

Walks
— Stroll the city

Yes, it's vast and the traffic is crazy. But choose your route wisely and a walk in Mexico City will yield peaceful squares, tucked-away streets and wide boulevards lined with impressive edifices.

We bring you four walks that will take you past fascinating architecture, colourful markets, must-see museums and the best cafés, shops and cantinas. And, being CDMX, there will always be something to surprise you.

Centro Histórico
Heart of bold

Sure, you could stay in a calm, leafy neighbourhood such as Condesa or up-and-coming Santa María de la Ribera. But miss the historic centre of Mexico City at your peril.

The streets pulsate to their own tumultuous rhythm and are full of stunning (often dilapidated) colonial buildings, bustling bars and cantinas, a plethora of cultural institutions and bucketloads of history. Alongside the taco stands, car dealerships and oddly ubiquitous record stores, there's also a new breed of entrepreneur shaking things up. This is the city's heart, the seat of power and a backdrop to the odd noisy protest or two. Embrace the chaos.

Centro Histórico walk
Architecture, culture and cantinas

Start at the Hidalgo metro stop and walk towards the Alameda Central park. Turn right and head past the Centro Cultural José Martí – where you might spy a group of men outside playing chess – and you'll soon arrive at the 1 **Laboratorio Arte Alameda** museum, housed in the stunning former San Diego convent from 1621. Keep walking then turn right down Cristóbal Colón and on the next corner you'll find the 2 **Museo Mural Diego Rivera**. It's worth a visit to see the epic mural, "Sueño de una Tarde Dominical en la Alameda Central" (see page tk).

Head south on Balderas for a couple of blocks (past the huge Mexican Scientology building) then turn left onto Independencia. Continue past the Teatro Metropolitán on your right until you reach



the 3 **Museo de Arte Popular** (see page tk), an art deco wonder that hosts a fun, folksy collection of Mexican art.

All that culture has probably given you an appetite, so carry on down Independencia until you reach the epic lunchtime spot that is 4 **El Pescadito** (see page tk). Don't be put off by the odd cellophane covering on the plates or the inevitable queue: these lip-smackingly fresh fish tacos with generous sides are worth the wait.

Now for a lunchtime treat (and we're not talking dessert). Continue along Independencia until you reach the corner of Dolores and 5 **Cantina Tío Pepe** (see page tk), a divey bar that has changed very little since it opened in 1890. There are still bells in the booths that you can ring to order a drink. Treat yourself to a cheeky *cervecita* (beer).

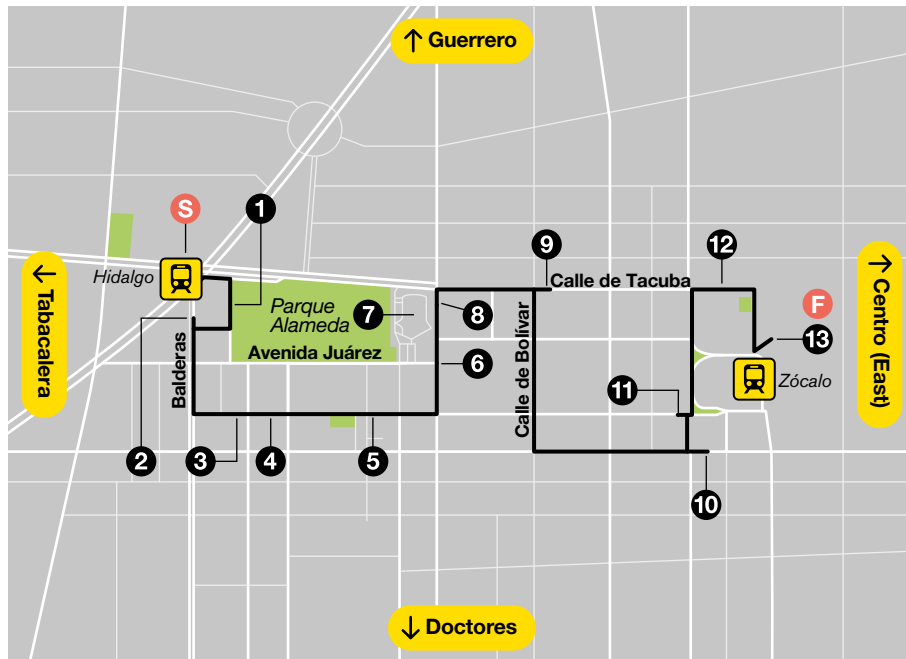
Exit and continue along Independencia, turning left when you reach the main intersection with Eje Central Lázaro Cárdenas. Straight ahead you'll see the towering form of the 6 **Torre Latinoamericana** (see page tk), an iconic skyscraper dating from 1956. Visit the observation deck on the 44th floor for stunning views.

Diagonally opposite is the 8 **Palacio de Bellas Artes** (see page tk). Walk along the right-hand side of the Palacio and on the corner of Tacuba you'll

find the equally mesmerising fin-de-siècle 9 **Palacio Postal** (see page tk). To the bottom left of the entrance you can see the first brick used in construction, stamped "14 September 1902".

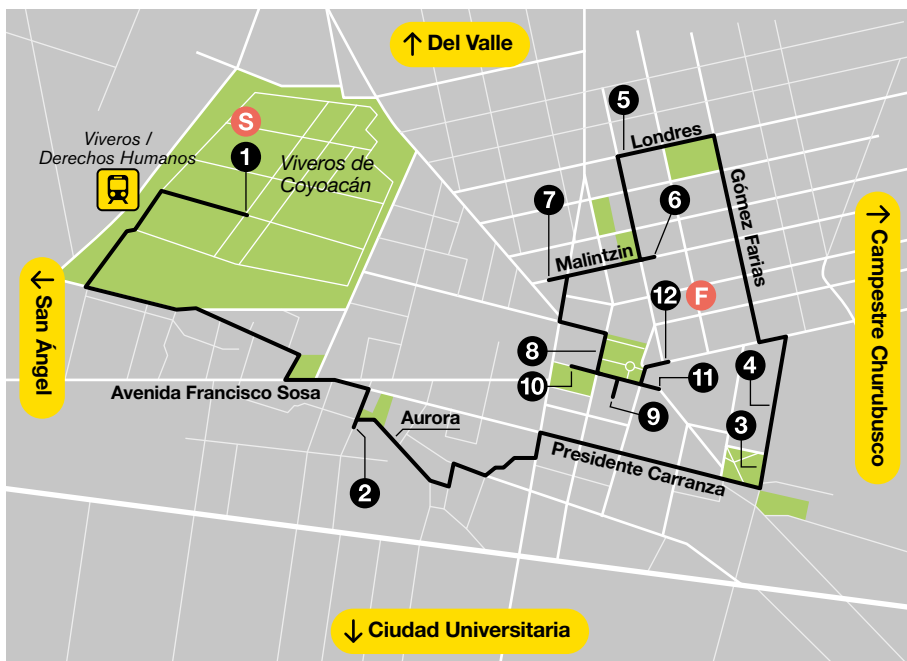
Turn right on Tacuba for a couple of blocks until you reach the azulejo-laden 9 **Café Tacuba** (see page tk), housed in a 17th-century building. Shoot south on Calle de Bolívar before turning left onto Artículo 123, then head east for three blocks. Take a moment to marvel at the original 10 **Palacio de Hierro** department store before zipping left along Avenida 20 de Noviembre to find another old-world beauty, 11 **Gran Hotel Ciudad de México**. This department store turned hotel still boasts its original stained-glass ceiling.

By now you should be on the corner of the Zócalo, with its huge flag and the hulking mass of the Catedral Metropolitana (see page tk). Skirting the top of the square near the latter is the 12 **Centro Cultural España**, a restored historic building brimming with cultural offerings. You're also just steps away from the 13 **Museo del Templo Mayor**; for a view of the incredible ruins of Tenochtitlán, take the bridge that runs above the archaeological site. Acquaint yourself with the city's Aztec ancestors before nipping into the nearest cantina and rewarding yourself with a smoky *mezcalito*.



Address book

- 01 **Laboratorio Arte Alameda**
7 Calle Doctor Mora, tktktk
+52 (55) 3647 5660
artealameda.bellasartes.gob.mx
- 02 **Museo Mural Diego Rivera**
202 Balderas, tktktk
+52 (55) 1555 1900
- 03 **Museo de Arte Popular**
11 Revillagigedo, tktktk
+52 (55) 102 201
map.cdmx.gob.mx
- 04 **El Pescadito**
57 Avenida Independencia, tktktk
+52 (55) 123 263
- 05 **Cantina Tío Pepe**
26 Independencia, tktktk
- 06 **Torre Latinoamericana**
Eje Central Lázaro Cárdenas, tktktk
- 07 **Palacio de Bellas Artes**
Avenida Juárez, Esquina Eje Central, tktktk
+52 (55) 8647 6500
palacio.inba.gob.mx
- 08 **Palacio Postal**
1 Tacuba, tktktk
+52 (55) 5340 3300
- 09 **Café de Tacuba**
28 Tacuba, tktktk
+52 (55) 5521 2048
cafedetacuba.com.mx
- 10 **El Palacio de Hierro**
5 Avenida 20 de Noviembre, tktktk
+52 (55) 5728 9905
soytotalmentepalacio.com
- 11 **Gran Hotel Ciudad de México**
82 16 de Septiembre, tktktk
+52 (55) 1083 7700
- 12 **Centro Cultural España**
18 República de Guatemala, tktktk
+1 52 (55) 6592 9926
ccemx.org
- 13 **Museo del Templo Mayor**
8 Seminario, tktktk
+52 (55) 4040 5600
templomayor.inah.gob.mx



Coyoacán

Village life

Coyoacán can often feel a far cry from the hustle of central CDMX. In this peaceful, leafy neighbourhood, there's a perpetual Sunday-morning feel.

The one-time village was briefly the capital of New Spain following the Spanish conquest and was completely separate from Mexico City until it was incorporated in 1857. In the mid-20th century it was home to Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and Leon Trotsky. Today it's a well-to-do quarter that feels affluent without being snobbish. Many of the original street layouts and narrow lanes remain, as does its bohemian air.

It's best to visit on a leisurely Saturday or Sunday morning and linger through the afternoon.



Coyoacán walk
Weekend wander

Start with a stroll through **1 Viveros de Coyoacán**. This peculiar park is packed with people running and practising tai chi or yoga. It's a wonderful place to sit and enjoy the quiet for a few minutes. Around its walls you'll find lots of stalls selling fruit; order a *liquidado* (smoothie) but remember to say *sin azúcar* (without sugar).

Exit at the south gate and take Avenida Progreso, which branches off from the main street around the park. Cross Avenida Francisco Sosa, head down Calle Presidente Carranza and turn right at Pino. On the corner with Aurora is **2 Café Ruta de la Seda**, a humble joint that serves delectable pastries and tartines (try the Reblochon and figs variant); snag a table outside.

Exit right and walk along cobbled street Aurora until you reach a small fountain. Take a seat and observe the quaint, historic houses around you. Continue down Aurora (it's the road east of the fountain); take your first left, then first right and first left again onto Callejon del Horno. Turn left at Calle 3 Cruces and then right at Calle Presidente Carranza. Follow the road until you reach a square on your left, with an old church on its eastern side. The construction of the



3 Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción (known as La Conchita) was ordered by Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés in the early 16th century over what was a pre-Hispanic site of worship and it's one of the oldest churches in the city.

Further north from the square, along Fernández Leal, is **4 Centro Cultural Elena Garro** (see page tk). The bookshop is comprehensive but the architecture is equally impressive: a glass-and-concrete structure imposed over a fin-de-siècle heritage building by architects Fernanda Canales and Arquitectura 911SC.

Continue up the road, turn left on Avenida Miguel Hidalgo and then take your first right. Keeping walking up Gómez Farías for six blocks and turn left at Calle Londres, after the park. On the corner of Londres and Ignacio Allende is the **5 Museo Frida Kahlo** (see page tk), also known as La Casa Azul. The artist's cobalt-blue house and studio is a popular attraction and if you intend to visit you need to reserve a ticket in advance.

You'll be peckish by now. Exit left and head south on Ignacio Allende until you reach the **6 Mercado Coyoacán**. This food market has all the vibrancy of a typical Mexican market but isn't so big as to be overwhelming. Seek out Tostadas Coyoacán, which

serves towers of fresh ceviche piled onto maize tostadas. Accompany them with *agua de jamaica* (cold hibiscus tea).

Take the southern exit onto Malintzin and walk west until you reach **7 Fratelli**. This sunglasses shop features hard-to-find brands such as Massada and Retrosuperfuture.

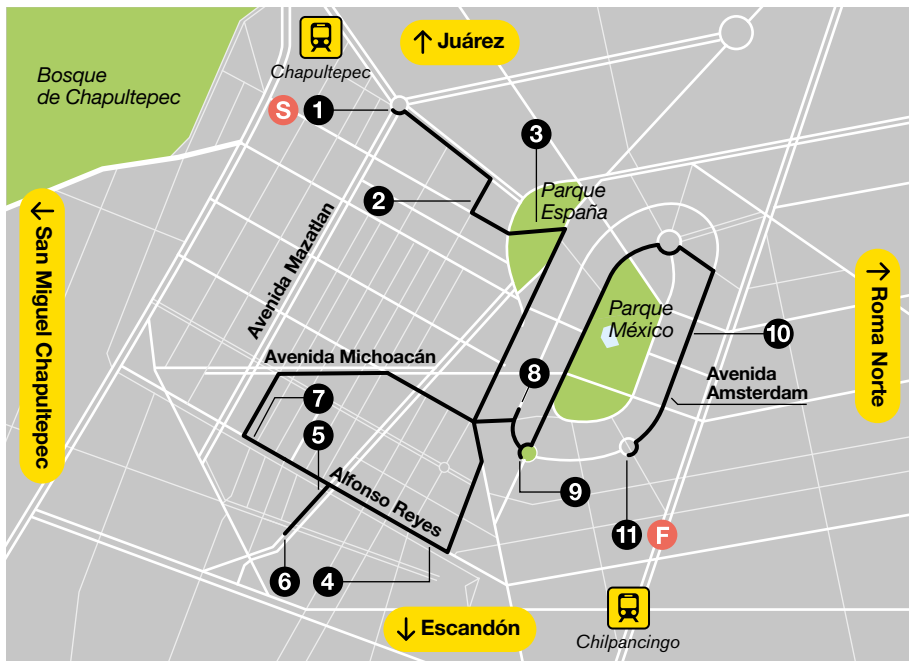
Retrace your steps, take the first right, then take the second left onto Callejon Belisario Domínguez. You'll soon reach Plaza Hidalgo, one the city's main squares. Locals flock here on the weekends to people-watch and listen to live music.

On the western side of the square is the **8 Mercado Artesanal Mexicano**, a quaint market selling typical Mexican wares. On the southern side is the **9 Iglesia de San Juan Bautista**, built in the new Spanish baroque style in 1550.

On the adjoining square Parque Centenario, opposite the church entrance, is **10 La Cervecería de Barrio**, a great place for a casual beer on the terrace. Behind the church there's also **11 La Coyoacana**: a rowdy Mexican grill and bar on Calle Higuera with mariachi in the courtyard. If you fancy something sweet head to **12 Prago** on Avenida Miguel Hidalgo, which joins the eastern side of Plaza Hidalgo. Here you can indulge in a churro-style pastry filled with nutella, ice-cream and all sorts of other goodies.

Address book

- 01 Viveros de Coyoacán**
Corner of Calle Madrid and Avenida México, [tktktk](#)
- 02 Café Ruta de la Seda**
1 Aurora, [tktktk](#)
+52 (55) 3869 4888
[caferutadelaseda.com](#)
- 03 Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción**
Plaza de la Conchita, [tktktk](#)
- 04 Centro Cultural Elena Garro**
43 Fernández Leal, [tktktk](#)
+52 (55) 3003 4080
[conaculta.gob.mx](#)
- 05 Museo Frida Kahlo**
247 Londres, [tktktk](#)
+52 (55) 5554 5999
[museofridakahlo.org.mx](#)
- 06 Mercado Coyoacán**
Ignacio Allende, [tktktk](#)
+52 (55) 4072 1596
- 07 Fratelli**
199 Malintzin, 04100
+52 (55) 7035 4255
[Fratelli.com.mx](#)
- 08 Mercado Artesanal Mexicano**
25 Felipe Carrillo Puerto, 04000
+52 (55) 5588 4531
- 09 Iglesia de San Juan Bautista**
8 Plaza Centenario, [tktktk](#)
+52 (55) 5554 6376
- 10 La Cervecería de Barrio**
9 Parque Centenario, [tktktk](#)
+52 (55) 5554 6444
[lacierveceriaebarrio.com.mx](#)
- 11 La Coyoacana**
14 Higuera, [tktktk](#)
+52 (55) 5658 5337
[lacoyoacana.com](#)
- 12 Prago**
297 Hidalgo, [tktktk](#)
+52 (55) 5658 5337



Condesa

Sleek streets

Condesa is one of Mexico City's oldest districts and even a short stroll here will take you past historic buildings, tree-lined avenues and neatly manicured public parks. Its leafiness and art deco architecture have for decades contributed to its popularity with both visitors and residents – evident in the high concentration of hip hotels, cool cafés and chic shops.

However, its age also means Condesa is vulnerable to earthquakes; large shocks in 1985 and 2017 brought down buildings and impacted the community. The area is still recovering from the latter quake but a strong sense of togetherness and plenty of local creative types are working hard to make sure it bounces back.

Condesa walk
Art, shops and coffee stops

Start with an early lunch at **1 Lardo** (see page tk), the delectable second restaurant from Elena Reygadas, who earned global plaudits with her Mediterranean-inspired joint, Rosetta. Skip the postprandial coffee, though, and walk southeast down Avenida Veracruz and then right onto Atlixco to **2 Enhorabuena**, a charming café run by Vivian Charlez, who sources her coffee from speciality roasters in Veracruz, Oaxaca and Chiapas. The light yet cosy space was designed by local architect Claudia Rodríguez.

You're not far from the **3 Parque España**, the smaller of two parks that provide Condesa with a healthy dose of greenery. To reach it, exit right out of the café and take an immediate left down Juan de la Barrera. Enjoy a leisurely

stroll among the countless dog-walkers and exit on the other side onto Avenida Nuevo León. Head south and veer right onto Ometusco before taking a right onto Alfonso Reyes to visit **4 Galería L**, a contemporary-art gallery with frequently changing exhibitions. Continue along Alfonso Reyes, stopping to admire the **5 Parroquia de Santa Rosa de Lima** church, named after Saint Rose of Lima, the first catholic to be beatified in the Americas.

Take a left past the church down Avenida Tamaulipas and stop by the **6 Librería Rosario Castellanos** bookshop, which is housed inside the art deco Centro Cultural Bella Época. It's one of the largest bookshops in Latin America and also holds events and film screenings.

Retrace your steps back onto Alfonso Reyes and turn left. As you stroll along this broad avenue, with its pretty



central planted walkway, look out for the colourfully tiled and intricately decorated doorways facing the street.

Pop into **7 Perro de Mundo** to pick up a few presents for the pooch in your life – this tiny, quaint shopfront sells locally made accessories for dogs and cats, from collars and organic shampoos to leashes, beds and toys.

Exit the shop and turn right down Yautepec. Heading east in a large loop, turn right down Avenida Michoacán and then right again down Vicente Suárez. Follow Ozuluama until you reach Avenida Amsterdam, which runs in a ring around Condesa's main park, Parque México. On the corner you'll spot **8 Tout Chocolat**, a speciality chocolate shop where truffles and bars are made from a range of different cacaos.

By now you'll likely be in need of some refreshment so

take Amsterdam south to the roundabout where you'll find the attractive and always-bustling Condesa branch of **9 Ojo de Agua**, a juice-bar group with 10 outposts across Mexico. You can create your own combination using a variety of exotic ingredients, from coconut water and green pear to guanabana and papaya.

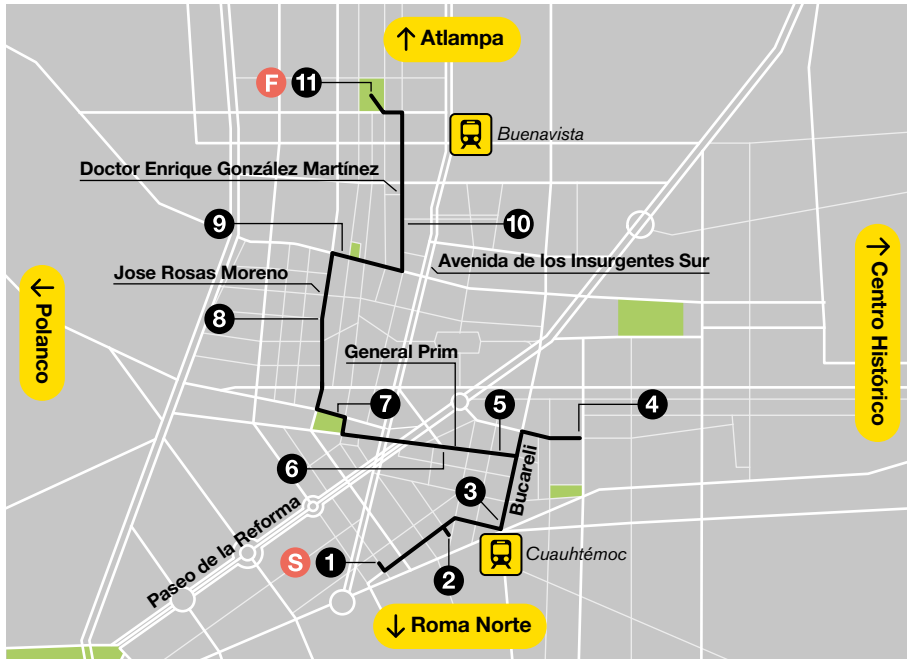
Juice in hand, wander north up Citlaltépetl to reach Avenida México, skirting the park, then loop south past Plaza Popocatepetl and its art deco fountain back onto Amsterdam. Make a point of stopping in at **10 Studioroca**, a two-storey design shop run by co-founders Rodrigo Alegre and Carlos Acosta. The pair design their own furniture and work with emerging Mexican designers to create unique pieces, collaborating with an array of small ateliers and independent craftsmen around the country to get them made. The furniture might be too big to pack and take home but the shop also stocks homeware, such as ceramics by Lagos del Mundo.

Finish your day with a well-earned cocktail or a traditional espadín mezcal at **11 Baltra Bar** (see page tk), a moodily lit and popular night-time spot themed around Darwin's discoveries.

Address book

- 01 Lardo**
6 Agustín Melgar, tktktk
+52 (55) 5211 7731
lardo.mx
- 02 Enhorabuena**
13 Calle Atlixco, tktktk
+52 (55) 9155 6654
enhorabuena.com
- 03 Parque España**
- 04 Galería L**
216 Alfonso Reyes, tktktk
+52 (55) 5256 1050
- 05 Parroquia de Santa Rosa de Lima**
177 Avenidas Tamaulipas, tktktk
- 06 Librería Rosario Castellanos**
202 Avenida Tamaulipas, tktktk
+52 (55) 5276 7110
- 07 Perro de Mundo**
84 Alfonso Reyes, tktktk
+52 (55) 5211 1212
perrodemundo.com
- 08 Tout Chocolat**
154 Amsterdam, tktktk
+52 (55) 5211 9840
toutchocolat.com
- 09 Ojo de Agua**
23C Calle Citlaltépetl, tktktk
+52 (55) 6395 8000
grupoojodeagua.com.mx
- 10 Studioroca**
271 Amsterdam, tktktk
+52 (55) 5004 1971
studioroca.com
- 11 Baltra Bar**
36D Iztaccihuatl, tktktk
+52 (55) 5264 1279
baltra.bar





Juárez to Santa María La Ribera

Creative quarters

To get a feel for Mexico City during the dignified late 1800s and early 1900s, head to the neighbourhoods of Juárez and Santa María La Ribera.

You'll find streets lined with stately century-old mansions, a reminder of the area's affluent past. At the turn of the 20th century, the city's leading intellectuals, artists, wealthiest citizens and revolutionaries would congregate in nearby cafés and newly minted theatres – it was here that Mexico's golden age of cinema was born. Today these colonias feel deeply authentic, while still very much part of the city's urban gentrification.

Juárez to Santa María La Ribera walk

Markets, squares and boulevards

Get an early start by grabbing a coffee and a freshly baked pastry at **1 Café Nin** (see page tk) on Calle Havre in Juárez, which is set inside a redbrick townhouse. The street is peppered with elegant mansions, many of which are now home to creative hubs and pop-ups. From here, head left along Marsella, nipping down Berlin to check out **2 Marso**, a contemporary-art gallery that houses local artists' workshops and resident studios. Pause on the corner of Berlin and Versailles to admire the neo-gothic style of a Porfirian villa, now occupied by a hipster barber shop.

Veer right from Marsella, down Turin and left onto Avenida Bucareli. Once a wide boulevard dotted with hundreds of ash trees, the

attraction here is the first structure on your left, the gated mews of **3 Edificio Mascota**. This charming complex of apartments was developed in 1912 by the founder of Mexico's then largest tobacco company, El Buen Tono, to house its factory workers. Of special note are the mascarons and florid typography adorning each building.

Walk north up Bucareli and take a right on Emilio Donde for a spot of retail therapy at the **4 Mercado de la Ciudadela**, an arts and crafts market. Pick up some gifts or admire the *alebrijes* (folk sculptures of fantastical creatures), textiles and ceramics.

Retrace your steps and turn right on Calle General Prim, stopping off at the impressive **5 Proyecto Público Prim**, a breathtaking colonial property renovated into a contemporary workspace and event venue. Further along General Prim



you'll find the ideal lunch spot. **6 Amaya** (see page tk) is a convivial restaurant run by award-winning Mexican chef Javier Tellez. Order the grilled romaine lettuce with cashews and hummus and the fried soft-shell crab.

After lunch head to the end of the street and cross the busy thoroughfares of Paseo de la Reforma (modelled after the great European boulevards) and Avenida de los Insurgentes Sur onto Calle James Sullivan. Here you'll find **7 El Eco** (see page tk), a haven of peace and quiet. A gallery that mixes visual arts with dance, music, poetry and theatre, it was founded by the influential architect Mathias Goeritz in the 1950s. On Sundays, the square in front of El Eco plays host to Jardín del Arte, a colourful open-air art market.

Turn right out of the museum and then right again on Calle Jose Rosas Moreno. **8 Galería Hilario Galguera** is a couple of blocks away and represents contemporary artists such as Bosco Sodi, Daniel Buren and Damien Hirst.

Continue north and turn right on Avenida Ribera San Cosme, keeping your eyes peeled for the **9 Casa de los Mascarones** on the corner. This intricate colonial building dating from 1766 has housed various educational institutions over the centuries. From here, walk four blocks before turning

left onto Calle Doctor Enrique González Martínez to find the **10 Museo Universitario del Chopo**. This immense pavilion was designed for a 1900 exhibition in Germany and dismantled and brought piece by piece back to Mexico.

Carry on up the street and upon a slight left at Calle Salvador Díaz Mirón you'll emerge onto one of Mexico City's most atmospheric plazas, the Alameda de Santa María La Ribera. Find a bench and admire the elaborate arabesques and lattice work of the **11 Kiosco Morisco**, its Moorish-inspired design oddly out of place and yet at home in this eclectic city landscape. College students, elderly couples and dancing schools regularly congregate here to while away an afternoon. Pick one of the many local cafés that surround the Alameda to end the day with a fresh *michelada*.



Address book

- 01 Café Nin**
73 Havre, tktktk
+52 (55) 5207 7065
cafenin.com.mx
- 02 Marso**
37 Berlin, tktktk
+52 (55) 6276 2275
marso.com.mx
- 03 Edificio Mascota**
3 Bucareli, tktktk
- 04 Mercado de la Ciudadela**
Plaza de la Ciudadela, tktktk
+52 (55) 5510 1828
laciudadela.com.mx
- 05 Proyecto Público Prim**
30 Calle General Prim, tktktk
- 06 Amaya**
95 Calle General Prim, tktktk
+52 (55) 5592 5571
amayamexico.com
- 07 El Eco**
43 Calle James Sullivan, tktktk
+52 (55) 5535 5186
eleco.unam.mx
- 08 Galería Hilario Galguera**
3 Calle Francisco Pimentel, tktktk
+52 (55) 5546 9001
galeriahilariogalguera.com
- 09 Casa de los Mascarones**
71 Avenida Ribera de San Cosme, 06400
- 10 Museo Universitario del Chopo**
10 Doctor Enrique González Martínez, tktktk
+52 (55) 5546 8490
chopo.unam.mx
- 11 Kiosco Morisco**
Alameda de Santa María La Ribera, tktktk