Dis-MEX-Michoacan

The name Michoacán is from [Nahuatl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahuatl): *Michhuahcān* from *michhuah* ("possessor of fish") and -*cān* (place of) and means "place of the fishermen" referring to those who fish on *Lago de Pátzcuaro* [Lake Pátzcuaro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Pátzcuaro).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-introduccion-10) In pre-Hispanic times, the area was the home of the [Purépecha Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purépecha_Empire), which rivaled the [Aztec Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aztec_Empire) at the time of Spanish encounter.

 

 

Formal Label: Michoacan Male Figurine, ca. 500 BCE

Accession Number: F1219.A1

Date or Time Horizon: 500 BCE

Geographical Area: Mexico

Cultural Affiliation: Michoacan

Medium: Terracotta

Dimensions: 9 cm

Weight:

Provenance: Netherlands collection



Formal Label: Formal Label: Michoacan Female Pregnant Bound Figurine, ca. 500 BCE

Accession Number: F1219.A2

Date or Time Horizon: 500 BCE

Geographical Area: Mexico

Cultural Affiliation: Michoacan

Medium: Terracotta

Dimensions: 4.5 cm

Weight:

Provenance: Netherlands collection

 

Formal Label: Formal Label: Michoacan Female Figurine, ca. 500 BCE

Accession Number: F1219.A3

Date or Time Horizon: 500 BCE

Geographical Area: Mexico

Cultural Affiliation: Michoacan

Medium: Terracotta

Dimensions: 8 cm

Weight:

Provenance: Netherlands collection

The name Michoacán is from [Nahuatl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahuatl): Michhuahcān  from michhuah ("possessor of fish") and -cān (place of) and means "place of the fishermen" referring to those who fish on [Lake Pátzcuaro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Pátzcuaro).[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-introduccion-10) In pre-Hispanic times, the area was the home of the [Purépecha Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purépecha_Empire), which rivaled the [Aztec Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aztec_Empire) at the time of Spanish encounter. According to the archeological evidence, there has been human habitation within the territory of the Mexican state of Michoacán for at least 10,000 years.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-elochis-11) In the pre-Hispanic period, there were waves of migration into the area, including the Pirinda, [Nahua](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahua_peoples), Huetamo, Colima,[Purépecha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purépecha_people) and other peoples.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-prehis-12) There are sites of formal settlements from all Mesoamerican period. Important sites include [El Opeño](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Opeño) and those in [Curutarán](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Curutarán&action=edit&redlink=1), [Tepalcatepec](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tepalcatepec), [Apatzingán](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apatzingán),[Zinapécuaro](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Zinapécuaro&action=edit&redlink=1) and [Coalcomán](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coalcomán_de_Vázquez_Pallares). The territory has been inhabited by the Nahua, [Otomi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otomi_people),[Matlatzinca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matlatzinca_people), [Pirinda](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pirinda_people&action=edit&redlink=1) and Teco peoples as well as the Purépecha.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-elochis-11)

The main pre-Hispanic civilization of the state is that of the Purépecha, which was centered in the Lake Pátzcuaro area.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-elochis-11) Before the 13th century, both Nahua and Purépecha peoples were here, sustaining themselves by agriculture and fishing. The Purépecha are descendants of a late arrival of [Chichimeca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chichimeca) who came from the north. At Lake Patzcuaro, they came upon people with similar cultures to their own but who were more technically and socially advanced. The formation of the Purépechan state in the 13th century, when these people started their own dominion at Uayameo, today [Santa Fé de la Laguna](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Santa_Fé_de_la_Laguna&action=edit&redlink=1), and becoming dominant over the entire Lake Patzcuaro area by the 15th century. Conquest of neighboring tribes and territories occurred etween 1401 and 1450, as they absorbed peoples with different cultures and languages into the empire. By the late 15th century, this state rivaled that of the Aztec, having expanded their territory over much of what is now Michoacán and into part of [Colima](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colima), [Nayarit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nayarit), [Querétaro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Querétaro), [Guanajuato](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guanajuato),[Guerrero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerrero) and [Jalisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jalisco). The Aztec attempted to invade the Purépecha but were repelled. Because of this attack, the Purépecha later denied the Aztecs aid in their defense of [Tenochtitlan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenochtitlan) against the Spanish.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-elochis-11)[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-prehis-12)



Fourth yacata pyramid on the south end of the line in Tzintzuntzan. [Location: 19° 37′ 24.63″ N, 101° 34′ 28.45″ W](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=File:4thYacatatztztz.JPG&params=19.623508_N_101.574569_W_&language=en) Photo by San Antonio Molotla. 2009

Prior to the arrival of any Spaniard in the territory, then-ruler [Zuanga](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Zuanga&action=edit&redlink=1) died of [smallpox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smallpox), presumably carried by one of the Aztec delegations seeking military aid. He was succeeded by [Tanganxoan II](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tanganxoan_II&action=edit&redlink=1). The first Spaniard to the area was [Cristóbal de Olid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cristóbal_de_Olid). The Spanish destruction of Tenochtitlan and their promise to allow him to remain ruler convinced Tanganxoan II to submit to Spanish rule. But, [Nuño de Guzmán](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuño_de_Guzmán) reneged on this agreement and killed Tanganxoan II in 1530.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-elochis-11)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-hiscolonial-13)

The state is located in the center west of the Mexican Republic, on the extreme southwest of the central highlands. It borders the states of Mexico, Querétaro, Guerrero, Guanajuato, Jalisco and Colima, with a 217 kilometres (135 mi) coastline on the Pacific Ocean. The state has a territory of 58,836.95 square kilometres (22,717.07 sq mi), making it the sixteenth largest in Mexico (exactly at midpoint among Mexican states in Area). In addition, it also has 1,490 square kilometres (580 sq mi) of marine territory off its Pacific coast.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-introduccion-10)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-mediofisico-17)



Sierra Madre del Sur

The state is crossed by the [Sierra Madre del Sur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Madre_del_Sur), the [Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans-Mexican_Volcanic_Belt) and the Inter-mountain Valleys region. The Sierra Madre del Sur crosses the state northwest to southeast for approximately 200 kilometres (120 mi) in the southwest between the municipalities of [Chinicuila](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinicuila) and [Arteaga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arteaga,_Michoacán) along the Pacific Coast. It is considered to be a continuation of the [Sierra Madre Occidental](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_Madre_Occidental). Peaks in this range average about 2,900 metres (9,500 ft) above sea level, with the largest being the Cerro de las Canoas. The Mexican Trans Volcanic Belt crosses the state from west to east toward the [Toluca Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toluca_Valley) and [Valley of Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valley_of_Mexico). This mountain range is marked by appearance of many volcanoes, active, dormant, and extinct alike. This system is subdivided into regions such as the Sierra de Tancítaro, Sierra de Periban, Sierra de San Angel and others. The best-known volcano in this region is the [Paricutín](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paricutín)volcano.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-mediofisico-17)

The state has a considerable natural system of waterways, including parts of two of the country's largest rivers, the [Lerma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lerma_River) and the Balsas. These waterways are divided into three regions, called the North, Central and South. The North region includes the Lerma Basin. On the Lerma River is the Tepuxtepec Dam which has a capacity of 371 million m³. Rivers that empty into the Lerma in Michoacán include the Tlalpuhahua, Cachivi and Duero. Another river basin here is that of [Lake Cuitzeo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Cuitzeo), which extends over an area of 3,618 square metres (38,940 sq ft). The two main rivers that feed this lake are the Grande de Morelia and Queréndaro.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-mediofisico-17)



Sierra Madre del Sur along the Michoacán coast

The Central region is represented by lakes [Pátzcuaro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Pátzcuaro) and [Zirahuén](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Zirahuén). Lake Pátzcuaro has a surface area of 1,525 km². This lake is fed by a number of surface and subterranean water flows with the principal rivers leading here including the San Gregorio and Chapultepec. This lake has five islands within it called [Janitzio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janitzio), Yunuén, La Pacanda, Tecuén, Jarácuaro, Urandén and Carián. Lake Zirahuén has an area of 615 square kilometres (237 sq mi) and is fed by streams such as Manzanilla and Zinamba. These two lakes are considered to be the main tourist attraction of the state.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-mediofisico-17)

Most of the state's rivers and streams are located in the South region of the state, with the Balsas River being the most important. The most important tributaries of this river include the Cutzamala, Carácuaro and Tepalcatepec rivers. Within this region is the coastal watershed, which is the area between the Sierra Madre del Sur and the coastline. This area includes small rivers such as the Coahuayana, Aquila, Ostula, Motín del Oro, Coire, Cachán and Nexpa which flow directly into the Pacific.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-mediofisico-17)

Much of the climate of the state is determined by altitude and other geographical features. Average temperatures vary from 13 °C (55 °F) to 29 °C (84 °F). Lower temperatures correspond with the highland areas in the north and east which the lower south and west, called La Costa (the coast) or [Tierra Caliente](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tierra_Caliente_(Mexico)) (hot land) register the higher temperatures. In the hotter lowlands, high temperatures regularly exceed 30 °C (86 °F) and have been known to reach over 40 °C (104 °F) in the summer. The lowest temperatures are registered in highland areas such as the Sierra de Coalcomán and the Sierra del Centro located near the border with the State of Mexico. Except for the Tierra Caliente, most of the state can experience freezing temperatures in the winter. Rainfall is also dependent on altitude with the lowlands receiving less rain than the mountain areas. There is a well-defined rainy season which extends from June to October over the entire state.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michoacán" \l "cite_note-mediofisico-17)

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[Alcalá, Jerónimo **de.**](javascript:open_window() **Relación** **de** **las** **ceremonias** y **ritos** y población y gobierno **de** los indios **de** la Provincia **de** Michoacán (1541) : reproducción facsímil **de** Ms. ç. IV. 5. **de** El Escorial / con transcripción, prólogo, introd. y notas por José Tudela ; revisión **de** **las** voces tarascas por José Corona Núñez ; estudio preliminar: "La **relación** **de** Michoacán como fuente para la historia **de** la sociedad y cultura tarascas," por Paul Kirchhoff. Madrid : Aguilar, 1956. [Escorial. Real Biblioteca mss (ç. IV. 5)](javascript:open_window()

## [Relación de las ceremonias y ritos y población y gobernación de los indios de la provincia de Mechuacan](https://www.abebooks.com/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=14939955977&searchurl=bi%3D0%26ds%3D30%26sts%3Dt%26bx%3Doff%26sortby%3D17%26tn%3DRelacion%2Bde%2Blas%2Bceremonias%26recentlyadded%3Dall)

Alcalá, Jerónimo de (1571-1632)

Published by El Colegio de Michoacan, Zamora (2000)

El Colegio de Michoacan, Zamora, 2000. Original Cloth Binding. Book Condition: Fine. Dust Jacket Condition: Fine. 1st Edition. 831 pages with frontispiece, color plates, figures, tables, illustrations, appendices, bibliography and indexes. Small folio (12" x9 1/2") bound in original brown cloth with gilt lettering to spine and cover. Edited by Moises Franco Mendoza with contributions by J Benedict Brown, the "biography of Jeronimo de Alcala"; Heron Perez Martinez "literary art of the Relacion; Jean Marie G Le Clezio "the universality of the Relacion"; Edward Seler "the ancient inhabitants of Michoacan"; Hans Roskamp "the native aspects of the Relacion and the 44 plates of the Relacion; Isabel Teran Elizondo "symbolic and mystic elements"; Claudia Espejel Carbajal " archaeological and geographic guide to the Relacion; and Pedro Marquez Joaquin "significance of certain wording in the Ralacion. Limited to 2000 copies. First edition. Commonly called the codex is Relation of Michoacan reconstructs the early history of Michoacán, as it provides first-hand testimony about the development and history of the Tarascan people from their arrival to the territory from Michoacan in the twelfth century until the Spanish conquest. The manuscript, whose name Relation covers ceremonies and rites, and population and governance of Indians of the province of Michoacan, which is preserved in the Royal Library of the Augustinian Monastery of El Escorial in Spain, and consists of 153 sheets of 20 x 15cm., accompanied by 44 sheets, illustrating passages of the story. Originally, in addition to Alcala,s prologue, the manuscript was composed of three parts, of which one is lost and only the second and third are extant. It was written on paper from Italy, manufactured flax fiber. The inc used was at lest three type, presumably prepared by the Franciscan themselves in Mexico, following European and indigenous traditions Pigment colors of the illustrations are from Michoacan. In its original form, the text of the "relationship" contained history, feasts of the gods, the story of the beginning of the kingdom, from the arrival of the Chichimecas, the first political alliances, followed by Tariacuri's history as a founding father and the political and religious organization. The third part contains the arrival of the Spanish, the conquest by the Spanish, and the arrest and death of Tanganxoan II, the last of the Tarascan leader. The 44 leaves distributed throughout the text, illustrate, by hand, passages of the story and in others it is a complement to it. All the illustrations are colored in the Michoacan ratio, except that found in folio 108b. The figures were drawn by pen and the shaded and painted with a brush, using red, blue, green, yellow, brown, purple and black dyes derived from vegetable, mineral and animal. It was long speculated about the authorship of the List of Michoacan. Some attributed it to Fray Martin de Jesus, others Sahagun and some to Maturino Gilberti, and even those who awarded it to Broth Paul Beaumont. However, thanks to the investigation made by Dr J Warren Benedict over thirty years, it was determined that the author was Jeronimo de Alcala, a Franciscan friar living in the monastery Tzintzuntzan in the first half of the sixteen century. The manuscript probably was written between 1539 and 1540 and delivered to the Viceroy of New Spain, Antonio de Mendoza, as illustrated in the first sheet of the codex. For many years this valuable manuscript was ignored by those who dealt with ancient history and the conquest Michoacan. However, some elements indicate that at least the Franciscan chronicler Fray Alonso de Rea, Isidro Felix Espinosa and Paul Beaumont, had access to the testimony and drafts the shaped the relationship, especially in referring to the funeral ceremonies concerning death and burial of cazonci, chief ruler of the Tarascans. Condition: A fine copy in like jacket. Bookseller Inventory # 000352

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