

ABOUT MEXICO CITY

Mexico City (Ciudad de Mexico in Spanish) is the capital city of Mexico and one of the most important political, cultural, educational and financial centres in North America. Settling on an altitude of more than 2,000 metres, tourists are instantly enamoured by the city's glamour, cultural heritage and contemporary development. Every corner of the city is sprinkled with stories to tell of famous personalities and ancient tribes. While the Aztecs discovered and gave the city its culture and heritage, the Spanish revamped and added their touch. Today, the cultural amalgamation is mirrored in every landmark of Mexico City, be it the Templo Mayor, El Zócalo square, Catedral Metropolitana or Frida Kahlo museum.



El Zocalo Square

The Zócalo is the common name of the main square in central Mexico City. Prior to the colonial period, it was the main ceremonial center in the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan.

Today the Zócalo is home to the powers that be. On its east side is the Palacio Nacional (the presidential palace), on the north is the Catedral Metropolitana, and on the south are the city government offices. Jewelry shops and extravagant hotels line the arcade known as the Portal de Mercaderes on the plaza's west side.



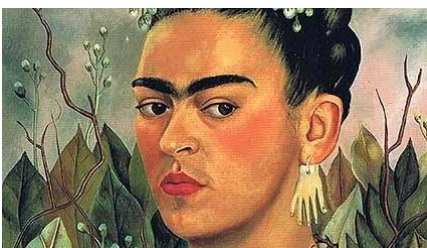
Catedral Metropolitana

The Metropolitan Cathedral, which is the largest church in all of Latin America, housing many art treasures of the colonial period. This landmark took over 250 years to build, evident in its various architectural styles.



Teotihuacan Pyramids - UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The mysterious Teotihuacán Pyramids were built around 100 BC as the centerpiece of an enormous ancient city that is often compared to ancient Rome. They were inexplicably abandoned centuries before the arrival of the Aztecs, who called the ancient architectural marvel the Birthplace of the Gods.



Frida Kahlo Museum

Also known as the Blue House (La Casa Azul), is a historic house and art museum dedicated to the life and work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. The building was the birthplace of Kahlo; where she grew up, lived with her husband Diego Rivera, and eventually died.

The museum contains a collection of artwork by Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and other artists along with the couple's Mexican folk art, pre-Hispanic artifacts, memorabilia and more.



Xochimilco - UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Xochimilco (pronounced 'so-chee-MIL-co') is an agricultural area located 17 miles (28 km) south of Mexico City where many of the city's flowers are grown. In Aztec times, with prime farmland being scarce, the local people developed artificial islands with floating reed mats loaded with soil and used them as gardens called chinampas. Experience this natural and cultural wonder in what is now an ecological reserve and UNESCO World Heritage Site.