



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Mexico - San Cristobal De Las Casas

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Mexico City
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish + 68 indigenous (like Nahuatl / Yucatec Maya / Mixtec)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 186,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 484
- ✓ **Currency:** Mexican Pesos (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +52
- ✓ **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 (cool)												
Wet (warmer)												
High season												
Budget												

Altitude: 2131m. Climate: Subtropical Highland.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Sightseeing: Templo de Santo Domingo, Iglesia Guadalupe, Templo del Carmen, Parque Central, La Enseñanza, Mirador de la Escuela SolMaya.
- ☺ Free museums: Museo De Las Culturas Populares, Museo De Historia y Curiosidades De San Cristobal. Galleries: Muy, [Studio Cerrillo](#), [Gustavo Flores](#).
- ☺ Sometimes Teatro Daniel Zebadúa hosts free dance shows. A paid show here is 'Palenque Rojo'.
- ☺ Grab your mountainbike and explore the surroundings (possible by kayak/zipline/rafting too).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 Museums: Museo de Medicina Maya, [Museo Del Ambar](#), Museo Etnográfico de Trajes Regionales, [Museo Del Jade](#), [Na Bolom](#), [Museo De Los Altos](#), [Jtatic Samuel](#), [Museo de Bichos y Insectos](#), Centro de Textiles del Mundo Maya.
- 👍 Nature: El Arcotete, Huitepec Ecological Reserve, [Orquideas Moxviquil](#), Laguna Miramar.
- 👍 Around: Amatenango, Tenejapa, Cañón de Sumidero, San Juan Samula.

Festivals

- ☼ Carnaval: Feb.
- ☼ Semana Santa: Religious, Mar-Apr.
- ☼ Festival Internacional de las Culturas: Oct.

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 chilisaucе you ever ate in your life. Level 'bushfire'.

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

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.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ [Puerta Vieja Hostel](#), +529676314335, Calle Diego de Mazariegos 23.
- ❖ [Hostal Casa Gaia](#), +529671125097, Ejercito Nacional #40.
- ❖ Instead, go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#). Paid work in hospitality is widely available.

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ Puro Mexicano Mezcaleria, Benito Juárez #6B.
- ◆ Latinos Club, Francisco, Madero #23.
- ◆ El Cocodrilo, Plaza 31 de Marzo.

...Seated Down

- ◆ Teatro Daniel Zebadúa, Calle 1ro de Marzo / corner 20 de Noviembre.
- ◆ Kinoki, Benito Juárez #6A. (cheap movies / private rooms).

Free-Riding?

- Within the city centre of San Cristobal everything is walkable.
- Taxi's are relatively cheap and can be convenient to get to reach places outside of the centre. Negotiate prices up front.
- 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. To get out of San Cristobal: ADO and second class minibuses (still very good) leave from the corner/bridge on Boulevard Juan Sabines Gutiérrez.
- 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.

Next?

- ➔ In Mexico: Palenque, Oaxaca.
- ➔ International destinations closeby: Guatemala, Honduras, US.

Don't exchange your money at the (Guatemalan) border! The exchange rates are terrible here. You get a way better deal in every city.