



Urban Escapes

There's magic in every corner of Mexico. Here, we dive into three of its cities with in-the-know locals to discover each one's hidden gems and must-visit destinations.

By Suzanne Koch





Mérida

Capital of Yucatán, Mérida is full of colonial history and Mayan ruins. Just 35 minutes away from the city, the wellness destination Chablé Resort & Spa is nestled into the Mayan jungle channeling the best of the magical region. Here, Rocco Boza, General Manager of Chablé, gives us the inside scoop to Mérida's best finds.

What makes Mérida unique from other cities on the Yucatan Peninsula?

It has an authentic colonial feel and is not overcrowded by tourists. Mérida's main Plaza Grande looks and feels like you stepped back in time and seeing many Yucatecan families walking and enjoying their time together is a joy to watch.

What's your idea of a perfect day in Mérida?

Breakfast at Yucatán Country Club, the best golf club in Yucatán, followed by a stroll at Mercado San Benito to experience the smells, sounds and shopping of the locals. Then, ice cream at The Colon, the oldest ice cream shop in Mérida, for a little break. Lunch at La Pigua, possibly the best seafood restaurant in town serving the freshest and most typical "platos" from the Yucatán peninsula. Visit the Dzibilchaltún Mayan ruins for sunset and if you are in the mood, swim in its cenote. Dinner at Néctar, in my opinion, is the best dining experience...outside of Chablé of course.

Where is the best place to get a true "taste" of Mérida?

My favorite place is a little street restaurant in Chichen Itza (yes, near the famous Maya pyramids) called Loncheria Fabiola. It is a little outside of Mérida, but not too far.

What are some of the best archaeological sites to visit?

My favorite is Dzibilchaltún. It's a low-key site with a small pyramid. The ruins are not in the greatest shape, but it's the only one with a cenote that you can swim in. It also has a museum full of great finds. Most importantly, there are no vendors and very few tourists. During the equinox you can see the sun shining right through the door on the top of the temple.

After a long day exploring in town, what spa treatment at Chablé Spa do you recommend for unwinding?

The Mayan Herbal Compress Massage will totally relax and soothe you after a long day of discovering one of the most authentic Mexican cities.

chableresort.com/yucatan



Drink Up:
Chablé Resort hosts the world's largest tequila collection.



San Miguel de Allende

Get Creative: Rosewood San Miguel de Allende features contemporary Mexican art throughout its property and encourages guests to get in touch with their creative side. Amenities include in-room easels with paint and tools and an Art Concierge who curates on-property exhibitions, art talks, specialized tours and packages.





Colonial authenticity, cultural integrity and a beautiful historic downtown all lent to San Miguel de Allende being designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Limited development and strict building codes keep the city's charm and magic alive, from the 17th-century neo-Gothic cathedral La Parroquia to the 16th-century Spanish Colonial Baroque architecture seen throughout the town. Located within the UNESCO-protected city center and built by local artisans, Rosewood San Miguel de Allende maintains the look and feel of Old San Miguel. We talked with Alfredo Rentería, Managing Director of Rosewood San Miguel de Allende, on what makes the historic city so special and where to find some of the best views in town.

What is one thing you cannot miss when visiting San Miguel de Allende?

In my opinion, a visit to Fabrica La Aurora, a beautiful art and design center housed in a former textile factory from the turn of the century, is not to be missed. La Aurora contains an eclectic mix of artist studios, contemporary art galleries, small eateries and a collection of shops, among other things.

What is your favorite thing about the city?

San Miguel de Allende is an enchanting artisan village. The natural beauty of the surrounding countryside, quality of light and unique ambience have drawn artists to study, work and settle here. Its vibrant art community is one of my very favorite things about the city. From hand-crafted leather goods to colorful pottery, the city is filled with boutiques, galleries and shops for purchasing one-of-a-kind artistic items. Art classes are also offered throughout the city where travelers can craft textiles, pottery and other custom masterpieces with local artisans. San Miguel also boasts an impressive collection of murals and urban artwork.

Where is the best spot to get a beautiful view of the city?

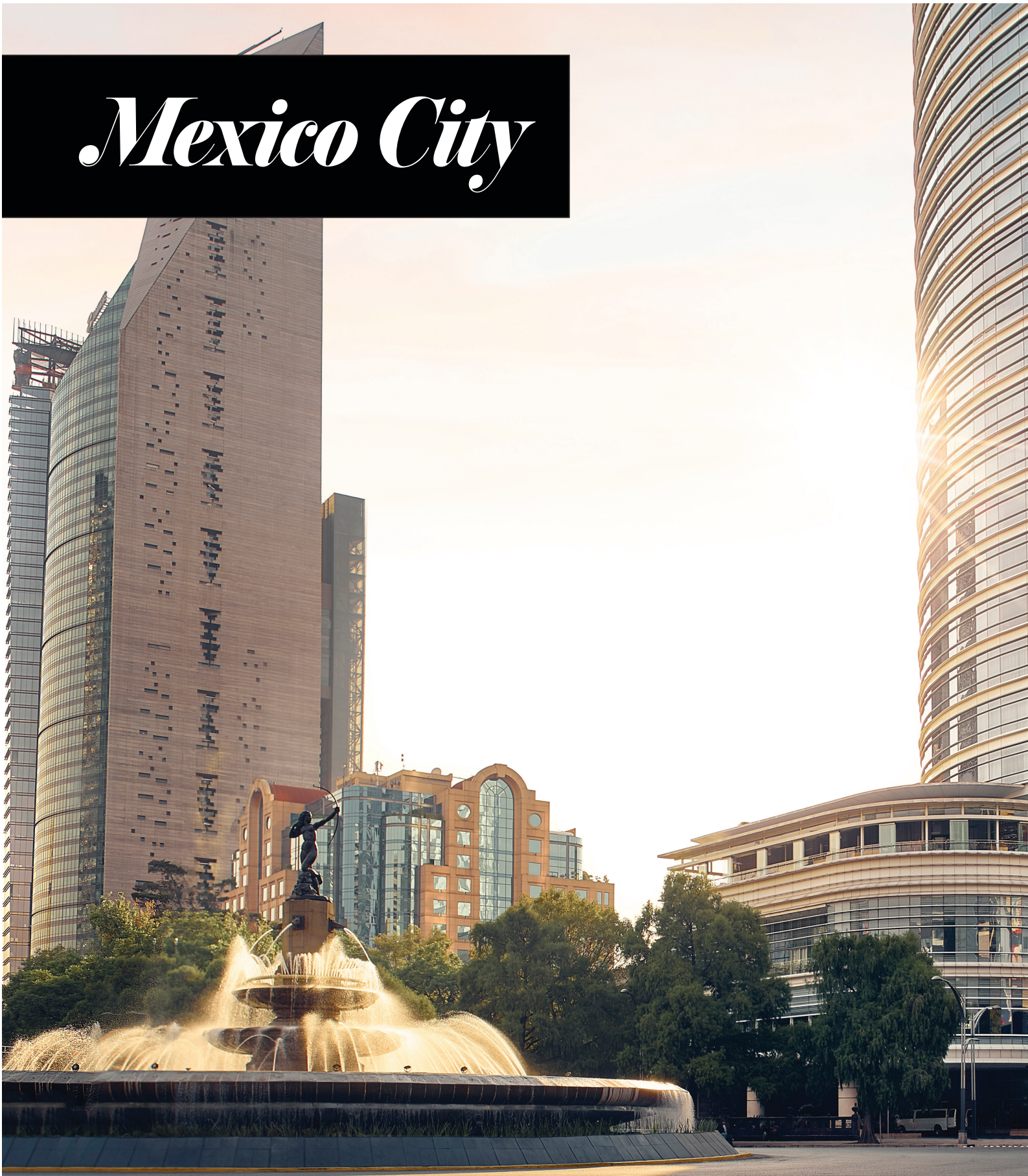
Trazo 1810 boasts a 360-degree view of the historic city center and offers superb cuisine in an amazing ambience. Luna Rooftop Tapas Bar, Rosewood San Miguel de Allende's preeminent rooftop bar, is known for its stunning sunset views. Guests can relax with cocktails or an intimate dinner set in full view of the entire city of San Miguel, including the iconic La Parroquia and the city's incredible colonial architecture.

Where's the best margarita in town?

La Mezcalería is a stylish place known for their craft mezcal margaritas paired perfectly with delectable tapas. Personally, my favorite margarita in town is the Lavender Margarita served at Luna Rooftop Tapas Bar at Rosewood San Miguel de Allende. Lavender is one of the most iconic flowers in San Miguel, and since it is very aromatic, we decided to unify its most intrinsic values with the city's own Tequila Casa Dragones Joven.

rosewoodhotels.com/sanmiguel

©IN.MEXICO #INMEXICO 107



Mexico City





The heart of the country, Mexico City is a hub for culture, food, history, art, diversity and so much more. It's historic, yet modern; luxurious, yet humble; energetic, yet comforting. And as one of the most populous cities in the world, there's many ways to experience it. The St. Regis Mexico City overlooks Paseo de la Reforma and stands as a shiny beacon offering some of the best views of the city's bustling energy below. Here, Fernanda Elizondo, Marketing and Communications Manager for The St. Regis Mexico City shares some of her tips for the perfect day in the dynamic city.

Mexico City is known for its food scene. What are your favorite choices for breakfast, lunch and dinner?

For dinner I recommend Pujol which is an exploration of Mexican cuisine with contemporary techniques, or Quintonil which explores Mexican gastronomy with a special insistence on sustainability. For breakfast, my special places are San Angel Inn, a traditional Mexican hacienda where you can enjoy traditional dishes of Mexican cuisine and outstanding margaritas; and El Cardenal, located downtown where they produce their own raw ingredients (tortillas, dairy products, bread, chocolate).

Of all the museums in Mexico City, what are some of your favorites?

The Anthropology Museum is one of my favorites and Jumex Museum, which is one of the most important centers of contemporary art exhibitions worldwide.

What's your idea of a perfect day in Mexico City?

Going downtown is a perfect day because you can experience an extraordinary gastronomic adventure combined with art and history.

In your opinion, what's the best time of year to visit Mexico City?

We have a lot to do during every season. There is always something to do in Mexico City, depending on what are you looking for. If it's the weather, I recommend April, which is sunny. If you are looking for special events, October and November are good months because we have the F1 Grand Prix and Day of the Dead celebrations.

If someone wanted to spend a night out on the town, where would you recommend going?

Condesa and Roma neighborhoods where you can find a bunch of bars for all styles and tastes.

stregismexicocity.com

The Bloody Best:

Fernanda recommends trying the Sangrita Maria at the hotel's King Cole Bar. A unique twist on a Bloody Mary, it's made with mezcal, agave salt, spices and guajillo chile.



INMEXICO

INMEXICO

LUXURY
WITHOUT
LIMITS

MEXICO EVERYTHING

DOG-FRIENDLY
VACAYS

BEST INMEXICO
WINNERS

CABO, TULUM
& PUERTO
VALLARTA'S
COOLEST

DREAMY
ESCAPES

Mexico Everything

SPRING 2019

