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TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour

Tour Highlight:

June 2025
Mexico City, Mexico



A Never Ending Supply of Tacos

Contributed by Michael Davis



A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821 after an 11 year war. It established a constitution in 1824, but high debt levels and wars against the US limited the new government's power. Losing the war to the US inspired the movement "La Reforma" bringing people like Benito Juárez to power to rewrite the constitution. From 1876-1911 Porfirio Díaz ran the country expanding bureaucracy and repressing liberties. Another revolution in 1910 took Díaz out of power and established another constitution. This revolution was led by smaller groups and helped to shape the political & cultural identity of Mexico in the 1900s. From 1929 to 2000 the same political party, the PRI, won every single presidential election. It consolidated power and managed elections during "one party rule". Its current President, Claudia Sheinbaum, is the first female President. She is a member of the Morena party similar to her predecessor AMLO.

Mexico City, Mexico



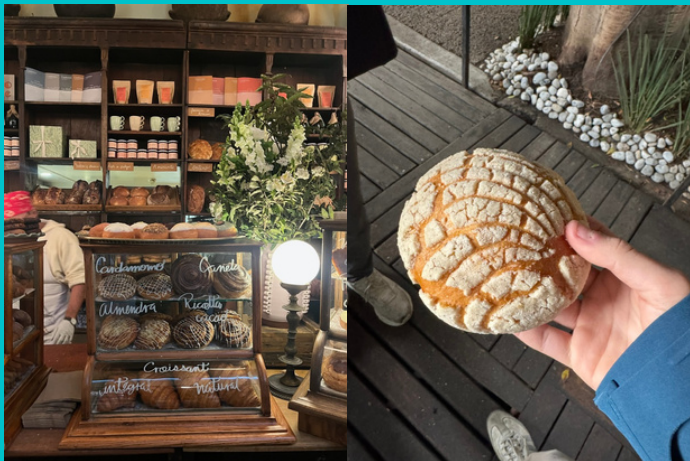
Some quick tips for Mexico City :

- Traffic is really bad so try to walk or use the metro instead of Ubering
- If you go from May to October expect rain
- The city is at over 7,000 feet of elevation so drink a lot of water and try to take it slow

FOOD

PANADERÍA ROSETTA

There are two locations, the one on Colima is the main one. The guava roll is the most popular pastry and did not disappoint. We went back that is how good it was. The Almond cinnamon roll was also great and the cream roll as well. Also try the Concha (see picture), so so good. The line is long so get here early and take it to go (there are so many nearby parks to go to).



TACOS EL PUMA

Located in the Centro Histórico, this is the perfect place to go after seeing the main attractions in the city center. It is located on a side street and is basically a stand (see pic below). Al pastor tacos were so so good and they have stools that you can sit on and eat. Great to pair it with Tlacoyos La Blanca (see next). Quick FYI: if street vendors have plastic over their plates like this that means its really safe to eat.



TLACOYOS LA BLANCA

Right next door to Tacos El Puma, this place serves Tlacoyos which is a thicker corn tortilla with refried beans inside and then topped with cheese and meat. I am still thinking about these, they were so good. You get to watch them roll out the dough and make it which is cool. They operate out of an alley on the street and also have chairs to sit and enjoy. Definitely a place worth it to check out.



Mexico City, Mexico

CONTRAMAR

More of an upscale restaurant but worth the price in my opinion. We got 2 appetizers, a main course (do you see that fish), and a dessert for ~\$150 USD which is a steal. Every single thing on this menu was so good. We got tuna tostadas and chicken which were one of the best ones I had. The most famous dish at Contramar is the fish you see which comes with refried beans and tortillas. It was delicious, I personally liked the reddish-brown side better but they both were so good. The flan for dessert was also so sweet and good. The other reason I really liked the restaurant is that its food feels healthy and clean which is needed after a long day of walking. We could only get a reservation for lunch and booked a month in advance so prepare ahead!



CARIÑITO TACOS

The ultimate fusion restaurant: tacos with southeast asian flavors. Ok I know it might sound weird but these were actually so so good. Also the presentation is fire. Most of the tacos are pork based (sorry to my kosher friends) but they had eggplant and cauliflower tacos that were equally as good and still had all the great flavors. I really like the creativity of this fusion restaurant. There are no seats, just tables outside that are first come first serve so plan ahead. It is also walking distance to CDMX arena where Lucha Libre happens (more on that later).



TOSTADAS COYOACÁN

If you find yourself in Coyoacán market after the Frida Kahlo museum this is a must stop. I got tuna and two styles of chicken tostadas and they were really good. They are also super filling (this was my entire lunch). They have a huge selection of tostadas and it comes with all the fixings (salsa, onions, etc). Wash it down with an agua de coco and you will be absolutely satisfied. It is also situated in the middle of the market which adds to the vibes as the hustle of people shopping around you while you attempt to have a peaceful meal (in the best way possible).



Mexico City, Mexico

EXPERIENCES

Mexico City is massive with so many things to do and see. We averaged 25k steps per day (we only had three full days). You can and should walk to most sites (with the exception of Xochimilco) or take the metro as traffic will slow you down! One of my favorite things is the contrast in activities; there are historical sites, cool thrift stores, and party boats. There really is something for everyone.

ZÓCALO & CONSTITUTION PLAZA



The Zócalo is in the center of Constitution Plaza and its history goes back as a ceremonial place for the Aztecs in Tenochtitlan. The Spanish took over the plaza after colonization and flooding was regularly an issue. Revolutionary groups have used the plaza and the Zócalo as a symbolic place in the independence movement, protest to the Porfiriato, and May 1 1968 protests. Today, there is an annual day of the dead celebration and its seen as the center of government for the country and the capital.



CATEDRAL METROPOLITANA

The Church is the Archdiocese of Mexico located in the center of Constitution Plaza. It was built from 1573 to 1813 (talk about long construction). It was finished after Spanish colonization and is inspired by Gothic cathedrals in Spain. Due to its long construction, a wide array of architects and designers as well as styles are included in its designs which leads to its uniqueness. Also, the large role of the Catholic Church over the history of Mexico has led the Church to be the center of major coronations, religious ceremonies, and funerals. Entrance to the church is free.

CASA DE AZULEJOS

Historically, the building was an 18th century residential palace. Today it is occupied by the Sanborns restaurant and department store. There are other stores inside and you can walk in (I'd recommend the architecture is incredible). The tiles are from Puebla and its color makes it stand out from other buildings nearby.



ANGEL OF INDEPENDENCE

Built in 1910 under Porfirio Díaz's rule. It commemorates the War of Independence. It is the center of celebration and protest in the city. It was later made into a mausoleum for heroes of the war. It is one of the most famous sites on the Paseo de la Reforma.



Mexico City, Mexico

MUSEO DE LA CONSTITUTION



This museum explains the history of Mexico's constitution. The building is where Mexico's first constitution was approved in 1824. The whole museum is only in Spanish so get your Duolingo up before you go to get the full experience.

MUSEO DE TEMPLO MAYOR



We did not actually go inside the museum, but steps from the Zócalo you can see ruins. It really adds to a contrast in the center. It was inaugurated in 1987 and shows findings from the Mexica. It holds many spiritual relics from ancient groups once living in the region.

MUSEO DE BELLAS ARTES

One of the most beautiful buildings in the city, the Palacio de Bellas Artes is a cool place for a museum. It houses performance arts events, galleries, and art exhibitions. We decided not to go inside (sorry) and admired it for a while outside, it is actually just so pretty to look at. It replaced the original National Theater which was built in the 1800s. The building was first planned in 1904 but due to political and design issues it was not completed until 1934. For a stellar view of the building, go to the Sears across the street. They have a rooftop cafe where you have to wait about 20 minutes to enjoy a coffee with great views.



CHAPULTEPEC CASTLE

One of my favorite places all trip. Located in a huge park, the name comes from Nahuatl meaning on the hill of the grasshopper. This hill used to be an important place for the Aztecs. Since 1939 it has been the National Museum of History. It has many different artifacts about the political, military, and cultural history of Mexico and is a great place to go and learn. It also has stunning city views since it is so high up. I learned so much here and really enjoyed it. It was built as a summer house for the Viceroy of Spain during colonization and had many other uses after (including a gunpowder warehouse!). In 1882 it was the official residence of the President and subsequent presidents lived here until 1934 when Lázaro Cárdenas broke the tradition. Get tickets online before to avoid lines and get there early.



ANTHROPOLOGY MUSEUM

One of the biggest museums I have ever been to, you can easily spend the whole day here. It has thousands of Pre-Colombian artifacts including the famous Stone of the Sun (Aztec Calendar). It has different halls for various indigenous groups. It also has a bunch of skeletons that you can see (kinda freaky). Each room has a new massive artifact and it's cool to see them all in one place. The architecture of the museum is also stunning. The museum is over 800,000 square feet, and was opened in 1964.



Mexico City, Mexico

FRIDA KAHLO MUSEUM

Located in the Coyoacán neighborhood and once home to the famous artist herself, the museum gives a really detailed journey of her life and experiences. You have to get tickets before and have to show up in the 15 minute window they give you (it is really busy). She grew up in this house, lived in it with her husband Diego Rivera, and died in one of the rooms (not haunted I promise). It was cool to see all the different artists and important political figures that visited her in the home. It also houses many of her famous works and other related items that were important during her life. The museum opened in 1958 and is in a very similar condition to how it was while she lived in it.



ACTIVITIES

Not the traditional historical or museum excursions I usually share about, these next few things are still a must see. If you are going with a group these are even better, but are still very much things you can do alone. There is such a wide range of activities in the city and it is cool to be able to do all these super contrasting things over the course of a day.

LUCHA LIBRE

Trade out historic sites and museums for quite literally the most opposite thing you can do (not really I guess). This type of wrestling was introduced to Mexico in the 1900s and has evolved to include the masks we all know and grown to global recognition. It is very much so an art as it is a sport where the showmanship of the wrestlers are important. There are technically two teams, the técnicos (good guys) who fight clean and you are supposed to cheer for. They fight the rudos (bad guys) who fight more unfairly with cheap shots. People got so into it and its right in the middle of the city. The style is very similar to WWE, but for the authenticity of the fight I will leave that up for you guys to decide.



THRIFT STORES AND SHOPPING

Thrift stores and just trendy stores are really popular to go to. Roma, Condesa, and Juárez all have really great stores. They also have a wide variety from clothing, to home goods, to perfume, and literally anything you can think of. It was really cool to walk around and a great place to get souvenirs and gifts for people you like. I spent way too much money, but it was so worth it. One of the perfume stores literally looks like a tree house. It is just a really aesthetic area and a great way to kill time or have a lowkey morning if you are looking for something different to do.

Stores:

- Hi-BYE
- The Erre Vintage Co
- Roma Vintage
- Xinú
- Comilla 112
- LEMUR
- Gramo



Mexico City, Mexico

XOCHIMILCO

This is a little outside the city, but so worth it in my opinion. Only an hour Uber ride including traffic you can take a boat ride in canals in the Xochimilco. The boats go on the canals for about three hours, and you can bring your own food and drinks (alcohol is encouraged). They have boats coming up and down the canals selling stuff too and you can even pay for a speaker. Do not go into the water under any circumstance it is really dirty and will get you sick. This area is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the boats are rooted in Aztec tradition. That is why they are so colorful representing Mexico's cultural inheritance. You can see how they co-opt international names (shoutout my Sister and Nana) on top of the boats showing how international tourism has influenced the region. You can negotiate the price of the boats (if you have poor Spanish skills, good luck) but they also have a flat fee you can pay.



See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!