



Around Mexico City

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Best Places to Eat

- » El Mural de los Poblanos (p151)
- » Restaurante y Cabañas San Diego (p144)
- » La Sibarita (p169)

Best Places to Stay

- » Casa Limón (p192)
- » Hotel Hacienda de Cortés (p176)
- » Posada del Tepozteco (p169)

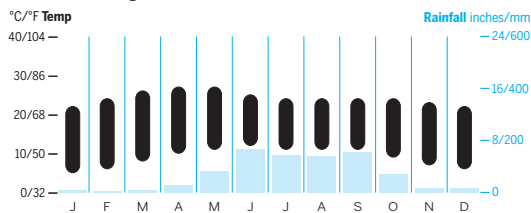
Why Go?

With its daunting size and seemingly endless sprawl, the megalopolis of Mexico City might seem like a challenge to escape from, but even if you're in Mexico's capital for only a week, the ancient ruins, *pueblos mágicos* (magical villages) and stunning mountain landscape of the surrounding area should not be missed. Mexico City – like many capitals – has little in common with even its closest neighbors.

While many visitors to the region take a day trip to the awe-inspiring archaeological complex at Teotihuacán, the area offers much more – from the captivating colonial cities of Taxco, Puebla and Cuernavaca to the eccentric, small towns of Valle de Bravo and Tepoztlán. For those eager to taste some crisp, particulate-free mountain air, there are *pueblitos* (small towns) like Cuetzalan and Real del Monte, the volcanic giants such as Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl, and the lesser-known ruins of Xochicalco and Cantona to visit.

When to Go

Puebla City



May–Oct During the rainy season afternoon showers wash the air clean and bring wild mushrooms to the forests.

Sep The weeks leading up to Independence Day are the time to taste the seasonal specialty *chiles en nogada*.

Nov–Apr The drier months are nominally cooler, making for pleasant daytime city exploration and casual hikes.

Around Mexico City Highlights

- 1 Enjoy a sunset drink on **Cuetzalan's** (p165) tiny *zócalo* amid the dramatic scenery of the Sierra Madre Oriental
- 2 Be blown away by the spectacular pyramids at **Teotihuacán** (p137) or discover some of central Mexico's most magnificent, lesser-known ancient sites at **Xochicalco** (p179) and **Cantona** (p164)
- 3 Wander the steep cobblestone streets of **Taxco** (p181) and scope out the city's famed silver shops
- 4 Have a close encounter with Mexico's New Age culture in **Tepoztlán** (p167) and **Malinalco** (p191)
- 5 Hang out lakeside at the gorgeous weekend getaway of **Valle de Bravo** (p190)
- 6 Visit the grand haciendas and rural *pulque* producers in the **Tlaxcalan countryside** (p164)
- 7 Climb volcanic peaks, like **La Malinche** (p163), **Nevado de Toluca** (p190) or **Iztaccihuatl** (p157)

