

# Genealogy Research Guide for Zacatecas, Mexico

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## History:

Although the State of Zacatecas entered as part of the Federal States of Mexico in 1823, it had indigenous people that date back to as far back as 200 A.D such as the Chichimeca tribes which included the Caxcans, Guachichils, Guamares, Huichols, Zacatecos and others. “Administratively, Zacatecas was considered a part of the New Galicia region.”<sup>1</sup> In 1540, the Spanish came to Zacatecas. They initially didn’t know the riches the soil of Zacatecas held. Eventually it was found to have a high concentration of Silver and a mining camp was soon set up. For the duration of the colonial period, the profits from the mining camp financed the religious and secular buildings within the cities.<sup>2</sup>

There were several wars that involved several states in Mexico. Some of them include the following:

Spanish Invasion	1519 – 1521
Mexican Indian Wars	1519 – 1933
Mexican War of Independence	1810 – 1821
Texas Revolution	1835 – 1836
Mexican – American War	1846 – 1848
Mexican Revolution	1910 – 1921
Cristero War	1926 – 1929
WWII	1942 – 1945
Mexican Drug War	2006 – Ongoing <sup>3</sup>

## State and Local Government:

The Governor is the highest authority within the State of Zacatecas. The state legislature consists of 21 members in a single chamber. There are 57 “...municipalities that comprise Zacatecas hold democratic elections for municipal presidents and council members every three years. Immediate re-election is not allowed.”<sup>4</sup>



Illustration: Map of Zacatecas, Mexico

## Judicial System:

“The Superior Tribunal of Justice is the highest court in the state. The state governor appoints its seven members with approval from the legislature. Only qualified attorneys with a proven record can be appointed to the court.”<sup>5</sup> “In addition, an electoral tribunal and lower courts also comprise the state’s judicial system.”<sup>6</sup>

## Repositories with genealogical collections and records:

### Resources in Zacatecas, Mexico

1. State Civil Registration Office  
Archivo General del Gobierno  
Placio del Poder Ejucutivo  
Plaza de Armas  
98009 Zacatecas, Zacatecas, Mexico

Birth, Marriage and death records from 1859.

2. Zacatecas State Government  
(Administrative Offices of the Government)  
Oficialia Mayor de Gobierno  
Av. Hidalgo 604 Centro Histórico  
CP 98000 Zacatecas, Zac..  
Tel. (492) 923 05 11; 923 95 12  
[omg@zacatecas.gob.mx](mailto:omg@zacatecas.gob.mx)  
<http://www.zacatecas.gov.mx>

To see information about the Governor of Zacatecas, [click here](#). To see the Directory of Municipalities, [click here](#). To see the Governor’s listing of Cabinet members, [click here](#). To see a directly of agencies and their contact information, [click here](#).

3. State Historical Archives:  
Archivo Historico del Estado de Zacatecas  
Jardin Juarez 1  
Municipio Guadalupe  
98600 Guadalupe, Zacatecas, Mexico

The material covering the years from 1557 to 1940 is recovered material after the city survived a fire. The documentation of this file is of legal, tax and notary regarding the City of Zacatecas.

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/tavera/mexico/zacatecas.html>

4. Municipality of Zacatecas  
Arnold Rodriguez, Alfredo Reyes  
Calz. Heros of Chapultec #11, 98000  
Tel. (492)922-2190

<http://municipiozacatecas.gob.mx>

To see a list of the City Council Members, [click here](#). So see information regarding the public services offered, [click here](#). Public services include Civil Registration – Birth & Marriages; Property, Public Works, comptroller & Canine Center.

“All Mexican states are divided into municipalities. Each municipality is administratively autonomous; citizens elect a "municipal president" (presidente municipal) who heads an ayuntamiento or municipal council, responsible for providing all the public services for their constituents. This concept, which originated after the Mexican Revolution, is known as a municipio libre ("free municipality"). A municipal president heads the ayuntamiento (municipal council). The municipal president is elected by plurality and cannot be reelected for the next immediate term. The municipal council consists of a cabildo (chairman) with a síndico and several regidores (trustees).

If the municipality covers a large area and contains more than one city or town (collectively called localidades), one city or town is selected as a cabecera municipal (head city, seat of the municipal government) while the rest elect representatives to a presidencia auxiliar or junta auxiliar (auxiliary presidency or council). In that sense, a municipality in Mexico is roughly equivalent to the counties of the United States, whereas the auxiliary presidency is equivalent to a township. Nonetheless, auxiliary presidencies are not considered a third-level administrative division since they depend fiscally on the municipalities in which they are located.

Municipalities are responsible for public services (such as water and sewerage), street lighting, public safety, traffic, supervision of slaughterhouses and the cleaning and maintenance of public parks, gardens and cemeteries.”<sup>7</sup> ()

5. Dioceses in Zacatecas, Mexico

Diócesis de Zacatecas  
Miguel Auza #219, Centro  
Zacatecas, 98000 MX

Weekend Mass Times – Sunday at 8:30am  
Adoration – Friday at 7:30pm

Tel: 52 229 932 202

Fax: 52 229 932 202

Website: <http://diocesisdezacatecas.org/> (In Spanish)

6. Mexican Dioceses Archives:

Here is a listing of the each diocese court (curia diocesana) along with how many parishes are found in each and to which Mexican states those parishes are a part. Those listed below all have parishes within the state of Zacatecas and are so highlighted in bold.

<p><b>Aguascalientes</b> Curia Diocesana Galeana 105 Norte C.P. 20222 Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes, Mexico Telephone: (49) 15-32-61 Fax: 16-33-12 Parishes: 69 51 in Aguascalientes 13 in Jalisco <b>5 in Zacatecas</b></p>	<p><b>Guadalajara</b> Curia Diocesana Liceo 17 Apdo. Postal 1/331 C.P. 44000 Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico Telephone: (91-3) 614-55-04 y 614-55-09 Fax: (91-3) 658-23-00 Parishes: 315 300 in Jalisco 5 in Nayarit <b>10 in Zacatecas</b></p>
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<p><b>Durango</b>  Curia Diocesana  20 de Noviembre 306 Poniente  Apdo. Postal 166 y 127  C.P. 34000 Durango, Durango, Mexico  Telephone: (91-18) 11-42-42 y 11-24-66  Fax: (91-18) 12-88-81  Parishes: 101  86 in Durango  <b>15 in Zacatecas</b></p>	<p><b>Administracion Central:</b>  Calle Belen 24 B,  Col. Hermosa Provenia  C.P. 63150 Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico  Telephone: (91-321) 3-88-80  Fax: (91-321) 6-41-46  Parishes: 16  8 in Nayarit                      3 in Jalisco  <b>1 in Zacatecas</b>                      4 in Durango</p>
<p><b>Zacatecas</b>  Curia Diocesana  Azua 219  C.P. 98000 Zacatecas, Zacatecas, Mexico  Telephone: (91-94) 22-02-22 y 22-23-42  Fax: (91-49) 22-12-56  Parishes: 93  <b>86 in Zacatecas</b>  6 in Jalisco  1 in San Luis Potosi</p>	

**Family History Centers in Zacatecas, Mexico**

**Zacatecas Mexico**

Heroico Colegio Militar #202  
Col. Sierra de Alicia  
Zacatecas, Zacatecas, 98050  
Mexico  
Phone: 52-492-922-7309

**Fresnillo Mexico**

Arteaga #408  
Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico  
Phone: 52--493-9323598

7. Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport:  
The Spanish Archives Portal is a project of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports for broadcast on the Internet from Spanish Documentary Heritage preserved in its network -  
[http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas/servlets/Control\\_servlet?accion=0](http://pares.mcu.es/ParesBusquedas/servlets/Control_servlet?accion=0)

## Resources in the United States

8. Family History Center:

**Address:**

35 North West Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84150  
1-866-406-1830

(You could also visit your local Family History Center, but there are some books that deal with Mexican genealogy that are only available at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, UT.)

**Hours:**

**Mon:** 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

**Tues-Sat:** 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

**Sun:** Closed

There are several public parking lots near the Family History Library. Parking fees vary from \$3 per day and up. Street-side, metered parking is also available and is free for two hours on Saturday and free all day on holidays.

You can find the map and directions [here](#), the library floor plans [here](#), the class schedule [here](#), and the holiday schedule [here](#).

The following collections can be searched on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). For those databases that don't have images, you can find the film you want and request it from your local Family History Center.

Mexico Civil Registration 1860 – 2000 – Zacatecas --

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https%3A%2F%2Fapi.familysearch.org%2Frecords%2Fwaypoint%2F11897397%3Fcc%3D1916240>

Mexico Church Records – Zacatecas --

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https%3A%2F%2Fapi.familysearch.org%2Frecords%2Fwaypoint%2F6805272%3Fcc%3D1410092>

Mexico, Zacatecas State Catholic Church Records (FamilySearch Historical Records) –  
[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mexico, Zacatecas State Catholic Church Records \(FamilySearch Historical Records\)](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mexico,_Zacatecas_State_Catholic_Church_Records_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records))

Mexico, State of Zacatecas Civil Registration (FamilySearch Historical Records) -  
[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mexico, State of Zacatecas Civil Registration \(FamilySearch Historical Records\)](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mexico,_State_of_Zacatecas_Civil_Registration_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records))

Mexico 1930 Census -  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://www.familysearch.org/searchapi/search/collection/1307314>

FamilySearch Wiki – Mexico - <https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mexico>

9. University of Texas Library:  
Collection of Historical Documents from Zacatecas, 1914-1986 - This collection includes papers, correspondence, financial documents, legal and official document and photographs of Venustiano Carranza, Adolfo Villaseñor Norman, and Jaime Torres Bodet. - <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utlac/00279/lac-00279.html>

Read how to access these documents [here](#).

10. Ancestry.com:  
Citizenship & Naturalization: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/category.aspx?cat=115>  
Border Crossings: From Mexico to U.S. 1895-1957 - <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1082>  
Spanish Research Center - [http://www.ancestry.com/learn/learningcenters/default.aspx?section=Research\\_EN\\_ES](http://www.ancestry.com/learn/learningcenters/default.aspx?section=Research_EN_ES)

### **Other helpful Published Resources:**

1. Research Guide: BYU Research Outline for Mexico -  
<http://net.lib.byu.edu/fslab/researchoutlines/LatinAmerica/Mexico.pdf>
2. Spanish Genealogical Word List - [https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Spanish\\_Genealogical\\_Word\\_List](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Spanish_Genealogical_Word_List)
3. Spanish Letter Writing Guide - <https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/a/aa/LWGSpanish.pdf>

4. Mexico and its Legal System - <http://www.llrx.com/mexicolegalsystem.htm>
5. Mexico Legal System Overview - <http://www.mexonline.com/lawreview.htm>

#### **Other helpful Online Resources:**

1. MexicoGenWeb - <http://www.worldgenweb.org/~mexwqw/>
2. MexicoGenWeb: Zacatecas - <http://www.worldgenweb.org/~mexwqw/zacatecas/>
3. National Hispanic Cultural Center - <http://www.nationalhispaniccenter.org/index.php>
4. Library of Congress: A Country Study: Mexico - <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/mxtoc.html>
5. The Mexican Revolution Study Guide - [http://www.phuhs.org/teachers/burtonjo/examreview\\_HTML/mexrevolution.htm](http://www.phuhs.org/teachers/burtonjo/examreview_HTML/mexrevolution.htm)
6. Mexico Church History - [https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mexico\\_Church\\_History](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Mexico_Church_History)
7. Catholic Marriage Records: Discovering an Immigrant's Place of Origin by George Ryskamp - [http://www.ancestry.com/learn/learningcenters/default.aspx?section=lib\\_RegistrosCatolicos](http://www.ancestry.com/learn/learningcenters/default.aspx?section=lib_RegistrosCatolicos)
8. Beginning Spanish Research by Peggy and George Ryskamp - [http://www.ancestry.com/learn/learningcenters/default.aspx?section=lib\\_ComoEmpezar](http://www.ancestry.com/learn/learningcenters/default.aspx?section=lib_ComoEmpezar)
9. Chicano Research Collection at Arizona State University - <http://www.asu.edu/lib/archives/chicano.htm>
10. About.com: Genealogy of Mexico – Tracing Mexican Ancestors - [http://genealogy.about.com/od/mexico/Mexico\\_Mxico\\_Mexican\\_Genealogy\\_Family\\_History.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/mexico/Mexico_Mxico_Mexican_Genealogy_Family_History.htm)
11. Cyndi's List – Mexico - <http://www.cyndislist.com/mexico/>

#### **Genealogical Societies:**

1. Hispanic Genealogical Society - <http://www.hispanicgs.com/>
2. Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research (SHHAR) - <http://shhar.net/>



3. Somos Primos - <http://www.somosprimos.com/>
4. Nuestros Ranchos: This group is for those researching in the states of Jalisco, Zacatecas and Aguascalientes of Mexico. - <http://www.nuestrosranchos.com/>
5. Hispanic Genealogical Society of Houston - <http://www.hispanicgs.org/societies.html>
6. Los Bexarenos Genealogical and Historical Society - <http://www.losbexarenos.org/index.html>
7. The Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York - <http://www.hispanicgenealogy.com/>
8. Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society - <http://www.rgvhispanicgenealogicalsociety.com/>
9. Genealogical society of Hispanic America - <http://gsha.net/index.html>
10. Colorado Society of Hispanic Genealogy - <http://www.hispanicgen.org/>
11. Los Californianos - <http://www.loscalifornianos.org/>

### **Professional Genealogical Services in Mexico:**

1. Genealogia de Mexico (In Spanish) - <http://www.genealogia.org.mx/>

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<sup>1</sup> Zacatecas, *Encyclopedia of Mexican States: Zacatecas* website. Retrieved June 18, 2012, from [www.nationsencyclopedia.com/mexico/Michoac-n-Zacatecas/Zacatecas.html](http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/mexico/Michoac-n-Zacatecas/Zacatecas.html).

<sup>2</sup> Zacatecas. (2112). *The History Channel* website. Retrieved June 18, 2012, from <http://www.history.com/topics/zacatecas>.

<sup>3</sup> List of Wars Involving Mexico, *Wikipedia* website. Retrieved June 18, 2012, from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_wars\\_involving\\_Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_involving_Mexico).

<sup>4</sup> Zacatecas, *Encyclopedia of Mexican States: Zacatecas*. Retrieved June 18, 2012, from [www.nationsencyclopedia.com/mexico/Michoac-n-Zacatecas/Zacatecas.html](http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/mexico/Michoac-n-Zacatecas/Zacatecas.html).

<sup>5</sup> ibid

<sup>6</sup> ibid

<sup>7</sup> Municipalities of Mexico, *Wikipedia* website. Retrieved June 18, 2012, from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipalities\\_of\\_Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipalities_of_Mexico).

Illustration:

Map of Zacatecas, Mexconnect.com website. Retrieved June 18, 2012, from <http://www.mexconnect.com/articles/3105-clickable-interactive-map-of-zacatecas-and-aguascalientes-states-mexico-zacatecas-city-fresnillo-jerez-la-quemada-sombrerete>