

MEXICO

ESTADO DE MÉXICO

CENTRO DE MÉXICO



ENGLISH VERSION

 **CONACULTA**



Instituto Nacional
de Antropología
e Historia

Toluca



Capital of the State of Mexico since 1830, Toluca is a city with a long history. Founded in 1522, it is now a major industrial and commercial center. At 2680 m (8790 ft.) above sea level, it is the highest city in all of Mexico. Its downtown Historic Center hosts buildings attesting to its past, such as the **Capilla Exenta**, the **Church of Santa Veracruz**, **Church of the Tercera Orden**, the **Church of Santa María de Guadalupe** with its baroque façade, the **Civic Plaza**, and **Arcade**. Toluca is also a city known for its many museums: **José María Velasco Museum**, **Fine Arts Museum**, **Watercolor Museum**, **Luis Nishizawa Workshop Museum**, **Numismatic Museum**, **Print Museum**, **Felipe Santiago Gutiérrez Museum**, **Bi-centennial Towers Museum**, **Natural Sciences Museum**, **Leopoldo Flores University Museum**, **José**

María Morelos University History Museum, **Mariano Bárcena Meteorological Observatory Museum**, **Physics, Chemistry and Medicine Laboratories Museum**, **Dr. Manuel M. Villada Natural History Museum**, **Sciences and Industry Model Museum**, and the museums of **Folk Cultures**, **Modern Art**, and **Anthropology and History**, in the **Centro Cultural Mexiquense** complex. The **Cosmovitral Botanical Garden** with its contemporary stained glass is a stunning Art Nouveau building.

Nevado de Toluca



This majestic volcano is the fourth highest peak in Mexico: 4680 m (15,354 ft.) above sea level. Also known as Xinantécatl, it is a major symbol of the state. Visitors can enjoy visiting its dense forests, beautiful lagoons, and its incomparable snowy landscapes in wintertime.

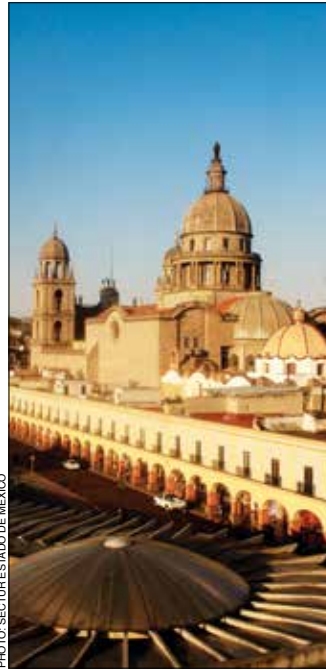


PHOTO: SECTUR ESTADO DE MÉXICO

Cathedral and Arcade.

El Oro



This “magical town” retains the aura of times past in its houses and streets, as well as in buildings dating to the era of its greatest splendor at the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Visit the **Mining Museum** or go trout fishing at nearby **Brockman Dam**.

Valle de Bravo



A charming town with colonial architecture that has earned it the Tourism Ministry’s title as a “magical town,” it is home to a colonial mansion with a gabled tile roof housing the **Joaquín Arcadio Pegaza Museum**, cobblestone streets, and a wealth of natural beauty. Take in local attractions such as the **dam** or **lake** –ideal for water sports– and the **Archaeological Museum**.

Sierra Nanchititla



Decreed a natural park in 1977, it is one of the most beautiful wooded areas in Central Mexico. It is an ecological reserve with pine and oak forests and an enormous waterfall 105 m (344 ft.) high with several falls.

Aculco



Known for its pink *cantera* stone, dairy goods (cheese and cream), it is also famed for its 16th-century **Parish of San Jerónimo**, and natural surroundings, with spots such as the **Peña de Ñadó** and **Tixhiñú** and **La Concepción Waterfalls**.

Valle de Bravo.

PHOTO: SECTUR ESTADO DE MÉXICO



PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

El Oro.

Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve



This woodland zone, named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is important as a refuge for a unique natural phenomenon: the annual winter migration from Canada to Mexico of close to a billion monarch butterflies.

Chalma



The location of the **Sanctuary of Nuestro Señor de Chalma**, one of the most popular and well-known sacred pilgrimage sites in Mexico.



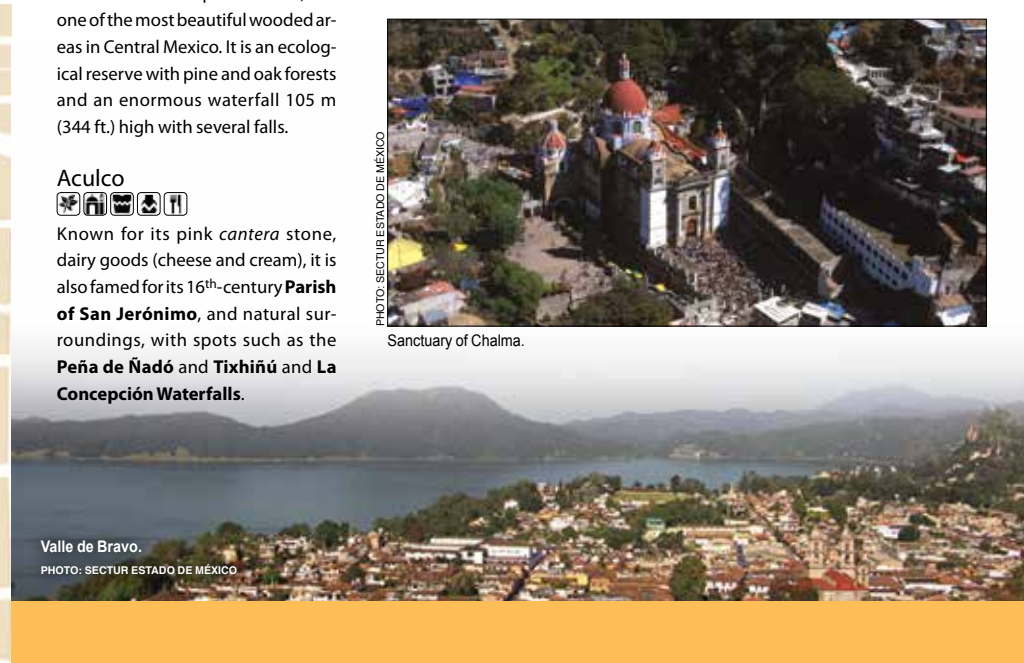
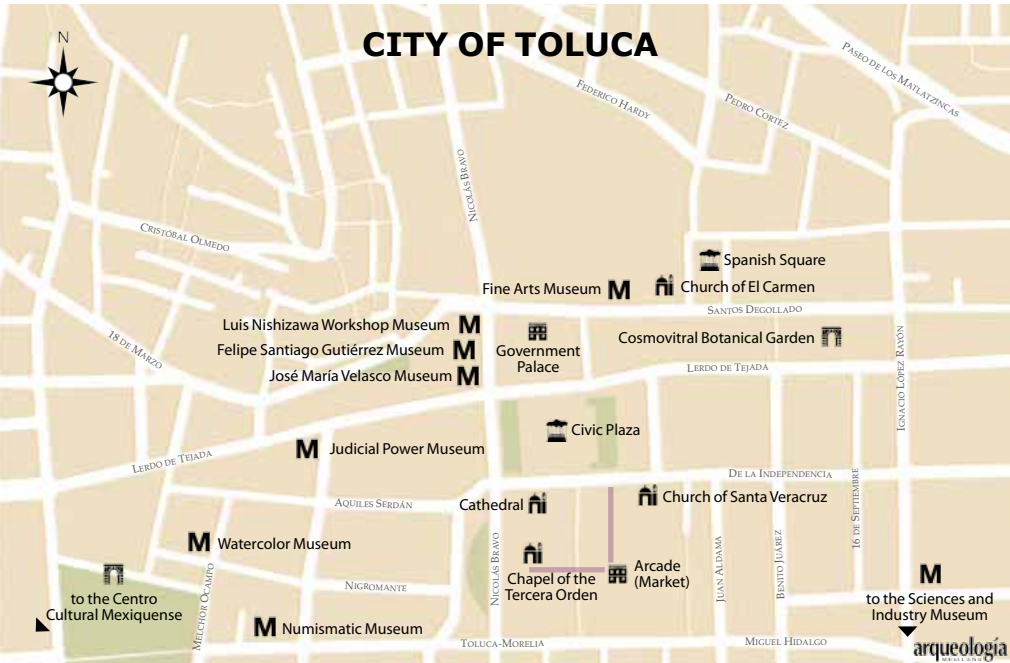
PHOTO: CLAUDIO CONTRERAS KOBOR

Monarch butterflies.



PHOTO: SECTUR ESTADO DE MÉXICO

Sanctuary of Chalma.



STATE OF MEXICO



- TOURIST ATTRACTIONS**
- ★ CAPITAL
 - TOWN
 - 🏛️ ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE
 - 🌿 NATURAL AREA
 - ✈️ AIRPORT
 - 🛣️ TWO-WAY HIGHWAY
 - 🛣️ FEDERAL HIGHWAY
 - 🛣️ SECONDARY HIGHWAY
 - 🛣️ ROAD

- HIGHLIGHTS**
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 🌐 WORLD HERITAGE SITE | 🏛️ MUSEUM |
| 🏛️ MAGICAL TOWN | 🗿 MONUMENT |
| 🏛️ CIVIL ARCHITECTURE | 🏘️ INDIGENOUS TOWN |
| 🏛️ RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE | 🎭 FOLK ART |
| 🏛️ CENTRAL SQUARE | 🍴 CUISINE |
| 🏛️ HACIENDA | 🌟 LOCAL FESTIVAL |
| | 🛣️ ROUTE |
- Note: These symbols refer to the spots described in this guide.

Teotihuacan



Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is clearly the most important and influential archaeological zone in all of Mexico. It contains some of the largest architectural complexes in ancient Mexico, such as the **Sun Pyramid**, **Moon Pyramid**, and **Ciudadela** which houses the extraordinary **Feathered Serpent Pyramid**. At the city's peak from AD 350 to 550, Teotihuacan covered an area of about 20 km² (almost 8 sq. miles).

PHOTO: CARLOS BLANCO / RAICES



Teotihuacan.

Tlalmanalco



The home of the former **Convent of San Luis Obispo**, one of the finest examples of 16th-century religious architecture.

Acolman



Visit the former **Convent of San Agustín**, built in the 16th century and one of the jewels of religious art in New Spain. See the remains of colonial murals and enjoy exhibitions on viceregal religious art and the Augustinian order.



Former Convent of San Agustín, Acolman.

PHOTO: JORGE RODRIGUEZ SALAZAR



Popocatepetl.

Texcoco



The location of a major pre-Hispanic city. It retained its prestige and importance in the colonial period. In the vicinity, visit the **Molino de Flores National Park**, the former **Hacienda of Chapingo**, and the **Centro Cultural Mexiquense Bicentenario**.

Tetzcotzinco



Although it is popularly known as the "Baths of Nezahualcoyotl," this site, which stands on a hill near Texcoco, is actually a spot that has rock-cut pools and channels for the movement, storage and use of water, while it also houses the remains of an Aztec palace retreat where the renowned poet-king is said to have come to meditate and fast.

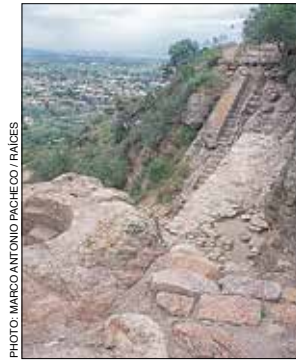


PHOTO: MARCO ANTONIO PACHECO / RAICES

Tetzcotzinco.

Iztaccíhuatl-Popocatepetl National Park



It has forests combining pine, fir, and oak trees, high mountain grasslands and glaciers.

Malinalco



Named a "magical town" by the Tourism Ministry, Malinalco is the home of the **Church of the Divino Salvador** and the former Augustinian convent with magnificent murals in the cloisters.

The ancient archaeological zone is on the hill next to the town. In 1501 the *tlatoani* (Aztec king), Ahuizotl, began work on the site's rock-cut structures; in Moctezuma II's reign work continued but was cut short by the Spanish conquest. The main temple, known as the **Cuauhcalli** or **House of the Sun**, was carved from the rock and contains carved decoration alluding to warfare and sacrifice.

Tepetzotlán



Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and also named a "magical town," it formed part of the **Camino Real de Tierra Adentro** (viceregal royal road system). The **National Museum of the Viceroyalty** is in the former **Colegio and Church of San Francisco Javier**, a 17th-century construction with one of the finest examples of Churrigueresque-style facades. The nearby **Arcos del Sitio** was built in the 18th century and is the tallest aqueduct in the world.



PHOTO: SECTUR ESTADO DE MÉXICO

Church of San Francisco Javier.



PHOTO: SECTUR ESTADO DE MÉXICO

Former Convent of La Transfiguración.

Santiago Tianguistenco



Visit the outdoor market on Tuesdays and Sundays for a variety of textiles made of wool and other materials from La Gualupita, a major textile-producing town. The baroque **Parish of Santa María del Buen Suceso** (1755–1770) is one of the most beautiful in all of Mexico.



PHOTO: SECTUR ESTADO DE MÉXICO

Temple of the Eagle and Jaguar Warriors.

Metepec



The town has interesting religious buildings such as the former **Convent and Church of San Juan Bautista**, founded in the 16th century. Metepec is famous for its ceramic handicrafts, particularly trees of life, which can be bought directly from the town's superb artisans.

FOLK ART



The region has a thriving pottery tradition, one of Mexico's most important. The state is also renowned for its **textiles**, such as **tapestries** from Temoaya, **rebozos** from Tenancingo, and **sweaters** from Chiconcuac. Other typical crafts include agave fiber **shoulder bags**, wooden **toys**, **tin** objects and an array of **cleaning tools**, other **woven plant fibers**, and **blown glass**.



PHOTO: BORIS DE SWAN / RAICES

Tree of life.

CUISINE



Sample an array of dishes made from lake ingredients, such as **acociles** (crayfish) and **charales** (fish), and insects like **escamoles** (ant larvae) and **maguay worms**. The region is known for **chorizo** (pork and beef sausage) and **barbacoa** (pit-roasted meat). Typical beverages include pulque from Otumba and Tenango; **mosquito** (orange liqueur) from Toluca; fruit liqueurs from Tenancingo, and **zendecho** (a fermented Mazahua corn drink).



PHOTO: CARLOS BLANCO / RAICES

Tamales filled with charalitos (fish).

And don't miss ...

- Experiencing the magnificence of Teotihuacan
- The Museum of the Viceroyalty in Tepotzotlán
- Enjoying water sports in Valle de Bravo
- Buying folk art in Metepec
- Visiting the museums in the city of Toluca
- Climbing the Nevado de Toluca
- Strolling in the "magical town" of Malinalco
- Visiting Iztaccíhuatl and Popocatepetl
- Going to the market in Santiago Tianguistenco
- Savoring barbacoa and pulque

Tourist Information

www.edomexico.gob.mx/turismo

Tourism Ministry Information Booth: Robert Bosch at the corner of 1° de Mayo, Zona Industrial, C.P. 50071, Toluca, State of Mexico, 722-275-6580 and 275-6898

Tepotzotlán Information Booth: Plaza Virreinal, no. 1, Barrio San Martín, C.P. 54605, Tepotzotlán, State of Mexico, 5876-8872, turismo_tepotzotlan@hotmail.com

Malinalco Information Booth: Av. Progreso no #, corner of Hidalgo, Plaza Principal, C.P. 52440, Malinalco, State of Mexico, 714-147-0111, ext. 111, www.malinalco.gob.mx

El Oro Information Booth: Calle Ferrocarril, no #, above the market, Col. Centro, C.P. 50600, El Oro, State of Mexico, 711-125-0036 and 125-0099, direcciondesarrollourbanoyturismo_eloro@hotmail.com

Valle de Bravo Information Booth: Av. Juárez, no #, Col. Centro, C.P. 51200, Valle de Bravo, State of Mexico, 726-262-0458

Zócalo Information Booth: Known by locals, Col. Centro, C.P. 51200, Valle de Bravo, State of Mexico

Muelle Municipal Information Booth: Known by locals, Col. Centro, C.P. 51200, Valle de Bravo, State of Mexico

National Chamber of the Restaurant and Prepared Food Industry (CANIRAC): Paseo del Otoño, no. 100, floor 3, office 305, Col. La Florida, C.P. 53160, Naucalpan, State of Mexico, (55) 5360-6025

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Toluca

Fire Station: 722-217-8858

Red Cross: 722-217-3333

and 217-2540

Police: 722-270-3847

and 270-5695

Tepotzotlán

Civil Protection: 5876-4848

Police: 5876-0120

Malinalco

Civil Protection: 714-147 0111

Red Cross: 714-142 0520

Valle de Bravo

Fire Station: 726-262-2727

Red Cross: 726-262-0391

Police: 726-262-4498

and 262-0360



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Secretary
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FRONT: TEOTIHUACAN. BACK: TEPOTZOTLÁN. PHOTOS: SECTOR ESTADO DE MÉXICO

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