



My Drift

Title: Mexico City

Written By: Jerry D. Petersen

Date: 1 Dec 2022

Article Number: (408-2022-29)



Mexico City is the capital and largest city of Mexico, and the most populous city in North America. One of the world's alpha cities, it is located in the Valley of Mexico within the high Mexican central plateau, at an altitude of 7,350 feet. The city has 16 boroughs which are in turn divided into neighborhoods.

Note: Just in case you don't know what a world alpha city is (like me), I Googled it and here is the definition: A city that links a major economic state or region into the world economy. Other alpha cities include London, New York, Milan, Paris, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Moscow, Chicago, Frankfurt, Los Angeles, and Karachi.

The 2022 population for the city proper was about 9,300,000 with a land area of 577 square miles. The population of Greater Mexico City is 22,085,000, which makes it the sixth-largest metropolitan area in the world, the second largest in the Western Hemisphere (behind São Paulo, Brazil), and the largest Spanish speaking city in the world.

Mexico's capital is both the oldest capital city in the Americas and one of two founded by indigenous people. The city was originally built on a group of islands in Lake Texcoco by the Mexica (Aztecs) around 1325, under the name Tenochtitlan. It was almost completely destroyed in the 1521 Siege of

Tenochtitlan and subsequently redesigned and rebuilt in accordance with the Spanish urban standards. In 1524, the municipality of Mexico City was established, known as México Tenochtitlan, and as of 1585, it was officially known as Ciudad de México (Mexico City). Mexico City was the political, administrative, and financial center of a major part of the Spanish colonial empire. After independence from Spain was achieved, the federal district was created in 1824.



A Few Mexico City Attractions



Chapultepec Park

Chapultepec, better as Bosque de Chapultepec is one of the largest city parks in Mexico, measuring in total just over 1,695 acres. Centered on a rock formation called Chapultepec Hill, one of the park's main functions is as an ecological space in Greater Mexico City. It is considered the first and most important of Mexico City's "lungs".

The area encompassing modern-day Chapultepec has been inhabited and considered a landmark since the pre-Columbian era, when it became a retreat for Aztec rulers. In the colonial period, Chapultepec Castle was built here, eventually becoming the official residence of Mexican heads of state. It would remain so until 1940, when it was moved to another part of the park called Los Pinos.

Bosque de Chapultepec is divided into four sections, with the first section being the oldest and most visited. This section contains most of the park's attractions, including the castle, the Chapultepec Zoo, the Museum of Anthropology, and the Rufino Tamayo Museum, among others. It receives an estimated 15 million visitors per year. This prompted the need for major rehabilitation efforts that began in 2005 and ended in 2010. The government has authorized the construction of business, offices, and big parking lots for cars.



The Torre Mayor

The Torre Mayor (literally "Major Tower") is a skyscraper in Mexico City, Mexico. With a height of 738 feet to the top floor and 55 stories, it is the third tallest building in Mexico. It was surpassed in height by Torre BBVA Bancomer in 2015, which in turn was surpassed by Torre Reforma in 2016.



Basilica of Our Lady

Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Villa de Guadalupe, the main Catholic pilgrimage site in the Americas. It houses the original image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Zócalo

The beating heart of Mexico City is Zócalo - the Plaza de la Constitución (Constitution Square) - where the country's first constitution was proclaimed in 1813. Measuring some 788 feet in each direction, it's one of the world's largest squares and was laid out almost immediately after the conquest of the former Aztec city of Tenochtitlán on which it stands.



The National Museum of Anthropology

One of the most important of its kind in the world, the National Museum of Anthropology lies in Chapultepec Park. Built in 1964, this strikingly successful example of contemporary architecture is famous for its magnificent displays of old Indian art treasures.



Templo Mayor and the Great Pyramid of Tenochtitlán

Despite the widespread destruction after the defeat of the Aztecs, a number of their important historic sites have been unearthed and put on display in recent years. The most important site is Templo Mayor, home to the remains of the Great Temple of Tenochtitlán, including the first relic discovered in 1978, a finely sculpted round disc more than three meters in diameter and weighing eight-and-a-half tons.



The Palace of Fine Arts

One of Mexico City's most important cultural landmarks, the Palace of Fine Arts (Palacio de Bellas Artes) is an architectural gem. Towering over the adjacent park, this massive marble building - designed by Italian architect Adamo Boari with Art Nouveau and Art Deco influences - was completed in 1934 and is so heavy that it has sunk more than four meters, despite attempts to lighten it by removing part of its huge dome.



Mexico City Metropolitan Cathedral

Dominating Zócalo square, the massive Mexico City Metropolitan Cathedral (Catedral Metropolitana de la Asunción de María) is one of the oldest and largest churches in the Western Hemisphere. Built atop part of the old Aztec temple precinct, construction of this massive basalt and grey sandstone structure began in 1525 and extended over 250 years.



Paseo de la Reforma and the Angel of Independence

The principal east-west traffic artery of Mexico City, Paseo de la Reforma extends for about 10 miles from Tlatelolco to the residential district of Las Lomas but is best known for the stretch from Avenida Benito Juárez to Chapultepec Park.



Plaza Mexico Bullring in Mexico City

Apart from Spain, Mexico has more bullfighting rings and high-quality bullfighters than any other country in the world. Bullfighting was brought to Mexico more than 500 years ago by the conquistadores. In recent years however, many Mexicans have decided that the event is both unnecessary and uncivilized. However, at this writing, bullfighting is still legal in Mexico.



La Merced Market

La Merced is the largest retail traditional market in Mexico City for a wide variety of everyday products such as fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry, toys, clothes, flowers, candy and more.

Mexico City Interesting Facts

Mexico City is sinking. It may sound surprising, but Mexico City is sinking at the rate of 15.8 inches (40 cm) every year. Mexico City was built over a lake in the early 14th century. Over time, the city expanded. Bigger and heavier buildings were built. A lot of groundwater was tapped for household and industrial purposes. This caused the lake bed to dry and clay sheets underneath to crack. As a result, Mexico City is sinking at an alarming rate!

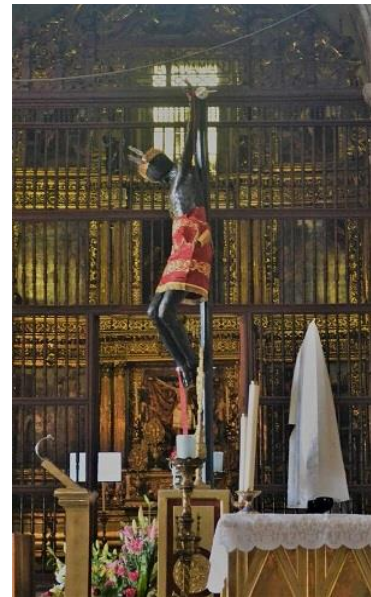
Mexico City has the largest number of museums in the world. Mexico City has a whopping 1086 museum or museum-like establishments.

Mexico City is called “The City of Palaces”. Mexico City’s palaces were built by the Spaniards who became the new nobles of New Spain. They accumulated tons of wealth in Central America and built extravagant homes and massive churches in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Many of these still stand tall today justifying the city’s nickname of “The Palace City”.

Black Christ at the Metropolitan Cathedral

The Black Christ is located in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Mexico City. The Black Christ is pretty common across Latin America including the famous Black Christ of Esquipulas in Guatemala.

El Cristo Negro, or the Black Christ, is believed to have miraculous healing powers. No doubt, the cathedral is thronging with people all the time.



Mexico City functioned as the capital of New Spain for 300 long years!

After Hernan Cortes conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521, New Spain took birth. It was an extensive territory ruled by the Spanish Empire and comprised of Mexico, Southwestern USA, Central American, Philippines, and Guam.

Hernan Cortes built a new capital city over the rubble of Tenochtitlan and called it Mexico City. The city would function as the capital of New Spain for 300 years (1521 – 1821) until Mexico gained independence in 1821.

Pyramid of the Sun



The Pyramid of the Sun is the largest structure in Teotihuacan, and one of the largest in Mesoamerica. It is believed to have been constructed about 200 AD.

Teotihuacan is a vast Mexican archaeological complex about 30 miles northeast of Mexico City. Running down the middle of the site, which was once a flourishing pre-Columbian city, is the Avenue of the Dead. It links the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, the Pyramid of the Moon, and the Pyramid of the Sun, the latter two with panoramic views from their summits.

Mexico City is much higher than Denver

Mexico City is not only 7,350 feet above sea level (that's about a mile and-a-half up in the sky), it's situated in a valley surrounded by mountains and flanked by two volcanoes. Denver is only a mile high – 5,280 feet.

Note: Just in case you were wondering, the highest city in the world is Bolivia's El Alto-La Paz metropolitan area, with more than two million people at an average elevation of 12,694 feet above sea level.



The NFL San Francisco 49ers played the Arizona Cardinals on Monday, November 21, 2022, in Mexico City



The 49ers won 38-10.

Recap

Mexico City is one of the largest cities in the world and has many interesting things to see and do.

Bigdrifter44@gmail.com

Bigdrifter.com