



TRAVEL TIP >>

Don't panic in the capital. You'll notice many buildings are slightly leaning. This city is sinking a few inches every year as it uses up the water from the lake underneath.



KIDS & CULTURE >>

No Christmas presents? It's true. Kids here actually open presents on Jan. 6, the date when many Christians celebrate the arrival of the wise men.



LOOK FOR THIS >>

The city of Chichén Itzá, built by the ancient Mayan civilization, is home to the El Castillo "step" pyramid, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.



FUN FACT >>

The Chihuahua—the smallest dog breed in the world—was named after Chihuahua, the largest state in this country.



WHAT'S FOR LUNCH? >>

You probably eat food inspired by this country's cuisine all the time, but did you know that this country introduced chocolate, corn and chilies to the world?



CHECK IN > DAY ONE

PLAY >

Families in Mexico play a pencil-and-paper category game called *Basta* ("enough"). Every player draws a grid and lists seven categories across the top. Categories can be anything—foods, animals, famous people, things found in a classroom—but everyone writes the same labels. Pick a starting letter by having one player say the alphabet very quickly, with another player saying "basta" to stop that person. Now every player tries to write down words that start with this letter under each category. Work quickly! A player can stop the round by saying "basta para mí, basta para todos" (enough for me, enough for you). Score answers, giving five points per unique answer and three points for answers that others have, too.

LAYOVER > DAY TWO

CHILTHRE >

In Mexico, *comida* (lunch) is special. It's the main meal of the day, eaten in midafternoon. People come home from school or work to eat and relax for a couple of hours. The meal is often quite a feast!

ACTIVITY >

Have a midafternoon *comida*. Make a few simple Mexican dishes and a cool fruit drink. *Comida* is a time to relax. Make sure no one eats and runs!



PRAY >

Parts of Mexico have experienced increased crime and violence. Pray for the safety of families, and pray that leaders would have the wisdom to address these issues.