

TRAVELING TO TEPOZTLÁN, MORELOS FOR SACRED FIRE EVENTS

[Tepoztlán](#) is located in the state of Morelos about 90 minutes southeast of Mexico City, in a mountainous area. It is one of the many special locations in México that has been designated as a "Magical Town" or "Pueblo Mágico" for its natural and architectural beauty and continuing respect for local traditions. For this reason, it is a popular tourist destination and has many hotels, restaurants, a thriving food and artisan's market, and many interesting stores.

There are many activities available, including the hour and a half climb up to the pyramid overlooking the town and neighboring valleys. Also, just walking the cobblestoned streets of town, or hanging in a coffee shop for delicious treats and people-watching can be a lovely way to spend time.

TRAVEL

The closest airport is Mexico City International Airport—which is located about two hours away, depending on traffic.

If you would like us to help you arrange transportation to and from the airport and/or hotel reservations, please contact Erica Cohen at ericatepoz@gmail.com or cell, and WhatsApp +52 777 5649045

If you would like to arrange your own trip here are a few options for transportation and a list of hotels.

Option One: Get a taxi from the airport directly to your destination. There are booths for several safe, registered taxi services in both terminals. Price around \$1,900 pesos or US\$100 for up to about 3 people depending on the amount of luggage and size of car needed. Larger vehicles are available for larger groups for \$2,400 pesos or US \$120..

Option Two: Have a trusted driver pick you up; Vicente Flores speaks English. His number is +52 777 522 2550; Email: tramites.servicios@yahoo.com.mx

Important information about return travel:

On this occasion the Fire Speaks event falls just before the feast day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, one of the most important celebrations of the year in Mexico (see below). Her temple (La Basílica de Guadalupe) is near the airport, and the principal access is along the same highway. Millions of people will be arriving on the 11th and 12th to this location. Therefore we recommend returning on Tuesday the 13th or later if possible.

If you do need to depart on the 11th or 12th, we recommend allotting 2 to 3 hours extra for getting to the airport which means leaving Tepoztlán 6 to 7 hours before your flight. If you have to leave on the 12th, another option is to stay at one of the hotels near the airport on the night of the 11th.

Also, please look at our special announcement about the Prosperity Ritual on Wednesday December 7 before booking your flight.

Money Exchange

Most restaurants and hotels and many stores here take major credit cards, however you will need some pesos for your stay. Also, let your bank know ahead of time if you are planning to use your card here.

There are several ways to get pesos:

- Contact your bank a few weeks ahead of travel to order them.
- Use one of the main exchange booths at either of the airport terminals. You can compare exchange rates.
- Use an ATM at the Airport or in Tepoztlán (there are several around downtown) and use your bank card to withdraw in pesos. Both your bank and the local one will charge you for this and the exchange rate may be less favorable, but it's a good backup if needed.

COVID

COVID & Travel: The Mexico City International Airport does still require you to wear a mask.

At this time, however, Mexico does not require COVID tests nor proof of vaccination for travelers entering into the country.

As a precaution for you as well as in preparation for joining the cohort at the audience we are asking that you consider **testing yourself for COVID the day before traveling**. If you test positive for COVID, we request that you cancel your participation in this event. You will be able to get a refund for your ticket OR you can apply it to another Fire Speaks event in 2022-23. You may also choose to offer it as a donation to Sacred Fire..

The event will be outdoors and masking will be optional.

There are still some cases of COVID in Tepoztlán and the state of Morelos, and employees in most establishments still wear masks.

- A WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL WE WILL SEND AN EMAIL TO YOU WITH ANY UPDATES AND CHANGES TO THIS INFORMATION REGARDING COVID.

HEALTH

Never drink the tap water! Do not even use it to brush your teeth. The hotels will provide you with purified water. Bottled water is inexpensive and widely available.

***NOTE:** Septic Systems require that you put toilet paper in the trash and not flush it.

SAFETY

Generally, it is safe to walk around during the day, however in the evening we recommend using a registered taxi service, or going to one of the marked taxi stands around town. The drivers often speak at least some English. Your hotel can give you the numbers of the taxi companies they work with.

We recommend:

Radio Taxi Tepoztlán: WhatsApp: 777-564-0973, landline: 395-2236 y 395-2320

Taxi Independencia WhatsApp: 777 1898649 or landline: 395 0995, 395 2473, 3951076,

Keep in mind that it can take 5 to 10 minutes for the taxi to arrive, and up to half an hour on weekends.

Please do not wander up into the mountains! They are treacherous and even experienced climbers and walkers have gotten lost, injured and even died in them. The path up to the Tepozteco Pyramid is a safe, beautiful and quite strenuous climb especially given the town's altitude at 5,700 feet. The hike offers beautiful landscapes, flora and fauna and views of the valley. It is best to go early to avoid midday heat and bring a lot of water.

Ask one of the locals or your hotel to suggest some safe walks near town, as there are many.

HOTELS

Tepoztlán has many hotels, AirBnBs and Posadas. We recommend:

[Posada La Presa](#); La Presa 22, La Presa, 62520 Tepoztlán

www.posadalapresa.com Email: contacto@posadalapresa.com Phone: [+52 739 395 3969](tel:+527393953969)

A three-minute walk from Casa Xiuhtecuhtli, where the Audience will be held, and a half hour walk or 10-minute taxi ride to town.

[Posada Sarita](#); C. Allende 26, San Jose, 62520 Tepoztlán

www.posadasarita.com Phone: [+52 739 395 0635](tel:+527393950635) Email: info@posadasarita.com. Closer to town and more economical.

RESTAURANTS

[Posada La Presa](#): If you stay at the hotel, an excellent, buffet-style breakfast will be included. The Posada is also beginning to serve lunch and dinner.

[El Retoño del Mango](#): 7 La Presa--just off Revolución de 1910

They serve an excellent selection of pizzas and some pasta dishes.

[El Pan Nuestro](#): Revolución de 1910 82, San Jose, 62520

Continental style food. Fairly expensive, but gourmet quality—including an amazing selection of desserts. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Just around the corner from La Presa on Revolución.

Juanitos: 14, Revolución de 1910 Just off the main square on the south side. Okay, you won't get authentic Mexican food here, but they make some of the best hamburgers you will find anywhere—south or north of the border! Also they have other sandwiches, stir-fry, and salads.

Los Colorines: Del Tepozteco 13, Santísima Trinidad, Tepoztlán, just north-west of the main square. Excellent Mexican food in a nice atmosphere.

Central Market Area: **Naty's**: Revolution of 1910, San Miguel, 62520 Tepoztlán center (Mexican food) and **La Guarida de Baco** (Mexican and European) are right by the market, so you can do your people watching while you eat great food at a reasonable price. Both are open from breakfast almost every day.

Teteria Cardamomo: 5 de Mayo 18, San Miguel, 62520 Tepoztlán
Mediterranean food.

La Miga: C. Allende 12, San Jose, 62520 Tepoztlán
Delicious Mexican and European food in a beautiful garden.

Tepoztlán Mariscos: Revolución de 1910 49, San Jose, 62520 Tepoztlán
Excellent fresh seafood.

La Sombra del Sabino: Prolongación Zaragoza 450, Barrio, Santo Domingo, 62520 Tepoztlán
Coffee shop, restaurant and bookstore and gifts all in one. Spacious garden with a view of the mountains, a great place to spend a restful afternoon. Music and other performances on weekends.

Coffee shops & Hot Chocolate:

Rustique: Isabel La Católica 1, San Miguel, 62520 Tepoztlán.
The best coffee in town, and freshly-baked sweet and savory breads.

Cacao Mexican Chocolate: Revolución de 1910 9C, Centro, 62520 Tepoztlán
Great hot chocolate.

Nómada: Zaragoza 19, Tepoztlán
Great hot chocolate and also has a spectacular view of the mountains.

Bars:

Jakarandá: Del Tepozteco 18B, Santísima Trinidad, 62520 Tepoztlán
We highly recommend it this Afro-Caribbean style bar owned by Ana Cortés, one of the local Firekeepers. You can drink the best mojito in town and enjoy Cuban live music. It's best to go on Friday night or early afternoon on Saturday or Sunday to avoid the crowds.

MUSEUMS

The former convent of Nativity is an impressive historical building attached to the main Church downtown with an entrance on Calle Zaragoza. It is home to permanent and temporary exhibits and a well-stocked gift and book store.

Carlos Pellicer Prehispanic Art Museum: A special treasure, with a remarkable private collection donated to the town by the poet Carlos Pellicer.

FIESTAS

Tepoztlán is a traditional town, where the local Deity, the Tepozteco is still honored and also has many saint's days fiestas. This means a lot of fireworks, streets closed off, music and visits to the churches. The cacophony inspires dogs to bark, and sometimes car alarms to go off as well! Bring earplugs for sleeping (it can be noisy at night) and don't worry if you hear a ten-minute barrage of fireworks. It's okay; people are having fun! Everyone is welcome at the fiestas and if you come across one feel free to wander into the celebration, visit the church, etc.

PROSPERITY RITUAL

This year the harvest ritual for our *milpa de prosperidad* (prosperity corn) falls on the December full moon: Wednesday December 7th. This is a beautiful full day of being with community, shucking corn around the fire and a scrumptious celebratory meal. For more information see the friends of the Prosperity Ritual Facebook page or get in touch with Erica. If you can give yourself a few more days in Mexico please consider joining us for this powerful and auspicious event. All are welcome, and there is no cost.

This year the Fiesta of the Virgin of Guadalupe starts the day after the Audience:

December 12th is the official celebration of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. This is a legal holiday, and is celebrated all around Mexico and also by many Latin communities around the world. The celebrations begin on the night of the 11th when the numerous shrines to the Virgin around the town will be decorated with lights and flowers. The streets will be closed off, and food and drink will be served as roving bands of musicians serenade the images of the Virgin. There will be fireworks and more! We highly recommend that you consider staying until Monday or Tuesday to enjoy this very special evening. We recommend that YOU DO NOT consider visiting the Basilica of the Virgin in Mexico City which will be the destination of millions of pilgrims from all over Mexico on the 11th and 12th.

CLIMATE

Although Tepoztlán is close to the equator, it is also at relatively high altitude (5,700 feet) and this makes for more temperate weather in general and cooler evenings. The rainy season generally runs from May through September when tropical storms can cause heavy downpours. The dry season starts in October, when temperatures start to dip. By December there is little chance of rain, and evenings can be quite cool going down to the 60's.

What to bring/wear

Bring a hat, sunscreen and 'summer' clothes for the daytime and layers for the night. Good shoes for walking on cobblestone streets. The Audience will be held outdoors so bring some extra layers for that evening, warm socks, etc.

For more information please contact Erica Cohen, one of the three local Firekeepers at ericatepoz@gmail.com or cell and WhatsApp +52 777 5649045