

MICHOACÁN

TRAVEL GUIDE





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michoacán
EL ALMA DE MÉXICO

Michoacán is located in western Mexico, and it is known for its beauty as well as its history and culture. The state has five UNESCO World Heritage Sites and five Magic Towns (Pueblos Mágicos).

Two of its most precious jewels, have been declared World Heritage by UNESCO: the Historic Centre of Morelia, thanks to more than a thousand buildings in the region's characteristic pink stone, and the Day of the Dead Celebration in Pátzcuaro, an indigenous tradition whose roots go back to pre-Hispanic times.

The vibrant and varied cuisine in Michoacán is also in the list of Intangible World Heritage, as well as the Pirekua, a musical genre. Beside, the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary has been declared World Natural Heritage, since it offers the visitor a chance to witness a wonder of nature.

That is why Michoacán is an irresistible place that has something special to offer for all tastes and occasions.

*Come, and discover Michoacán,
the Soul of Mexico.*





Catedral

Morelia

The gorgeous tourist destination has preserved its colonial feel over the centuries. Its tranquil streets are silent witnesses to the history that has gathered in every corner. One of Morelia's main features is the cathedral, a masterpiece of pink quarry. The Historic Center has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

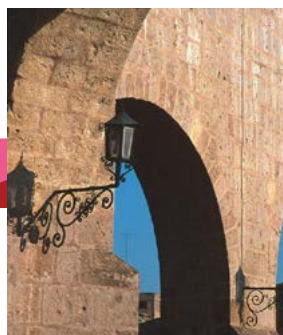
But apart from the beautiful colonial buildings, the city also offers a modern infrastructure that includes a Convention Center, the "Expocentro", and great locations and services for conventions and all kind of events.

The ancient traditions and culture of Morelia are display in the colorful handicrafts. The city has many stores to browse and buy the beautiful works of art produced in the state of Michoacán by local artisans, or you can admire the fantastic creations in the decoration of the restaurants and hotels.

While in Morelia, don't forget to try the traditional dishes, a mixture of Purepecha and European ingredients and recipes, such as corundas and uchepos (regional tamales), the Tarascan soup, the "pollo placero", the "carnitas" (pork meat), and the traditional "salsa de lago" (lake sauce) made with fried "charales" (small white fish). For candy lovers, Morelia offers a wide selection: "chongos zamoranos" (dessert with milk, sugar and cinnamon), ates morelianos (candied fruit), buñuelos (small doughnut) or a "nieve de pasta" (local ice-cream), and of course a cup of hot handmade chocolate.

It has a warm, semi-humid climate with an average temperature of 23°C (73° F).

Morelia is the venue for important music and movie festivals, a good reason to visit the city many times.



Things to do in Morelia

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Acueducto

Aqueduct - Morelia's aqueduct runs along dozens of colonial arches that stretch for over a mile with 253 arches. It was built in 1785 to provide drinking water for the city.

Antigua Alhóndiga - Baroque construction built in 1774. Today it is part of the Palace of Justice.

Colegio de San Nicolás de Hidalgo - Founded in the 16th century. It is a neoclassical building with two-level network of arches and nice murals on the second floor.



Palacio de Justicia

"Clavijero" Palace - This grand Baroque-style building was constructed in 1660 by the Jesuits. Today it houses the Tourism Ministry.

Government Palace - Baroque building whose construction began in 1760. It houses the state executive branch since 1867. There are three murals here painted by Michoacán artist Alfredo Zalce, with portray different periods in the history of Mexico in general and Michoacán in particular.

Federal Palace - Eclectic building with some French-style influence constructed in the 18th century. Since 1935 it houses the Federal Government Offices.



Palacio de Gobierno

Municipal Palace - The Baroque-style building was constructed late in the 18th century. Originally it housed a repository for the control and sale of tobacco. In 1859 it was remodeled to house the Municipal Palace.

Palace of Justice - It is a beautiful old mansion. The façade shows a clear French influence, and in the second floor there are decorative elements with pre-Hispanic influence.

"The Tarascas" Fountain - It depicts three indigenous women holding up a basket full of regional fruits. It has become an iconic symbol of the city.



Catedral

Cathedral - A majestic structure built between 1660 and 1774 in a Baroque-style.

It is known for its 200-foot towers, among the tallest in the land, and for its 4,600 pipe organ, one of the finest in the world. Among the many treasures inside the Cathedral are the neoclassical altarpieces in the chapels. There are two beautiful Cabrera paintings in the vestry. The "Palacio Episcopal" is annex.

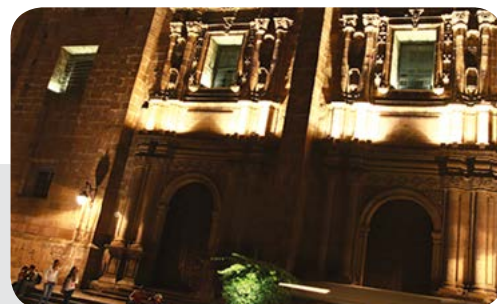
Plaza Villalongín - The plaza feature a beautiful garden that remembers the quiet life of the vicereignty.



Santuario de Guadalupe

Portales - The portals are located in the historic center in front of the Cathedral and other buildings of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. It is a popular place to hangout on, and an excellent choice if you want a simple, great tasting cup of coffee.

Sanctuary of Guadalupe and ex Convent of San Diego - Built in the 18th century it is the most ornate church in Morelia. The Neo-baroque decoration covers vaults, walls and dome.



Templo de las Monjas

Church and Convent of St. Francis (House of the Handicrafts) - The Franciscans began the construction of this Plateresque-style building in 1531. It housed the first monastery established in Valladolid. Since 1973 it has operated as the Michoacán Crafts House with a museum. Open daily from 8:00 to 20:00 hrs.

Templo de las Monjas (Temple of the Nuns) - Built between 1729 and 1737, this baroque temple was dedicated to Santa Catalina de Siena. It picked up the name "The Nuns" because it belonged to an order of the Catherine's, who moved from Las Rosas to this site in 1798, an event depicted on a huge canvas in the Michoacán Regional Museum.



Conservatorio de Música

Templo de los San Agustín (Temple of the Augustinians) - Built in the 16th century with a late Plateresque façade and a gothic influenced cloister.

Templo y Conservatorio de Música de Las Rosas (Temple and Conservatory of Music of the Roses) - Both buildings have a baroque style and were constructed in the 18th century. The Conservatory took over the facility in the late 1940s, and today it houses the internationally renowned Boys Choir of Morelia in addition to the School of Music.



Templo y Ex Convento del Carmen

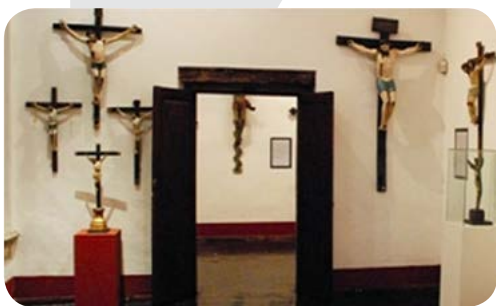
Templo y Ex-Convento del Carmen (Temple and Ex Convent of our Lady of Carmen) – The construction of this Baroque building began in 1593 and continued throughout the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. The former convent was restored between 1974 and 1979 and today it houses the “Casa de la Cultura” (Culture House) and the Museum of the Mask. Open from Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 14:00 hrs and from 16:00 to 20:00 hrs. Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 to 14:00 hrs and from 15:00 to 18:00 hrs.



Museo del Estado

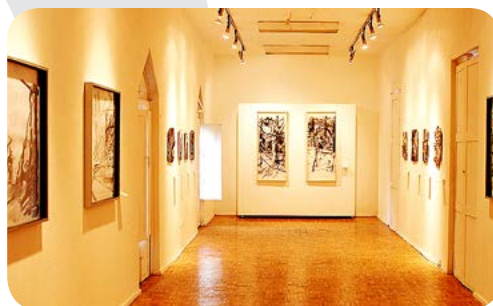
Museo Casa de Morelos (House of Morelos) – This Baroque-style mansion was built in 1758 and acquired by independence hero Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon. Currently, the museum exhibits paintings, photographs, furniture and other antique objects, as well as two impressive carriages. Open daily from 9:00 to 19:00 hrs.

Museo del Estado (State Museum) - It is located in an 18th-century building and has three sections: archaeology, history and ethnology. There is example of an antique pharmacy dating from 1868. Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 20:00 hrs pm, and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 10:00 to 18:00 hrs.



Museo de Arte Colonial

Museo de Arte Colonial (Museum of Colonial Art)- Located in an 18th century baroque-style house. The first printing press of the city was established here in 1821. Today the museum exhibits works from the vice regal period. The museum houses an important collection of more than one hundred figures of Christ from the sixteenth to twentieth century. Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 20:00 hrs. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10:00 to 19:00 hrs.



Museo de Arte Contemporáneo

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo “Alfredo Zalce” (Contemporary Art Museum) - This 19th century building of French influence has 13 exhibition rooms with 20th century art collection. Open Monday through Friday from 10:00 to 19:45 hrs, weekends and holidays from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs. Museo de Historia Natural “Dr. Manuel Martínez Solórzano” (Museum of Natural History) – The museum intends to disseminate information on the flora and fauna of the region and create an environmental awareness. Open daily from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs.



Museo Regional Michoacano

Museo Regional Michoacano (Regional Museum of Michoacan) – A baroque construction. It has one room dedicated to the ecology in Michoacán and five other rooms exhibit the history of the State from the pre-Hispanic era to the modern times. There is a great Alfredo Zalce’s mural in the stairs. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 a 17:00 hrs.

Centro Cultural Universitario (University Cultural Center) – A contemporary building with two rooms. The Center exhibits historic books, paintings and documents. Open Monday to Saturday from 9:00 to 14:00 hrs. and from 16:00 to 20:00 hrs.



Parque Zoológico



Centro de Convenciones



Planetario

Museo del Dulce (Candy Museum) – It has a decoration and furniture of the beginning of the 20th century. And it displays the way the candies are elaborated. Open daily from 10:00 to 14:30 hrs and 16:30 to 20:00 hrs.

Parque Zoológico Benito Juárez (Zoo) - It is the most important zoo of the country in the matter of variety of species (440) and number of specimen (3,800). It has the largest bird collection in Latin America. Within the zoo are other family attractions, such as artificial lake, auditorium, scenic train, children playground and restaurants. Open from Monday to Thursday from 10:30 to 20:00 hrs. Friday and Saturday from 10:00 to 21:00 hrs. Sunday from 10:00 to 20:00 hrs.

Convention Center – Considered one of the best in the country. It has 9 event halls of different sizes that go from 10 to 2,000 people of capacity. It also feature a modern and comfortable theater, planetarium, library, hotel, parking lot and gardens.

Orchid Greenhouse – It has three areas. The first room has the blooming orchids. The second displays 650 hybrid orchids. And the last room has more than 2,300 wild orchids.

Planetario “Felipe Rivera” (Planetarium) - Its contemporary design features a hemispheric dome 65 feet in diameter. The dome acts as a screen for the 164 projectors that reproduce the sidereal movements of the stars. Open from Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 17:00 hrs. Weekends and holidays from 10:30 to 14:00 and from 15:00 to 17:00 hrs. The Planetarium offers functions Fridays and Saturdays at 19:00 hrs and Sundays at 18:30 hrs.

Book your trip to Morelia



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Map of Morelia

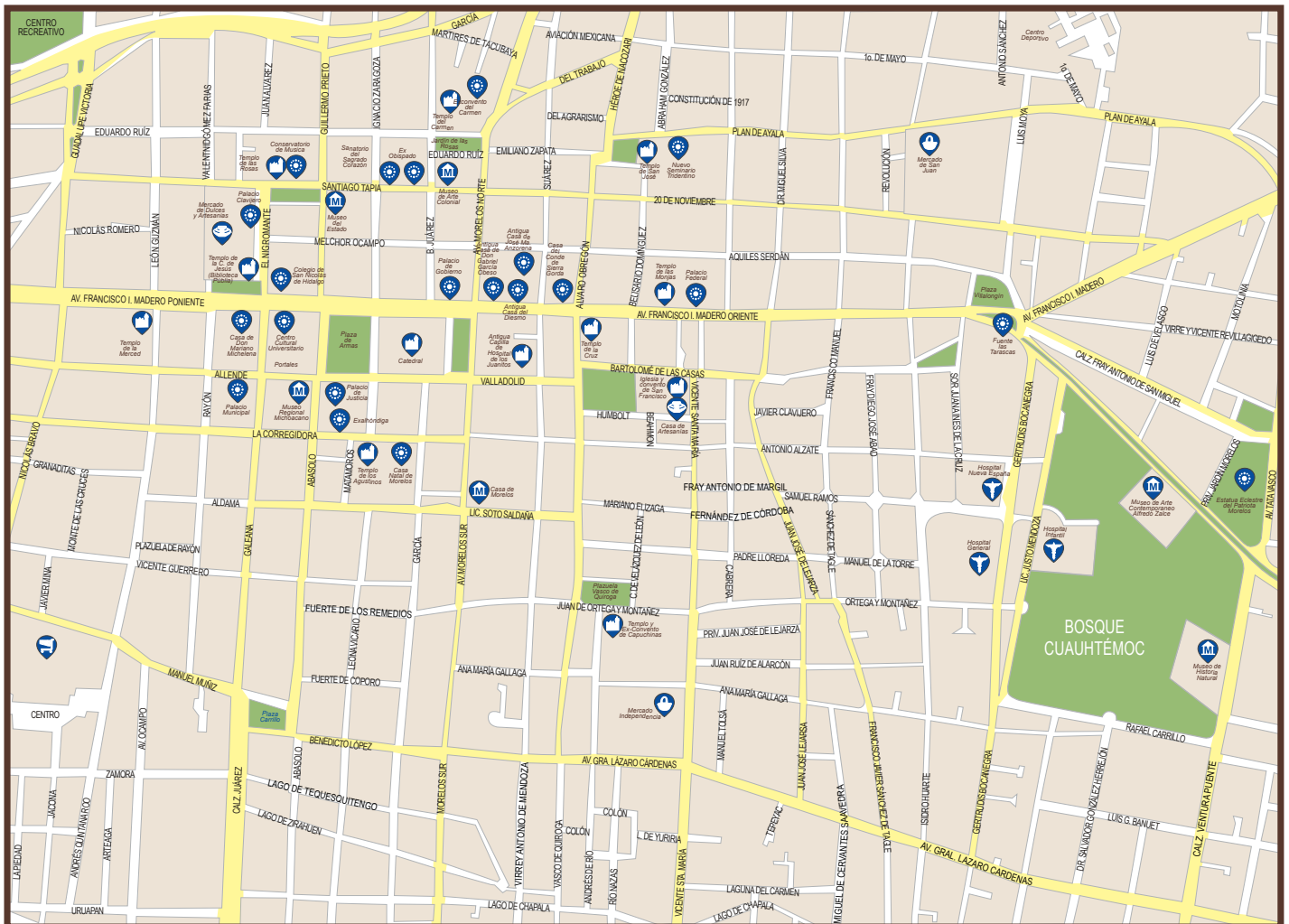


Symbols



Historic Centre of Morelia Map

Symbols





Tiripetio

Tiripetio - It is worth to visit the Augustinian Ex-Convent built in the 16th century, the first University of America; a temple also from the 16th century and the “Bañito” Spring.

Morelos National Park – This woody park full of creeks is ideal for camping, enjoying a picnic, and horse back riding.

Tarímbaro – Highlights include a 16th Century Franciscan Ex-

Convent, the Sanctuary of the Virgin of the Stairway, and an old hacienda.

Charo – It is located only 11 km from Morelia. It has a Plateresque Augustinian Convent dating from 1578 with murals of religious subjects.

Copándaro de Galeana – There is an Augustian Ex-Convent built in 1570 with interesting murals.

Villa Morelos – This town is located 70 km from Morelia. There is a 16th century Augustan Ex-Convent.

Teremendo de los Reyes - The town’s main attractions are: the 16th century temple of “Los Santos Reyes”, the civil plaza, the desert-like landscape full of cacti in the a volcano crater called “La Alberca” and the archeological vestiges located in “Los Lobos” ravine.

Tres Cerritos - This site along with Queréndaro, Huandacareo, Araró, Zinapécuaro, etc., was one of the numerous enclaves that surrounded the Patzcuaro lake region. Archaeological materials found in the area shown some cultural exchange with the people from Teotihuacan. The archeological area dates back to the Late-Classic horizon (6th to 9th Centuries). The most notable remains are the “Montículo 1” (platform), located in the northwest of the site, and the main plaza with a shrine in the middle. Open daily from 10:00 a 17:00 hrs.

Huandacareo – The town lays at the shores of the Cuitzeo Lagoon. This place was under the influence of the Tarascan Empire, at least 300 year before the Spaniards arrived to

the region. The zenit of this civilization was in the 12th Century when most the remains were built, although there are some ruins from previous years. The most notorious structures are the sunken plaza, the platforms number 1 and 2, and “patio de la tumba” (grave’s yard). Open daily from 10:00 to 18:00 hrs. It is also famous for its hot springs and the “carnitas” (little meats), a dish made of braised or roasted and then fried or sauteed pork.

Capula - It is famous for its delicately hand painted ornament clay handicraft. The main attractions are: the Santiago Apostol Temple built in the 16th century, and the house of the artist Juan Torres, turn into a gallery with an exhibit of his paintings and sculptures.

Zinapécuaro – A community worth visiting because of its multiple hot springs which feed a bathing resort that has hotel service and an aquatic park. Besides, it has a 16th century Franciscan Ex-Convent.

Jesús del Monte – There is a 16th century Augustinian temple. Woods, creeks, rivers and waterfalls, an ideal landscape for camping, hiking and mountain cycling surround the town.

Cuitzeo

Lake is located on the Morelia-Salamanca highway 34 kilometers from Morelia. It is famous for its rich “charal” (lake fish), which the villagers prepare in multiple manners. On the high lands of the town is the Augustinian Ex-Convent of St Mary Magdalene, which is considered the most beautiful of the state because of its magnificent 16th century Plateresque architecture.



Around Morelia Map

Distances from Morelia:

	Km.		Km.
Álvaro Obregón	24	Indaparapeo	26
Chucándiro	51	Puruándiro	102
Copándaro	32	Queréndaro	29
Cuitzeo	34	Tarímabro	11
Charo	11	Tzitzio	43
Huandacareo	50	Zinapécuaro	58





Ex Convento de San Agustín

Pátzcuaro

Built in the hills sloping back from Lake Pátzcuaro. This is one of the most picturesque towns in Mexico, a real jewel of the colonial architecture, with temples, gardens, red tile roofs and narrow cobblestone streets. You can appreciate the ancient history of the place in every corner and enjoy its enchanting atmosphere. It was named Pueblo Mágico (Magic Town) since 2002.

Patzcuaro is a place full of traditions and festivities like the “Pastorelas” (short Christmas play that represents de Mexican Nativity); the plays are represented in various towns, starting on January the 6th. On November the 8th, the “mojigangas” (enormous puppets that symbolize different cultural figures and archetypal human characteristics) goes out announcing the “Fiesta Mayor”, which is the most important celebration in the region, and the beginning of the annual fair. On December 29th there is an exhibition and a

parade of canoes with the traditional butterfly nets around Janitzio Island. Patzcuaro is most famous for their Day of the Dead celebrations from October 31st to November 2nd. Small boats carry residents across the lake to the Islands of Janitzio, Jarácuaro, and the locations of Huecorio, Tzurumútaró and others, just to visit cemeteries and decorate graves with flowers and candles for all-night vigils.

The weather in Pátzcuaro is temperate year-round with rainfall during summer.



Things to do in Patzcuaro

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Casa de los 11 Patios

Casa de los 11 Patios (House of the Eleven Courtyards) – Built in 1742, it was formerly a Dominican convent. Today it houses galleries and shops with every type of local artistry for sale.

Vasco de Quiroga Square– This grand plaza with its towering trees, impressive fountain, and surrounded by lovely colonial buildings, is considered by many to be none of the most beautiful in the Americas.



Templo de San Agustín

Huitzimengari Palace – Located in the main plaza, it was built for the Antonio de “Huitzimngari”, son of the last Purépecha emperor and godson of Don Antonio de Mendoza, the first viceroy in New Spain. The sober facade contrasts with the inner courtyard surrounded with round arches and filled with flowers, where indigenous artisans display their products.

Gertudris Bocanegra Square – Formerly the Plaza of San Austin. In the north side is the temple of San Agustín, now a public library; and on the west side there are some market stalls selling food and art crafts.



Basílica de Nuestra Sra. de la Salud

Basílica de Nuestra Señora de la Salud (Basilica of Our Lady of Health) – This is the most important temple in Patzcuaro. Don Vasco de Quiroga, the first bishop of Michoacán, built the Basilica on top of a pre-Hispanic ceremonial center.

The “Hospitalito” (The little Hospital) – Tradition dictates that this was the oldest church/hospital in Patzcuaro, since the Franciscans founded hospitals before having a convent. The façade is 16th century Renaissance and the altars 19th century. You can admire a beautiful golden carved wood baptismal font in the main altar.



El Sagrario

Templo y Colegio de la Compañía de Jesús (Church and School of the Company of Jesus) – Built in the 16th century, it was the Cathedral until 1566.

Capilla del Humilladero (The Humiliated) – Also known as Cristo Chapel, is one of the oldest in Patzcuaro. In 1553 Don Vasco de Quiroga had a sculpture of the crucifixion of Christ made of one piece of quarry stone and placed where it could be venerated by the travelers.

Iglesia El Sagrario y Hospital de Santa María (the Shrine) – One of the chapels in this church has a magnificent Baroque altar, the last one in the city.



Centro Cultural

Exconvento de San Agustín (Ex Temple of San Agustín) – It was built in 1576. The ancient temple houses a library with a great mural painted by Juan O’Gorman.

Centro Cultural Excolegio Jesuita (Cultural Center) – An architectural ensemble of the Society of Jesus. It has a beautiful courtyard and large spaces that provide a sense of tranquility. Decorative paintings of the 18th and 19th centuries are still preserved.

Santuario de Guadalupe (Sanctuary of Guadalupe) – This is a Neoclassical building built in the early 19th century. Four sculptures out of seven have been preserved, and they represent the virtues.

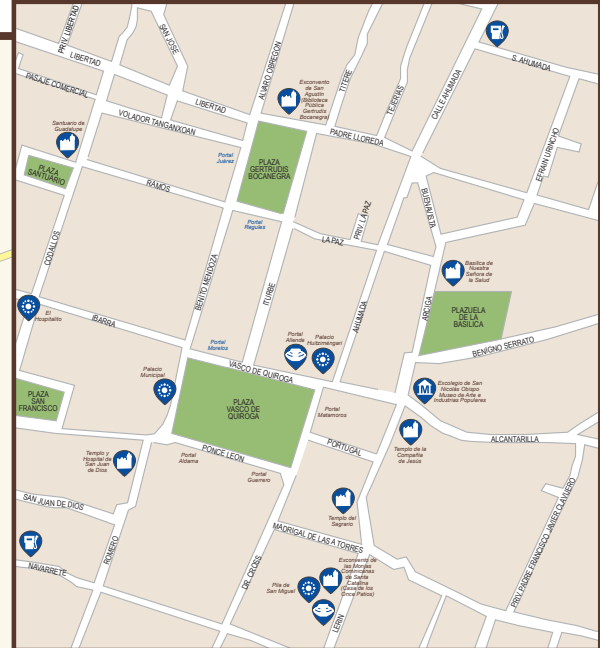


Museo Regional

El Calvario (Calvary) – A chapel built by Fray Marcos Ramírez del Prado in 1666. It was built on top of a “yácata” (pyramid) that contain the remains of Irecha, a Tariácuri king.

Museo Regional de Artes e Industrias Populares (Museum of Popular Arts) – It occupies another beautiful colonial construction built in 1540, originally the headquarters of the School of San Nicolas founded by Don Vasco de Quiroga. This unique museum has several rooms filled with fine examples of regional popular art. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 to 19:00 hrs, Sunday from 9:00 to 15:00 hrs.

[Book your trip to Patzcuaro](#)





Santa Clara del Cobre

Santa Clara Del Cobre - Local artisans are worldwide known because of the skill and ability to elaborate beautiful beaten copperware. You can visit the National Copper Museum and admire the works on display, or have a tour of the different stores and workshops and buy a special piece. The town's two main churches Parish of Santa Clara and the

great prestige and renown international demand are fabricated here. This picturesque village has been home to artists such as André Breton.

Quiroga - A town of pre-Hispanic foundation famous for the pieces of work in wood, and its creations in leather. There are many stores with artcraft from Michoacán and an attractive Franciscan convent built in 1859.

Carácuaro – This is a cheerful town of Tierra Caliente (“hot land”). The miracles of the Señor de Carácuaro, a Black Christ from the 16th century, are very famous.

You can visit the house where the independence hero Jose Maria Morelos lived and the old base of the atrium cross in the parish of Carácuaro.



Quiroga

Chapel del Hospital. In the main plaza there is a kiosk with a copper roof. The National Copper Fair is held here each August.

Erongarícuaro – Village on the western bank of Lake Patzcuaro founded by pre-Hispanic people before the arrival of the Purepechas. It has a beautiful convent built in the 16th century. Furniture and textiles of



Tzintzuntzan

Considered the first capital of the Purépecha Empire. The site, which stands on a hillside, has the remains of many rectangular and cylindrical step pyramids used in their ritual buildings, known locally as “Yácatas”. The city was founded in the Post-Classic period. In the central area of the site there is an enormous man-made plateau, and it has steps along one side leading up to five rectangular temple platforms. In the surroundings there are vestiges of plazas and areas with rooms. Open daily from 9:00 to 17:00 hrs. Any walk through the town demands a visit to the Franciscan convent built in the 16th century. Every November the 2nd, the open chapel turns into a theater where the traditional play of “Don Juan Tenorio” is represented.



Zirahuén

Zirahuén – Small community with cobblestone streets and wooden chalets known as Trojes, in front of a beautiful deep blue lake known as the “Mirror of the Gods.” Dense forests of pines and oaks surround the lake. It is the ideal place for a spiritual retreat and to enjoy the natural environment. On the north and south shore of the lake you can find comfortable cabins and restaurants serving fabulous fresh trout and whitefish. You can enjoy boating on the lake, or horseback riding, there are also places for extreme sports and campgrounds.

Ario de Rosales – Picturesque town with a pleasant climate and excellent cuisine. You can visit the site museum of the First Supreme Court established in 1815 by José María Morelos and the Temple of St. James. The famous singer Marco Antonio Solís “El Buki”, was born in here.

Tacámbaro - The town is surrounded by forest and it has a pleasant climate the whole year. One of the main attractions is the Fatima Virgin Sanctuary. Its gastronomy is known as one of the best in Michoacán. Nearby you can visit the Magdalena Lagoon, the natural reserve of Cerro Hueco, and two 80 meters high waterfalls, where you can go fishing, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

Ihuatzio - It is a town founded by the Purepachas on top of a man-leveled plateau. It is south of the Patzcuaro Lake and it was an important ceremonial center and an astronomy observatory in pre-Hispanic times. One needs to pay attention to the two pyramids “Curicaveri” and “Xaratanga”, and some archaeological objects such as the Chac-Mol (Toltec sculpture related to the god of rain), a clear evidence of their contact with other Toltec culture. One of the characteristic features in the site are the walled-roads, they were used to communicate the main groups of buildings. Open daily from 9:00 to 17:00 hrs.

Zacapu - This city is considered the first settlement of the Purepecha culture. You can visit the 16th century Parish of Santa Ana, the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the St John the Baptist’s Chapel, the 16th century Franciscan Convent, and the hot springs. Its lagoon, the pools of thorns formed in the crater of a small volcano and nearby springs, are also worth admiring. You can also visit two archaeological sites “Las Iglesias” and “La Crucecita” with remains of pyramids, and the beautiful Zacapu Lagoon.

Tupátaro – There is a magnificent 16th-century temple. Its interior is richly decorated and absolutely breathtaking. The church has beautiful “artesonado” ceilings (derives from the similarity of their shape to a gigantic upside-down wooden trough). The ornamentation is vividly painted mainly in golden color with panels illustrating the Life and Passion of Christ. You can also visit the local museum.

Cuanajo - There are many furniture workshops and the craftsmen make very colorful textiles. It has a beautiful 15th century church.



Tacámbaro



Isla de Janitzio

La Pacanda Island - This Island of circular form is found in the center of the lake. It has an interior lagoon of singular beauty, where carp and ducks are plentiful.

Janitzio Island - A 40 meter statue of Don Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon (Independence hero) is found on the island's highest point. In its interior, the painter Ramon Alva de la Canal stamped the life of the hero. The indigenous community, that inhabits the island, has conserved in great part the authenticity of its costumes, such as the vigil of the Night of the Dead, ceremony in which the fishermen come out with their butterfly-form nets and boats lighted up with candles.

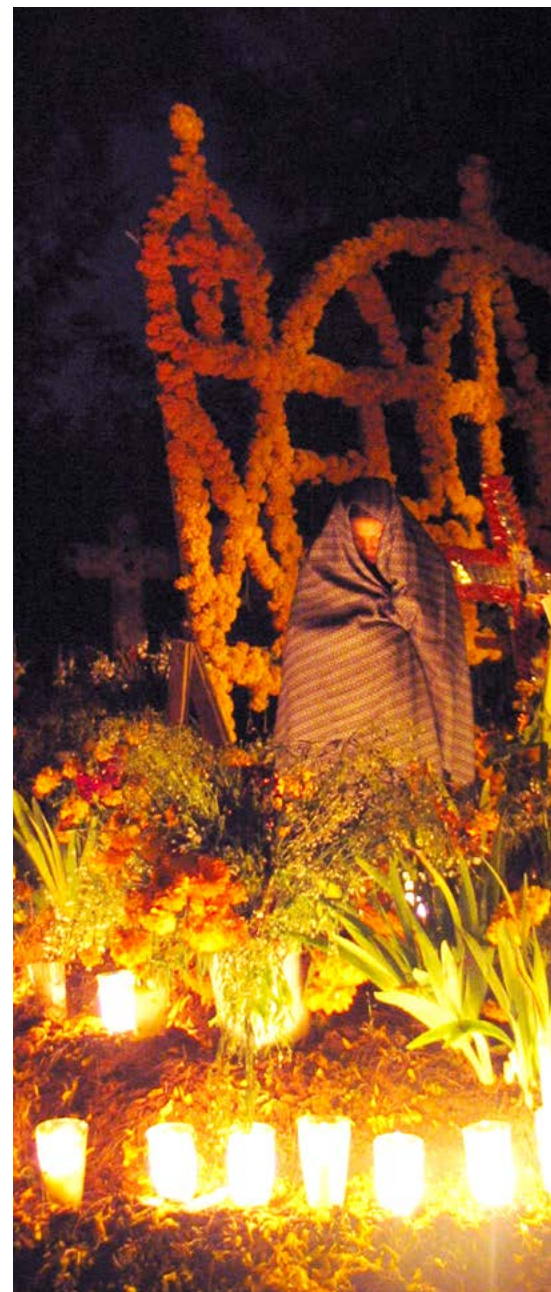
Tecuená Island - It is the smallest island in the lake. It is a suggestive place that invites to a rest and reflection.

Yunuén Island - Its principal attraction is its evergreen and fresh vegetation, as well as the typical constructions. This island has a picturesque pier, lodging cabins and other services to enjoy a tranquil and pleasant stay.

Los Urandenes Islands - They are three islands surrounded by canals of great beauty. The main reserves of white fish are found there. Its inhabitants are skilled in fishing with nets in form of a butterfly.

Jarácuaro - It is the largest island in the lake of Patzcuáro. The Tarascan population has kept the traditions and the 16th century temple offers a beautiful scenic view.

Tócuaro - The town is famous worldwide for its woodcarving masks that come to life in the traditional dances of the Old People, or the Warriors.



Around Pátzcuaro Map

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Distances from Pátzcuaro:

	Km.		Km.
Ario de Rosales	46	Quiroga	19
Carácuaro	136	Sta. Clara del Cobre	24
Erongarícuaro	18	Tacámbaro	54
Huaniqueo	74	Tzintzuntzan	17
Lagunillas	25	Zacapu	61
Nocupétaro	128	Zirahuén	22





Uruapan

The second most important city in the state of Michoacán has a history that dates back to the pre-Hispanic era. Uruapan has been qualified as “the orchard of Michoacán” or “World capital of the avocado”. Nevertheless, the more deserved title is “the true cradle of the lacquer”, due to the production of trays, cups, masks, boxes, and other wooden objects, artistically decorated with this technique that goes back to the pre-Hispanic period. Among its multiple attractions, the city has magnificent historical monuments like the Franciscan Parish Church that preserves part of its 16th Century walls, and a Plateresque style front that was originally on the

main façade; indeed worthy of admiring. The Huatapera and the chapels of the districts of La Magdalena, San Francisco (better known as San Francisquito), San Juan Bautista, San Pedro, San Miguel and Santiago; the market of “Antojitos” (typical dishes); Municipality Museum Eduardo Ruiz, with an exhibit of pre-Hispanic pieces; the Tourist House, used for the promotion, exhibition and sale of a great variety of crafts.

Uruapan surroundings offer beautiful landscapes with forest and the magnificent Volcano Parícutín, which is considered the youngest of the world and the only one that the human being has seen born.



Around Uruapan



Angahuan

San Pedro Zacán – the highlights are the 16th century Santa Rosa Chapel, and the Saint Peter Parish.

Paracho – Eight picturesque communities, full of traditions, architectural monuments and astonishing

natural wonders, compose the municipality. Paracho is the land of guitars, it is well known throughout both Mexico and elsewhere in the world as guitar producer. Some other instruments that can be found in Paracho are: violins, violas, cellos, acoustic bass guitars, and mandolins, among others. You can visit interesting sites, such as the: House for Purepecha Art and Culture, the House of Culture, the Center for the Investigation and Development of the Guitar (museum, a classroom and a concert hall), the Guitar Museum, the Temple of San Geronimo in Aranza, the temple of Santiago Apostle of Nurio (known as the Cathedral of the Purepecha Novohispanic Art) and the Temple of San Miguel Pomacuarán. The National Guitar Fair Is held every August.

San Lorenzo – It has a temple dedicated the patron saint, San Lorenzo. The church preserves its original façade from the 16th century with an atrial cross added in 1823. A nice chapel is set aside the church. Village women made cross-stitched tablecloth and napkins, as well as cloth dolls of women dressed in local indigenous dress.

Capácuaro – You can visit the Parish of St John the Baptist built in the 16th century with its ancient stone facade.

Angahuan – Picturesque village founded during the pre-Hispanic Period. This is one of the few Michoacán mountain towns that has kept its original appearance with wood houses roofed with “tejamanil” (roof tiles). The highlights in the town are: the Hospital Chapel

and the Parish of St. James built in the mid-sixteenth century in a Moorish style. You can visit the tourist center in Angahuan, that rents cabins, runs a small cafeteria, and have some camping areas. It affords a good view of the Parícutín volcano and the tower of the Church of San Juan Parangaricutiro, part of little town that was buried by lava. The best way to know the area is with a horse and a guide.

San Juan Nuevo Parangaricutiro – On May 10th, 1944 the residents abandoned the old village because of the volcano Parícutín erupted and moved to the hacienda “Los Conejos”, 30 km. from its original location. You can visit the Chapel of the Lord of Miracles, “Conejos” spring, “San Miguelito” Zoo Park, Pantzingo, an Eco Tourism Park with cabins, and the ruins of the Temple of San Juan Parangaricutiro.

Santiago Tingambato – The archeological zone has a clear Teotihuacan influence and is very different from the other sites in the region. Tingambato reached its zenith from 200 to 900 AC. Among the most important constructions are: the Plaza 2, the shrines, the ball game and the Tomb Number 1. Open daily from 10:00 to 17:00 hrs. You can visit the Temple of St. James built in the sixteenth century and the House for Art and Purepecha Culture.

Los Reyes – There is a small downtown market where you can enjoy the local gastronomy. Not too far from Los Reyes is the famous “Chorros del Varal”, five marvelous 40-meter high waterfalls surrounded by jungle vegetation.

Ziracuaretiro – It is an attractive little village surrounded by fruit trees. You can visit the St. Michael the Archangel Parish, and an archeological site full of ancient petroglyphs located near the beautiful springs “The Ziranda” and “El Tigre”.



Volcán Parícutín



Santuario Guadalupeano

Zamora

This is a privileged area for its cultural wealth, its natural resources. The people in here have preserved alive their ancestral traditions that are reflected in their crafts and gastronomy.

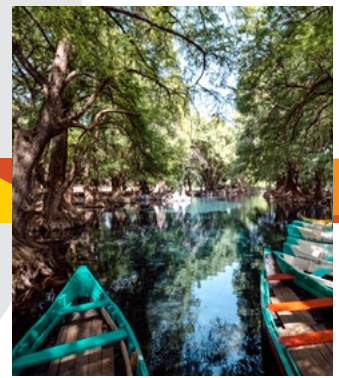
It is one of the most important cities of Michoacán thanks to its commercial and agro-industrial development, in addition to its solid infrastructure in the area of services.

This location is known for its “Chongos zamoranos” (sweet made from milk and sugar) and for its strawberries, considered the best in the world for its taste and consistency.

You can visit the Cathedral of the Diocese, beautiful neoclassical building built between 1840 and 1879. The Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe majestic church designed to be the Cathedral of the Diocese of Zamora. The Federation Palace, elegant building originally built in 1904 in order to be

residence of the Bishop of Zamora. The Temple of San Francisco, the Chapel of San Diego, the Parish of the Immaculate Conception, the Temple of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Church of Carmen, the Parish of the Lord of Health (Calvary), the District of Teco, the hull of the former hacienda “Los Espinos”, and the Colegio de Michoacán.

One of its major attractions is Lake Chapala, where you can see thousands of white pelicans arriving from October to March.



Book your trip to Zamora

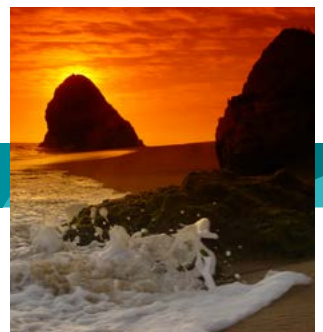


Maruata

The Michoacán Coast

March. The 250 kilometers of the coast is a horizon of beaches, bays, cliffs, and exuberant vegetation where it is possible to admire numerous birds and thousands of coconut palms, mango, papaya, and banana orchards. The most important city in the cost is Lázaro Cárdenas, among its attractions are: the Municipal Palace, the Cristo Rey Cathedral, the Fishers Dock, the Rio Balsas Dike and La Villita Dam.

It is located just 387 kms from Morelia and there is a new highway in very good conditions. The coast of Michoacán has a mixture of ancient culture represented in the ruins and in the native communities, and the magnificent beauty of the beaches. There are beaches with calm waters ideal for swimming and relax, but there are other beaches with strong waves excellent for people who love surfing. Besides, three different species of turtles (Laud, Golfina and Black) come ashore to lay their eggs in the sand from June to



Beaches



Jardín and Eréndira Beaches – Palms fringe both beaches, ideal to enjoy a beautiful sunset and some of the best seafood in the area.

Playa Azul (Blue Beach) – October, “the month of sea turtles” volunteers release baby turtles, beside if you visit this beach you can enjoy the regional tradition in the Festival with an exposition of handcrafts and regional dances.

Barra de Pichi – A beautiful inlet near Playa Azul. You can enjoy a boat ride and have a delicious “pescado a la talla”, marinated grilled snapper wrapped in mangle leaf.

Las Peñas – It is located 37 Km south of Lázaro Cárdenas. With this beach begin the rocky shore that extends several kilometers. There are cliffs amazing panoramic views along this beach. A festival or celebration takes place every year, where you can taste the regional food and enjoy the folk music as well as the handcrafts and the traditional volleyball tournament. The International Billfish Tournament is held in December.

Barra de Tigre – Beautiful freshwater lagoon with a rich fauna and flora. The place is ideal for bird watching. Betula, is the name of a small boat that ran aground in 1993, and it has become an artificial reef.

La Soledad – Cliffs border the small beach. Here you will enjoy the best shrimp in the coast of Michoacán. Every Palm Sunday, there is a sand sculpture festival “Expo Arena”; the celebration includes traditional music, dancing, crafts, and seafood. There is an exhibition of archaeological remains found under the sand.

Pichilinguillo – It is a small beach situated on a tiny bay surrounded by cliffs on 3 sides, the sea is calm as a swimming pool, one of the most beautiful beaches in Michoacán. This is one the safest swimming areas along the coast. You can also enjoy a scenic boat ride through its beautiful caves. A nice place for snorkeling and fishing. There is a Lobster Festival every December.

Caleta de Campos – This beautiful bay with mirror-like water is ideal for swimming, water sports, and camping.

Nexpa – A place to enjoy adventure and nature. The sea waves are very strong, ideal for surfing. The beach offers rustic cabins and services for camping. There are international surf tournaments in this beach.

Villa Dorada – Beach with strong waves and moderate slope. There is a Turtle Conservation Camp.

Maruata – Beach with gentle surf, clear turquoise waters and golden sandy beaches. To reach this unique landscape, considered as the most beautiful beach in Michoacán, you have to go through a rural



La Soledad

village and then cross over a lush tropical vegetation to find an open space with a river flowing into the sea. Maruata actually has three bays. The left (eastern) is the longest, perfect for swimming and snorkeling. The one in the middle is for strong swimmers, and it's sheltered by a climbable rocky head riddled with caves, tunnels and blowholes. Here you will find the unusual



Dedo de Dios (God's Finger) formation rising from the sea. The far-right (western) beach is known as Playa de los Muertos (Beach of the Dead), for its dangerous currents. Where fresh water meets salt water, a nice lagoon is formed, and you can expect to see a wide variety of birds like seagulls, flamingos, egrets, cormorants, ibis, and pelicans, among others.

There are rustic cabins and camping areas. Here you can enjoy fresh lobster with handmade tortillas.

Colola – An extensive beach with strong waves, where you can buy the best crafts of the coast, like pieces of clay and wood, and textiles. There is a small hostel where you can camp and an eco-museum dedicated to marine turtle.

Faro de Bucerías – The beach is formed within a beautiful bay. There is the lighthouse and has a small rocky island joined to the beach by a sand road. There is a shipwreck/artificial reefs around the coast. It is an ideal place for swimming, diving and snorkeling. You can enjoy the local cuisine



Barra de Pichi

based on fish and seafood.

La Manzanillera – The beach is beautiful with a turquoise and calm sea, ideal for swimming. This place is legit one of the best places to get a lobster. It has restaurants, cabins and camping place. You can admire the arrival of thousands of seabirds in June and July, a unique show.

La Ticla – Ideal for surfing, this beach has cabins and a campground. Annually during Palm Sunday, there is an International Surfing Tournament.

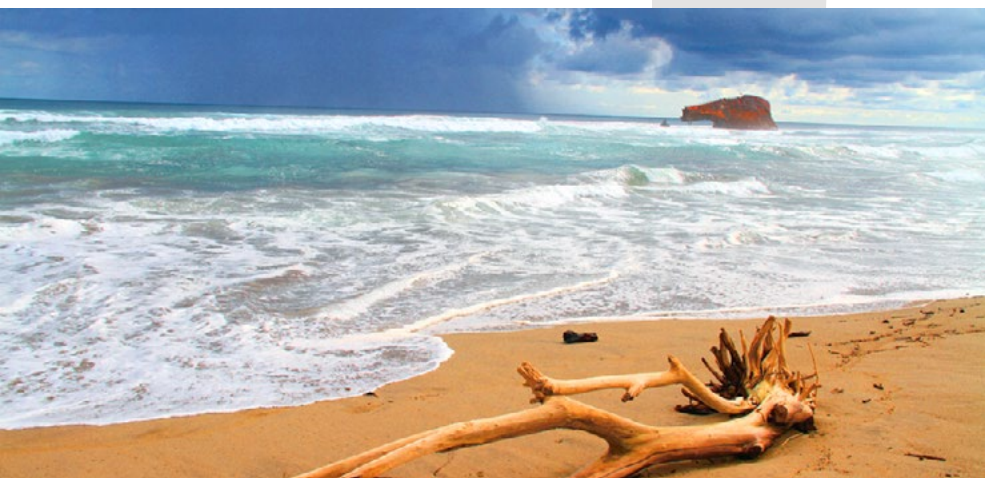
Ixtapilla – Beach where every year about 30,000 turtles arrive to lay eggs from August to September. There are camping facilities.

San Juan de Alima – It has lush vegetation and abundance of bird species. There are small hotels and palapas.

Santelmo – Beautiful beach where you can enjoy the traditional dishes of the coast of Michoacán. It is ideal for camping.



Caleta de Campos



Barra de Tigre

Book your trip to the Michoacán Coast

Map of the Coast of Michoacán

Symbols





Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary

October and March. During those months, the pine and oyamel forests of the sanctuaries Sierra Chincua in Angagueo and “El Rosario” in Ocampo, are colored



The Monarch Butterfly, the symbol and pride of Michoacán, has found the eastern portion of the state the perfect spot to seek refuge and escape from the frigid autumn and winters of the forests in the southern Canadian and northern United States. This region offers propitious conditions with sufficient vegetation and temperatures for hibernation and reproduction of the Monarch Butterfly, whose estimated numbers of 60 million travel more than 4,000 kilometers to rest here between the months of



with fluttering butterflies, their tones of orange, white and black contrasting with the forest green and the blue sky create a unique landscape.

These sanctuaries are open to public from the second week of November until March 21st from 9 am to 5 pm. It is recommended to rent an off-road vehicle in Angangueo to get to El Rosario. The Sierra Chincua Sanctuary is located 6 kilometers far from Angangueo. Guides, whose services are included in the entry fee, show you around the

sanctuary and give a short explanation of the butterflies' lifecycle. The walk to the best spot is about 2 Km, mostly uphill at an altitude of almost 3,000 meters, so you better take it easy.

Book your trip to the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary



Angangueo

Charming Small Towns

Angangueo – It is an attractive former silver-mining town, recently named Magic Town. It has an irregular layout of its streets and blocks, which has remained the same since colonial times, and most of the houses are made of adobe with red roofs and flower-filled porches. There are two large churches on the town plaza: the Inmaculada Concepción built in pink stone in Gothic style, and The San Simon Parish, both built in the 18th century. You can also visit The Casa Parker, an old train station turned into a museum with interesting photographs. The best time to visit is in winter, since it is located very near from the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve.

Zitácuaro – This is the city where the American National Supreme Board was constituted to authenticate the “Independence Movement”. It is located in a region of forests with pine, evergreen, oyamel trees, lagoons, creeks and springs. The landscape is ideal for people who love

the nature. The main attractions are: the “Azufres”, “Larga” Lagoon, Pacuato, Sabaneta, Mata de Pinos and the Tziranda Caves, among others. The main attractions in this region are the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuaries. Presa del Bosque (Forest Dam), is just 12 Km south from Zitácuaro; this is a nice place for camping and for water sports. “Salto de Enandio”, a 90-meter high waterfall, is also near Zitácuaro.

San Felipe los Alzati – Considering the geographical location of the site, overlooking the Valley of Zitácuaro, San Felipe los Alzati is supposed to have been an strategic location for surveillance of travelers coming from central Mexico. The site was occupied from the year 1200 to 1500 AC. The orientation of the Main Group is according with the cardinal points. The 40-meter Major Pyramid is the highest structure in Michoacán. A staircase to the main plaza connects the Minor Pyramid. Open daily from 10:00 a 17:00 hrs. The village is an indigenous community with a temple known as San Felipe dating from the 16th century.

Ocampo – Town surrounded by mountains full of pine, fir and cedar trees. It has the largest Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary in the country.



San Felipe los Alzati

Contepec – This place is surrounded with nice hot springs. There is a small tourist center located near a large dam, the ideal place for sailing and jetski.

Jungapeo – The location has a subtropical climate and a series of hot springs with an average temperature of 70° F or 30° C. One of the best places in the area is Agua Blanca. It offers a mountain landscape full of waterfalls. The hot springs have chemical components with therapeutical effects.

Maravatio – The town is located in a beautiful large valley. You can visit The Morelos Theatre built in the beginning of the 20th century, the 16th-century church of San Juan Bautista, the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception built in a Moorish style, the house where Miguel Hidalgo – a leader of the War of Independence - stayed in 1810, and “El Refugio” (the Refuge) a traditional 19th-century pharmacy.

Chucándiro - A 16th century viceroyalty Ex-Convent of St. Nicolas Tolentino and the Chapel of the hospital of the Conception are found here. Among its natural beauties are: “Los Baños” (the Baths), hot springs which have curative properties and “Tanimireche” a cold water spring, which before forming into a river it spreads into an area of 1.5 kilometers, constituting a small, but rich ecological reserve.

Ciudad Hidalgo – You can visit the 16th-century parish and buy the typical canned vegetables or fruit.

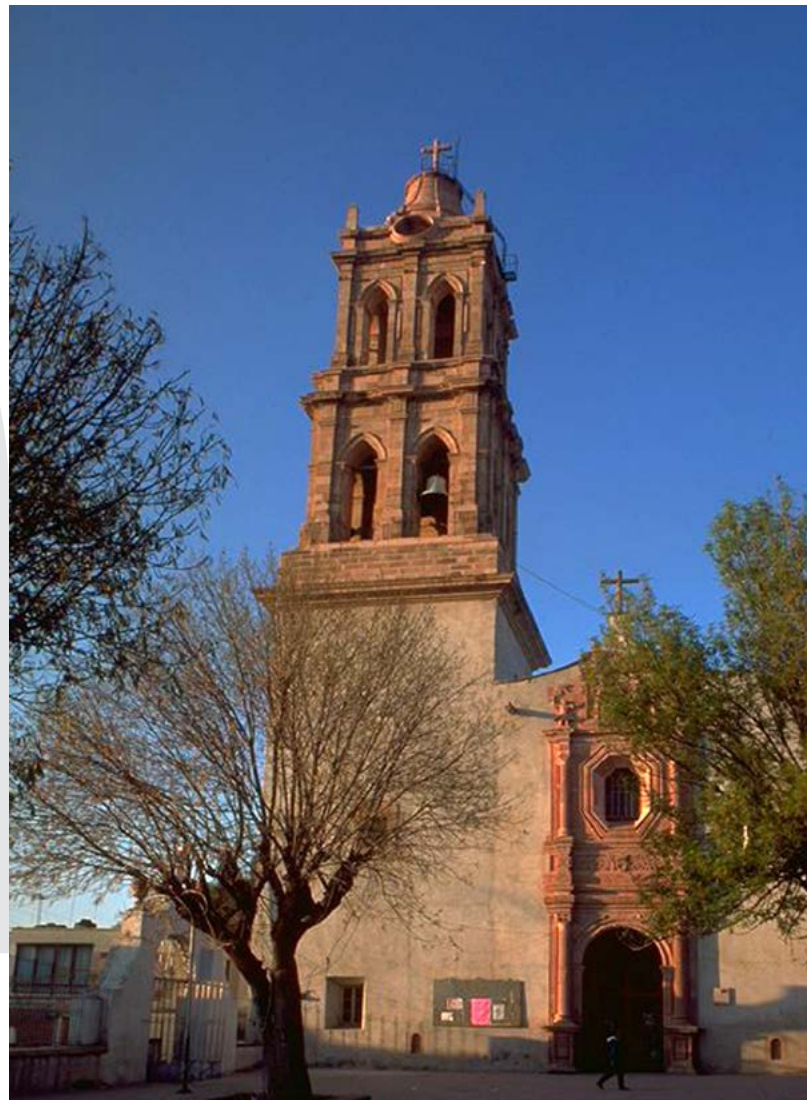
San Matías – Es una comunidad alfarera que cuenta con dos bellas cruces atriales del siglo XVIII.

Las Grutas de Tziranda (Grottoes) – This caves is the shelter of 19 species of bats. There are guides and some services. The site also features a light and sound show.

Pucuat, Sabaneta and Mata de Pinos – It is a set of three dams that has become a Tourist Corridor, because of the unique beauty of the landscape. It is ideal for camping and sport fishing.

Aporo – Small town located on the way to the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. All the way to the sanctuaries is an ecological corridor with beautiful scenery.

Tuxpan – The highlight of this town is the Temple of Santiago Apostol, with a majestic painting made by Cristobal de Villalpando named “Las Ánimas” (The Souls).



Maravatio



Typical Michoacán Cuisine

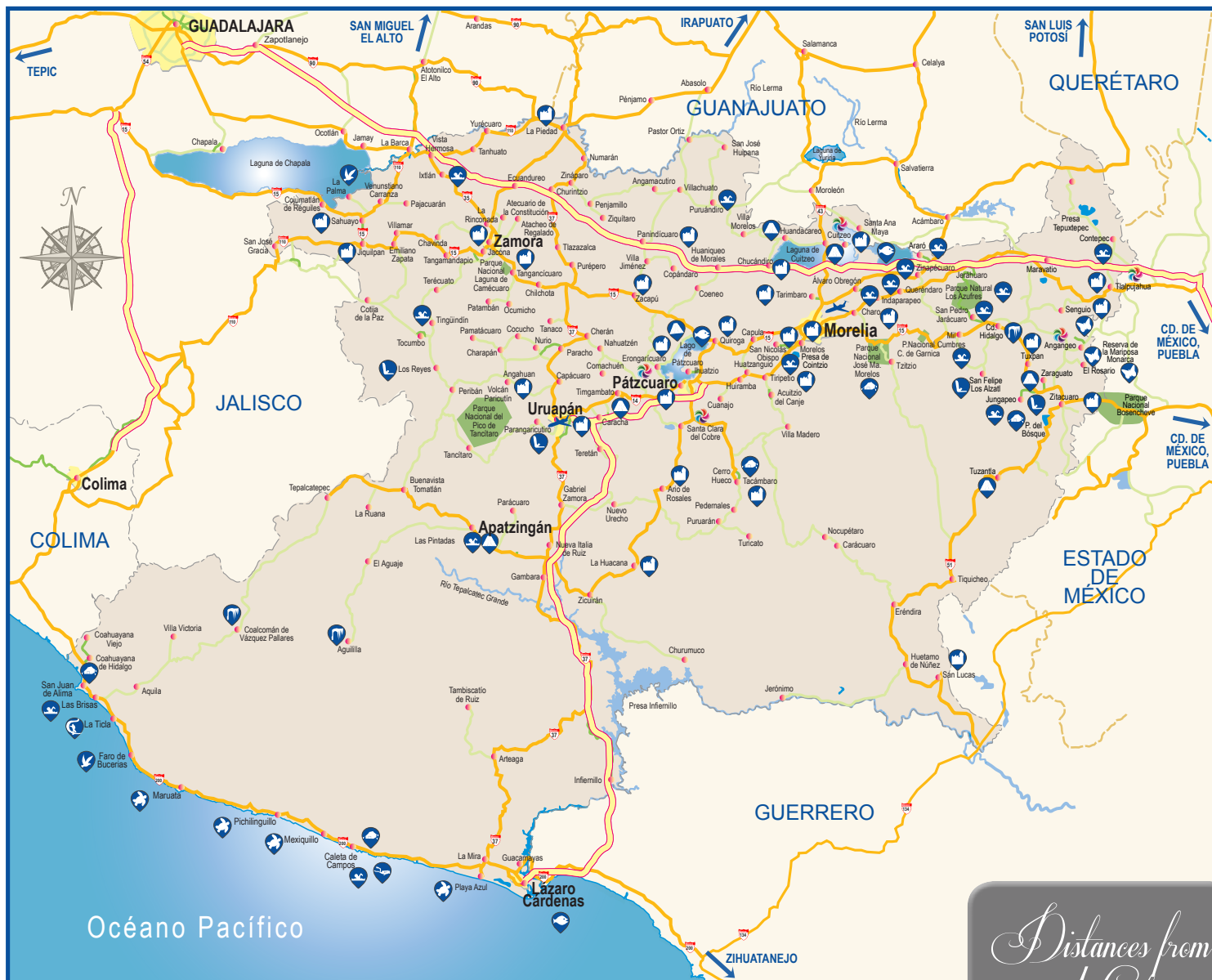
The cuisine in Michoacán is as varied as the state's landscape. It has the perfect combination of rich taste and impeccable aroma. Few other places in the country can claim such a profound and long-lasting indigenous influence on their regional cuisine. Thanks to this influence, the regional cuisine has many versions of corn-based dishes, although other typical Mexican ingredients such as beans and chili are also important in this gastronomy.

Among the main traditional dishes are: the delicious corundas, similar to tamales, but wrapped in a long green corn plant leaf, folded in a triangular shape,

eaten with cream, cheese, and red hot salsa. The "Aporreadillo", made of dried beef, scrambled egg, and tomato broth. The "Enchiladas Michoacanas", filled with cheese bathed in a rich, yet mild, chili sauce, served with lettuce and diced potato and carrot. The Morelia-Style Gazpacho, a mixture of jicama, pineapple, mango, and chili powder, lemon juice, salt and cheese. The "Uchepos", sweet and soft corn tamales. The crispy "charalitos", small fried fish served as a snack with sauce and lemon. The traditional "Sopa Tarasca" (Tarascan Soup), with fried tortilla strips, tomato, beans, ancho chili powder, avocado and cheese. The "Chileatole", drink dating back to pre-Hispanic times, is an atole (corn dough and sugar cooked in water) with chocolate and chili. The exquisite chilled avocado soup, mixed with onions, cream cheese, coriander and chicken broth. The "Churipo", a soup made of beef, cabbage, onion, chili, and xoconostle, a sour tuna (fruit of the nopal cactus), among other ingredients. The traditional "Ates" (fruit jellies) made from fig, guava and strawberry. And the "Nieves de Pasta", prepared with milk, almonds, spices and honey.

Map of Michoacán

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Distances from Morelia:

	Km.
Acapulco	46
Aguascalientes	136
Guadalajara	18
Guanajuato	74
Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo	25
León	128
México, D.F.	19
Monterrey	24
Querétaro	54
San Luis Potosí	17
Toluca	61
Zacatecas	22

