

Tamaulipas



Tamaulipas is a privileged land, located in Mexico's extreme Northeast, with the Gulf of Mexico on one side and the U.S. border on the other. Its magnificent geographical location—the Tropic of Cancer cuts the state in two—gives it a variety of climates and ecosystems that go from jungle in the far south, cold mountain forests, to warm deserts in the north; from the immense lake mirrors and deep *cenote* sinkholes in the Huasteca region, to the beach fronts and sandy salt lagoons surrounding it.

With a history of millions of years, Tamaulipas bears noteworthy testimony of the continent's first land mammals and birds, as well as the millennia-old presence of human hunting and gathering clans, who gradually became farmers in the rocky shade



of the mountains and, thousands of years later, forged the first civilizations that have left behind the legacy of the ruins of their impressive architecture in the Huasteca region and the mountains.

During the colonial period, the state's rich natural resources prompted early attempts to control it, but the fierceness of the northern indigenous tribes made that impossible until the mid-eighteenth century. Once Mexico gained its independence, oil, cattle ranching and sea traffic sparked visible economic progress in the expansion of cities like Tampico, Matamoros, Tula and Nuevo Laredo, which also benefited by the U.S. border being established along the Rio Grande.

Voices of Mexico invites our readers to explore the pathways that reveal part of the history and riches of Tamaulipas. **MM**



Photos by Elsie Montiel

