

# QUICK INFO

Major mountain ranges include the Sierra Madre Occidental and the Sierra Madre Oriental along the west and east, with the vast Mexican Altiplano in between. In the south, the Cordillera Neovolcánica covers central Mexico, the Sierra de las Uñas in the north, and the Sierra de California on the southwest.

Climate varies from temperate and tropical zones by the Tropic of Cancer, with a wide diversity throughout by virtue of elevation and rainfall—from high-altitude or semiarid peaks, subtropical highland to forest valley, and lowland forest to arid plains.

Population is over 111 million people with over 20 million in Mexico City. The world's most populous Spanish-speaking country, with many indigenous languages also recognized.

Majority of Mexicans are of mixed indigenous and European heritage. Following the revolution of 1910, a national identity was developed, initially embracing mestizaje—Mexico's ethnic and cultural mix of indigenous and European.

Government based in ancient traditions, blended over the past 500 years with those introduced during the colonial period.

Major crops include indigenous foods that date back millennia, including beans, squash, tomatoes, avocados, chiles, and chocolate, as well as various cacti, and assorted tropical fruits.

Major livestock include wheat, grapes, olives, rice, onions and garlic, citrus, and livestock, such as pigs, cattle, and chickens.

1521-1522  
Columbus's 2nd voyage

Spain, in supporting expeditions of conquest and colonization, including Cortés, Vascó Núñez, López, Olmos, and others, sought new sources of precious metals and other riches.

1519-1521

Spanish explorers arrived and in two years conquered the Aztecs, who ruled the Valley of Mexico and proceeded to colonize the entire region.

1521-22

Spain took over by independence, taking its name from the capital Mexico City, which means "Aztec" since prior had been the site of the great Aztec capital created by the Aztecs.