

OCTOBER 2023

# SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

TRAVELING TO THE HEART OF MEXICO BY TBM



**FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE HAS BEEN NAMED THE “BEST SMALL CITY IN THE WORLD” BY CONDE NAST TRAVELER.**

For any flight into Mexico, it's best to start planning a few days in advance. Get in touch with the FBO or handler at your arrival airport and send your aircraft documents and flight manifest in advance. You'll also need to arrange for an entry permit (single-use or multiple-entry, depending on your travel needs).

To get to San Miguel de Allende (SMA), the two nearest airports that offer customs are Bajío or Querétaro. Both airports are about a two and a half hour flight in the TBM from San Antonio, minimizing the door to door travel time compared to commercial flights. Private transportation from the airport to the SMA city center can be arranged by the FBO or by most hotels in San Miguel. BajíoGo also offers airport shuttle and local area travel. Make sure to ask about the cost ahead of time to select the best option for you.

## ARRIVING INTO BAJÍO

Often referred to as the Bajío or Leon airport, Aeropuerto Internacional de Guanajuato (BJX/MMLO) in Silao is your western entry to San Miguel de Allende. The airport offers a 11,486 ft runway at an elevation of 5,956 ft. FlyAcross FBO offers on-site fuel, customs, and catering. Plan on a two hour drive from the airport to the SMA city center.

## ARRIVING INTO QUERÉTARO

The eastern entry to San Miguel de Allende begins at Queretaro International Airport (QRO/MMQT), which offers a 11,483 ft runway at an elevation of 6,296 ft. FBO options include Redwings, which offers on-site fuel, customs, and catering. Plan on an hour and a half drive from Queretaro to the SMA city center.

# A COLONIAL TOWN IN MEXICO'S HIGHLANDS

You may have seen in art or photos the iconic pink spires of La Parroquia de San Miguel Arcángel, the gothic 17th-century church. On the main square, surrounded by restaurants and the shops of local artisans, the parish church stands at the city center and acts as a beacon to visitors.

If you are only spending a few days in San Miguel, you will likely spend it all in the city's center, Zona Centro, which offers museums and art galleries, high end shopping, and world-class restaurants.

Depending on where you stay, Zona Centro can be mostly explored on foot. Hotels can arrange private transportation if you want to explore further, and some even offer a free shuttle service around the city center.

An emerging industry in the region, Guanajuato's wine country is well worth a visit as well. With tours and tastings available in English, the vineyards just outside San Miguel offer a less touristy but just as high-end experience for oenophiles. Private transportation is recommended.

## WHERE TO STAY

In San Miguel, there is an accommodation style for everyone. You can easily spend three days in San Miguel and never leave Zona Centro, but if you are willing to venture a little further you'll find some surprising gems.

Hotel Matilda is a stylish, boutique hotel just steps from the city center. Its eclectic decor is the work of local artisans and may be the subject of conversation as you dine at the hotel's main restaurant, Moxi. Matilda also offers a ramen bar for more casual dining and drinks. Despite its central location, the guest rooms at Hotel Matilda are spacious and quiet, allowing you to reset and gear up for the next day's adventures. Be sure to also visit Matilda's spa, tucked away on the lower level beneath the pool and main restaurant.

Meanwhile, in the hills overlooking San Miguel, Amatte Wellnest Community offers a quieter option for those looking to retreat in a natural and simplistic style. On the main floor is reception and the patio restaurant where you'll find the freshest fruits and fluffy french toast, while overlooking the pool at the center of the courtyard. But the real attraction is Amatte's rooftop, where you'll find its primary restaurant, Hacman's, as well as an oyster bar, mixology station, vegetable garden, and spa, all while looking down over the hills toward the city center.



## WHERE TO EAT

San Miguel has no shortage of amazing restaurants to dine in. Though you'll stumble upon cafes on every corner, for the best dinner experiences, look to the city's famous rooftops.

**Atrio** This rooftop restaurant offers a more casual, relaxed vibe with an up close view of La Parroquia's pink spires and food with an Asian-inspired twist.

**La Unica** Also with a rooftop view of La Parroquia, La Unica has more of a party atmosphere serving high-end Mexican cuisine. Indoor seating is also available on the ground floor.

**Carajillo** Just off the main square, this rooftop steak and seafood joint is open into the wee hours of the morning. It's the best place to find its namesake drink, made with coffee and liqueur, for an afternoon pick-me-up.

**Luna Tapas Bar** Atop the Rosewood Hotel south of the main square, the views and laid-back vibes of Luna will leave you wondering where your afternoon went.

**Zenteno Cafe** Continue south to find this tiny cafe with pastries and light breakfast fare, as well as the best espresso drinks to be found in SMA. Well worth the trek.



Page 1: Flying over Silao and looking towards central Mexico's highlands after departing MMLO.

Page 2, top left: Looking over the city to La Parroquia from the Luna Tapas Bar on the rooftop the Rosewood.

Page 2, bottom left: The lush grounds of Viñedos San Lucas, a 30-minute drive from the city center.

Page 2, bottom right: A mural on display at the Hotel Matilda on Aldama Street in the City Center.