



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Mexico - Ciudad de Mexico (DF)

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Mexico City (DF)
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish + 68 indigenous (like Nahuatl / Yucatec Maya / Mixtec)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 9mln (área: 20.4mln)
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 1485
- ✓ **Currency:** Mexican Pesos (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +52 (55)
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 066
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Yellow fever / DTP / Rabies / Dengue / Malaria prevention (+ anti-mosquito).



History Recap Over 1 Drink

AD 250-900: Mayas→mysterious collapse→10th-16th centuries: Revitalized Maya civilization in Yucatan (Chichen Itza/Uxmal). 1428-1521: Aztec Empire: Central Mex. '19: Start Spanish conquest. 1521-1820: Mex Spanish. 1810-21: War of Independence→ creation Mex Empire. '24: Federal republic→ formation of Guat/Honduras/ES/Nica /CR. '36: Texas secedes after war (US). '46-48: Mex-American War ends→ Mex forced to sell modern-day California/Nevada/New Mex/ Arizona/Utah. '76-191: Dictatorship Diaz ("Porfiriato")→ '10-'20: Mex Revolution: Constitutional republic. '20: Pres Carranza murdered→Civil War. '42: Mex declares war on Japan&Germany '50s-60s: Tortures& killings of hundreds political activists by security forces. '68: Student demonstration in Tlatelolco→Killed too. '70s-'80s: Left-wing activists disappear. '85: Earthquake DF kills thousands. '93: Nafta (free trade) with Canada & US. '94: Guerrilla rebellion Chiapas (Zapatista/EZLN): Oppose Nafta, pro Indian rights. '95: Government&EZLN agreement on greater autonomy Mayans. '96: Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR) attacks government troops. '97: 45 Indians killed by paramilitary gunmen (Chiapas). '01: "Zapatour". '05: Gang violence in prisons. '06: Pres Calderon: "War on Drugs". '08/'09: Drug-related killings rise (Juarez)→'06-'12: 50,000+ people died. '14: Disappearance of 43 trainee teachers in Guerrero. '15: Druglord El Chapo prison escape.

Travel Seasons

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|---------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Dry | coolest | | | warm | est | | | | | | | |
| Wet | | | | | | | wettest | | | | | |
| High season | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Budget | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Altitude: 2230m Climate: Temperate highland climate (CWR)

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Free museums: [Palacio de Bellas Artes](#) (Sun/stud), [Secr. Educación Publica](#) (ID), [Museo de Arte Popular](#) (Sun), [Soumaya](#), [Museo Mural Diego Rivera](#) (Sun).
- ☺ Museums free with a (fake) student pass: [Museo Nacional de Antropologia](#), [Templo Mayor](#), [Museo Nacional de Historia](#), [Museo Arte Moderno](#) (+Sun).
- ☺ Sights: Bosque de Chapultepec (incl. castle), [Palacio Postal](#), Cathedral, [Arena](#), [Estadio Azteca](#), Alameda, [Torre Latino](#), Casa de los Azulejos, [UNAM Biblioteca](#).

Obviously, there's more. An extensive list can be found [here](#).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Paid museums / sights: [Museo Frida Kahlo](#), [Museo Memoria y Tolerancia](#), [Museo Nacional de Arte](#), [Museo Anahuacalli](#), [Cineteca Nacional](#), [Monumento Revolucion Mexicana](#), [Museo de Cera](#), [Casa Leon Trotsky](#), [Museo Franz Mayer](#), [MUAC](#), [Museo Economia](#), [Museo Nacional de Arte](#), [Museo de la Luz](#).
- 👍 Nature & Maya sites: [Desierto de los Leones NP](#), Cumbres del Ajusco NP, [Vivero Coyoacan](#), Los Dinamos Tlatelolco, Cerro de la Estrella, [Cuicuilco](#) (free), [Teotihuacan](#), [Chapultepec](#), [Xochimilco](#).

Festivals

- ☼ Cinco de Mayo: Folk, 5-May.
- ☼ Independence Day: 16-Sep.
- ☼ Día de los Muertos: Culture, Oct-31-Nov-1.

Budget Bites

- ⌘ Markets, a.o.: Mercado de Coyoacan, San Juan, Jamaica, Sonora.
 - ⌘ Big supermarkets: Chedraui, Comercial Mexicana, Superama, Mega, Soriana, Walmart, Waldo's.
 - ⌘ Mexico's options for streetfood & cheap *comedores* are endless: Guacamole, Tacos, Tamales, Marquesitas, Mollete, Churros, Cochinita Pibil, Camote, Flautas, Tostadas, Nachos, Fajitas, Volcancitos, Panuchos, Gringas, Gorditas, Tampiquenas, Salbutes, Empanadas, Quesedillas, Sincronizadas, Enchiladas, Burritos, Enfrijoladas, Empalmes, Chalupas / Huaraches / Tlacoyos, Elote, Esquites, Tortas / Cemitas / Molotes / Pambazos, fruit with chili, Carnita & MUCH more.
- ... everything served with the hottest chilisauce you ever ate in your life. Level 'bushfire'.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ [El Hijo de Cuervo](#), Jardín Centenario 17.
- ◆ [SENS](#), Paseo de los Tamarindos 90.
- ◆ Bang Bang, Av. Alvaro Obregon 153a.

...Seated Down

- ◆ [Palacio de Bellas Artes](#), Av. Juarez.
- ◆ [Auditorio Nacional](#), Av. Paseo de la Reforma 50.
- ◆ [Teatro Telcel](#), Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ [Casa San Ildefonso Hostel](#), +525526161657, Calle San Ildefonso 38.
- ❖ [Mexico City Hostel](#), +525555123666, Republica de Brasil 8 & 11.
- ❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#). Paid work in hospitality is widely available.

Free-Riding?

- To move from neighbourhood to neighbourhood, public transport is recommended. Walking is in most cases far and the exhaust fumes are a nightmare.
- Biking is only recommended for people with a death wish.
- Taxis are relatively cheap, but they can charge you tourist prices. Negotiate prices up front. An alternative is Uber (download app).
- There's not really a clear system with city buses. They're privately owned and destinations are displayed on the front window and so is the price (cheap!). It works in your advantage if you speak Spanish. There are also metrobuses. To get out of Mexico City head to Terminal Central del Norte (Av. Cien Metros 4902) or Oriente (Calz. Ignacio Zaragoza 200).
- The metro goes way quicker than buses, but be prepared for the madness during peak hours. Check the metro map [here](#)!
- Hitch-hiking is common and doable, but there's always a risk. In order to pre-arrange a ride & share gas costs, try [BlaBlaCar](#). Also check the 'Comparte Tu Auto' Facebook-page.
- [Mexico airport](#) can be reached by metro (line 5: Terminal Aérea Station). Watch out: there are 2 terminals pretty far apart!

Tip: Download the Triposo Mexico app for offline maps, landmark descriptions & more, or load Google Maps when you have Wi-Fi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

Mama Said

- ☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Avoid walking around alone at night.
- ☠ Don't be a dick, boycott those aquariums and zoos holding animals in captivity, completely out of their natural habitat.
- ☠ Drug trafficking is big in Mexico and most violence is related to this. Don't try to get involved, not here.

Next?

- ➔ In Mexico: Tehuacan, Puebla, Querétaro, San Miguel del Allende, San Luis Potosí.
- ➔ International destinations close by: US, Guatemala, Belize.

The Earth Becomes My Throne