Discover Puebla

40 fascinating destinations
With flavor and adventure

Sierra Mágica, 340 miles through misty landscapes
Zona de Campamentos Executivos y Escolares,
Jardines para Eventos Sociales,
Deportes Extremos y Actividades Recreativas.
Foreword

Geography is destiny and the state of Puebla is lucky enough to face east from the center of the country. Here the eternal dance of the valleys and mountains is overseen by the volcanoes, solitary guardians that inspire greatness in all who live beside them. This is perhaps the reason why everything in Puebla has stretched or stretches towards the sky like the volcanoes themselves: the old pre-Hispanic temples now long gone, the domes of colonial churches and anything the people of Puebla can imagine, like the new Estrella de Puebla (Star of Puebla), a huge Ferris Wheel located in the modern Angelópolis.

This México desconocido Special Guidebook Discover Puebla takes you to the different corners of the state. Accompany us on a walk through the streets of a capital which jealously guards its colonial past and feel time pass in the inner world of museums and convents just as it does in the open air, in the recently inaugurated Parque Lineal or from the heights of the Loreto and Guadalupe forts.

You should also visit the seven Magical Towns of Puebla: Cholula, Tlatlauquitepec, Cuetzalan, Zacatlán, Chignahuapan, Pahuatlán and Xicotepec. They are filled with tradition, have a story to tell and fill the senses with the wonders of nature. Many of these towns can be found in the Sierra Mágica, with the northern horizon all mountains and mist, along with other towns that are also well worth visiting. Waterfalls and dams, coffee plantations, regional dishes and simple, honest people await everyone who ventures into these mountains.

But even if you do visit the mountains, don’t forget the intriguing and arid landscape of the Mixteca or the valleys of Puebla: Valle Serdán, where the Cantona archeological site is located; the town of Atlixco with its fields of flowers; and Tehuacán, a town of fossils and mineral waters. So come and enjoy the experience that Puebla has to offer!
Ven a disfrutar de un concepto único en Puebla, forma parte de este homenaje a las creencias espirituales de basar la vida humana en la grandeza Divina; y enaltece a tu cocina Mexicana; deleitando tus sentidos en la variedad de los sabores que nuestra madre naturaleza nos ofrece.

Contamos con una agradable terraza en un jardín, con una espectacular vista a la pirámide; y una amplia área principal con estilo mexicano contemporáneo y, hermosa decoración prehispánica, recordándote a México en todos sus detalles.

Ciudad Sagrada homenajea a todo el LEGADO CULTURAL que encierra las creencias, costumbres y ritos prehispánicos católicos en la historia de nuestro México.

Déjate transportar a un tiempo–espacio envuelto en magia y misticismo.

Te esperamos.

2 Oriente 615, Colonia Centro.
San Pedro Cholula, Puebla.

Reservaciones: 01 (222) 247 94 25
www.ciudadagradacm.mx

/Ciudad Sagrada
The capital of Puebla is a World Heritage Site and is filled with joy and the charm of the Popo and Iztaccíhuatl volcanoes, making it a highly recommended travel option. The city’s colonial architecture, specialized cuisine, handicrafts and endless charm are more than enough to satisfy the most demanding traveler. Very close to the city you will find Cholula, a Magical Town of churches shrouded in secrets. Other featured spots worth a visit include Africam Safari and Tonantzintla.

Who wouldn’t love these towns? Whether walking streets lined with colorful mansions, experiencing the tranquility of sitting in the central squares while soaking up the atmosphere and watching the locals, tasting the local cuisine or meeting the people who create the wonderful local handicrafts, memorable experiences abound in these seven towns. A journey through the seven Magical Towns of Puebla offers a wonderful weekend gift you simply shouldn’t miss.

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**1 State Stars**

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- Puebla
- Cholula

**2 Magical Towns**

Who wouldn’t love these towns? Whether walking streets lined with colorful mansions, experiencing the tranquility of sitting in the central squares while soaking up the atmosphere and watching the locals, tasting the local cuisine or meeting the people who create the wonderful local handicrafts, memorable experiences abound in these seven towns. A journey through the seven Magical Towns of Puebla offers a wonderful weekend gift you simply shouldn’t miss.

- Cholula
- Tlatlauquitepec
- Cuetzalan
- Zacatlán
- Chignahuapan
- Pahuatlán
- Xicotepec
3 Sierra Mágica
This region of the mountains of Puebla is mysterious, adventurous, joyful and magical and serves as a cultural melting pot. These seven destinations offer a wealth of handicrafts, food, customs and traditions that are just waiting to be enjoyed by everyone who decides to visit. A truly rewarding experience awaits you.

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4 Corners of Puebla
No trip through Puebla would be complete without a visit to the Valle Serdán with its charming and beautiful altarpieces and religious architecture, or the Valle de Atlixco with its colorful nurseries and the El Huey Atlixcáyotl cultural festival. For its part, the Mixteca jealously guards its fossils and gigantic cacti as well as the many local species to be found in the Reserva de la Biosfera Tehuacán-Cuicatlán. A pleasant surprise waits at every turn in the state of Puebla.

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Puebla and Cholula, cities of countless churches, are a must for lovers of lively streets and markets with their mixture of colonial Mexico and the culinary world of mole and candy.
This city, founded by the Spanish in 1531 and which never forgets its colonial past, wakes up every day with a view of the volcanoes. Seen from the air it looks like a board covered with tiled church domes, while at ground level the city is a veritable feast of mole and candy. What you see here in just three days will whet your appetite and have you coming back for more in this jewel set in the heart of the state.
FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO LOS SAPOS

The Barrio Antiguo
A walk through the city of angels could well begin to the east in the oldest part of town, the Barrio El Alto neighborhood. In the past the San Francisco River (Héroes del 5 de Mayo Blvd.) ran through here and beside the former Royal Road to Veracruz (14 Oriente Ave.) you will find the Templo Conventual de San Francisco. The convent was founded in the 16th century and is the oldest in Puebla. The original church was replaced by the current building which features an 18th century facade. The Baroque entrance is made from quarried stone and to the sides are high brick walls featuring Talavera tiles. Inside the church is the Capilla de la Virgen Conquistadora, a chapel where you will find the small ornamented image given by Hernán Cortés to one of his Tlaxcalan allies.

If you walk down 10 Norte alley you will come to the Paseo de San Francisco, which is home to the Hotel La Purificadora, a large shopping mall and the Centro de Convenciones. Crossing the gardens at the back you reach the Galería de Arte Moderno y Contemporáneo Ángeles Espinosa Yglesias, which promotes the visual arts with temporary exhibitions (12 Norte 607; Mon to Sun, 10 am to 5 pm). A short walk from the Paseo de San Francisco is the Hotel Casareyna (Privada 2 Oriente 1007) where the restaurant is famous for its impeccable mole poblano.

Don’t Miss
There is no better place for watching the sun move slowly across the sky, cocktail in hand, than the terrace of the Hotel La Purificadora. The hotel also boasts a transparent swimming pool while the Iglesia de San Francisco can be seen in the background. Next to the hotel the Paseo de San Francisco gardens are full of life.
Discover Puebla

Connectivity
Highways 150, 140, 135; Federal roads 121, 190.

**Puebla Central Bus Station – CAPU: **
Norte Blvd., 4222, Las Cuartillas.
T. (01222) 249 7211.
www.capu.com.mx
Lines: ADO, ATAH, Estrella Roja, Futura-Elite-Chihuahuenses, Ñono..

**ACO Palmas Plaza**
Zeta del Cochoro Ave. 403,
Atlixcáyotl Territorial Reserve.
T. (01222) 225 7732.

**4 Poniente Estrella Roja**
4 Poniente 2110, Amor.

**Puebla International Airport**
Km 93.5, on the Mexico-Puebla federal road, Huejotzingo.
T. (01222) 302 5080.
www.aeropuertopuebla.com
Airlines: Aeroméxico, Volaris, United Airlines.

**Tourist Information**
5 Oriente 3, Historic Center.
T. (01222) 246 2490 / 01800 5788656.
Mon to Sat, 8am to 8pm.
Sun, 9 am to 2 pm.

**Places of Interest:**
1. Templo Conventual de San Francisco
2. Paseo de San Francisco
3. Hotel La Purificadora
4. Centro de Convenciones
5. To the Galería de Arte Moderno y Contemporáneo
6. Hotel Casareyna
7. Teatro Principal
8. Café Amparo
9. Plaza de los Tornos
10. Café del Artista
11. El Paran
12. Museo Regional Casa de Alféreke
13. Cárcel de los Dulces
14. Casa de los Hermanos Serrán
15. Templo del Espíritu Santo or Iglesia de la Compañía
16. Plaza de and Callejón de los Sapos
17. La Posita
18. Hotel Medón Sacristía de la Compañía
19. Catedral
20. Palacio del Ayuntamiento
21. Biblioteca Palafoxiana
22. Casa del Deán
23. Murals of the Poblanos
24. Museo Amparo
25. Museo José Luis Bello y González
26. Museo Universitario Casa de los Muñecos and Casa de los Muñecos restaurant
27. Templo de Santo Domingo
28. Capilla del Rosario
29. Museo José Luis Bello y Zetina
30. Ex Convento de Santa Rosa
31. Ex Convento de Santa Mónica
32. To El Señor de las Maravillas
33. Casona San Antonio
34. El Sueño Hotel and Spa
35. Mercado de la Victoria
36. Centro Cívico Cultural 5 de Mayo
37. Museo Interactivo Imagina
38. Centro de Exposiciones y Convenciones Puebla
39. Fuente de Guadalupe
40. Fuente de Loreto
41. Lago de la Concordia
42. To the Mercado El Carmen
43. To the Mercado de los Sabores food market
44. Ministry of Tourism offices
45. To the Centro Comercial Angélopolis
46. To the La Isla and Platinum squares
47. To Parque Lineal
48. To the Reserva Territorial Atlixcáyotl-Quetzalcóatl
49. To the EcoParque Metropolitano
50. To the Paseo del Río Atoyac
51. To Africam Safari
52. To the Parque Estatal Lázaro Cárdenas del Río

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**www.PUEBLA.travel**
Discover Puebla

Among Artists and Candy

By simply crossing the busy Héroes del 5 de Mayo Boulevard you enter a very different and more dramatic atmosphere where you will find the discrete and somewhat solitary Teatro Principal (8 Oriente). This theater was inaugurated in 1760 and since that time it has undergone numerous transformations. Next to it is the Barrio del Artista, a cobbledstone universe of art and tables in the open air. It is common to see painters working on their canvases here or in the string of small galleries, and sometimes they even set up their easels in the street. At the Café Amparo there is live music at night while on the corner of the square called Plazuela del Torno you will always see someone soaking up the sun and drinking a beer at the Café del Artista.

El Parián (6 Norte), which can be found just after the Barrio del Artista, is a handicrafts market located in the old Plazuela de San Roque. The stalls with their vaulted ceilings are organized around a sculpture of St. Francis of Assisi and sell items made from Talavera ceramics, textiles, wood, and palm fronds, and you can also find Amozoc silver and Amate paper from Pahuatlán.

In contrast, there is the Museo Regional Casa de Alfeñique (4 Oriente 416), a house dating from the 18th century built in a delicate Baroque style. Mortar, quarried stone, baked clay and Talavera: each material possesses its own distinct beauty. Transformed into a regional museum in 1926, it houses a collection of over 1,500 pieces. The first rooms hark back to the founding of Puebla and the period of the Spanish Conquest—there are some surprising codices from the 16th century—, while the mezzanine is filled with religious paintings, vestiges of the Battle of the Cinco de Mayo and a famous China Poblana dress. Examples of daily life in the 18th and 19th centuries can be seen on the second floor (Tues to Sun, 10 am to 5 pm).

The ideal next stop is the Calle de los Dulces (6 Oriente). This street is home to stores such as La Fama, El Lirio, Casa Borola and La Central which sell traditional local candies. In the windows of these candy stores you will see such local specialties as gaznates, baked muéganos, canelones, peanut polvorón cookies, tortitas de Santa Clara, borrachitos, camotes, lemon peels stuffed with coconut, orange flavored donuts, pumpkin seed marzipan with pineapple, and other sugary treats.

The Museo Regional Casa de Alfeñique features unique and valuable pieces.

You can sample the flavors of Puebla in the Calle de los Dulces.
On this same street is the Casa de los Hermanos Serdán, which has been converted into the Museo Regional de la Revolución. The facade still displays bullet holes from an attack by government forces in 1910, since this was the home of Aquiles, Máximo and Carmen Serdán who all supported the rebellion organized by Francisco I. Madero. The lower part of the museum serves to recreate daily life at the beginning of the 20th century, while the second floor uses posters and illustrations to narrate the growing discontent and subsequent armed revolution of Mexicans tired of the constant reelection of President Porfirio Díaz (6 Oriente 206; Tues to Sun, 10 am to 5 pm).

Around Los Sapos

On the corner of Juan de Palafox y Mendoza Avenue and 4 Sur Street you will find the Templo del Espíritu Santo, known as La Compañía. The current building was completed just a few months before the Jesuit order was expelled from New Spain in 1767. An ironwork portico and Baroque facade form the entrance to this church of three naves. When you visit you shouldn’t miss the 17th-century paintings by José Rodríguez Carnero in the vestry.

A short walk from here, in 6 Sur Street, is the Callejón de los Sapos. This alley is lined with antique stores and on weekend mornings a street market selling old and entertaining treasures is set up at the bottom of the alley in the Plazuela de los Sapos. A small cantina, La Pasita, is on one of the corners and has served a tasty grape liqueur here since 1916. There is absolutely no excuse for not returning to this area when you’re hungry or when the sun goes down for an a la carte meal at the Hotel Mesón Sacristía de la Compañía (6 Sur 304). The cream of bean soup, pipián sauces and the mole sauce known as mancha mantel (literally “tablecloth stain”) are all memorable dishes.

The Casa de los Hermanos Serdán was the scene of major historical events.

Amazing antiques can be found in the Callejón de los Sapos.

The Hotel Mesón Sacristía de la Compañía is a pleasant spot for enjoying a good meal.
Discover Puebla

FROM THE CATHEDRAL TO THE CONVENTS

**Trees and Books**

You can’t visit Puebla without taking time to admire its **Catedral (16 de Septiembre and 3 Oriente)**. Construction was begun in 1575 and in 1649 it was consecrated by Bishop Juan de Palafox y Mendoza. Since construction took so long the building incorporated different styles that include the Herrerian, Baroque and Neoclassical. The grey quarried stone facade is covered in reliefs and features fluted columns between two towers measuring 230-foot high. There are five naves inside: a central nave, two processional naves and another two with niche chapels—each one exhibiting paintings by Miguel Cabrera that feature the Way of the Cross (Via Crucis). The main altar, known as the Altar de los Reyes, is made from a single piece of onyx. Facing the altar is the cypress projected by Manuel Tolsá in 1797 with the four doctors of the church protecting the Immaculate Conception, the patron saint of Puebla.

When you leave the church by the exit to the right of the atrium you will enter Puebla’s main square or **Zócalo**. On the edge of the Zócalo you will find the **Palacio del Ayuntamiento** and the arches filled with busy restaurants and cafés, while in the square itself people stroll between trees and balloons or take a seat near one of the many fountains. At the other end of the Cathedral is the **Biblioteca Palafoxiana**, on the upper floor of the old Colegio de San Juan (5 Oriente). This library was founded by Bishop Juan de Palafox y Mendoza in 1646 when he donated 5,000 books to the Tridentine Colleges of San Juan, San Pedro and San Pablo. The collection grew over the years and today boasts over 45,000 volumes. The beautiful cedar shelves housing the books date from the 18th century and the collection includes such treasures as the Nuremberg Chronicle by Hartmann Schedel, in the incunable edition of 1493, and the Practical Botanical History by Joseph Galeatum from 1761. (Mon to Fri, 10 am to 5 pm; Sat and Sun, 10 am to 4 pm).
Art Collections

On 15 de Septiembre Street you will find the Casa del Deán, a building dating from 1580 that was owned by Don Tomás de la Plaza, the dean of the Cathedral. If you pass through the entrance in the Renaissance facade you will find an interesting example of non-religious 16th-century mural painting (Tues to Sun, 10 am to 5 pm). You then need to walk to the Museo Amparo which boasts an extensive collection of pre-Hispanic art, although its most attractive pieces are from the colonial period and 19th century. There are three rooms for temporary exhibitions of contemporary art and from the terrace you can look out across the domes of Puebla to the volcanoes (2 Sur 708; Weds to Mon, 10 am to 6 pm).

A couple of blocks from the Cathedral is the Museo José Luis Bello y González (3 Poniente 302; Tues to Sun, 10 am to 5 pm), a 19th-century building that houses a collection of more than 3,000 works of art belonging to Mariano Bello y Acedo. The 13 rooms of the museum are home to examples of esthetics from around the world which range from inlaid desks, a cabinet with a map of Manila from the 18th century and spheres of life carved in ivory, to alabaster sculptures, Meissen porcelain and paintings by Giuseppe Molteni and Juan Tinoco. Also near the Zócalo, but to the west, is the Museo Universitario Casa de los Muñecos (2 Norte 4; Mon to Sun, 10 am to 5 pm) which is well worth a visit. The building’s facade is Talavera and serves as testament to what the craftsmen of Puebla are capable of. Inside, the rooms are filled with mummies, stuffed animals and colonial paintings. In addition, this is where you will find the Casa de los Muñecos restaurant, with a menu featuring such delights as a cream of cashew soup and salmon in a passion fruit sauce.

To the west, on pedestrian street 5 de Mayo, rises the iron trimmed horizon of the Templo de Santo Domingo. This Dominican building was constructed between 1571 and 1659 and while the quarried stone facade is very sober, inside the abundant decoration stands in stark contrast to the exterior. This is the home of the splendid Rosario Chapel which is coated with gilded stucco and gold leaf. Next to the church, in the old entrance to the Dominican convent, is another of the Bello family museums, the Museo José Luis Bello y Zetina (5 de Mayo 409; Tues to Sun, 10 am to 4 pm). This is the house where José Luis Bello y Zetina, grandson of José Luis Bello y González, lived. The valuable domestic appliances and an extensive collection of pictures—on the walls hang paintings by Murillo and Zurbarán—, fill everyone who visits with a sense of wonder.
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The World of Nuns
Two 17th-century buildings here are worth a visit, the first being the Ex Convento de Santa Rosa which was home to nuns from 1740 to 1861. Today the former convent is the site of the Museo de Arte Popular Poblano and its seven rooms exhibit handicrafts from different regions in the state. While there you will also get a feel for the isolated way the nuns lived and your imagination will fly when you come to the celebrated Talavera kitchen where it is claimed the famous mole poblano was first created (3 Norte 1203; Tues to Sun, 10 am to 5 pm).

Not far from here Augustinian nuns also lived sealed off from the world in the Ex Convento de Santa Mónica, built in the traditional petatillo style (a mixture of red brick and tiles). Daily life for the cloistered nuns was simple yet filled with spirituality and this can be felt in every room. The Pinacoteca (art gallery), as well as the furniture and personal items, help you enter into this formerly isolated world. In the adjoining church there is a venerated image of the Señor de las Maravillas (Lord of the Marvels) (18 Poniente 103; Tues to Sun, 10 am to 5 pm).

3 Wonderful Mansions
Casareyna
The facilities of this ten-room hotel have witnessed the passing of centuries, with the hotel itself the product of the transformation of three 16th-century mansions by architect Ricardo Legorreta. Thick walls, wooden ceilings and hand carved furniture help create the atmosphere while the restaurant is one of the few to prepare traditional regional dishes the way they should be made. The hotel also exhibits and sells Talavera de la Reyna (Privada 2 Oriente 1007; T. 01222 232 0032; www.casareyna.com).

Casona San Antonio
An 18th-century house now serves as this 14 room hotel that promises rest for anyone who crosses its beautiful threshold. As you climb the stairs you can admire an image of San Antonio de Padua, who gives the hotel its name, created using Talavera. The interior patio is now a restaurant and the hotel offers a spa and temazcal (steam bath) (9 Oriente 203; T. 01222 246 1620; www.casonasanantonio.com).

El sueño Hotel + Spa
Where the orchards of an 18th-century house called Alcántara once stood you will now find this hotel. Each room is uniquely decorated and bears the name of a woman who never gave up on her dreams, such as Sor Juana and Frida Kahlo. There are patios filled with plants and fountains as well as the aroma of truly fantastic flavors from the kitchen, all of which leads guests to delay the moment when they must finally go off to bed (9 Oriente 12; T. 01222 232 6489; www.elsueno-hotel.com).
Nights of Legend at Lago Concordia provide a light show of projected images that tell the story of the China Poblana using a curtain of water as a backdrop (Thurs to Sun, at 8:45 pm and 9:30 pm; free).

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The Forts
An absolute must is a visit to the Cerro de Guadalupe, a hill where you will find the 5 de Mayo Cultural Civic Center. This is where the Museo Interactivo Imagina, the planetario (planetarium) and the Centro Expositor y de Convenciones are. But this is above all the site of the two forts that featured in the defeat of the French army in the Battle of the 5 de Mayo in 1862. The Fuerte de Guadalupe provides a Site Museum commemorating this battle. Next to the fort is the Plaza de la Victoria while the Fuerte de Loreto provides a Museum of Non-Intervention where you can see the letters then President Benito Juárez wrote to General Ignacio Zaragoza concerning the armed struggle. Facing the fort is Lago Concordia and a mirador, or viewpoint, below which there is a café and a handicrafts gallery.

Cemitas are emblematic of Puebla’s cuisine and are very tasty.

Puebla’s Cemitas
There are a couple of markets that should also be visited and one of these is the Melchor Ocampo or Mercado del Carmen (21 Oriente). Here, at the Las Poblanitas stall, they have been preparing that irresistible Puebla delicacy, cemitas, for thirty years. Original cemitas, or filled rolls, feature milanesa (steak in breadcrumbs), ham, avocado, onion in vinegar, chile slices, farmer cheese and fresh pápalo leaves. The result is a stack of exquisite flavors. The other market was recently opened and is called the Mercado de los Sabores (4 Poniente 1106), where you can try chalupas, memelas and picaditas, chiles en nogada (when in season), as well as blue corn gruel, lamb mixiotes and the famous cemitas.
Discover Puebla

The Modern Angelópolis

In the south of the city there is a different Puebla of large and modern spaces. This is where you will find the Centro Comercial Angelópolis—which proudly boasts a Luxury Hall with an abundance of luxury brands—and the stores, restaurants and bars of the La Isla and Platinum malls just across the road. Osa Mayor Avenue runs through here, and in the middle is the long strip of the recently opened Parque Lineal, a park conceived as a horizon with elevated bridges and cycle paths that connect the Angelópolis area to the Jardín del Arte and, further along, the EcoParque Metropolitano and the Paseo del Río Atoyac.

The Parque Lineal is ideal for cyclists and pedestrians. In the middle rises the Estrella de Puebla, a 260-foot high Ferris Wheel—considered the tallest of its kind in Latin America—with 54 slowly turning gondolas. From this elevated perspective you can see the city center as well as the volcanoes and the green areas around the Ferris Wheel, which together offer exciting contrasts. It is also worth riding the wheel at night when everything is lit up. Next to the wheel, jets of water leap from a playful fountain and together these elements create a lively scene with people dodging columns of water that are turned off and on or change color to the rhythm of the music broadcast over speakers.

The Jardín del Arte is an area for sports that forms part of the Reserva Territorial Atlixcáyotl-Quetzalcóatl. It manages to squeeze everything into its 32 acres: two jogging trails and a tartan track, a soccer field, three boating lakes visited by storks, two restaurants and barbeque areas for picnics among the acacias (Sirio s/n, Concepción Las Lajas; Mon to Sun, 6 am to 9 pm). The EcoParque Metropolitano offers almost 40 acres of vegetation from the state’s different regions. A walk through this park is to travel from the ceibas of the Mixteca region to the cacti of the Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Biosphere Reserve. It also includes a surprising collection of orchids and bromeliads kept under an onyx dome (Gabino Barreda, Concepción Guadalupe; Mon to Sun, 6 am to 6 pm).

The Paseo del Río Atoyac also has a role in addition to its function as a recreational area: the facilities here are used for educational purposes to raise awareness concerning care for the environment and the sustainable use of water. There is an information module as well as workshops and also guided tours, all of which serve to focus on the work being done to recover the river basin (Vía Atlixcáyotl 2501; Mon to Sun, 6 am to 9 pm).
**Nearby…**

**Africam Safari**
Located at Km 16.5 of the Puebla-Vallequillo road, this safari park and zoo cares for more than 3,500 animals of 300 species from different parts of the world. Here the animals live in open spaces similar to their native habitats and they can be seen from the comfort of your own car or by taking one of the park buses. You shouldn’t miss the butterfly house, the bat cave, the kangaroo path and the Louise Wardle de Camacho Botanical Garden with its selection of plants from arid and semi-arid regions (Mon to Sun, 10 am to 5 pm; T. 01222 281 7000; www.africamsafari.com).

**Forest Flower**
Located in Amozoc, just six miles east of the city, this is officially called the Parque Estatal Lázaro Cárdenas del Río and covers an area of roughly 1,480 acres which is filled with oak trees. There are a number of attractions on offer such as cabins available for weekend getaways, camping areas, an aviary, a reptile house and a petting zoo. In addition there are suspension bridges, ropes and nets and a 260-foot zip line that is traveled in just 10 seconds (Carril a San Bartolo s/n, Ex Hacienda San Bartolo Flor del Bosque; Mon to Su, 8 am to 4 pm).
Cholula, the sacred city of Toltecs expelled from Tula, was always destined to be a place of worship with the arrival of the Spanish. Proof of this can be clearly seen in the Santuario de Nuestra Señora de los Remedios built on top of the Great Pyramid, the ringing bells of the countless churches and the intricate Santa María Tonantzintla altarpieces which capture the attention of the faithful.
A Stroll through Church Domes

Five miles to the west of the city is the “double” town of Cholula, which brings together San Pedro and San Andrés. Each of these towns has its own main square and church, but they are so close to each other that the border has been lost and they are both thought of as the same town. A tour of San Pedro should begin in Plaza de la Concordia, which is flanked by the Convento de San Gabriel, a building that looks more like a fort than a church since its atrium fence features crenellations.

Some streets are lined with colorful walls.

The elegant and joyful Convento de San Gabriel is one of the oldest in the capital.

The Mercado de San Pedro (5 Norte 10) is a good place to go if you’d like to find out what “elephant ears” (large bean filled tortillas), cholulteca soup (made using chicken, leeks and bacon), cecina tacos and huauzontle in batter taste like.

The convent was built by Franciscans in 1549 on the site of the ruins of a temple dedicated to Quetzalcóatl. While the church facade is austere, inside there are ribbed dome ceilings and paintings that tell the story of the life of St. Francis of Assisi. At the Portal de Peregrinos (Pilgrim’s Door) you will find the Franciscan Library and a small gallery exhibiting sacred art. The Capilla de la Tercera Orden is attention grabbing with its Baroque entrance and Solomonic columns, although nothing can compare with the Capilla Real or Capilla de los Naturales which transports visitors far away, to a mosque, with its 49-domed roof.

Also at Concordia Square is the Portal Guerrero, a long gallery of arches filled with restaurants, and the Parroquia de San Pedro, a 17th-century building with the highest tower in Cholula. Inside there is a painting of St. Michael the Archangel with his haughty expression and helmet adorned with feathers, the work of Cristóbal de Villalpando. On the opposite corner to the parish church is the Casa del Caballero Águila, which bears this name due to the low relief that crosses the entrance with an eagle warrior, which was built in stages over a long period of time. On the ground floor, which dates from the 16th century, are the six rooms of the Museo de la Ciudad de Cholula which exhibits a collection of more than 2,300 pieces from the pre-Hispanic and colonial periods. The upper floor wasn’t built until the 17th century and is used for temporary exhibitions (4 Oriente 1; Thurs to Tues, 9 am to 3 pm).

The Pyramid and the Night

Cholula just wouldn’t be the same without the Santuario de Nuestra Señora de los Remedios, the church built by the Spanish and which uses as its base a past filled with indigenous gods they wished to bury. This church was built on top of the Grand Tiachihuialtépetl.
General Information

Connectivity:
Direct route to Cholula.

From Mexico City or other destinations:
When you arrive at the CAPU (bus station), head for the Suburbanos area; buses leave for Cholula every 10 minutes. There are direct and intermediate services available.

From Puebla’s Zócalo:
Suburban buses leave for Cholula from a small station at 6 Poniente on the corner of 13 Norte.

Tourist Information
Town Hall
16 de Septiembre Ave., No. 102, Centro, San Andrés Cholula.
T. (01222) 403 7000, ext. 165.

www.facebook.com/Secretaria de Turismo Puebla (Puebla Ministry of Tourism)
www.PUEBLA.travel

Places of Interest:
1. Plaza de la Concordia
2. Convento de San Gabriel
3. Capilla Real o de los Naturales
4. Portal Guerrero
5. Parroquia de San Pedro
6. Casa del Caballero Águila (Museo de la Ciudad de Cholula)
7. Mercado de San Pedro
8. Santuario de Nuestra Señora de los Remedios
9. Gran Pirámide de Tlachihualtépetl
10. Museo de Sínto
11. Centro Artesanal Cultural y Gastronómico Xelhua
12. Container City
13. To the Museo de la Talavera Alarcón
14. Ocho30
15. To the Templo de Santa María Tonantzintla
16. To the Templo de San Francisco Acatepec
17. To the National Institute of Astrophysics, Optics and Electronics (INAOE)
Pyramid, which over time became completely overgrown by vegetation and now appears as nothing more than a hill. The church was consecrated in 1549 and since that time it can be seen up high on the hill with its beautiful raised dome covered in tiles, holding imperceptible conversations with the smoking giant to the east, the Popocatépetl volcano.

You can climb up to the sanctuary, but before doing this you should check out the archeological site of the Great Pyramid. Almost 5 miles of tunnels have been excavated and this allows you to see the different construction stages of this ceremonial center, the *Patio de los Altares* and certain murals such as the *Pulque Drinkers* and the Grasshoppers. The *Museo de Sitio* serves as a fitting end to your visit with its model of the pyramid, skeletons, ceramic pieces and replicas of the murals (14 Poniente; Mon to Sun, 9 am to 6 pm). You should also visit the *Centro Artesanal Cultural y Gastronómico Xelhua* next to the overgrown pyramid.

San Andrés is definitely a town for young people thanks to its vibrant nightlife. In this part of Cholula you will find *Container City* (3 Poniente of San Andrés), a miniature city made from different colored sea containers. Everything here is piled up or starts where the previous container finishes, passing quickly from a restaurant to a bar or from a store to a gallery. It is best to visit when the sun has gone down and the *Santuario de los Remedios* is lit in the background, when laughter and music fill the short streets of this recycled city. Then it’s on to the noisy 14 Oriente Street with its bars and nightclubs which attract the night birds.

Before leaving Cholula you must see the traditional handicrafts made here since colonial times. The best place to see them is the *Museo de la Talavera Alarca* next to the Talavera de la Reyna workshop/store. This well-lit museum offers an overview of the use of Talavera from the 16th century to the present day and the collection features more than 300 works by such artists as Vicente Rojo, Juan Soriano, Sergio Hernández, Francisco Toledo and Javier Marín (Lateral Sur 3510, Direct to Cholula; Mon to Fri, 9 am to 7 pm; Sat and Sun, 9 am to 3 pm).

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**Recommends**

Located right in the main square of San Andrés, **Ocho30** (3 Poniente) is a restaurant you simply must visit for the strawberry and gorgonzola cheese salad, beef Carpaccio and mushroom risotto delivered directly to your table.

**Good food and nightlife can be enjoyed in Container City.**

**The monumental pyramid stands in contrast to old colonial Mexico.**
Discover Puebla Nearby…

**Templo de Santa María Tonantzintla**
Just a few miles from Cholula is one of Mexico’s most amazing churches. The Templo de Santa María Tonantzintla was completed by indigenous workers in the 18th century for the adoration of the Virgin Mary, using the name of the Immaculate Conception. It was from the virgin that they had learned to await the fertility of their women and fields, and in exchange they offered the first fruits of their harvests as their ancestors had done for the Náhuatl goddess of mother earth, Tonantzin. Using the expressive scope of the Baroque style, they managed to capture their own universe in the plaster: dark-skinned angels, children with feathered headdress, fruit and ears of corn. There is no corner that hasn’t been decorated, leaving no gaps and demonstrating a lot of love and care (Reforma Norte s/n).

**Templo de San Francisco Acatepec**
Just over half a mile further on you will see this church, the construction of which commenced in 1560 but wasn’t concluded until two centuries later. This is why the church facade is very different to those usually used for Franciscan churches, being completed during the Baroque period and featuring amazing mosaics of multicolored Talavera. The carved wood altarpieces previously found inside were burned to a cinder in the fire of 1939 so the Pantle family assumed the responsibility of replacing them in the way the Cholultecas traditionally worked plaster (Km 13 on the Puebla-Atlixco road).
If you are in Tonantzintla you should take the opportunity to visit this institute since it has served to prepare specialized researchers and professors since 1971. This was the astrophysics observatory which took over from the one in Tacubaya and where scientists such as Luis Enrique Erro and Guillermo Haro worked. Using the famous Schmidt Camera, roughly 15,000 photographs were taken of space and this led to the discovery of stars, novas and supernovas, blue galaxies and comets (Luis Enrique Erro 1, Tonantzintla; T. 01222 266 3100; www.inaoep.mx; for visits you need to make an appointment). In the 1940s this observatory was one of the most important in the Americas and the world.
Discover Puebla

The Convento de San Gabriel, Cholula.

Traditional candies.

The Museo José Luis Bello y González, Puebla.

Catedral, Puebla.

Talavera.
**Mi Viejo Pueblito**

¡Homenaje a la comida Mexicana!

**Vista desde la terraza, Jarro sin Fondo PORTALES**

Mi Viejo Pueblito Puebla es una casona colonial completamente restaurada que recibe el sello cálido y alegre ambiente mexicano con una extraordinaria vista desde su terraza ubicada en el Jarro sin Fondo, donde se puede apreciar una vista única de la catedral y sus parques tradicionales Puebla. Una invitación a la muestra única tradicional del país donde se tiene los platos de la tradición, (Chilteca y Negada y Muerte de Cadena), las sabores reseñables en cada, el placer cocinar y el servicio de calidad con platos acompañados con amistad.

**Mi Viejo Pueblito Restaurante Mexicano**

Mi Viejo Pueblito te invita a vivir una experiencia de cocina ambientes mexicanos. Sus sabores, colores y sabores donde se esculpe la majestad de la cocina mexicana, patrimonio cultural de la humanidad. Es un homenaje a estas personas que lograron transmitir su amor a nuestra ricas y a través de la comida. Es un lugar que en cada visitan nos invita a vivir inmersa el sabor y alegría ambiente mexicano.

Es una invitación deliciosa con la mejor ración de cerveza y tequila. O que por su excepcional sabor durará para siempre. LA TRADICION COMIDA MEXICANA

**Inscripción Pueblito: **Alicante, Aragón. Finca Pei Plata. Huesca, Lleida, Madrid, Puebla y la Mora. Restaurante de la antigua Balsa (Huesca), Cuenca (México) (San José de Aragón Querétaro) Facebook: Mi Viejo Pueblito Twitter: @pueblito_mx Instagram: Mi Viejo Pueblito www.mielpueblito.com.mx
These are the Magical Towns of Puebla, the villages that affectionately embrace their colonial buildings, pay tribute to the surrounding nature and never forget their traditions.
Cholula
This town of countless churches appears in duplicate since it is both San Pedro and San Andrés at one and the same time. It is also a place of contrasts, where an ancient Great Pyramid coexists with the young voices that get together when the sun goes down.

What to Do
Saturday
• Before arriving in Cholula, make a morning visit to the Museo de la Talavera Alarca. The museum tells the story of how Talavera de la Reyna has evolved from colonial times to the present day and includes pieces from such contemporary artists as Vicente Rojo, Juan Soriano and Javier Marín.
• Once you are in San Pedro, head for the Plaza de la Concordia where you will find the Convento de San Gabriel, a powerful 16th-century construction that looks more like a fort. And don’t miss the Baroque Capilla de la Tercera Orden, in particular the Capilla Real or Capilla de los Naturales, a chapel where the ceiling features numerous small domes that recall Arab mosques.
• The Parroquia de San Pedro Cholula, commenced in 1640, is also worth a visit. The church tower is the town’s tallest.
• You should also make your way to the Santuario de Nuestra Señora de los Remedios (southeast of the Plaza de la Concordia) with the Popocatépetl Volcano in the background. The church was raised in 1540 on top of the Gran Pirámide de Cholula, so before climbing up to the church you should first visit the archeological site where you can walk through the excavated tunnels.
• Visit Container City, in San Andrés Cholula, by night. This miniature city is made from sea containers and features restaurants, bars, designer stores and galleries.
Sunday

• Have breakfast in the busy and fragrant Mercado de San Pedro that promises an unforgettable meal: cecina tacos with chili strips, cemitas, huauzontle in batter and mole poblano.

• Visit the Casa del Caballero Águila, which was given this name for the relief carved at the entrance. Built over a period of centuries, the ground floor is from the 16th century; the upper floor from the 17th century; and the facade from the 19th century. Today the building is home to the Museo de la Ciudad de Cholula and exhibits a large collection of pre-Hispanic and Colonial pieces.

• Acquire unique items such as clay pots, ceramics, trees of life and textiles at the Centro Artesanal Cultural y Gastronómico Xelhua located next to the archeological site.

• Enter the Templo de Santa María Tonantzintla (2.5 miles to the south). The colored facade is a joy to see while inside there is a riot of design as the figures of children, flowers and fruit blend together in the polychrome stucco that covers the interior. This is the house that indigenous people wanted to create in the Baroque design for Tonanzin, the Náhuatl Goddess who was given the appearance of the Immaculate Conception.

• If you visit the Convento de San Francisco Acatpec try to get there at sunset when the last rays of the sun still illuminate the Talavera covered facade created by Cholulteca builders and potters in the 17th century. The atmosphere inside is dominated by an imposing Baroque Salomonic altarpiece.

What to Buy

• Red clay pottery
• Trees of life
• Cocoles and volcanes from the Panadería La Blanca bakery

Visit

www.puebla.travel/cholula
Discover Puebla

Tlatlauquitepec

Tlatlauquitepec is filled with Oyamel trees (sacred firs), low hanging clouds, and shadows that play on the ground of the Plaza Principal. It is a place of bright light and sunsets and its treasure is the flowers used to show affection for the Virgin or fill its gardens.

The Start

Rather than a kiosk, the Plaza Principal features a fountain in its center that is accompanied by palm and araucaria (Monkey Puzzle) trees. Around the square there are orange colored arches and this is where the life of the town can be found. Beyond the square, in the clouds, is Cerro Cabezon, the limestone surfaced mountain that gives the town its name, since in Náhuatl Tlatlauquitepec means “mountain that colors or burns.” This metaphor serves to remind us of when light from the east illuminates the only section of landscape not populated with trees.
What to Do

Saturday

• Familiarize yourself with the town by entering the Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús located in the Plaza Principal facing the Palacio Municipal. A fire destroyed the wooden roof in 1955 and this was replaced with a barrel vaulted nave. If you look to the altar for solace you will find a radiant image of the Sacred Heart.

• Visit the Parroquia de Santa María de la Asunción a few blocks away which has a crenellated atrium that simply must be seen. This is the home of the town’s patron saint and was initially a convent, founded by the Franciscans in 1531, although its current appearance is a product of the 19th century. The interior is executed almost exclusively in timber with the Mudejar ceiling, the choir loft railing that extends along the nave, the main altar and the Virgin all being carved from wood. Everything here shines or has a story to tell. Next to the church, the walls of the rectory are adorned with paintings by Luis Toral González, the famous artist from Zacapoaxtla who also painted the murals inside the Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús.

Connectivity

Zacapoaxtla
16 miles / 33 min
State roads 575, 129.

Puebla
81 miles / 1:30 h
Federal roads 140, 129.

Tlaxcala
86 miles / 1:50 h
Federal roads 117, 121, 136, 129.

Mexico City
160 miles / 3 h
Federal roads 150, 140, 129.

How to Get There

By Car:
From the city of Puebla you need to take federal road 129 from Amozoc to Ixtenco, then continue along federal road 140 before taking federal road 129 again; in total the length of the journey is approximately 81 miles and the trip takes around one and a half hours.

By Bus:
From the City of Puebla – CAPU: ATAH
From Mexico City – TAPO: ADO, VIA and Primera Plus Texcoco

Tourist Information

Town Hall
Reforma 47-A, Centro.
T. (01233) 318 0001.

Visit
www.puebla.travel/tlatlauquitepec
• Even if you don’t stay at the Hotel Estancia San Jorge—where the rooms offer views of the Cerro Cabezón and the Santuario del Señor de Huaxtla—you should at least visit the Rincón de los Recuerdos on the top floor, the museum founded by Jorge Alberto Guzmán. You will be amazed by the variety of objects exhibited here: from fossils, pre-Hispanic objects, postage stamps and ancient coins, to chests, movie theatre seats, sewing machines and typewriters; and there are even weapons, photographs and documents from Tlatlauquitepec of more than a century ago. The hotel also has an orchidarium.

• Before 7 pm visit El Jonuco (Revolución 51), a traditional winery that since 1921 has produced fig, cherry, guava, tejocote (Mexican hawthorn), lemon balm, vanilla, aniseed and passion fruit wines as well as sherry. The only decoration at this small winery is the pleasant conversation, glass in hand, of the visitors while at the back you will find the barrels where the wines are aged.

• End the day at the Barcito, the bar of the Hotel Santa Fe (open until past midnight). From the balconies you can see the Plaza Principal and the stars.

Sunday

• Don’t miss the Tianguis Artesanal in the Plaza Principal where you will find baskets and hats made from palm, wooden toys and also woollen shawls embroidered by the women of Acogotla and Tenpazol. Taken together they form a very colorful scene. The focus here, however, is the silver jewelry shaped into the figures of fish and lilies.

• Visit the nearby community where you can see the Santuario del Señor de Huaxtla where the people worship a miraculous figure of Christ. The story goes that the figure was carved in the 18th century from the wood of a tree dragged downstream by the river. People from around the town come here, walk through the entrance in the Petatlillo facade and bow before the blue Neoclassical altar to ask for protection. On the left hand side of the church is the Virgen del Rayo, from Ocotlán, with the moon at her feet.

• If you like to explore caves you should visit the Cerro Cabezón, just five miles from the center of town, since it offers an abundance of caves. There are three zip lines (of 260, 490 and 656 feet) which allow you the chance to fly through the air with Tlatlauquitepec in the distance.

• The Rincón de los Recuerdos offers treasured objects.

• Eiders and bamboo mark the descent from the Puente de la Soledad.

MD Recommends

You simply must try the tlaocoyos (an oval shaped fried or toasted cake made of masa and filled with alberjón beans, avocado leaves and marzano chili), totole or turkey in mole sauce, chilpozontle (a dish made with meat and vegetables), pulque and atole de granillo. During Holy Week shrimp patties in mole sauce are customary while the daily staple of candy includes colored coconut candy, crystallized figs, tejocote (hawthorn) jam, gaznates and cookies. Yotlipa, the traditional herb liqueur so popular with people of the Puebla sierra, is made using wormwood, wallflower, citron and lime peel, fenel, huichín, maiztamiz, camomile, rue, lemon tea, lemon verbena tea, lemon balm, sweet herb and hierba maestra.
What to Buy
- Pescaditos (small fish) and silver lilies
- Woolen embroidery
- Coffee from Mazatepec
- Walnuts
- Candy from the Muni Market

Travel Operators
Explore
Portal Morelos 5, inside the Hotel Santa Fe.
T. (01233) 318 0267.
Contact: Cristina Ramos.

Destinations:
- Cerro Cabezón
- Cascada de Puxtla
- Presa de la Soledad
- Centro Ecoturístico Bosque de Niebla (for horse rides, cycling or watching the banks of clouds above the mesophyll forest at dawn).

• If you travel another 14 miles along the road to Mazatepec you will come to the Presa de la Soledad dam, which is fed by the Apulco River. The road is lined with ferns and liquidambar, and you pass a viewpoint from where you can see the Cascada de Puxtla waterfall (Km 7). When you reach the dam the Cascada del Tenaxate waterfall welcomes you and either here or at the Puente de la Soledad bridge you can do some abseiling. Following that head for the jetty where boats will take you on a trip across the lake where you can see herons and hawks, as well as sauco trees and bamboo.

• When you return to town satisfy your appetite at the Café Colonial which offers traditional local smoked meats from Mazatepec, the community that during the Porfiriato of the late 19th and early 20th centuries received Italians who were brought to teach the locals better agricultural methods. Like these original visitors, their descendants continue to use oak and citrus tree firewood to smoke chicken, longaniza sausage, loin and ribs. This meat is usually accompanied by peanut sauce, green chilies or the hot chile de árbol. The restaurant also sells organic coffee produced in Mazatepec.

Keep in Mind
The Cerro Cabezón can also be seen from the Cerrito de Guadalupe, which features a 19th-century church dedicated to the Guadalupana that can be reached via stairs.

August is the month of tuberose, the flower that has given the town the name “Jardín de la Sierra.” This is also the month for celebrations dedicated to the town’s patron saint (15), the Virgen de la Asunción, at the Feria Regional de la Tuberosa. There is no better way to adorn altars in her honor than with floral arrangements or to carpet the church entrance with flowers, leaves, seeds and fruit. In the perfumed air that envelops the parish church you will hear prayers and see the processions. There are also fireworks displays, mechanical rides, music and traditional dance, including toctines and negrilos, quetzalines and santiaguitos, which are performed for the Virgin and the public.
As if lifted from a fairytale, this Magical Town delights the imagination with its cobblestoned streets, the lilies painted by Don Goyo and the blouses (huipiles) embroidered by the local women. But the dominant figure here is nature with its coffee plants, tree ferns and mist...

Cuetzalan

The Start

Dawn in Cuetzalan’s Plaza Principal recalls a port or somewhere by the sea, perhaps because of the white buildings or the mist they are shrouded in, or maybe it’s the stone surface from which the palm trees and birds rise up. The Nahua’s who live here still dress like their ancestors and maintain old customs such as the Danza de los Voladores, which was handed down to them by the Totonacas.

The Plaza Principal is the scene for a daily parade of colors.

Cuetzalan
Pueblo Mágico
Magical Towns - Mexico desconocido

Connectivity

**Mexico City**
180 miles / 5 h
Highways 150, 129.

**City of Puebla**
107 miles / 3:20 h
Highway 129 and state road (no number).

**City of Tlaxcala**
109 miles / 3:30 h
Highway 129, federal road 136.

**Xalapa**
128 miles / 3 h
Highway 140, federal road 129.

**How to Get There**

**By Car:**
Take the Puebla-Orizaba highway. Passing the Cuauhtémoc Stadium go right towards Perote; you will pass two toll booths before arriving at Cuapiaxtla where you must follow the route indicating Perote-pista. A little further on you will come to a deviation to the right indicating Teziutlán cuota, continue straight ahead until you come to the deviation to the right that says “salida a Zaragoza y Ocotlán.” When you reach the town of Zaragoza go to the Acuaco gas station and then take the deviation to the right to reach Cuetzalan.

**By Bus:**
Western Bus Terminal – TAPO:
ADO, Texcoco Primera Plus.
Puebla Central Bus Terminal – CAPU:
Línea Vía.

**Tourist Information**

**Town Hall**
Ground floor, next to the Templo de San Francisco.
T. (01233) 331 0015.

Visit www.puebla.travel/cuetzalan

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**What to Do**

**Saturday**

- Before you reach Cuetzalan stop at the El Cuichat community where you will find the Reserva Azul. This is the life project of Luis Enrique and Elsa Fernández, a couple you really should visit whether you choose to spend the night at their 27-acre coffee plantation or not. They provide a couple of cabins and six palafitos (tents with beds and terrace) so that guests can hear what nature has to say. If you take a walk through the plantation you’ll discover how coffee is grown and processed, its medicinal uses and the magical ideas developed by indigenous people about it.
- Visit the Casa de Cultura to see not only the exhibition of works by Gregorio Méndez Nava—the artist whose brushstrokes capture the essence of the town—but also the Museo Etnográfico Calmahuistic. The museum has a collection of archeological pieces from Yohualichan, costumes used in traditional indigenous dances, and black and white photos of Cuetzalan’s past.

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**Don’t Miss**

On the outskirts of town you will find bamboo cabins built by the Tosepan Kali alternative tourism collective (Cuetzalan-San Miguel federal road; T.01233 331 0925; www.tosepankali.com). In order to avoid disrupting the harmony with nature they use ecological materials, treat and recycle waste water and produce organic coffee.

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(C) PAUL J. DODDS / MEXICO PHOTOGRAPHY

The Reserva Azul is the perfect place to discover nature’s secrets and for a good cup of coffee.
Discover Puebla

• You should also enter the Mercado de Artesanías Matachiju for the baskets made from jonote fibers, the fruit wines, and liqueurs made from coffee, and yolixpa. The latter drink is made from herbs that are highly valued by people in these mountains. But perhaps nothing is as attractive as the items woven using hand looms or pepenado hilván embroidery. At stall 26, amid the blouses and shawls, you will find the prodigious hands of María Concepción López embroidering ceaselessly.

• Visit the workshop of the Posadas family (on the corner of Zapata and Guerrero) where they have been making feather headdresses used in the Danza de los Quetzalines for more than 30 years. They use wood and bamboo, metallic paper and feathers, and make them so small they can be used for key rings or so big there is no way to wear them on your head.

• At 8:30 pm you should go to the Peña Los Jarritos or the Lienzo Charro El Potrillo to see shows featuring traditional dancing. You can also enjoy a meal at either of these two spots and spend the rest of the night enjoying the music and a few drinks.

• Among the many gastronomic delights offered by Cuetzalan are chicken in mole sauce, the pipián ranchero (made using chayote, ground sesame seeds and chile tepin or bird peppers), as well as the smoked cecina served with tlacoyos. These three dishes can be enjoyed at the Las Ranas restaurant (in the Mercado Artesanal) where you will also find Tanesik coffee for sale, which is made by a group of indigenous women. If you are lucky you may find a dish of beans with xocoyoli (the stem of a local plant cooked in ash to remove the bitterness).
A stroll through the Plaza Principal takes on a different rhythm on Sunday when it hosts the street market or tianguis; during this day the mist and fog mixes with the colorful fruit and market stalls. You will find a wonderful variety of items on sale: guaje pods and bule (a squash), mushrooms, pear banana, apple banana, and cochineal-dyed woolen shawls. The pastries are piled in mountains of sugar, old people offer their remedies for aches and pains, and the air is filled with the aroma of coffee and cinnamon. This is also one of the days when the “bird-men” hang from the trunk at the portico of the parish church to perform their Danza de los Voladores, an eloquent pre-Hispanic ritual dance that presents the Totonaca cosmogony, the connection between men and gods on spatial planes.

Visit the Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís, rebuilt in the 20th century on the site of an old stone church; this is the giant that overlooks the main square. It looks slightly Gothic, a little Romanesque, with a single tower, very high ceilings and stained glass windows that filter the light in a special way. On Sundays at midday you can hear the town’s language spoken inside since the mass is given in Náhuatl.

Don’t miss the Jardín Botánico Xoxotic (at Km 2.8 on the road to Yohualichan) with its universe of orchids and ferns, medicinal plants and a butterfly house which will keep you entertained for hours.
Pedro Martín

Pedro Martín learned to embroider from his mother, María Concepción López (the tireless embroiderer who can always be found at stall 26 in the Mercado de Artesanías), but now he also gives hand-loom weaving courses in the Cuauhtamazaco community. As well as training other artisans, Pedro has dedicated much of his time to rescuing antique pieces and interacting with designers to create new ones. It is fascinating to listen to him talk about the materials he uses and his life, and to discover how much embroidery can say about a culture (C. 045233 759 3992).

Gregorio Méndez Nava

Taught to paint by nature, Don Goyo uses oils and acrylics to portray life in Cuetzalan. He discovered the work of Rivera, Orozco and Siqueiros in the home of Vicente Lombardo Toledano and, after seeing how these masters used color, he discovered his own style. He is as interested in waterfalls as he is in textiles, and places lilies and heliconias in the hands of women, draws jaguars covered in stars, and his paintings always include a celebration that helps create the sacred atmosphere of this land. He is the director of the Casa de Cultura, so it is easy to find him and request a short visit to his studio on the outskirts of town (T. 01233 331 1202).

Discover Yohualichan (just over four miles north of Cuetzalan), the ceremonial center that was once part of the great Totonacapan, a region controlled by El Tajín. This is why it comes as no surprise to find that the bases of the pyramids are decorated with niches just like those at the ancient city of El Tajín in Veracruz. Nahua named this site “the place of night” and occupied it after it had been abandoned by the Totonacas. At the exit of the archeological site don’t miss the small Ticoteno restaurant, a community project where your senses will be delighted by the flavors and aromas of regional cooking and the items on sale in the handicrafts store.

For the adventurous there are waterfalls such as El Salto and Las Golondrinas where you can go abseiling, while El Salto also offers a nearby zip line and Las Golondrinas, a natural pool for swimming. You can reach the Cascada Corazón del Bosque waterfall, which is surrounded by tree ferns, on horseback and then on foot, while for those who don’t fear a walk in the dark you can enter the subterranean worlds of Atepoltlhuí, Chichicazapan or Aventura.

Walk up Zaragoza Street and you will find the perfect place for enjoying a good cup of coffee with tables in the open air outside...
The Hostal Hacienda Apulco.

In the center of the Plaza de Armas square is a column commemorating the Battle of the Cinco de Mayo.

The Descubre Cuetzalan tourism operator offers tours of sights outside the town, including the Cascada El Salto waterfall for abseiling, horse rides to the Cascada Corazón del Bosque waterfall or the dark and dark Gruta de Chichicazapan cave which features an underground river (Contact: Misael Morales; T. 01222 243 5706; www.descubrecuetzalan.com).

What to Buy
• Organic coffee from the Reserva Azul
• Embroidered textiles
• Wines made from fruit and yolixpa
• Feathered headdresses

Puebla’s Sierra Norte features many important caves and underground rivers.

Amazing landscapes surround this Magical Town: waterfalls, caves and the surprising Yohualichan ruins.

Celebrations

Yohualichan Kampa
To Xolalmej Ilhuitij
Held during the first days of August at the Yohualichan archeological site this festival features music and dance from different towns in the region. There is also an exhibition of paintings and antique clothing at the Casa de Cultura, as well as workshops for mask making, creating art works using wax and hand-loom weaving.

Hulpir Festival and Coffee Festival
These festivals are held between the end of September and beginning of October and serve to commemorate what Cuetzalan loves most: its traditional clothing and coffee growing. Two Queens are selected and there is dancing featuring quetzalines, voladores, santiaguitos and toreadores.
**Discover Puebla**

**Zacatlán**

*This town is known for its apples and is no stranger to mist and fog. Every day the people here bake bread, build large clocks that remind us that life is in the here and now, and make sodas, cider and liqueurs using apples from the orchards.*

**What to Do**

**Saturday**

- Start the day in the Plaza Principal near the floral clock featured in the center. The Parroquia de San Pedro y San Pablo, as well as the Ex Convento Franciscano, form part of the urban landscape.
- Visit the old convent cloisters, now the Casa de Cultura, which is also home to the Museo Comunitario Luciano Márquez Becerra, dedicated to regional history.
- Soak up the daily atmosphere of the “people of apples” by sitting at one of the tables in the open air outside the Café Dos Aromas located on the corner of Andador Independencia and Benito Juárez García.
- An obligatory visit in Zacatlán is to a cider brewery since cider is a tradition here. At the Bodegas Delicia store you can buy the famous apple sodas as well as liqueurs, creams and fruit sauces.
- You should also dedicate a couple of hours to the Museo de Relojería Alberto Olvera Hernández, a monumental clock factory and museum that is the pride of Zacatlán. In addition, a show is staged on the balconies of the building that is well worth seeing and features automatons (12:00 pm, 2 pm and 9 pm).
Sunday

• Leave breakfast to the El Mirador restaurant from where you can see the Barranca de los Jilgueros and try the cheese bread and tlacoyos.
• Next visit the town of Tomatlán to see the Rancho El Mayab and take a walk through the apple orchards.
• Commune with nature at the Cascada de Tulimán waterfall, six miles from the center of town. Here you can do some abseiling, take a zipline or suspension bridge from the heights, and swim in the natural water pools of the Quetzalapan River.
• Be sure to arrive at the Valle de las Piedras Encimadas before 6 pm. Surrounded by forests and shrouded in mist and fog, this landscape features strange rock formations that have been sculpted over time by the erosive force of the wind.
• When you get back to town be sure to stop for a baked apple pastry from the La Hojaldradita bakery or enjoy a slice of apple pie at the Café El Zahuán.

What to Buy

• Dried apples
• Pottery from San Miguel Tenango
• Cider, conserves and fruit liqueurs
• Cheese bread

Visit

www.puebla.travel/zacatlan
Chignahuapan

This is a joyful and colorful town where it is always Christmas thanks to the stores that have been selling ornaments made here for years, celebrating life in all its luminosity. Torches are lit for the Day of the Dead and are carried to a lake as if they were the souls of the dead.

**What to Do**

**Saturday**

- A stroll through the Plaza de la Constitución is entertaining in itself thanks to the colored kiosk in the center of the square. While you’re here take a look at the Parroquia de Santiago Apóstol and the pair of murals featured in the portico of the Palacio Municipal.
- See the 46-foot tall Virgin worshipped at the Basílica Menor de la Inmaculada Concepción.
- Take a trip by boat or trajinera (a flat bottomed barge) on Laguna Chignahuapan. In November, during the Festival de la Luz y la Vida, a procession carrying torches makes its way to the lake.
- Visit the workshop of the Castro Sosa family and see the magical process used by these artisans to transform clay into vases, plates and trays.
- Take a trip to the Salto de Quetzalapan, a waterfall that hypnotizes the town, where you will find such activities as a zip line, a high tension wire and enjoy the chance to abseil beside the waterfall.
Sunday

• Relax at the Aguas Termales de Chignahuapan Spa, less than four miles from the center of town. You don’t need to be a guest to take advantage of the many pools and when you come out of the water you can treat your body to a thermal mud wrap or enter the temazcal (steam bath).

• On the way back to town stop at Ixtlahuaca to see the Santuario del Honguito, a church that features a petrified mushroom with the image of Christ.

• Discover how pulque is extracted from maguey cacti at the Hacienda Amoltepec. While you are here take a horse ride or set off on a mountain bike, while the picturesque lake is the ideal spot for a boat ride if you decide you would like to cross it.

• Visiting the stores and workshops selling Christmas ornaments offers a good excuse for a walk through the streets of Chignahuapan in search of the perfect ornament.

• Dining at the El Rincón Mexicano restaurant provides you with the opportunity to try some wonderful chalupas, tlacoyos or rabbit in chilepín peppers.

What to Buy

• Christmas tree ornaments
• Earthenware items made by the Castro Sosa family
• Pulque from the Hacienda Amoltepec
• Relaxing oils at the Aguas Termales resort

Visit

www.puebla.travel/chignahuapan
What to Do

Saturday

- Enjoy a breakfast of hollé tamales (prepared with the husk of corn kernels) or pascal tamales (made with beans and peanut sauce) in the Juárez and Zaragoza arches. And on those cold mornings you should try a pineapple or peanut atole.
- Visit the workshop of Eliseo Castillo where decorative perforated paper globes are made for festivals, although it’s always a good time to discover this delicate art.
- Take a trip to the nearby community of San Pablito—an Otomi town that has made amate paper since before the arrival of the Spanish—to discover how these ceremonial sheets are made in the workshop of the Santos Rojas family.
- Coffee is one of the things the town of Pahuatlán is very proud of. A visit to the Beneficio de Café owned by Don Conche Téllez is perhaps the best way to discover how coffee is processed here and, of course, to taste it.
- When dinner time arrives you can take the opportunity to try the smoked cecina, the molotes (a corn and potato masa with a filling) and the onion tacos with strips of pork skins.

Inhabited by Nahuas and Otomies, there is always something magical in Pahuatlán. Here you will find shamans still offering their cures, drinking coffee, looking to the clouds to predict rain and performing the Danza de los Voladores for festivals.
Sunday
• Don’t miss the Sunday street market or *tianguis dominical* where the Nahua and Otomi communities located around the town offer their wares, transforming the town into a colorful harvest.
• If you walk to the center of town you should visit the Parroquia del Señor Santiago and submerge yourself in the universe of fragrances at the Mercado Municipal.
• If you go to the Puente Colgante Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla that connects Pahuatlán to the Xolotla community you can go swimming in the Pahuatitla River that runs beneath it (weather permitting, of course).
• The Mirador de Ahíla viewpoint has breathtaking views, since this elevated community offers a panoramic view of Pahuatlán in the distance. And while some people go paragliding from here, cyclists make the most of the hilly countryside below.
• Just a few miles south is the small town of Honey which still has railroad tracks for the trains that no longer pass through. A visit to this town is a great way to imagine how it was to live in the past.

What to Buy
• Coffee
• Liqueur of acachul (a wild grape)
• Nahua embroidery from Atla
• Amate paper from San Pablo

Visit
www.puebla.travel/pahuatlan
Discover Puebla

Xicotepec

What to Do

Saturday

• For lunch try the famous local specialty chili with eggs (in salsa macha or mora sauce) accompanied with cecina at the La Terraza restaurant of the Hotel Plaza San Carlos. Very close to the hotel is the Parroquia de San Juan Bautista which is also worth a visit.
• Do some shopping at the Ma-Xicotl handicrafts store where you will find piles of wooden bags, leather belts and boots, cushions embroidered with Nahua motifs, and cotton clothing. The earrings and necklaces made from seeds or fruit peel are also eye-catching.

<images and text>

The people here are as friendly as the temperate climate in which they live. You can pick pahua and chalahuite pods from the trees, buy the cheese bread from Don Aristeo who sells in the arches and breathe in the aroma of freshly toasted coffee as you walk through the main square.

Tlaxcalantongo is a treasure hidden in the misty mountains.

Ma-Xicotl handicrafts are colorful and varied.

Xicotepec de Juarez Pueblo Magico
Visit Tlaxcalantongo, roughly 16 miles from Xicotepec, where the monument to Venustiano Carranza and the Cascadas Barbas de Carranza waterfalls are a must.

See the Monumental Virgin of Guadalupe, a 75-foot high sculpture the town affectionately worships in the El Tabacal neighborhood.

Spend the evening at the El Gallo bar, a pleasant spot where you can try a drink that mixes vodka with acachul (a local liqueur) and a lemon ice pop.

Sunday

Start the day with a cup of coffee at the Bunte or Gori cafés where you can watch the people walking through the Plaza de la Constitución.

Just a few steps away is the Museo Casa Carranza which provides details of the death of Don Venustiano.

Take a stroll down Porfirio Díaz Street and you will soon reach the sacred place of Xicotepec: the Xochipila. This is a ceremonial center which is visited each year by a torchlight procession that gives thanks for favors granted.

Don’t miss the chance to try the quails’ eggs and acamayas (freshwater prawns) at the La Curva restaurant. The eggs are served as a snack while the prawns are a delicacy that can be ordered in butter or a garlic sauce.

Spend the afternoon in the Casa del Monje just over a mile from the center of town. This house belonged to the painter Carlos Tejada and it is said to be haunted. The charming gardens of the house invite you to take a pleasant walk.
Discover Puebla
Parroquia de Santiago Apóstol, Chignahuapan.
Laguna de Chignahuapan.
Hand-loom weaving, Cuetzalan.
Zacatlán.
Zapotitlán de Méndez.
Filled gorditas.
The Dance of the Moors.
Cascadas Barbas de Carranza, Xicopec.
Quetzalapan.
Zacatlán.
Coffee flower.
Chignahuapan.
Tlatlaquitepec.
Chiltepín.
Chalahuites.
Here we offer 7 indispensable visits as part of a trip through Puebla’s northern mountains. Oaks and ferns, banks of mist and glorious landscapes await visitors.
General Information

Connectivity
Highways 152, 150; federal roads 119, 121, 130; state roads 146, 575.

From Mexico City

Del Sur Central Bus Station: Taxqueña 1320, between Calz. de Tlahpan and Canal de Miramontes, Campestre Churubusco. T. (0155) 5689 9745. Lines: ADO.


From the City of Puebla

In the Sierra Mágica
Chignahuapan Central Bus Station: Abasolo esq. G. Priero s/n, Centro.
Huauchinango Central Bus Station: Mexico-Tuxpan road s/n, El Paraiso.
Xicotepec Central Bus Station: Hidalgo s/n, Centro.
Zacatlán Central Bus Station: Ciudad Serdán on the corner of Camino Real s/n, San Bartolo.

Puebla International Airport Km. 91.5 on the Mexico-Puebla federal road, Huejotzingo. T. (01227) 102 5080. www.aeropuertopuebla.com Airlines: Aeroméxico, Volaris, United Airlines.

Location: In the north of the state of Puebla.
Borders: North-Veracruz; West-Hidalgo and Veracruz; East-Veracruz; South-Tlaxcala.

Municipalities: Ahuacatlán, Ahuazotepec, Aquixtla, Chignahuapan, Francisco Z. Mena, Honey, Huauchinango, Ixtacamaxtitlán, Jonotla, Juan Galindo, Naupan, Tetela de Ocampo, Tlacuilotepec, Xicotepec, Xochiapulco, Zapotitlán de Méndez, Pahuatlán, and Zacatlán.
Area: 1,578.4 square miles.
Orography: Sierra de Puebla and Declive del Golfo.

Climate: Warm and semi-warm in summer, moderate-cold in winter, with rain and fog all year round.

Recommendations:
• A full trip around the Sierra Mágica will take about 5 days, starting in Ixtacamaxtitlán and ending in Pahuatlán.
• You can make short trips on weekends to visit each of the individual destinations.
• Use light comfortable clothing for the afternoons, but in the mornings and at night you will need boots and a jacket. Always carry an umbrella or raincoat.
• Hire the services of a tour operator for activities such as abseiling, caving, shooting rapids, camping, and mountain biking.
• Be sure to take a camera so you can capture the scenery and highlights of each destination.
• Since fog rolls in at night it is important to travel between towns by road during the day.

www.facebook.com/Secretaria de Turismo Puebla (Puebla Ministry of Tourism)
Twitter.com/TurismoenPuebla (Tourism in Puebla)
Instagram/turismoenpuebla

www.PUEBLA.travel
Ixtacamaxtitlán
Among Hills and Churches

Why visit?
For religious tourism
Surrounded by junipers and small mountains, San Francisco Ixtacamaxtitlán is located in Puebla’s Sierra Norte. This is the valley where ages ago the Apulco River learned to weave its way through the hilly landscape. Higher up you will find Tetela de Ocampo and Chignahuapan, but here you are still close to the state of Tlaxcala. If you visit this municipality you must do so in silence, lending an ear to the sounds of nature and on the lookout for the many colorful churches that dot these mountains.

What You Need to Know
In Náhuatl Ixtacamaxtitlán means “place of the white camaxtli” or “place near the white strip”, but if you are looking for a geographical reference in the translation, the fact of the matter is the people of the town prefer to think of the divine implications of the name: Camaxtli was a Tlaxcalteca deity and in the pre-Hispanic world white was associated with the north and old age. It is therefore possible that in this town to the north of Tlaxcala they worship the god of hunting and war, of hope and fire. This is a strange fate for this altépetl or lordship, sharing gods with its Tlaxcalteca neighbors, since it was forced to fight them in the famous wars, or guerras floridas, organized by the Mexicas (Aztecs).
Discover Puebla

**Don’t Miss**
In the Plaza Principal, where the recently completed shiny blue Palacio Municipal stands, you will also find the Casa de las Artesanías. Here you will find items made by a group of eight artisans: tablecloths, napkins, clay pots, spinning tops, baleros (cup-and-ball), miniature boats and wooden planes; totomoxte (corn leaf) flowers and palm leaf baskets. Everything is hung, stacked or hidden behind a showcase cabinet you’ll need to look into to discover the small toy presses for making tortillas.

*From Church to Church*
People visit Ixtacamaxtitlán to admire the mountains and the churches, the majority of which were dependent on the convent project established here by the Franciscans in the 16th century. This is why the churches were all founded at roughly the same time and are relatively close to each other. The first of these churches that demands your attention is the **Ex Convento de San Francisco**, located in the municipal seat. Visitors enter through a disused cemetery that now serves as a park just in front of the church. While to one side you will see the single orange freestanding tower that houses the church bell, your eyes will be drawn to the former convent, now a church, with its stone facade and beautiful Talavera dome which is almost hidden in the background.

For 25 years this convent was run by Franciscans before becoming a parish church. However, the beauty of the architecture and altarpieces lives on.
When you enter Ixtacamaxtitlán you will travel along magical paths that lead to the river and the Cerro de Acolhua, where you will find the silent Capilla de San Francisquito and a spectacular view.

Once inside you will see a pair of lateral chapels and three amazing naves. The first of these chapels is dedicated to the Señor del Buen Viaje—the saint that since Colonial times has been worshipped by muleteers and travelers—and it features a handful of altarpieces and Baroque paintings under a starry ceiling painted in tempera; the second is the Capilla de la Virgen del Carmen where people pray to the Virgin’s image captured on the white and gold altarpiece, also executed in the Baroque style. The main altar features an image of the patron saint embracing Christ. Every October 4 tribute is paid to St. Francis of Assisi here and the day is celebrated with dancing, processions and bull fighting.

On the other side of the Apulco River the landscape is interrupted by the proud Cerro de Acolhua and the surrounding rocks. This is the sacred hill people worshipped in the past and which has seen the passage of the gods and the centuries. Perhaps the best place for viewing the hill, or at least the most mystical, is from the Capilla de San Francisquito, a small church high on a hill in the Tlajomulco community—where the locals make a very good mezcal de pechuga you really should try. The doors of the San Francisquito will be closed since the only day they are left open is October 5 when the church celebrates its own festival.

Don’t Miss

To reach the Iglesia de San Francisquito you’ll need to travel in a four wheel drive vehicle since the route to the church is along a steep and rugged dirt road. You can also check with the Tourism Office to see if they program guided tours.
A few hills further along is the Iglesia de San Andrés Tepexoxuca, which is memorable not only because its facade includes an image of the national emblem from the period of Porfirio Díaz, or because there is a sun dial to one side of the church, but because the interior has been executed to reflect the imaginary of the community: it was the people of the town who painted the interior of the church to create an exciting universe of colors and figures. The main altar features an image of San Andrés Apóstol, proudly carrying his cross in the form of an “x”; a chapel to the left is dedicated to the Sacred Heart, while on the right there is a small Baroque estipite altarpiece with Jesus Christ in the center which forms part of the internal order established here.

Another place worth visiting is the Santuario del Señor de la Salud, in Huixcolotla, home of the miraculous Christ. The faithful travel from near and far to see it. At the top of the facade is a triangle of the holy trinity and the radiant dove of the Holy Spirit while below, between the columns, are four elongated angels made by indigenous people that stare seriously into the sky from their niches. Inside,
During Lent you should definitely try the famous escamoles (ants’ eggs) from Ixtacamaxtitlán. Along with mole poblano, barbacoa and lamb mixiotes this is one of the most typical dishes in Puebla. These dishes are usually accompanied by pulque made in Tentzoncuahuigto and the best place to try them is at the Cocina La Teja restaurant (Narciso Mendoza s/n).

The Highlights: Museo Comunitario
An old chapel with a faded white facade was chosen by the people of Ixtacamaxtitlán as the site for a Museo Comunitario which houses an archeological collection that gives testimony of the town’s pre-Hispanic past. Here you will find metal objects, pots, clay figures, earthenware stamps and spindles, and obsidian knives and spearheads. Of particular interest are a gold leaf embossed bracelet and a necklace of bone and shells. There is also a quarried stone ocelot with its feet standing on serpents that was found at the Cerro de Alcohua; in Náhuatl cosmogony this is none other than Tezcatlipoca Rojo, the god worshipped by Tlaxcaltecas who knew it by the name of Camaxtli (Reforma s/n; Tues to Sun, 9 am to 2 pm and 4 pm to 6 pm).
Tetela de Ocampo
Of Heroes and Murals

Why visit?
For the handicrafts
Guarded by the Cerro Sotolo and Cerro Soyayo, Tetela awakens every morning with its eyes set firmly on the past. It looks back to a time when it was known as Tetela de Oro, not Tetela de Ocampo, and its days were marked by the rhythm of mining and the workshops producing wrought iron. In the 19th century the liberal leanings of the town would lead it to participate in numerous battles against the conservatives. Furthermore, the incendiary Tetela will always remember its participation in the battle known as Batalla del Cinco de Mayo of 1862.

A Walk through the Center of Town
The small towns nestled in the mountains of Puebla possess a certain grandeur, as if the comings and goings of the surrounding hills somehow stretch or undo the knot of houses forming a spot on the horizon. The houses in Tetela are often very old, with tiled roofs and white walls, and are built around the Plaza de la Constitución where palm and pepper trees have stood for ages. A star in the center marks the spot where at times a dancing fountain erupts into life and to the sides there are a pair of monuments: one is of Benito Juárez and the other of “Los Tres Juanes”: Juan Crisóstomo Bonilla, Juan Nepomuceno Méndez and Juan Francisco Lucas, three generals who achieved glory during the Second French Intervention. A block from here is the Mercado Municipal where women prepare gorditas from the early hours of the morning.

Connectivity
Zacatlán de las Manzanas
57.8 km / 1:17 h
State road 575, federal road 148.

Puebla
86 miles / 2:23 h
Federal roads 121, 119, 148.

Tlaxcala
67 miles / 1:50 h
Federal roads 119, 121, 148.

Mexico City
137 miles / 3 h
Federal roads 150, 119, 121, 148.

How to Get There
By Car:
From Ixtacamaxtitlán take federal road 125 to Chignahuapan, take the deviation to Aquixtla, then continue along the mountain road that connects Chignahuapan with Zacapoaxtla.

By Bus:
From Mexico City – TAPO:
Atah.
From the City of Puebla – CAPU:
Atah and Verdes.

Town Hall
Town Hall
Plaza de la Constitución s/n.
T. (01797) 973 0006.

www.PUEBLA.travel
The history of Tetela can be learned by viewing the murals that adorn the walls of the Palacio Municipal. There are two in the events room, with one of them being modeled on a codex depicting the creation of the town while the other tells the story, in high relief, of the Batalla del Cinco de Mayo. However, it is the recently inaugurated mural in the arches of the Palacio that most dramatically tells the story of this glorious episode in the history of Tetela when the local people, or Tetelenses, and other mountain dwellers defeated the French. Benito Juárez, Ignacio Zaragoza and Melchor Ocampo all appear in the mural, along with “Los Tres Juanes” with their serious expressions and the air of dignity that only comes with the defense of national sovereignty. Entitled Fecha Inmortal, the mural is the work of Sergio Ávalos, the artist who is currently working on the construction of a hemiciclo (semicircle) that will pay tribute to the Sixth Battalion of the National Guard of the State of Puebla.

The mist covered hills are custodians of the white houses with shingle roofs that are so symbolic of Tetela de Ocampo.

The mural Fecha Inmortal tells of the glorious battle to free the people of Puebla from the French.
Whether made with chicken, beef or pork, the aroma of tixmole will whet any appetite.

Festivals are held and confessions heard at the Parroquia de Santa María de la Asunción.

Along De la Paz Avenue, to the west of the main square, you arrive at the Parroquia de Santa María de la Asunción. A bridge crosses the avenue and by simply crossing this bridge you will reach the home of the beloved Virgin, which was built in the 19th century. The church is orange with just one atrium and if you climb the bell tower you will see why it’s the hilltops swathed in mist and not the walls of the church that really protect the Virgin. Inside, the Virgin waits with her arms open wide and, surrounded by angels and cherubs, looks to the sky painted in oils on the ceiling of the dome. From the domed ceiling hangs an enormous chandelier that adds brightness and a glow to this meeting with the queen of Tetela.

The Highlights: The Museo de los Tres Juanes
On the upper floor of the Palacio Municipal you will find this museum exhibiting pre-Hispanic pieces found in the region along with the objects most cherished by the people of Tetela: those that serve as reminders of the town’s participation in the Batalla del Cinco de Mayo, when a handful of Mexican heroes emerged during the defense of Puebla and the nation during the Second French Intervention. These acts mark a date worthy of commemoration: May 5th, 1862. The first room houses pots, hand grenades, projectile tips, metates (grinding stones) and fragments of figures dating from before the Spanish Conquest.

Discover the flavor of tixmole, an unforgettable part of the gastronomic tradition of the region. Marina Fuentes prepares it with the necessary love and care at her restaurant Casa Grande (3 Sur 22). Tixmole is a mole de olla that can be made using beef, chicken or pork and when it doesn’t include vegetables it will contain “chayotextle”, the root of the chayote squash.
So as not to forget the bellicose events of the 19th century or the liberal sympathies that characterized the town at that time, the second room exhibits a canon used during the war, a pair of flags found on the battlefield and an image of Melchor Ocampo, to whom Tetela now owes its name. But perhaps the greatest treasures in the museum are the portraits of “Los Tres Juanes”: Juan Cristósto Bonilla, Juan Nepomuceno Méndez and Juan Francisco Lucas (the first two were from Tetela while the third was born in Zacapoaxtla). These were the liberal leaders who fought against the French at the head of the Sixth Battalion of the National Guard of the State of Puebla and who later affiliated themselves, in 1867, to the Plan de Tuxtepec launched by Porfirio Díaz.

The museum’s collection also includes old tools used in the mines of this region and also recreates a miniature forging workshop, an activity that was a specialty of the Tetelenses but has gradually died out. A pair of traditional dresses and palm handicrafts complete the exhibits (Mon to Fri, 9 am to 9 pm; Sun, 9 am to 4 pm; T. 01797 976 3287).
Hand Crafted

You really must visit Tetela on a Sunday for the domingos de plaza when artisans set up their eye-catching stalls in front of the Palacio Municipal. Here you will find petates (mats) and morrales (rucksacks), which are woven from palm leaf in the community of La Lagunilla, woven wool fabrics from Xaltatempa de Lucas, and quechquémitl from Hueyapan, beautiful triangular indigenous garments that are embroidered with a universe of designs, animals and flowers and are used by women as a wrap.

Máscaras de huehues—masks carved from cedar wood that form part of the colorful dances that inject life into the Festival del Huehue in February—, baskets made from reeds and figures made from tin and wire can also be found at these stalls, as can the fruit wines common to the region; there are plum, apple, peach and pine nut wines, as well as a wine made from “huiquiño”, a wild fruit.

If you’re lucky, in the neighboring community of Tlaxco you may find Alfonso Segura, an artisan surrounded by his hand crafted wooden spoons. You will be amazed to see him transform a piece of wood into a pair of large spoons, discovering how his art is not so much a work of the imagination as an almost primitive ritual for which not only the hands but also the feet work a small lathe on the floor. Curious visitors should also stop to see the leather belts Juan Méndez stamps and embroiders with cotton thread (his stall is on 3 Sur 5).

In this town people use their feet as well as their hands to craft unique pieces, such as the wooden spoons of Don Alfonso Segura. There are also baskets and saddlery items.

Recommend

Right where the cantina El Atorón used to stand you can now buy the fruit wines made by Darío Torres (2 Sur 10). Across the road you will find the Pulquería El Tigre, a quaint place to enjoy this drink made from maguey.
Discover Puebla

**Peach Festival**

The Saturday preceding August 15—the day when the town’s patron saint, the Santísima Virgen de la Asunción, is celebrated—is when the festivities start for what was once a celebration of the abundance of peaches (very few orchards now remain) but which now serves as a week-long expression of the religiosity and folklore of Tetelenses. Nearby communities arrive carrying their saints, ready to participate in the procession staged on the day of the Virgin. The air is filled with music and fireworks as traditional dances are performed. There are basketball tournaments and comedians to make them laugh, book presentations, painting exhibitions and globes made from decorative perforated paper.

**In the Trees**

Eleven miles northwest of here is the community of Xaltatempa de Lucas where you will find the Cascada de Aconco waterfall. To get there you need to travel along a dirt road. From the federal road you can see the Cañón de Xaltatempa through which a river runs, indifferent to the walls of the canyon that reach up on both sides as if wanting to become trees. The Zempoal Tekitini group controls access to the two waterfalls (one of 328 feet and the other 130 feet). Here you can go abseiling, feel the wind on your face as you take the 525-foot zip line, take a stroll through a nursery of Ocote pines, eat fresh trout and spend the night in one of the three cabins. To the northeast of Tetela, in the community of Carreragco, you’ll find the Grutas de Acocomoca. This enclosed world measuring 200 yards long features a subterranean river and is replete with rocky formations.

**In addition to the natural beauty, at the Cascada de Aconco you can participate in sporting activities such as abseiling.**

**The Cañón de Xaltatempa, set in the mountains, offers surprises for all who visit.**

**Las Cabañas Campo Real provide a good center of operations.**

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**Peach Festival**

The Saturday preceding August 15—the day when the town’s patron saint, the Santísima Virgen de la Asunción, is celebrated—is when the festivities start for what was once a celebration of the abundance of peaches (very few orchards now remain) but which now serves as a week-long expression of the religiosity and folklore of Tetelenses. Nearby communities arrive carrying their saints, ready to participate in the procession staged on the day of the Virgin. The air is filled with music and fireworks as traditional dances are performed. There are basketball tournaments and comedians to make them laugh, book presentations, painting exhibitions and globes made from decorative perforated paper.

**In the Trees**

Eleven miles northwest of here is the community of Xaltatempa de Lucas where you will find the Cascada de Aconco waterfall. To get there you need to travel along a dirt road. From the federal road you can see the Cañón de Xaltatempa through which a river runs, indifferent to the walls of the canyon that reach up on both sides as if wanting to become trees. The Zempoal Tekitini group controls access to the two waterfalls (one of 328 feet and the other 130 feet). Here you can go abseiling, feel the wind on your face as you take the 525-foot zip line, take a stroll through a nursery of Ocote pines, eat fresh trout and spend the night in one of the three cabins. To the northeast of Tetela, in the community of Carreragco, you’ll find the Grutas de Acocomoca. This enclosed world measuring 200 yards long features a subterranean river and is replete with rocky formations.

**Don’t Miss**

Las Cabañas Campo Real offer an excellent option for accommodation, in particular because the owner, Germán Romero, organizes expeditions to the nearby mountains; he also offers **echinotherapy for children** (2 Norte and 9 Poniente; T. 01797 973 0024).

**Learn More**

Ten minutes from the center of town is La Cañada, which is now almost a ghost town but that in the past was filled with the hustle and bustle of mining activity. The town produced great quantities of gold but today only memories remain of its golden age in the old signs and buildings that have been left abandoned.
Nearby...

Aquixtla
This small town is located nearly 10 miles from Tetela, on the road to Chignahuapan. The road runs through the middle of town and on one side are the stepped central square and the single story Palacio Municipal which extends its arches as if they were trying to imitate the mountain landscape beyond. On the other side, on Juarez Street, are the two 19th-century churches Aquixtla treasures. The first of these is the Parroquia de San Juan Evangelista, with a facade that is a universe of mosaics and stained glass windows. Inside the main altar features an image of San Juan holding a feather in one hand and a book of his mythic gospels in the other with an eagle perched on them. The second is the Capilla del Padre Jesús, the image used by the town for its most sincere worship. Dressed in a red and gold tunic, Jesus seems to illuminate all those who stand before him.

Near Aquixtla there are two waterfalls well worth visiting: El Salto de Tepexcanal and Popocaya. At the first you can go abseiling and both waterfalls form natural pools ideal for swimming. The easiest way to reach them is to take a taxi from the taxi rank in the town’s main square.

There are workshops here that also make Christmas tree ornaments, just like in the neighboring municipality of Chignahuapan, as well as maguey honey and handmade cheeses. However, the most popular activity here is the making of earthenware items which can be bought from the numerous stalls set up alongside the federal road or at the Sunday street market or tianguis.
Zacatlán
Life Among Fruit and Clocks

Why visit?
For its apples and bread
Blanketed by fog according to the whims of the weather, when day breaks on this Magical Town, it’s hidden in the bush. Then the wind whisks the clouds away revealing the crags of Barranca de los Jilgueros, the town’s faithful companion. Here the only thing that’s never lacking is abundance: there’s no end to the scores of apples trees offering up their fruit, the monumental clocks devised by the people’s ingenuity, and the bakeries that fills the streets with sweet smells.

The World of Apples
Perhaps the first thing you should do when you get to Zacatlán—before an apple soft drink touches your lips and before you get a chance to satisfy the craving provoked by the sight of a bag of dehydrated apples—is go to the source of the beautiful, bright red fruit. A little over four miles from downtown you’ll find the little town of Tomatlán, full of orchards and plantations. Take a moment to visit the church, which is dedicated to San Joaquín and accompanied by a sole palm tree, looking something like an ascetic there by itself.

In Tomatlán you’ll find Rancho El Mayab (T. 01797 975 2227; www.cabanasenzacatlan.com.mx), a ranch dedicated to harvesting the earth’s gifts: pears, peaches, plums, but most of all, apples. In one visit you can learn all about fruit growing. There are also three cabins for those wishing to sleep among the apple trees and bikes can be borrowed to ride through the aromatic countryside.

Connectivity
Chignahuapan
9.9 miles / 12 min
Federal road 119.

Puebla
76 miles / 2:35 h
Federal roads 119, 121.

Tlaxcala
57.8 miles / 1:30 h
Federal road 119.

Ciudad de México
102.5 miles / 3 h
Federal roads 150, 119, 121.

How to Get There
By Car:
It’s 36 miles—a little over two hours—from Tetela de Ocampo to Zacatlán on the inter-sierra road connecting the two towns.

By Bus:
From Mexico City - Central del Norte: Futura, ATAH.
- TAPO: ATAH.
From the city of Puebla - CAPU: ATAH, Verdes.

Tourist Information
Town Hall
T. (01797) 975 5987
Two additional tourist info modules: next to the Reloj Floral in the Plaza Principal and the second at the southern access point, on Paseo de la Barranca.

www.PUEBLA.travel
Discover Puebla

Back in downtown Zacatlán, make sure you visit one of the hard cider shops such as **Bodegas Delicia (Tercera de Galeana 5)**, the factory started by Gilberto and Ernesto Martínez in 1928 for producing apple wine. A few years later they started making hard cider and later the unforgettable apple soft drink for which the region is famous. You can enter the machine room to see how the beverages are made but you’ll likely spend most of your time going over the store’s shelves that are jam-packed with local goods. Jars of wine, creams, and jams made with regional fruits (quince, peach, blueberry, blackberry, capulín, and plum) will catch your eye as you try to decide which to treat your palate to first.

**Central Time**

Unlike other squares, Zacatlán’s **Plaza de Armas** centers on a giant flower-covered clock. Installed in 1986 by Relojes Centenario, the two faces operate simultaneously moved by a central mechanism. If you walk south across Parque Juárez you’ll come to the **Parroquia de San Pedro y San Pablo**, a mid-17th century building with a bold grey stone facade. In its Neo-classical interior you can see Christ presiding over a white, gold-leaf altar attended on either side by none other than San Pedro and San Pablo. Before moving on from the church you’ve got to stop at the **Capilla de Guadalupe** and admire the colonial paintings with legends in Náhuatl as well as the stunning ceiling made of cedar beams.

Right by the church you can see the **Conjunto Conventual Franciscano**, displaying the typical sobriety with which the Franciscan monks imprinted all their constructions in the 16th century. The church has three naves, and, at the very back, after a long row of arches, the Inmaculada Concepción fondly receives visitors. Above her, in a backlit niche, there’s San Francisco. And as you walk along the floor of ancient bricks you’ll find traces of lost frescoes on the wall and an organ in the choir waiting to be played again. Today you’ll find the **Casa de la Cultura** and its **Museo Comunitario Luciano Márquez Becerra** occupying the cloister. This is the place to come to learn about the town’s history and pre-Hispanic past.

Whoever tries the apple soda will always remember the taste of this town in the Sierra.

The floral clock is the centerpiece of the Plaza de Armas.

**Recommends**

Burritas, picadas, morelianas, gusanos, and almohadas... all but various incarnations of the bread that put Zacatlán on the map: stuffed with ranchero cheese and sprinkled with pink sugar. You’ll have no problem finding trays full of it in the most traditional bakeries: **La Fama de Zacatlán (Luis Cabrera and Ocampo)**, **Pimentel (Luis Cabrera 15)**, **Vázquez (Melchor Ocampo 4)**, or **La Nacional (Luis Cabrera 56)**.
Nearby...

Ahuacatlán
This little town nestled among the mountains is 22 miles from Zacatlan. Seen from afar, the contrast of its orange church against a verdant green background delights the eyes. In person, a walk through the main square, or Zócalo—surrounded by old houses and their Spanish-tile roofs—uplifts the spirit. A clock in the center marks the hours that pass unhurriedly by. Populated by the Nahua and the Totonac, this town has its fair share of traditions. But here in the center there are two treasures in store for visitors.

The first is the Cascada Akuaticpak waterfall—hidden among the trees along with the Ixquihuacan River. The waterfall is not very high, but it strikes with enough force to soothe anyone who stops to admire its flow. The second is the Parroquia de San Juan Bautista, an 18th-century structure whose facade features the Baroque styling the indigenous made their own. From the twisted exterior columns you’d hardly guess what’s inside: a series of Solomonic Baroque altarpieces (the main one still retaining its gilt, the others now bare) that could well belong to a lavish urban cathedral.
Discover Puebla

**Highlights: Museo de Relojes y Autómatas Alberto Olvera Hernández**

We make clocks to feel time in the ticking of hands, to keep it close and not let it get too far away or go by too fast. But in Zacatlán people began making monumental-sized clocks at the beginning of the 20th century, when Don Alberto Olvera Hernández set to the task of making enormous, grandiloquent clocks. His works adorned churches, towers, and squares first in Mexico and then abroad. The clocks are known as Centenarios.

His sons learned the trade and today it’s his grandchildren, Luis and José Luis Olvera, who run the factory they inherited, which, as of 1993, also includes a museum. Thus anyone stepping foot inside this museum will find clocks in full production. While their grandfather only made mechanical clocks, the following generations would have to develop electro-mechanical clocks.

While the manufacturing marches forward, the museum takes you back to the most ancient clocks—those that used the sun, shadows, water, sand, or fire to measure time. It covers monumental clocks and those made to decorate walls and shows us how the need to take time everywhere resulted in pocket and wristwatches (Nigromante 3; Mon to Fri, 10 am to 5 pm; Sat and Sun, until 3 pm).

**Master Hands**

Next to the Ex Convento Franciscano, in the Plaza Santa Cecilia, objects created by artisan hands come together (Mon to Thu, 10 am to 5 pm). Here you’ll find embroidery from Huachinango, clay jars from San Miguel Tenango as well as blouses and hair ribbons. There are also figurines made from totomoxte (corn leaf) and reed-woven baskets. Objects made from pine needles will catch your eye: jewelry boxes, headbands, earrings, and even brooches. Some artisans make acorn purses while others use istle fiber to weave not just purses but also hats, belts, ornamental combs, and even lamps.

**In the Woods**

Just over six miles from downtown, you’ll find a three-tier waterfall whose total height comes to 886 feet. It is highly regarded by the people of Zacatlán. The Cascada de Tulimán is immersed in a pine and oak forest covering 227 acres. The water comes from the Quetzalapan River, which forcefully makes its way here where it hurriedly and relentlessly makes its descent, forming pools where people come to swim. The ecotourism park guarding this flowing wonder has placed cabins in the surrounding area as well as a camping area. There’s also a hanging bridge and a zip line.

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**Learn More...**

Following Luis Cabrera Street just out of town, you’ll come to the neighboring community of Jicolapa. That’s where Los Pericos, the first wine and liquor factory, was founded. A sunset stroll among its Spanish-tiled roofs and the illuminated facade of the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Luz can be rewarding.

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**Don’t Miss**

See the show de autómatas (Animatronic Doll Show) that takes place on the balconies of the watch museum. Seven dolls dressed in the typical costume of different states appear at the window as digital carillon plays famous melodies (Fri, Sat, and Sun at 9 pm; Sat and Sun also at 12 and 2 pm).
Nearby...

Zapotitlán de Méndez
Located 23 miles from Ahuacatitlán, Zapotitlán de Méndez is a steamy, Totonac town at the base of the mountains where there is little wind or noise. The Zempoala River runs through here. This river that runs by cliffs and oak trees knows the geography of the Sierra Norte by heart. An old stone bridge crosses the river. Zapotitlán greets each new day with its cobblestone streets, a downtown pavilion, and the chiming of bells of the campanile of the Parroquia de la Santísima Virgen de la Natividad calling people to mass. Built at the end of the 19th century, a stone frame on the church’s simple facade encloses carved flowers. As visitors enter the heavy cedar doors they are greeted by the imperturbable gaze of the Virgin cloaked in her blue mantle and starry aureola.

From the church you can walk to the Cascada Cruz de Agua waterfall, a not-too-dense stream of water where locals come to cool off and thrill-seekers come to abseiling. Also in the vicinity are the Grutas Karmidas, the vaulted caves of stalactites and stalagmites that demand to be explored. Whoever endeavors to make it to the Grutas (there are guides to show the way) will be rewarded with a view they’d never dreamed of: there’s a lake in which the rock formations are reflected, fooling your eyes into thinking they’re looking at an underwater city.

If you’re in Zapotitlán you’ve got to eat at El Buen Sazón (Vicente Guerrero, above the primary school). This is where you can try the dishes that your palate won’t soon forget: gorditas stuffed with pata de gallo (a local herb), fava bean soup with rice, nopals, and spearmint, and tixmole (beef stew).
Discover Puebla

Additionally, you can bathe in a mineral water spring. Those interested can also go abseiling down a cliff, climb trees, or check out the dark inside of a hollow tree (Mon to Sun, 8 am to 6 pm; www.cascadastuliman.com.mx). A world of forests and solitary rocks unfolds 17.4 miles from Zacatlán. Every afternoon parts of the landscape disappear under a white mantle of fog. This is the Valle de las Piedras Encimadas, where the eyes wander only to settle on the strange rocky formations found here. The valley’s stones, which appear to have been “stacked” on top of one another, were actually carved by the elements. It would appear that an inspired Mother Nature decided to sculpt one day or to playfully juxtapose stones the next. Horseback and wagon tours are available, but perhaps there’s no better way to see the valley than renting a bike at the entrance. There’s also a camping area and a 393-foot zip line (Mon to Sun, 9 am to 4 pm).

Don’t Miss

A stone’s throw from the Cascada de Tulimán you’ll find the Campestre La Barranca cabins equipped with fireplace and a view of the Barranca de los Jilgueros. A good site for spending the night if you prefer to be surrounded by nature (Km 66.5 on the Apizaco-Zacatlán road; T. 01797 975 2233).

Festivities

• The Festival Ilhuitl Cuaxóchitl takes place during Holy Week—three days of dance and indigenous traditions. Representatives from the municipality’s different regions come to Zacatlán from San Miguel Tenango, Xonotla, Cuacuila, Zoquitla, Yehuala, and San Cristóbal Xochimilpa to celebrate the crowning of a local queen with food and dance.

• The first Saturday prior to August 15 (Virgen de la Asunción Day, the patron saint of fruit growers) marks the start of Zacatlán’s biggest festival, the Feria de la Manzana, celebrating its most famous fruit. During the week of celebrations an apple blessing is performed at the Parroquia de San Pedro y San Pablo, the Virgen de la Asunción is paraded through the streets accompanied by the Reina de la Manzana (Apple Queen), and apples are tossed in abundance from floats. The most beautiful handicrafts are on display and you can witness dances, concerts, and poetry readings.

• The Festival de la Sidra is held in November, when the biggest hard cider manufacturers (Bodegas Delicia, Sidrera San Rafael, Manzanita Zacatlán, Vinos Martinez, and Los Manzanos Zacatlán) come together in the main square to display their products and elect a queen.
Flavors of the Sierra

From escamoles to tamales de hollejo, here are the culinary delights of the Sierra Mágica that you do not want to miss.

**Acachul:** Liquor made from this wild fruit, similar to a grape or the capulín, it turns purple when cut open. Look for it in Pahuatlán, Huauchinango, and Xicotépec.

**Acamayas:** This crustacean is a delicacy in Huauchinango, Xicotépec, and Cuetzalan. Anyway you try it—al ajo (with garlic), a la mantequilla (in butter), or in chilpachole (broth made from chile ancho)—you won’t soon forget it.

**Chícalas:** Giant winged ants that emerge with the first rains and are eaten fried with chiletepín (a type of chili pepper) or prepared in sauce. Enjoyed in Xicotépec and Pahuatlán.

**Chile con huevo:** This dish of the Sierra is found in Zacatlán, Huauchinango, or Xicotépec. Consists of eggs in a number of types of chili sauces: macha, mora, verde, roja, pasilla.

**Conejo enchiltepinado:** Rabbit cooked in the chili that most abounds in the Sierra: chiletepín. Found in Xicotépec, Chignahuapan, and Zacatlán, among other places.

**Escamoles:** During Lent you’ll find the celebrated ant larvae hitting the frying pan in Ixtacamaxtitlán and Chignahuapan.

**Frijoles con xocoyoli:** This dish is made in Cuetzalan and consists of beans with the stalk of a local plant, the xocoyoli. The indigenous people tend to boil the plant with a bit of ash in order to reduce its bitter flavor.

**Fruit jams and liqueurs:** In all the towns of the Sierra you’ll find people making the most of the fruits at hand to fill bottles and jars. Passionfruit, jiboa (a hard, acidic fruit), pineapple, capulín, or quince—all flavors are something to be experienced.

**Mixiotes de carne:rs:** You’ll find the practice of rubbing meat with chili and wrapping it in the film of the maguey used for making pulque common throughout the Sierra. For example, try Zacatlán, Chignahuapan, or Ixtacamaxtitlán.

**Pan de queso:** The sweet bread that fills the bakeries of Zacatlán and Chignahuapan. It’s filled with ranchero cheese and pink sugar.

**Tamales de puliente:** Puliente refers to a fist, which these tamales resemble. Part of Huauchinango’s culinary repertoire.

**Tamales de hollejo and de pascal:** Both of these tamales are common in Pahuatlán. Tamales de hollejo are made with the skins of corn kernels while the tamales de pascal are made with a mix of beans and peanuts.

**Tlacoyos or tlayoyos:** Corn-based snacks found throughout the Sierra. Filled with beans or a paste made from fava beans and avocado leaf.

**Tixmole:** The traditional stew prepared with beef, pork, or chicken in Tetela de Ocampo and Zapotitlán de Méndez. Sometimes chayote root, or “chayotextle,” is added in place of vegetables. Elsewhere, like in Tlatlauquitepec, this dish is known as “chilpozontle.”

**Yolixpa:** Lovingly shared throughout the Sierra, no one passes up this herbal liqueur. It’s not only good for raising spirits, it also “cures spooks,” relieves pain, and relaxes the muscles.
Chignahuapan
The Town of Colors

Why visit?
For its lake and its spheres

Discover Puebla
This town is known for its colorful houses, its colorful pavilion and its colorful handicrafts. Where the wind blows the most vibrant tonalities around until everything is left bright and colorful. It was once Totonac territory. In the times of Hernán Cortés it was El Tetehuític, where the Chichimecs worshipped Mixcóatl, the god of rain. It was and still is a place where the water flows. Its lake and its rivers, its waterfall and hot springs all tell of its abundance.

Around the Pavilion
Downtown always revolves around this brightly-colored pavilion. Built of wood in 1871, with an intricate framework only seen in Mudejar art, the pavilion witnesses the daily comings and goings of the Plaza de la Constitución. Underneath there’s a fountain that is sometimes forgotten. A few steps away a pair of busts pay solemn tribute to Rafael Méndez and Ildefonso Illescas. The former taught the town the craft of sphere-making, the latter was the priest who labored to see that the Basílica de la Inmaculada Concepción was erected. A statue of Gaspar Henaine, better known as “Capulina,” serves as reminder that the famous comedian was born here.
Discover Puebla

The day to day activities of Chignahuapan occur amongst the fog.
The murals of the Palacio Municipal relate the history of this Magical Town.
It's a delight to take a detailed look at the Parroquia de Santiago Apóstol.

The Palacio Municipal and the Parroquia de Santiago Apóstol frame the eastern edge of the square. Stop at the entrance to the Palacio for a peek at a pair of murals that tell you everything you need to know about Chignahuapan—from the pre-Hispanic legend that relates its founding or the dance of Los Santiagueros that honors the town’s patron saint, to the thousand-light offering held on the Day of the Dead.
The church is a whole other universe inviting you to slowly, inquisitively approach. While the church was established in the 16th century, the current mortar facade was designed and retouched between 1752 and 1822. It’s one of the best examples of Baroque with indigenous styling. Laborers hid their gods among the series of Christian images. Just look and you’ll find something. For example, the rain god Tláloc is among the fruits and reliefs. The gargoyles are in the form of serpents who silently hold prayers directed to Quetzalcóatl. Above, in the third
tier, Santiago Apóstol appears in high relief. He seems to bear the entire Middle Ages with him: mounted on his horse with his sword drawn, and the flag waving as if all the battles were just beginning. The first clock manufactured by the famous Centenario factory in Zacatlán can be found in the right-hand tower. Inside the church above a Neo-classical altar there’s the Virgen de la Asunción. She is flanked on either side by a pair of Baroque altarpieces, dedicated to the Sagrado Corazón and the Inmaculada Concepción.

The latter has a home only a stone’s throw from the main square, on Romero Vargas Street. It’s the Basílica Menor de la Inmaculada Concepción and it only exists thanks to the efforts of Father Ildefonso Illescas, who, instead of tithe, requested that the faithful help out by bringing stones for its construction. Of enormous proportions at 46 feet high, with her blue mantle flying behind her, the image of the Inmaculada seems to welcome anyone who approaches her. José Luis and Carmen Silva made the image in the 1960s entirely from cedar. In the arms the Virgin carries the baby Jesus who in turn holds in the dove of the Holy Spirit.

Don’t Miss
Stop in at the Panadería La Condesa (Romero Vargas 32) and try the pan de higo (fig bread) they make there. You’ll also find the typical pan de queso that Chignahuapan shares with Zacatlán, and “pan de cuelga,” which used to be given away as sign of commitment.
Discover Puebla

The Laguna de Chignahuapan
Located in downtown, this mythical lake is a must-see. It gave the town its name. Its nine springs, or waterholes, are precisely what the Náhuatl term “Chignahuapan” means. In November a torch procession leads here to celebrate the Festival de la Luz y de la Vida at the theater. And there’s a pre-Hispanic legend that says that all souls must first pass through nine steps (nine waterholes) before reaching the Mictlán. Symbolism aside, the lake demands a prolonged look. Sparkling, with the reflection of passing clouds, it’s the perfect place for a boat ride. It’s also perfect for receiving trout-fishing enthusiasts at the Torneo de Pesca de Trucha in September.

Master Hands
There was a time when wood was Chignahuapan’s lifeblood. Its inhabitants learned that they could make a living from the trees and went to work developing certified forests, opening sawmills, and creating furniture. Then the Michoacán native Rafael Méndez came to town. It was he who taught the people here how to create Christmas ornaments. Little did he know that three decades later there would be hundreds of workshops like the one he first set up. Made of blown glass and painted by hand, the spheres are one of the most highly valued objects in this Magical Town.

Recommends
Taste the chalupas and tlacoyos, conejo en adobo (rabbit in adobo sauce), or conejo al chiletepín (rabbit in chili sauce) at the restaurant Rincón Mexicano (Nigromante 33). Also try the tacos de mómole de res that they’ve been making at the Taquería Mejorada (Guerrero 13) for over 40 years. Lovers of the Mexican favorite barbacoa (pit-barbecued goat) won’t want to miss it at El Asadero or Don Carmelo (both on Romero Vargas).
Those interested in ceramics should visit the workshop of the Castro Sosa family (Manuel Ávila Camacho, no number, in the Corredor Educativo). These four brothers learned how to shape clay from their father using the clay found in the area. They made flowerpots, pitchers, serving dishes, and whatever their imagination dictates. A wood-fire brick kiln is used to fire the pieces. It’s no surprise that their passionate work is certified by FONART.

**In the Woods**

At the border with Zacatlán, a little over four miles from Chignahuapan, you’ll find the Salto de Quetzalapan and the centro turístico (tourist center) developed based on this bountiful 656-foot high waterfall. A hydroelectric plant was established here years ago, in 1930. By the 1970s it was hardly being used. As a reminder of those times you’ll still find an old rusty engine room on the trail leading to the foot of the falls. The water pertains to the Quetzalapan River, originating at the Laguna de Chignahuapan. Here people go abseiling down the side of the waterfall. The fearless zip line above it, or allow their kids to do so on the children’s zip line, which crosses the river. They also walk along the adrenaline inducing high-voltage cable. There’s also a campground (Km 7 on the Chignahuapan-Zacatlán road; T. 01797 107 7030; www.quetzalapan.com).

**Festivities**

- July 25 is the Fiesta Patronal de Santiago Apóstol. But the festivities begin on the 20th and end on the 28th so as to allow enough time for organizing donkey races, top-spinning and cup-and-ball toy competitions, and dances like the chotis. In remembrance of the old pulquería (pulque bar) La Querendona, a recreation is set up in the main square. And there’s no forgetting that the Festival del Pulque y la Barbacoa is held at the same time, given that both pulque and barbacoa are freely available to passers by.

- From the last weekend of October to the first weekend of November the Feria Nacional del Árbol y la Esfera takes place. In two weeks everything that matters in Chignahuapan happens. Tribute is paid to the production of the Christmas spheres and ornaments that have brought such fame to the town. It’s a celebration of life with music and games, handicraft stalls, pulque and barbacoa, the crowning of a queen, and it wouldn’t be complete without a parade of floats.

- When it comes to Día de Muertos (The Day of the Dead) the celebrations take on a different tone. In the morning people leave in costumes to roam the main streets while a fake cemetery in front of the Parroquia de Santiago Apóstol rounds up the atmosphere. There’s a sight worth watching in the afternoon—the Festival de la Luz y de la Vida. In this celebration of light and of life, over a thousand torches symbolizing an offering are distributed and a pilgrimage slowly advances from the church, down the Calzada de las Almas, until it reaches the Laguna de Chignahuapan and the theater built on its shore. A pre-Hispanic ritual, fireworks, and a sense of belonging fill the hearts of those present.
Discover Puebla Nearby...

Aguas Termales

On the road to Aguas Termales, in the Barrio de Ixtlahuaca, you’ll find the Santuario del Honguito, the church that houses a strange petrified mushroom. They say it was found by miracle in 1880 and if you’re surprised it’s because on it you can see, through a magnifying lens, the figure of Christ. Submerged in a ravine, not even four miles from the town of the colors, there’s the Aguas Termales de Chignahuapan spa and resort. The Ajajalpan River runs through here on its way to the sea at Veracruz. But unlike the rushing river, here time is spent doing nothing but soaking the body in the calming warm waters. Guests staying in any of the hotel’s 65 rooms (each with a bathtub fed with warm spring water) have access to the 11 private pools. You can also pay general access and stroll among the public pools, of which there are both indoor and outdoor, the latter against a backdrop of crowded mountains. Whatever you do, everything here has the effect of soothing the soul—hot stone massages, thermal mud wraps, the temazcal. Relaxing oils made with citrus, rose creams, and wild roots are available for purchase as well as artisan soaps and face masks. And life goes on slow, wet, and perfect (Barrio de Tenextla, no number; T. 01797 971 0982; www.termaleschignahuapan.com.mx).
Hacienda Amoltepec

Just over four miles from Chignahuapan there’s a hacienda that was once dedicated to farming but now, as of three years ago, seeks to salvage the maguey cultivation and pulque production. Witnessing this fermented beverage’s magical production process is something worth considering. Here you’ll walk among maguey plants that have taken eight to ten years to mature. They are tented during full moons to keep the worms out and then shaven in a new moon to allow the “aguamiel” to trickle out in order to be turned into pulque. A visit to Amoltepec includes a tasting of the aguamiel and pulque, which is made here. The hacienda also has ten rooms that look as if they’ve been brought from the past. They’re arranged around a courtyard with a fountain in the middle. Horseback riding and mountain biking is possible in the vicinity, and boat rides are available on a lake that looks like it came out of a fairy tale (Km 3.5 on the Chignahuapan-Zacatlán road. T. 04797 598 0205; www.haciendaamoltepec.com).

ATV tours around Chignahuapan.

ATV and motocross are good options for exploring Chignahuapan’s surrounding areas. Monstruos de Agua offers tours ranging from one to seven hours. You’ll cross rivers, ravines, mountains, and caves. If you’re in Chignahuapan during the Feria Nacional del Árbol y la Esfera, you won’t want to miss the special route they organize for just one day (contact: Abel and Lázaro Rivera; C. 045797 101 4000 and C. 045797 105 8651; information also available at tourism offices).
Huauchinango
Place of the Flowers

Why visit?
For its reservoir, lakes and waterfalls
Part of Texcoco until the fall of Tenochtitlan, its advantageous geographical position led this town to become a stopover and trading point between Mexico City and Veracruz’s ports. “Surrounded by trees,” in Náhuatl, it’s also surrounded by rivers and waterfalls, reservoirs forming watery landscapes, and the ever-present Cerro de Zempoala. But Huauchinango is also azaleas, the queens of a retinue of flowers that never seem to end.

The Aroma of Toasted Peanuts
Huauchinango’s shaded Plaza de la Constitución has it all: branches of privets, jacarandas, palm fronds, and ash trees mingle above while a central fountain competes with the wrought iron pavilion in the corner for attention. Among the busts in memory of great heroes there’s the like of Rafael Cravioto, the distinguished liberal military man who was born here and is recognized for his participation in the U.S. Invasion, the Reform War, and the Second French Intervention. Women from Cuacuila are also present. They sit on the ground with their long nahuas and embroidered blouses selling tamales de puñete (which get their name from their resemblance to a puño, or fist) and boiled or toasted peanuts to anyone who passes by.

Connectivity

**Xicotepec**
14.9 miles / 30 min
Federal road 130.

**Puebla**
105.6 miles / 1:45 h
Federal roads 119, 121, 132.

**Tlaxcala**
81 miles / 1:15 h
Federal roads 119, 121, 132.

**Ciudad de México**
120 miles / 2 h
Highway 150; federal roads 121, 119, 132.

How to Get There

**By Car:**
Take highway 119 from Chignahuapan toward Beristáin, follow federal road 119 until the Tejocotal bypass connecting to Huauchinango.

**By Bus:**
From the city of Puebla - CAPU:
Atah and Verdes.
From Mexico City - TAPO:
ADO.
Del Norte Central Bus Station:
ADO, 4U y Atah.
Del Sur Central Bus Station:
ADO.

Tourist Information

Tourist Office
Mina 1, Centro.
T. (01776) 762 7338.

[www.puebla.travel](http://www.puebla.travel)
Discover Puebla

A stroll through the streets allows a glimpse into the essence of this town that's full of warmth.

Walk just a bit and you’ll arrive at Guillermo Ledesma y Manjarrez Street where there seems to be a gathering of churches. What started out in the 16th century as an Augustinian monastery is now the Santuario del Señor en su Santo Entierro, a church in the name of the town’s patron saint. With its exposed stone walls and an ambiance of simple tranquility, the complex has nothing more in the way of adornments that a central cross and the reclined image of Christ. To the right, a mural by Raúl Domínguez depicts the vicissitudes the church has undergone. On one side you’ll find the Capilla de la Virgen Rafael Cravioto, one of Huauchinango’s most revered heroes, is buried in the Panteón Municipal. His mausoleum is the work of Italian sculptor Adolfo Ponzanelli, the student of none other than Auguste Rodin. Ponzanelli was also influential in the construction of the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City.
From different eras, the Santuario del Señor en su Santo Entierro and the Iglesia de la Asunción contrast widely in their architecture but not in the love of their parishioners.

One of the delicacies of the Sierra Mágica is salsa con chiltepín, a typical regional flavor.

de Guadalupe and in front of church extends the grandiloquent Iglesia de la Asunción. Its giant blue dome attracts the eye, which, just getting used to such immensity, is thankful for the chandelier hanging in the center with silver spheres looking like miniature planets.

A couple of pavilions in the central garden sell regional products such as embroidered blouses, wooden toys from Tlacomulco, candies and jams, as well as the ever-sought-after macadamia nut and chiltepín chili. Additionally, there’s the handicrafts shop El Sabor de la Sierra (Plaza Maratea, Juárez 5), and on Guillermo Ledesma y Manjarrez Street there’s another place selling the creations of artisans.

Make the most of the abundant supply of macadamia nuts and try some every chance you get while in Huauchinango. Also look for chiltepín salsas, which are prepared in molcajetes (mortar and pestles), especially those mixed with ground peanuts. Don’t pass up your chance to try barbacoa (pit-roasted goat), gorditas (cornflour patties), and chile con huevo (eggs with salsa verde or salsa morita). Tostadas and enchiladas are part of the offerings at town restaurants. The hotel restaurants at La Casona (Hidalgo 5) and Mesón del Portal (Portal Hidalgo 1) are good dining options.

Recommends

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Discover Puebla

**Among Reservoirs**

Born in the very early days of the 20th century, when Porfirio Díaz was still inaugurating major projects that he’d later be commemorated for, the Sistema Hidroeléctrico Necaxa was the first system to provide power to the country’s central plateau. This required the building of five dams (one of which, El Tejocotal, belongs to the state of Hidalgo; the other four forming part of the territory of Huauchinango and other municipalities). Lucky for us the dams not only have a utilitarian purpose but can also be appreciated for the watery horizons they create, allowing the eye to wander.

Just over six miles to the northwest of Huauchinango you’ll find the **Presa Necaxa** (shared with the municipality of Juan Galindo). This is the biggest of all five and is connected to the others via a complex tunnel system. Venustiano Carranza supposedly came here twice. Nowadays it’s the visitor who comes to be awed as trees and clouds swirl about the water’s calm surface.

A few miles away there’s the **Presa Tenango**. In the 1950s it served as the stage on which María Félix and Pedro Infante would shine as only they knew how on the silver screen during the filming of Tizoc. The tiny stone house where they fell in love, if only in fiction, can still be seen in front of the reservoir. Boat rides and horseback riding are available here, as well as ziplining. A seafood restaurant on the shore satisfies any craving, or if you prefer, there’s the tlacoyos sold from the baskets of women who walk around the area. At Christmas time the atmosphere fills with smell of pine trees and the sight of poinsettias for sale.

**Learn More...**

Go to Tenango de las Flores not only for its beautiful reservoir but also for its ornamental plants at the **Mercado Isabel Díaz Castilla** (Mon to Sun, 7 am to 6 pm). This is an orderly world of leafy plants and flowers where agapanthus and bromeliads are for sale along with azaleas, orchids, and violets. You can also purchase cinnamon, pineapple, orange, and pepper trees.

**Don’t Miss**

Five miles from Huauchinango down the México-Tuxpan road and via the old Puente de Totoyapa there’s **Campestre Las Truchas**. This small reservoir with its waterfall and the invitation to spend the afternoon horseback riding promises an afternoon in full contact with nature. Not to mention you can get trout prepared any way you like.

Incomparable moments give rise where nature and the hand of man together create idyllic landscapes, such as those at Presa Necaxa and Presa Tenango.
The Consejo Municipal de Turismo makes it possible to explore the areas surrounding Huauchinango (with packages that include meals and lodging). They can take you to the reservoirs (boat and horseback rides) and the multiple waterfalls found in the municipality like the Cascada Xopanapa where you can practice abseiling, and the Cascadas de Totolapa and the Cascada de Tío Checo (contact Hugo Carlos Cabrera: C. 045776 767 8625; hccabreram@hotmail.com). The company Sierra Aventura Tours offers the same options as the tourism board (contact Alma Lizbeth Echeverría: C. 045776 100 1335; liz_jhc@hotmail.com).

Keep in Mind

The Feria de las Flores takes place at the end of February and beginning of March every year since 1938. Nine days of festivities commence with honors to the town’s patron saint, the Señor en su Santo Entierro, considered the protector of roads and mule drivers. The scene is set with a pilgrimage of azaleas of all colors. Then, all kind of plants and ornamental flowers are put on display. There’s music, dancing, and fireworks. Between the carpets of flowers and the parade of floats, don’t miss the crowning of the Reina de las Flores.

The Tamales of Cuacuila

A little over a mile from Huauchinango the community of Cuacuila is on the map. This is where people used to speak with fire when it came to asking someone to marry, where the silk worms that live in the canopy of trees give the town its name. Nahuatl is still spoken and the women have not shed the custom of dressing as those who came before them. They are known for their embroidery on blouses, napkins, and tablecloths, which you can find among the handicraft stands of Huauchinango. But what really gets people’s attention are the tamales that are made here. The Feria del Tamal takes place the second Sunday of June. That’s when the famous tamales de puñete (filled with chicken, rajas, or beans) and tamales de papantla (filled with various ingredients and wrapped in the leaf of the papantla plant) are given away.
Ahuazotepec
This town is located on the road between Zacatlán and Huauchinango (18.6 miles before reaching Huauchinango). It was once an Otomí community and is now a transportation center for large volumes of goods: sand, mosaics, livestock, and fruit. Life is centered on the Parroquia de San Nicolás de Tolentino, the church that was erected in the 19th century in honor of the town’s patron saint. Inside the church you can see the Augustinian saint carrying a dove and a tray of bread. He’s barefoot and wears a dark star-covered tunic. However, it’s the Señor de los Amparados who has won the heart of the people. The town’s people are honest workers who prepare tlacoyos on Cuauhtémoc Street or sell pulque on Mondays at the outdoor market. Check out the artisan Manuel Islas at his rustic chair shop. The frame is made of ocote pine and the seat is woven from reed.

At the El Portón restaurant (Magisterio Nacional 8) try something to please the palate: jerk beef, roast beef chops, conejo en salsa verde (rabbit in green chili sauce), beef mixiotes and barbacoa with chickpeas and carrots.
Naupan
This town lies hidden among the mountains 10.6 miles to the north of Huauchinango. Here you’ll find images that leave their mark on the spirit. Endless landscapes of air and clouds, of trees, fields, and pigeons come to roost on rooftops. The women keep tradition alive in the way they dress. Surrounded by coffee and chili pepper fields, this Nahua town easily wins visitors over.

People put peanuts out to dry on floors and on rooftops. On Mondays the Plaza Principal is filled with colors on market day. At the Iglesia de San Marcos the people pray to their patron saint. In his bright orange house of worship, the saint hears the people’s prayers. The ceiling is crossed by wood beams and the altar is of Baroque stipe.

It’s a good chance to enjoy the rhythm of the highlands and visit churches in a couple of neighboring towns: the Parroquia de San Isidro Labrador in Iczotitla (just over a mile away) and the Parroquia de San Bartolomé in Chachahuantla (over four miles away).

In Naupan people typically eat mole poblano, tamales de bola (made with pork and guajillo chili) and pascal (made from pumpkin seeds). For local flavor head to the cocina económica (a family-owned restaurant) on Villa Juárez Street. There you can also find embroidered blouses and the typical and gorgeous quechquemitl.
Xicotepec
The Smell of Sierra Coffee

Why visit?
For its coffee plantations
Unlike other spots on the map in the Sierra, Xicotepec turns out to be warmly engrossed in guava and mango trees. Its climate is more tropical, with a constant breeze coming from the Gulf. It’s no wonder then that “The Place of the Bumblebees,” as it is in Náhuatl, is also a town of coffee plantations. And so this little corner of the mountains greets the day smelling like coffee, believing in magic and in the ancient gods inherited from its pre-Hispanic past.

A Good Cup of Joe
When one thinks of Xicotepec, they think of coffee, so much so that the Plaza de la Constitución wouldn’t be the same if it didn’t sometimes smell like fresh roasted coffee, or without being able to watch the night fall from behind a cup of coffee at the cafeterias Bunte or Gonri. Surrounded by coffee plantations, the town has really made the most of the altitude and climate that fortune gave it. Walk along its long square, around the two-story pavilion and your gaze will settle on the corner of colorful wagons that have been used since the 1930s to transport small and heavy objects.
Discover Puebla

The south end of the square is occupied by the Palacio Municipal, which houses the meaningful and pre-Hispanic teponaxtle, an ebony instrument used in the ceremony held on June 24th in La Xochipila. The town hall building also contains murals by Felipe Castellanos telling the history and way of every day life of Xicotepec.

Walk along Iturbide Street, next to the Palacio, and you’ll come across the Parroquia de San Juan Bautista, formerly known as the Parroquia del Calvario. It’s a 16th-century construction built by Augustinian monks which was continually modified leaving its facade with its current Neo-Gothic appearance. A large wooden door surrounded by ogival arches leads to the Neo-Classical interior. Here you’ll find the image of Christ with San Juan Bautista and San José to one side.

Recommended

A good bet for lodging is the Hotel Plaza San Carlos (Hidalgo 100; T. 01764 1291). The facilities are new and it’s steps away from the Zócalo.
The smell of the coffee bean leads the way to the places where you can try it a thousand different ways.

The magic of ancient gods is harnessed at Xochipila, a sacred place.

In the western arches you can see Don Aristeo Soto selling the bread he’s been mastering for over 25 years. It’s made in stone oven with the skill only he possesses. Every day the various bakery items fly off the shelf: conchas, polvorones de nuez, pan de manteca, and pan de queso (Mon to Fri, 2 pm to 6:30 pm).

Walk back to the Zócalo, or main square, along Porfirio Díaz Street to find the roasted coffee shop Cafecísimo by Creleg. Walk a little further and almost without realizing it there’s La Xochipila, the cliff that has always served as a ceremonial center for the people of Xicotepec. The town’s energy gathers here, as the people wish to renew themselves and express gratitude for that received year after year. It’s a mystical place full of syncretism. While Catholicism is not completely shrugged off, the belief in magic and ancient gods is certainly superimposed.

In the Woods

Almost four miles down the road along the Xicotepec-Zihuatlán there’s the Centro Botánico El Ángel de tu Salud. This is a garden where medicinal plants are grown to later be turned into remedies and studied by herbalists. Only instead of just collecting the wild plants that must serve humankind, the purpose of this site is to propagate and conserve them, make them grow organically and domesticate.

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Discover Puebla

There is a space that brings together all of Xicotepec’s creative forces. It’s the artisan shop Ma-Xicotl (Vicente Suárez 105). There you’ll find everything from cushions embroidered with Nahua imagery and wooden bags to ceramic figurines and lamps made of rope. There are belts, leather boots, shirts, and shawl dresses. Let your eyes take in the different patterns of organic costume jewelry—earrings, necklaces, and bracelets—using coffee beans, coconut shell, beans, and orange peel as beads.

Keep in Mind

The figure of Venustiano Carranza is present in the museum that bears his name and where the exploits of this hero are displayed. He is also honored at the waterfalls called Cascadas Barbás de Carranza.

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Highlights: Museo Casa Carranza

The old house where the body of Venustiano Carranza lay in repose before being transferred to Mexico City is now a museum dedicated to his memory. His viscera were kept in an urn here which today participates in a sorrowful ceremony held each year by his descendants. The museum exhibit is made up of plates telling the events around the death of the leader and president—from his persecution to the attempt on his life in 1920 and the funeral procession that saw his exit from Mexican history. There are also old photos of the town and the revolutionaries who came through. A video goes into greater detail of Carranza’s assassination while the mural produced by the Fundación Arellano remembers him proudly displaying the Constitution of 1917.

There are several gardens where you’ll find all kinds of plants growing under the sun: herbaceous plants, shrubs, vines, cactuses, succulents, and ornamental, shade, and water plants. You can walk among the jasmines and caesalpinia (a flowering plant sometimes known as the Mexican bird of paradise), through the echinacea, which boosts the immune system, and the golden root, which serves as a local anesthetic (to visit you’ll need to make a reservation through the office of tourism).

From here you can take the México-Tuxpan road and enter the town of Tlaxcalantongo (15.5 miles from Xicotepec) via Dos Caminos. A large stone monument and bronze sculpture remind us that this is where former president Venustiano Carranza was assassinated. The Cascadas Barbás de Carranza—a pair of waterfalls worth visiting—are found here. One is just off the road and not very big, while the other is buried among trees making games out of light and shade. Nearby, on the way to Ávila Camacho, there’s the Citlma River and its hanging bridge. You can go abseiling here in rainy season.
On June 24th a festival takes place in Xicotepec that mixes Catholic and pagan traditions. According to the religious calendar it’s the day of the town’s patron saint, but the indigenous population celebrates Juan Techachalco, the character who incarnates the attributes of both San Juan and Xochipilli, the god of flowers, shamans, and medicinal plants. The teponaxtle—the musical instrument the town reserves for this type of occasion—is then taken from the Palacio Municipal. And as the music is played a frenzied procession reaches La Xochipila, Xicotepec’s ancient ceremonial center. Not only do indigenous people make it out but also white and black shamans to entrust themselves to those who watch over their trade. Limpias (cleanses) and healings are performed while the offering of flowers and food is enhanced with lively dances, incense, and cheer. People give thanks for favors received and make calls for their crops and their lives.

**Ahuaxintitla**
Pay attention to the warm and pleasant ride full of green on the way from Xicotepec to Tlaxcalantongo. Try some pahuas (avocados from the Sierra Poblana) and the chalahuites (pods of cottony sweet seeds). The trees drop their fruit and the hens run loose, while people dry coffee beans on their porches. Be sure to check out a small church on the side of the road with a backdrop of crowded mountains. That’s the Iglesia de Santa María de Guadalupe, in Ahuaxintitla.

**Monumental Virgen de Guadalupe**
In place where there are more than a few things to be thankful for, where life is in bloom everywhere—in the water, the mountains, in bananas, limes, and melons—it comes as no surprise that the people of Xicotepec would want to give the Virgen de Guadalupe a huge statue of herself. It went up in 2006 over a stone bench at the site where she once appeared in the Barrio El Tabacal. She is surrounded by a small square made for looking at her. At over 75 feet, the Virgin of the green mantle forces visitors to raise their heads.

**San Juan Bautista Festivities**
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**Recommends**
In the bar El Gallo (Zaragoza Avenue 106) they serve a drink called “Padrecito.” It’s a rather curious blend of vodka and acachul (Xicotepec’s typical wine) with the addition of a lime popsicle.

The Iglesia de Santa María de Guadalupe in Ahuaxintitla and the enormous figure of the Virgen de Guadalupe in the Barrio El Tabacal show the people’s veneration.
Discover Puebla

Pahuatlán
The Magical Paper Village

Why visit?
For its amate paper

Sierra Mágica
The town of fruits, where pahuas (avocados) and coffee trees grow, is tinged with the flavors of mist and cloud forests. No stranger to magic or shamans warding off evil, it’s also the keeper of the art of papel amate (amate paper), as well as the traditions that the Otomí and the Nahua have preserved since the time when the Totonac ceded the territory. Because Pahuatlán once belonged to the great Totonacapan, and it was that ancient kingdom who bestowed us with the gift of the ritual dance of the flying men, which is shared with Papantla and Cuetzalan.

Hidden in the Clouds

The clouds hover low, looking as if they’re out to take over the red roofs of the Plaza Principal so as to have a better view of the show that occurs everyday on the ground. Children play in the space sometimes occupied by the Voladores (flying men) or the huapangueadas (music festivals) while the central pavilion is impervious. Their mothers pass by the palm trees on their way to the Mercado Municipal. And before the women can be dazzled by the aromas and movement of the market the bells of the Parroquia del Señor Santiago, next door, make them direct their gaze heavenward. It’s the church that the Augustinian monks bequeathed to the town in the 16th century. A century later it was converted into a parish church.
Discover Puebla

**Recommends**

- The imagination runs wild at the amate workshop of the Santos Rojas family.
- The streets of Pahuatlán are carved from the Sierra.
- Learn the coffee-making process at the Beneficio de Don Conche Téllez.

**Don’t Miss**

Every day a little world of atoles and tamales sets up shop underneath the arcades of Juárez and Zaragoza. Don’t miss it. You’ll especially want to try the tamales de hollejo (made from corn kernel skins) and tamales de pascal (made with a mixture of peanuts and beans), with some pineapple, blackberry, or peanut atole.

**Highlights: Pahuatlán’s Coffee**

Coffee trees abound in the soil of Pahuatlán. To find out how the red fruits of this prized plant are transformed until they end up in a cup of steaming goodness, visit the Beneficio de Café de Don Conche Téllez. A tasting and the chance to buy freshly roasted coffee are part of the experience. You can also try the flavorful beverage at Café Pahuatlán. The bohemian joint owned by Juan Hernández is located downtown.

**Master Hands**

The work produced in the nearby community of San Pablito is famous. That’s where the Otomí continue producing the same material their ancestors did since before the arrival of the Spanish: papel amate. While this handicraft has become an export, its production is still ceremonial. Shamans use it as an offering in rituals—good or bad spirits represented on its surface. For example, if you visit the workshop of the Santos Rojas family (Juárez 46), you’ll learn that it’s obtained from the bark of the ficus tree and watch as the strips are boiled with lime and ash. After they are hammered into sheets they are put to dry in the sun. The figures contained in each sheet are only limited by the imagination of their creator. Now they are made into pictures and lampshades, and works that combine the art of paper with the embroidery that the Otomí know so well.
The landscape, the smell of rain, soaking in water, the herbs of a witch doctor warding off evil, temazcal baths, everything in the Sierra Mágica seems designed to give the soul peace.

**Aguas Termales de Chignahuapan:** This hotel and spa has several pools of sulfur water. It’s located in the middle of a ravine, giving the impression of nature wrapping the soul just as the body treatments do the skin.

**Temazcal baths:** There are several hotels offering the chance to rejuvenate with a steamy temazcal session. In Zacatlán there’s the Xic Xanac, where you can also do yoga. The Hotel Forest in Huachinango also has a spa. In Cuéntlan there’s Taselotzin, an ecotourism hotel run by Nahua women.

**Waterfalls and swimming holes:** There are waterfalls throughout the Sierra. Some of them form pools where you can swim. Don’t miss out on the salt-rich spring at the Centro Ecoturístico de la Cascada de Tulimán in Zacatlán. Spelunking enthusiasts will want to visit the Grutas Acocomoca in Tequila Ocampo—an underground river of mineral water runs between its walls.

**Sleep among the mountains:** In order to admire the scenery of the Sierra’s cliffs and ravines or if you want to wake up surrounded by trees and silence, better take up a night at a hotel or cabin with a view of this green universe. You can see the Cerro Cabezón from the Hotel Estancia San Jorge in Tlatlauquitepec. Views of the Barranca de los Jilgueros are available through the cabin window at Campestre La Barranca in Zacatlán.

**Equine therapy:** In Tetela de Ocampo ask for Germán Romero, the owner of Campo Real cabins. He spends part of his time rehabilitating children with the help of horses. The warmth of their bodies, their rhythmical way of moving and the affective relationship that one can develop with them aids in the development of behavioral and motor skills in humans.

**Traditional medicine:** The body seen through the eyes of the medicine man, without separating it from nature and its elements in order to keep it healthy, is a part of the indigenous cultures that populate the Sierra. It’s no surprise then to find bonesetters, midwives, and herbalists treating people at the various traditional medicine modules. Check out the one in Tetela de Ocampo, for example. It’s worth learning more about these ancestral practices.

**Boat rides:** Water is a calming element, and you don’t necessarily have to get in it. It’s always a good idea to see the mythical Laguna de Chignahuapan from on board a boat. And let’s not forget the reservoirs such as the Presa de la Soledad near Tlatlauquitepec, or the Presa Tenango, where Pedro Infante and María Félix shot the film Tizoc.

**A limpia:** Perhaps one of the most important things to the people of Xicotepec is La Xochipila, an ancient ceremonial center that’s filled with mysticism. On Tuesdays and Thursdays shamans here perform ceremonies and limpias, or cleanses.
Discover Puebla

At nightfall have a beer at the Billar Bar Callejón (José Luis Lechuga Street), while in the Bar Castillos (in the barrio of Palpa at the town’s exit) you can immerse yourself in Huapango music and culture.

Don’t Miss

• The February Carnival surprises Pahuatlán natives dressed in masks of papel amate and who patrol the streets in jubilation in order to shake up daily life.
• Holy Week is full of processions, fireworks, exhibitions, concerts, and traditional dances. January 28th, Maundy Thursday, May 5th, June 24th, and September 16 are already marked on the calendar for making a joyful sound. • The town finds regular excuses for playing the Huapangos and Son Huasteco that lift spirits. The Fiesta del Señor Santiago, the patron saint, is held on July 25th with festivals and dancing.
• In November, it hosts the Encuentro Nacional de Voladores, and all those masters of dancing in the air descend on the town from Papantla and Cuetzalan in order to pay tribute to this ancient aerial ceremony.

Festivities

In the Woods

The people of San Pablito also work with glass beads known as chaquiras. The tiny material is used to create rings, necklaces, and barrettes. It’s also used to decorate blouses with incredible color combinations. Women in the group Tlatzumaque Sohuame Atla in the community of Atla embroider shawls, dresses, and skirts with memorable patterns.

Not even two miles from downtown you’ll find the Puente Colgante Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla. This hanging bridge was built to connect Pahuatlán to the Nahua community of Xolotla. The Pahuatlita River passes below from the direction of Honey. When the current’s not too strong you can swim in its swimming holes. Those who enjoy walking through the tree-covered paths of the mountains can enjoy the view from the Cerro del Cirio or Cerro de Atla, which hides the Grutas de Tamborillo in its heights. The community of Ahila grows flowers, and the birds beat their wings for attention. You can go paragliding and there are always groups of cyclists descending its hills. From here you can see Pahuatlán in the distance.

René Castillejos / MD (6)
**Nearby...**

**Acapala**
Near Pahuatlán you can visit the town of Acapala. Its church, dedicated to San Juan, is a brief white affair with a red tile roof, condemned to living apart from its bell tower. But nature is the star of this place. You can go horseback riding down the Acapala River, rappel down the Cerro Delgado, or climb the Cerro de Pericos to watch the birds that live there noisy flap away in all directions.

**Honey**
To the west of Pahuatlán there’s the town named after Richard Honey. The businessman made a fortune exploiting iron mines in Pachuca at the end of the 19th century. With the iron he produced they built the tracks of the railroad that crossed the town carrying material between the states of Hidalgo and Tamaulipas. Honey station was opened in 1908 and little did the people then imagine that the building would one day be a Casa de Cultura. Visiting the Casa de Cultura, the Iglesia de Santa María de Guadalupe, bathing in the nearby swimming holes that change among various shades of blue according to the whim of the minerals they contain, and visiting the waterfalls such as the little Cascada El Salto or the Cascada Velo de Novia are all great ways of passing the time for those who pass through here.

**Tlacuilotepec**
A few miles north of Pahuatlán you can visit this small town where from time to time the rain is inclined to paint a beautiful rainbow over the Templo de Cristo Rey. Built by Augustinian monks in the 17th century, the church fondly amasses the prayers of the faithful. Here the people awake knowing that the coffee produced in their land and the dances that give life to their traditions can’t be traded for anything.
Discover Puebla

Ixtocamixtltán.

Museo Comunitario, Ixtocamixtltán.

Pottery, Aquixtla.

Huauchinango.

Tetela de Ocampo.

Danza de los Huehues, Pahuatlán.

Chignahuapan.

Chignahuapan.

Chignahuapan.
Cascada Aquacticpak, Ahuacatlán.

Iglesia de San Marcos, Naupan.

Exconvento franciscano, Zacatlán.

Pahuatlán.

Rancho el Mayab, Zacatlán.
Puebla is known for its Sierra but naturally, it also has its valleys, such as the Valle de Serdán, nestled among volcanoes. The climate is right for flowers around Atlixco, it’s arid in the Mixteca region, and fossils are to be found in Tehuacán.
Discover Puebla

Acatzingo
28 mi from the city of Puebla, federal roads 150 and 140.
Acatzingo is located near the Valle de Tepeaca and boasts an extensive Portal Hidalgo. It includes 47 arches making it the biggest of the state’s colonial cities. Here you’ll find the Parroquia de San Juan Evangelista, dating from the 16th century, where visitors are greeted with colorful oil paintings. It’s the home of the Capilla de la Virgen de los Dolores and its three amazing Baroque altarpieces. In addition to the delight of strolling through its streets and people watching from the quiet downtown pavilion, the town’s got its flavors. Known for its carnitas de cerdo (braised or roasted pork), Acatzingo can also teach you a thing or two about candies. Try its palanquetas (brittle) and jamoncillos (milk caramel) to find out how.

Valle Serdán

Humid hills stretch throughout the center of the state. Surrounded by volcanoes, they’ve learned to converse with them through the clouds. To the west the landscape is drawn with the image of Iztaccihuatl and Popocatépetl. In the east the proud Citlaltépetl, or Pico de Orizaba, rises up. The national parks created to protect these volcanoes clamor for the visit of all nature lovers. Among this dance of peaks you’ll find plenty of towns, towns that jealously guard pre-Hispanic traditions and colonial architecture.

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2 Tecamachalco  
9.9 mi from Acatzingo, federal road 150.
The Popolocas founded Tecamachalco in 1441, then came the 16th century and Jean-Charlier (Juan) Gerson who graphically illustrated the Apocalypse as the indigenous people never could have imagined. These are the 28 medallion paintings decorating the chorus of the Ex Convento de la Virgen de la Asunción, which was once inhabited by Franciscan monks. The Ex Convento’s spacious courtyard invites you to peacefully walk its cypress-flanked central path. You can also visit the Iglesia del Beato Sebastián de Aparicio whose courtyard was the site of two bullfights before 1586, perhaps the first to be held in colonial Mexico.

3 Ciudad Serdán  
39.8 mi from Tecamachalco, federal roads 150 and 144. Also known as Chalchicomula de Sesma, the stars here are its Acueducto and the Parroquia de Nuestro Padre Jesús de las Tres Caídas, an 18th-century building marked by colorful angels and vases. This town had its heyday after the Conquista thanks to its strategic location on the Camino Real, the highway connecting Veracruz to Mexico City and Puebla. In the Capilla del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús oil paintings depict scenes of the Vía Crucis, or Stations of the Cross. Here you’re close to the volcano Citlaltépetl, or Pico de Orizaba, in the neighboring state of Veracruz. Expeditions can be undertaken starting from the town of San José Llano Grande (7.5 miles northeast) where you can do all the things nature calls for: mountain climbing, mountain biking, and hikes that will captivate as much as they wear you out.

4 Tepeyahualco  
60.3 mi from Ciudad Serdán, federal roads 140 and 129. The Cantona archeological site is an ancient Popoloca city that was inhabited from 600 to 1000 A.D. It’s remarkable for its extensive network of road and modes of communication, as well as the 24 Mesoamerican ball courts. It has a total area of 4.6 square miles. Surprisingly, its buildings are made of stacked stones with nothing used as cement. Be sure to walk up to the lookout within the Cantona archeological site. The view from there is worth it.
Southeast of Puebla there are towns that have learned to live in the shadow of the volcanoes Iztaccíhuatl and Popocatépetl. Their snowy peaks unleash rivers that supply water to the region. Thus the soil is fertile and tastes of flowers and cereals. Gratitude is shown for such abundance with Huey Atlixcáyotl, an annual festival that brings together the state’s different peoples in the tiny city of Atlixco.

1 **Atlixco**
18.6 mi from the city of Puebla, highway 190.
This city of flowers boasts a warm climate and fertile soil. Parque Colón, which is blanketed in flowers during Día de Muertos, is an excellent vantage point for observing life in Atlixco. The pavilion is surrounded by candy stands and trees offering up shade. Satisfy the palate with traditional dishes such as consomé atlixqueño (with avocado, cheese, and chicharrón—or pork crackling), tlacoyos, and cecina salada. You’ll want to visit the nurseries and both the Parroquia de la Natividad, with its beautiful mortar decorations, and the 16th-century Ex Convento de Santa María de Jesús, built by Franciscan monks. This is where you’ll find the Capilla de la Tercera Orden. If you’re impressed it’s probably due to its Baroque facade full of angels, saints, and sirens and plenty of floral motifs and twisted columns. Don’t miss the chance to visit Atlixco during the last weekend of September in order to attend Huey Atlixcáyotl on the Cerro de San Miguel. The celebration honors the gods Quetzalcóatl and Xochipilli with music and dancing—the most honest forms of human expression.

2 **Tochimilco**
9.9 mi from Atlixco, state road.
Here, a 16th-century building steals your attention: the Ex Convento Franciscano de la Asunción de Nuestra Señora, erected by Fray Diego de Olarte in 1560. It looks like a fort with its battlements lining the top of the wall. The facade is sober and the Gothic ribs of its vault reminds
of the Middle Ages while the main entryway transports onlookers to the Renaissance. The structure is one of the monasteries named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Smack in the middle of town you’ll find the Fuente de los Sabores, a fascinating sculpture with an octagonal base whose Mudejar styling delights the eyes. People also worship at the Iglesia del Señor while leisure is enjoyed with picnics, called campurra here.

3 Huaquechula
11.2 mi from Tochimilco, highway 438 and state road.
Huaquechula has garnered fame due to the altars that families put up for their dead on November 2nd. But devotion finds tangible forms here in the Ex Convento de San Martín de Tours. It was built by the Franciscans in the 16th century before any other building of Spanish influence existed in the town. Today you can see it exactly how it was, as time has not touched these divine haunts. You’ll be surprised by its elegant facades with Plateresque reliefs. From the delicate handiwork emerge angels playing the trumpet and the curious figures of San Pedro and San Pablo with medieval features. The complex surrounding the church is comprised of an enormous battlement-lined wall, the cross of the courtyard, an open chapel with its ceiling of ogival arches, a capilla posa, or corner chapel, and the guardhouse. Leave this world that God inhabits and walk through the zócalo, or main square, and you’ll see vestiges of the town’s development: a fragmented head of Quetzalcóatl, a stone cross, a black stone fountain, and a gravestone with the date written in pre-Hispanic numbering.

4 Izúcar de Matamoros
16.2 mi from Huaquechula, federal road 190 and state road.
Known for its sulfur spring resorts, Izúcar de Matamoros is also famous for the skill of its artisans who fashion árboles de la vida from multi-hued clay. As far as architecture is concerned, its biggest treasure is the 16th-century Ex Convento de Santo Domingo de Guzmán. Originally an initiative of Franciscan monks, it later fell into the hands of the Dominicans. The enormity of its sole nave inspires awe. Outside, battlements top off the structure as if it were a castle. The sober facade displays a stone-framed arch and choral window. Above, the seal of the Dominican Order challenges the passing centuries.
Valle de Tehuacán and La Mixteca

The territory of the Mixtecs “the Rain People” is divided between Guerrero, Oaxaca, and the southeast of Puebla, which gets part of the Mixteca Baja. Here the landscape, normally dry (it’s mostly made up of deciduous forest vegetation) turns green with the arrival of the summer rains. Fossils and mineral springs are found in the Valle de Tehuacán.

1 Tehuacán
A 127 km de la ciudad de Puebla, autopista 150. Downtown boasts Parque Juárez. The 18th-century Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción is nearby with its Talavera cupolas in perpetual dialogue with the heavens. There’s also the Ex Convento del Carmen, erected in the 17th century. It’s of Baroque and Neo-classical inspiration. Today it houses the Museo de Mineralogía and the Museo del Valle de Tehuacán.

This is the home of the Festival del Mole de Caderas, a culinary tradition taking place in October at the time of the Matanza de Chivos, or slaughtering of the goats. This municipality borders Oaxaca to the south, with whom it shares the Reserva de la Biosfera Tehuacán-Cuicatlán, a protected natural area where endemic species and arid ecosystems abound. This is also the site of the Cuevas de Coxcatlán where they found signs that humans had domesticated corn over eight thousand years ago. Heading toward Huajuapan de León (9.3 miles ahead) you’ll reach the workshops of the town of San Antonio Texcala, where the people work onyx and marble.

2 Zapotitlán Salinas
15.5 mi from Tehuacán, federal road 125. Visit the salt mine on the way into this town surrounded by giant cactuses; 105 million years ago the Gulf of Mexico extended this far inland leaving the soil rich in salts. One attraction is the Jardín
Botánico Helia Bravo Hollis with more than 2,700 plant species. Inside the botanical garden you can educate yourself at the Centro de Interpretación Ambiental, see the ruins of an ancient city called Cutha and visit a waterfall.

3 **San Juan Raya**

30.4 mi from Zapotitlán Salinas, federal road 125 and state road.
The small town of San Juan Raya amasses fossils and dinosaur footprints at its Museo Paleontológico Comunitario. Members of the community also organize various bike and horseback tours to the Cerro del Pavimento, which serves as a sort of scenic viewpoint. Another option is visiting the Parque Ecoturístico Turritelas where a marine fossil is the star of the trails. And finally, don’t miss the Santuario de Cactáceas Gigantes.

4 **Molcaxac**

44.7 mi from San Juan Raya, state road 455.
Be sure to check out the painting by Miguel Jerónimo Zendejas in the Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. In the west of Molcaxac, the Atoyac River is responsible for some beautiful natural landscapes such as the Cascada Cola de Caballo waterfall, the Caverna Puente de Dios and the Sierra del Tentzo, recently declared a protected natural area.

5 **Tepexi de Rodríguez**

38.5 mi from Molcaxac, state road 455.
Tepexi gained cultural relevance in 1982 when terrestrial and marine fossils dating back 115 million years were found here. The collection of these paleontological discoveries is held at the Museo Regional Mixteco Tlayúa, at the town’s entrance. Witness the beauty of times gone by at the Tepexi El Viejo archeological site, an ancient Popoloca settlement. Remains tell us that the Valle del Mamut was once inhabited by mammoths, mastodons, and armadillos. Tombs have been discovered on the banks of the Axamilpa River along with the remains of ancient flowers and seeds. And you’ve got to see the human and animal forms in the cave paintings at the cliffs of La Mano de la Bruja.
Where to Stay

Hacienda Casagranda

Hotel Ecológico Xic Xanar
(tents, meals, restaurant) Pro. José Ma. Iglesias, no number. Ecolohotel. T. (01) (797) 971 5087

Hotel El Sonigo
km 3 on the Zacatlán-Chignahuapan road. T. (01) (797) 971 2227. www.exoecotacion.com.mx

Rancho El Mayab
km 3.5 on the Zacatlán-Jocolapa road (Rancho Cuyotepac). T. (01) (797) 971 4999. www.ranchoelmayab.com.mx

Tonantzin Spa–Hostal
Restaurante Flor
5 de Mayo poniente 6, Centro. T. (01) (233) 214 3848.

Restaurant Chikis
Dimas López 2, Centro. T. (01) (797) 971 0113.

Pozolería Los Manzanos
Gustavo Díaz Ordaz Blvd., Teotlalpan. T. (01) (797) 971 2820.

Restaurante Plaza del Buen Comer

El Cafetal
José Dolores Pérez 30, Centro. T. (01) (797) 971 2947.

Restaurant La Epopequia
Av. Juárez 21, Centro. T. (01) (797) 971 0659.

Restaurante La Puerta
Juan N. Méndez, no number, Centro. T. (01) (797) 971 2058.

Restaurante Placce del Buen Comer
Díaz Ordaz Blvd. 10, Centro. T. (01) (797) 971 0659.

Restaurante Santa Mónica
Pro. Guillermo Prieto, no number, Teocochilco. T. (01) (797) 971 0590.

Cocina La Teja
Km 55 on Díaz Ordaz Blvd., Teotlalpan. T. (01) (797) 971 0219.

El Alambique
Libramiento 6, San Bartolo. T. (01) (797) 971 0659.

Restaurante El Mirador
Gustavo Díaz Ordaz Blvd., Teotlalpan. T. (01) (797) 971 0219.

Restaurante Las Delicias
Reforma, no number, Centro. T. (01) (797) 971 2947.

Hotel Villa de las Flores
José Dolores Pérez 30, Centro. T. (01) (797) 971 0155.

Hotel Posada Don Ramón
C. 045 (797) 971 4504.

Hotel Il Sogno

Hotel Ecológico Xic Xanac
**Where to Stay**

**Cabañas mixes**
Km 1.5 on the Cuetzalan–San Miguel road.
T. 01 (233) 331 0354 / 0135.

**Hotel Mixti**
Cuauhtémoc 35.
T. 01 (233) 331 0450.

**Hotel Elizabeth**
Carlos García 11, Centro.
T. 01 (233) 331 0030.

**Hotel Casa de Piedra**
San José Pinolaco.
T. 01 (233) 331 1092.

**Hotel Casa de los Voladores**
Cuauhtémoc 35.
T. 01 (233) 331 0925.

**Hotel Casa del Volador**
Km 1.5 on the Cuetzalan–San Miguel road.
T. 01 (233) 331 0480.

**Hotel Teotonio de Tepetate**
C. 045 (231) 322 5649.

**Hotel Mixto**
San José Pinolaco.
T. 01 (233) 331 0354 / 0135.

**Hotel Casa de Piedra**
Carlos García 11, Centro.
T. 01 (233) 331 0030.

**Hotel Santa Fe**
Revolución 51.
T. 01 (233) 331 0019.

**Hotel Estancia San Jorge**
T. 01 (233) 318 0533.

**Parador JL**
Km 9.700 on the road to Mazatepec.
T. 01 (233) 331 0020.

**Mesón Yohualichan**
Cuauhtémoc 35.
T. 01 (233) 331 0130.

**Hotel Mixto**
San José Pinolaco.
T. 01 (233) 331 0354 / 0135.

**Hotel Casa de los Voladores**
Cuartel 1.5 on the Cuetzalan–San Miguel road.
T. 01 (233) 331 0480.

**Hotel Casa del Volador**
Casa de los Voladores.
T. 01 (233) 331 0354 / 0135.

**Hotel Elizabeth**
Cuauhtémoc 35.
T. 01 (233) 331 0030.

**Hotel Casa de los Voladores**
Cuauhtémoc 35.
T. 01 (233) 331 0450.

**Hotel Tres Pinos**
San José Pinolaco.
T. 01 (233) 331 0561.

**Hotel Casa de Piedra**
San José Pinolaco.
T. 01 (233) 331 0925.

**Hotel Casa del Volador**
San José Pinolaco.
T. 01 (233) 331 0925.

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**Hotel Casa del Volador**
Cuartel 1.5 on the Cuetzalan–San Miguel road.
T. 01 (233) 331 0480.
Cafe La Época de Oro
www.cafelaepocadeoro.com.mx
T. 01 (233) 331 0596.

Café los Jarritos
www.cuetzalanecologicometzintli.com
T. 01 (233) 331 0316.

Café la Época de Oro
www.cafelaepocadeoro.com.mx
T. 01 (233) 331 0596.

Chamaca
T. 01 (233) 331 0272.

Flor de Algodon
T. 01 (233) 331 0151.

Iluminada
T. 01 (233) 331 0151.

Kuautlapiani
T. 01 (233) 314 2034.

Las Ranas
T. 01 (233) 331 0151.

Las Malin Kualtzin
T. 01 (233) 331 0037.

Las Naranjas
T. 01 (233) 331 0037.

Los Jarritos
T. 01 (233) 331 0037.

Luna Café
T. 01 (233) 331 0151.

Maiz Madrugo
T. 01 (233) 331 0151.

Molino Rojo
T. 01 (233) 331 0151.

Mundo Señorial
T. 01 (233) 331 0151.

Novedades Castillo
T. 01 (233) 331 0151.

Posada de la Sierra
T. 01 (222) 232 0132 / 232 2109.

Posada la Encantada
T. 01 (222) 235 9722.

Posada la Posada
T. 01 (222) 232 0032 / 232 2109.

Posada la Quinza
T. 01 (222) 211 9000.

Posada la Quinta
T. 01 (222) 211 9000.

Posada la Quinta Inn & Suites
Zeta del Cocheco Ave. 417
Reserva Territorial Atlixcáyotl.
T. 01 (222) 211 9000.

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T. 01 (222) 211 9000.

Posada la Quinta Inn & Suites
Zeta del Cocheco Ave. 417
Reserva Territorial Atlixcáyotl.
Plaza de las Fuentes
Hernán Pérez 243, La Paz.
T. (01) 222 297 0503.

Posada San Pedro
4 Oriente 207, Centro.
T. (01) 222 238 0519.

Real del Cristo
4 Oriente 207, Centro.
T. (01) 222 246 1575.

Puebla de Antano
3 Oriente 206, Centro.
T. (01) 222 238 0519.

Wings
2 Oriente 206, Centro.
T. (01) 222 238 0519.

World Hostel
Hidalgo 6, Centro.
T. (01) 222 246 8292.

Where to Eat

Chimaliurri (Argentinian)
Jalapeño 27, Sur La Paz.
T. (01) 222 249 1524.
El Parrillito (Mexican)
Centro Comercial Angelópolis
Norte del Puerto 2458.
Condepcion la Cruz.
T. (01) 222 421 3066.

www.restaurantelanoria.com
T. (01) 222 237 7213.
23 Sur and 41 Poniente, La Noria.

www.laconjura.com.mx
9 Oriente 201, Centro.

www.lasbodegasdelmolino.com
San José del Puente,
Zavaleta Ave. 5624, Zavaleta.

Intro Restaurant
4 Norte 41, Centro.

Villa Florida
Atlixcoyotl Blvd. 110, Zona Angela de los Ríos.
T. (01) 222 232 2322.

Where to Stay

Chimaliurri (Argentinian)
Jalapeño 27, Sur La Paz.
T. (01) 222 249 1524.

www.restaurantelanoria.com
La Estancia Argentina (Argentinian)
Jalapeño and 29 Sur 2041, La Paz.
T. (01) 222 249 4996.
1 www.restaurantelanoria.com
La Silla (Japanese)
43 Pomez 207, Huexotitla.

www.restaurantelanoria.com
T. (01) 222 237 7213.
23 Sur and 41 Poniente, La Noria.

www.laconjura.com.mx
9 Oriente 201, Centro.

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