

# MEXICO CITY

THE FULL GUIDE FOR YOUR VISIT  
TIPS, FOOD SPOTS, SIGHTS AND MORE



BY MIDORI AND AKAASH

## ***Table of Contents***

<b>What To Pack</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How To Get Around (Transportation)</b>	<b>4</b>
Public Transportation	4
Rideshare	4
Walking	5
Miscellaneous notes on transportation	5
Language (and how to prepare)	6
<b>Eating, Drinking, and Lodging</b>	<b>6</b>
Tipping Culture and Payment Methods	6
Where To Stay + How to Find Accommodations	7
Alternatives to Airbnb	8
Getting COVID Tested	8
<b>Activities Worth Trying</b>	<b>9</b>
Lucha Libre	9
Local Fútbol (Soccer) Match	10
Sample the International Culinary Scene	10
Mezcal Tasting	10
<b>Favorite Sights by Neighborhood (Full List on Google Maps <a href="#">HERE</a>)</b>	<b>12</b>
Reforma/San Rafael	12
La Roma/La Condesa	12
El Centro	13
Polanco	14
Juarez	14
<b>Day Trip Ideas</b>	<b>14</b>
Teotihuacan Pyramids	14
Coyoacán	15
Honorable Mentions	15
<b>FAQ and Long-Term Travel Tips</b>	<b>15</b>
Did you feel safe?	15
How many days should I stay in CDMX?	15
Is tap water safe to drink?	16
What is the COVID-19 situation like in CDMX?	16
How do I stay up to date on travel safety?	16
Should I buy travelers insurance for my trip?	16
What happens if I get sick or have food poisoning during my stay?	17
Any additional tips for an extended stay (a few weeks to months) in CDMX?	17

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So you're thinking about a trip to Mexico City (CDMX)? We're *thrilled*— and you'll thank yourself, too! This city is colored with **history, charm**, and a **tapestry of culture** that words can hardly capture.

A trip to CDMX is worth it *just* to overcome the stereotypical impressions of this city that are misguidedly and wrongfully circulated in places like the United States: "Mexico City isn't safe! Mexico City has nothing to do! Moving around Mexico City is risky - watch your back!" Sound familiar?

These blanket statements are inspired by an ounce of truth (and only an ounce!). CDMX is like any other big global city, with its own crime and parts of town to avoid. But letting these exaggerated warnings overshadow the richness this place has to offer would be a major mistake. If you're curious, you owe it to yourself and this glorious city to *visit for yourself*, form your own opinion, and **see everything CDMX has to offer**.

After spending nearly 2 months in Mexico City, we returned home only to find so many of you planning trips to or interested in visiting CDMX sometime soon. Today, we are sharing with you a full Mexico City Guide so you are *fully* prepared for your trip. Let's dive in!

## What To Pack

In general, CDMX weather doesn't fluctuate much and is typically in the 60s to 70s degrees Fahrenheit range. We found that locals **do not wear shorts**. We ended up wearing our jeans *almost every day* so pack a couple of pairs if you don't want to look like a tourist!

It's helpful to pack a **small bag or backpack** that can hold things like a portable charger, Kindle, etc. because you may be out and about all day. You'll find most everyone in the city carries a bag with them.

Since it can be cloudy and the air is smoggy, **bring or buy sunscreen** (we opt for buying it there since we know we will be using it a lot). The UV index is typically a 7 during the day which can be damaging to the skin even though it doesn't look like it from the deceiving clouds.

Alongside the air smog and pollution, citizens of CDMX are still taking the pandemic seriously and tend to mask up both indoors and outdoors (this was true as late as Jan 2022). Definitely bring a comfortable mask that can help with protection - our favorites for travel are [KF94 masks](#) (as long as they are made in Korea you are good!). They have 4-layers of protection but are just about as comfortable as a cloth mask.

**For the ladies:** CDMX has a single-use plastics ban, so it can be harder than usual to find tampons. They are only available at select grocery stores (pharmacies don't carry them

anymore, though, pads are widely available). We suggest bringing a few in case of emergency and finding your nearest grocery store if you need them later in your trip.

## How To Get Around (Transportation)

In short, your golden ticket to transportation in Mexico City is twofold: 1) Public transit and 2) Rideshare services. Let's dive into each below.

### Public Transportation

For all public transit (the best way to get around day to day), this handy card below is your golden ticket. You can pick it up at any major bus or subway station and it works across 80% of Mexico's major public transit lines (most buses, subways, city bikes, etc). Be warned that there are a few bus lines (like the ['purple bus'](#) and the green ['peseros'](#)) that require cash payment, but you can have a great CDMX trip without touching these modes of transport at all. Handily, the back of the physical card has logos for all the public transit systems you can use the card on.



*Images courtesy of [TheCity.mx](#)*

**Our advice:** pick up a transit card (it will run your 5 pesos or about \$0.25 USD at the time of this writing) on your first day or two and load it up with about 50 pesos. These cards can be easily reloaded at any card machine.

**💡 Pro tip:** the card machines at the bus stations of the [red buses](#) accept credit cards and can dispense these metro cards to you within seconds (the machines function in English, too!)

### Rideshare

Rideshare services are widespread and popular in Mexico City. You'll have your pick from international favorites like [Uber](#) and Didi ([use our referral link](#) for a discount) (for our Asia

friends!) or the ability to use more niche local services like [Beat](#) or Cabify ([use our referral link](#) for a discount).

Beat tends to be the cheapest option but sometimes can be hard to come by during some times of day. Uber is reliable but more subject to surge pricing than other services. Cabify is a nice hybrid of both. Generally, picking rideshare is a good option for any time you have to travel somewhere more than 25 minutes away by public transit. CDMX is notorious for congested streets at most hours of the day, but the comfort of sitting in a climate-controlled car can easily outweigh the crowding and lines of public transit.

At the time of this writing (in the middle of the pandemic), 99% (anecdotal) of rideshare drivers in Mexico City are *extremely diligent* about masking up in cars and even offering sanitizer / wipes in their vehicles. Hygiene win 🍷

For anyone interested, there's a great service called Obi ([use our referral link](#)) that can search across a couple of different rideshare providers to find you the best fare.

## Walking

Yes - Mexico City is extremely *walkable*. So if you're up for the exercise, don't miss walking the streets from one neighborhood to the next. You'll find sidewalks almost everywhere along with signs pointing you towards major landmarks (monuments, statues, etc.) in the more touristy neighborhoods. Word to the wise: be careful of uneven surfaces on the sidewalk. CDMX experiences significant seismic activity regularly so roads shift a lot. Just watch your step!

💡 **Pro tip:** During the daytime, all of the famous neighborhoods are fine to walk. As it starts to get dark, the guidance we've heard from locals is just to stick with La Condesa, Roma, Reforma, Juarez, San Rafael, and even El Centro. Avoid Tepito and don't venture too many streets off the El Centro blocks. Use good judgment and you will be OK!

## Miscellaneous notes on transportation

**Getting to and from the airport:** Both times we've been to Mexico City we have used Uber to get to and from the airport. It's pretty quick to catch a ride, and once you exit any of the terminals, you will be able to pick up your ride from the Arrivals area. Generally, the fare from the airport to La Roma and Condesa (or most anywhere in the main city area) is \$5 USD (about 100 to 120 pesos) in total.

**Longer day trips:** Local trips involving 1+ hours of driving generally either aren't worth rideshare fares or are a risk due to sparse coverage by rideshare services once you get to the outskirts of the city.

The perfect hypothetical example is if you choose to make the famous day trip to the pyramids of Teotihuacan (which we *definitely* recommend!) Trips like these are easily

accessible by commercial bus lines. They involve a bit more research but generally involve going to one of the major bus terminals in the city (Terminal Central del Norte will be particularly relevant if trying to get to Teotihuacan) and purchasing a ticket from the bus line directly. It's helpful to look up the bus company that serves your route and during what times before arriving at the terminal so that you can easily navigate the plethora of choices once in the building.

The terminal functions much like a simplified airport, so once you have your ticket, you'll have plenty of time to relax, shop for snacks, and make use of one of the many pay-to-use bathrooms prior to boarding the bus. The commercial buses are generally super comfortable and climate-controlled, so rest assured your ride will be generally comfortable. Just don't be surprised if the driver picks up a few stray passengers on your route (including mariachi performers who may ambush you mid-ride and ask for a tip... politely refusing is OK!)

## Language (and how to prepare)

Surprisingly (or perhaps, unsurprisingly), not many people spoke English when we were traveling around CDMX. There are exceptions, mainly in touristy neighborhoods like La Roma and La Condesa, airports, and hotels. However, the local coffee shop down the street or even a fancy restaurant may speak only Spanish so be prepared! Here are some quick ways to prepare yourself before traveling to CDMX:

**Beginner/No Experience:** Our number one recommendation would be to learn key phrases from YouTube related to traveling in Spanish-speaking countries. That way you will get the fundamentals for [key phrases](#), [ordering at a restaurant](#), how to get around, etc.

Another useful app to download is [Google Translate](#). Download the full language guide onto your phone so you're always covered. You can take photos of menus, signs, and other written forms (or even have someone speak into the microphone) to translate on the spot. We used this once to return an item at a store and it helped so much when speaking with the cashier!

**Proficient/Have Learned Spanish In the Past:** If you want to continue your learning (and also have a little fun with it) download [Duolingo](#)! This was a great way, especially for people who have some Spanish background to brush up on their skills. We also downloaded Spanish-speaking shows for the plane ride to help get our ears acclimated to Spanish again as the pace is much faster than Duolingo or other language learning apps.

## Eating, Drinking, and Lodging

### Tipping Culture and Payment Methods

Most places take credit cards (Visa seems to be *most* widely accepted, but AMEX and Mastercard are also generally fine) but every so often you will find a restaurant that is cash only. Most street vendors are also cash only. It's helpful to have small bills on hand for tipping, as well. We found this goes a long way for service at hotels, etc.

In Mexico City, the general rule of thumb is to tip between 10% and 20% of the total meal cost when eating at a sit-down restaurant. If paying by card, politely ask your waiter to charge the appropriate tip percentage. A 15% tip request is almost certain to earn you a 'Muchisimas gracias!' from the staff 😊 Street vendors may warrant a smaller tip closer to 20-30 pesos per person but please, don't be stingy! A few dollars (and yes, you can tip in USD if you are low on pesos) from you go a *long way* for employees and staff here.

## Where To Stay + How to Find Accommodations

Mexico City has plenty of inventory on Airbnb at extremely reasonable prices. We recommend starting your search there. Though you'll pay a slight premium, it's worth it for your first trip there to have peace of mind that you'll have access to your host and tenant protection from Airbnb in the rare chance that something goes wrong.

Because of how sprawling the city is, it's best to pick a few neighborhoods you're keen on staying in and search specifically for those neighborhoods on your platform of choice. In general, the most popular neighborhoods to stay in for tourists are **La Roma** and **La Condesa**. They are more upscale neighborhoods with plenty of restaurants, cafes, gyms, etc. for your trip. We have enjoyed staying in slightly less tourist-y areas, including the business-centric **La Reforma** near Chapultepec Park, and **San Rafael**, a quaint university neighborhood north of La Roma. Another up-and-coming location that borders Condesa is **Juarez**. These areas may require a bit more Spanish than the La Roma/Condesa area. **Zona Rosa** is also a good area to stay in if you want to be close to the nightlife but can get a bit louder at night.

**Spots to avoid:** Tepitio, Doctores, or anywhere too far north of Mexico City (this is generally due to inaccessibility to attractions and crime - safety first!).

As mentioned, we've had great luck with Airbnb in CDMX. It's important to stick to the well-known neighborhoods, and read reviews about factors like the noise level, building condition, etc.. Bear in mind that you're traveling to a big city, so a little noise is par-for-the-course!

A few characteristics we look for in Airbnbs (or accommodations, generally) in CDMX:

- ☐ Higher floor (lower chance of pesky bugs)
- ☐ Proximity to the grocery store(s) and a pharmacy
- ☐ Minimum Wi-fi speed of 20mbps (ideally 50mbps+)
- ☐ 24/7 building security (this is fairly normal in the city)

- ☐ In-unit laundry (or proximity to a laundromat/lavanderia if unavailable)
- ☐ In-building gym (or proximity to a gym that offers weekly or monthly rates)


## Alternatives to Airbnb

We'll keep this section short because we really believe Airbnb is the gold standard for your first trip to CDMX. The reviews, access to the host, insurance, etc. all play a critical role in ensuring you have a smooth trip. However, if you insist on being more hipster with your accommodation choices, here are a few quick suggestions:

- 1) Book a hotel (even a long-stay hotel) via a major booking site and pay attention to *recent* reviews. Booking.com has a good mix of luxury hotels and hotels with the amenities for longer stays of 2+ weeks. We [stayed at a 5-star hotel in El Centro](#) for 2 nights when we had time in between our Airbnb booking and flight departure date. We found that for a couple of days it was actually nice to be close to El Centro, but wouldn't recommend it for a longer stay.
- 2) Hostels. Definitely not quite our vibe but also popular, especially among the 'youth' and more outgoing types. We've heard excellent things about the hostel scene but we've equally heard negative things about a few hostels. Generally, read reviews and even call the hostel in advance to confirm availability and their ability to speak English (for your own sake!)
- 3) Work with a local realtor to find a furnished apartment for longer-term stays. This is best if you're planning on staying 2+ months and want to avoid paying platform fees to the likes of Airbnb. However, do your diligence on the realtor you work with and the neighborhood you want to stay in. Haven't tried this ourselves but know it's a decently well-trodden path.

## Getting COVID Tested

While the easiest way to get a COVID test for re-entry to the US (which is still required as of March 2022) will probably be purchasing an at-home kit, we also have relied on [Chopo Labs](#) (a major clinic chain) for antigen tests if needed. There are multiple Chopo locations in CDMX that have 12 PM - 1:30 PM 'no appointment needed' hours for rapid antigen tests. Results will be sent in English or Spanish (based on preference) via email, and have typically been sent within one hour of taking the test. Prices have fluctuated between \$25 - \$32 when we did our tests, but are generally always reasonably priced! These were viable options for traveling back to the US and needing proof of a medically supervised negative COVID test.

 **Pro tip:** We suggest arriving at Chopo right at 12 PM in order to beat the crowd if you plan to go during drop-in hours. We have gotten turned away at 1:00 PM before due to too much demand!

# Activities Worth Trying

## Lucha Libre


Okay, we were skeptical too. But after taking the plunge, we can endorse making time for Lucha wholeheartedly. You've never seen anything like it. Lucha Libre has a rich history in Mexico which we won't pretend to know too much about. Let it suffice to say, though, that Lucha fans are proud and truly one of the kind. Going to a fight is worth it just to be amidst such raving fandom.

In a few sentences, we'll try to capture just enough Lucha magic to get you intrigued: This style of Mexican wrestling is a confluence of combat, performance arts, and pure acrobatic skill. Though most of the fights have a predetermined winner (which supports a rich storyline that carries week-to-week), the athletic prowess these Luchadores and Luchadoras show in the ring is amazing. You will definitely be entertained, confused, and satisfied at the same time and in the best way possible.

There are two major Lucha Libre venues to choose from in CDMX: [Arena México](#) and [Arena Coliseo](#). We've only experienced the Arena México and thought it was great. It's important to get there a few hours early if you intend to buy tickets from the box office (which we recommend). Don't be swayed by the scalpers that are sure to ambush you with cheap tickets on your walk to the box office. Stay focused and keep moving. Upon getting to the box office, muster your best Spanish to ask for the seating chart (which they'll happily present) and pick your seats. They should be shockingly cheap when converted to USD - be grateful! You're in for a great night of entertainment.

An alternative way to purchase tickets is *supposedly* through Ticketmaster. Beware, however, that it may be infeasible if you don't have a bank account or credit card issued by a Mexican bank. There are also ticket counters for Ticketmaster where you can technically pre-purchase your ticket. Mysteriously, though, they don't seem to be actively staffed since the onset of the pandemic. **Overall the best option seems to be to buy the tickets at the door.**

Assuming you picked Arena México, you've now got a few hours to kill between now and match time. Head over to nearby [Jardín Juárez](#) (about a 5-minute walk), have a few drinks, and snack on classic bar food in a beautiful outdoor beer garden. Save room for a beer at the match, too, if interested. Don't worry about being late to Lucha. People tend to casually stroll in late for a full hour after match time.


 **Pro tip:** Ushers are readily available at the arena to escort you to your seat. You don't need them to find your seat, but if you do take their help they will definitely expect a tip (in fact, some even take your ticket and only return it after receiving a tip). Choose your help carefully!

## Local Fútbol (Soccer) Match

This one applies to even those of you who aren't the biggest soccer fans in the world (we aren't, admittedly!). Just going to a match to be a part of the world-class fanfare Mexican soccer fans exhibit is its own kind of entertainment.

Head over to [Estadio Azteca](#) (to support Club America) or [Estadio Olimpico Universitario](#) (to support Pumas de la UNAM). Much like Lucha, you don't need to pre-purchase tickets but you do need to arrive at least an hour early to purchase from the box office.

Upon arrival, ask around to find the box office. You'll need a bit more Spanish for this transaction so we recommend picking out your seats *prior to arrival* using a stadium map online (easy to find on Ticketmaster). With tickets in hand, head inside to find your section. Don't bring outside food or drink. You will be amazed at the variety of vendors selling food in the stands and the low prices (converted to USD) they charge. Enjoy the vibe, including buying everything you need from these in-stadium merchants.

 **Pro tip:** Don't bring a bag (you'll have to get it checked or, worse yet, stored with a vendor *outside* the stadium grounds). Relatedly (and strangely), don't wear a belt. For some odd reason, belts may also be subject to storage outside the stadium until the end of the match. Lastly, if the match is unexciting, try to leave a few minutes early to snag a cheaper Uber/taxi home and avoid the chaos of the crowds that follows the end of the game.

## Sample the International Culinary Scene

Mexico City is effectively the New York of Mexico in terms of its metropolitan significance. In fact, that's underselling it. With the gathering of some of Mexico's best chefs in one city (aka have you ever watched the [Chef's Table episode on Pujol](#)?!), met with global culinary influences from Europe, South America, Mexico's own local states/provinces, and the world, CDMX is home to excellent food. You owe it to yourself and the city to give it a try!

Check out excellent Asian food near Zona Rosa and world-class European cuisine scattered throughout Roma and Condesa. You'll find surprisingly good paella just outside the Sevilla metro station and (apparently) great sushi throughout the city.

We barely scratched the surface of international food in this city during our time there, but we hope you'll take the opportunity to indulge in a few meals beyond just Mexican cuisine during your time there.

## Mezcal Tasting

Fellow whiskey, tequila, and scotch fans - let us *implore* you to take the time to sample mezcal in and around CDMX. Even if you've written off tequila as the bain-of-your-existence

/ never-again drink since 'that one hangover in college', mezcal is just different... and worth your time to indulge in.

Similar to tequila, it's derived from the agave plant and often mixed into sweeter cocktails. This does experience the spirit a disservice, though. Unlike tequila, we found mezcal to be, on average, far more varied in flavor profile and intensity than tequila (I know tequila fans will dispute this, so YMMV).

Go to any of the *mezcalerías* (mezcal bars) below and let them know you're new to the world of mezcal. Most *mezcalería* staff will be absolutely enthralled to show you this world they live and breathe every day. Likely, they'll immediately offer you samples or a full tasting. Take them up on it.

If possible, ask if they'll bring the usual accompaniments with the mezcal: a spiced salt of some sort and sliced oranges. These are useful palette cleansers (NOT chasers) in between full sips. Like any good spirit, make sure you sip and let the liquor linger in your mouth, including a nice long finish well after it goes down. Mezcal tends to have a fantastic, long finish that most other alcohols can't compete with (except maybe a nice, peaty scotch).

A few of our favorite *mezcalerías* in CDMX:

- 1) [Xuni Mezcalería](#) - a newer joint with a beautiful ambiance, centrally located near Reforma. Amazing staff here and apparently good food, too.
- 2) [Bósforo](#) - apparently a CDMX legend, located right in El Centro near the historic center of the city. This place is small and gets a little crowded, but worth a visit if you know your stuff and want to talk shop with the bartender. Don't miss the cozy balcony seating! PS - no mixed drinks here.
- 3) [Finca Robles Mezcal Ancestral](#) - not the best prices or selection, but worth including because of this vibe. This friendly bar has a decent mezcal selection and is situated *within* Mercado Roma, an upscale food court + market alongside a number of great restaurants and bars.
- 4) [Mezcalero Coyoacán](#) - if you're willing to venture out to the quaint, artsy neighborhood of Coyoacán (which you absolutely should do), this place is great. Excellent selection, a bit pricier, but has a magical vibe. Situated on the streets of Coyoacán, you likely will find yourself sipping mezcal with a live music performance in the background - hard to beat!

Two mezcals you must try:

- 1) **Mezcal Espadin** (variety) - derived from the Espadin agave plant, these mezcals are much smokier (peatier) and a little more intense. But they're delicious!
- 2) **Chacolo Presa Grande** - unsure what kind of mezcal this is, but we remember it having a nice long, sweet finish with a smoky aftertaste. A good beginner mezcal.
- 3) **Mezcal Tobasiche** (variety) - similar to Mezcal Espadin, but even more peaty but very tasty. If you love scotch like Laphroaig, you'll love Mezcal Tobasiche.

That's it! You're officially in the world and mezcal and prepared to experience a part of Mexican food and drink totally unique to this magical country.


## Favorite Sights by Neighborhood (Full List on Google Maps [HERE](#))

### Reforma/San Rafael

*Note: Reforma and San Rafael are a bit far apart but totally walkable (about a 25-minute walk). We grouped them because the walk from La Reforma to San Rafael is lovely and full of great restaurants, bars, and roadside vendors worth checking out. Plus, you'll even catch a glimpse of the American Embassy in Mexico City (which is massive!).*

We have a ton of recommendations in the Reforma area because we stayed at Airbnb close to here! Our absolute must-sees are Chapultepec Castle and Chapultepec Park. Take an afternoon to explore both and get some great views of CDMX while you're at it! Hidden within the park is the Anthropology Museum, a great place to learn about Mexico's culture, evolution, and history. The museum itself is housed within a spectacular palace known to house former politicians, serve as the seat of former governments, be used for movie sets, and more.

We would consider La Reforma and San Rafael a bit of a hidden gem when it comes to the food scene, but if you're in the area definitely stop in [Camino a Comala](#) for a coffee or [La Tia](#) for an amazing homemade breakfast.

 **Pro tip:** One of our go-to taco spots, [Taqueria Las Rejas](#), was near this neighborhood! Sometimes it's best to go for the more authentic places, versus ones with a ton of American reviews. As such, this was a hidden gem for tacos al pastor!

- Cafés: [Camino a Comala](#), [Nidido Cafe](#)
- Restaurants: [La Tia](#) (Breakfast), [Taqueria Las Rejas](#) (Al Pastor), [El Califa](#) (Bistec con Queso), [La Casa De Toño](#) (Pozole), [Taqueria Gabriel](#) (fancy tacos), [Balboa Pizza](#) (good, fresh pizza!)
- Sights: Angel de Independencia, Monumento de Revolución, Chapultepec Park, Chapultepec Castle, Anthropology Museum

### La Roma/La Condesa

La Roma is the hub for tourists but still maintains a certain charm. The neighborhood is home to one of our favorite bakeries (of all time, potentially): [Panadería Rosetta](#). The guava rolls, rosemary buns, and cinnamon rolls are AMAZING. We're talking BEST. EVER. They are

super tasty and can be accompanied with coffee, tea, beer, or even fresh juices all available here.

La Condesa is the neighboring city to La Roma. Sometimes you feel like you don't know where one ends and one begins. This area has some of the best urban walks in the city! There are two main parks: Parque España and Parque México which both deserve a visit. Head to the Blend Station or another nearby coffee shop for some tea and reading after your stroll.


 **Pro tip:** If you only have 24-hours, we rounded up a few of our favorites in [this blog post specifically for La Roma and Condesa](#).

- Cafes: [Panadería Rosetta](#), [Blend Station](#), [Bou](#)
- Restaurants: [Plantasia](#) (vegan Asian), [Hamburguesa Mataleon](#) (awesome burgers), [Mora Mora](#) (healthy juices and acai bowls), [Ostería 8](#) (ITALIAN!), [Lardo](#) (brunch)
- Sights: Parque México, Parque España, Plaza Rio de Janeiro

## El Centro

Dedicate about half a day to explore all El Centro has to offer. Start at **Zocalo**, the actual city center! It's amazing because the old city planning and photos demark this as an evergreen gathering spot for people. While you're there check out the cathedral (sometimes it looks closed but usually you can visit). The **Postal Service Office** and **Bellas Artes** area is also a great spot to learn more about Mexico's history.

A few standout spots, still in the city center, are [Pastelería Ideal](#) (operating since 1927) for some tasty and LARGE pastries and [El Moro](#) (operating since 1933) for the best churros ever. These are historic spots that have been part of Mexico City from as early as 1935. [Los Cocuyos](#) is another taco spot recently made internationally famous by Netflix and worth checking out for their suadero tacos.

 **Pro tip:** There is always a huge takeaway line at the original El Moro in El Centro, so don't get dissuaded by the crowd! Walk up into the shop past the line of people out of the door and get seated to get serviced faster. You'll see a lot of other El Moro shops around town, with the newer branding but we think the original El Centro location is the best!

- Cafés: [Pastelería Ideal](#), [El Moro](#)
- Restaurants: [El Cardenal](#) (authentic Mexican, great mole), [Café Tacuba](#) (authentic Mexican, amazing Oaxacan tamales), [Los Cocuyos](#) (best suadero tacos in town), [Bósforo](#) (mezcal)
- Sights: Zócalo, Bellas Artes, Templo Mayor, Mexico City Metropolitan Cathedral

## Polanco

Polanco is another popular neighborhood in CDMX among tourists and ex-pats, but it can be a bit pricey. Still, Polanco is totally worth a visit to see two amazing (and free!) museums: [Museo Soumaya](#) and [Museo Jumex](#). Soumaya has 5 floors of collectible art (dedicate a few hours here) plus the building itself is an art piece while Jumex is a modern and contemporary art museum. We loved both and would recommend spending a day visiting both! There are also plenty of food options for a lunch break or dinner after a day of exploring (Note: we didn't get a chance to try these cafes and restaurants this time around but have heard great things about the spots we recommend below!)

- Café: [Cielito Querido Café](#)
- Restaurants: [Eno](#) (Fine Dining), [Rosa Negra](#) (Latin American), [Cuerno](#) (Bistro), [El Turix](#) (Tacos)
- Sights: Soumaya Museum, Museo de Jumex

## Juarez

Juarez is one of our FAVORITE up-and-coming neighborhoods in CDMX. We stayed in an Airbnb bordering Juarez and San Rafael and thought it was such an underrated part of the city! There are a ton of cafes, restaurants, and local spots to eat without the crowds of people like you'd see in La Roma. We highly recommend, no matter where you stay, to go to [El Progreso](#) for an authentic taco experience - unlike anywhere else in CDMX! You can get suadero, lengua, and cabeza tacos which have been simmering for hours. Also, check out their mouth-watering campechano (mixed meats) taco with cheese. After a quick bite, head over to Arena Mexico for a night you'll never forget... Lucha Libre!

- Cafes: [Cafe Nin](#)
- Restaurants: [El Progreso](#) (TACOS!!!!), [The Backroom](#) (drinks and pretty good pizza), [Lucerna Comedor](#) (food hall with lots of options!)
- Sights: Lucha Libre

## Day Trip Ideas

Mexico City in and of itself is a city you could easily never leave because there is so much to explore. There are a few neighborhoods that are totally worth at least a day trip to if you are spending an extended period of time in CDMX.

### Teotihuacan Pyramids

We could consider [Teotihuacan](#) a MUST-SEE when visiting CDMX. It's a 1.5 hour journey from the main city center by bus and it's well worth the visit. Teotihuacan is a UNESCO World

Heritage site with remnants of an ancient civilization dating back to as early as 400 B.C. We used [this guide](#) to help plan our route when we arrived at the Pyramids because you could get lost and spend hours there. We've heard you can also Uber to take a car to the site, but we used [this blog post](#) to help guide our travel by bus and it worked fairly seamlessly! A few more pointers on navigating the bus station can be found in the '[How to Get Around](#)' section above.

## Coyoacán

The quaint but vibrant town of Coyoacán is a must-see day (or even afternoon!) trip and about 20-30 minutes from the city center. You may have heard of Coyoacán as it's home to the famous [Frida Kahlo Museum](#). While you're there, definitely head to [El Jarocho](#) for cafe de olla (cinnamon coffee) and a sweet dessert. Another favorite for us is [Cafe Negro](#) which was a cute hipster cafe near the Frida Kahlo Museum. Coyoacán is also where we always buy gifts for friends and family back home because of the artisan markets. You can find beautiful hand-painted pots, cups, and other local art pieces.

## Honorable Mentions

We've also heard amazing things about [Xochimilco](#) but have yet to visit ourselves. It's rumored to be great with a large group of friends with whom you can rent a boat and enjoy endless drinks (BYOB) while cruising through the canals of the city. Another beautiful town, which would require at least a one-night stay in is [San Miguel de Allende](#). You can get there by bus and it is a beautiful, quaint town just a few hours from the city.

# FAQ and Long-Term Travel Tips

## Did you feel safe?

Yes! Overall during our two months in Mexico City, we felt safe walking during the day and evening time. We did not venture to unknown areas or late at night, typically anytime past 11 PM or so. We recommend that when you are walking in an unknown area (or somewhere not as populated), **don't** have headphones in and be fully aware of your surroundings. If you are out late, opt for taking an Uber/Beat/Didi/Cabify instead of a taxi to get back to your destination safely.


## How many days should I stay in CDMX?

We may be biased, but we believe the longer the better! If you have a limited amount of time, we recommend at least 3 days to explore the city, a 5-day trip if you want to include a few day trips, and a 7-day trip if you want to feel like your days aren't jam-packed with ample

leftover time to try a few recommendations outside of the main city limits. We've lived there for two months now and still think there is much left to see!!

## Is tap water safe to drink?

Depending on your Airbnb or hotel, you may have a specific filtered water system that is safe to drink. When our Airbnb did not have a filtration system, we bought the large multi-gallon waters from a local convenience store. Generally speaking, we recommend avoiding tap water out of an abundance of caution. Ice is typically okay to have at restaurants within CDMX.

 **Pro tip:** if your ice looks cylindrical, then it's almost certainly filtered (the restaurant purchased ice from a purified water supplier) and therefore safe to drink.

## What is the COVID-19 situation like in CDMX?

Based on what we've seen over the past few months, CDMX is cautious when it comes to COVID-19. Most restaurants and stores require you to sanitize, wipe your feet and take your temperature before entering. As of now, you do not have to show a COVID-19 vaccine card. COVID-19 testing is readily available at many pharmacies in the city. Additionally, most restaurants and cafes have indoor and outdoor spaces. People wear their masks both inside and outside in crowded parks, while walking on the street, etc. We typically keep up to date on vaccine rates and outbreaks at the [NY Times](#).

## How do I stay up to date on travel safety?

In order to stay up to date on travel safety and ever-changing travel policies, we have typically used [CNN's travel restrictions article](#) which is frequently updated, the SkyAlert app for any potential [earthquakes](#), and national/local news coverage. You can also sign-up for the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP Program\)](#) to notify the U.S. Department of State of your travel to a specific country and city, where you will receive email alerts if there are any safety alerts for your destination. It's also best practice to have the U.S. Embassy information available on your phone in case of an emergency.

## Should I buy travelers insurance for my trip?

Depending on your current coverage plan for insurance, you may want to enroll in traveler's insurance. We've found [International SOS insurance](#) is typically the best and most reasonable for shorter stays. Check your credit cards in case you may get traveler's insurance as a complementary perk (though adequate coverage is important!)

What happens if I get sick or have food poisoning during my stay?

We've learned food poisoning or the occasional stomach issues while traveling come with the territory. Just remember that it will pass! We wrote [this blog post with a few tips if you do find yourself sick on the road](#) and how to navigate a foreign pharmacy.

Any additional tips for an extended stay (a few weeks to months) in CDMX?

We love that you're thinking about long term stays in Mexico City! In general, this writeup serves as a guide for both short-term and long term stays. Here are a couple of things we would recommend investing in if you are going to be in CDMX for a few weeks to months:

*Gym Membership:* In general we've found it quite helpful to sign-up for a monthly gym membership (which allows you to pay month-to-month) since there are not a ton of long nature-ridden trails in the city to work out using. We just walked into a few local gyms and asked about monthly memberships before signing up for one! Most places that were boutique gyms were receptive to giving us prorated rates.

*Grocery Shopping:* Most neighborhoods have grocery shopping available and offer a selection of goods similar to that of the US. We recommend stocking up a few essentials including frozen veggies, coffee, snacks, water, breakfast items to get you started. Generally speaking, grocery stores and pharmacies were all within walking distance of most neighborhoods.

*Laundry:* We have usually found Airbnb's with laundry machines in the unit. Recently, however, we tried going to a laundromat to see how it was. Honestly, the experience was AMAZING and super affordable. We recommend opting for an Airbnb close to a laundromat if you're up for a taste of luxury. Save the headache of doing your own laundry for a few pesos (plus most Airbnb's do not have dryers).

*Wifi:* Finding fast wifi has not been an issue for us during our stays in CDMX! We always ask before booking with an Airbnb host, because it's always nice to have that option versus searching for a cafe with fast wifi. However, public wifi has been pretty reliable (especially in neighborhoods like La Roma and La Condesa) and there are tons of co-working spaces with day-access if you're in a pinch for a reliable internet connection.