



Chichen Itza

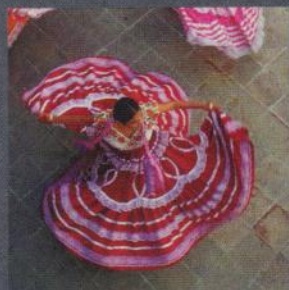


Michoacán



Mexico City

THE ART AND SOUL OF MEXICO



Get in touch with the spirit of Mexico. It's found in the bold hues of the deserts, beaches, mountains, and rainforests that inspire the country's amazing art. It's heard in the mariachi music that incites feet to tap and fingers to strum. It's reflected in the rich culture and heritage found in the country's 27 UNESCO World Heritage sites and throughout its various regions. And by embracing sustainable tourism, with an emphasis on preserving its unique heritage, Mexico is giving visitors a rich travel experience as well as protecting its art and culture for future generations of geotourists to enjoy.



YUCATAN PENINSULA

The magic of the Yucatán spans the ages. Admire the sacred Mayan pyramids of **Chichen Itza**, one of the New 7 Wonders of the World, where the stonework is emblazoned with a library of legends. You'll find a surprise at the **Temple of Kukulcan**, or the famed winged-serpent, Quetzalcoatl. Visit during the spring or fall equinox and Quetzalcoatl's shadow is mysteriously cast from the structure. Other archaeological wonders such as **Tulum**, **Uxmal**, and **Ek' Balam** wait to amaze you as well.



BAJA PENINSULA

History also unfolds through art in the rock paintings of **Sierra de San Francisco**, in the **El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve**. These ancient paintings are thought to have been a form of "hunting magic." Huge human figures stalk deer, rabbit, and mountain sheep. Legend says that the artists were giants—and when you see these mystic murals in their hard-to-reach locations, suddenly it seems feasible.



MEXICO CITY

Ciudad de México, or Mexico City, is the country's capital, and a focal point of art and culture. Adding a bit of history to the mix is the **National Museum of Anthropology**, located in **Chapultepec Park**. Not to be missed is the Stone of the Sun and the 16th-century Aztec statue of Xochipilli. Take in the exhibits of archaeological and ethnographic heritage, including Pre-Columbian arts, jewelry, drawings, and stone carvings, or visit the site of **Teotihuacán** where you'll encounter ruins of what was once the



MICHOACÁN

Begin your journey in the historic capital city of **Morelia**, a UNESCO World Heritage site with over 1,000 colonial buildings and churches. Pottery fans will know of the Michoacáns' famous green "pineapple" pottery found in **San José de Gracías**.

Also renowned are the ceramics made by the women of **Ocumicho**. These artisans are known for their fanciful *diablos* and whimsical animal figures.

Michoacán is also home to the Monarch butterfly migration and a wonderful place to participate in some of Mexico's fiestas, which combine culture, art, music, and dance. One such celebration is **Día de los Muertos**, or Day of the Dead, on November 1 and 2, when altars are laden with grinning skeletons, bunches of marigolds, and food.



CHIAPAS

Throughout the region, visitors can find unique handicrafts and folk art, *huipiles*, an intricate form of weaving passed down through generations of Chiapas women. Nestled in the highlands is **San Cristóbal de las Casas** with its authentic colonial architecture and picturesque plazas. For those looking to experience the Mayan world, visit the archaeological sites of **Bonampak** and **Palenque**.



OAXACA

Discover native crafts and wood carvings of animals and mystical beings. **San Bartolo de Coyotepec** is famous for a different art form, known as *barros negros*. This black pottery is handcrafted with traditional techniques and then fired in a specialized process. The historic center of **Oaxaca City** and the nearby archaeological site of **Monte Albán**, are both UNESCO World Heritage sites and worth visiting.



SONORA

Legendary cities, spectacular views, and artwork await inquisitive visitors. Rock paintings abound in the beautiful natural park of **La Pintada**. The canyons have more than 2,000 cave paintings in a similar style. Marvel at the works of art in **Huachinera**, in the gallery of its developing **Arts and Cultural Center**, which provides arts education and heritage conservation.

México

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