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# Land Acknowledgement for Mexico City

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather today is the traditional territory of the Nahua, Otomi, Totonac, and Mixtec peoples, among others. Before the Spanish conquest, these groups, along with the Aztecs, thrived in this region, contributing to a rich cultural and scientific heritage. This region is also home to majestic archaeological sites such as Teotihuacan, which stand as a testament to the rich history and cultural achievements of these civilizations.

The Aztec civilization left an impressive legacy, part of which still endures in areas such as traditional agriculture and medicine:

- The Aztecs developed a sophisticated calendar system, accurately tracking celestial movements and aligning their agricultural practices with astronomical events.
- They also practiced advanced herbal medicine, utilizing a wide variety of plants for healing purposes, some of which are still used today.
- They engineered chinampas, or floating gardens, which maximized agricultural productivity and sustainability, and are a living legacy of these regenerative practices.
- The construction of Tenochtitlán, with its intricate network of canals and causeways, stands as a testament to their engineering prowess. Teotihuacan is one of the most prominent archeological sites in Mexico.

I hope you all can visit Teotihuacan and Xochimilco, where you will be able to see this millennial system of floating gardens.

Sadly, the Spanish conquest had a devastating impact on these indigenous communities, leading to dramatic loss of life, culture, and knowledge. As Mexicans, one of our main challenges is to continue eliminating the different barriers and inequalities that indigenous groups still face, five centuries after the conquest.

At The Nature Conservancy, we honor the legacy of these and other indigenous peoples through our conservation efforts. We recognize the invaluable contributions of indigenous knowledge and practices to environmental stewardship.

Thank you for joining us at the One Conservancy Science Gathering in Mexico City.

# Meredith C. de la Garza Treviño

Directora de Conservación de México / Mexico Conservation Director

# 1. One Conservancy Science Gathering Information

# Gathering Location, Dates, and Attire

The Gathering, including all sessions, evening events, presentations, and trainings will take place from November 11-16, 2024 at the Hilton Reforma in Mexico City, Mexico. Dress code for the Gathering is business casual, in addition to attire appropriate for any optional social activities (more information below).

Address: Av. Juarez 70, Colonia Centro, Centro, Cuauhtémoc, 06010 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico

# **Local Contacts**

The following contacts are available for you to reach out to if you have any questions or need assistance upon arrival in Mexico City.

| Name                          | Email                    | Phone                   |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Meredith C. de la Garza       | m.delagarza@tnc.org      | +52 612155 6076 (Also   |
| Treviño                       |                          | available in WhatsApp)  |
| Mexico Conservation Director  |                          |                         |
| Gianinna Ferreyro Ponce       | ferreyro@tnc.org         | +52 5568165377 (Also    |
| ("Gia") One Conservancy       |                          | available in WhatsApp,  |
| Science Gathering Project     |                          | iMessage)               |
| Coordinator                   |                          |                         |
| Jorge G. Álvarez-Romero,      | j.alvarez.romero@tnc.org | +61 415 456 712         |
| Spatial Planning and Strategy |                          | (Available in WhatsApp) |
| Scientist                     |                          |                         |

# Full Meeting Schedule

Please see the full Gathering agenda here. Use the conference app (details below) to add sessions to your schedule!

# Registration

Starting Monday, November 11, please make your way to the lobby of the Hilton Reforma to complete your registration and pick up your name badge. The registration table will be open from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Please wear the gathering name badge when attending the training, networking session, lunch, break, and side/group meetings, but remember to take it off when traveling outside of the venue.

# **Gathering Meals**

A breakfast buffet will be provided each morning for all registered attendees in the Don Alberto meeting room at Hilton Reforma where the main plenaries will be held. Lunch will also be provided for all registered attendees throughout the week at the same location. A plated dinner will be served to all guests on the opening night of the Gathering on Monday, November 11th, but there will not be dinner service for the remaining nights of the Gathering. Appetizers and refreshments will be provided for participants attending evening networking events.

# Permission for Photo and Video

Certain events throughout the week may be photographed or recorded for use in internal promotional materials. Upon checking in, all attendees will be provided with an optional <u>TNC standard release form</u> to sign indicating their willingness to be photographed or recorded. This is entirely optional. Participants who do not want to be included in any video or audio recordings will still be able to participate fully in the gathering.

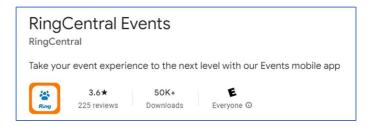
# TNC Swag Exchange

If you have any unused TNC swag, we invite you to bring it to the gathering for a fun and sustainable merchandise swap! This is a great opportunity to engage in a "put one, take one" exchange, allowing you to trade items like clothing, accessories, or promotional merchandise that you no longer need with fellow TNC members, while also browsing what others contribute to find new treasures to take home. This swap not only refreshes our collections but also aligns with our commitment to sustainability and reducing waste. Let's keep the spirit of TNC alive while being mindful of our environmental impact, and we look forward to seeing what you bring to share!

# Gathering App

We are using RingCentral Events as our app provider, which will allow you to register for sessions, quickly access Gathering info, and more! It offers both a website app version (to view from a computer) and a phone app version (to view from an iPhone or Android). To download the mobile app, locate RingCentral Events on the App Store (for iPhone) or Play Store (for Android) and install it on your device before the event. Click the hyperlinks or scan the QR codes with your phone camera below to access the app download page for your device.





# Accessing the App: "RingCentral Events"

You will receive an email/calendar invite confirming your registration and access to the OCSG app at the email address you used to register for the OCSG, with the following details:

Email subject: Thank you for registering to One Conservancy Science Gathering

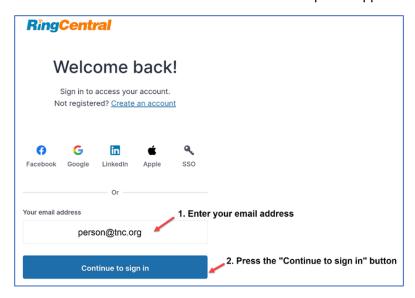
**From**: One Conservancy Science (no-reply@events.ringcentral.com)

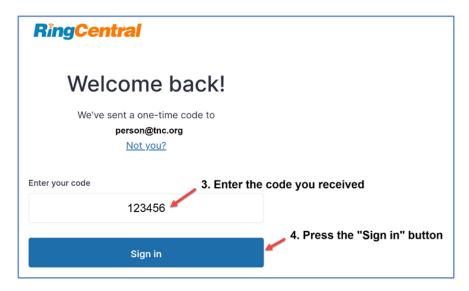
Each person has a unique access link to the OCSG app. When you press the "Enter event" link in your registration email/calendar invite, you will be taken to the OCSG website app if you are on a computer or the OCSG phone app if you are on an iPhone or Android device.



This is your own personal event link, so please do not share it with anyone else.

The phone app may prompt you to sign in, in which case you will need to enter the *email address that your registration email/calendar invite was sent to* receive an access code to enter to view the phone app:





For full detailed instructions on how to register for sessions in the app and use other features, please view the OCSG RingCentral Events app instructions document.

# 2. Your Guide to Mexico City

# Welcome to the Capital of Mexico's Culture and History

Welcome to Mexico City, a vibrant metropolis where history and culture intertwine to create an unforgettable experience. As you explore this sprawling capital, you'll discover a city that is both rich in tradition and brimming with modernity.

Mexico City's history is a tapestry of ancient civilizations, colonial influences, and revolutionary fervor. The Aztecs, who rose to power between the 14th and 16th centuries, established their capital, Tenochtitlán, where Mexico City stands today. The city's historical significance is evident in landmarks like the Templo Mayor, the focal point of Aztec religious, political, and social life. The Spanish conquest in 1521 marked the end of Aztec rule and the beginning of a new era, with colonial architecture and traditions leaving an indelible mark on the city.

The spirit of independence is celebrated every September 16, commemorating the Grito de Dolores, the call to arms that initiated Mexico's War of Independence in 1810. The echoes of the 20th-century Mexican Revolution are still felt today, with its impact visible in art, street names, and cultural references throughout the city.

Mexico City's cultural scene is a dynamic blend of the old and the new. The city boasts some of the world's best museums, showcasing extraordinary archaeology, folk art, murals, and contemporary culture. From the grand Palacio de Bellas Artes to the intimate Frida Kahlo Museum, there's something for every art enthusiast. The city's neighborhoods, such as Condesa, Roma, and Coyoacán, offer a mix of cool converted mansions, designer boutiques, and fashionable cafes, creating a bohemian atmosphere that attracts digital creatives and artists alike.

Markets are the lifeblood of Mexico City, offering a sensory overload of aromas, colors, and sounds. Food markets are a must-visit, where you can savor everything from fragrant mangoes to smoky ancho chilies. Craft markets and tianguis

(outdoor bazaars) sell a wide range of artisanal goods, from textiles and ceramics to masks and beadwork, each reflecting the unique traditions of different regions.

The city's vibrant arts and crafts scene is a testament to the dexterity and passion of its people. Traditional techniques, many adapted from pre-Hispanic times, are still practiced today, producing extraordinary artesanías (handicrafts). Textiles, ceramics, lacquerware, and woodwork are just a few examples of the diverse and colorful crafts you'll encounter.

Mexico City's cultural diversity is also reflected in its population. The major distinction is between mestizos, people of mixed ancestry, and the indígenas, the indigenous descendants of Mexico's pre-Hispanic inhabitants. Indigenous communities, speaking 66 recognized languages, continue to preserve their unique customs, dress, and belief systems, offering visitors a glimpse into their rich heritage.

The city's culinary scene is equally diverse, with street food and high-class restaurants offering a taste of Mexico's culinary traditions. From delicious street tacos to the world's finest mole, there's something to satisfy every palate. Don't miss the chance to try mezcal cocktails, a local favorite.

As you wander through Mexico City's streets, you'll be captivated by the layers of history and culture that shimmer everywhere you look. Centuries-old performing arts, such as pre-Hispanic dances and mariachi music, still play in public plazas, while vivacious parades, like those on the Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead), celebrate life and draw crowds.

In Mexico City, the past and the present coexist harmoniously, creating a city that is both steeped in history and eager to embrace the future. Whether you're exploring its historic sites, enjoying its vibrant arts scene, or savoring its culinary delights, Mexico City promises an unforgettable experience. Welcome to a city where every corner tells a story, and every moment is an adventure.

See Annex 1 for a detailed guide to local words and phrases to know!

# From Volcanoes to Lakes: A Snapshot of Mexico City's Biocultural Diversity

Mexico is considered a Megadiverse country, part of a select group of 17 nations that harbor the majority of the world's biodiversity. This distinction is based on the high level of endemism, with Mexico boasting over 5,000 endemic plant species. The country's geographical position, spanning from the tropics to temperate zones, and its complex landscapes, including mountains and coastlines, contribute to its rich biodiversity. Mexico ranks high globally in terms of species diversity, with significant numbers of vascular plants (~23,000 species, 5<sup>th</sup>), mammals (564 species, 3<sup>rd</sup>), birds (~1,150 species, 11<sup>th</sup>), reptiles (864 species, 2<sup>nd</sup>), and amphibians (376 species, 5<sup>th</sup>).

Mexico City, despite being the smallest federal entity in the country, is a microcosm of this biodiversity. Covering just 0.1% of Mexico's surface area, the city is home to approximately 7,184 species across various biological groups. The city's fertile soils and abundant water resources support a remarkable variety of life, including many endemic species. However, the city's rapid population growth and urban expansion pose significant challenges to conserving its rich biocultural diversity. The replacement of natural habitats with urban infrastructure has led to the loss of forests, grasslands, and agricultural areas, impacting biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The city's physical context is unique, situated on a high plateau at 2,240 meters above sea level and surrounded by volcanic mountains. This location contributes to the city's diverse climates, ranging from semi-arid to temperate and semi-cold, with average temperatures between 8 and 22°C (46 and 71°F) and annual precipitation between 1,000 and

1,500 mm (39 and 59 inches). These varied climates, along with the city's unique topography, contribute to its rich diversity of ecosystems and species. The biogeographic history of Mexico City, situated at the crossroads of the Nearctic and Neotropical regions, further enhances this diversity.

Mexico City's biodiversity includes a variety of ecosystems, such as natural grasslands, oyamel forests, mountain mesophilic forests, coniferous forests, oak forests, mixed forests, xerophilous scrub, aquatic and subaquatic vegetation, urban vegetation, induced grasslands, and bodies of water. The city is home to 7% of Mexico's vascular plant species, including 229 endemic species. The city's freshwater fish populations, once abundant in the lakes of the Mexico basin, have declined significantly, with only two native species remaining.

Amphibians are particularly vulnerable to habitat modification, with several species listed as critically endangered or threatened. The axolotl (Ambystoma mexicanum), an emblematic species of Mexico City, is a prime example of this struggle. Known for its unique ability to regenerate limbs and its significance in local culture and scientific research, the axolotl faces severe threats from habitat loss and pollution. Conservation efforts are underway to protect this species and its habitat, reflecting the broader challenge of balancing urban development with biodiversity conservation.

The city's genetic diversity is also notable, with important native species such as the nopal (*Opuntia ficus-indica*), beans (*Phaseolus* spp.), amaranth (*Amaranthus* spp.), and agave (*Agave* spp.). These species have significant cultural and economic value, with traditional uses dating back to pre-Hispanic times. The city's oak and pine forests are used for timber and traditional medicine, while orchids are harvested for their mucilage, used as glue in feather art.

The interdependence of biodiversity and culture is evident in Mexico City, where traditional knowledge and practices coexist with modern conservation efforts. The city's rich natural heritage is deeply intertwined with its cultural identity, from the use of medicinal plants to the celebration of biodiversity in local festivals. This interconnectedness reflects Mexico City's history, with its deep-rooted traditions and practices shaping its biocultural diversity. The conservation of this diversity is crucial to ensure that future generations can continue to benefit from the city's unique natural and cultural heritage.

Mexico City's nature and biodiversity are a testament to the resilience and richness of life in an urban environment. The city's diverse ecosystems and species reflect the broader biodiversity of Mexico, while also highlighting the challenges of conservation in a rapidly growing metropolis. The axolotl, as an emblematic species, symbolizes the struggle and significance of biodiversity conservation in Mexico City, emphasizing the need for continued efforts to protect and preserve this invaluable heritage.

**Sources:** Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad de Mexico (CONABIO), 2024; Coordinación de Estrategias de Biodiversidad y Cooperación-CONABIO. 2021. Resumen de La biodiversidad en la Ciudad de México. Estudio de Estado. CONABIO, México.

# Local Landmarks and Sightseeing Recommendations

The following attractions are nearby the gathering area and great opportunities to experience the culture and history of Mexico City. See the OCSG Optional Social Activities to sign up for guided tours of Mexico City landmarks.

<u>National History Museum</u>: The Museum of Natural History and Environmental Culture (MHNCA) is a non-profit institution dedicated to scientific dissemination and cultural enrichment. It serves as a space for visitors of all ages to meet and learn, to promote, document, and disseminate activities that enhance knowledge of natural sciences (including the Universe, Earth, and life) and environmental culture among the residents of Mexico City.

<u>Chapultepec</u>: The National Museum of History is in the Castillo de Chapultepec, a site that preserves the history of Mexico from the conquest of Tenochtitlan to the Mexican Revolution. The construction of the castle began in 1785 during the government of the Viceroy of New Spain, Bernardo de Gálvez. The museum features 12 permanent exhibition halls that display the country's historical journey from the Conquest to the Mexican Revolution, as well as 22 rooms in the area known as Alcázar. The Alcázar area includes recreated rooms of Maximiliano and Carlota, President Porfirio Díaz, and a room that commemorates the assault on Chapultepec Castle.

<u>Bellas Artes:</u> This landmark is included in the Optional Social Activities organized by TNC, but the exterior of the palace is available to visit at any time. The Palacio de Bellas Artes (Palace of Fine Arts) is a prominent cultural center in Mexico City. This hosts performing arts events, literature events and plastic arts galleries and exhibitions (including important permanent Mexican murals). It is a 5-minute walk from the hotel and located on Juarez Av, in the corner with Eje Central, Historic Downtown.

<u>Café de Sears</u>: Come for the view and stay for a little to enjoy a coffee, tea, pastry, or sandwich. Service in the cafe is very friendly and downstairs staff happily directs you up to the top floor if you ask. Be sure to check the daily hours for Sears online, because you cannot access the cafe unless the store is open. Also note that Sears hours may differ than the Palacio de Bellas Artes itself. Located on Juarez Av 14, Historic Downtown.

MUNAL (National Museum of Art): The National Museum of Art preserves, exhibits, studies and transmits Mexican works of art produced between the second half of the XVI century and 1954, thus offering a global and synthesized vision of Mexican Art from this period. It is 10-15 minutes walking from the hotel and located on Tacuba #8, Historic Downtown.

<u>Palacio de Minería</u>: Palace of Mines, masterpiece of Latin American neoclassicism, is situated in Mexico City, at the end of Tacuba Street, facing the plaza named after Manuel Tolsá, where the equestrian statue of Charles IV, better known as "El Caballito", creation of the same artist, is located. It is 10 minutes walking distance from the hotel and located on Tacuba #5, Historic Downtown.

Zocalo and Cathedral: The Plaza de la Constitución is better known, across Mexico, as the Zócalo. It's the central plaza of the City and often referred to as the central plaza of the entire country. As such, it is the frequent site of many of the important events in the city and is often very crowded. Throughout the year, it hosts events, fairs, carnivals, concerts, parades, and more. Mexico City's Metropolitan Cathedral is built on land of a mystical origin. It was the crossroads of the four cardinal points, and the demarcation of the meeting points of the four original neighborhoods of ancient Tenochtitlan. It's thus the spiritual center of the Aztec capital. Walking distance from the hotel is 15-20 minutes. You can take a subway, but it is not recommended since they are usually closed. The attraction is in the Constitutional Plaza, Plaza de la Constitución #58, Historic Downtown.

<u>Madero Avenue</u>: Today's Avenida Madero is the principle exit and entrance to the Zocalo. It's a thriving pedestrian-only street, nearly all day, every day. It is located on Francisco I.Madero Avenue in the Historic Downtown.

<u>Paseo de la Reforma</u>: Mexico City's Paseo de la Reforma is more than just the 10 Glorietas (traffic roundabouts), although those are interesting enough. The main thoroughfare for the entire metropolis, Reforma passes skyscrapers, some dozen neighborhoods, and much of the story of the Mexican republic. It is located within close walking distance from the hotel on Reforma Avenue. When you arrive, walk in a direction towards East.

Suggested Walking Distance Restaurants

Historic Downtown and Nearby Areas

# Sanborns Casa de los Azulejos

**Francisco I. Madero Avenue #4, Historic Downtown.** *Mexican food and international cuisine, vegan and vegetarian options available.* 

The Casa de los Azulejos, literally the "House of the Tiles" is one of Mexico City's most dramatic and beautiful 18th-century residential palaces. Fortunately, as it has been inhabited by Sanborns restaurant and department store since 1919, it's also open to the public. For the uninitiated, Sanborns prices are also very reasonable and breakfast, lunch, or dinner here is probably something everyone should do at least once in a lifetime.

#### Café de Tacuba

Tacuba 28, Historic Downtown. Mexican cuisine (traditional restaurant). Vegetarian options available.

# El Gran Hotel de la Ciudad de Mexico, Restaurante Terraza

16 de septiembre 82, Historic Downtown. Mexican and international cuisine. Vegetarian options available.

## El Pescadito

Independencia Av, between Luis Moya street and Revillagigedo street, right behind the Memory and Tolerance Museum. Fish tacos only.

#### La Vitrina

Luis Moya 31, behind the Memory and Tolerance Museum. Baguettes, vegetarian options available

#### Tierra Adentro

Milan 22 Street, Juarez. Pizza and international dishes, vegetarian options available.

#### Tacos de Canasta Los Especiales

Madero 71, Historic Downtown. Mexican tacos. Vegetarian options available.

#### Coox Hanal

Isabel la Católica 83, Historic Downtown. Regional Mexican food: cochinita pibil (BBQ pork).

#### La Distral

Paseo de la Reforma 80, Juarez. Mexican cuisine. Vegetarian options available.

#### Mundana Mezcalería

**Inside Barrio Alameda, Dr. Mora 9, Historic Downtown.** Snacks, melted cheese and tacos, some dishes contain mezcal. Vegetarian options available.

See Annex 2 for additional restaurant recommendations (not walking distance).

# 3. Mexico City Travel Information

# Climate and Weather

Mexico City, situated at an elevation of about 7,350 feet (2,240 meters), is generally cool, sunny, and dry in November. Average temperatures typically range between 45°F to 75°F (7°C to 24°C) and precipitation is low.

# Visitor Information for Airport Arrival

When you arrive in Mexico as a visitor, follow these instructions regarding the Forma Migratoria Múltiple (FMM), depending on your entry port:

- If you applied online for the FMM, follow the online instructions, OR
- Upon entry, at Immigrations & Customs, fill out a paper FMM form if it's available (not requested all the time).
- If you receive a stamped paper FMM at entry, keep it safe—you'll need it when you leave.
- If you don't receive a paper FMM, the immigration officer will place a stamp in your passport, noting your granted stay duration. Show this stamped passport page when exiting Mexico.
- Note: You can find information about visiting Mexico <u>here</u>, particularly on the FMM and additional guidance <u>on phasing out the paper version</u>.

# Safety

# Security Guidelines for Your Trip to Mexico City

We're excited to welcome you to Mexico City! It's a city full of rich culture, vibrant energy, and incredible experiences. To ensure you feel confident and safe while you enjoy your time with us, here are a few helpful tips for traveling smart.

#### 1. Stay Aware and Enjoy the Area

- The area around Reforma Avenue is bustling with excellent restaurants, shops, and attractions. It's a vibrant part of the city, perfect for exploring.
- As with any major city, it's a good idea to remain mindful of your surroundings. Keep valuables secure and avoid displaying expensive items like jewelry or electronics. This helps you blend in and feel at ease.

#### 2. Travel Together and Stay in Groups

- We strongly recommend traveling with others and staying in groups when walking around, especially in the evening. There's safety in numbers, and it's more fun to experience the city with your colleagues!
- Whether you're heading out for a meal or exploring the sights, moving together will ensure everyone stays safe and can enjoy the experience.

## 3. Using Transportation Safely

- **Taxis and Ride-Sharing:** Our hotel's valet staff will gladly assist with calling a reputable taxi for you. Alternatively, ride-sharing apps like Uber and Didi are trusted and convenient ways to get around.
- After dark, make sure you arrange your transportation ahead of time rather than hailing a taxi on the street. Stick to well-lit and busy areas when walking with your group.

# 4. Dining and Exploring Safely

- Feel free to explore the nearby dining and shopping options! Always keep your belongings secure and avoid leaving your drink unattended in bars or restaurants.
- Politely decline invitations from strangers to private gatherings and enjoy the company of your fellow attendees instead.

# 5. ATM and Credit Card Safety

- Use ATMs inside secure bank lobbies or your hotel for the safest experience. Avoid public ATMs to protect yourself from potential scams.
- Monitor your financial statements during and after your trip to ensure everything is in order, as fraudulent activity can take time to show up.

#### 6. Document Safety

- Carry a photocopy of your passport while keeping the original secure in your hotel's safe. It's a simple way to ensure you're prepared in case you misplace anything.
- Share copies of important documents and contacts with a loved one before traveling. It's always good to have backup support if needed.

#### 7. Interactions with Authorities

• If you need to show your driver's license to local authorities, only show it—don't hand it over. If in doubt, seek assistance from a trusted local or event or hotel staff.

#### 8. Personal Safety

- Don't walk alone at night or in unfamiliar areas. Always stick with a group, and if any situation arises, remember your safety is the priority—don't physically resist in case of robbery.
- It's best to avoid sharing personal details with strangers and keep your travel plans off social media.

# 9. Stay Connected

• Make sure your phone works at your destination and set up location sharing with friends or family. Traveling in a group is always better, and it's comforting to stay connected with loved ones while abroad.

These tips are here to help you stay safe while making the most of your time in Mexico City. By traveling together and following a few simple precautions, you'll be able to fully enjoy the city's vibrant culture and atmosphere. We can't wait to see you at the event!

Please see TNC Security's Mexico City Safety Briefing for additional comprehensive travel safety information.

Safety and Emergency Numbers

**Emergency Phone Number: 911** 

Mexico City's Non-emergency and Non-Life-threatening Help Line: 55 5658 1111

#### Hotel Information

Gathering attendees will be staying at one of 2 hotels located on the popular Reforma Avenue. Each registered participant who fills out the required hotel/transportation form will receive a hotel reservation confirmation. The Hilton Reforma will be the location of the Gathering events and will serve as the primary event location.

The neighboring Barcelo Hotel will serve as our secondary hotel and is located within a quick 10 min walk to the Hilton. Please check your confirmation information to ensure you check in at the correct hotel upon arrival. For questions regarding your Hilton reservation, contact <a href="mexicoreservaciones@hilton.com">mexicoreservaciones@hilton.com</a> and please add group name: TNC-The Nature Conservancy in your email. For questions regarding your Barcelo reservation, contact <a href="mexicoreforma@barcelo.com">mexicoreforma@barcelo.com</a> and please add group name: SCIENCE 2024 in your email. There will be shuttles available to transport attendees back and forth between the hotel if you are unable to or do not wish to walk.

# Hilton Reforma

The <u>Hilton Reforma</u> is a high-rise hotel in the heart of Mexico City, opposite Alameda Central Park and just 650 meters from the Palacio de Bellas Artes. The historic center of Mexico City, which is centered around Zócalo plaza, is less than two kilometers away. They're home to a rooftop pool, a spa, and a two-story convention center.

Hotel Address: Av. Juarez 70. Colonia Centro, Mexico City, 06010, Mexico

**Hotel Phone Number:** +52 55 5130 5300

- Check-in at the Hilton Reforma is at 15:00 (3pm). Those checking in between 11:00 and 15:00 will incur a fee of US \$60 plus tax. Early check-in before 11:00 will require reserving an additional night at the group's rate + tax.
- Checkout at the Hilton Reforma is at 12:00. Those checking out between 12:00 and 18:00 will incur a fee of \$60 plus tax. Checkout after 18:00 hours will require reserving an additional night at the group rate plus tax.
- Emergency medical contact information: Silvia Martinez, Nurse, <u>+52 55 5130 53 00 ext. 4922</u>. Mobile <u>+52 55 10791320</u>
- **Disclaimer for incidentals:** All guest will be asked to leave a credit card to guarantee additional and incidentals.
- Luggage storage on departure day: Storage is limited to Hilton Hotel guests only.

#### Hotel Barcelo Mexico Reforma

The <u>Barceló México Reforma</u> is a 5-star Hotel, located in downtown Mexico City, the capital of the former Aztec Empire. The hotel is just a few steps from the Monument to the Revolution, close to numerous financial and commercial landmarks, and just 20 minutes from Benito Juárez International Airport. Surrounded by a rich architectural style, this luxury hotel in Mexico City is set among vestiges of modernism and contemporary architecture.

Hotel Address: Paseo de la Reforma 1, Col. Tabacalera, Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico

Hotel Phone Number: +52-55-51285000

- Check-in time at the Barcelo Mexico Reforma is at 15:00 (3pm)
- Check-out time at the Barcelo Mexico Reforma is at 12:00
- Emergency medical contact information: Dial 0 and the Guest Express team will direct you to the corresponding actions (first aid, medical consultation, hospital, etc.)
- **Disclaimer for incidentals:** All guest will be asked to leave a credit card to guarantee additional and incidentals.

- Instructions for modifying reservation: All guests wishing to modify an existing reservation should call the hotel
  directly to do so. Any changes would not be covered by the group rate and would be charged to the individual's
  credit card.
- Luggage storage on departure day: The service team will take care of receiving the luggage and provide a ticket for storing suitcases.

# Hotels and Venue Map



# Recommended Airport

# Recommended Airport: Benito Juárez International Airport (MEX)

Mexico City's Benito Juárez International Airport, which is located seven miles (12km) east of central Mexico City, is extremely large and has ample facilities, including hotels, banking services, duty-free shops, restaurants, cafés, traditional stores, information kiosks and airline lounges. Please note that queues for airport security can be long, and the size and linear layout of the airport mean that it can take some time to walk to departure gates. Travelers are advised to consider traffic conditions in advance as delays are common during peak hours (07.00-11.00 and 18.00-23.00).

# Airport Shuttle to Gathering Hotels

**Arrivals:** Pre-paid shuttles will be provided by our local Destination Management Company, Maritur. All Gathering attendees will have shuttle pickup from Benito Juarez airport to either the Hilton Reforma or Barcelo hotel based on the information provided on their registration form regarding arrival information. Attendees will need to meet at the identified pickup points. The shuttles will only operate between these locations. No additional stops can be requested. **The airport/hotel shuttle will operate through November 17. Any transportation after that date will be the responsibility of the participants.** 

Instructions for Arrival Shuttle: Once you arrive at Benito Juárez International Airport, you will clear Mexican Immigration and Customs. After clearing Customs, walk through the hallway and pick up your luggage. Cross the glass door and you will see Maritur staff, wearing red shirts and beige pants, right in front holding a sign with the words "One Conservancy Science Gathering" and the One Conservancy Science logo. The Maritur staff will escort you to your

transportation and transfer you to your hotel. *If assistance is needed please feel free to call: Alberto Tlahuel – Mobile:* +52(998) 133 9442.

**Departures:** Gathering attendees will have shuttle service available on their departure day, based on the information provided in the registration form. *The airport/hotel shuttle will operate through November 17. Any transportation after that date will be the responsibility of the participants.* 

# **Local Transportation Options**

# Information provided by TNC Security.

# Uber/Cabify

Car-share services like Uber and Cabify are the recommended mode of transportation for participants traveling between the airport and their hotel due to the ease of use and additional security features. Travelers using ride-share services should ensure that there is not an established line of taxis near their pick-up location and keep a low profile when getting into the vehicle.

#### Taxi

Taxis are the best way to travel around the city. Workforce who do not speak Spanish should get their destinations written down in Spanish, as English is not the primary language spoken in Mexico City.

While a pink-and-white color scheme and 'CDMX' lettering indicates an official government-licensed taxi, unlicensed or 'pirate' taxis have been known to duplicate these identifying features. Pirate taxis can be identified by vehicles that are in poor repair, have no visible registration number in the front window, or are missing elements of the complete official taxi paint job (for example, the 'CDMX' lettering). Due to the uncertainty of a vehicle's being licensed, and past incidents involving even official taxis, people are advised against hailing taxis on the street.

Hotel and sitio taxis can cost more and the fare should be arranged before boarding. People should verify that the driver's identification number matches that of the vehicle. A private license plate indicates that a taxi is operating illegally. Furthermore, it is advisable to check the driver's photographic identification; do not enter a taxi if the driver has no identification. Riders should carry small bills; if not, then they should ask the driver if they have sufficient change before arrival at their destination.

# **Public Transportation**

Public transport in the city includes metro, bus, and trolleybus services. While the city's metro system is clean, efficient, and often the quickest way to travel around the city, it is generally very crowded and not recommended for foreign travelers due to elevated security risks.

#### Health

# Mexico COVID-19 Information

There are no current entry restrictions in Mexico and no obligation to carry a COVID vaccine card or to quarantine.

Check the <u>current status of the pandemic in Mexico</u> and follow the sanitary rules to prevent contagion (information only in Spanish).

# TNC COVID-19 policy

Please review the official <u>COVID-19 Protocols for Diagnosis or Symptoms</u> from Safety@TNC. This guidance provides reporting instructions for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 either before or during the gathering. TNC will no longer issue notifications of COVID-19 positive diagnosis to other workers via TNC hosts/facility managers/event planners, etc. unless required by legal mandates. We encourage you to read the following information and follow the recommendations to support the health and safety of everyone attending the One Conservancy Science Gathering.

- We strongly encourage all participants to continue to be fully vaccinated and boosted along with masking for anyone who is in a high transmission area, has high-risk health factors, or has had a close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual.
- Staff must continue to comply with rules and regulations adopted by local authorities to mitigate the spread of the virus, which may include proof of vaccination, particularly if required for international travel entry requirements, and wearing face coverings.
- Staff should continue to monitor their own health and symptoms and avoid all in-person activity, including travel, if they develop new symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of whether they have tested positive. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive, please stay in your room to limit viral contagion and contact the hotel nurse, Silvia Martinez, at +52 55 5130 53 00 ext 4922 (mobile: +52 55 10791320) for assistance.
- Sanitizing stations and masks will be available throughout the gathering area. Participants are encouraged to
  adhere to their personal safety standards and respect others' preferences around personal protective equipment
  and social distancing. Any positive test result should be reporting according to the <a href="COVID-19 Protocols for Diagnosis or Symptoms">COVID-19 Protocols for Diagnosis or Symptoms</a> from Safety@TNC.

You can continue to find information and safety resources related to COVID-19 on the COVID-19 Safety Resources page.

#### Additional Health Information

Travel Health Notice: Dengue in the Americas

#### Recommendations:

- Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats.
- Use an appropriate insect repellent (see below).
- Use permethrin-treated clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, and tents). Do not use permethrin directly on skin.
- Stay and sleep in air-conditioned or screened rooms.

#### Resources:

- Food & Drink Considerations when Traveling
- Avoiding Contaminated Water
- Water Treatment Options

# Recommended Clothing

The dress code for the One Conservancy Science Gathering is business casual. In addition to Gathering attire, we advise you to pack layers suitable for mild to cool weather. Consider a waterproof or water-resistant jacket in case of wind or unlikely rain. Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended, as participants will walk short distances between hotels and inside the venue. Participants attending an organized field trip should also bring sunscreen, shoes that can get dirty, sunglasses, and a hat.

#### Additional Travel Information

#### Currency

The local currency in Mexico City is the Mexican Peso (MXN). For the latest exchange rates, refer to reputable online sources such as XE Currency Converter.

#### Electricity supply

The standard voltage in Mexico is 127 volts, and the standard frequency is 60 Hz. Mexico uses Type A and B power sockets. Please carry corresponding adaptors and plugs if your devices use different standards.

## Water Usage

In many areas in Mexico, tap water is not potable and not recommended to drink. Bottled water and beverages are safe to drink, although many restaurants and hotels serve tap water unless patrons specifically request bottled water. Ice for drinks might use tap water. Take precautions when drinking water or eating fresh fruits, vegetables, and salads. Boxed water will be available to all participants throughout the Gathering.

# 4. Conference Sustainability

# Reducing our travel footprint

Gathering organizers prioritized sustainability beginning with the planning process of the One Conservancy Science Gathering. We partnered with TNC's Sustainability Team to employ TROOP, a data-driven system that helped us select Mexico City as the ideal Gathering location. By plotting the potential origin points of our approximately 500 attendees, TROOP analyzed various destination options, allowing us to choose the location that would result in the greatest reduction in carbon footprint for the event's travel. The hotel venue was intentionally selected in central, easily accessible locations, giving attendees the ability to walk to a variety of local restaurants and attractions. In addition, we organized a group shuttle to transport Gathering attendees between the airport and hotels to reduce local transportation emissions compared to individual ride share and taxi, further reducing the overall transportation needs of the event.

# Sourcing recycled materials

To provide drinking water to Gathering attendees, we sourced boxed water from a local vendor to support sustainability efforts and reduce our carbon footprint and plastic waste. The boxed water packaging is made from recycled materials,

promoting environmental responsibility within the TNC community even while traveling abroad. Additionally, all printing for the Gathering was done using recycled paper to conserve resources.

#### Supporting local businesses

All gift items in the Gathering participant swag bags were intentionally selected and purchased from local businesses to support the regional economy. By selecting local producers, we were able to curate a culturally meaningful array of gift items than reflect a piece of Mexico City's diverse economy.

# 5. Inclusive Practices and Accommodations at the Gathering: Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

# Supporting Geographic Diversity and Inclusivity

The Gathering's Core Planning team and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion working team have provided stipend support to 56 science staff to cover their attendance and travel expenses for the Science Gathering. Stipend awardees represent 22 countries, 19 business units, 36 practicing scientists, 11 non-practicing scientists, and 8 key science support staff. This representation exemplifies our continued commitment to ensuring geographic diversity and subject matter inclusivity at this important TNC Gathering.

# Speaker Diversity and Inclusive Participation

To ensure fairness and inclusivity, we have implemented a rule allowing each speaker to make only one presentation. This prevents a few individuals from dominating and promotes equal opportunities for everyone to contribute. We have also taken diversity and inclusivity into consideration when selecting speakers, accounting for factors such as length of service at TNC, scientific category, thematic area, and regional representation.

We have developed presentation guidelines for speakers to follow, including making their presentations visible and accessible to all. This involves adding Spanish words or phrases when possible and translating their abstracts into Spanish to make the effort bilingual. Additionally, we ensure that all materials are fully accessible, with text at least 14-point in size, proper contrast between text and background, and alternative text tagging on all images, figures, and visuals.

# Gathering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office

A dedicated Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office is set up for participants to voice their concerns and/or share feedback on the gatherings' inclusiveness efforts. The office will be visible to all participants and will be located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, office number 3. To set up an appointment, participants can email <u>Queen Mathabela</u>.

# Gathering Accommodations and Accessibility Measures

- Food allergy: during registration, dietary, allergy, and food requirements are collected to ensure that everyone is accommodated.
- Reducing uncertainty: A detailed event program or meeting preliminary is provided to reduce uncertainty.
- Space accessibility: additional space will be offered to attendees and presenters using wheelchairs or other
  mobility aids, and doorways and aisles will be kept clear. Risers or stages will be avoided whenever possible to
  ensure the inclusion of presenters and attendees who use wheelchairs or other mobility aids. Seating and tables

will be arranged to accommodate individuals with disabilities, with tables being less than 34" high and items reachable from a seated position.

- Scent allergy: we encourage participants to limit scent used to accommodate those with sensitivities, allergies, and respiratory health conditions.
- Enhanced technology access: We are pleased to offer a comprehensive technology access plan for our event. Ample outlets will be available for attendees and presenters to charge assistive devices. An IT desk will be on-site to serve as a convenient charging area if needed.
- Limit distractions: The organizers will make every effort to avoid distractions, such as setting up catering during a meeting or presentation. Please consider not having background music in the halls or conference rooms during breaks or keep the volume low. Acknowledging that background noise can be challenging for people who are hard of hearing and for captioners.

# Annex 1

#### Local Words and Phrases to Know

#### **Basics**

- Hola (hello) Pronounced: oh-lah
- ¿Qué tal? (How are you going?) Pronounced: keh tahl
- ¿Qué onda? (What's up?) Pronounced: keh on-dah
- Adiós (goodbye) Pronounced: ah-dee-ohs
- Hasta luego (see you) Pronounced: ahs-tah loo-eh-goh
- Hasta pronto (see you soon) Pronounced: ahs-tah prohn-toh
- Buenos días (Good morning, G'Day) Pronounced: bweh-nohs dee-ahs
- Buenas tardes (good afternoon) Pronounced: bweh-nahs tahr-dehs
- Buenas noches (good night) Pronounced: bweh-nahs noh-chehs
- Por favor (please) Pronounced: pohr fah-vohr
  - If you hear someone saying "Por favorcito", that's a common Mexico City way of talking; people like to
    use diminutives for everything, so ending in 'ito' (masculine) or 'ita' (feminine) are very common ways
    for people to end MANY words, it's an endearing way to say things.
- Muchas gracias (thank you very much) Pronounced: moo-chahs grah-see-ahs
  - Mexicans like to emphasize, so 'Gracias' is fine, but "Muchas gracias" is better.
- Gracias, ahorita no (Thank you, not now) Pronounced: grah-see-ahs, ah-oh-ree-tah noh
  - Very useful to respectfully say no to street vendors if not interested in buying what they offer.
- Perdón (sorry, excuse me) Pronounced: pehr-dohn
- Disculpe (excuse me) Pronounced: dees-kool-peh
  - When asking questions, that's the most common way to start a question politely in Mexico City.
- Perdón, no entiendo (Sorry, I don't understand) Pronounced: pehr-dohn, noh ehn-tee-ehn-doh
  - Mexicans like to apologize, so better to start with "Perdón" to be on the polite side.
- Disculpe, ¿habla inglés? (Excuse me, do you speak English?) Pronounced: dees-kool-peh, ah-blah een-glehs
  - Very important, again, starting with "Excuse me" is best.
- Oiga, ¿me podría decir cómo/dónde...? (Excuse me, could you please tell me how/where...?) Pronounced: oygah, meh poh-dree-ah deh-seer koh-moh/dohn-deh
  - Another common way of starting more informally is "Oiga" (literally meaning listen), for example in phrases like "Oiga, ¿me podría decir cómo/dónde...?" - very useful too, for example to ask for directions.

# Eating/Food

- *Tiene una mesa para XX personas* (Do you have a table for XX people?) Pronounced: tee-eh-neh oo-nah meh-sah pah-rah XX pehr-soh-nahs
  - Probably a good phrase to know when entering a restaurant to get a table, most restaurants have someone at the front to receive, but not always.
- Hola/¿Qué tal?, ¿tiene una mesa para (dos) personas? (l'd like a table for (two) people) Pronounced: oh-lah/keh tahl, tee-eh-neh oo-nah meh-sah pah-rah (dohs) pehr-soh-nahs
- No como (carne) (I don't eat (meat)) Pronounced: noh koh-moh (kahr-neh)
- ¿Qué recomienda? (What would you recommend?) Pronounced: keh reh-koh-mee-ehn-dah
- *¡Salud! (Cheers!)* Pronounced: sah-lood
  - Or in local slang "¡Salucita!"

- *¡Estuvo buenísimo/delicioso/muy rico/riquísimo!* (That was delicious!) Pronounced: ehs-too-voh bweh-nee-see-moh/deh-lee-see-oh-soh/mooy ree-koh/ree-kee-see-moh
- Buen provecho (Enjoy your meal) Pronounced: bwehn proh-veh-choh
- Central Mexican etiquette when starting or finishing a meal, mostly to start; if someone says that to you, either customer or waiter, you just say "Gracias, igualmente" (Thank you, same to you).
- La cuenta, por favor (the check, please) Pronounced: lah kwen-tah, pohr fah-vohr
  - In Mexico, you usually need to ask the waiter to bring the check; the great majority of restaurants, except for fast food or street stalls, are table service, as most places consider it rude to leave the bill before customers have finished their meal or drinks.
- Aqua fresca (refreshing fruit drinks, juice drinks) Pronounced: ah-gwah frehs-kah
  - o If your stomach is delicate like most people living in highly aseptic countries, maybe stay away from these at markets and street stalls, but in restaurants, you can always ask if "¿El agua es hervida, verdad?" or "¿Es agua de filtro?" to ask if they are prepared with boiled or filtered water, don't try that in the street or you will get a funny look!
- Horchata (rice milk drink) Pronounced: or-chah-tah
- Jamaica (hibiscus tea) Pronounced: hah-my-kah
- Tamarindo (tamarind) Pronounced: tah-mah-reen-doh
- Guayaba (guava) Pronounced: gwah-yah-bah
- Botana (snack) Pronounced: boh-tah-nah
  - Any snack, like "papas" (chips), "cacahuates" (peanuts), "nueces" (nuts), "aceitunas" (olives), and sometimes more "gourmet" like the ones you get in cantinas...
- Campechano/a (mixed, like mixed meats tacos) Pronounced: kahm-peh-chah-noh/nah
- Huaraches (large, thick oblong-shaped sope) Pronounced: wah-rah-chehs
  - Literally, it means sandals, but it is like a bigger, thick oblong-shaped sope topped with refried beans, meat, cheese, and salsa.
- Pica mucho (Is it very spicy?) Pronounced: pee-kah moo-choh
- Chiles en nogada (stuffed poblano peppers)
- Tacos al pastor (spit-cooked pork tacos)
- Mole (a wide variety of a Mexican traditional and classic dish which varies A LOT in color, taste, consistency, and flavor, but they are all basically made from a paste from nuts, chilies, spices, sugar, and some even chocolate, a must-try!)
- Esquites (Mexican corn dish) Pronounced: ehs-kee-tehs; Esquites are a popular Mexican street food made from corn kernels that are boiled or sautéed and then mixed with ingredients like mayonnaise, lime juice, chili powder, and cotija cheese. They are typically served in a cup and are a delicious, tangy, and savory treat.
- *Sopes, Sopecitos* (small sopes) Pronounced: soh-peh-see-tohs; Deep-fried tortilla with refried beans on top and some toppings, usually cream, cheese, and sometimes meat like chorizo or chicken, and salsa.

#### **Places**

- Cantina (traditional Mexican bar) Pronounced: kahn-tee-nah
  - The more traditional ones will give you some food with drinks and will increase the amount and quality of the food as you order more drinks (don't attempt to try their whole menu!).
- Mercado (market, usually referring to informal street markets for food) Pronounced: mehr-kah-doh
- Tianguis (market for everything you can think of) Pronounced: tee-ahn-gees
- Calle/Avenida (street/avenue) Pronounced: kah-yeh/ah-veh-nee-dah
- Banco (bank) Pronounced: bahn-koh

- Cajero automático (ATM) Pronounced: kah-heh-roh ow-toh-mah-tee-koh
- El súper (supermarket) Pronounced: ehl soo-pehr
- La tienda/Tiendita (the corner shop) Pronounced: lah tee-ehn-dah/tee-ehn-dee-tah

#### Time

- ¿Qué hora es? (What time is it?) Pronounced: keh o-rah ehs
- Son (las diez) (It's (10) o'clock) Pronounced: sohn (lahs dyehs)
- Es (la una) y media (Half past (one)) Pronounced: ehs (lah oo-nah) ee meh-dyah
- Mañana (morning) Pronounced: mah-nyah-nah
- Tarde (afternoon) Pronounced: tahr-deh
- Noche (evening) Pronounced: noh-cheh
- Ayer (yesterday) Pronounced: ah-yehr
- Hoy (today) Pronounced: oy
- Mañana (tomorrow) Pronounced: mah-nyah-nah

# Annex 2

Additional restaurant recommendations

(Not walking distance)

# Roma Condesa

- Tacos Orinoco
  - Internationally known tacos.
  - o Location: Alvaro Obregon 100, Roma Norte. Av Yucatán 3, Hipódromo Condesa.
  - o Ridesharing: 20 minutes
- Huset
  - o Seasonal cuisine. Vegan and vegetarian options available.
  - Location: Colima 256, Roma Norte.
  - o Ridesharing: 20 minutes
- Cafe Q Pedro Pablo
  - Mexican cuisine, international beers, and specialty coffee. Limited vegetarian options.
  - Location: Marsella 74, Juarez.
  - o Ridesharing: 15 minutes; Walking: 25 minutes
- Farina
  - o Italian cuisine. Vegetarian options available.
  - o Location: Chihuahua 139, Roma Norte.
  - Ridesharing: 15 minutes
- Sushi Shalala
  - Japanese food. Vegetarian options available.
  - Location: Tamaulipas 93, Hipodromo Condesa.
  - Ridesharing: 20 minutes
- Ojo de Maiz
  - o Vegan Mexican food.
  - o Location: Citlaltépetl 23 F, Hipódromo Condesa.
  - Ridesharing: 20 minutes

# **Narvarte**

#### Las Tlayudas

- o Regional food from Oaxaca and artisanal beers. Vegetarian options available.
- o Location: Luz Saviñon 1211-A, Narvarte Poniente
- o Ridesharing: 20 minutes

#### Tacos Manolo

- o Tacos Arab style but Mexican.
- Location: Luz Saviñón 1305, Narvarte Poniente
- o Ridesharing: 20 minutes

# Tacos Don Frank

- Various style tacos (beef steak, rib, tortas, quesadillas).
- o Location: Uxmal 341, Narvarte Poniente.
- o Ridesharing: 20 minutes

#### La Secina

- Mexican food with different regional dishes. Vegetarian options available.
- o Location: Anaxágoras 635, Narvarte Poniente
- o Ridesharing: 20 minutes

#### Mictlan

- Vegan Mexican food.
- o Location: Luz Saviñon 1354-local C, Narvarte Poniente
- o Ridesharing: 20 minutes

#### Coyoacan

#### La Coyoacana

- o Traditional Mexican canteen.
- o Location: Higuera 14, La Concepción.
- o Ridesharing: 40 minutes

#### La Calaca

- o Traditional Mexican restaurant. Vegetarian options available.
- o Location: Centenario 2, Del Carmen.
- Ridesharing: 40 minutes

### Centenario 107

- Vegetarian options available.
- o Location: Centenario 107, Del Carmen.
- Ridesharing: 35 minutes

# Moheli

- Vegetarian options available.
- o Location: Francisco Sosa 1, Del Carmen.
- o Ridesharing: 40 minutes

# Ecos del Mundo

- Vegan and vegetarian restaurant with meat options.
- o Location: Higuera 25, La Concepción.
- Ridesharing: 45 minutes