

Hotels are tricky, the real expensive ones are not in nice walking areas and the super hip ones are but the areas are crowded. My wife and I both like the Hyatt in Polanco. It is a brutalist former Nikko hotel right in the middle between Polanco and the park. It makes me feel like I am a little back to the 70's but the service and the food is great walking to amazing restaurants and the best museums in town.

1. Hyatt Regency Mexico City (Polanco)
2. Las Alcobas, a Luxury Collection Hotel, Polanco Mexico City (might be noisy)
3. Hotel CondesaDF (Condessa might be noisy, BUT VERY HIP)

The Group Habita <https://www.designhotels.com/hotels-themes/grupo-habita/>
Is so hip but expensive and filled with millennials.

Special Hotel: **Camino Real** designed by Luis Barragán, he did the radio at Salk, it is dated and not in the best location but very architecturally important.

Food: I put some restaurants but to keep up with the Garcias look at <https://www.eater.com/mexico-city>

Try not to miss these, make reservations now!

Máximo

<http://www.maximobistrot.com.mx/>

Temporal

<http://www.restaurantetemporal.com.mx/>

Pujol (booked out for months, the taco tasting menu looks good)
<http://pujol.com.mx/>

La Casa del Pastor (favorite Taco place on Masaryk)

Hacienda de los Morales (we got married there)
<https://www.haciendadelosmorales.com/>

El Chanclas

Av. Isaac Newton 18, Polanco, Polanco IV Secc, Miguel Hidalgo, 11500 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico

San Ángel Inn (Great for lunch and beautiful setting)
<http://www.sanangelinn.com/>

Mexico City the Easy Way

1) El Centro - Downtown

It matters when you go. It can be hot, and there is no tree cover. I would do this:

Take an UBER (8-9 am) to the **ZOCALO** (that is the Central Square)
In the Zocalo is the **Cathedral** built on the spot of the Aztec pyramids, using their stones.
Next to the Cathedral is **Templo Mayor Museum** an excavated ruin of the Aztecs.

PROTIP: The outside is way more impressive than the inside.

DRINK•SNACK•MEAL- La Casa de las Sirenas is next to the Cathedral and Templo; you can look at them while having a tequila.

Walk four blocks west on Avenue 5 of Mayo to **The House of Tiles** great building with lots of tiles. There is a cafe inside, quality Mexican food 1950's it is a Sanborns department store. Look inside, at least.

Across the street is the **Palacio Postal**, the old central post office, amazing Belle-epoch architecture

Next door to the west is

Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes I love this place. Go inside this beautiful building and see amazing murals. Closed Monday, open Tuesday through Sunday 10am-6pm, but it is a Mexican government institution, so check the website. 1hour

Continue walking west through the park Alameda Central - this place is a trip at Christmas time. Continue through to the **Museo Mural Diego Rivera**, where the mural was rescued from the earthquake in 1986, 30min. Go upstairs and look at it from above.

DRINK•SNACK•MEAL• Café La Habana 10min walk three blocks south on Balderas right on Ave Morelos is **Café La Habana**. Great old coffee shop and food too. Jack Kerouac would drink coffee and write there all day. I have never seen an American there.

PROTIP: The cross street is **Ave Bucareli**, an old hipster street with fantastic architecture. It is five long blocks to the end of the street south towards **ROMA**, a newly revitalized part of town. If it is hot, don't do it; take a UBER to your next stop.

2) ROMA: Southwest of Downtown

DRINK•SNACK•MEAL• Maximo is arguably the best Mexican food in town \$\$\$ make reservations <http://www.maximobistrot.com.mx/>

3) LA CONDESA: southwest of ROMA and the garden of Mexico City (Polanco is too, but La Condesa is more for locals) Walk around the concentric treelined streets around Parque Mexico. It is only quiet and calm.

DRINK•SNACK•MEAL• Churrería El Moro Churros - **Café Comunidad** I could drink coffee and wine, hangout, draw and talk all day at communal tables. We had Spanish food at **La Taberna del Chanclas** (reservations 3 pm for lunch \$\$\$). There are tons of fun places to eat and drink, too, let me know.

4) CHAPULTEPEC PARK I (CENTRAL PARK- GOLDEN GATE PARK) Walking through is beautiful. It can be crowded on Sundays or Holidays.

I WOULD NOT MISS: Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo (40min) Closed Mondays, **Museo de Arte Moderno** (40min) is Closed Mondays, **Castillo de Chapultepec** (it is OK, cool view 60min Closed Monday), **and Museo Nacional de Antropología** 2hours (closed on Mondays, it is a lot, I never really liked it, but I like art museums)

CHAPULTEPEC PARK II If you really like to walk, it is fun to explore Lago Algo, and Fuente de Tlaloc, but it can be hot, and not a lot of shade.

5) POLANCO I stayed, walked, and ate there, Maribel is from there, and I lived there 30 years ago. It is a garden, and it is beautiful. Between the contemporary glass buildings are Modernist concrete and glass buildings and a style of architecture called CAKE, where all the buildings look like simple cakes with crazy frosting.

Walk everywhere between **AVE MASARYK** (Fancy stores and some good restaurants) and **REFORMA**. All the streets are tree-lined and beautiful. Walk around **PARQUE LINCOLN** and check out the culture.

DRINK•SNACK•MEAL• Barite De Mar Polanco (real great food South west corner of Parque Lincoln), **Snob** (For Breakfast inside this garden building **Pasaje Polanco**, there are craft stores there if you want to buy things)

Pujol (2 Star \$600 per couple, I think it was worth it) <https://pujol.com.mx/>
Make reservations now.

HOTELS

The Hotels in Polanco are Business hotels. I usually like to stay in boutique hotels, but Mexico City is loud at night, and I like A/C and a pool to jump in when I am in CDMX (Mexico City). My favorite is the Hyatt (Brutalist architecture but excellent service in a modern setting), JW Marriott, W, and then the Intercontinental. They are all in a row.

6) THE SOUTH COYCOACAN and SAINT ÁNGEL

I still get excited to go there, and it is nicer than ever. It could take 30min from Polanco or 3 hours; traffic is essential to figure out. Google map the time.

Museo Anahuacalli • Museo 150, San Pablo Tepetlapa, Coyoacán, 04620 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico in the south of Coyoacan it is an interesting museum, check to see if it is open.

We just did this on a Saturday:

10:30 am car to **Frida Kahlo Museum** in Coycoacan; make and pay for tickets online NOW <https://www.museofridakahlo.org.mx/?lang=en>. It is a great museum and beautiful—1 hour. Have the UBER or driver take you through the Zocalo of Coycoacan; seeing it is fantastic. 15 min drive to **El Bazar Sábado** (They have art, crafts, and shit to buy in the parks on Saturdays, but there is a Building in El Bazar Sábado, and they have higher-end things to purchase, and the restaurant in the middle is very nice.

Then we took the car for 10 min to **Diego Riveras House and Studio**. Or you could walk 14min beautiful cobblestone streets, you GPS these are 400-year-old streets. I love Diego's Studio, Frieda's Studio next door, and Juan O'Gorman's Studio too. Modernist heaven, Le Corbusier

and Eames would be impressed. Then we walked around the pueblito, and it's lovely homes and trees.

DRINK•SNACK•MEAL• San Ángel Inn (across the street from Diego's) drinks, snacks, and live music. You might need a reservation <https://sanangelinn.com/> to sit in the central courtyard, which is a good idea, we sat at 5 pm and were in a side courtyard, but it was still lovely. It is the best place to hang out any afternoon.

Then we went back to the Hotel and swam, took a nap and Maribel had us back out at 9:30 sharp to the piano bar and drank and sang till 1 am.

7) ON the EDGES If you are there for a week

Teotihuacana, the Pyramids are impressive. You can't go up them anymore. It is hot. They are enormous, and it is great if you are into ruins. 26 miles from CDMX, but there is traffic. I would go at 7 am and get there when it opens.

DRINK•SNACK•MEAL• La Gruta, you eat in this huge cave, kind of cool.

Xochimilco You go on these brightly colored boats on 700-year-old canals and drink beer and listen to music from little bands on their boats. 16-19-year-old paradise.

Cuernavaca You need to stay overnight at Las Mañanitas (bookings.com) great garden, the best margaritas and guacamole I have ever had, and large birds walking around. I would stay in the garden the town is meh.

Tepoztlán Like another planet, you hike through a rainforest to a pyramid up a mountain, and the town is excellent; it could be a day trip thing to do from Cuernavaca or overnight from CDMX. There are a lot of hotels, but the Tepoznieves (ice cream) have unique flavors.

Please let me know if you have questions and copy and paste these places into Google to see what you think. I can not tell you how lovely these last 3 days were.

CDMX is like LA; you would never stay in Santa Monica go to a museum downtown, have lunch in Malibu, see a friend in Glendale and have dinner in Torrance, so stick to one area at a time.

Stay away from Salads and unpeeled fruit, don't eat off the street, don't eat in markets, and Ice is OK.

Tip 15-20%, Give money to musicians. Be cool with slow service; they think eating out is a luxury to be enjoyed that said, if it is too long, ask about your food, they might have forgotten.

Use credit cards without foreign transaction fees.

UBER is fine, we hire a driver, but that requires speaking Spanish well.

CDMX is not a place to diet. Skip a meal but don't skip the food; also, they will tell you the toco is small, but they neglect to tell you it is stacked very high, so you can always order another one.