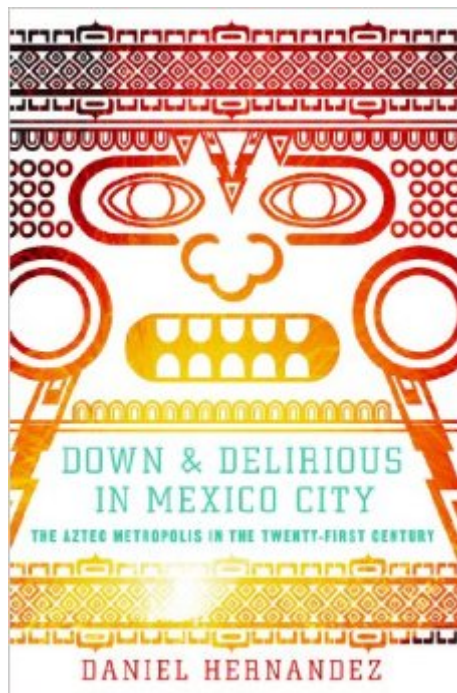


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# Down And Delirious In Mexico City: The Aztec Metropolis In The Twenty-First Century



## Synopsis

MEXICO CITY, with some 20 million inhabitants, is the largest city in the Western Hemisphere. Enormous growth, raging crime, and tumultuous politics have also made it one of the most feared and misunderstood. Yet in the past decade, the city has become a hot spot for international business, fashion, and art, and a magnet for thrill-seeking expats from around the world. In 2002, Daniel Hernandez traveled to Mexico City, searching for his cultural roots. He encountered a city both chaotic and intoxicating, both underdeveloped and hypermodern. In 2007, after quitting a job, he moved back. With vivid, intimate storytelling, Hernandez visits slums populated by ex-punks; glittering, drug-fueled fashion parties; and pseudo-native rituals catering to new-age Mexicans. He takes readers into the world of youth subcultures, in a city where punk and emo stand for a whole way of life—and sometimes lead to rumbles on the streets. Surrounded by volcanoes, earthquake-prone, and shrouded in smog, the city that Hernandez lovingly chronicles is a place of astounding manifestations of danger, desire, humor, and beauty, a surreal landscape of cosmic violence. • For those who care about one of the most electrifying cities on the planet, *Down & Delirious in Mexico City* is essential reading • (David Lida, author of *First Stop in the New World*).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

You think you live in the coolest city in the world? Well you don't, unless, of course, your name is Daniel Hernandez. Hernandez has been living in Mexico City for the past three years and in *Down and Delirious in Mexico City* he takes us on a dizzying tour of the city. A city so crowded with people (8.84 million and counting) that it is, literally, sinking into the ground, surrounded by volcanoes,

perpetually shrouded in smog and historically steeped in violence that, even today, it cannot escape. Hernandez takes us with him on a religious pilgrimage to the Virgen de Guadalupe on her feast day, inside exclusive parties in the city's burgeoning fashion scene and punk rock parties in surrounding neighborhoods that end in full on rumbles. *Down and Delirious in Mexico City* describes a city that is, at the same time, dangerous, exciting, violent, modern, historical, spiritual and restless. Hernandez's background as a journalist serves him well here whether he's at a protest march in support of emos or randomly catching the daily flag ceremony that demands solemnity from the people passing through the *ZÃ* calo. This book will make you wish that you lived in Mexico City and glad that you don't.

Being a native of this mega dynamic city, I was curious to read what someone who only lived there for a few years before writing about it had to say. In all honesty, it is an excellent expression about the city. I always found it impossible to describe my city to people abroad, to the point where I completely gave up trying to, simply because people have certain projections based on what they hear and see in movies and media, and no matter how much detail you describe, the box into which the city (and country) has been put is too thick to break down. I find that Mexico is particularly hard to describe because of its proximity to the U.S., it is overshadowed, yet it is culturally so distant, and very much misunderstood outside the country. Brazil or Panama are probably not as shockingly surprising to first time visitors as Mexico City is. Likewise Mexico is seen very differently in the rest of the world than it is in North America, mainly because of the migration issue. I recommend the book, better yet as you are traveling in the former Tenochtitlan metropolis. It will put some things into perspective, which, unless you plan on living there, you will not have time to personally experience. Viva la capital!

I am an American who lives in MÃ©rida, Mexico and I bought this book as I am considering moving to Mexico City. I did not want a guide book, but rather a book that speaks more to cultural issues and what it is like to LIVE in Mexico City. This book delivered. Though it is not particularly deep nor philosophical, I found it to be a good starting point about the city and it's people. And for those like me, who want to read more, the author gives some references in the form of blogs, websites and books that he used as secondary materials. The book does tell much about a wealthy person's way of life. The first-person narratives are about the author's interactions with punk rockers, emos, fashionistas, partiers and the like. But it is written by a young man who is just starting out. It reflects his experiences and what he was interested in and had access to, not what you or I might want. The

book drags a bit, here and there, and some chapters had me saying, "So what?" but overall I enjoyed it. It takes courage to live and work in another country and to write about it. And to me, that made this an inspiring book. All in all, I feel like I have a much better feel for Mexico City and my next trip there will be greatly enriched by *Down and Delirious in Mexico City*. I look forward seeing what else this author comes up with in the future.

"*Down and Delirious*" is a lush and nuanced account of a multi-layered, fascinating, society. Hernandez writes with a voice that is unique and personable, not to mention, knowledgeable. He makes the material pop with his narrative style. The book is informative, but more importantly, enjoyable. I look forward to more from Daniel Hernandez.

If you are not familiar with Daniel Hernandez then you should be! This book is rad, I felt transported at every moment to the time and place he was writing about, all revolving around different scenes in Mexico City. As one who is always daydreaming of traveling, these pages made for a vivid vicarious experience. Check his work with Vice, and his most entertaining and informative Vice Munchies videos. You can also follow him on twitter @longdrivesouth.

*DOWN & DELIRIOUS IN MEXICO CITY* immediately transports you to the streets and cafes, festivals and street protests, and to the art and music scenes, of present day Mexico City--one of the most fascinating and dynamic cities in the world. Hernandez, who is as insightful as he is adventurous, and who is figuring out his own cultural identity along the way, proves to be the perfect guide. Highly recommend this terrific book.

awesome book for CDMX background info. its a bit out of day 2007 / 2008 but... relevant background nonetheless. A fun read prior or during your trip. Mr. Hernandez has a great writing style, kept me coming back for more.

*Down and Delirious in Mexico City* is a must read. With its witty antidotes and insightful stories, it gives the reader a inside look into the vast world of Mexico City and surrounding areas. I read this book and could not get enough. I thought the stories were very interesting and were packed full of history, but not in a boring traditional way. The author's way of writing is refreshing and enjoyable. This book is in the top 5 books I have read in 2011 and probably 2010 as well. Go and buy a copy today! You will love it!

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