

# Chapter 39

## Places of Interest in Spanish America



### INTERESTING PLACES IN MEXICO

1. The Federal District of Mexico (Distrito Federal de México) is the capital of Mexico. It was the original capital of the Aztec empire (Tenochtitlán). Today it is a large and modern city, the largest Spanish-speaking city in the world.
  - a. The Metropolitan Cathedral (Catedral Metropolitana) is the largest and oldest cathedral on the North American continent.
  - b. The Sun Stone (La Piedra del Sol) is an ancient stone inscribed with the Aztec calendar. It is found at one of the most beautiful museums in the world, the Museum of Anthropology (Museo Antropológico).
  - c. Chapultepec is a large, beautiful park with an impressive castle.
  - d. The Palace of Fine Arts (Palacio de Bellas Artes) contains a beautiful theater and art museum.
  - e. Ciudad Universitaria is the site of the National University, the oldest university of the North American continent.
  - f. Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl are picturesque volcanoes overlooking the Federal District of Mexico.
  - g. Xochimilco is a town near the Federal District famous for its floating gardens.
2. Taxco is one of Mexico's most picturesque cities. The Spanish colonial atmosphere is still preserved. Taxco is famous for its silver.
3. Cozumel and Cancún are fashionable seaside resorts, which are in the region of Mayan temples, such as Chichén-Itzá, Uxmal, and Palenque.

### INTERESTING PLACES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

1. Monteverde (Costa Rica), rain forest.
2. Tikal (Guatemala), Mayan ruins.
3. Buenos Aires (Argentina), one of the most beautiful capitals in the world.
4. Lima (Peru) is the capital and main industrial and cultural center of Peru. The University of San Marcos, the oldest university in South America, is located here.
5. Cuzco (Peru) is the ancient capital of the Incas. Nearby are the famous Inca ruins of Machu-Picchu.
6. Bogotá is the capital and most important cultural center of Colombia. It has many excellent examples of colonial architecture.
7. Quito is the capital and principal textile center of Ecuador. It is located almost at the equator, but it has a pleasant climate due to its high altitude (nearly 10,000 feet).
8. Lake Titicaca is located in the Andes Mountains between Bolivia and Peru. It is the highest navigable lake in the world.
9. The Iguazú Falls (Las Cataratas del Iguazú) are spectacular waterfalls located between Argentina and Brazil; they are higher than the Niagara Falls.
10. Christ of the Andes (El Cristo de los Andes) is a giant statue of Christ located in the Andes Mountains, on the border between Chile and Argentina. It was erected to commemorate the peaceful settlement of a boundary dispute.

### EXERCISE A

Match each of the tourist attractions in column A with its description in column B. Write the letter in the space provided.

- | A     |                        |
|-------|------------------------|
| _____ | 1. Monteverde          |
| _____ | 2. Tenochtitlán        |
| _____ | 3. Cristo de los Andes |

- | B                           |
|-----------------------------|
| a. floating gardens         |
| b. seaside resort           |
| c. Mayan ruins in Guatemala |
| d. statue                   |

- |       |                 |                           |
|-------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| _____ | 4. Popocatépetl | e. rain forest            |
| _____ | 5. Cuzco        | f. original Aztec capital |
| _____ | 6. Iguazú       | g. lake                   |
| _____ | 7. Xochimilco   | h. volcano in Mexico      |
| _____ | 8. Cancún       | i. Inca capital           |
| _____ | 9. Titicaca     | j. waterfall              |
| _____ | 10. Tikal       |                           |

**EXERCISE B**

If the statement is true, write *Sí*; if it's false, correct it by replacing the word(s) in boldface. Write the word(s) in the space provided.

1. The **Piedra del Sol** is a famous theater in Mexico. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The city of **Quito** is located near the equator. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The University of San Marcos is located in **Bolivia**. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bogotá is the capital of **Colombia**. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Taxco is a picturesque city in **Argentina**. \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Chichén-Itzá** is a famous beach in Mexico. \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Iguazú Falls** are located between Bolivia and Peru. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The largest Spanish-speaking city in the world is **Buenos Aires**. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The oldest university in North America is located in **Peru**. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The ruins of Machu-Picchu are located near **Cuzco**. \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE C**

Complete the following statements.

1. The volcanoes *Popocatépetl* and *Ixtacihuatl* are located near \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. The highest navigable lake in the world is \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. The oldest university in South America is located in \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. *El Cristo de los Andes* commemorates the settlement of a dispute between Argentina and \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. The famous rain forest in Costa Rica is \_\_\_\_\_ .



6. The oldest university in Mexico is \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. Quito has a pleasant climate because of its \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. Between Brazil and Argentina there is a waterfall called \_\_\_\_\_ .
9. Cozumel is a seaside resort in \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. Cuzco was the ancient capital of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

### **EXERCISE D**

Identify the country where each of the following is located.

1. Palacio de Bellas Artes \_\_\_\_\_
2. Cuzco \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cataratas del Iguazú \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bogotá \_\_\_\_\_
5. Cancún \_\_\_\_\_
6. Titicaca \_\_\_\_\_
7. Buenos Aires \_\_\_\_\_
8. Piedra del Sol \_\_\_\_\_
9. Tikal \_\_\_\_\_
10. Lima \_\_\_\_\_