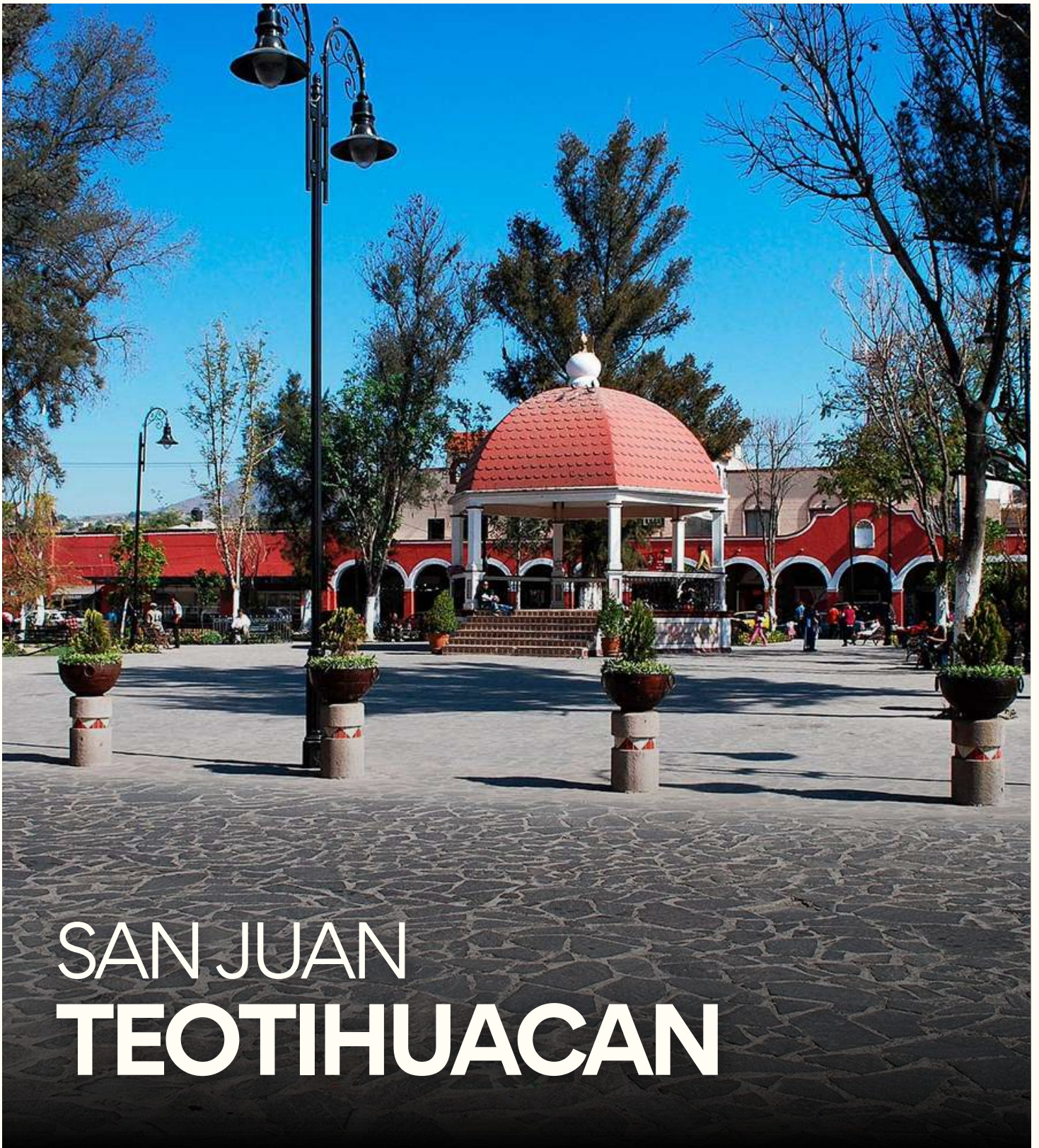




TEOTIHUACAN

MAGICAL TOWN + BASILICA





SAN JUAN TEOTIHUACAN

It is the main gateway to the archaeological site of Teotihuacán. The municipality blends its **pre-Hispanic legacy with its colonial heritage**. After the Spanish conquest, churches, plazas, and buildings were constructed that today form part of its historical heritage, creating a unique contrast between two eras in Mexico's history.

♦ HIGHLIGHTS

PLAZA JUAREZ

It's the heart of the town and an ideal place to rest after touring the pyramids.



CRAFT MARKET

You'll find obsidian figurines, clay figurines, jewelry, pre-Hispanic masks, textiles, and pottery.



LOCAL GASTRONOMY

Some classics like tlacoyos, mixiotes, barbacoa, escamoles, natural or aged pulque, and, of course, dessert.



REGIONAL PRODUCTS

You'll be able to sample artisanal liqueurs, jams, honey, sauces, and products made from nopal.





DIVINE CHILD REDEEMER CATHEDRAL

It is one of the most important religious buildings in the Teotihuacán Valley and the seat of the Diocese of Teotihuacán, a church **with more than 475 years of history**. Its origins date back to 1548, when Franciscan friars built the church as part of the former Convent of San Juan Bautista, one of the first religious complexes erected during the evangelization of New Spain.

It is a magnificent example of 16th-century religious architecture. Its façade, built with volcanic stone from the region, features a sober style with Plateresque details, characteristic of the early viceregal period.

In 1934, the Mexican government designated it a **Historic Monument**, recognizing its great architectural and cultural value.





It was built just a few decades after the conquest of Mexico and was dedicated to the evangelization of the region.

The walls inside the church are adorned with paintings; the most impressive is the mural depicting Jacob's dream of the ladder to heaven. Inside the church is a small chapel built primarily for the veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A notable feature is the niche housing the image of the Sacred Heart, with a mural in the background depicting angels contemplating the majesty of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.





TEOTIHUACAN

Its name comes from the Nahuatl language and means “**the place where the gods were created**” or “the place where the gods were born.” According to Mexica tradition, it was here that the gods gathered to bring about the Fifth Sun, the era in which we currently live. For this reason, Teotihuacán was considered a **sacred site**, a symbol of the beginning of a new era for humanity.

One of the greatest mysteries in archaeology is the identity of Teotihuacán’s founders. To this day, it is not known for certain which people built it or what the city’s original name was.

In 1987, Teotihuacán was designated a UNESCO **World Heritage Site** for its extraordinary historical and cultural value. Despite more than a century of archaeological research, there are still tunnels, structures, and secrets beneath the city that continue to be the subject of study.



The Pyramid of the Sun is **the largest structure** in Teotihuacán. It was built around 200 A.D. and stands approximately 65 meters tall, with a base measuring more than 220 meters on each side.

One of the most significant discoveries was a natural cave located beneath the pyramid. Many experts believe that this cave was the primary reason for building the pyramid at that site, making it one of the city's most important ceremonial spaces.

Interestingly, there is no definitive evidence that it was dedicated to the Sun God. The name "Pyramid of the Sun" was given by European explorers centuries after Teotihuacán was abandoned. Some researchers believe it may have been related to a solar deity, while others think it was dedicated to fertility, water, the god of fire, or even the creation of the universe. To this day, its exact function remains one of the great mysteries of archaeology.





Located at the northern end of the Avenue of the Dead, the Pyramid of the Moon was built between A.D. 100 and 450 and served as the setting for important religious ceremonies. At the foot of the pyramid stands Structure A, framed by two plinths; its interior houses nine altars representing the cardinal and intercardinal directions, as well as the center—the axis of the Teotihuacan universe.

Although it is shorter than the Pyramid of the Sun, it was built on elevated ground, which makes both pyramids appear to be of similar height when viewed from the Avenue of the Dead.

From its base, one can enjoy one of the most iconic views of Teotihuacán, with the Avenue of the Dead stretching toward the Pyramid of the Sun.

VIEW FROM THE PYRAMID OF THE MOON





The Temple of Quetzalcoatl (the Feathered Serpent) is located within the complex known as La Ciudadela and is one of the buildings with the most beautiful and intricate decorations from the pre-Hispanic era. It was built around 250 AD and is notable for its sculptures of feathered serpents swimming among shells and snails, alternating with depictions associated with Tlaloc, the god of rain.

A 120-meter-long tunnel was discovered beneath the temple, which had been sealed off by the Teotihuacans themselves. In 2013, using a robot named Tláloc II-TC, researchers determined that there are three chambers at the end of the tunnel.



A colorful replica of the Temple of Quetzalcoatl at the National Museum of Anthropology and History.



Description from "General History of Art" by José Pijoán. Espasa Calpe S.A., Madrid, 1946.



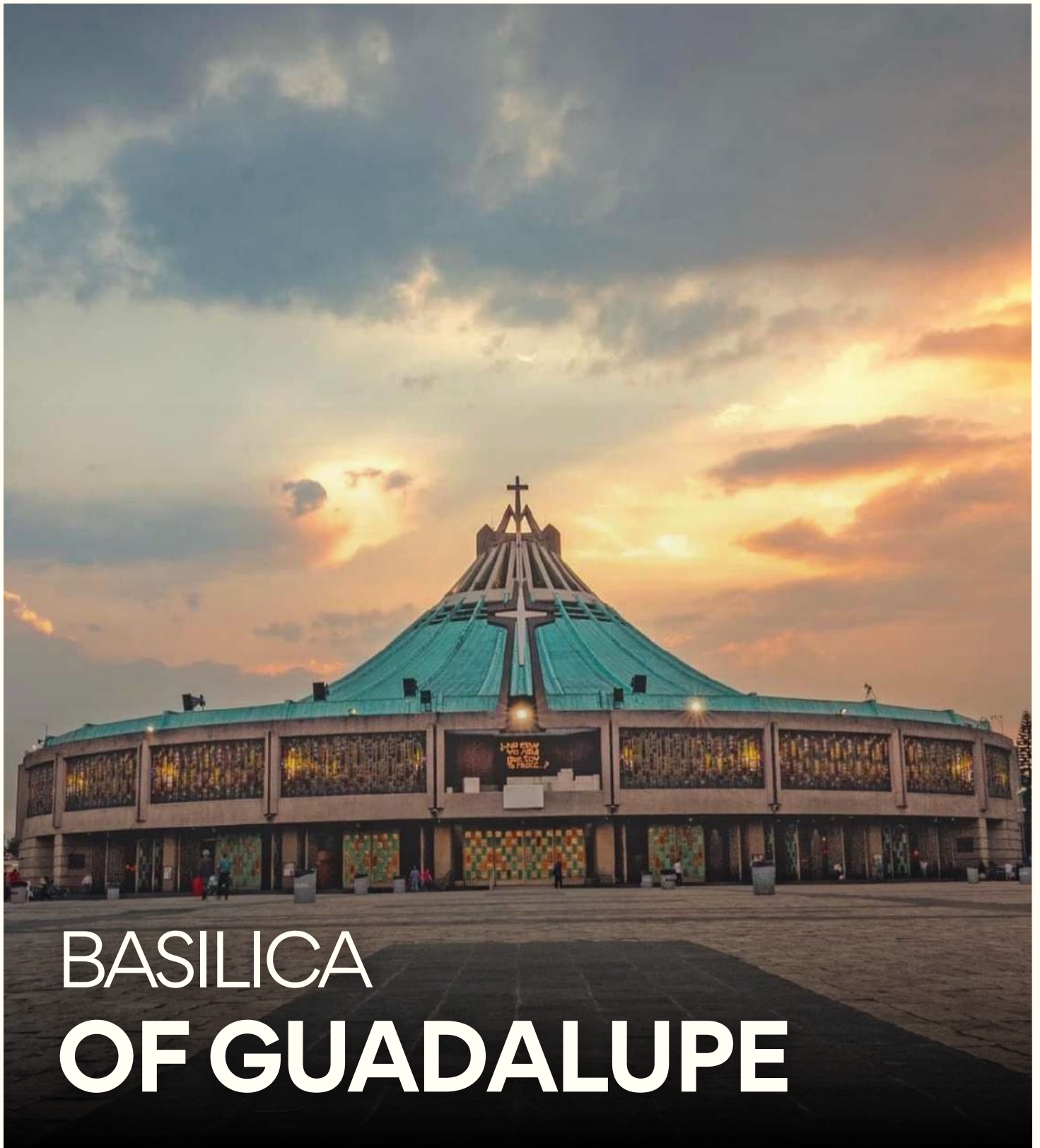


PATH OF THE DEATH

Interestingly, the Teotihuacans never called it the “Avenue of the Dead.” That name was given by the Mexicas when they discovered the city centuries later. Upon observing the platforms and bases flanking the avenue, they thought they were tombs of ancient rulers and called it **Miccaotli**, which means “Path of the Dead.” Today we know that those structures were temples, altars, ceremonial buildings, and residences of the elite—not a cemetery.

The original surface of the avenue lies several meters below the current level due to centuries of soil and sediment accumulation. Archaeologists have excavated various sections to reveal the true height of plazas, stairways, and buildings, allowing us to appreciate what this impressive city looked like in its heyday.





BASILICA OF GUADALUPE

It is the main shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe and one of the most important Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world, drawing millions of believers each year. The INAH considers the entire town of Guadalupe to be **a site of fundamental importance to Mexico's religious and cultural history.**



In December 1531, **Juan Diego** Cuauhtlatoatzin, a Nahua indigenous man, was on **Tepeyac Hill**, where he encountered the **Virgin Guadalupe**, who asked him to convey to Bishop Fray Juan de Zumárraga her wish that a church to be built on that site.

To prove that he had spoken with the Virgin, Juan Diego brought the bishop some roses he had picked on Tepeyac. When he opened his tilma, the roses fell out, showing the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe imprinted on it. From that moment, construction began on a small chapel on the hill, which eventually proved insufficient as devotion to her grew more and more.

THE OLD BASILICA

Construction of the building as we know it today began in 1695, and it was consecrated and dedicated to the Virgin on April 27, 1709. The project was carried out by architects Pedro de Arrieta and José Durán. Today, it is known as the **Expiatory Temple of Christ the King**.

For centuries, this was the main Guadalupe shrine. However, the ground on which it was built began to exhibit significant settlement problems. The structure became distorted, and there was even a risk of collapse. For this reason, it was decided to build a new shrine. In 1976, the image of the Virgin was moved to the new basilica, and the old church ceased to function as the main shrine.



CURRENT BASILICA

Construction began in 1974, and the sanctuary was dedicated on October 12, 1976. The image of the Virgin of Guadalupe was solemnly transferred from the old basilica to the new sanctuary. One of the most interesting features is that the building has a circular floor plan, which allows a large number of people to view the image of the Virgin from virtually any point inside.

The Basilica is designed not only to allow people to enter, but also to enable millions of pilgrims to move through the sanctuary, admiring the image of the Virgin, on a continuous basis.



Miguel Hidalgo with the banner of the Virgin of Guadalupe

To understand the significance of the Basilica, one must view it as **more than just a religious temple**. Our Lady of Guadalupe has become a symbol that spans the history of Mexico: the colonial era, Independence, the Revolution, and contemporary Mexico. For many, it is **a matter of faith, but also of identity, tradition, and a sense of belonging**.

During **Mexico's war of independence**, Father Miguel Hidalgo used an image of the Virgin as a banner since she was a figure revered by indigenous people, mestizos, and creoles, thereby uniting people from different social groups in the struggle.



THE TOWN OF GUADALUPE

The Basilica is not just a building. The Town of Guadalupe is a historic complex that includes various spaces and churches.



BASILICA OF GUADALUPE



OLD BASILICA



CHAPEL OF THE HILL

It is located on the upper part of Tepeyac and is connected to the site associated with one of the apparitions.



CHAPEL OF THE WELL

It is associated with a spring that once existed in the area and is another of the historic structures in the complex.



GUADALUPE BASILICA MUSEUM

A collection of religious art created over the course of several centuries.



DAY OF THE VIRGIN

December 12 is the most important celebration, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It marks the culmination of the Fiestas Guadalupeñas, which begin several days earlier and draw a huge influx of pilgrims to Mexico City. The date commemorates the final encounter between Juan Diego and the Virgin. Pilgrims arrive from all over Mexico and from other countries as well. Some walk for kilometers carrying enormous statues of the Virgin or even on their knees to show their devotion.

One of the best-known traditions begins on the evening of December 11. Thousands of people gather for a group serenade to sing **“Las Mañanitas a la Virgen”**. Even artists and musical groups take part in this celebration.

Mexico City authorities reported approximately **13 million visitors** during the holiday season in 2025.

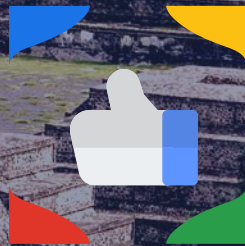
The celebrations include church Masses, traditional dances, music, and singing, as well as visits to the image of the Virgin to make requests or give thanks.





ENJOY YOUR
TOUR!

RATE YOUR
EXPERIENCE



[CLICK HERE](#)



Tripadvisor
Travelers' Choice[™]

[CLICK HERE!](#)