

# Mexico City Travel Guide

Including Teotihuacan



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## 1. Why you should visit the Mexico City

Mexico City is a city of superlatives, and it is our favorite large city on the planet. There is so much to see and do in this vibrant city – it can be overwhelming.

Whether you are interested in art and museums, culture, history or superb Mexican food, Mexico City is calling your name.



# Mexico City Travel Guide

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In this Mexico City Purple Guide, we will tell you what you need to know to visit Mexico City and we provide you with self-guided walking tours that bring you to the highlights of Mexico City.

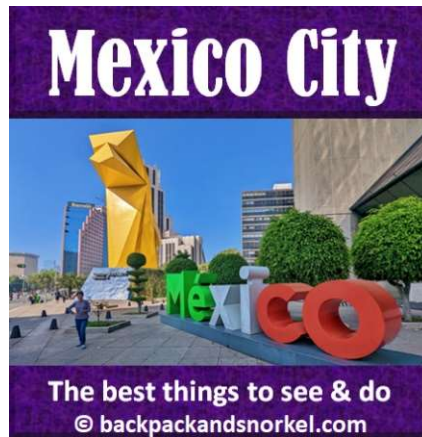
To help you find out what best fits you, we have added lots of photos and links to google maps locations and additional reviews. Join us to explore the best things to see and do in Mexico City in nine days.

This is not an in-depth Mexico City guide – and you will need a lot more than nine days to see all major highlights of Mexico City. You can buy in-depth Mexico City guides from the big travel guide companies. Our goal is to help you Make Memorable Moments on a relaxing Mexico City trip and help you build the perfect itinerary for your trip. For that purpose, we have added lots of photos so that you see what you will experience and make an educated decision if these places are for you. Please also check out the other exciting destinations and travel guides on our Backpack and Snorkel [website](https://backpackandsnorkel.com).

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We have made a video about Mexico City. Please check it out.





## 2.1 Disclaimer

In this guide we are doing our best to give you the most accurate information. Over time, however, prices, times, and even attractions are subject to change. Therefore, I and backpackandsnorkel.com cannot be held responsible for the experiences of users while traveling. I strongly suggest that you write or call the attractions you plan to visit for confirmation when you make your travel plans.

Also, please stay alert, be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye on your belongings. Pickpockets and other criminals can easily ruin even the best planned vacation.

## 2.2 Copyright

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## 3. General Information about Mexico City

Mexico City, also called Ciudad de México or CDMX, is the capital of Mexico. The city itself has a population of 9.1 mio, and the greater metropolitan area 21.8 mio people. That makes it the sixth-largest metropolitan area in the world and the most populous city in North America. Mexico City's greater metropolitan area is one of the most productive urban areas in the world – it creates about 22% of Mexico's GDP.

Mexico City is the oldest capital city in the Americas and archeological evidence of human occupation can be traced back to 12,700 BC.

The Aztecs originally built the city in 1325 under the name Tenochtitlan on an island in the center of Lake Texcoco.



## 3.1 Getting around in Mexico City

Mexico City is an expansive city. Most tourist attractions can easily be reached with the good and inexpensive [Metro or Metrobus](#) system.

Alternatively, you can call an Uber to get to your destination.

Ubers are typically slightly more expensive than taxis, but you get these benefits:

- You can pay with your credit card instead of cash that taxi drivers expect
- The price is fixed, and you don't need to worry that a taxi driver will overcharge you or pull a money switch-a-roo trick on you, especially if you don't speak Spanish

If you feel less adventurous, then the hop-on-and-off Turibus may be an option for you.

### 3.1.1 Metro ([website](#), [network map](#))

The Mexico City Metro is the second largest metro in North America after New York City. It transports approx. 4.5 mio people per day or 1.7 billion people per year.

On its 125 miles (201 km) of tracks, 12 color coded lines serve 195 stations. Trains run from 5am to midnight during the week, from 6am on Saturdays and 7am on Sundays.

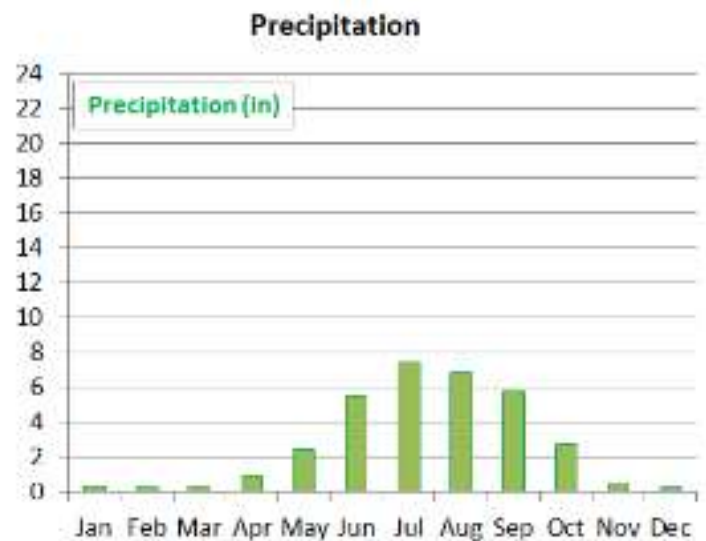
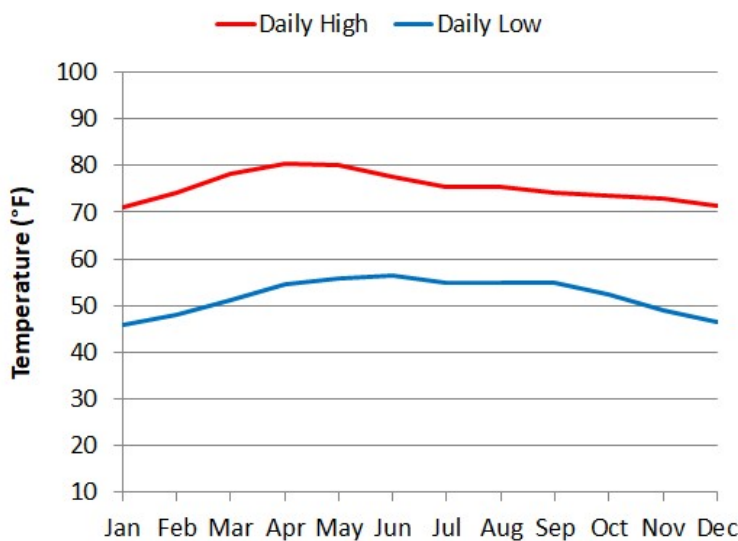


## 3.2 Climate of Mexico City

Mexico City has a subtropical highland climate which has more moderate temperatures in summer than lower lying cities. The chance for snow to fall is almost zero.

Mexico City has two main seasons. The wet humid summer lasts from May through October and the cool sunny winter runs from November through April. During winter, there is almost no rainfall.

Here is the climate that you can expect when you visit Mexico City:



## 3.3 The best time to visit Mexico City

The best time to visit Mexico City is from March to May, because it is warm, the sky is blue and there is almost no rain.

The second-best time to visit Mexico City is from November through February. It is cooler, but not cold, the sky is blue and there is almost no rain.

The summer months from June through October can be rainy, hot and humid. If you can deal with it, then you will be rewarded with fewer crowds and lower hotel rates. Just be warned, subway stations will fill up with people during downpours, water may flow into the subway stations, and you can probably imagine that lots of sweaty people in the hot subway stations may not be a good idea.

## 3.4 Money, ATMs, and Credit Cards in Mexico City

The currency in Mexico City is the Mexican Peso. You can find the exchange rate [here](#).

You can pay almost everything by credit card (Visa and MasterCard). Only Metro tickets, taxi fares, street vendors and some small stores require you to pay cash.

There are plenty of ATM machines to get cash. Before you use any ATM in Mexico, take a close look at the card slot to ensure that there is no skimming device that will steal your card number and PIN.

## 4. Itinerary for a 9-day trip of Mexico City

This 9-day itinerary covers many of the major highlights of Mexico City. If you have more time, then you can add other neighborhoods. In case that you have less time, please read through this Purple Guide and take the things out that you are not interested in.

Here is the suggested itinerary:

Day	Activities
1	Flight to Mexico City
2	<a href="#">Cuauhtémoc with Centro Histórico</a> : <a href="#">Zócalo</a> ; <a href="#">Gran Hotel Ciudad de Mexico</a> ; <a href="#">Palacio Nacional</a> ; <a href="#">Mexico City Metropolitan Cathedral</a> ; <a href="#">Templo Mayor</a> ; <a href="#">Museo Nacional de Arte</a> ; <a href="#">Palacio Postal and museum</a> ; <a href="#">Palacio de Bellas Artes</a> ; <a href="#">Torre Latinoamericana</a> ; <a href="#">House of Tiles</a> ; <a href="#">Alameda Central</a> ; <a href="#">Murals and monuments at Paseo de la Reforma</a>
3	<a href="#">Exploring Chapultepec</a> : <a href="#">Museo Nacional de Antropología</a> ; <a href="#">Bosque de Chapultepec</a> ; <a href="#">Castillo de Chapultepec</a>
4	<a href="#">Exploring Coyoacán</a> : <a href="#">Viveros de Coyoacán</a> ; <a href="#">Museo Frida Kahlo</a> ; <a href="#">Plaza Jardín Hidalgo</a> ; <a href="#">Bazar Artesanal Mexicano</a> ; <a href="#">Jardín Centenario</a> ; <a href="#">Parroquia San Juan Bautista</a>
5	<a href="#">Exploring Polanco</a> : <a href="#">Campos Elíseos</a> ; <a href="#">Parque Lincoln</a> ; <a href="#">Avenida Presidente Masaryk</a> ; <a href="#">Parque Uruguay</a> ; <a href="#">Museo Jumex</a> ; <a href="#">Museo Soumaya</a>
6	<a href="#">Teotihuacan Ruins</a> ; <a href="#">Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe</a>
7	<a href="#">Exploring Xochimilco</a> : <a href="#">Mercado de Xochimilco</a> ; <a href="#">Plaza Central de Xochimilco</a> ; <a href="#">Catedral de Xochimilco</a> ; <a href="#">Floating Gardens of Xochimilco</a>
8	<a href="#">Mexico City Street Art Bike Tour</a>
9	Flight home

## 5. Self-guided walking tours of Mexico City

### 5.1 Self-guided walking tour of the historic district (Centro Histórico) in Cuauhtémoc in Mexico City

Cuauhtémoc is the historic and cultural center of Mexico City. It is named after the last Aztec Emperor and ruler of Tenochtitlan from 1520 to 1521.

It has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest population of all districts in Mexico City, but creates almost one third of the city's GDP. Mexico City's historic district is part of Cuauhtémoc.

Cuauhtémoc is pronounced: coo-au-tée-mock.

The ée in téé is pronounced as in fiancée and the stress is on téé.



A = [Zócalo](#)

B = [Gran Hotel Ciudad de Mexico](#)

C = [Palacio Nacional](#)

D = [Mexico City Metropolitan Cathedral](#)

E = [Templo Mayor](#)

F = [Museo Nacional de Arte](#)

G = [Palacio Postal and museum](#)

H = [Palacio de Bellas Artes](#)

I = [Torre Latinoamericana](#)

J = [House of Tiles](#)

K = [Alameda Central](#)

L = [Paseo de la Reforma](#)



## 5.1.5 Templo Mayor ([map](#))

Templo Mayor was called **Huēyi Teōcalli** by the Aztecs and for them, Huēyi Teōcalli was the center of the city Tenochtitlan, which is now Mexico City, and the center of their universe.

Templo Mayor was dedicated to two gods:

- Huitzilopochtli: the god of war, sun, human sacrifice, and the patron of the city of Tenochtitlan
- Tlaloc: the god of rain, water, fertility, and agriculture

Both deities had separate shrines at the top of the great pyramid and there was a separate staircase for each shrine. The shrine of Huitzilopochtli was the larger of the two.

The central spire was dedicated to the wind god Quetzalcoatl.

The great pyramid is estimated to have had this size at the base: 328 x 262 ft (100 x 80 m) and measured 200 ft (60 m) from the plaza to the top of the Huitzilopochtli shrine.



When Cortes conquered and destroyed Tenochtitlan in 1521, he used building materials from Templo Mayor to rebuild Mexico City in Spanish style.

While much of Templo Mayor was destroyed, some of it became overgrown by vegetation and was eventually forgotten. Over time, people started settling in this area and build their houses without knowing that one of the Aztecs holiest sites lay buried underneath them.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, excavations found parts of buildings and artefacts, but it took until 1978 when buildings on this site were demolished and serious excavation and preservation work was started.

The excavated buildings with some limited explanations can be seen free of charge from an elevated walkway.

The artefacts that were found can only be seen in the [Templo Mayor Museum](#).



Templo Mayor, the great pyramid, was built in seven phases. Each phase was building upon and enlarging the temple of the previous phase.



- **First Temple:** Construction of the first temple started around 1325. It is immersed in ground water and can therefore not be excavated. Ancient records state that this first pyramid was built with earth and wood, and it is doubtful that any of this will have survived until now. The first temple is the only unexcavated phase.
- **Second Temple:** The second temple was built between 1375 and 1427, during the reigns of kings Acamapichtli, Huitzilihuitl and Chimalpopoca. So far, only the upper part of this temple with its two stucco-covered stone shrines has been excavated.
- **Third Temple:** The third temple was built between 1427 and 1440 during the reign of king Itzcoatl. It contained a staircase with eight stone standard-bearers (divine warriors) that guard the access to the upper shrines on the pyramid.
- **Fourth Temple:** This temple was built between 1440 and 1481 during the reigns of kings Moctezuma I and Axayacatl. Its top platform was decorated with serpents and monkey or Tlaloc shaped braziers.

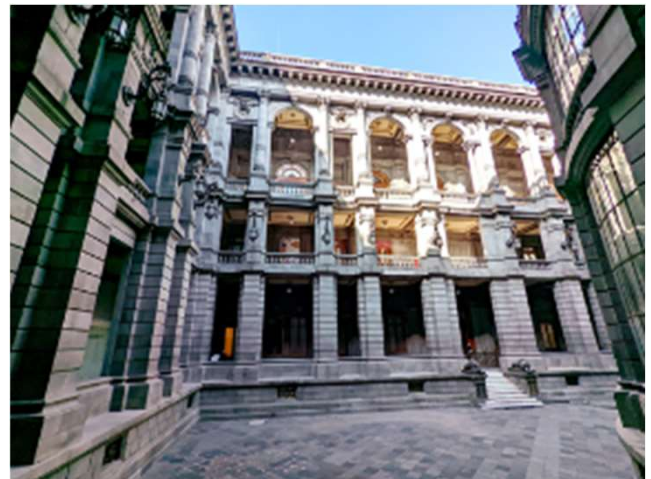
## 5.1.6 Museo Nacional de Arte ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

The Museo Nacional de Arte, often just called MUNAL, was founded in 1982. It is located in the old Palace of Communications, which was built in the early 20th century to house the Secretariat of Communications and Public Works. MUNAL's permanent collection consists of more than 3,000 pieces of Mexican fine art from the colonial period (1550 to 1821), the first century after Mexico's independence (1821 to about 1920) and the period after the Mexican Revolution (1920 to 1950).

Besides the artwork, visitors can enjoy the beautiful architecture of the palace, which is primarily designed in Classic and Gothic styles, but other architectural styles can also be found.

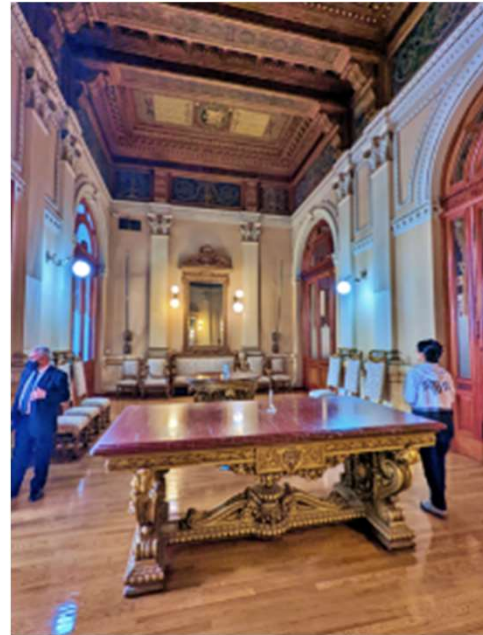
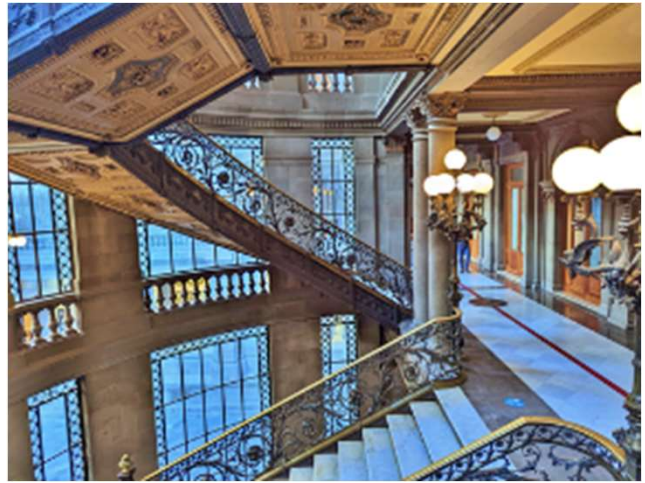
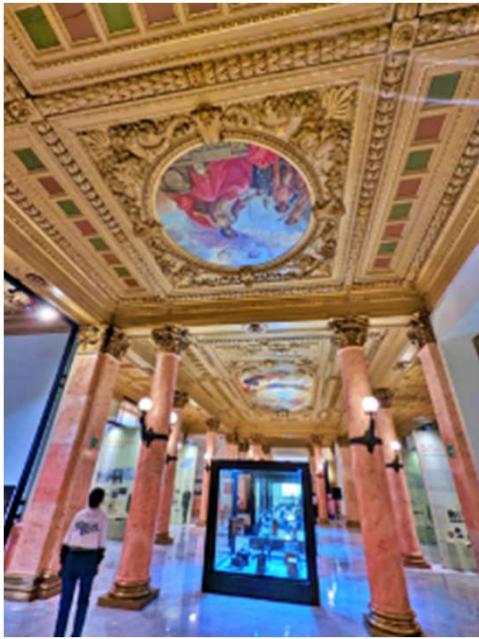
Admission is 80 Pesos per person and payment is only accepted in cash. If you want to take photos (no flash photography allowed), then you have to pay 5 Pesos extra and you will receive a rolled-up paper ticket that you will have to wear as a ring to signal the guards that you paid.

Video permits cost 30 Pesos. Tripods or illumination are not permitted.





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## 5.1.8 Palacio de Bellas Artes ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

Mexico City's Palace of Fine Arts is sometimes called Mexico's Cathedral of Art, because it has hosted many most notable concert, dance, literature, opera, and theater events and exhibitions of paintings, photography, and sculptures. In 1987, it was declared an artistic monument by UNESCO.

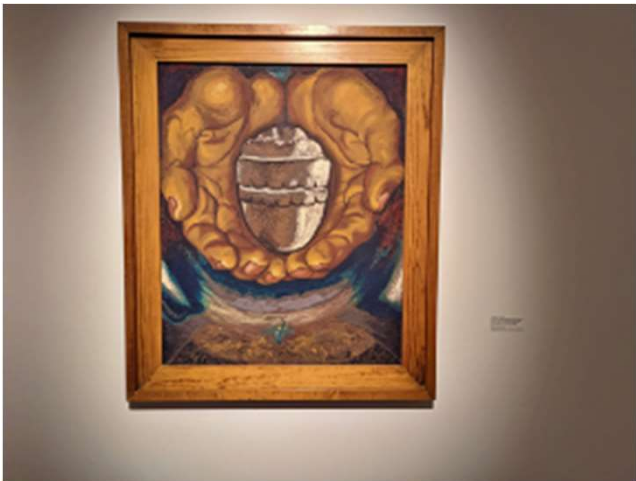
The Palacio de Belles Artes was built from 1904 - 1934 with multiple delays and construction stops.

The building itself is impressive in its Art Nouveau (exterior) and Art Deco (interior) styles. The main exterior and interior façades are made of white Italian Carrara marble. The four Pegasus sculptures in the plaza front of the building were brought here from the Zocalo where they originally stood.

Today, the museum exhibits murals, paintings, and sculptures on three floors. It is notable for its (often violent) murals by Diego Rivera and other renowned Mexican artists. Compared to other museums, the amount of exhibited art is much lower.

Admission is 80 Pesos per person, only cash is accepted. Bags need to be checked for free at the wardrobe.

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Paseo de la Reforma has become a preferred place for Mexicans to hold celebrations or demonstrations.

On one weekend we witnessed three parades right in front of our [Airbnb](#) on Paseo de la Reforma. Two were short, but one lasted for 90min after we arrived, and we don't know how long it was already underway.





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This concludes your first full day in Mexico City.

## 5.2 Self-guided walking tour of Chapultepec in Mexico City

With a size of 1,695 acres (686 hectares), Chapultepec Park (Bosque de Chapultepec = grasshopper hill forest) is Mexico City's largest park.

Once a retreat reserved for the Aztec ruling and religious elite, one of the last battles between the Spanish and Cuauhtémoc's army occurred at Chapultepec Hill in 1521.

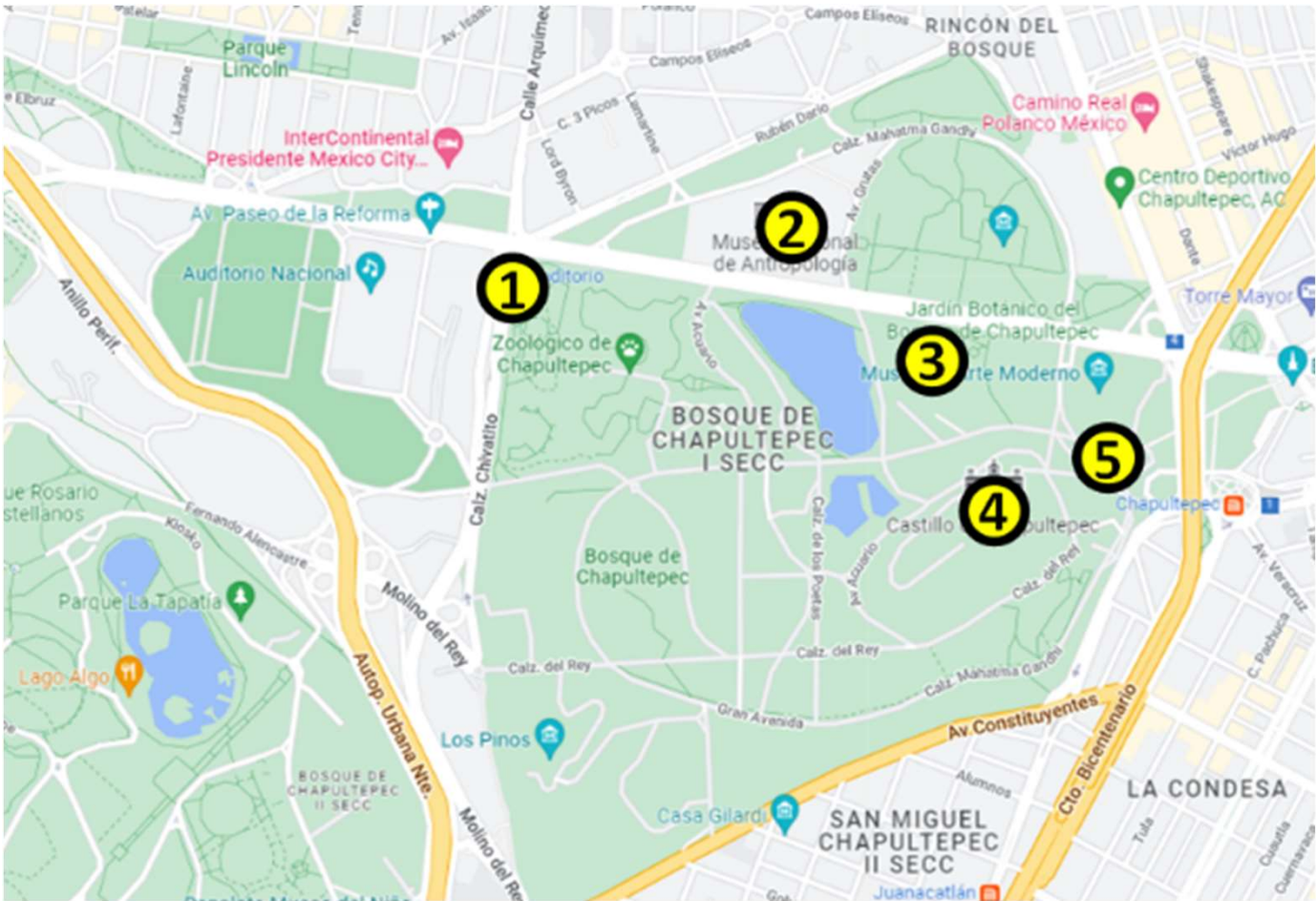
Chapultepec Park is visited daily by approx. 250,000 people or 15 million people annually. It is divided into 4 sections.

We will spend much of the day seeing a small part of the first section, which happens to be the oldest section of the park. If you like, you can visit Fuente de Tlaloc in the second section, but this is a long walk.

If you visit with children, then you may want to consider Chapultepec Zoo (near the Auditorio metro station), which lies in the north-western side of the first section.



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1 = Auditorio Metro Station

2 = [Museo Nacional de Antropología](#)

3 = [Bosque de Chapultepec](#)

4 = [Castillo de Chapultepec](#)

5 = [Monumento a Los Niños Heroes](#)

A good way to start your day is to take the Metro to the Auditorio station (#1 on the map) and then walk along Paseo de la Reforma to the [Museo Nacional de Antropología](#) (#2 on the map).

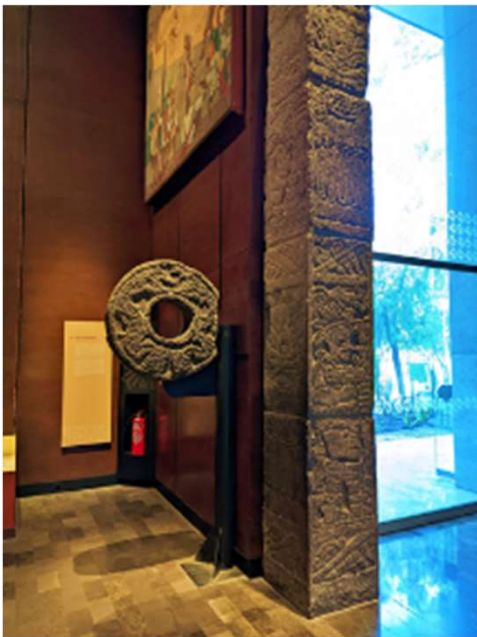
You have explored the beauty of [Paseo de la Reforma](#) on [Day 1](#) of your tour in Cuauhtémoc. Paseo de la Reforma near Auditorio, on the border of [Chapultepec](#) and [Polanco](#), is different but also gorgeous.

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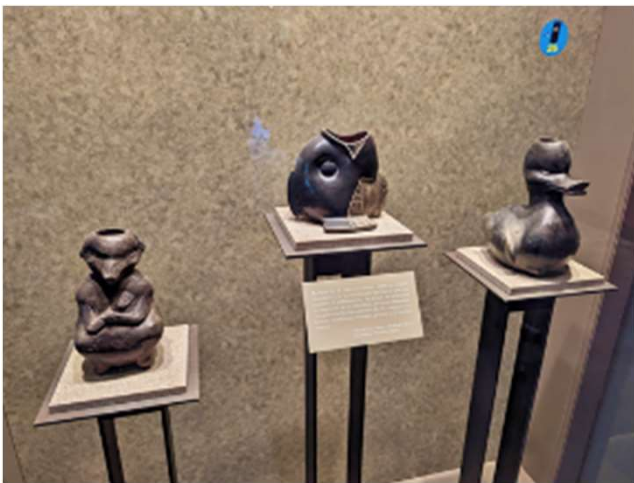


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## 5.2.3 Castillo de Chapultepec ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

Chapultepec castle is located on top of Chapultepec Hill, a Hill that was sacred to the Aztecs.

It was built from approx. 1785 to 1864 as a summer residence for the highest colonial administrator of New Spain. Because the building looked like a fortress, rumors came up during construction that it was supposed to become a stronghold to rebel against the Spanish Crown and the owner died suddenly in 1786. The Spanish crown tried to sell the building that was still under construction for a fifth of the money spent, but nobody agreed to buy it.

It took until 1806 until the municipal government of Mexico City acquired the building. The Mexican War of Independence halted any activity, and the building was abandoned until it became a Military Academy in 1833.

During the Mexican–American War, the castle was conquered by US forces in 1847 and the Niños Héroes ("Boy Heroes") died defending the castle.

In 1864, the castle became the residence of the emperor of the short-lived Second Mexican Empire. That led to a flurry of construction activity to make the castle more suitable of a royal residence.

Since the castle was at the outskirts of Mexico City, construction of a road was ordered that connects Castillo de Chapultepec with the city center. The name of that road was Paseo de la Emperatriz, which was later changed to: [Paseo de la Reforma](#).

When the Second Mexican Empire fell in 1867, the castle was abandoned again and later used as an Astronomical, Meteorological and Magnetic Observatory, Military Academy, presidential residence, official guest house for foreign dignitaries until, in 1939, a presidential decree established Chapultepec Castle as the National Museum of History. The museum that you see today opened in 1944.

Chapultepec Castle was a filming location of the 1996 movie William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, starring Claire Danes and Leonardo DiCaprio.

At the time of writing, the museum is open Tue-Sun from 9am – 5pm and admission is 90 Pesos per adult. The cashiers only take cash, but you can buy tickets with your credit card at the vending machines.

After you have your ticket, exit the building to the left and walk up the hill. At the first entrance gate you will find lockers. If you have any water or other liquids with you, then lock them there as you will be denied entry at the second gate.



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Once you are through the second gate, you can enjoy the architecture of the castle and you can enjoy the museum. Do not forget to also visit the beautiful garden behind the castle and marvel at the wonderful views over Mexico City.





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## 5.3 Self-guided walking tour of Coyoacán in Mexico City

Coyoacán is a borough of Mexico City which was occupied by the Tepanec people who fought Aztec domination and therefore welcomed the Spanish conquistadores. The Spaniards made Coyoacán their headquarters during their conquest of the Aztec empire and, from 1521 and 1523, made it the first capital of New Spain.

The name Coyoacán comes from the Aztecs and means **place of coyotes**. Depictions of coyotes are prevalent throughout the city, e.g. on street signs.

It took until 1857 until Coyoacán became part of expanding Mexico City and it was not until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century that the rural town became the urbanized center that it is today.

Nevertheless, the historic downtown area of Coyoacán has preserved much of its small-town Mexican charm and it has quickly become one of our favorite destinations to relax and people-watch within Mexico City.

Coyoacan is a good place to stroll through the streets.





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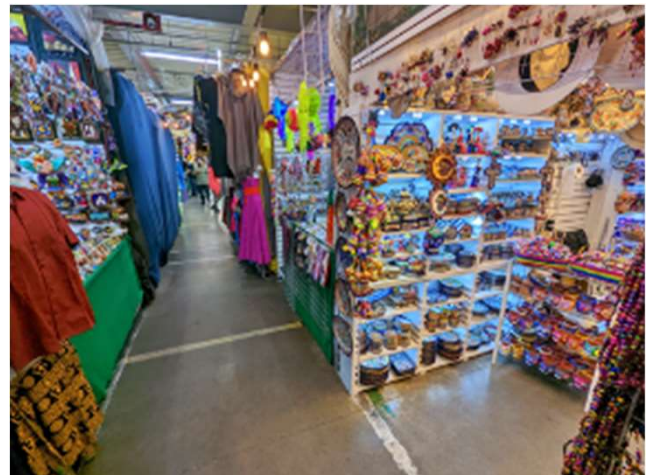
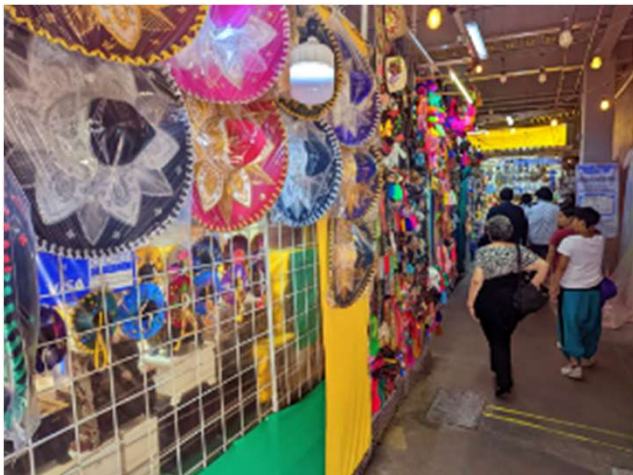




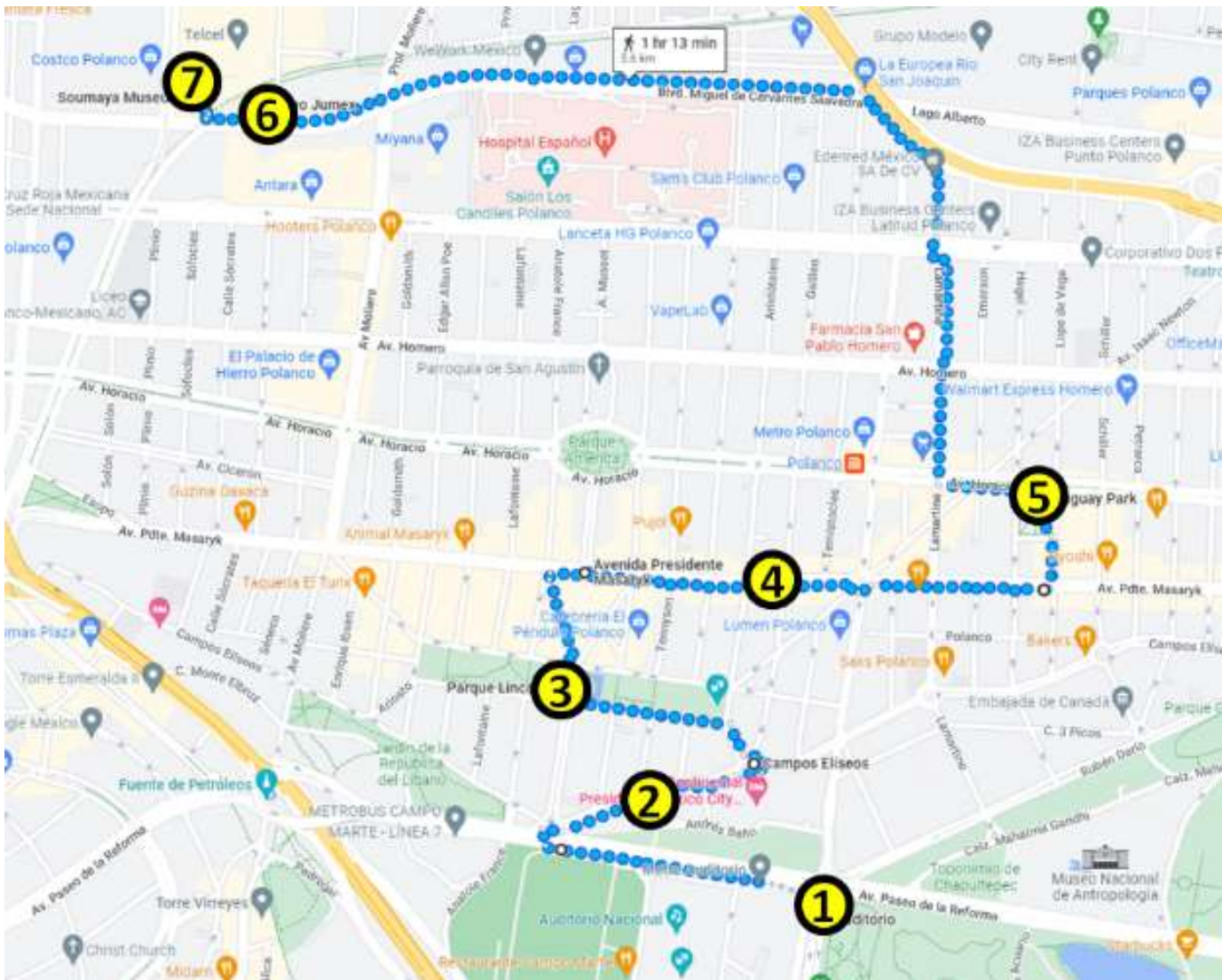
## 5.3.4 Bazar Artesanal Mexicano ([map](#), [reviews](#))

Built in 2008, Bazar Artesanal Mexicano provided much-needed relief for people visiting nearby [Plaza Jardín Hidalgo](#) and [Jardín Centenario](#) which were overrun by street vendors.

The Bazar has lots of small vendor stands on two floors where you can buy anything from souvenirs to clothes. Restrooms are on either floor of the building.



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1 = Auditorio metro station

2 = [Campos Elíseos](#)

3 = [Parque Lincoln](#)

4 = [Avenida Presidente Masaryk](#)

5 = [Parque Uruguay](#)

6 = [Museo Jumex](#)

7 = [Museo Soumaya](#)



## 5.4.2 Parque Lincoln ([map](#), [reviews](#))

Lincoln Park was the first park in Polanco. It is named after Abraham Lincoln in remembrance on his opposition to the Mexican-American War at a time before he became President. The Lincoln statue was a gift from the Lyndon B. Johnson administration to the people of Mexico.



1 = [Aviary](#)

2 = Children's Playground

3 = [Artificial Lake](#)

4 = Abraham Lincoln Statue

5 = Martin Luther King Jr. Statue

6 = [Clock Tower](#)

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The park is well maintained and has walking paths that cross it.

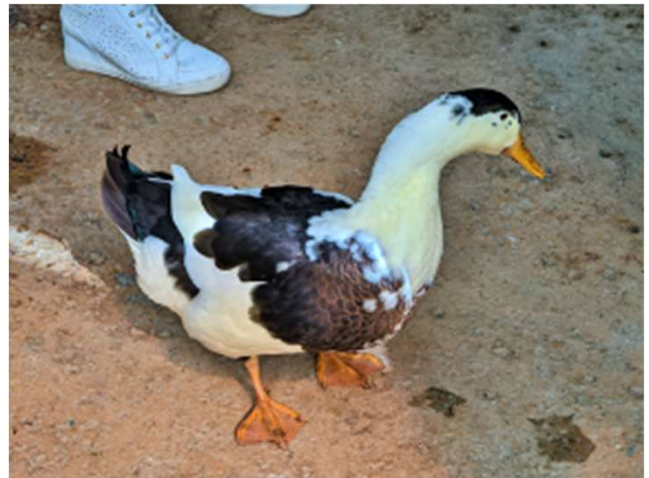




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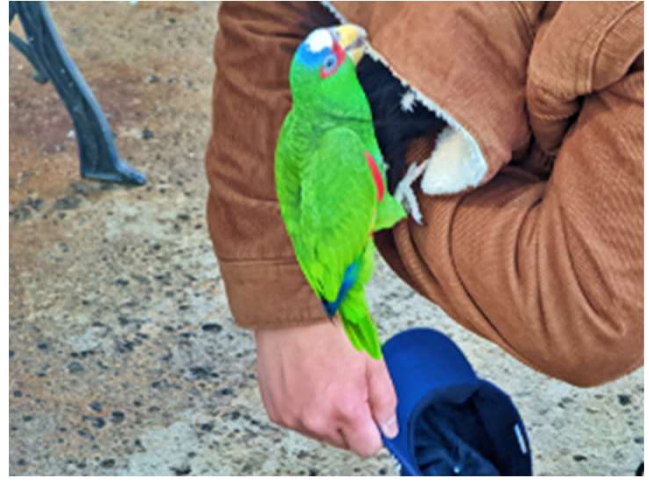
One of the highlights of the park is the **Aviary** ([map](#)). Admission was 10 Pesos per person at the time of writing and you get to walk among dozens of colorful birds and even peacocks.





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## 5.5 Self-guided walking tour of Teotihuacan near Mexico City

Teotihuacan is an ancient Mesoamerican city 25 miles (40 km) northeast of Mexico City. Many of the most architecturally significant Mesoamerican pyramids were built here, like the Pyramid of the Sun which is the third-largest pyramid in the world. It is estimated at the population of Teotihuacan peaked at around 450 AD with potentially up to 250,000 people, which would make Teotihuacan at least the sixth-largest city in the world at that time. If you have visited the [Museo Nacional de Antropología](#), then you have seen lots of amazing artefacts that were recovered at Teotihuacan.

There are several tour operators that offer Teotihuacan tours. Most tours also stop at the [Basilica Lady of Guadalupe](#). Be advised that many tours, especially the inexpensive tours, only give you 1-2h at Teotihuacan, which we don't think is enough time to enjoy the grandeur of this place. More than likely, such tours bring you to various shopping places where the tour guides collect commission from the sellers for everything that you buy.

If you want to spend a wonderful day exploring Teotihuacan, then you can either join a personalized tour with a competent tour guide, or take an uber, or go to Teotihuacan by yourself using the metro and a public long-distance bus.

Honestly, getting to Teotihuacan by metro and bus is real easy and inexpensive, even if you don't speak Spanish, and that's why we explain how to do this in the [next chapter](#).

How to pronounce Teotihuacan?

Teotihuacan is pronounced: teo-thu-acahn



## 5.5.1 How to get to Teotihuacan by metro and bus

Zona Arqueológica de Teotihuacán, or for short Teotihuacan, is open daily from 9am to 5pm.

The first thing you do is take a metro to the **Autobuses del Norte** metro station on the yellow line (line 5). When you exit the metro station, you will see the large crescent shaped façade of the **Autobuses del Norte** bus terminal right across the street.

Enter the building and go to the far-left side towards Gate 8 (Sala 8).

Two counters before the gate, you will see a ticket counter with a large **Autobuses Teotihuacan** sign over it. This is where you will buy your bus tickets.



When we were there, the lady at the counter spoke English and accepted credit cards, so buying the tickets was easy.

At the time of writing, a single ride was 52 Pesos, so a round trip for 2 people was 208 Pesos.

When you have your tickets, you go to Gate 8 and wait until boarding for your bus is announced on the monitor.

There are restrooms at the gate that you can use for 6 Pesos.

## 5.5.3.3 Layout of Teotihuacan

Teotihuacan and its pyramids are not oriented in North-South direction, they are skewed by approx. 16 degrees.

The Avenue of the Dead ([Calzada de los Muertos](#)) is the main axis that connects the three main visitor sites in Teotihuacan:

- [Pyramid of the Sun](#)
- [Pyramid of the Moon](#)
- [Temple of the Feathered Serpent](#)



A = [Bus stop for Gate 2](#)

B = [Gate 2](#)

C = [Pyramid of the Sun](#)

D = [Museum](#)

E = [La Gruta restaurant](#)

F = [Calzada de los Muertos](#)

G = [Temple of the Feathered Serpent](#)

H = [Pyramid of the Moon](#)

I = [Gate 3](#)

J = [Bus stop for Gate 3](#)

## 5.5.3.5 Calzada de los Muertos in Teotihuacan

The Avenue of the Dead (Calzada de los Muertos in Teotihuacan) is a 1 ¼ mile (2 km) long and 148 ft (45 m) wide main thoroughfare of Teotihuacan which connects all three important monuments, the [Pyramid of the Sun](#), the [Pyramid of the Moon](#), and the [Temple of the Feathered Serpent](#).

Residential buildings in Teotihuacan appear to have been segregated into compounds for the high elites, compounds for intermediate elites, and multifamily compounds for the laboring class. Dwellings near the Central district and along the Avenue of the Dead appear to have been occupied by higher class.

The Avenue of the Dead from the [Pyramid of the Sun](#) all the way to the [Temple of the Feathered Serpent](#) is segmented into different plazas and that means you will need to climb and descend walls with multiple steps to move between the plazas. Most of the structures to the sides are off-limits but there are some side plazas that you can explore. So, keep your eyes open.





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When you walk towards the Pyramid of the Moon, close to the plaza where the Pyramid of the Moon stands, you will see a sign on the right directing to what is left of a Puma Mural ([map](#)). Just imagine, the pyramids and part of the city painted in these bright colors.



The first tomb contained four human skeletons, animal bones, jewelry, obsidian blades, and a wide variety of other offerings. It is speculated that the tomb may have been dedicated to the fifth phase of construction.

The second tomb was dedicated to The Great Goddess and dated to the fourth stage of construction. It contained one human male sacrificial victim, skeletons of a wolf, jaguar, puma, serpent, bird, and over 400 other offerings including large greenstone and obsidian figurines, ceremonial knives, and spear points.

In the Plaza of the Moon, there is a central altar which was closed at the time of writing due to active research at this site.





## 5.5.3.8 Museo de la Cultura Teotihuacana in Teotihuacan ([map](#))

The Museo de la Cultura Teotihuacana can easily be reached via the walkway from the south-eastern corner of the [Pyramid of the Sun](#). Follow the signs to the museum and botanical garden and do not exit the Zona Arqueológica de Teotihuacan.

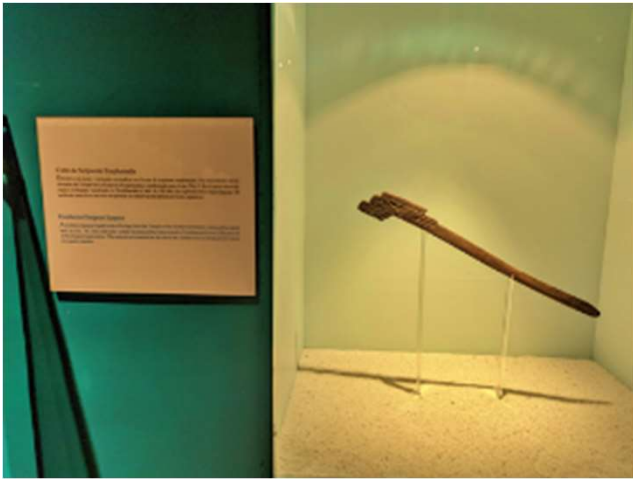
Before you get to the museum you pass an administrative office, gift shop, vending machine and a restrooms. The museum is not visible from there. Just continue on the path and down the stairs and then you will see it.

The museum is not as complete and marvelous as the [Museo Nacional de Antropología](#), but it has many interesting artefacts that were found at Teotihuacan.











## 5.6.2 Mercado de Xochimilco ([map bldg1](#), [map bldg2a](#), [reviews](#))

Located in two gigantic halls along Avenida 16 de Septiembre, Mercado de Xochimilco. You will come to building 2a first. In this building you can find pretty much anything from produce to meats, kitchen ware, souvenirs and lots of food vendors serving inexpensive and delicious Mexican street food. We ate lunch here – be advised that nobody speaks English. The next building to the north has lots of flower vendors and otherwise similar offerings as building 2A.





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The boats are beautifully painted in bright colors. If you like, you can pay extra for drinks and even meals and for a Mexican band on your boat.

The driver will push the boat through the canals with a long stick and once in a while you will encounter other boats.

The whole area is quiet and you can see some birds. We really enjoyed the ride and would go again.





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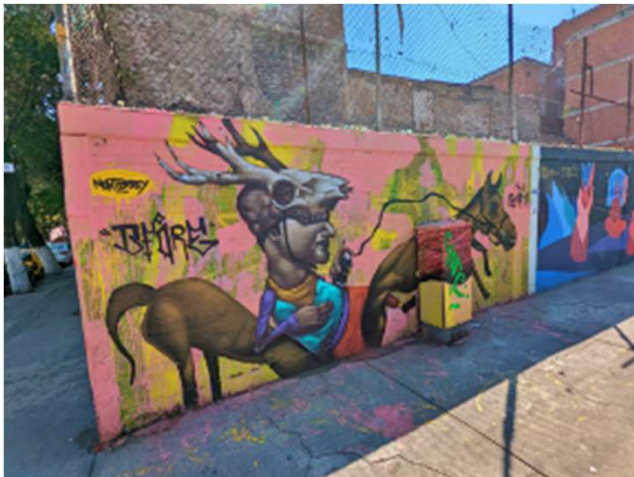
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This concludes your second last full day in Mexico City.



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## 7. Closing Remarks

### ABOUT RUDY FROM BACKPACK & SNORKEL

I was born in Germany and emigrated to the US in 2003. My wife and I are a truly multinational couple: I, with my German background, and she with her Chinese heritage. Both of us live in the USA.

Sadly, working in the US means we have much fewer vacation days compared to other countries like e.g. Germany and thus we cannot travel very frequently.

Through a lot of trial and error, we have found our ideal travel and vacation style. **Making Memorable Moments** by focusing on important destinations, planning time for meeting the locals and, of course, for relaxation are our priorities.

We have also learned to appreciate local foods and try to eat as many local dishes as possible. Just for fun, we try to eat at one Chinese restaurant in each country we visit. It is absolutely amazing how different Chinese food is all over the planet.





## MAKING MEMORABLE MOMENTS

You may take 10,000 photos during your vacation, rush from one attraction to the next, but what you will remember in your heart is how you were **Making Memorable Moments**.

For me, that was e.g. Spider Rock in Canyon de Chelly (ever heard of this US National Park?). When I first saw it, I was blown away by this majestic natural obelisk and the beautiful canyon that it sits in. I have been there two more times and still feel the same.

Or think of Isla Mujeres, a small island outside Cancun, Mexico. On the surface, Playa Norte is supposedly Mexico's most beautiful beach and it is always crowded and the boats that anchor there play loud music. Below the surface, Isla Mujeres is very relaxed, quite walkable and it has friendly locals, good authentic Mexican food and good international cuisine and is often very affordable.

**Isla Mujeres is our personal paradise!**



## PACK YOUR BACKPACK & SNORKEL AND LET'S GO

Our travel style has evolved over the years. We are packing light these days when we travel and typically only need a small backpack per person - see our [Traveling Light Guide](#).

With this guide, I want to provide value to you and help you plan your own relaxing vacations with the goal of **Making Memorable Moments!**

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.