

MEXICO

# TLAXCALA

CENTRO DE MÉXICO



ENGLISH VERSION

 **CONACULTA**



Instituto Nacional  
de Antropología  
e Historia

## TLAXCALA



TLAXCALA was one of the most important cities in Central Mexico in the pre-Hispanic period. Viceregal authorities built the colonial city in a small valley. The state capital is now a beautiful city that preserves 16<sup>th</sup>-century buildings such as the former **Convent of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción** and from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, such as the **Basilica of Ocotlán**. The latter structure commemorates the apparition of the Virgin Mary in 1541 to a local native man from Tlaxcala, Juan Diego Bernardino, and is regarded as one of the finest examples of baroque art in Tlaxcala. Other attractions worth mentioning are the **Government Palace**, which displays a mural of the state's history; the **Parish of San José**; the **Royal Chapel of Indians**, which is now the Palace of Justice; the Hidalgo Arcade, built to house the food market and that served as the



PHOTO: SECTOR TLAXCALA

Basilica de Ocotlán.

City Hall offices; the former **House of Stone**; and the **Xicohténcatl Theatre**, in the turn-of-the-century eclectic style under Porfirio Díaz. The city also has many museums, such as the **Regional Museum**, **Museum of Memory**, **Art Museum**, the **Living Museum of Folk Arts and Traditions**. Another attraction is the **Jorge "El Ranchero" Aguilar Bullring**, one of the country's oldest, built in 1817, and now the venue for the annual Tlaxcala Fair held in October and November.



PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

City of Tlaxcala.

## Calpulalpan



The monastic complex formerly dedicated to **San Simón and San Judas** is now known as **San Antonio**. Visit former pulque-producing haciendas nearby, such as the Hacienda San Bartolomé del Monte.

## Ocotelulco

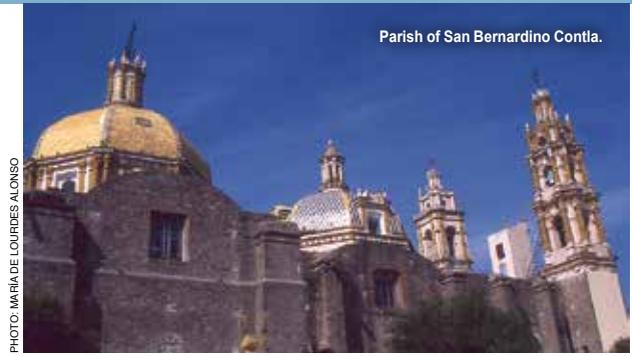


This site was one of the major Tlaxcaltec towns in the Late Postclassic period (AD 1200–1521); in fact, at the time of Hernán Cortés's arrival, it was the most important of the four *señoríos* or domains in Tlaxcala. Archaeologists uncovered pre-Hispanic polychrome murals depicting religious motifs on a bench and an altar.



PHOTO: M.A. PACHECO / RAÍCES

Altar with fire serpents, Ocotelulco.



Parish of San Bernardino Contla.

## San Bernardino Contla



A textile-producing town specializing in cotton, wool, and synthetic fiber weavings. It is known for its *saltillos*, textiles with shapes and colors derived from indigenous traditions.

## Santa María Nativitas



This town is the home of the remains of the former **Convent of Santa Natividad**, founded in 1570, and the **Parish of Santa María Nativitas**, built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The **Sanctuary of San Miguel del Milagro**, founded after the apparition of Saint Michael the Archangel in 1631, is also in this municipality.

## Chiautempan



A town renowned for its textiles. It produces all sorts of wool and cotton garments, particularly serapes.

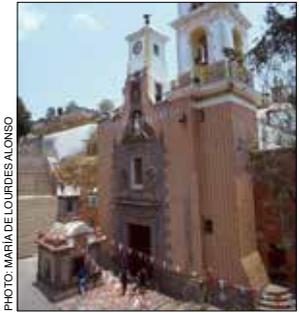
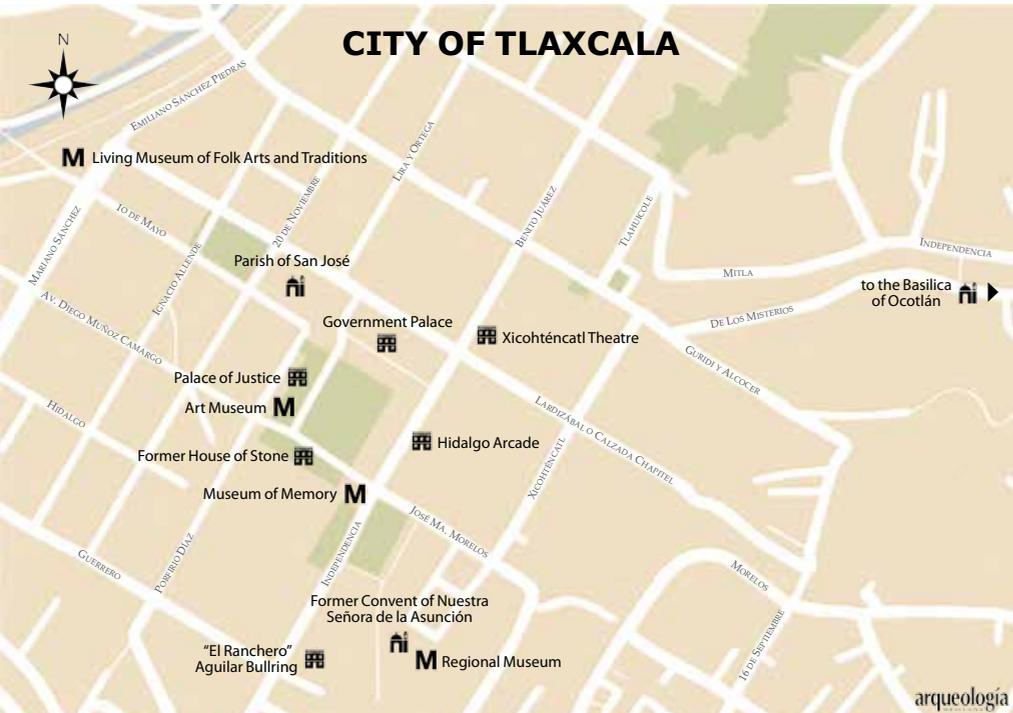


PHOTO: MARÍA DE LOURDES ALONSO

Sanctuary of San Miguel del Milagro.

## CITY OF TLAXCALA



## Tizatlán



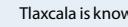
At the time of the conquest, it was a Tlaxcaltec *señorio* (domain) governed by Xicohténcatl the Elder, who opposed the native alliance with the Spaniards. Here visitors can see pre-Hispanic murals with symbols associated with sacrifice.



PHOTO: M.A. P. RAÍCES

Altar B, Tizatlán.

## FOLK ART



TLAXCALA is known for its **wool and cotton textiles**. Contla and Guadalupe Ixcotla offer traditional serapes, rugs, ponchos, tapestries, and blankets. In San Esteban Tizatlán, artisans carve **wood** into handsome *huejote* (Bonpland willow) canes, horizontal drums, and chess sets of pre-Hispanic armies. In Tlatempan and Apetatitlán **Carnival masks** are made of carved wood or resin with European features, worn in one of Mexico's most important Carnival traditions in Tlaxcala prior to Lent. **Burnished red clay**, typical of San Sebastián Atlahapa, is still modeled without the use of potters' wheels or molds. Altzayanca is known for its sonorous **sal-**

**terios** (psalteries). Other types of folk art made in the region include pottery, fine metalwork, **totomoxtle** (corn leaf) figures, majolica, embroideries, seed paintings, and **alebrijes** (fantastic papier mâché creatures).



PHOTO: SECTOR TLAXCALA

Artisan from Tlatempan.

# TLAXCALA



STATE OF MEXICO

HIDALGO

PUEBLA

PUEBLA

**TOURIST ATTRACTIONS**

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

**HIGHLIGHTS**

🏡 MAGICAL TOWN	🗿 MONUMENT
🏛️ CIVIL ARCHITECTURE	🏘️ INDIGENOUS TOWN
🏛️ RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE	🎭 FOLK ART
🏛️ CENTRAL SQUARE	🍴 CUISINE
🏡 HACIENDA	🌟 LOCAL FESTIVAL
🏛️ MUSEUM	

Note: The symbols refer to the spots described in this guide.



Flower carpet, Huamantla.

PHOTO: MARIA DE LOURDES ALONSO

## Huamantla



Named a "magical town" by the Tourism Ministry, it is famed for its colorful sawdust and flower carpets for the procession of Our Lady of Charity on August 14 in a celebration known as the "Night No Ones Sleeps," and the **Open Chapel of San Luis Obispo**, which houses the Lord of the Con-

vent, one of the few black Christs that has survived from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It has two interesting museums: the **National Puppet Museum**, the only one of its kind in Latin America, and the **Bullfighting Museum**. Nearby are the former **Hacienda of San Francisco Soltepec** (La Escondida).



Typical dishes from Tlaxcala.

PHOTO: SECTUR TLAXCALA

## CUISINE

Tlaxcala's mosaic of mestizo dishes, includes **Tlaxcaltec** tortilla or lima bean **soup**, **milpa soup** (corn, chayote, carrots, chili, squash blossoms), **tlatlapas** (bean and prickly pear with *guajillo* chili), lima bean soup with prickly pear, **mixiote** (mutton in agave), beef in pulque, fresh *charales* (fish) in tamale leaves, **mole colorado** (sauce) and turkey, pork in *huitlacoche* (corn fungus) *mole*, shrimp and amaranth patties,



PHOTO: SECTUR TLAXCALA

Dunes, Cuapiaxtla.

## Tlaxco



A town that stands out for its pulque-making tradition and for the **Parish of San Agustín**. It has several natural attractions, such as **The Labyrinths** plus the **Cruz Verde** and **San José de las Delicias** ranches.

## La Malinche National Park



Located on the slopes of the Volcano Matlalcuéyetl, it is also known as La Malinche. It was declared a national park in 1938. About 4000 m (13,100 ft.) above sea level, it has thousands of hectares of pine and oak forests. Visit **San Juan Canyon**, one of the most beautiful in Mexico.

## Cuapiaxtla



The Cuapiaxtla Desert, composed of dunes, is an unusual geographic spot that can be visited in the vicinity of this town.

*pipián* (squash seed sauce), and **dairy products**: *requesón*, other cheeses and cream. Desserts range from fruit and vegetable compotes, **camote** (sweet potatoes), and **buñuelos** (fried dough) with brown-sugar syrup and *requesón*. Drinks include **pulque**, *atoles* (cornmeal drinks), *chileatole* (salty atole), and "**verde Tlaxcala**" (Tlaxcala green) made of fermented agave juice, vodka, mint, and lime.

## Apizaco



This industrial city has numerous attractions such as **La Monumental Bullring**, the largest in the state, the **Basilica of Nuestra Señora de la Misericordia**, and the **House of Stone Railroad Museum**.

## Apetatitlán



Here craftsmen make carved wooden masks with European features for Carnival celebrations in Tlaxcala, in addition to a wide range of religious images.

## Atlangatepec



Its main attraction is **Atlanga Dam**, where visitors can enjoy a boat ride, go parasailing, or try their hand at sport fishing.

## Zacatelco



Visit the **Parish of Santa Inés**, built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and one of the most noteworthy colonial structures in Tlaxcala. The town is known for its exquisite cacao.



PHOTO: MARIA DE LOURDES ALONSO

Parish of Santa Inés, Zacatelco.



PHOTO: MARIA DE LOURDES ALONSO

Parish of San Dionisio, Yauhquemehcan.

## Yauhquemehcan



It is the home of the **Parish of San Dionisio**, one of the region's most beautiful churches. It also has natural attractions such as **Atlihuetzia Falls**.

## Cacaxtla



One of the major archaeological sites in Central Mexico. It was occupied in the Epiclassic (AD 650–900) by the Olmeca-Xicalancas. The center boasts some of the most important **mural paintings** from pre-Hispanic times, for their dimensions, magnificent

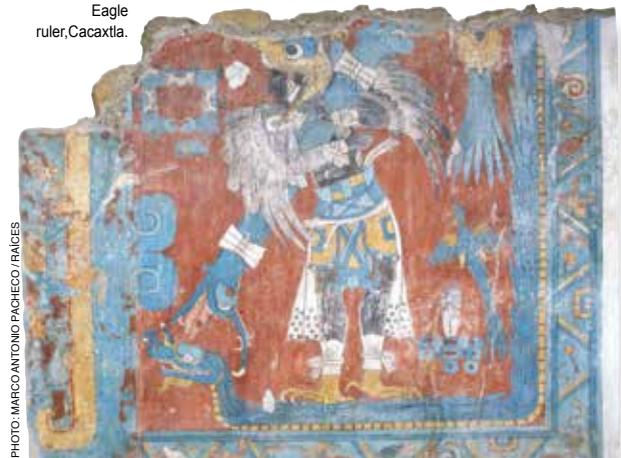


PHOTO: MARCO ANTONIO PACHECO FRANCES

Eagle ruler, Cacaxtla.



PHOTO: SECTUR TLAXCALA

Xochitécatl.

skill, and thematic richness. These murals depict scenes of battles, rites, and rulers. However, their most enigmatic feature is their pictorial style, because they blend features from Central Mexican Teotihuacan with those of the Classic Maya from southern Mexico and Guatemala.

## Xochitécatl



A site occupied in the Preclassic (ca. 800 BC) and abandoned as a result of an eruption of Popocatepetl. At its peak the main plaza was an important ritual center including four pyramids, the largest of which is known as the Pyramid of Flowers. On clear days the hilltop site offers a fine view of volcanoes **Iztaccíhuatl**, **Popocatepetl**, **Malinche**, and the **Pico de Orizaba**.

## And don't miss ...

- Visiting monuments in Tlaxcala
- The archaeological zone of Cacaxtla
- Visiting Huamantla, named "magical town"
- Going to the Desert of Cuapiaxtla
- Seeing the murals at Ocotelulco and Tizatlán
- Buying textiles at San Bernardino Contla
- Exploring bullfighting and pulque haciendas
- Going on an excursion to La Malintzin
- Getting to know San Miguel del Milagro
- Attending the Tlaxcala Fair

### Tourist information [turismo.tlaxcala.gob.mx](http://turismo.tlaxcala.gob.mx)

#### Tlaxcala

*Tourist information Booth:* Av. Juárez at the corner of Lardizábal, no #, Col. Centro, C.P. 90000, Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala, 246-465-0960

*National Chamber of the Restaurant and Prepared Food Industry (CANIRAC):* Av. Emilio Sánchez Piedras, no. 4, Col. Centro (next to the Folk Art House), C.P. 90000, Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala, [gavioticap@hotmail.com](mailto:gavioticap@hotmail.com)

#### Huamantla

*Tourist information Booth:* Kiosk in Parque Juárez, Palacio Municipal, no #, Col. Centro, C.P. 90500, Huamantla, Tlaxcala, 247-472-5622

[www.huamantlapueblomagico.com](http://www.huamantlapueblomagico.com),  
[huamantlapueblomagico@gmail.com](mailto:huamantlapueblomagico@gmail.com)

#### Calpulalpan

*Tourist information Booth:* Plaza de la Constitución no. 5, upstairs, Col. Centro, C.P. 90200, Calpulalpan, Tlaxcala, 749-918-0853, ext. 225

#### EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

##### Tlaxcala

Red Cross: (52) 246-462-0920

Fire station: (52) 246-464-0779

Police: (52) 246-464-5256 and 464-5257

##### Huamantla

Fire station: (52) 247-472-0589

Red Cross: (52) 247-472-0104

Police: (52) 247-472-2865 and 472-4748

##### Calpulalpan

Fire station: 113 and 066 / (52) 749-918-0436

Red Cross: 114 and 089 / (52) 749-918-0221

Police: 066 and 089 / (52) 749-918-2004 and 918-1723



FRONT: CACAXTLA. PHOTO: M.A. IPACHICO/RAÍCES. BACK: SAN BERNARDINO CONTLA. PHOTO: SECTOR TLAXCALA

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