

Culture

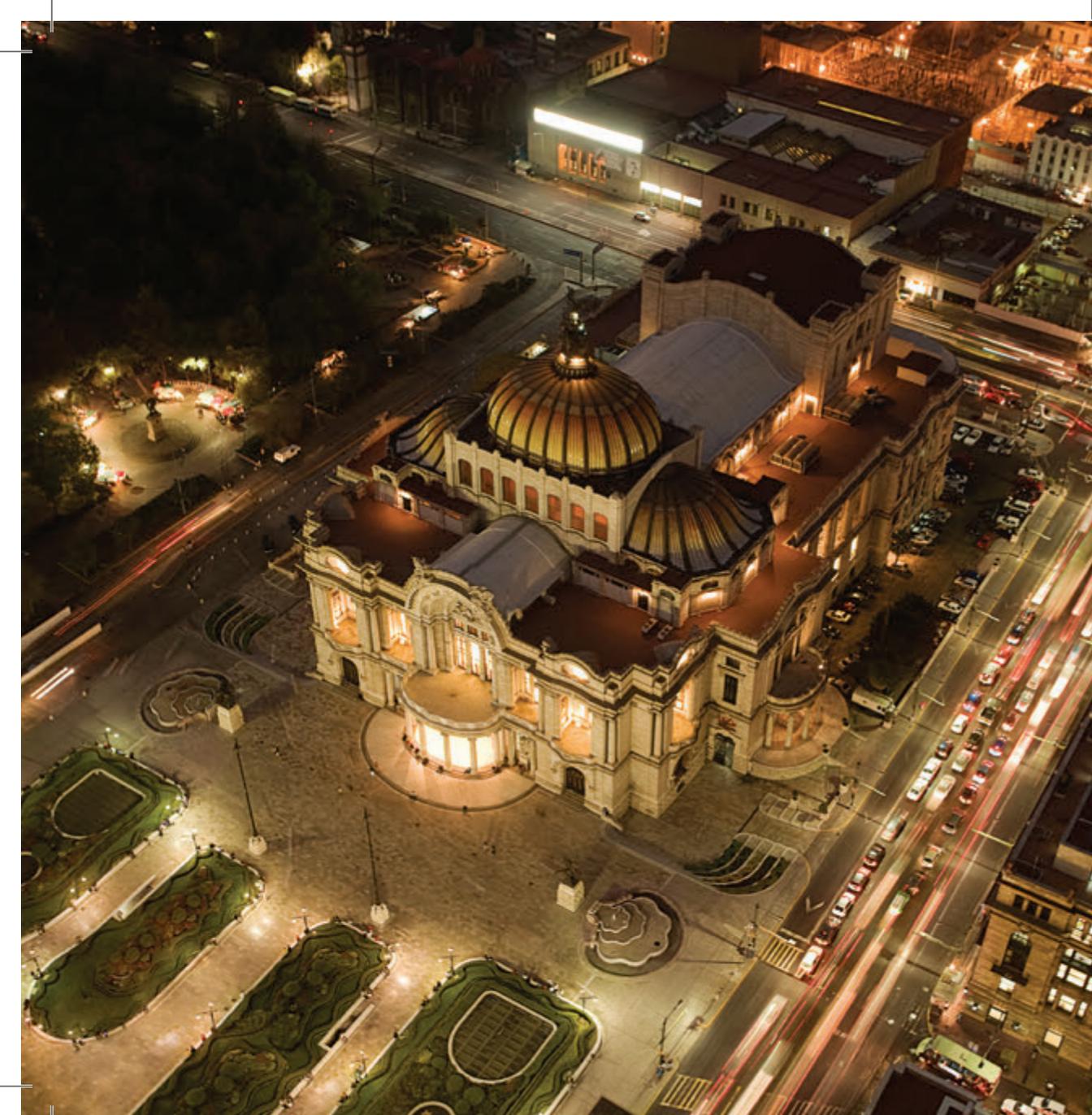
México

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Mexico's history and geography offer visitors a wealth of options that are hard to find elsewhere: from archaeological sites and colonial towns to cosmopolitan cities that are as dazzling as the world's largest metropoli. But Mexico is much more than that: its gastronomy and cultural diversity invite travelers to experience its history, indulge in its cuisine, enjoy its nightlife and make their visit an extraordinary experience.

MEXICO CITY

An aerial photograph of Mexico City, Mexico. The foreground is dominated by a dense, lush green forest covering a hillside. In the middle ground, the Chapultepec Castle (Castillo de Chapultepec) is visible, a large, historic building with a central tower and multiple wings, situated on the edge of the forest. In the background, the modern city skyline of Mexico City is visible, featuring numerous high-rise buildings and skyscrapers under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The Mexican flag is visible on a tall pole in the distance.

MUSEUMS

Mexico City is one of the metropolises with the largest number of museums in the world. One of them, the National History Museum, stands out for being home to the only castle in Latin America: Chapultepec Castle, dating from the 18th century. The museum has everything from a coin collection to a carriage display. The recently opened Jumex Museum is home of the most important collection of contemporary art in Latin America, while the National Anthropology Museum is a must-visit for understanding Mesoamerican cultures, and hosts temporary exhibits that otherwise can only be seen in Egypt, Greece and China, to name a few countries. Other museums worth visiting are the Museum of Popular Art (map) and the Museum of Memory and Tolerance.



CUISINE

The capital is where the traditional cuisine of all of Mexico converges; yet it is also the site of cutting-edge options. You can find Peruvian, Basque and Japanese dishes, as well as cuisine inspired by pre-Hispanic and regional traditions from across Mexico, which the unesco included on its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, a category shared only with French cuisine. And you must visit the markets on an empty stomach, as, for their size and wealth of options, the metropolitan area's lively markets are the backbone of Mexico's fabulous cuisine.

MODERN AND LUXURIOUS BACKDROPS

Paseo de la Reforma, Santa Fe and the Polanco and Granada neighborhoods are at the cutting edge of luxury and modernism in Mexico City. Polanco's Masaryk avenue is home to Fifth Avenue-style boutiques, while the Granada neighborhood has buildings by architects including David Chipperfield and Fernando Serrano, who designed the Jumex Museum and the Soumaya Museum, respectively. Santa Fe is known for its financial district, with international corporate buildings, such as the iconic "Pants" building by Teodoro González de León and Francisco Serrano. In contrast, Paseo de la Reforma avenue is where skyscrapers coexist with the past, while aspiring to be a new form of urban design, and the avenue has the longest bike lane in the city



JALISCO

HOSPICIO CABAÑAS, GUADALAJARA

The official name is the Cabañas Cultural Institute, and the building, constructed from 1805 to 1810 by architect Manuel Tolsá, was declared a World Heritage Site by unesco in 1997. Although bishop Juan Cruz Ruiz de Cabañas planned to use the building as an orphanage and shelter for disabled people, the building's uses have changed throughout its history. In 1937, the Jalisco state government entrusted José Clemente Orozco to paint a series of murals portraying Mexican history. His work in this building is now considered one of the most important examples of Mexican muralism.

TAPATÍO GASTRONOMY

Guadalajara's most iconic dish is 'drowned sandwiches,' or meat stuffed in buns and smothered in red sauce. The exquisite meat stew and roasted meat are also well worth tasting. The Libertad market is a great place for trying these dishes, a huge construction designed by architect Alejandro Zohn. And for those who enjoy international cuisine, visit the restaurants and rooftops in the beautiful houses of Reforma street.

TEQUILA

Tequila has been designated a 'Magical Town'. The town were named after carries a denomination of origin, and the first house dedicated to serving tequila was opened in 1600 by Pedro Sánchez de Tagle, just 70 years after the town was founded. The tequila distilleries offer tours, where you can see the processes from agave planting to aging in barrels, which helped it earn its listing as a unesco World Heritage Site. The National Festival of Tequila, from November to December, and a ride on the Tequila Express train, are two must-do activities.



GUANAJUATO

An aerial night photograph of Guanajuato, Mexico. The city is densely packed with buildings, many of which are illuminated with warm yellow and orange lights. A prominent feature is the illuminated facade of a large building, possibly a theater or museum, which is lit up in a vibrant green. The city's layout is characterized by its steep hills and narrow streets, creating a complex and layered urban environment. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling, historic city at night.

INTERNATIONAL CERVANTINO FESTIVAL

One of the most important cultural events in Latin America, and whose origins date back to the mid-20th century. With the main events revolving around works in the Spanish language, it hosts international dance, theater, music and opera performances from all corners of the globe and is a central part of the pulse of Mexico's cultural events.

The city of Guanajuato is famous for its legends and the cultural wealth surrounding its intricate Colonial-era architecture, as well as for the role it has played as a mining center during the Colonial era and in the war for independence. unesco declared Guanajuato a World Heritage Site in 1988, and it has an extraordinary cultural life, which includes, among many other events, the International Cervantino Festival. Visitors should visit the Juárez Theater, the Alhóndiga de Granaditas Museum and the International Film Festival of Guanajuato. .

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

On November 13, 2013, San Miguel de Allende, one of the most charming and charismatic places in Guanajuato, was recognized by Condé Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure as the best city in the world to visit — ahead of places such as Florence, Salzburg, Vienna and San Sebastián. San Miguel's accolades, including its recognition in 2008 by unesco as a World Heritage Site, are due, first of all, to the quality of life and the city's atmosphere, and secondly, to the Mexican baroque architecture and its role in national history, making it clear that San Miguel de Allende is always a great place for a vacation.



YUCATÁN



PASEO DE MONTEJO, MÉRIDA

This avenue bears the name of Francisco de Montejo, the conquistador of the Yucatán Peninsula, and was conceived at the end of the 19th and the early 20th centuries as a gathering place for the wealthy who were profiting from the boom in henequen, or 'green gold' production in the region. More than 3 miles long, it is the most important business, nightlife and cultural avenue in Mérida. The avenue is home to the Mérida Historical Archives, the Yucatán Regional Anthropology Museum and the Contemporary Art Museum (Macay). Art expositions are set up on the avenue's sidewalks, and on Sunday it's closed to traffic to allow its use by cyclists.

FORMER HACIENDAS

The henequen haciendas are a testament to Yucatán's agricultural history. Many of them date back to the 17th and 18th centuries, but it was during the 19th century that they experienced their best period during the so-called 'green gold' boom. After the Revolution, the haciendas were abandoned, but have since been restored and converted into hotels that invite guests to relive their golden age. The haciendas are home to everything from cenotes, or sink holes, and museums to Mayan archaeological sites and lush gardens.



BOUTIQUE HOTELS

Many of the Porfirio Díaz-era mansions, once the homes of the elite — hacienda owners and merchants whose tastes were influenced by French styles — now operate as upscale hotels. The ranches, which were dedicated to agriculture, livestock and the processing of henequen fiber, but above all were the scene of parties and social gatherings financed by the prosperous agriculture of the time, are now inviting hotels complemented by Mexico's rich cuisine and friendly, personalized service.



OAXACA

CUISINE

Among the variations of Mexican cuisine, which is included on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the state of Oaxaca holds a privileged position. Its cuisine includes a wide variety of ingredients and flavors that are the basis of creations such as mole, tamales, cured sausages, cheeses and mezcal. The markets of Oaxaca City and Juchitán have a special selection of food that anyone with an urge to cook Oaxacan style must try. And there is an increasing abundance of places that are less overrun and more sophisticated, where traditional dishes meet signature cuisine.

ALEBRIJES

Alebrijes are imaginary, extravagant animal figures made from very brightly colored papier mâché. Their creator, Pedro Linares López, was inspired by a dream in 1936, but the Oaxacan alebrijes have their own origin, attributed to woodcarver Manuel Jiménez, from the town of San Antonio Arrazola, who was also inspired by a dream. In Oaxaca, the figures are carved out of copal wood and are one of the state's most emblematic handicrafts.



PUEBLA



Known as the City of Angels, the capital of Puebla state has the largest number of churches of any city in Mexico, and many of which are a short stroll from the magnificent downtown area. The Cathedral, built in the 17th century, is considered one of the most beautiful in the Americas, with a majestic altar of forgiveness, a main altar and its Moorish choir stalls. The Church of Santo Domingo, one of the most extraordinary examples of baroque art, and the Church of San Francisco, with its grey stone façade, are just a few of the countless examples of architectural marvels in this city. Cholula is 5 miles from the capital, and where you can see the immense pyramid that dominates the city and which is the largest in Mexico. On its summit is a church dedicated to the Virgin of the Remedies.

QUERÉTARO



In the geographic center of Mexico, this Colonial-era city is home to neo-classical and baroque constructions, with touches of Moorish style, while its streets also harmoniously incorporate more modern architectural styles. Among the plazas and gardens are buildings such as the Former Convent of Santa Cruz, a subtle example of classicist architecture with notable paintings from the 17th and 18th century adorning its walls, and Santa Rosa de Viterbo, an exquisite example of Mexican baroque style. The Regional Museum of Querétaro and the Art Museum, in the Former Convent of San Agustín, are impressive examples of Colonial-era architecture.

An aerial night photograph of a densely packed town. The central focus is a large, ornate church with a prominent dome and two tall, slender bell towers. The church is brightly lit with warm yellow lights, making it stand out against the darker, more sparsely lit surrounding buildings. The town's architecture is traditional, with many buildings having tiled roofs. In the foreground, a small square or plaza is visible, with some people and lights. The overall atmosphere is magical and historic.

MAGICAL TOWNS

The category of 'Magical Town' is a distinction that the Tourism Ministry bestows on populations with certain cultural attributes: holding historical importance, having been the scene of momentous events in history, and those which are the source of legends and stories, or which have in some way contributed to the image of the country and which represent an attractive alternative for tourists. According to the ministry, the distinction is also an acknowledgement of the towns' inhabitants, who have known how to preserve their cultural wealth.

WORLD CHERITAGE CITIES



In 1972, unesco established the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The initiative arose from the need to identify places that are considered irreplaceable and whose disappearance would be a great loss for humanity as a whole. Being included on this list means recognizing the importance of these places in the history of humanity for both the country and its inhabitants. Mexico has 34 World Heritage sites, 10 of which are cities, making it the country in Latin America with the most places in this category.

MUNDO MAYA

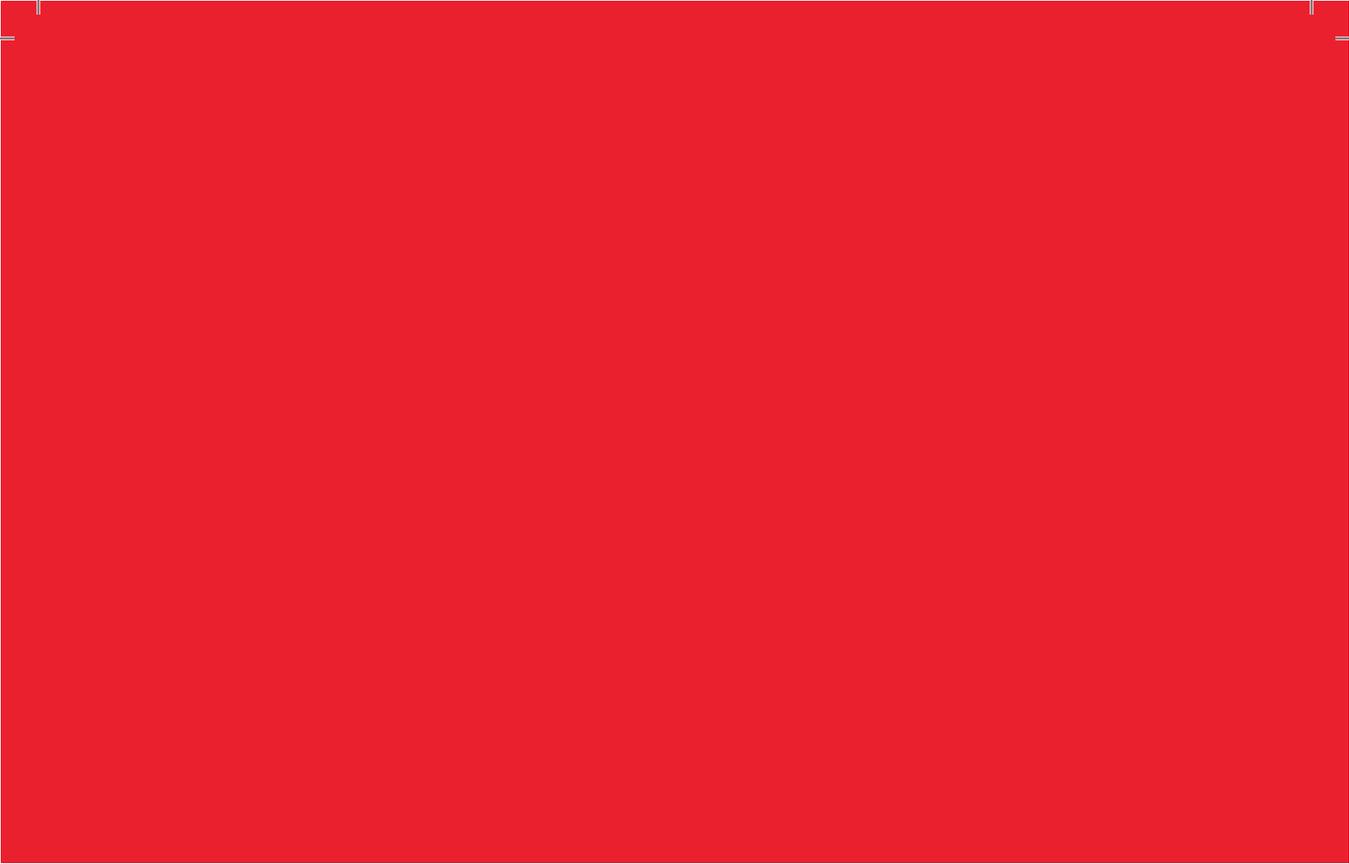
The Mayan people have been the source of much fascination and curiosity among travelers for several centuries, which is also why the Mayan culture has been one of the most studied. As more research is carried out, more surprises emerge: Mayan cosmogony, their writing system, architectural refinement, knowledge of astronomy and mathematics, as well as the enigma surrounding the decline of the civilization's splendor have kept alive the mystery regarding Mayan culture. We are still amazed by the vestiges of Mayan cities such as Chichén Itzá (a Cultural Heritage Site), Tulum, Cobá and Palenque, to name just a few.

CULTURE DESTINATIONS



- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 Aguascalientes | 13 Guerrero | 25 Sinaloa |
| 2 Baja California | 14 Hidalgo | 26 Sonora |
| 3 Baja California Sur | 15 Jalisco | 27 Tabasco |
| 4 Campeche | 16 Michoacán | 28 Tamaulipas |
| 5 Chiapas | 17 Morelos | 29 Tlaxcala |
| 6 Chihuahua | 18 Nayarit | 30 Veracruz |
| 7 Coahuila | 19 Nuevo León | 31 Yucatán |
| 8 Colima | 20 Oaxaca | 32 Zacatecas |
| 9 Distrito Federal | 21 Puebla | |
| 10 Durango | 22 Querétaro | |
| 11 Estado de México | 23 Quintana Roo | |
| 12 Guanajuato | 24 San Luis Potosí | |





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