

Mexico Fun Facts

Mexico City was built on a lake. The reigning priest at the time commanded that the new city be built where an eagle was found eating a snake—and that happened to be on a cactus in the middle of a lake. As a result many of the buildings downtown are sinking. It is the oldest city in North America. The city holds 24 million people. To reduce traffic—which is absolutely insane!—cars are given permits which only allows them to drive on certain days.

Mexico is the 11th largest country in the world with 121 million people.

Toluca is an hour southwest of Mexico City. It is an industrial city of 1.25 million people. It's grown so much that it swallowed its neighboring town of Metepec. Toluca and Mexico City are growing at such a rate that many think they will one day meet in the middle.

Ixtapan de la Sal (not to be confused with the seaside city of Ixtapa) has a warm, moist climate year round. You can grow anything in its soil. Agriculture is one of the area's main sources of income. The weekly market takes over the entire downtown every Sunday.

Even though the official language is Spanish, there are at least 50 other languages spoken in Mexico. This is holdover from the days when Mexican land was divided into hundreds of tribes--such as the Zapotecs, Aztecs, Mayans, Olmecs, Incas, and Toltecs.

Mexico Fun Facts, cont.

Mexico is an overwhelming Catholic country. The only country with more Catholic residents is Brazil. As a result, there are gorgeous churches in almost every main square in Mexico.

Mexico is a super social culture. Gatherings with family and friends are liable to last eight or more hours. They usually include food, loud music, and lots and lots of talking. When someone enters a gathering—whether it's with 3 or 30 people—the new person hugs, kisses, and says a few words to every person present. The same is done in reverse when anyone leaves.

In my experience, friend groups are close like a family. Once one person accepts you (or proposes to you, in my case) the rest of the group immediately and wholly accepts you. They become your cheering section and support group.

Mexico Trivia Quiz

1. What are the three colors of the Mexican flag?
 2. What two building are in every town square in Mexico?
 3. What's the main religion/church in Mexico?
 4. What's the capital of Mexico?
 5. What food is Mexico best known for around the world?
 6. Where do the majority of Mexicans get fresh fruit and veggies?
 7. What must be done when entering or exiting a party?
- Bonus: What region in Mexico is known for their chocolate?

(1) Red, white, and green (2) A church and a government building for the city (3) Catholic (4) Mexico City (5) Tacos, of course! (6) The local market (7) Greet every person with a hug and kiss (Bonus) Oaxaca