

MEXICO

TAMAULIPAS

GOLFO DE MEXICO



ENGLISH VERSION

 **CONACULTA**



Instituto Nacional
de Antropología
e Historia

Ciudad Victoria

Ciudad Victoria is the capital of Tamaulipas, founded as Villa de Aguayo in 1750; in 1825, the village was declared a city and named Victoria in honor of Mexico's first president, Guadalupe Victoria. Its attractions include the **Tamaulipas Museum of Natural History**, the **Tamaulipas Regional History Museum**, **Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Cathedral**, **Nuestra Señora del**

Refugio Basilica, **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Sanctuary**, the **Tamaulipas Cultural Center**, **Plaza Juárez**, and—in the nearby town of Hidalgo—the former **Santa Engracia Hacienda**. Ciudad Victoria is also known as Mexico's "bird capital," since **Altas Cumbres** and **La Peregrina Canyons**, perfect for bird watching, lie nearby. Other natural attractions include **Novillo Canyon**, **Huizachal Canyon** and the **Tamatán Zoo**, the state's first.



Tamaulipas Museum of Natural History.

Nuestra Señora del Refugio Basilica.



PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Aldama

Aldama is crossed by three rivers and features estuaries, bays, dams and cenotes like **El Zacatón**—one of Mexico's deepest—and **Pila Verde**. There is also a network of subterranean caves known as **Los Cuarteles** and **Barra del Tordo Beach**, a sanctuary for the endangered **lora turtle**.

Jaumave

Jaumave is also known as **Sanctuary of the Guacamaya (Macaw)**. The town is home to **Plaza Hidalgo**, **San Lorenzo Church** and **Inmaculada Concepción Parish Church**. The former **La Huasacana** and **La Florida Haciendas**; Tamaulipas's only eco-spa, **Poza Azul**; the **Los Nogales** and **Guayalejo Rivers**; as well as **Santiaguino** and **El Salto Falls** all lie nearby.

Reynosa

Reynosa is a bustling, industrial border city whose noteworthy sites include **Guadalupe Cathedral**; **Miguel Hidalgo Pedestrian Mall**; the city's **main plaza**; the **Reynosa Historical Museum**; and **Reynosa Cultural Park**, home to the **Fraser Museum** and the **La Playita Recreational Area**.

Miquihuana

Miquihuana is home to **Peña Nevada Mountain**, the state's highest at 3564 meters (11,692 ft.) above sea level, and also a habitat for black bears and whitetail deer. **San Juan Bautista Parish Church**, the **Miquihuana Municipal Museum** and **Cabañas La Joya** are also worth a visit.

Pila Verde, Aldama



PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Tula

Tula, an officially designated "magical town," by the Tourism Ministry, founded in 1617, is the state's oldest city and preserves its original urban layout, home to 498 historical monuments. Attractions include **San Antonio de Padua Church**, the state's oldest featuring a more than 112-year-old clock; the **cultural center** known as Casa Minerva; the city's **main plaza**; the home of **Emiliano Ledezma Ruiz**, who first created the region's famed **cueras tultecas**; the **Casino Tulteco**; the **Los Portales** arcade; the grounds of the **Hotel Diligencias** and the former **Hacienda los Charcos**; **Pozo Honrado Alley**; the former **military academy**, now Miguel Hidalgo elementary school; the **Guillermina Saldaña Balmori House** and the monument to **Friar Juan Bautista Laguna del Chairel Lake**. **Pánuco River** excursions are also available.

Tampico

This important port is home to a number of landmarks such as its **historic maritime customs house**, which houses the **Museo de la Victoria** museum; its **cultural center**, in a former slaughterhouse; its **post office**, the **Edificio de la Luz**, the former **Andonegui "Penal Palace" Prison** and the city's **convention center**. Other points of interest include **Inmaculada Concepción Cathedral**; the **METRO city cultural center**, home to the **Huastecas Museum**; and the **main plaza's gazebo**. Natural beauty is on display at **Laguna del Carpintero City Park**, **Fray Andrés de Olmos Park** and **Laguna del Chairel Lake**.



PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Tampico's Historic Maritime Customs House



PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

El Sabinito



The El Sabinito archaeological zone, occupied during the Classic and Early Postclassic periods (AD 200-1000), is an example of settlements that arose at Mesoamerica's northern frontier. Though only a small number of buildings have been studied, it is known that at its zenith it supported hundreds of structures and a population of 1500.



PHOTO: NOEL MORELOS GARCÍA/NAH

El Sabinito.

Soto la Marina



In Soto la Marina, visits to **Plaza Juárez**, the **General de la Garza House**, the **Hacienda El Chamal** compound (where Mexican statesman Agustín de Iturbide was once imprisoned); **Nuestra Señora de la Consolación Parish Church** and the city's **cultural center**; **Laguna de Morales**, **Laguna Madre** and **Laguna Almagre** are all recommended. Then move on to **La Pesca Beach**, ideal for practicing its namesake sport—fishing.

The surviving building takes a circular form characteristic of Huastec architecture.

Xicoténcatl



It is home to points of interest such as its **main plaza** flanked by a magnificent ceiba tree, as well as the **José de Jesús Almanza Museum**. A visit to nearby **Emilio Portes Gil Dam** is also worth a detour.

Las Flores Pyramid



This structure, within the city of Tampico, was part of a Huastec Post-classic settlement (AD 1200-1521).

González



The town's main attraction is **El Bernal de Horcasitas**, an 820-m (2690-ft.) natural basaltic rock formation.



PHOTO: © OPTIM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REG

Bernal de Horcasitas

Las Flores Pyramid

PHOTO: BANCO / PACHECO / REO

TAMAULIPAS



Mier



Named a “magical town” by the Tourism Ministry, Mier was founded in 1753. Its points of interest include **San Juan Bautista Chapel**; **Inmaculada Concepción Church**; the **Casa de las Columnas**; the **Casa Consistorial** (now a municipal office) and the town’s main square, **Plaza Juárez**. Other highlights include the **Batalla de Mier Houses** (the **Casa de Los Frijoles Pintos** and the **Casa de Los Texanos**); **Casa Guerra**, now the **Museo Guerra Museum**; the city’s **Cultural Center** and **Francisco Ramírez Canales Elementary School**.

Altamira



Altamira is home to **Santiago Apóstol Church**, **Plaza de la Constitución Square**, **José de Escandón y Helguera Plaza** and the **Miralta Golf Course**. Natural attractions include **Playa Tesoro Beach**, **Laguna de Champayan Lake**, **Dunas Doradas Beach** and the **Tamesí River**.

Ocampo



It was founded in 1749 as Santa Bárbara, but changed its name in 1869 in memory of Melchor Ocampo, a Mexican national hero. It features attractions such as **José de Escandón Plaza**, **Santa Bárbara Mártir Parish Church**, built in 1756; **Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Igollo Mission**, abandoned during Mexico’s Wars of Independence, now a cemetery; the **Rufino Muñiz Torres Museum**; **La Alberca Park**; and trips to **Joya de Manantiales**, **La Poza Madre**, **Las Ruinas de Carranza** and **El Contadero**.



PHOTO: ROBERTO SANTOS/CONACULTA

Ciudad Mante



Ciudad Mante is an ideal jumping-off spot for adventure and ecotourism, featuring attractions such as **El Naranjo Former Hacienda** or the **Nueva Polonia Castle**; **La Aguja**, a natural spa featuring sparkling, clear waters; **El Nacimiento**, site of one of the world’s deepest underwater caves; **El Abra Cave**, that drops 116-m (380-ft.); **La Servilleta Canyon**, featur-

ing 120-m (393-ft.) walls; and **Gru-ta de Quintero Cave**.

El Cielo Biosphere Reserve



The reserve is one of Mexico’s most important natural areas, featuring 144,540 ha (357,166 acres), and encompasses four ecosystems: tropical forest, rainforest, pine/oak forests and desert grassland, as well as natural pools, caverns, sinkholes and caves.



PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

El Cielo Biosphere Reserve.

Ciudad Madero



Ciudad Madero is home to the state’s most important resort: **Playa Miramar**, featuring 10 km of golden-sand beaches and tranquil waters, considered one of the Gulf’s most beautiful coastlines. Other notable sites include the **Monument to Fallen Sailors**, commemorating oil tanker crews lost at sea in 1942, during the Second World War; **La Barra Light-house**, inaugurated in 1883; **San Juan Bosco Church** and the **Monument to the Virgin of Carmel**.



PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Playa Miramar.

Gómez Farías



Start with a visit to the **Plaza Hidalgo** and its immediate surroundings. Attractions include the **Interpretative Ecological Center**, **El Zapata Cave** and **El Cielo Biosphere Reserve**.

Matamoros



Matamoros is home to the **Mexican Museum of Agrarian Reform**, the only museum of its kind in Mexico; the **Tamaulipas Museum of Contemporary Art** and the **Museo Casa-**

mata regional history museum; **Olimpico Cultural Park**, **Juárez Market** and the **Galería Albertina**. **Laguna Madre Lake** and **Playa Bagdad Beach** are also open to visitors.

CUISINE

The cuisine of Tamaulipas combines seafood and farm-based recipes. They include **carne seca** (dried beef hash) and **tulteca**-style **sausage and vegetable enchiladas**; **fiscaleño stew**, a Ciudad Mier specialty, made with **carne seca**; **platillo de boda** (a combination of roast pork, rice soup, refried beans and ground pork); **goat in chile sauce**; **venison**; and world-famous **tampiqueña-style steaks**; **bocolito cornmeal fritters** as well as **crayfish**, **crab**, **shrimp** and a wide variety of **fish and shellfish**. Sweets include sugar and brown sugar **masafina** candies, **muégano** brittles, **pumpkin caramel empanadas**, **sweet cornbread**, **polvorón** cookies, **rice and corn atole** beverages, **sugar** cakes, and **fruit and cactus ices** like **garambullo**, **mesquite**, **prickly pear**, **biznaga** and **pitahaya**. Natural fruit ades and **maguey cactus nectar** are typical beverages.

FOLK ART

Jackets known as **tultecas** or **cuera tamaulipecas** are the best-known regional handicraft. Other common crafts include **saddlery** and **pottery**. Articles made from **ixtle cactus**, **otate grass**, and **tule** fibers are also common, in the form of lassoes, handbags, brushes, backpacks and hand brooms; as well as hand-made **huaraches**, boots and shoes; and an array of objects made from **seashells**.



A *cuera tamaulipeca* jacket.

PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO



Stuffed crabs.

PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

And don't miss ...

- Visiting the magical towns of Tula and Mier
- Strolling in Tampico
- Bird-watching in Cañón de la Peregrina
- Exploring El Cielo Biosphere Reserve
- Buying leatherwork from Tamaulipas
- A proper steak or shellfish feast
- Visiting some of the border cities
- Going to the archaeological zone of El Sabinito
- Sightseeing in Ciudad Victoria
- Enjoying the state's beaches

Tourist Information

www.turismotamaulipas.com
01 800 911 TURISMO (8874)

Secretariat of Economic Development and Tourism Information Booth:
Centro Gubernamental de Oficinas "Parque Bicentenario," ground floor, Libramiento Naciones Unidas and Blvd. Praxedis Balboa, C.P. 87083, Ciudad Victoria, Tamps.

Tampico Conventions and Visitors Office: Blvd. Adolfo López Mateos, no. 2400, Col. Obrera, C.P. 89050, Tampico, Tamps., 833-305-2686 to 88 exts. 118 and 119,
www.ocvtampico.com, gerencia@ocvtampico.com

Matamoros Conventions and Visitors Office: Priv. Bilbao, no. 9 between 6a and Manuel de la Cruz, Fracc. Moderno, C.P. 87380, Matamoros, Tamps., 868-812-0212

National Chamber of the Restaurant and Prepared Food Industry (CANIRAC): Ciudad Victoria. Blvd. Enrique Cárdenas González, no. 1356, Fracc. Los Arcos, C.P. 87040, Ciudad Victoria, Tamps., 834-314-6841, rimubarqui@yahoo.com.mx
Tampico. Fray Andrés de Olmos, no. 105 Nte., Desp. 204, Edif. Solymar, Zona Centro, C.P. 89000, Tampico, Tamps., 833-214-7844, caniracsurtam@prodigy.net.mx

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Ciudad Victoria

Fire Station: 834-922-5350

Red Cross: 834-922 3005 and 922-3323

Police: 834-922-0180

Emergencies: 066



CONACULTA
President
Lic. Consuelo Sáizar

Culture and
Art Secretary
Lic. Roberto Vázquez Díaz

Technical
Secretary
Lic. Raúl Arenzana Olvera



FRONT COVER: TAMPICO. PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO. BACK COVER: SANTA ENGRACIA HACIENDA. PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

