

25/25 Mexico City Mexico

Distrito Federal, the thriving capital, couldn't be more different from the Mexico regularly appearing on the evening news abroad. The city of 20 million or so remains largely free of the violence that has engulfed too many other towns and cities. And with public transportation expanding, air pollution decreasing, the police force modernising and a parade of new restaurants, shops, galleries and a museum, it's getting even more fun for visitors.

Essentials

- 01 Ask around for the best nearby open-air markets and taco stands.
- 02 Keep small bills handy. Shopkeepers don't like giving change for anything bigger than a 50- or 100-peso note.
- 03 Lunch, beginning at 14.00 or 15.00 and often lasting hours, is the main meal of the day, and many restaurants are closed for dinner.
- 04 Express kidnappings (*secuestros expres*), in which your taxi driver robs you, do happen, so don't hail a cab on the street; call a service or find a stand (*un sitio*).

Guide/Info

Hotels

Independent and easy

Hotel Brick
Orizaba 95,
Col. Roma Norte
+ 52 55 5525 1100
hotelbrick.com

Dependable

Hotel Presidente Intercontinental
218 Campos Eliseos, Col. Polanco
+ 52 55 5327 7700
intercontinental.com/mexicocity

Premium

The Four Seasons
500 Paseo de la Reforma,
Col. Juárez
+ 52 55 5230 1818
fourseasons.com/mexico

Dining

Fast breakfast

Frutos Prohibidos y Otros Placeres
244-B Amsterdam, Col. Condesa
+ 52 55 5264 5808
frutosprohibidos.com

Business breakfast

Lobby Restaurant at Hotel Habita
201 Presidente Masaryk,
Col. Polanco
+ 52 55 5282 3100
hotellhabita.com

Mid-morning coffee

Café Toscano
Orizaba 42, Col. Roma
+ 52 55 5533 5444

Working lunch with colleagues

Contramar
200 Durango
(just off Fuente de Cibeles), Col. Roma
+ 52 55 5514 9217
contramar.com/mx

Need-to-impress-clients lunch

El Casino Español
Isabel La Católica 31,
Col. Centro
+ 52 55 5521 8894

Lunch on your own

Primos
168 Michoacán,
Col. Condesa
+ 52 55 5256 0950

Afternoon tea/drink

Senses
189 Campos Eliseos, Col. Polanco
+ 52 55 5980 1578
senses.com.mx

Dinner on your own

Bros
226 Lope de Vega, Col. Polanco
+ 52 55 5250 1325

Dinner with colleagues

Los Danzantes
12 Plaza Jardín Centenario,
Col. Coyoacán
+ 52 55 5554 1213
losdanzantes.com

Private dinner

Rosetta
Colima 166,
Col. Roma
+ 52 55 5533 7804

Big dinner with partner/clients

Biko
407 Presidente Masaryk,
Col. Polanco
+ 52 55 5282 2064

Drink after dinner

La Terraza at Hotel Condesa DF
102 Avenida Veracruz,
Col. Condesa
+ 52 55 5241 2600
condesadf.com

On the tiles

VIP room at Pasaje America
7 Cinco de Mayo,
Col. Centro
+ 52 55 5521 4375

Reading

Bookshop

Librería Rosario Castellanos
202 Tamaulipas,
Col. Condesa
+ 52 55 5276 7110

Thank yous

Top-quality crafts from the Museo de Arte Popular shop
11 Revillagigedo,
Col. Centro
+ 52 55 5510 2201
map.df.gob.mx

Shopping

Something you can't get anywhere else

Design from the Galería Mexicana de Diseño
13 Anatole France, Col. Polanco
+ 52 55 5280 3709
galeriamexicana.com.mx

Something for the kids

Mexican toys from Jugaré
84 Alfonso Reyes, Col. Hipodromo Condesa
+ 52 55 5211 7280
jugare.com.mx

Something for someone you love

Erotic prints and antiques from Sexe by Accident
49 Alvaro Obregon,
Col. Roma
+ 52 55 5511 1312
chicbyaccident.com

Two-hour tour

- 01 Check out the Soumaya, Carlos Slim's new museum Plaza Carso, Col. Ampliación Granada
museosoumaya.org
- 02 Zocalo and cathedral Col. Centro
- 03 University Museum of Contemporary Art (MUAC) and Ciudad Universitaria 3000 Insurgentes Sur, Ciudad Universitaria
+ 52 55 5622 6972

Limousine/car

Omega
+ 52 55 5714 1919

Transport

Metro

Cheap and efficient. A one-way trip costs 2 pesos (\$0.18/€0.13).

Metrobús

A bus rapid transit system that runs along Avenida de los Insurgentes. Access is with a pre-paid smart card.

Taxi

Plentiful and cheap. Don't hail them from the street. **Servitaxi**
+ 52 55 5516 6020
servitaxis.com/mx

Fitness

Good gym

Qi
317 Amsterdam,
Col. Condesa
+ 52 55 5574 5095
qi.com.mx

Running route

Viveros de Coyoacán
El Sope, a 2km running track in the huge Bosque de Chapultepec (in the second section of Chapultepec Park near the Lago Mayor).

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