



# Mexico City

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## Best Places to Eat

- Pujol (p116)
- El Hidalguense (p114)
- Maximo Bistrot Local (p115)
- Los Cocuyos (p108)
- Hostería de Santo Domingo (p109)

## Best Places to Stay

- Red Tree House (p105)
- Casa San Ildefonso (p102)
- Villa Condesa (p106)
- Casa Comtesse (p105)
- Chalet del Carmen (p107)

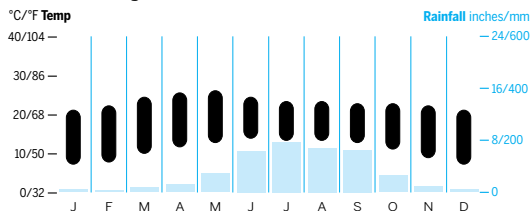
## Why Go?

Much-maligned Mexico City is cleaning up its act these days. Revamped public spaces are springing back to life, the culinary scene is exploding and a cultural renaissance is flourishing. And here's the kicker: by somehow managing to distance itself from the drug war, the nation's capital has emerged as a 'safe haven' of sorts.

Remember that Mexico City is, and has ever been, the sun in the Mexican solar system. A stroll through the buzzing downtown area reveals the capital's storied history, from its pre-Hispanic underpinnings and colonial-era splendor to its contemporary edge. Organized chaos rules in this high-octane megalopolis, yet rest assured that the city offers plenty of escape valves in the way of old-school cantinas, intriguing museums, dramatic murals and boating excursions along ancient canals. With all that and so much more going on, you just might be swayed to scrap those beach plans.

## When to Go

### Mexico City



**Late Mar–Apr**  
Vacationing *chilangos* clear out for Easter, leaving the city remarkably calm.

**Mar** The *centro's* streets become lively stages for cultural events during the Festival de México.

**Nov** Rainy season ends and the month begins with colorful Day of the Dead festivities.

## Mexico City Highlights

- 1 Study Diego Rivera's tableau of Mexican history at **Palacio Nacional** (p70)
- 2 Marvel at Aztec ruins in the heart of downtown at **Templo Mayor** (p70)
- 3 Cheer on the masked heroes at the *lucha libre* bouts of **Arena México** (p126)
- 4 Gaze upon the Aztec sun stone and other superb pre-Hispanic relics at **Museo Nacional de Antropología** (p83)
- 5 Share Frida's pain at her birthplace, Casa Azul in Coyoacán, now home to the **Museo Frida Kahlo** (p93)
- 6 Sing along to mariachi ballads in the soulful **Plaza Garibaldi** (p74)
- 7 Feast your eyes on colorful murals and folkloric dance performances at **Palacio de Bellas Artes** (p77)

