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.”¹ 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.²

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 – Ongoing³

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.”⁴
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.”

In addition, an electoral tribunal and lower courts also comprise the state’s judicial system.

Repositories with genealogical collections and records:

Resources in Zacatecas, Mexico

1. State Civil Registration Office
   Archivo General del Gobierno
   Placio del Poder Ejecutivo
   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
   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

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

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

http://municipiozacatecas.gob.mx

“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.” 

To see a list of the City Council Members, [click here](http://municipiozacatecas.gob.mx). So see information regarding the public services offered, [click here](http://municipiozacatecas.gob.mx). Public services include Civil Registration – Birth & Marriages; Property, Public Works, comptroller & Canine Center.
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/](http://diocesisdezacatecas.org/)  
(In Spanish)

6. **Mexican Dioceses Archives:**

Here is a listing of 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diocese</th>
<th>Curia Diocesana</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Parishes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aguascalientes</td>
<td>Curia Diocesana</td>
<td>Galeana 105 Norte</td>
<td>(49) 15-32-61</td>
<td>16-33-12</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>C.P. 20222 Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes, Mexico</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>51 in Aguascalientes, 13 in Jalisco, <strong>5 in Zacatecas</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guadalajara</td>
<td>Curia Diocesana</td>
<td>Liceo 17</td>
<td>(91-3) 614-55-04 y 614-55-09</td>
<td>(91-3) 658-23-00</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Apdo. Postal 1/331</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>300 in Jalisco, 5 in Nayarit, <strong>10 in Zacatecas</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Durango</strong></td>
<td><strong>Administracion Central:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curia Diocesana</td>
<td>Calle Belen 24 B,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 de Noviembre 306 Poniente</td>
<td>Col. Hermosa Provencia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apdo. Postal 166 y 127</td>
<td>C.P. 63150 Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.P. 34000 Durango, Durango, Mexico</td>
<td>Telephone: (91-321) 3-88-80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone: (91-18) 11-42-42 y 11-24-66</td>
<td>Fax: (91-321) 6-41-46</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: (91-18) 12-88-81</td>
<td>Parishes: 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parishes: 101</td>
<td>8 in Nayarit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86 in Durango</td>
<td>3 in Jalisco</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>15 in Zacatecas</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 in Zacatecas</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Zacatecas** | **Parishes:** |
| Curia Diocesana | 93 |
| Azua 219 | 86 in Zacatecas |
| C.P. 98000 Zacatecas, Zacatecas, Mexico | 6 in Jalisco |
| Telephone: (91-94) 22-02-22 y 22-23-42 | 1 in San Luis Potosi |
| Fax: (91-49) 22-12-56 | **86 in Zacatecas** |
| Parishes: 93 | 4 in Durango |

**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

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. 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) –

Mexico, State of Zacatecas Civil Registration (FamilySearch Historical Records) -

Mexico 1930 Census -


9. University of Texas Library:

Read how to access these documents here.

10. Ancestry.com:

Other helpful Published Resources:


Other helpful Online Resources:


Genealogical Societies:

2. Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research (SHHAR) - http://shhar.net/
4. Nuestros Ranchos: This group is for those researching in the states of Jalisco, Zacatecas and Aguascalientes of Mexico. - http://www.nuestrosranchos.com/

Professional Genealogical Services in Mexico:

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

5 ibid
6 ibid

Illustration: