



Mexico City

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Pujol (p115)
- ➔ Quintonil (p115)
- ➔ El Hidalguense (p114)
- ➔ Maximo Bistrot Local (p115)
- ➔ Los Cocuyos (p110)
- ➔ Hostería de Santo Domingo (p111)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Red Tree House (p106)
- ➔ Casa San Ildefonso (p103)
- ➔ Villa Condesa (p107)
- ➔ Casa Comtesse (p107)
- ➔ Chalet del Carmen (p109)

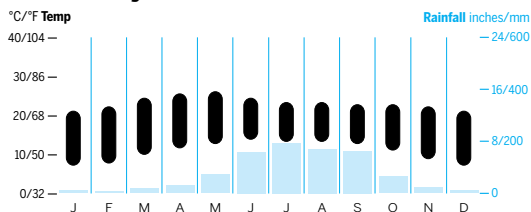
Why Go?

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. On top of all that, by largely managing to distance itself from the drug wars, the nation's capital remains a safe haven of sorts.

Remember that Mexico City is, and has always 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



Mar–Apr Vacationing residents 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 Studying Diego Rivera's tableau of Mexican history at **Palacio Nacional** (p70).
- 2 Marveling at Aztec ruins in the heart of downtown at **Templo Mayor** (p67).
- 3 Cheering on the masked heroes at the *lucha libre* (Mexican wrestling) bouts of **Arena México** (p127).
- 4 Gazing upon the Aztec sun stone and other superb pre-Hispanic relics at **Museo Nacional de Antropología** (p86).
- 5 Sharing Frida's pain at her birthplace, Casa Azul in Coyoacán, now home to the **Museo Frida Kahlo** (p95).
- 6 Singing along to mariachi ballads in the soulful **Plaza Garibaldi** (p74).
- 7 Feasting your eyes on colorful murals and folkloric dance performances at **Palacio de Bellas Artes** (p77).

