

Some aspects to visit Mexico City

Mexico City is one sprawling metropolis; it's packed to the gills with both buildings and people (over 22 million inhabitants). It occupies a high (7,347 feet) dry lakebed in the center of the country—its location and size make it the main hub for bus and air travel. Though the city has more neighborhoods than most cities have streets, the main tourist areas, including the core historic center, are fairly contained and close to one another.

1. Arrival at Mexico City airport

Benito Juarez airport (MEX) serving Mexico City is modern and efficient. There are two terminals linked by a monorail that can only be used by passengers who have a ticket, boarding pass or eticket ref number. Others need to take a bus or taxi : it is too far to walk. There are special red buses that takes you from T1 to T2 for just 5 pesos (50 cents usd) each way

The newer Terminal 2 is used by Aeromexico and (mostly) its partners in the SkyTeam alliance. Terminal 1 has sections for both international and domestic flights. International visitors will be given an arrivals card (FMT) and a customs form on board their flight. Once in the terminal, go to the correct immigration area. There are two separate areas: one for arrivals from North America, Europe, Middle East and Asia, and the other for arrivals from the Caribbean and Latin America. Present your FMT with your passport. Be sure to hang on to the portion of the FMT the officer returns to you as you will need to present this on departure and will be fined if you don't have it. Once you have collected your bags, hand over your customs form and then place your bags in the X-Ray machine and press the button indicated: a green light means you can go straight through to the arrivals hall, a red light will entail a visual inspection of your bags. In the arrivals hall, there are plenty of ATMs issuing pesos cash. In Terminal 1, baggage carts are free and cannot be taken past the Arrivals Hall, but there are plenty of porters available. In Terminal 2, there is a nominal fee for a baggage cart and it can be taken to the taxi rank or parking lot.

1.1 Transport to the Hotel

Authorized Airport Taxis companies: Yellow Cab Aeropuerto, Transfers-USA, Nueva Imagen, Porto Taxi, Sitio 300, Comfort, Excelencia. If you have the time before you leave it is worth searching online and prebooking your taxi prior to arriving, some companies, such as Mexico Airport Transfers, have an option to book and pay from the comfort of your armchair. Often the cost is not a lot more than getting a taxi once you're at the airport, and the safety and peace of mind makes it worthwhile to some. There is no difference in price among the companies, but in the number of cars they operate. So what company you chose determines how long you have to wait.

2. Currency

If arriving in Mexico without Mexican currency, **pesos** can easily be obtained at automatic teller machines (ATM) or “**casas de cambio**” which are plentiful.

3. Health

The city's elevation and air quality should be of concern to you if you have any allergy or asthma issues, though various environmental initiatives have improved air quality to the degree that you're unlikely to notice it. Initially the change in elevation may affect your breathing, sleep patterns, digestion, and alcohol tolerance. Take it easy, drink lots of water.

4. Safety

Though the country as a whole has been rocked by narco violence, Mexico City has long been considered among the safest parts of Mexico. The first rule of Mexico City is never hail a taxi on the street, from a tourist attraction, or with your debit card in your pocket. Choose the sitio (stationed) cabs that operate out of stands or cabs called for by hotel or restaurant staff, or use apps such as Yaxi and Uber. It's a good idea to avoid public transportation late at night. When taking the metro, note that the forward-most subway car is typically reserved for women and children only.

5. Public Transport

Because it is very cheap and because navigating a city like Mexico can be difficult in the surface (lot of traffic, no parking spots, bad neighborhoods, etc) a lot of people from different backgrounds prefer using the metro to move around. The price for using the subway is ridiculously low. It costs MXP \$5.00 (cinco pesos) which is around USD \$ 0.25

You can use either a ticket or a prepaid card (also used for Metrobus). You will find turnstiles right at the entrance, where you insert the ticket or place your card next to a reading device that will discount the fare from the card. If you put a ticket in the turnstile keeps it, you don't need it to exit the metro.

The Metro works every day of the year. Working hours are as follows:

Working days from 5:00 to 24:00.

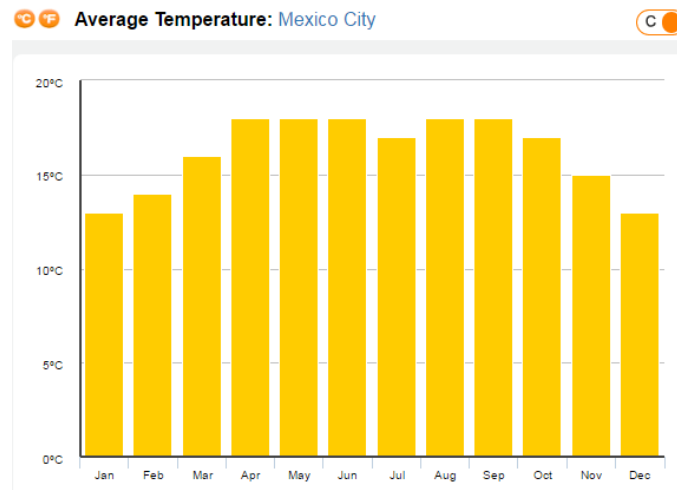
Saturdays 6:00 to 24:00

Sundays and Holidays: 7:00 to 24:00

More information: <http://www.metro.cdmx.gob.mx/>

6. Weather

During November, the weather in Mexico cools down somewhat, although in Mexico City the average maximum temperature is still 68 F. November is one of the best months for traveling to Mexico, because the weather is not as extreme as it was a few months earlier. However, although the hurricane season runs from June to October, tropical storms have been known to hit the country during November.



7. Tipping & Etiquette

Taxi drivers

People do not normally tip taxi drivers. However, if a taxi driver provides extra service, e.g., loading/unloading your bags or groceries, waiting for you while you shop, etc., then a tip is warranted for the extra effort \$2-\$5 U.S. (40-90 pesos).

Restaurant waiters/waitresses

If you receive good service from your waiter or waitress, it is customary to leave a tip of 15% of the cost of the food/beverages before the value added tax (listed as 'IVA' or *Impuesto al Valor Agregado* on your bill) is added. IVA is 16% of the cost so if you want to leave a 16% tip, simply use the amount of IVA to leave as your tip. This doesn't work always as often the IVA is not shown, but simply included in the bill. You may choose to leave more for exceptional service, and less for poor service.

8. Coyoacan Neighborhood

Coyoacan is one of the areas of the city in which the colonial legacy can really be appreciated; some decades ago it used to be located on the outskirts of the city and it is now located entirely in it, but it still conserves its traditional Mexican character, which in addition to its beautiful plazas, streets and houses, has attracted a great number of artists, and has given it a pleasant intellectual atmosphere.

More information:

<http://www.visitmexico.com/en/neighborhood-in-coyoacan-in-mexico-city>

<https://theculturetrip.com/north-america/mexico/articles/the-top-7-things-to-do-and-see-in-coyoacan-mexico-city/>