



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Mexico - Palenque

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Mexico City
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish + 68 indigenous (like Nahuatl / Yucatec Maya / Mixtec)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 111,000 (municipality)
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 1122 (municipality)
- ✓ **Currency:** Mexican Pesos (M\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +52
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check here!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 066 / fire: 116.
- ✓ **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 (cool)												
Wet (warmer)												
High season												
Budget												

Altitude: 71m. Climate: Tropical.

### To Do (\$€¥)

- 👍 Of course: The [Palenque ruins](#) ind. museum! Take a minibus from the centre (sign "Ruinas") or walk (pretty far). Note that it's located IN the Parque Nacional Palenque for which you have to pay too.
- 👍 Other ruins: Bonampak, Yaxchilán.
- 👍 Waterfalls: Agua Azul, Misol-Ha, Roberto Barrios, Welib Ja. Lake: Agua Clara.
- 👍 Other: [Aluxes Ecoparque](#) (zoo ☹️), Museo del Textil

### Sleep Cheap

In Mexico the cheapest, basic accommodations mostly don't have a website and can't be found back on devices like TripAdvisor or Booking.com. In order to find a real bargain, don't book anything in advance, just walk around a few blocks and compare prices.

- ❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#). Paid work in hospitality is widely available.

The Earth Becomes My Throne

## Festivals

☼ Carnaval: Feb.

☼ Semana Santa: Religious, Mar-Apr.

## Budget Bites

⌘ Market: Mercado Municipal J.C. Tielemans

⌘ Cheap supermarket: Soriana, Chedraui, Super Mas, Bodega Aurrera.

⌘ 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, Enchilladas, Burritos, Enfrijoladas, Empalmes, Chalupas / Huaraches / Tlacoyos, Elote, Esquites, Tortas / Cemitas / Molotes / Pambazos, fruit with chili, Carnita.

... everything served with the hottest chilisauce you ever ate in your life. Level 'bushfire'.

What is it? [Check this Mexican Food Glossary!](#)

## Free-Riding?

- Within the city centre of Palenque everything is walkable.
- Taxi's are relatively cheap and can be convenient to reach places outside of the centre. Negotiate prices up front.
- City-minibuses (collective's/combi's) privately owned and destinations are displayed on the front window. It works in your advantage if you speak Spanish. To get out of Palenque: The ADO bus station is located close to the Maya head at the entrance of Palenque, cheaper buses and combi's leave right at the corner of the ADO terminal (less than half the price).
- Hitch-hiking is common and doable, but there's always a risk.

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

## Mama Said

- ☠ In Mexico and especially Chiapas there are many roadblocks. While mostly not dangerous, take your precautions and don't provoke.
- ☠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Don't flash your valuables.
- ☠ Avoid walking around alone at night.
- ☠ Drug trafficking is big in Mexico and most violence is related to this. Don't get involved.
- ☠ Don't exchange your money at the (Guatemalan) border! The exchange rates are terrible here. You get a way better deal in every city.

## Next?

➔ In Mexico: Palenque, Oaxaca.

➔ International destinations closeby: Guatemala, Honduras, US.