



**Location of Study Tour Activities**

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### Mexico and Mexico City

**Mexico** is a Federal State, formed by 31 states and 1 Federal District (D.F.) –the capital, Mexico City– and of approximately 110 million inhabitants. Its geographical area is of 1 967 183 km<sup>2</sup>. Its capital is Mexico City and its official language is Spanish, although around 56 other languages are spoken throughout the country. Its currency is the Mexican Peso (\$Me). Mexico's president was recently elected and Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, from the National Action Party (PAN), left the presidential seat to Enrique Peña Nieto, from the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

Mexico is a very vast and diversified country. First, its 10 million indigenous people that are part of more than 50 ethnic groups make this country an ethnic and cultural mosaic. Seven million indigenous people have kept their language: 16.6% of them speak *Nahuatl*, a dialect inherited from the Aztecs and mostly spoken in the center of the country; 8.9% of them speak *Maya*, mostly in Chiapas and Yucatán; 5% speak *Zapoteco* in Oaxaca and Veracruz, and other 5% speak *Mixteco* in the same region.<sup>1</sup> This cultural diversity makes very rich and colorful handicrafts. Then, Mexico's diversity can also be found in its cuisine, as it counts with numerous specialties, inherited from its very diverse states and cultures - the chocolate, the *frijoles* (beans), the *tacos*, the *enchiladas*, the *quesadillas*, the famous *guacamole*, the *chilaquiles*, the *pozole*, the *mole*, the *barbacoa* or the famous chapulines (grasshoppers)!– which contributed in 2010 to its classification as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO. Finally, Mexico has very diverse landscapes and climates, from the very arid North, to the tropical South, passing by its famous beaches on Pacific and Caribbean coasts, The *Sierra Madre*, its famous mountains chains, and its volcanoes, such as the *Popocatepetl* (5 452m) and the *Pico de Orizaba* (5 700m), without forgetting its beautiful forests. This diversity makes it a very pleasant country to visit.

**Mexico City**, or commonly called “D.F.”, with its 20 millions of inhabitants, its 60km from North to South and its 40km from East to West, is one of the biggest conurbations of the world (in competition with Tokyo and Sao Paulo). It is located at an altitude of 2 240m and is surrounded by mountains and volcanoes, in particular the *Popocatepetl* which is visible from the main parts of Mexico City. Its downtown historical centre has been classified World Heritage from the UNESCO in 1987 for its colonial architecture: palaces from the viceroyalty period, squares surrounded of arcades, Aztec ruins, and the majestic Cathedral. The capital is one of the most dynamic of Latin America, with its 100 museums, its concerts and world class shows, its manifestations, its street sellers and its restaurants where people can eat at any hour of the day. This perpetual movement gives to the visitor a feeling of freedom.

Mexico City beneficiates from more or less 200 days of sun a year, which makes it a hot city during the day, but its altitude makes it a cool or cold one at night.

<sup>1</sup> Gloaguen P. 2011. *Mexique*. Collection: Le Guide du Routard 2011. Hachette, Paris.

**Coyoacán (“the place of the coyotes” in *Nahuatl*) –the neighbourhood where Fundar is located–** is one of the most beautiful parts of Mexico City. Traditionally a place that provided asylum to national and international artists and intellectuals, this neighbourhood has kept its bohemian atmosphere, and with its paved streets and colourful houses, homes of Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and Leon Trotski (converted in museums, that can be visited), it became the “chilangos” (familiar name of Mexico City’s inhabitants) favourite place to go out for a walk on weekends.

### **Oaxaca, Mexico**

Oaxaca, 260 000 inhabitants, is located in a valley surrounded by mountains and situated at 500 km South of Mexico, and is the capital of the state of Oaxaca. This pleasant colonial city is full of low and colourful houses that hide full of flowers and arcades patios. Oaxaca historic centre is also part of UNESCO’s World Heritage.

This state is the cradle of one of the most ancient pre-Hispanic civilizations, the *Zapotecas*, which contributes, with its two main archaeological sites, to Oaxaca’s cultural wealth. Oaxaca’s handicrafts are beautiful and very diversified – wool carpets, black pottery, *alebrijes*, traditional clothing and linen, basketry, etc. – and they can be found in Oaxaca’s markets and handicrafts houses (*Casas de Artesanías*), several of which are located near the *Zócalo*.

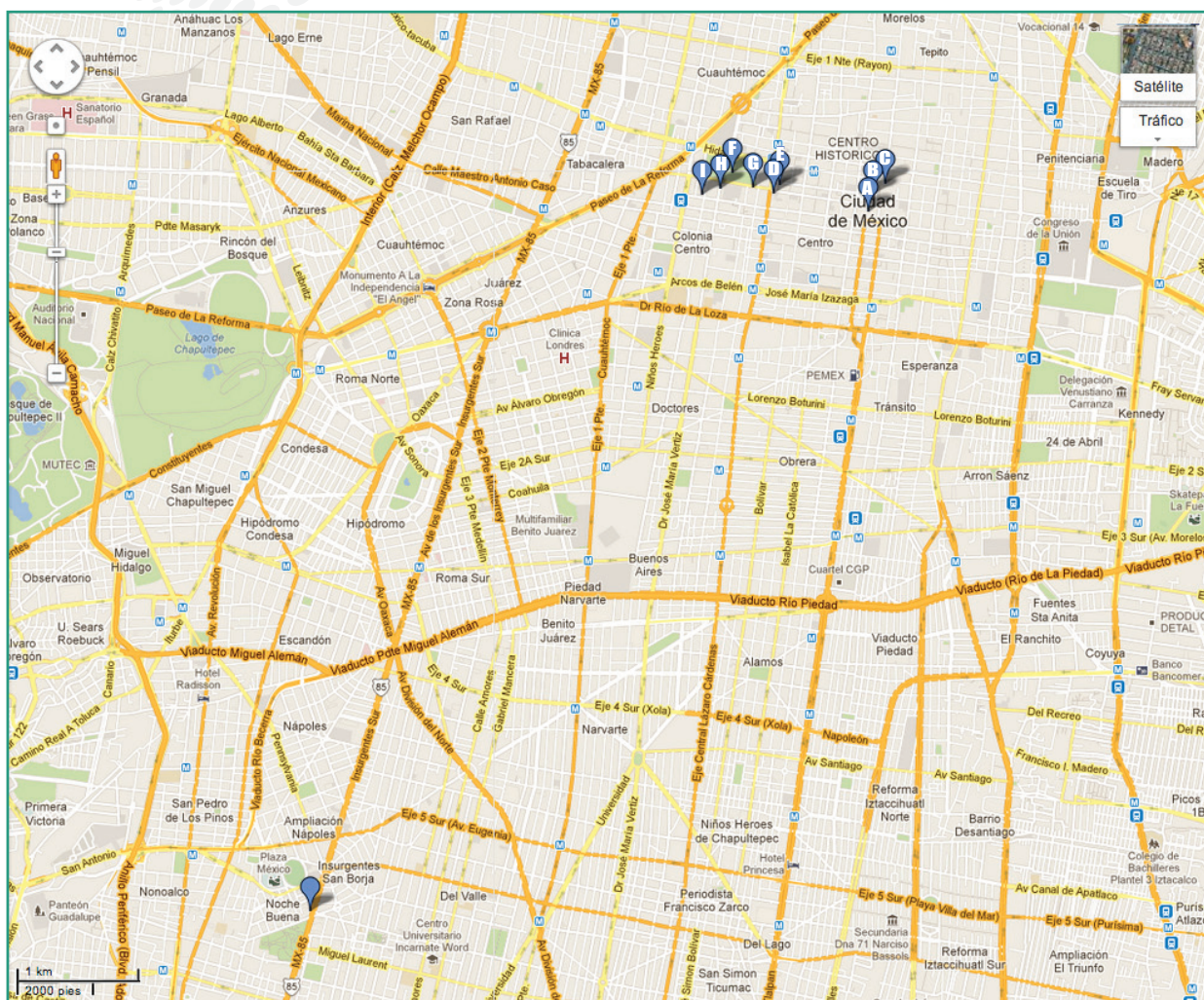


**ELLA**

Evidence and lessons  
from Latin America



- A.....Zocalo
- B.....Catedral Metropolitana de la Asunción de María
- C.....Museo del Templo Mayor
- D.....Mirador Torre Latino
- E.....Sanborns - Casa de los Azulejos
- F.....Alameda Central
- G.....Librería Bellas Artes
- H.....Museo Memoria y Tolerancia
- I.....Museo de Arte Popular
- J.....Hotel el Diplomático



<http://goo.gl/maps/mbjqj>

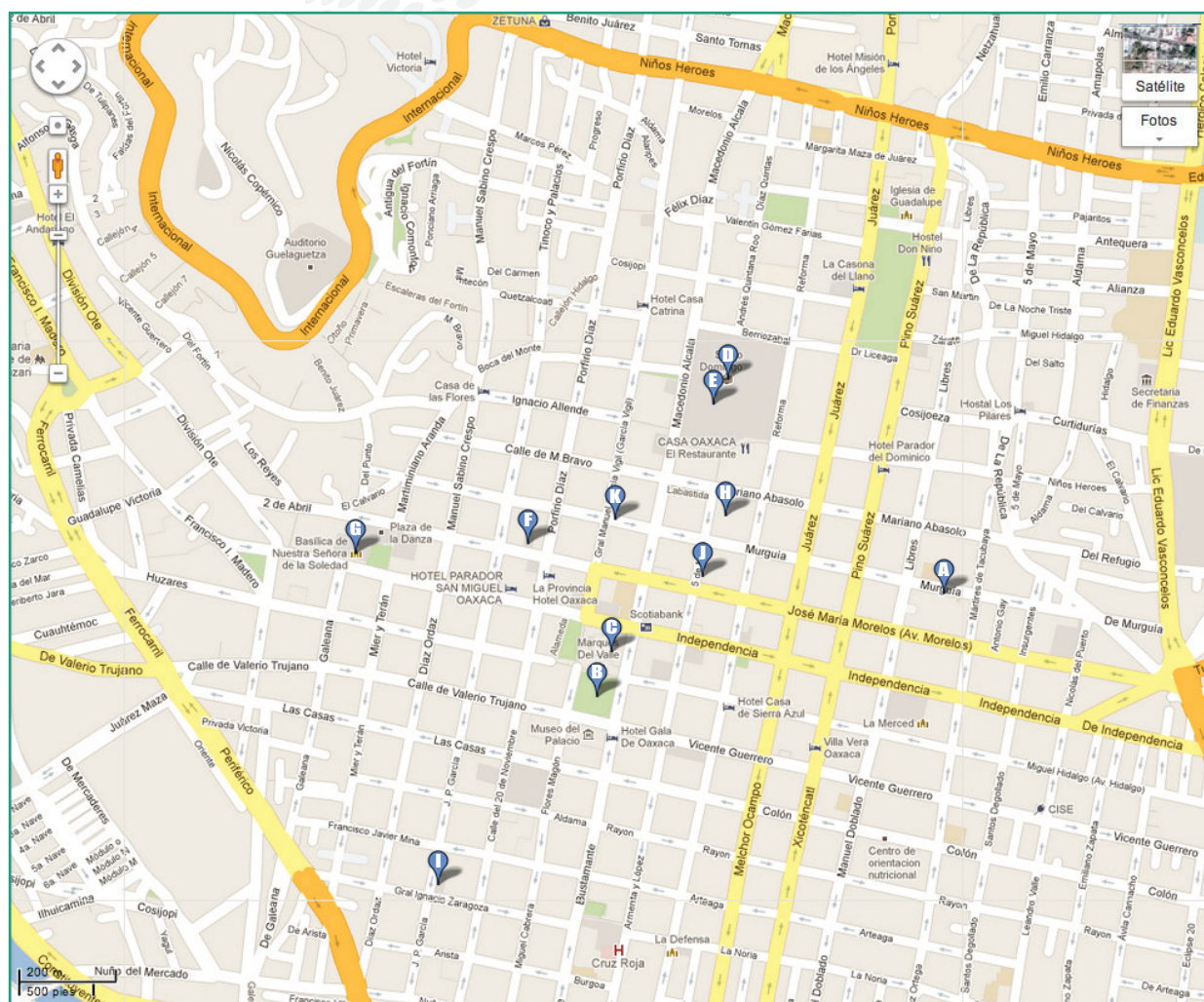






# OAXACA

- A.....Hotel Casa De La Tia Tere
- B.....Zócalo Oaxaca
- C.....Catedral de Oaxaca
- D.....Santo Domingo de Guzmán
- E.....Centro Cultural Santo Domingo
- F.....Museo de arte prehispánico Rufino Tamayo
- G.....Basílica de Nuestra Señora de la Soledad
- H.....Camino Real Oaxaca
- I.....Mercado de Artesanías
- J.....Mujeres Artesanas de las Regiones de Oaxaca
- K.....Casa de las Artesanías de Oaxaca



<http://goo.gl/maps/k9TMo>