

Mexico

For other uses, see [Mexico \(disambiguation\)](#).

United Mexican States

Estados Unidos Mexicanos^[1] ([Spanish](#))

[Flag of Mexico](#)
Flag

[Seal of the Government of Mexico of Mexico](#)
Seal of the Government of Mexico

Anthem: "[Himno Nacional Mexicano](#)"
Mexican National Anthem

National seal:
[Seal of the United Mexican States](#)

Capital
and largest city

[Mexico City](#)
[19°26′N 99°08′W](#)

Official languages

None at federal level^[a]

National language

[Spanish](#)^[a]

Recognized
regional languages

68 indigenous languages

Ethnic groups

- Mestizo 60%^[2]
- Indigenous 28%^[2]
- European 9%^[3]
- African 1%^[4]
- Other 1%^[2]

Demonym(s)

[Mexican](#)

Government

[Federal presidential](#)
[constitutional republic](#)^[5]

- [President](#)
- [President of the Senate](#)
- [President of the Chamber of Deputies](#)

[Claudia Sheinbaum](#) ([MORENA](#))
Gerardo Fernández Noroña
Ifigenia Martínez y Hernández

Legislature

[Congress](#)
[Senate](#)
[Chamber of Deputies](#)

Independence from [Spain](#)

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| • Declared | September 16, 1810 |
| • Recognized | September 27, 1821 |
| Area | |
| • Total | 1,972,550 km ² (761,610 sq mi) (14th) |
| • Water (%) | 2.5 |
| Population | |
| • 2010 census | 112,322,758 ^[6] (11th) |
| • Density | 57/km ² (147.6/sq mi) (142nd) |
| GDP (PPP) | 2011 estimate |
| • Total | \$1.629 trillion ^[7] (11th) |
| • Per capita | \$21.430 ^[8] (58th) |
| GDP (nominal) | 2011 estimate |
| • Total | \$1.041 trillion ^[7] (13th) |
| • Per capita | \$9,489 ^[7] (58th) |
| Gini (2008) | 51.6 ^[9] high |
| HDI (2011) | 0.770 ^[10] high · 57th |
| Currency | Peso (MXN) |
| Time zone | UTC −8 to −6 (Official Mexican Timezones) |
| • Summer (DST) | UTC −7 to −5 (varies) |
| Driving side | right |
| Calling code | +52 |
| ISO 3166 code | MX |
| Internet TLD | .mx |

- a. [^] Spanish is *de facto* the official language in the Mexican federal government.

Mexico ([Spanish](#): *México*; official name: **United Mexican States** Spanish: *Estados Unidos Mexicanos*, [audio speaker icon listen](#) ([help](#)·[info](#))^[11]) is a country in [North America](#). Mexico is south of [Texas](#), [California](#) and other [American](#) states. [Guatemala](#) and [Belize](#) are south of Mexico. Mexico is between the [Pacific Ocean](#) and the [Gulf of Mexico](#).

People living in Mexico or who are from there are called Mexicans. Most Mexicans speak [Spanish](#) as their native language. Some Mexicans speak [Native American](#) languages, like [Nahuatl](#), [Mayan](#), and [Zapotec](#). Most modern Mexicans are descended from [Native Americans](#) such as [Aztecs](#) and [Mayans](#) and mostly have native blood. They are [Catholic](#). The capital of Mexico is [Mexico City](#).

History

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Before the Europeans came, many Native American cultures existed in Mexico. The earliest was the [Olmec](#) culture in the south. The Olmecs are famous for the large stone heads they made. On the Yucatán [peninsula](#) lived the [Mayans](#). The Mayans lived in [city states](#) ruled by kings. The Mayans were most powerful between [200](#) and [900](#) A.D. Another powerful empire belonged to [Teotihuacan](#). Teotihuacan was a very large city, one of the largest at that time. After Teotihuacan declined the [Toltecs](#) became powerful. Things made by the Toltecs have been found from the southern parts of the U.S. all the way to [Costa Rica](#). A famous Toltec god is [Quetzalcoatl](#). The Toltec culture declined too, and it was succeeded by the [Aztecs](#). The Aztecs called their own [empire](#) Mexico. A famous Aztec king was [Moctezuma II](#).

In [1519](#) the [Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés](#) came to Mexico. The Aztecs thought he was the returned Quetzalcoatl, so they did not want to fight against him. Cortes allied himself with the enemies of the Aztecs. In [1521](#) they conquered the Aztec capital [Tenochtitlan](#). The Aztec Empire became part of Spain. It was called [New Spain](#).

In [1810](#) the Mexican priest [Miguel Hidalgo](#) started the [Mexican war of independence](#). In [1821](#) the Spanish finally retreated and Mexico became independent. The first leader of independent Mexico was [Agustin de Iturbide](#). He set up the [First Mexican Empire](#) and became emperor. But the [Mexicans](#) were not happy with him, and in [1823](#) the country became a [republic](#).

A man who was very important in Mexico in the early [19th century](#) was [Antonio López de Santa Anna](#). He was the president of Mexico 11 times. When he became a [dictator](#), [Texas](#) declared independence (1836). The [Battle of the Alamo](#) was part of this [Texas Revolution](#). Between 1846 and 1848 there was [war between Mexico and the United States](#). In this war Mexico lost its large northern areas, which became the [southwestern United States](#). After this war Santa Anna was [sent away](#) to [Venezuela](#).

Between [1858](#) and [1861](#) there was war again, between [liberals](#) and [conservatives](#). The liberal [Benito Juárez](#) won the war and became president afterwards. Juarez stayed president until [France](#) invaded Mexico and made [Maximilian of Habsburg](#) emperor of the Second Mexican Empire. But Maximilian was very unpopular. After [more war](#) he was [executed](#) in [1867](#), and Juarez became president again.

Conservatives thought Juárez had too much power. In [1876](#) they ousted him, and made [Porfirio Díaz](#), a general who had won a battle against the French, president. Porfirio Díaz made the country wealthier, but the poor people became poorer. Francisco I. Madero started the [Mexican Revolution](#) in [1910](#).

The next 10 years the country was in chaos. There were many presidents who ruled for a short time and all kinds of people fought against each other. Famous people from this period are [Emiliano Zapata](#), [Pancho Villa](#) and [Francisco I. Madero](#). When [Álvaro Obregón](#) became president in [1920](#) the fighting calmed down.

In [1929](#) President [Plutarco Elías Calles](#) founded the National Mexican Party, PNM. The party was later renamed [Institutional Revolutionary Party](#), PRI. The party would rule for a very long time. Most PRI presidents were not popular, it was said that they were only president to become richer themselves. An exception was president [Lázaro Cárdenas](#). He was president between [1934](#) and [1940](#).

After several decades more and more people became unhappy with the PRI. In 1968 security forces shot at protesters, this caused several hundred deaths and became known as the [Tlatelolco massacre](#). Another uprising was in [1994](#) when [Zapatistas](#) rebelled in the province [Chiapas](#).

Mainly through election [fraud](#), the PRI managed to stay into power until [2000](#), when [Vicente Fox](#) of the National Action Party, PAN, was elected president. In total the PRI had governed Mexico for 71 years.

Politics

[\[change\]](#) | [\[change source\]](#)

Mexico is a [constitutional federal democracy](#) ruled by a president. The president is elected every 6 years. The current president is [Claudia Sheinbaum](#). Parliament has a [Senate](#) and House of Deputies.

States

[\[change\]](#) | [\[change source\]](#)

[Map of México divided into states](#)

Map of México divided into states

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Aguascalientes | 12. Hidalgo | 23. San Luis Potosí |
| 2. Baja California | 13. Jalisco | |
| 3. Baja California Sur | 14. Mexico | 24. Sinaloa |
| 4. Campeche | 15. Michoacan | 25. Sonora |
| 5. Chiapas | 16. Morelos | 26. Tabasco |
| 6. Chihuahua | 17. Nayarit | 27. Tamaulipas |
| 7. Coahuila | 18. Nuevo León | 28. Tlaxcala |
| 8. Colima | 19. Oaxaca | 29. Veracruz |
| 9. Durango | 20. Puebla | 30. Yucatán |
| | 21. Querétaro | |

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10. Guanajuato | 22. Quintana | 31. Zacatecas |
| 11. Guerrero | Roo | 32. Mexico City |

Geography

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Mexico is in the southern part of [North America](#). It is roughly shaped like a [triangle](#). Mexico is more than 3000 km (1,850 miles) long from northwest to southeast. Mexico is between two large seas: the [Pacific Ocean](#) in the West and the [Gulf of Mexico](#) and the [Caribbean Sea](#) in the East. Mexico has two large [peninsulas](#). [Baja California](#) in the northwest, and [Yucatán](#) in the southeast. In central and western Mexico are the [Sierra Madre](#) mountains. In the Sierra Madre is the [Pico de Orizaba](#), the highest [mountain](#) of Mexico. In central Mexico there are also a few [volcanoes](#) like the [Popocatepetl](#) and the [Iztaccíhuatl](#). The Pico de Orizaba is also a volcano. In the north of Mexico are [deserts](#). In the south are tropical [rainforests](#). Some rivers in Mexico are the [Río Bravo](#) (known in the US as the Rio Grande), the [Río Balsas](#), the [Río Pánuco](#), and the [Río Yaqui](#).

- Landscapes of Mexico
-

People

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

See also: [List of famous Mexican people](#)

Mexico is the most populous [Spanish-speaking](#) country in the world. It is also the second most populous [country](#) in [Latin America](#) (after [Brazil](#)). 60% of Mexicans have Native American and Spanish forefathers (mostly Native American); these are called [mestizos](#). Almost 30% of Mexicans are pure [Native American](#) and 10% are pure [Spanish](#). Most Mexicans (90%) speak Spanish. 10% of the Mexicans speak a Native American language, like [Nahuatl](#), the language of the Aztecs, [Maya](#) or [Zapotec](#). Non-indigenous ethnic groups in Mexico speak another foreign language such as [Arabic](#) or [Japanese](#). Most people in Mexico are [Catholic](#) (89%) [Christians](#) and the vast majority of Mexicans are religious and strongly believe in the [Catholic Christian](#) faith.^[12]

Related pages

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [North America](#)
- [Mexican food](#)

References

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Political divisions of Mexico

States

[Aguascalientes](#) • [Baja California](#) • [Baja California Sur](#) • [Campeche](#) • [Chiapas](#) • [Chihuahua](#) • [Coahuila](#) • [Colima](#) • [Durango](#) • [Guanajuato](#) • [Guerrero](#) • [Hidalgo](#) • [Jalisco](#) • [Mexico](#)

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Michoacán • Morelos • Nayarit • Nuevo León • Oaxaca • Puebla • Querétaro • Quintana Roo • San Luis Potosí • Sinaloa • Sonora • Tabasco • Tamaulipas • Tlaxcala • Veracruz • Yucatán • Zacatecas |
| National capital | Mexico City |

| | |
|---|--|
| <div> <div><div></div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">vte </div> <div> <u>Countries and territories of North America</u> </div> | |
| Independent | Antigua and Barbuda • Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • Canada • Costa Rica • Cuba • Dominica • Dominican Republic • El Salvador • Grenada • Guatemala • Haiti • Honduras • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua • Panama • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Lucia • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • Trinidad and Tobago • United States |
| Governed by other countries | Anguilla • Aruba • Bermuda • British Virgin Islands • Cayman Islands • Curaçao • Greenland • Guadeloupe • Martinique • Montserrat • Navassa Island • Puerto Rico • Saint Martin • Saint-Pierre and Miquelon • Turks and Caicos Islands • U.S. Virgin Islands |

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| <div> <div><div></div></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">vte </div> <div> <u>Caribbean Community (CARICOM)</u> </div> | |
| Antigua and Barbuda • Bahamas ¹ • Barbados • Belize • Dominica • Grenada • Guyana • Haiti • Jamaica • Montserrat • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Lucia • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago | |
| Associate members | Anguilla • Bermuda • Cayman Islands • British Virgin Islands • Turks and Caicos Islands |
| Observer countries | Aruba • Colombia • Curaçao • Dominican Republic • Mexico • Puerto Rico • Saint Martin • Venezuela |
| ¹ Member of the community but not the Caribbean (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy. | |

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| Geographic | • MusicBrainz area |
| Academics | • CiNii |
| Artists | • KulturNav |
| People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trove • UK Parliament |
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