



# CONSULAR NEWSLETTER

ECONOMIC & TOURISM AFFAIRS

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With enthusiasm we share with you the fifth edition of the Consular Newsletter on Economic and Tourism Affairs. We remain convinced that it represents a unique tool to continue fostering the bilateral relationship between Mexico and Arizona.

In this issue, the *#ChooseMexico* section highlights the strength of the agricultural sector in Mexico and the dynamic and mutually beneficial economic relationship with the United States.

In addition, **Rafael Barceló Durazo**, the **Consul of Mexico in Tucson**, emphasizes the historical ties between southern Arizona and Mexico, resulting in a rich cuisine and educational and business opportunities strongly interconnected.

The *#ArizonaThrives* section includes the participation of the **president of the Arizona Senate, Karen Fann**, who shares her first memories visiting Mexico. We also have the collaboration of the **Mayor of Kingman, Jen Miles**, who discusses the recovery of Kingman, after the worst stage of the pandemic. This city is a mandatory stop if you are traveling on Route 66. To paraphrase quote that great song about this iconic American roadway, I encourage you to "Get your kicks on Route 66."

**Sen. Paul Boyer** talks about his first interaction with Mexico through soccer. As a big fan of Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos, he loved hearing the announcers scream *Goooooaa!* During this legislative session, Sen. Boyer sponsored two crucial initiatives that were approved and have a strong meaning for both Arizona and Mexico. He understands that the Arizona–Mexico friendship represents a win–win for our communities and our region.

In the *#DiscoverMexico* section, this time we highlight the tourist attractions in Jalisco, located in the western part of the country; Chihuahua, with its beautiful canyon (four times larger than Arizona's Grand Canyon); and Michoacán, whose cuisine captivates the palates of locals and foreigners.

I hope you enjoy this edition and share it with your friends.

Jorge Mendoza Yescas  
Consul General of Mexico



## Upcoming Events

**The Green Expo**  
Sustainable development  
September 7–9, Mexico City

**Mexico City Grand Prix**  
Racing event  
October 29–31, Mexico City

**Los Cabos Tennis Open**  
Tennis Tournament  
July 19–24, Los Cabos

**Expo ElectriB**  
Electromechanical  
August 19–20, Zacatecas and Virtual

**Baja 1000**  
Off-road race  
November 15–20, Ensenada



## Did You Know...

- Mexico is the **largest exporter of tomatoes?**
- Mexico is home to 89 of the world's **top 100 auto parts manufacturers?**
- The Mexican Higher Education System has **3,201 institutions** that offer education services and facilities spaces for international exchange?
- A total of **35 UNESCO World Heritage sites** are located in Mexico, the highest number in the Americas and 7th in the world?

## Working Across the Border



Mexican citizens may obtain E-1, E-2, L1 and L2 visas that are valid for up to 48 months, and H1-B and H-4 visas valid for up to 36 months, at any U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

According to a study from the Migration Policy Institute, the share of Mexican college-educated immigrants in the United States has increased nationwide in recent years. Skilled Mexican immigrants have been an important source of labor in Arizona due to its economic ties and proximity to Mexico.

On April 26, 2021, the Mexican and U.S. governments announced an update in the standards for issuance of certain work visas for Mexican citizens working in the U.S. and temporary resident cards

for U.S. citizens who have job offers to work in Mexico.

U.S. citizens now can obtain a Temporary Resident Visa, valid up to four years, that gives permission to work in Mexico.



More Info:

[Extension of Visas and Work Permits](#)

## Q1 2021: Trade Between Mexico and the U.S. Was Strong

During the first quarter of 2021, Mexico was the largest trading partner of the United States with a total trade of US \$153.9 billion, surpassing both Canada and China, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Between January and March, the United States exported products worth US\$64.037 billion to Mexico and imported goods from Mexico for a value of US\$89.868 billion. This represents an annual increase of 6.23% of the U.S. exports compared to the same period in 2020. Mexican imports also increased by 2.71%.

Mexico is the first- or second-largest export destination for 27 U.S. states. The top U.S. exports are electronics, vehicles, fuels, minerals, plastics and machinery. The main goods imported from Mexico are vehicles, machinery, electrical machinery, optical and medical instruments, and mineral fuels.



More Info:

[Trade between Mexico and the United States](#)

## The Road to Recovery



Tourism ministers from several countries met April 25–27 in Cancun during the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC) Global Summit to discuss the road to recovery for the tourism industry. International leaders used the forum to share their experiences in the last year.

During the event, the WTTTC Cancun Women's Declaration was signed. The declaration recognizes the contributions of women around the globe and the importance of an equal and equitable environment to enable women to thrive as leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators.

Among the WTTTC participants were Miguel Torruco Marqués, secretary of tourism for Mexico; Carlos Manuel Joaquín González,

governor of the Mexican state of Quintana Roo; Gloria Guevara, president and CEO of the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC); and Christopher J. Nassetta, president and CEO of Hilton, a global hospitality company with 18 brands and more than 6,500 properties worldwide.

"These three days will remain engraved in our memories forever," Torruco Marqués said. "This WTTTC summit has marked a before and after, and all of us present here have witnessed the starting signal of the new era of world travel and its frank recovery."



More Info:

[wttc.org](http://wttc.org)


# Agriculture in Mexico

Mexico currently has a network of 12 free trade agreements with 46 countries. This network represents a potential market of 1,479 million people that translates into new opportunities and improved conditions for the sale of agricultural, livestock and fishery products.

Mexico has great agricultural diversity, thanks to the efforts and dedication of Mexican food producers. The country has the potential to generate more than 800 agro-industrial products that can account for more than 272 million tons per year. Mexico currently is the world's leading exporter of beer, tomatoes, chiles, peppers, red fruits, avocados and tequila—among other food products.

Here are just few reasons the sector is strong:

- It has irrigated areas with the potential to increase yields exponentially;
- There are a variety of fruits and vegetables available throughout the year;
- There is crop disease control and prevention; and
- There are highly productive soils throughout the country.

 More Info: [gob.mx/agricultura](http://gob.mx/agricultura)

## Mexico's Green Gold

Avocados are one of the country's most successful agri-food exports. In fact, Mexico is the main avocado supplier for the international market, contributing approximately 45% of the total world exports.

In the United States, avocados are big business. At events such as the Super Bowl, for example, 100,000 tons have been consumed in a single day. The state of Michoacán produces eight out of 10 Mexican avocados, five out of 10 produced globally and nine out of 10 imported to the United States. Fresh Hass avocados from Michoacán are exported north of the border duty free.


Despite the popularity of this fruit (yes, it is a fruit), they were banned in the United States for 83 years beginning in 1914 over fears of infestation and the possibility

of cheaper competition. In 1997, avocados from Michoacán were finally declared free of insects and state producers began massive exports.

Over the last 20 years, avocado consumption has increased significantly in the U.S. According to data from the International



Trade Centre, 2017 was the first year that the value of avocados imported into the United States exceeded the value of imported bananas.


 More Info: [avocadosfrommexico.com/avocados](http://avocadosfrommexico.com/avocados)

## Nogales: The Gateway for Mexican Produce

Mexico accounts for 39% of all imported fruits and vegetables consumed in North America each year. Nogales, AZ, which is on the Mexican border, serves as the main gateway to North American markets for Mexican produce that includes avocados, mangos, tomatoes, grapes, squash, cucumbers and peppers.

Approximately 330,000 trucks cross the border annually through Nogales, bringing in about \$3 billion US worth of Mexican fresh produce. Nogales has established itself as a produce hub with a great infrastructure that includes warehouses and cold storage facilities supported by Mexican investments.

The modernization of State Route 189, which connects Interstate 19 with the Mariposa Port of Entry, will help increase international produce trade coming from Mexico by eliminating the need for commercial trucks to stop frequently between I-19 and the international border.

 More Info: [Improvements at SR-189](#)

# Tucson —With an Accent

BY RAFAEL BARCELÓ DURAZO

In the pages of this bulletin you might expect to find that societies and economies of Arizona and Mexico are intertwined. Well, that is still an understatement when you think of Tucson and Southern Arizona.

The shared historical and cultural heritage between this region and Mexico take present form with the dynamics of binational families that go back and forth. The border is an undeniable reality that causes some hassles but the depth and diversity of connections are an even stronger truth that pull everything together.

Trade and touristic exchanges are also key for our communities. Nothing explains better what a shopping mecca Tucson is for Sonorans and Sinaloans, that the local aphorism about seizing an opportunity that goes: "*Si ya estamos en Tucson, pues vamos a las tiendas*" (*We're in Tucson, let's go shopping!*). That saying is expressed as a fact with the one billion dollars spent by Mexicans in the Tucson area each year, according to a report of the University of Arizona.

These borderlands are full of opportunities in both countries and our desert-shaped personalities have crafted our identity for centuries, creating so

many commonalities. Tucson was the first designated UNESCO City of Gastronomy in the United States in 2015 (like Mérida and Ensenada in Mexico). I could hardly explain Tucson's vibrant and diverse food scene without the *taco de carne asada* joints, or the *dogos* (a crisscross Mexican variation of the US hot dog).

Educational and business chances abound here, fostered by the entrepreneurial spirits of so many individuals among our communities. The UofA has so many scholars, students and programs involved with Mexico that you wouldn't be too bold if you called it "the northernmost Mexican university".

The space of this article is very limited to brag as much as I would like to about the many ongoing relationships and shared undertakings that link Pima and Pinal counties (my consular district) with Mexico. Let me end this just by saying that for a career diplomat from Sonora, like myself, being in Tucson feels exactly like coming back home.



## Rafael Barceló Durazo Consul of Mexico in Tucson, AZ.

Rafael Barceló Durazo is the Consul of Mexico in Tucson, Arizona. He is a career diplomat in the Mexican Foreign Service since 2010. Previously, he has served on Human Rights Affairs at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and at the Embassies of Mexico to Brazil and Costa Rica.

He worked before at the Mexican Supreme Court of Justice and at the Institute of Youth of the State of Sonora.

Consul Barceló went to Law School at the University of Hermosillo and has a master in Administration and Public Policy by the *Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE)* in Mexico City.



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[visittucson.org](http://visittucson.org)



**Karen Fann**  
*Arizona Senator  
Legislative District 1*

Karen Fann is the second female Senate President in the history of Arizona. Sen. Fann was first elected in November 2016 to represent Legislative District 1, which covers 8,000 square miles throughout Yavapai County and portions of Maricopa County. She previously served this district from 2011 to 2016 as a state representative.

Fann moved to Prescott at the age of four and has been a lifelong Republican. She continues to represent her community by serving as a precinct committeewoman and is a member of Rotary International and the Elks.

Fann also is the owner and CEO of a highway construction company specializing in the installation of guardrail and signs throughout the state of Arizona.



More Info:

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# The Future Is Bright for Mexico and Arizona

BY KAREN FANN

It was such a pleasure to host Consul General Jorge Mendoza Yescas at the Arizona Senate recently. An important part of my role as the Senate President is to build relationships with friends and partners. With COVID-19 cases on the decline, we finally can return to meeting in person. We talked extensively about the work our governments are doing to improve relations and bolster both of our economies.

After the economic downturn that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, trade between Arizona and Mexico is beginning to return to normal levels. In recent years, our legislature has funded improvements to the Mariposa Port of Entry at Nogales and the surrounding roads. We now are in a good position to get more goods flowing in both directions, and I will do whatever I can to support future projects.

We also expect tourism to bounce back quickly. Arizonans are ready to visit the beautiful beaches of Mexico and experience the country's rich culture. During the Consul General's visit, I shared stories of my lifelong love of Puerto Peñasco, affectionately known to Arizonans as Rocky Point. My first visit was with my family when I was just eight years old. I remember staying right on the beach, enjoying the sun and devouring platters of fresh shrimp. All those years ago, who could have imagined what the area has since become?

We also discussed a recent visit I made to Mexico City with a delegation from the state legislature. I learned so much about the common issues we deal with, and how very different our governments can be.

I believe the future is very bright for Arizona and Mexico, and I'm looking forward to working with our partners, including Consul General Yescas, to build upon our successes.

# Kingman: A Destination for Travel and Business

BY JEN MILES

The city of Kingman, AZ, has a longstanding, great relationship with our friends at the Mexican Consulate. Had it not been for the international COVID-19 pandemic, we would have been able to continue our in-person dialogue on ways we can work together to attract tourism and support mutual economic development goals. Like many Arizona communities, Kingman is coming back strong from the pandemic, and we look forward to a continued partnership with the Mexican Consulate.

We would love to have Mexican tourists explore downtown Kingman and visit the museums and historical buildings, shop at our unique boutiques and specialty shops, and enjoy our local, award-winning eateries. Kingman sits along the longest stretch of Route 66 and the city is always working on projects that improve the downtown streetscape and systems to help our brand as a Route 66 international tourism destination.

We have made great progress on projects that improve livability and advance economic opportunities here. Having already completed the Kingman Crossing interchange development agreement, we are now completing negotiations to build the Rancho Santa Fe interchange. These two projects set the stage for Kingman to emerge as a regional hub for commerce and industry with many good jobs and a higher quality of life.

In addition to tourism, Kingman has one of the largest industrial parks in the state outside the Phoenix area and I encourage new industries to consider making Kingman home. The Kingman Municipal Airport Industrial Park is located near the junction of two major highways, Interstate 40 and U.S. Highway 93, and the future I-11 Corridor, offering great transportation options to distribute products nationwide.

There are hundreds of trains and delivery trucks that run through Kingman daily and we have one of the largest rail sidings in western Arizona with the BNSF Railroad. These assets allow us to easily serve the U.S. West Coast markets and also offer unique opportunities to partner with Mexican companies who would like to serve those same markets.

It is my privilege to serve the citizens of Kingman. As we work together to meet today's challenges, I believe we will emerge from this pandemic period stronger and more resilient as a community and region. We'll continue to align strong strategic partnerships with shared goals and vision to ensure that Kingman's future is bright.



*Jen Miles  
Mayor  
City of Kingman*

**Jen Miles is the mayor of the city of Kingman. She is entering her ninth year on the Kingman City Council and is a 28-year resident of the city. Mayor Miles has corporate and small business experience associated with degrees in engineering (Bachelor of Chemical Engineering, Auburn University) and business management (MBA, Stanford University). She has been the Director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Mohave Community College (MCC), where she ultimately became Vice President of Applied Sciences and Technology, responsible for the college's career and technical programs. During that time, she also was President of the Arizona Association of Occupational Administrators. Mayor Miles serves on the state's Workforce Arizona Council, is current Chair of the Mohave County Tri-City Council and participates in a number of regional and local entities championing local economic growth and quality of life.**



More Info:

[jmiles@cityofkingman.gov](mailto:jmiles@cityofkingman.gov)  
[www.gokingman.com](http://www.gokingman.com)  
[Route 66 Through Arizona](#)





# A Fresh Perspective on Scottsdale Arts

BY SCOTTSDALE ARTS STAFF

The last year forced us to rethink how we engage with the arts. During that time, Scottsdale Arts reinvested in the local community through its mission to offer powerful and moving arts experiences, whether at home, outside or in person.

Scottsdale Arts is a nonprofit that creates diverse arts experiences and educational opportunities that help foster an active, lifelong community engagement with the arts. It offers a variety of programs through its four acclaimed units: the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA), Scottsdale Public Art and

Scottsdale Arts Learning & Innovation.

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts hosts bold, innovative and visionary performances and festivals in state-of-the-art facilities. The center encourages a wide range of artistic voices and welcomes everyone to come together to make memories, learn something new and leave inspired.

SMoCA explores the best of contemporary art, architecture and design. Global in its focus, the museum is a unique and vital cultural resource for the Southwest, presenting a wide variety of educational programs and special events.



Scottsdale Public Art strives to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors by incorporating art and design projects throughout the city. Its annual flagship event is Canal Convergence | Water + Art + Light, a free, 10-day temporary public art experience at the Scottsdale Waterfront. The event features light-based and often interactive art installations on and around the Arizona Canal combined with exciting performances, creative workshops and educational opportunities, plus food, drink and more.

Scottsdale Arts Learning & Innovation offers high-quality exhibitions, programs and events that foster dialogue, promote tolerance, invoke wonder and create connections to each other. Matinee performances, guided museum tours, hands-on workshops, artist residencies and creative aging programs annually serve thousands of students and adults.



| EXPERIENCE THE ARTS   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS</b><br/><a href="http://scottsdaleperformingarts.org">scottsdaleperformingarts.org</a></p> <p><i>A selection of upcoming performances</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Flamenco Intimo</b><br/>Several October dates</li> <li><b>Arturo O’Farrill and The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra w/the Villalobos Brothers</b><br/>Oct. 17</li> <li><b>Mariachi Sol de México® de José Hernández</b><br/>Dec. 10</li> <li><b>Angélique Kidjo</b>   April 3</li> <li><b>Lea Salonga</b>   May 5</li> </ul> | <p><b>SCOTTSDALE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART</b><br/><a href="http://smoca.org">smoca.org</a></p> <p><b>SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>And It’s Built on the Sacred</b>   Through Oct. 17</li> <li><b>Diedrick Brackens: ark of bulrushes</b>   Through Jan. 30</li> </ul> <p><b>SCOTTSDALE PUBLIC ART</b><br/><a href="http://scottsdalepublicart.org">scottsdalepublicart.org</a></p> <p>Nov. 5–14, 2021<br/><b>Canal Convergence   Water + Art + Light</b><br/>2021 THEME: Art and Technology<br/><a href="http://canalconvergence.com">canalconvergence.com</a></p> <p><b>SCOTTSDALE ARTS LEARNING &amp; INNOVATION</b><br/><a href="http://scottsdaleartslearning.org">scottsdaleartslearning.org</a></p> |

# The Baja 1000: The Wild West of Motorsports

The BFGoodrich Tires 54<sup>th</sup> SCORE Baja 1000 is one of the most prestigious—and dangerous—off-road races on the planet, attracting thrill-seeking competitors from all over the world. Founded in 1967, the Baja 1000 is organized by SCORE International, which in 2021 had four races on its schedule.

Competing teams spend the whole day racing, stopping only to refuel. The finish time for the Baja 1000 depends on multiple factors: the weather, the type of vehicle and any mechanical issues that arise along the way. Leading teams usually complete the approximately 1100-mile race within 20–25 hours. Each participant has a GPS for safety, but still must be prepared for the unique challenges of competing in a harsh desert environment.

Racers go through the most remote, forgotten areas of Mexico's Baja Peninsula, where it can feel like they are driving on another planet and where a simple technical problem can leave a racer stranded for days. The terrain varies from thick and thin quicksand-type roads to arduous, steep mountains. If you are new to the sport or an amateur racer, preparation is crucial for this challenging, but extraordinary, race. You must always be on the lookout for serious hazards like a herd of



cars on the side of the road at night or just simply a traffic jam.

The legendary Baja California peninsula is home to a gorgeous coastline, and mountains and valleys with ever-changing, unique views. If you are an adventurous driver who loves a challenge or just enjoys driving through a majestically beautiful landscape, this race could be just the thrill you seek.

## Ready... Set...Race!

The Formula 1 (F1) Grand Prix of Mexico City will be held October 29–31 at *Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez*. This event always coincides with the local celebration of *Día de los Muertos*, adding another fun element to the wonderful atmosphere of tradition, culture, color and *fiesta* surrounding *Día de los Muertos*. In addition, this race event has been recognized by the Federation *Internationale de l'Automobile* (FIA) as the event of the year for the last five years in a row.

The 2019 Grand Prix was won by Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton. For this year's race, keep your eyes on Guadalajara native Sergio Pérez (nicknamed Checo), who will be participating as a driver for Red Bull Racing.



### More Info:

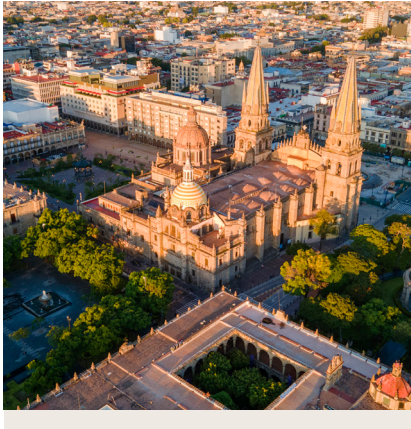
**BFGoodrich Tires 54th Annual SCORE Baja 1000**  
Nov. 15–20, 2021  
Ensenada to La Paz  
[Baja 1000](#)



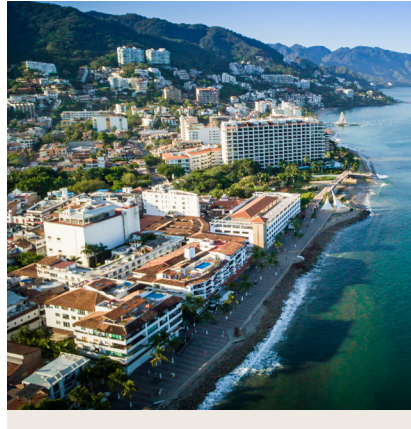
More Info:  
[Mexico City Grand Prix](#)

[How the Mexican Grand Prix Became F1's Best Event](#)

# Jalisco: So Many Cultural Treasures



Guadalajara, Jalisco's capital and the second largest city in Mexico, exquisitely balances modernity and tradition with world-class cuisine, contemporary arts and a rich cultural heritage. Visitors will find an intriguing array of artisan villages and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Museo Cabañas in Guadalajara's historic city center that houses the master works of José Clemente Orozco, widely considered the most important 20th century muralist who worked in fresco. Guadalajara also is a popular destination for business travelers. The city has one of the largest convention centers in Mexico and is an important technological hub that is often called the "Silicon Valley of Mexico." Just outside of the city, history buffs will appreciate the Guachimontones, an important Mayan complex



with unusual circular pyramids.

Puerto Vallarta offers fun in the sun on a stunning shoreline buffered by the Sierra Madre Mountains and Banderas Bay. Authentic culture can be found around every corner, from the charming cobblestone streets downtown to the art-filled Malecón and the lively Zona Romántica, a favorite enclave for LGBTQ+ travelers. Puerto Vallarta's picturesque beaches, aquatic activities and outdoor adventures lure travelers back time and time again. South of the city, visitors will find the Costalegre ("Happy Coast") region, known for its picturesque capes, bays and upscale bohemian chic vibe. The remote location—which stretches 150 miles between Puerto Vallarta and Manzanillo—and the adjacent protected jungle make this



area extremely picturesque.

While traveling from cities to towns to haciendas, visitors should seek out one of Jalisco's nine *Pueblos Mágicos* (magical towns) that have been selected by the Mexico Ministry of Tourism for their natural beauty, cultural richness, historical relevance and hospitality. They are: Lagos de Moreno, Mascota, Mazamitla, San Pedro Tlaquepaque, San Sebastian del Oeste, Talpa de Allende, Tapalpa and Tequila. Tequila is, of course, surrounded by the blue agave fields used to make its most famous export. For a slightly different sip, head to mountainous San Sebastián del Oeste, known for its production of raicilla, a lesser known agave spirit roasted like mezcal.



More Info:

[Visit Guadalajara](#)

[Visit Puerto Vallarta](#)

[Visit Jalisco](#)

# Chihuahua: The Copper Canyon Is Just One of Its Treasures

The state of Chihuahua is the largest of Mexico's 32 states, covering an area of 95,540 square miles that has five major climate zones. Its capital city is also called Chihuahua. Its largest city is the border town of Ciudad Juárez, an international manufacturing center, and the city of Cuauhtémoc is an internationally recognized apple production center.

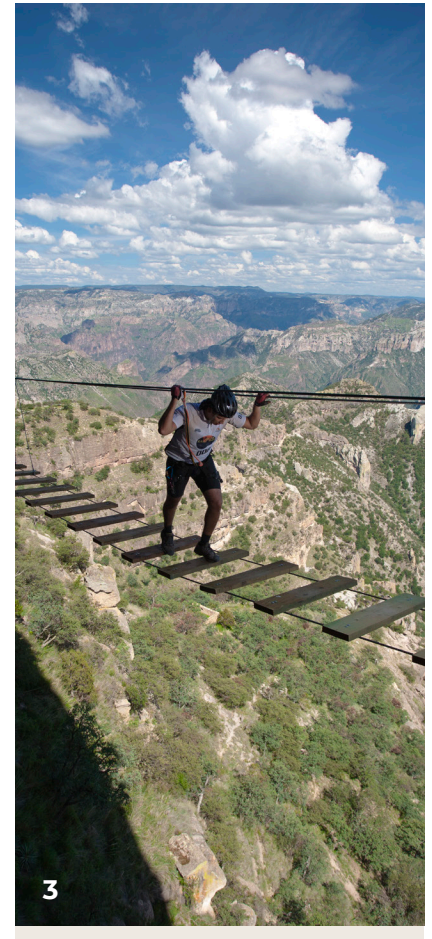
In 2020, the state received the National Tourism Product Diversification Award in the category of nature in recognition of the Copper Canyon Adventure Park, the Tourism Excellence Award thanks to its Mystic Desert Tourism Product for Samalayuca given at the International Tourism Trade Fair, and 19 medals for fine wines and sotol (a local spirit) at the *Concours Mondial de Bruxelles* 2021, Mexico edition.

Here are just five great reasons to put Chihuahua on your travel bucket list:

## 1. The Copper Canyon and the Chepe Express

The Copper Canyon is actually six canyons in the Sierra Madre mountains of northwestern Mexico. The combined length of these canyons is four times larger than the Grand Canyon in Arizona and, in some places, it is even deeper (more than one mile). The Chepe Express, which runs through the canyon, is the best way to see the canyon. It is a luxury train complete with a panoramic viewing car and a bar car. It stretches 400 miles from the city of Chihuahua to Los Mochis on the Pacific Coast and has 37 bridges and 86 tunnels.





## 2. **Three Pueblos Mágicos–Creel, Casas Grandes and Batopilas**

The small city of Creel is the entry point for many to the Copper Canyon. Don't miss the *Artesanías Misión* and the *Museo Casa de las Artesanías* if you want to bring something home with you to remember your trip. Casas Grandes was founded in 1661 and has a beautiful main square and the Franciscan mission of San Antonio de Padua. Getting to Batopilas, which was a prominent silver mining center between the early 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, involves quite a journey since it is at the bottom of the Batopilas Canyon, which is part of the Copper Canyon.

## 3. **One of the longest ziplines in the world**

There is an adventure park located at the Divisadero stop on the Chepe route that features The Zip Rider, an 8,300 ft. long zip line that can reach speeds up to 83 miles an hour. At the park, there also are smaller zip lines, a cable car and much more.

## 4. **Cuarenta Casas**

This archaeological site, which is about 211 miles from the city of Chihuahua, has houses built inside several caves, the best known of which is the *Cueva de las Ventanas*. Researchers believe the structures date back to around 1200, when the area was an important commercial center for those living in Northern Mexico and the Gulf of California.

## 5. **The Museo de la Revolución Mexicana**

The Museum of the Mexican Revolution is General Francisco (Pancho) Villa's former home that was turned into a museum in 1982. It is located in a residential suburb outside the city of Chihuahua.



More Info:

[Visit Chihuahua](#)

[Chepe Express Train](#)

[Visit Copper Canyon by Train](#)

[The Three Magical Towns of Chihuahua](#)

[Cuarenta Casas](#)

# Michoacán de Ocampo: Chock-Full of History and Cultural Traditions

Michoacán, which means “the land of the fishermen” in the Purépecha language, is located on the Pacific Ocean coast. It is an area full of lakes and volcanoes with a rich history, amazing gastronomy and wild landscapes.

The state has luxurious vegetation and many gushing waterfalls. Its nine *Pueblos Mágicos* are renowned for their magical festivals, crafts, historical monuments and culinary traditions. You will also find breathtaking beaches such as Playa Azul and pre-Columbian archeological sites such as Tzintzuntzan, the capital of the Tarascan 14<sup>th</sup> century kingdom. Here are a few attractions not to miss in Michoacán:



## Morelia

Morelia, the state’s colonial capital city, is named after the famous Independence hero, José María Morelos y Pavón. It is a stunningly beautiful city that is full of history and cultural traditions. The historic city center is one of Mexico’s 35 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Tourists will definitely need several days to explore the city and walk around its charming downtown to visit some of the 200 historical buildings like the huge baroque-style Cathedral of Morelia and to discover the impressive 16th century Templo de San Francisco. The government palace is also a great option with its beautiful arches and detailed

murals depicting the Mexican Revolution. Another great way to see the city is to bike along the pleasant Roman-style aqueduct.

Candy lovers should not miss the famous Mercado de Dulces (Sweets Market) or Museo de Dulce, a museum where guides in period costumes walk you through the history of candy making in the area and provide all-you-can-eat samples. Your tour will end in an old-fashioned sweets shop if you still need a candy fix.

## Pátzcuaro

The *Pueblo Mágico* of Pátzcuaro (“the place of stones” in the Purépecha

language) is located 37 miles west of Morelia next to the famous Lake Patzcuaro, where you will find the charming village of Janitzio on Isla de Janitzio, which can only be reached by boat. Here, you can enjoy a unique take on one of Mexico’s most famous traditions: *El Día de los Muertos*, which is celebrated here beginning during the evening of Nov. 1 and continuing into Nov. 2. During this event, the lake is filled with canoes sailing toward Janitzio island lit by dozens of twinkling candles.

## Monarch Butterflies

If you are a nature lover, northern Michoacán is where you want to be when millions of beautiful monarch butterflies arrive in November. These butterflies fly the approximately 2,800 miles from Canada and the U.S. for their six-month stay in the temperate sacred pine tree forests of Angangueo, a preserved biosphere. Then, just like clockwork, they all leave each year by the end of April to make the long trek back to their summer homes.



## Gastronomy

Michoacán has an incredible food scene, thanks to its harvest of lemons, limes, chickpeas, sesame seeds, sorghum, strawberries and avocados, which are referred to as the “green gold of Mexico.” In 2010, Mexican traditional cuisine was

inscribed by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, emphasizing the richness of the culinary tradition of Michoacán. One very popular treat is a corunda, a delicious tamal of Purépecha origin made with corn. Corundas are served with meat, a tasty sauce, cheese, peppers and cream. Michoacán is also one of the five Mexican states designated with a Denomination of Origin Tequila (DOT) that allows the state to produce tequila.



More Info:

[Michoacán Travel](#)

[Cuisine of Michoacan](#)

[Monarch Butterflies](#)

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