinalco is a typical Mexican town founded by pre-Hispanic people guided by princess Malinali. With an archeological site a small but very well managed museum and nice restaurants, the 1.5 hour journey is worth it. Don't forget to try Malinali ice creams. Visit the colonial historic city of Puebla with more than 70 churches and try the famous "mole poblano" THE typical spicy sauce served with meat or poultry. Mole has fifty two ingredients and one of them is chocolate! San Miguel de Allende, Querétaro and Guanajuato are to the North of Mexico City and are colonial cities with rich cultural sites and wonderful artwork.

### Pacific Coast:

Puerto Vallarta and Riviera Nayarit are an alternative to the Mexican Caribbean Sea destinations. Find a more authentic, but not less welcoming taste of Mexico in the harbor and town of Puerto Vallarta.  
<http://visitpuertovallarta.com/>



Oaxaca has beautiful beaches, Puerto Escondido and Huatulco, with a laid-back atmosphere. Many places in this State keep a very traditional Mexican way of living; Oaxaca has the highest density of indigenous people and is worth dedicating several days to. Mitla

and Monte Albán are the archeological sites you must visit. Also, let your palate and shopping free when in this magical place Mezcal (liquor), crickets, salchile, mole and fresh fruits are some of the delights you'll remember back home. If you are interested in more adventurous destinations try combining Oaxaca and Chiapas States. You will not be let down with the natural, cultural and gastronomical wealth of these Southern states.

### Caribbean Coast:

Take a flight to Cancun Airport from Mexico City or Toluca (next to Mexico City and from where low cost airlines depart). There are also good packages that include flight and hotel (RIU Hotels). The Riviera Maya, is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. The most popular destinations are Cancún, Playa del Carmen, Tulum and Isla Cozumel. Cancun is the largest city, has a lot of nightlife, is very touristy and crowded with spring breakers from the USA. Playa del Carmen is a mixture of touristy and laid-back atmosphere and has a perfect infrastructure with beaches, bars, restaurants, hotels, hostels and clubs. Tulum has the widest beach with less infrastructure, however it is becoming more famous and developed each year. Isla Cozumel is the diver's destination; scuba and snorkeling are the main attractions. In all of the Yucatán Peninsula make sure you visit Cenotes, underground caves filled with fresh water and amazing views and colors, snorkeling/diving and swimming in these is




allowed. Near these destinations you will find Mayan Archeological sites: Chichen Itzá, Uxmal, Tulum, Cobá, among others. If time is on your side continue your trip from Oaxaca and Chiapas to the Yucatán Peninsula where all the above destinations are located.

*Enjoy our beautiful and welcoming country!*



It is safe to travel in the places mentioned above, but don't *only* take our word for it Lonely Planet references agree with most of them:  
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/mexico/mexico-city/travel-tips-and-articles/76638>

Of course you need to take your precautions and be alert as you would be in any trip to any large city. Only take taxis from hotels or official stands. Be wise, stick to official tourism information booths and police officers. Try not to ask strangers for information that don't feel right. In Mexico City stay in the areas of Reforma, Condesa, Polanco and the historic center.

 Please consider the environment.  
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