



Flavors of Mexico City!

with host, José Rizo

November 3 - 9, 2025

¡Hola!



In November of 2025, we're embarking on an adventure to Mexico City to immerse ourselves in its vibrant arts, culinary delights, and music. We invite you to join us on this journey! Discovering Mexico City means delving into its rich history, diverse culture, and lively music scene. Our aim is to showcase the highlights of this remarkable metropolis, including the iconic National Museum of Anthropology and the Museo Frida Kahlo. From Diego Rivera's renowned mural, *The History of Mexico*, to wandering through bustling local markets, savoring street tacos and tequila, and marveling at the ancient pyramids of Teotihuacan, we'll soak in the city's wonders.

If you're interested in exploring Mexico City with us, take a look at the itinerary, accommodations, and prices here and come along for an unforgettable journey! Space is limited.

We hope you'll join us!

See you in Mexico City!

José Rizo
Your KJAZZ host



“It is strength to laugh and lose oneself, to be light.”

Frida Kahlo

INCLUDED: YOUR JOURNEY

- ❖ Travel with special host **José Rizo of KJAZZ**
- ❖ Private airport transfers in Mexico, on the day of arrival and departure
- ❖ Six nights' hotel stay at the **PUG Seal Polanco Anatole France**.
Mexico City's #1 top rated boutique hotel.
- ❖ Daily excursions with expert local guides
- ❖ Transport by air-conditioned min-coaches
- ❖ Exclusive, private jazz concerts featuring acclaimed local musicians
- ❖ A private tour of the Anthropology Museum
- ❖ An exclusive morning devoted to studying the lives and legacies of artists, Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera
- ❖ An in-depth tour of the historic Zócalo, the National Palace, the Metropolitan Cathedral, and other buildings of historical and architectural importance
- ❖ An early morning balloon ride over the ancient pyramids of Teotihuacan
- ❖ Excursions to colorful markets
- ❖ Breakfast daily, plus seven exceptional multi-course dining experiences, highlighting the flavors of Mexico!
- ❖ Tequila and mezcal tastings
- ❖ Meet local artists and enjoy a private jazz concert
- ❖ Gratuities for local staff, drivers and guides.



Enjoy private jazz concerts

TRIP FACTS

7 Days / 6 Nights (land)

\$4,975 per person based on double occupancy

\$995 single supplement

Trip begins: November 3, 2025 at 6:00pm

Trip ends: November 9 after breakfast

Where you will stay: The gorgeous PUG Seal Polanco Anatole France.

Mexico City's #1 top rated boutique hotel. Located in the upscale, centrally located Polanco neighborhood. The hotel is close to museums, cafes and grand tree lined avenues. This fashionable, superior three-star hotel is housed in a lovingly restored 1940s mansion, is beautifully furnished and has a green garden and a private rooftop bar.

WAYS TO SAVE \$200: Earthbound and KJAZZ travel alumni save \$100 ❖ Pay your final balance by check and save \$100



MEXICO CITY QUICK FACTS

- Mexico City is the capital of Mexico. It doesn't belong to any state, rather it is its own federal territory, similar to the status of Mexico's 31 other states
- Mexico City is the city's English name. In Spanish, it is Ciudad de Mexico, or CDMX for short
- The city sits at an altitude of 7,350 feet
- The core metro area spans 573 square miles
- Over 9 million people live in the center of the city. The broader metropolitan area is home to over 22 million people making it the largest city in North America!
- Mexico City is a sprawling metropolis that consists of 16 alcaldías (boroughs) that house almost 2,000 colonias (neighborhoods).
- According to some estimates, Mexico City has more museums than any other city in the world. One count puts Mexico City at 150 museums, compared to Paris with 130. Whatever the number, Mexico City has embraced the museum like no other city, with collections ranging from carvings to cultures.



YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS

Day 1: November 3 - Arrive in Mexico City: Bienvenido a Mexico!

Arrive in the vibrant embrace of Mexico City, where the sun's gentle caress invites you to unwind and immerse yourself in its welcoming warmth. Enjoy the city's radiant energy, which will rejuvenate your spirit before you rendezvous with your travel companions for an orientation and welcome dinner, joined by your Earthbound guides and host, **José and Letty Rizo**. (D)

Day 2: November 4 - Step into the past in Centro Historico

The beating heart of Mexico City, the 668-block Centro Historico is the most culturally significant neighborhood. Home to ornate colonial buildings, vast plazas and throngs of tourists and locals alike.

Here sits the largest concentration of the city's historical monuments, which are built on top of the site of the ancient Aztec city of Tenochtitlán.

Our excursion begins with the city's main square, the Zócalo. Officially known as Plaza de la Constitución, this massive central plaza has been a gathering place for centuries and continues to host frequent political and social protests. It's impossible to miss the Mexican flag flying high above the square, one of the largest in the world!



See the murals of Diego Rivera

The Catedral Metropolitana (Metropolitan Cathedral) looms over the square and is actually the largest cathedral in all of Latin America. Showcasing a range of different architectural styles, it's possible to go inside and take a look at the ornate ceiling and stained-glass windows.

Also bordering the Zócalo is the **Palacio Nacional** (National Palace), which is where you'll find Diego Rivera's world-famous mural, *The History of Mexico*. After our visit, our journey continues as we head across the plaza to the Templo Mayor (Main Temple).

The **Templo Mayor** was once the main temple of the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán, upon which Mexico City is literally built. The ruins of the temple have been excavated by archaeologists, and you can wander around and see what remains. We will visit the on-site museum which is massive and has so much to see.

We stop to see the **Casa de Los Azulejos** (House of Tiles) for a photo in front of the ornamental tiles.

Enjoy an authentic lunch, after which, we go to the Palacio Postal (Postal Palace) to marvel at the world's most beautiful post office! It's definitely worth going inside to see the stunning Art Nouveau interior. And make sure you look up from the marble staircases to the stained-glass ceiling. There is a separate entrance for those simply looking, and you can avoid the lines of locals actually waiting to use the postal services!

Now it's on to one of the most iconic images of Mexico City, the **Palacio de Bella Artes** (Palace of Fine Arts). This opulent marble building is dedicated to the fine arts, housing a concert hall and arts center. Enter and see works from some of Mexico's most famous muralists, including Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros.

This evening let's relax with drinks and have dinner at a local restaurant. For some extracurricular activity, check out the Centro Historico and Terraza Catedral with a great rooftop bar. You may wish to grab a drink and enjoy the sunset from here! (B, L, D)

Day 3: November 5 - Morning Food Market Tour and the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco

This morning enjoy an outing to Mercado Merced, a feast for the senses, where we will touch, taste and see many of the secret ingredients of Mexican cuisine.

Just outside central Mexico City is a small network of canals, known as the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco. Located in a neighborhood of the same name, these canals are the last remaining evidence of the complex system of waterways built by the Aztecs back when Mexico City was the ancient city of Tenochtitlán.

Cruising along these canals in a colorful gondola-style boat, or *trajinera*, is a fun and festive activity for friends and families celebrating various occasions. Vendors row up alongside your boat to serve up micheladas and snacks. And there are even mariachi bands on the canals, ready to climb aboard and sing you a song!

Return to our hotel in the late afternoon and relax before enjoying dinner in the garden. (B, D)

Day 4: November 6 - The Museo Nacional de Antropología and Frida



Mexico's answer to Central Park, Bosque de Chapultepec, is the city's largest green space. Covering over 4 sq km, it is considered the lungs of the city. More than just a park, this expansive area is home to world-famous museums, historic attractions and some epic city views.

This morning, head to the **Museo Nacional de Antropología** (National Anthropology Museum). Even if you're not a museum lover, this fascinating museum is crucial to understanding the pre-classical period and other ancient civilizations in Mexico, such as the Teotihuacan, Mexica, Oaxaca, Toltec, Aztec and Maya.



Enjoy a tranquil, beautiful hot air balloon ride over ancient pyramids

After lunch, we venture to the charming Coyoacán neighborhood, a quiet, green suburb located a short distance from the center of the city. A rainbow of colonial-style buildings line leafy cobblestone streets in this bohemian neighborhood, with an artsy vibe and gentle pace.

There will be an independent lunch opportunity at Mercado Coyoacán. Inside the market is a famous food stall called Tostadas de Coyoacan, known as having the best tostadas in the city.

The area is famous for the **Casa Azul (Blue House)** where renowned Mexican artist and feminist **Frida Kahlo** lived with her husband Diego Rivera. The house has been converted into the Museo Frida Kahlo (Frida Kahlo Museum), which is our first stop of the day. The museum displays many of Kahlo's personal belongings and some of her artworks.

We'll also view the many gorgeous colorful houses in this area as well as Plaza Hidalgo and Jardin Centenario.

Dinner this evening? Time for a food tour! Tacos, tortas, tamales and more, the food of Mexico City is some of the tastiest in the country, and the best way to see it is with a local. Be accompanied through markets, down backstreets and into small street food stalls to discover some of the most delicious local dishes and learn more about the cuisine of the city.

This tour is all about Mexico City's tacos, and you'll get to try a variety of popular tacos all over the city, as well as sample some mezcal, Mexico's other popular spirit. (B, D)

Day 5: November 7 - Fly over the Ancient City of Teotihuacan

We depart very early for Teotihuacan, an ancient Mesoamerican city located a short distance from the center of the city. The site is home to some of the world's largest pyramids, and a visit to the impressive city is a must. But seeing it from above on a hot air balloon is a true bucket list item, especially as you watch the sunrise as you fly over 2,000-year-old pyramids.

You'll float over all the major sights, such as the Pirámide del Sol (Pyramid of the Sun) and the Pirámide de la Luna (Pyramid of the Moon). A once-in-a-lifetime experience, it is simply mind-blowing to see such well-preserved history from above, in a sky filled with colorful balloons.

Upon safely landing, celebrate the flight with a champagne toast and a buffet breakfast.

After breakfast, we then visit Teotihuacán on foot to see it from a different perspective.

Very little is known about the people who lived there, and it remains a mystery who built this spectacular city. It is often incorrectly assumed that Teotihuacán was an Aztec city. But this isn't true, and the Aztecs only discovered the city once it was well and truly abandoned. They gave it the name Teotihuacán, meaning the place where the gods were created.

Whoever it was that constructed Teotihuacán so long ago, it is incredibly preserved and offers a fascinating insight into one of the earliest Mexican civilizations. (B, L)

Day 6: November 8 - Murales de Diego Rivera en la Secretaría de Educacion Publica

Urban market scenes bustle with activity and seem to burst out of the picture plane. The colorful festivities at the Canal at Santa Anita draw us in with the vibrant colors of their flower vendors. Scenes of industry depict the labor and heroism of the worker. These are but a few of the subjects that cover the walls of Mexico City's Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP)—the federal government building that houses the Ministry of Public Education. The enormous mural cycle celebrates Mexico: its festivals, its industries, and its people in over 100 panels. The murals were painted from 1923–1928, primarily by Diego Rivera. Many consider the murals to be the foundational work that established the aesthetic of the Mexican Mural Renaissance. The murals address thematic issues of nation-building, indigenismo, modernization, and socialist politics - themes that Mexican muralists continued to address and that were important in post-revolutionary Mexico. (B, D)

Day 7: November 9 - Return home with a lifetime of memories!

Your journey concludes after breakfast. Transfers are included this morning to the Mexico City airport. (B)



Meet Your Host! José Rizo



José Rizo was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and raised in Oxnard, California. He played trumpet in high school, but it was not until he was a student at U.C. Santa Barbara that he developed his passion for jazz. In the late 70s, José was the founder of “Radio Chicano”, a student and community broadcasting organization based on the Santa Barbara campus at KCSB, where he served as program director for two years. Rizo began hosting “Jazz on the Latin Side” on KLON (now KJazz) in early 1990. He was intricately involved on KLON’s “Latin Jazz Club Caravans” and served as a member of the Grammy’s Screening committee for Latin Jazz. He has been the artistic director of the Luckman Fine Arts Latin Jazz Concert Series and involved in the “Central Avenue Jazz Festival” since its inception.



Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A \$1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

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