



MEXICO

A vibrant, effervescent city where there's always something going on; Mexico City is a place like no other. It has more museums than nearly any other city in the world, a range of neighbourhoods each with their own character and charm, a haven for architecture lovers, and certainly the best place to dig into a taco and listen to some traditional Mariachi music. With all this going for it- Mexico City is quick to capture your heart and imagination.

Mexico is also home to approximately 50,000 Jews, making it the fourteenth largest in the world. Characterized by its strongly traditionalist communities, ranging from Orthodox to Conservative; Mexican Jewry is comprised of Ashkenazi, Sephardi, and Levantine Jews. It is considered one of the most active Jewish communities in the world - with an estimated 95% affiliated with a Jewish institution and 95% of children attending a Jewish day school.

Mexico City is a perfect blend of ancient history and modern culture, offering a unique experience to every traveller.

MEXICO

HIGHLIGHTS

- Take a stroll through Chapultepec park and take a guided tour of the Chapultepec Castle.
- Visit 'CDI- Centro Deportivo Israelita' (Israeli Sport Center) serving 18,000 members of the Jewish community.
- Visit the Olami ORT School -a Jewish school combining Jewish values and universal education of excellency.
- Tour the Museum of Memory & Tolerance- spreading the importance of non- violence, memory, and Human Rights.
- Take a cooking class in Mexico City and learn how to cook some of your favorite Mexican food at home in your own kitchen!
- Meet with members of prominent Synagogues in Mexico City, the Justo Sierra (over a 100 years old) and the Mount Sinai Synagogue.
- Head to Xochimilco to take a ride on a trajinera – the colorful boats that wind through the mindboggling canals.
- Spend a few hours wandering the Centro Histórico on a guided street food tour including mezcal and guacamole tasting.
- Tour the Frida Kahlo Museum (the Blue House,) - one of Mexico's most famous artists.
- Experience the archaeological site of Teotihuacan
- Pay a visit to the National Museum of Anthropology the largest and most visited museum in Mexico.



Your Itinerary

WEDNESDAY - DAY 1

Arrival in Mexico City. Meet your Gil Travel representative after clearing Customs and proceed to the restaurant for a group lunch.

Lunch at **Contramar**

Visit **CDIJUM** (Jewish Documentation and Research Center of Mexico) and hear from Director, **Tessy Schlosser** (TBC).

On March 9, 2015, the CDIJUM was formally founded, the intention is to have only one institution that protects the historical memory of the different sectors and institutions of the Jewish Community of Mexico. The antecedents of this project are found in the Documentation and Research Center of the Ashkenazi Community of Mexico, founded 25 years ago by a group of students and teachers who realized the urgency of preserving our historical memory for future generations. The CDIJUM is made up of a library, a newspaper archive, a file, a photo library, an oral history file and various databases.

Check in at the hotel and time to relax before dinner

Drive to **Guzina Oaxaca** for the Welcome Dinner while you listen to **Mariachi music**. Your dinner will include a **Mezcal tasting**, and demonstration of guacamole, salsas, and tortilla making.

Return to the hotel

Overnight: Four Seasons, Mexico City



Your Itinerary

THURSDAY - DAY 2

After breakfast, depart hotel. Drive to the **pyramids**

Arrive at the **Pyramids of Teotihuacan**. What is now the heart of this modern city was also once the center of the Aztec world, Tenochtitlan. Famous for its large pyramids dedicated to the sun and the moon, the site also contains beautiful murals and carvings and several museums through which you can explore the city's fascinating history.

Drive back from the pyramids

Enjoy Lunch at **Saks** restaurant

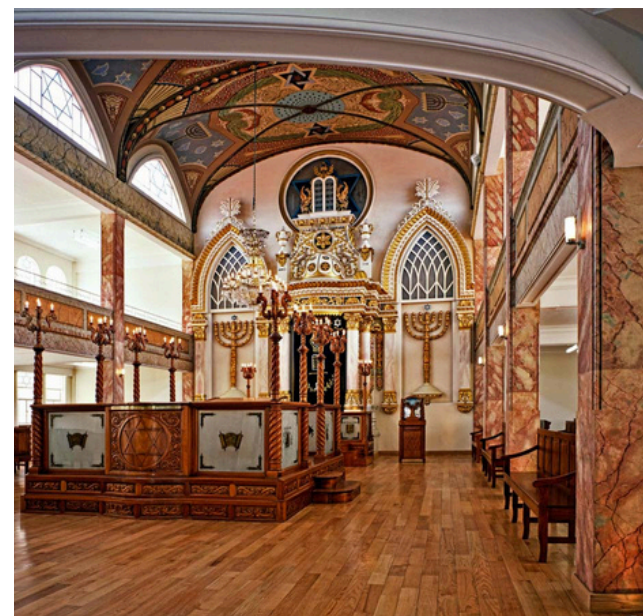
You will be guided through a tour of two prominent Synagogues in Mexico City, the **Justo Sierra** and the **Mount Sinai Synagogue**.

Mount Sinai Synagogue was built in 1918 by Jews arriving from the Middle East while the Justo Sierra Synagogue was formed in 1941 for Orthodox Jews coming from Poland, Russia, Hungary, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria during the Second World War.

Upon arrival to the **Zócalo** your guide will have an explanation of the **Metropolitan Cathedral** and the Templo Mayor. This beautiful, imposing cathedral dominates the vast expanse of Mexico City's central square, or zócalo. The Metropolitan Cathedral is not only one of Mexico's most treasured architectural masterpieces; it is also Latin America's largest and oldest cathedral.

Drive back to the hotel

Overnight: Four Seasons, Mexico City



Your Itinerary

FRIDAY - DAY 3

After breakfast depart hotel. Drive to the **Olami ORT school**.
Learn from the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the work they do in Mexico

Share Shabbat services with the kindergarten students, PJ library, tour the facilities and meet the school's Directors. A vanguard new Jewish school, engaged with the values of Jewish and universal education of excellency. A space to explore, discover and innovate, where the student is the center. With a global vision, it focuses in the personal growth for the good of our society.

Depart school

Visit **Katz Jesed Center**, a JDC project. Drive downtown for lunch

Depart Katz Jesed Center

Enjoy lunch at **El Bajío**

Proceed to **Chapultepec Park and Castle** (or free time to do some shopping)
Chapultepec is one of the largest city parks in the Western Hemisphere, and the oldest and largest urban parks in all of Latin America. Once located on the outskirts of the city, today this large over 686 hectares park is completely surrounded by the urban center of the city. Follow your guide on a walking tour to Chapultepec Castle .
Pick up at Gandhi Street across from the parking of the Rufino Tamayo Museum

Return to the hotel.

In the evening, you will be escorted to **Bet El Synagogue** in time for Friday services, after which you will enjoy dinner at the synagogue with members of the local community.

Return to hotel

Overnight: Four Seasons, Mexico City



Your Itinerary

SATURDAY, DAY 4

Depart hotel

This morning after breakfast, you will be escorted to the **Centro Deportivo Israelita** – the Israeli Sports Center, where you will be greeted and given a tour of the center. Learn from the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the work they do in Mexico.

Depart CDI for **Coyoacan**

Tour the **Frida Kahlo Museum**.

Located in one of the oldest and most beautiful neighborhoods in Mexico City, the Blue House was made into a museum in 1958, four years after the death of the painter.

Group lunch in Los Danzantes followed by free time in Coyoacan

Return to the hotel

Reflection session at the hotel

Farewell dinner at **Galea**

Return to hotel

Overnight: Four Seasons, Mexico City

SUNDAY, DAY 5

Breakfast at the hotel then transfer to airport for departure

