Miranda’s Guide to CDMX

This is intended to serve as a brief guide to complement other sources of information you most likely have on what to do in Mexico during the day, evening, night and early morning hours. It’s aimed at the seasoned traveler and focuses on good food, drinks and nightlife here in the city.

For the average traveler, Mexico City (CDMX) can be divided into 5 key geographical areas, and since it’s a very large city, you should focus on 1 or 2 of these areas a day at most. We will divide the guide into these zones, going east to west:

1. Centro (Colonial center & museums).
2. Juárez (Monuments & nightlife).
3. Roma/Condesa (Trendy restaurants & shops).
4. Reforma/Polanco (Museums & top restaurants, offices).
5. South (San Angel/Coyoacan/Xochimilco).

Where to stay?
It depends where you want to be:

- **Centro**: Gran Hotel Ciudad de México, the NH Centro Histórico or the Hotel Majestic.

- **Roma/Condesa**: La Valise, Hotel La Casona, Brick Hotel, Condesa DF.

- **Reforma/Polanco**: Four Seasons, Camino Real, Pugselfal, Las Alcobas.

- **South**: Don’t.

- **Airbnb works well in CDMX and will save you money. But pick a good location (Roma/Condesa/Polanco).**
**Some Travel Tips**

**FIRST**

Mexico has become a culinary destination, so it’s best to make reservations 3 or more weeks in advance for top restaurants or know someone who can get you in.

- Transportation: UBER, DIDI, GOOGLE MAPS and WAZE work brilliantly in CDMX. If you are brave enough, rent electric scooters (download app: Bird), shared bikes (UBER - JUMP).

- You are unlikely to be killed or robbed if you avoid stupid things like flashing jewelry or leaving your wallet and phone out (the crime rate is well below Washington D.C.’s).

- Weather tends to be seasonal and unpredictable, so check weather.com. It rains a lot June-September, and it’s cold December-February.

- CDMX is a very open minded and tolerant city. What goes on in London or NYC is fine here.
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WHERE TO GO?

1. Centro

A 3 hour walking tour. Visit the Zocalo and see the city’s main square, cathedral and within the Palacio Nacional check out the Diego Rivera murals. Visit Templo Mayor (old Aztec city) and see the San Ildefonso Museum, the cradle of Mexican muralism. Walk over to Santo Domingo church and square. Then walk to Palacio Yturbe, Sanborns (Azulejos), and end at the Bellas Artes museum. For the best view of Bellas Artes, head to the Sears tower in front of Bellas Artes, go to the 8th floor and ask for Café Don Porfirio. A few blocks away from the Mercado de San Juan is Biblioteca México. Another good museum on Mexican art through the ages is the Munal: Calle de Tacuba 8, Centro. T. 55 8647 5430.

Where to eat and drink

- Have some coffee on the Majestic hotel rooftop, overlooking the Zocalo. Av. Francisco I. Madero 73, Centro. T. 5521 8600
- Coffee at Sanborns Azulejos, Av. Francisco I. Madero 4, Centro. T. 55121331
- Lunch at Danubio: $$, República de Uruguay 3, Centro. T. 5521 0976
- Bósforo: By far the best mezcal bar in the city. Luis Moya 31, Centro. T. 5512 1991
- Lunch at Limosneros: $$$, Ignacio Allende 3, Centro. T. 5521 5576
- Lunch or dinner at Azul Histórico: $$$, Isabel la Católica 30, Centro. T. 5510 1316.

Bar
Malaquita Rooftop: Bar, República de Uruguay 45. Col. Centro. T. 5103 2095
Where to eat and drink

- Niddo’s is for sure the place to breakfast. Try out the grilled cheese and French toast. Dresden 2, Juárez. T. 5525 0262

- Lunch at De Mar a Mar: $$$, Niza 13, Juárez. T. 5207 5730

- Lunch at Havre 77: $$, (Eduardo García), Havre 77, Juárez. T. 5208 1070

- Amaya: $$, General Prim 95, Juárez. T. 5592 5571

- Masalay Maíz: $$, Calle Marsella 72, Juárez. T. 1313 8260

- Rokai: $$, Japanese. Río Ebro 89, Cuauhtémoc. T. 5086 3100

Bars and clubs

- Toledo Rooftop: Bar, 3pm onwards, hipster posh, Toledo 39, Juárez. T. 5929 4343

- Tokyo Music bar: Need to book, 10pm to 1am, hipster posh, Rio Panuco 132, Planta Alta, 1A, Cuauhtémoc. T. 8662 4064

- Looloo Studio: Club, young crowd, from 12am, Londres 195, Juárez. T. 56 1175 7451

- Hanky Pank: Bar, 6:30 pm onwards, Turín 55, Juárez. T. 9155 0958

For a spectacular view of the Monumento a la Revolución, have lunch or drinks at Terrace Cha Cha Cha (Avenida de la República 157, Tabacalera). This part of town has become home to many Mexican “Dreamers” expelled from the USA, many of whom work in call centers, coding centers and barber shops in the vicinity.
Roma & Condesa

Where to eat and drink

- Contramar: $$$, Lunch only. (Best atmosphere, fish and cool place). Durango 200, Roma Nte. T. 5514 9217

- Rosetta: $$$, Mexican-Italian - Old Mexican House, chef Elena Reygadas, Colima 166, Roma Nte. T. 5533 7804

- Panadería Rosetta: $$, Colima 179, Roma Nte. T. 5207 2976

- Lardo: $$, Best breakfast, chef Elena Reygadas, Agustín Melgar 6, Roma Nte. T. 5211 7731

- Máximo Bistrot: $$$, Mostly Fish, chef Eduardo García, Tonalá 133, Roma Nte. T. 5264 4291

- Madre Café: $$, Good food and coffee, secret bar, signature cocktails, Orizaba 131, Roma Nte. T. 5941 5026

- Blanco Colima: $$$, Restaurant/bar, Colima 168, Roma Nte. T. 5511 7527

- La Docena: $$, Good food, splendid but noisy, Av. Álvaro Obregón 31, Roma Nte. T. 5208 0833


- Sartoria: $$$, Best italian restaurant, Orizaba 42, Roma Nte. T. 72 653 616

- Bottega Sartoria: $$$, Really small wine bar, party of 4 or less. Arrive 7/8pm. Orizaba 39, Roma Nte. T. 7160 9239

- Lalo!: $$, Excellent breakfast and lunch spot. Zacatecas 173, Roma Nte. T. 5564 3388
“There is a kind of magic in going far away and then coming back changed”
WE’RE READY

- Covadonga: Cantina. Puebla 121, Roma Nte. T. 5533 2701

- Salón San Luis: Dance club, San Luis Potosí 26, Roma Sur. T. 5574 2639

- Patrick Miller: Dance club, Mérida 17, Roma Nte. T. 5511 5406

- MN Roy: If you get in, (very difficult), you’ll likely hear electronic music. Opens 2am to 7am, club, older crowd, Mérida 186, Cuauhtémoc, Roma Nte. T. 6681 0348

A good Friday special from 2pm to Saturday 11am is, in order: Contramar - Tokyo Music Bar - Departamento - MN Roy - Lalo’s (breakfast) - ABC (hospital)!!
4. Reforma & Polanco

You need to go to the Museo de Antropología, one of the best museums in the world. Go early to avoid crowds. Check out contemporary and modern art at Museo Tamayo and Museo de Arte Moderno, next door. Soumaya and Jumex museums are worth a look.

Then try high end shopping on Masaryk, the Rodeo Drive of Mexico City. At night, walk around Parque Lincoln, Polanquito and check out people and bars.

Decent ice cream places: Roxy & Amorino – to savor in front of the Lincoln park.
Where to eat and drink

- Quintonil: $$$$$, Book 4 weeks in advance, high end Mexican cuisine, chef Jorge Vallejo, Av. Isaac Newton 55, Polanco. T. 5280 1660

- Pujol: $$$$$, Book 8 weeks in advance, spectacular Mexican cuisine, chef Enrique Olvera. Tennyson 133, Polanco. T. 5545 4111

- ENO: $$, Enrique Olvera Cafe, great breakfast, Petrarca 258, Polanco. T. 5531 8535

- Puntarena: $$$, fish and more, Av. Paseo de las Palmas 275, Lomas de Chapultepec. T. 5520 1723

- Estiatorio Nostos: $$$, Greek, seafood. Monte Athos 415, Lomas de Chapultepec. T. 8438 1350

- Mythos Estiatorio: $$$, Greek, seafood, quite classic. Av. Isaac Newton 7, Polanco. T. 5282 1323

- Barra de Fran: Charismatic Spanish owner/chef, Ask for an outside table. Emilio Castelar 185, Polanco. T. 5280 6650

*Latin America’s 50 best restaurants* - Nicos: $$, Traditional Mexican, only for true foodies, a bit out of the way. Av. Cuitláhuac 3102, Claveria. *15 min away from Polanco* T. 5396 7090

Bars & Clubs:

- La Única: Bar, restaurant, Anatole France 98, Polanco. T. 4333 2103

- Ivoire: Restaurant with terrace, Av. Emilio Castelar 95, Polanco. T. 5280 0477

- Blanco Castelar: Bar, restaurant, Av. Emilio Castelar 163, Polanco. T. 5027 0322

- Limantour: High quality cocktails, Oscar Wilde 9, Col. Polanco. T. 5280 1299

- Republica: Club, Sloany, pop and reggaeton, models, tough to get in, Av. Pdte. Masaryk 407, Polanco. T. 1630 7065


Polanquito & Masaryk Av. are fine for walking at night.
Ángel de la Independencia
5. South

San Angel/Coyoacán/Xochimilco

The neighborhood of Coyoacán is where you’ll find Frida Kahlo’s childhood home (La Casa Azul), but book tickets online in advance before you arrive in the city. If you don’t, you’ll be in line for two hours. Wander your way through the Bazar Artesanal. Here you can visit the Trotsky Museum. The Museo Estudio Diego Rivera is also in nearby San Angel. Also check out the MUAC: Ciudad Universitaria (Contemporary Art Museum).

Where to eat and drink

- San Angel Inn: $$, Hacienda, good margaritas, Diego Rivera 50, Coyoacán. T. 5616 1402

- Sud 777: $$$, Blvrd de la Luz 777, Jardines del Pedregal. T. 5568 4777

- La Taberna de León: $$$, Monica Patiño chef, Antonio Plaza, Altamirano 46, San Angel. T. 5616 2110
Pirámides de Teotihuacán
Tours

Teotihuacan Pyramids
Choose a time to avoid traffic, such as leaving the city at 10.30am and coming back at 3.30pm and do not return after 5pm. What’s really fun is waking up at 6am and taking a hot air balloon over the Pyramids: https://www.skyballoons.mx/

Taco Tour
Mexicans eat tacos all day and night long, but if you want to fit in, try some after late night clubbing. El Califa is a decent taco chain. For a Roma Taco tour, start at El Huequito, under Circuito Interior bridge, carry on through Juan Escutia to Tacos Don Juan and then to Orinoco (Monterrey tacos, Av. Insurgentes Sur 253. Roma Nte). Try out El Parnita on Av. Yucatán. El Hidalguense (Campeche 155, Roma Sur, only open Friday to Sunday) is the best place to eat barbacoa (lamb tacos). Taqueria Los Prados (Monterrey 333, Roma Sur) has its fans.

Tepoztlán
50 km south of the city. An Aztec town with a pyramid on top of a steep walk, with spectacular views. Sunday market-both food and arts and crafts. Where to stay: Amomoxtli (chic, yoga, peace). Where to eat: El Ciruelo, Mexican food $$, elciruelo.com.mx. What to do: a walk through the maze of cobblestone streets.

Barragán Tour
For architectural fans, we recommend a day tour of Barragan’s houses, many closed to the public: http://www.luisbarragantour.com

David Lida
Also, you can hire the award-winning writer David Lida, author of First Stop in the New World: Mexico City, Capital of the 21st Century, who gives guided tours: davidlida.com/tours

“Keep tranquilo and habla spanglish“
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