MICHOACÁN

OCCIDENTE

ENGLISH VERSION

CONACULTA
Morelia

Founded by Spaniards as Valladolid in 1541, in 1828 its name was changed to Morelia to honor Independence hero José María Morelos y Pavón, born in this city on September 30, 1765. In colonial times it was a thriving center of religious and political power, reflected in the construction of religious and civil buildings that are now a historical legacy of such magnitude and importance that the city has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The characteristic color of its colonial buildings has won it the epithet “the city of pink stone.” Among its principal monuments are the Cathedral, the Government Palace and Clavijero Palace, Morelos’s Birthplace, the Palace of Justice, the Federal Palace, the Guadalupe Sanctuary in the former Convent of San Diego, the Church of La Merced, the Colegio San Nicolás de Hidalgo, the first of its kind in America and where Miguel Hidalgo was rector.

Other sites worth seeing are the impressive 253-arch Aqueduct, the Sweets and Folk Art Market, the Public Library, the Michoacán Regional Museum, the Conservatory of the Roses—now home of the Child Singers of Morelia choir—the Church and former Convent of El Carmen (housing the Morelia House of Culture and the Michoacán Culture Institute)—and the Church Las Monjas.

Pátzcuaro

A beautiful “magical town” noted for its traditional adobe, wood, and tile architecture and cobblestone streets. Visit monuments such as the Basílica de Nuestra Señora de la Salud, built under the direction of Vasco de Quiroga, who was buried here; the Sagrarium; the House of the Eleven Patios; the former Convent of San Agustín; the Huitziméngari Palace, residence of Antonio Huitziméngari, son of the last Purépecha ruler; and the Museum of Folk Art.

Paracho

It is famed for the guitars crafted here. Other string instruments and wood toys, furniture, and masks are also made here. Among the sites of interest are the House for Purépecha Art and Culture, and the Guitar Museum.

Zamora

The home of the Diocese Sanctuary to Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (“The Unfinished Cathedral”) was to be the cathedral of the Zamora Diocese, but it was never completed; even so, it is 108 m (354 ft.) tall and is one of the 15 tallest churches in the world.

Apatzingán

Site where José María y Morelos declared Mexico’s first Constitution in 1814. Visit the House of the Constitution and the City Museum.

Michoacán Coast

The coast has more than 200 km (124 mi.) of shores with cliffs, bays, inlets, coves, estuaries, and beaches, all great for fishing and relaxing. You can even go surfing at Nexpa and Ticia beaches. Begin with a visit to the port of Lázaro Cárdenas and then go to Playa Azul, Caleta de Campos, Pichilinguillo, Maruata, Colola, Faro de Bucerías, and La Manzanillera.

San José de Gracia

A picturesque town surrounded by pine forests. It is famous for the traditional high quality dairy products made here.
Tlalpujahua

Founded in the 16th century, this gold-and-silver-mining town still retains its traditional feel and houses monuments of interest, so it has been named a “magical town” by the Tourism Ministry. Its buildings include the former Convent of San Francisco, the Guadalupe Sanctuary, and the Parish of the Virgen del Carmen. You can also visit the Rayón Brothers House and Museum, the Dos Estrellas Mine (now the Technological Museum), the Buried Church (the town’s former church), Brockman Dam, and the Campo del Gallo National Park. Visit the largest Christmas ornament factory in the world.

Angangueo

A mining town, designated a “magical town.” Its attractions include the Church of the Inmaculada Concepción, housing an altar brought from Italy; the Chapel of Santa María Gorette de la Misericordia; the Church of San Simón, the Parker House Museum with the San Simón tunnel; the Monument to Miners, and the former Hacienda de Jesús de Nazareth.

San Felipe

Los Alzati

Pertaining to the Tarascan culture, this site, which houses the tallest ancient building in Michoacán, was surely a settlement on the border of the Mexica empire.

Zitácuaro

The setting for several events in the War of Independence. Here you can visit Independence Hill, the Church of Los Remedios, the Municipal Palace, and the Constitution Garden.

Cuitzeo del Porvenir

Named a “magical town” for its natural beauty, traditional atmosphere, and colonial monuments, it houses the former Convent of Santa María Magdalena, founded in 1550 by Augustinian friars and regarded as one of the most beautiful convents in Michoacán for its Platneresque style. Other points of interest are the churches of the Hospital Franciscano, of the Concepción, of San Pablo, and of the Calvario.

Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve

Named a UNESCO World Heritage site, it is a unique spot where a remarkable natural phenomenon takes place: the annual winter migration from Canada of close to a billion monarch butterflies that blanket the trees before beginning the return journey northward in the spring.

Santa Clara del Cobre

Known as the world’s avocado capital, this is the foremost city on the country’s most beautiful lakes, surrounded by pine forests.

Uruapan

A town that recovered after the volcanic eruption of Paricutín. Visit the Church of the Señor de los Milagros and the Church of San Juan Parangaricutiro.

Zitácuaro

Near the Parangaricutiro, this is the foremost city on the shores of Lake Cuitzeo—populated with Lake Cuitzeo—where Tzintzuntzan, and of the Cobre, and of the Parangaricutiro. Tzintzuntzan and Ihuatzio

These are two of the main cities of the Tarascan kingdom that dominated Michoacán in the Late Postclassic (AD 1200–1521). Tzintzuntzan once shared power with Pátzcuaro and Uruapan, and was a fairly large city with large structures and causeways.

Tarascan dishes are parangaricutiro (tamales), and (beef and eggs in sauce). Tarascan dishes are charipo (spicy soup), minguichi (cheese and pepper soup), and ash tamales. Sweets consist of diverse ates (fruit pastes), chongos zamoranos (clotted milk), capirotada (bread pudding), morelianas (milk sweets) and sherbets and popsicles of natural flavors. The typical beverage is charanda (fermented sugar cane juice).

CUISINE

Michoacán cuisine is so rich in tradition it is UNESCO World Heritage. Lake zone products include white fish from Pátzcuaro and charalitos dorados (little fish). Other dishes are Tarascan soup; carnitas (braised pork); michi soup (fish with prickly pear fruit); corundas (tamales), achepos (tamales), and aporreadillo (beef and eggs in sauce); Tarascan dishes are charipo (spicy soup), minguichi (cheese and pepper soup), and ash tamales. Sweets consist of diverse ates (fruit pastes), chongos zamoranos (clotted milk), capirotada (bread pudding), morelianas (milk sweets) and sherbets and popsicles of natural flavors. The typical beverage is charanda (fermented sugar cane juice).
And don’t miss . . .

- Experiencing the Monarch Butterfly Reserve
- Boating on Lake Pátzcuaro
- World Heritage cuisine
- Exploring the “magical town” of Tlalpujahua
- Going to beaches on the Michoacán coast
- Buying hand-wrought copper
- Strolling in downtown Morelia
- Enjoying Uruapan, avocado capital
- Getting to know the state’s “magical towns”
- Visiting Tzintzuntzan and Ihuatzio

Tourist information
www.visitmichoacan.com.mx/
www.michoacan.gob.mx/Visita_Michoacan

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secturweb@michoacan.gob.mx, turgaleria@michoacan.gob.mx

Morelia
Tourist Information Booth: Av. Tata Vasco, no. 80, at the corner of Hospitales, Col. Vasco de Quiroga, C.P. 58230
Tourist Information Booth, Palacio de Gobierno: Av. Madero Poniente, no. 63, Centro, C.P. 58000
Tourist Attention Center (Span. Acronym: cat): Portal Hidalgo, no. 245, Col. Centro, C.P. 58000

Pátzcuaro
Tourism Office: 434-342-1214, 342-1705

Zamora
Tourism Office: 351-512-4015, 515-7781

Uruapan
Tourism Office: 452-524-7850, 524-7199

Zitácuaro
Tourism Office: 715-153-0675, 156-7001

Apatzingán
Tourism Office: 453-537-4854, 532-7090

Morelia Conventions and Visitors Office (ocv): Av. Camelinas, no. 676-A, Fracc. La Loma, C.P. 58290, Morelia, 443-204-1201, 204-1202, contacto@convencionsmichoacan.com.mx

National Chamber of the Restaurant and Prepared Food Industry (canirac): Blvd. García de León, no. 734, interior a, Col. Nueva Chapultepec, C.P. 58000, Morelia, 443-232-0122, caniracmich@hotmail.com

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