Nayarit, Mexico Genealogy

Mexico ➡ **State of Nayarit**

Guide to **State of Nayarit ancestry, family history and genealogy:** birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, parish registers, and military records.

Mexico Online Genealogy Records	Ask the Community

Mapa Nayarit

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Most of your genealogical research for Nayarit will be in two main record types: civil registration and church records. This article will teach you methods for locating and searching these two record groups.

History

Nayarit was encountered on the western coast by the Spanish invaders in 1500, the cultures were descended from these original Aztatlán settlements and other Classic stage cultures who had merged with them.
Spaniards took the region with considerable brutality, causing the indigenous inhabitants to revolt, in what was later referred to as the Mixtón War. After almost two centuries of resistance, the last independent Cora communities were incorporated into Spanish administration by force in 1722. In 1824, in the first constitution of the Mexican republic, Nayarit was thought to be a part of the state of Jalisco. During the second half of the 19th century, Nayarit was one of the most turbulent territories in Mexico. The population was in open revolt, demanding access to land. Nayarit was one of the last territories admitted as a state of the Mexican federation, which occurred on May 1, 1917.
[1] (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nayarit)

Municipalities of Nayarit

Municipalities of Nayarit State

- Acaponeta
- Ahuacatlán
- Amatlán de Cañas
- Bahía de Banderas
- Compostela
- El Nayar
- Huajicori
- Ixtlán del Río
- Jala
- La Yesca
- Rosamorada
- Ruiz
- San Blas
- San Pedro Lagunillas
- Santa María del Oro
- Santiago Ixcuintla
- Tecuala
- Tepic
- Tuxpan
- Xalisco

How to Find the Town of Origin in Mexico

To search the records effectively, you need to know the town in Mexico where your ancestor lived. For a checklist of sources to search for that information, use **Mexico Locating Place of Origin.**

Also, see these two online classes:

- **U.S. Hispanic Immigrants: Finding their Place of Origin** (https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/lessons/u-s-hispanic-immigrants-finding-their-place-of-origin)
- **U.S. Hispanic Immigration** (https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/lessons/u-s-hispanic-immigration)

Civil Registration

- Civil registration records are government records covering birth, marriage, and death. They are an excellent source of names, dates, places, and relationships.

- Civil authorities began registering births, marriages, and deaths in 1859, and most individuals who lived in Mexico after 1867 are recorded. Because the records cover such a large percentage of the population, they are extremely important sources for genealogical research in Mexico. Initially, the Mexican populace, accustomed to registering its vital events with the local parish church, opposed the register. It was not until the republic was restored in 1867 that civil registration was vigorously enforced.

Find the Municipality for Your Town

- You will need to know the **town where your family lived** and to which **municipio** the town belonged. This **gazetteer** (http://cdigital.dgb.uanl.mx/la/1080011597_C/1080011597_C.html) will help you find the municipio level for your town.

1. Online Digital Records for Civil Registration

For many localities, digital copies of civil registration can be searched online:

- **1868-2001** Mexico, Nayarit, Civil Registration, 1868-2001 (https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1916242) at FamilySearch - How to Use this Collection; index and images
- **1868-1931** Nayarit, Mexico, Civil Registry, Births, 1868-1931 (https://search.ancestry.mx/search/db.aspx?dbid=60402) at Ancestry - index & images ($),
- **1868-1959** Nayarit, Mexico, Civil Registry, Marriages, 1868-1959 (https://search.ancestry.mx/search/db.aspx?dbid=60452) at Ancestry - index & images ($),
- **1868-1987** Nayarit, Civil Registry, Deaths, 1868-1987 (https://search.ancestry.mx/search/db.aspx?dbid=60481) at Ancestry - index & images ($),

Ancestry.com/mx

- Civil records of birth of Mexico, 1859-varies (https://search.ancestry.mx/search/group/mexicocivilbirth), index and mages($)
- Civil marriage records of Mexico, 1859-varies (https://search.ancestry.mx/search/group/mexicocivilmarriage), index & images ($)
- Civil death records of Mexico, 1859-varies (https://search.ancestry.mx/search/group/mexicocivildeaths), index & images ($)
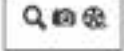
"Nascimientos" are births. **Matrimonios** are marriages. **"Defunciones"** are deaths.

2. Microfilm Copies of Civil Registration Records in the FamilySearch Catalog

If the locality and time period you need are not included in the online records, the next step is to find them in the microfilm collection of the FamilySearch Library. Currently, they are being digitized, and plans are to complete that project by 2020. Check back occasionally to see if your records have become available. In the meantime, some of them might be available at a **FamilySearch Center** (https://www.familysearch.org/help/fhcenters/locations/) near you.
To find a microfilm:

a. Click on this link to see a list of **records for Mexico, Nayarit** (https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&placeId=177861&query=%2Bplace%3A%22Mexico%2C%20Nayarit%22%20%2Bavailability%3A%22Family%20History%20Library%22).

b. Click on **"Places within Mexico, Nayarit"** and a list of towns and cities will open.

c. Click on the **town or city** you wish to search.

d. Click on **"Civil Registration"** topic. Click on the blue links to specific record titles.

e. Choose the correct **event and time period** for your ancestor.

f. Some combination of these icons will appear at the far right of the microfilm listed for the record. . The magnifying glass indicates that the microfilm is

indexed. Clicking on the magnifying glass will take you to the index. Clicking on the camera will take you to an online digital copy of the microfilm.

3. Writing for Civil Registration Certificates

If the records are not online, and you do not have ready access to the microfilms, civil registration records in Mexico can be obtained by writing to the local civil registry in the municipality. This is particularly true for more recent records, which are covered by privacy laws. Relatives are allowed to request recent records for genealogy purposes. Civil officials will generally answer correspondence in Spanish. Your request may be forwarded if the records have been sent to state archives. ***This method is not always reliable. Officials might or might not respond.***

- Each state now has a central civil registration office to which you can write for information. The address of the state civil registration office for the Nayarit is:

Dirección Estatal del Registro Civil
Palacio de Gobierno
Calle México y Abasolo, Planta Baja, Centro
Tepic, Nayarit CP 63000
Tel (311) 216-8981 y 212-1225

- Civil Registration online (http://www.nayarit.gob.mx) This site is in Spanish. Use a translation service such as Google Translate (http://translate.google.com/) or open the site in a browser such as Google Chrome (http://google.com/chrome) to translate the page.

- You can also write to the local town registrar. Write a brief request in Spanish to the proper office using this address as a guide, replacing the information in parentheses:

Oficino del Registro Civil

(postal code (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_postal_codes_in_Mexico)), (city), Nayarit

Mexico

- **Find the Mexico postal code here.** (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_postal_codes_in_Mexico)

Send the following:

- Money for the search fee, usually $10.00
- Full name and the sex of the ancestor sought
- Names of the ancestor's parents, if known
- Approximate date and place of the event
- Your relationship to the ancestor
- Reason for the request (family history, medical, and so on)
- Request for a photocopy of the complete original record

Write your request in Spanish whenever possible. For writing your letter in Spanish, use the translated questions and phrases in this Spanish Letter-writing Guide. (https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/images/a/aa/LWGSpanish.pdf)

Church Records

Although civil registration records are an important source for genealogical research in Mexico, many births, marriages, and deaths were never recorded by civil authorities; therefore, you must use church records to supplement this genealogical source.

The vast majority of Mexicans were Catholic and were registered in entries for baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials in the local church records. Often two and sometimes three generations are indicated in the registers, with personal information on the family. Church records are the main source prior to 1850, when civil registration began. After this date one should search in both church and civil records, since there may be information in one record that does not appear in the other. For instance, the church records may only list the godparents, while the civil records may list the grandparents.

1. Online Digital Records for Church Records

For some localities, digital copies of Catholic church records can be searched online:

- **1596-1967** Mexico, Nayarit and Nayarit, Catholic Church Records, 1596-1967 (https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1883377) at FamilySearch - How to Use this Collection; index, not complete.
- **1600-1899** Guadalajara Dispensas (http://www.guadalajaradispensas.com/p/search-tips.html), marriage records for the Diocese of Guadalajara (includes most cities in the current state of Nayarit.)

Also at Ancestry.com (http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60025). images, incomplete($)

- **1560-1950** Mexico, partial list of baptism records, 1560-1950 (https://search.ancestry.mx/search/db.aspx?dbid=9297), index, incomplete($).
- **1556-1989** Mexico, partial list of marriage records, 1556-1989 (https://search.ancestry.mx/search/db.aspx?dbid=9299), index, incomplete($).
- **1680-1940** Mexico, partial list of death records, 1680-1940 (https://search.ancestry.mx/search/db.aspx?dbid=9298), index, incomplete($).
- **1560-1950** Mexico Baptisms, 1560-1950 (https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1473011) at FamilySearch - How to Use this Collection; index, incomplete.
- **1680-1940** Mexico Deaths, 1680-1940 (https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1473013) at FamilySearch - How to Use this Collection; index, incomplete.
- **1570-1950** Mexico Marriages, 1570-1950 (https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1473012) at FamilySearch - How to Use this Collection; index, incomplete.

Bautismos are infant baptisms, which are used for birth information. **Información matrimonial** are documents collected in preparation for a marriage. **Matrimônios'** are marriages. **Defunciones** are deaths. **Entierros** are burials'". Índice **is the index.**

2. Microfilm Copies of Church Records in the FamilySearch Catalog
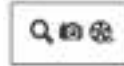
If the locality and time period you need are not included in the online records, the next step is to find them in the microfilm collection of the FamilySearch Library. Currently, they are being digitized, and plans are to complete that project by 2020. Check back occasionally to see if your records have become available. In the meantime, some of them might be available at a **FamilySearch Center** (https://www.familysearch.org/help/fhcenters/locations/) near you.

To find a microfilm:

a. Click on this link to see a list of **records for Mexico, Nayarit** (https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&placeId=177861&query=%2Bplace%3A%22Mexico%2C%20Nayarit%22%20%2Bavailability%3A%22Family%20History%20Library%22).

b. Click on **"Places within Mexico, Nayarit"** and a list of towns and cities will open.

c. Click on the **town or city** you wish to search.

d. Click on **"Church Records"** topic. Click on the blue links to specific record titles.

e. Choose the correct **event and time period** for your ancestor.

f. Some combination of these icons will appear at the far right of the microfilm listed for the record. 🔍📷🌐 . Clicking on the magnifying glass will take you to the

index. Clicking on the camera will take you to an online digital copy of the microfilm.

3. Writing to a Catholic Priest for Church Records

- **The Catholic Directory** (http://www.thecatholicdirectory.com/directory.cfm?fuseaction=show_country&country=MX)

- **Dondehaymisa.com** (http://parroquiasdemexico.com/), select the state from the drop-down menu "Estado".

Baptism, marriage, and death records may be searched by contacting or visiting local parish or diocese archives in Mexico. Mexico has no single repository of church records. Write your request in Spanish whenever possible. *This method is not always reliable. Officials might or might not respond.*

Write a brief request in Spanish to the proper church using this address as guide replacing the information in parentheses:

Reverendo Padre

Parroquia de (name of parish)

(postal code (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_postal_codes_in_Mexico)), (city), Nayarit

Mexico

- **Find the Mexico postal code here.** (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_postal_codes_in_Mexico)

When requesting information, send the following:

- Money for the search fee, usually $10.00
- Full name and the sex of the ancestor sought
- Names of the ancestor's parents, if known
- Approximate date and place of the event
- Your relationship to the ancestor
- Reason for the request (family history, medical, and so on)
- Request for a photocopy of the complete original record

Write your request in Spanish whenever possible. For writing your letter in Spanish, use the translated questions and phrases in this Spanish Letter-writing Guide. (https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/images/a/aa/LWGSpanish.pdf)

Reading the Records

- You do not have to be fluent in Spanish to read your documents. Genealogical records usually contain a limited vocabulary. Use this **Spanish Genealogical Word List** to translate the important points in the document. Handwriting skills are taught in **Reading Spanish Handwriting** (https://script.byu.edu/spanish-handwriting/introduction).

- Detailed instructions for reading Spanish church records, examples of common documents, and practice exercises for developing skills in translating them can be found in the **Spanish Records Extraction Manual.**

These guides are also helpful:

- "How to" Guides:
  - Inserting Special Characters
  - Catholic Church Records
  - Reading Spanish Handwritten Records
  - Reading Baptism Records
  - Reading Marriage Records
  - Reading Death Records

Tips for finding your ancestor in the records

- Births were usually reported within a few days of the birth by the father of the child, a neighbor, or the midwife. A search for a birth record should begin with the known date of birth and then searching forward in time, day by day, until the record is found. It might be found within a few days of the actual birth date, but in some instances, it might be weeks or months later. Birth, marriage, and death records are often indexed by **given name** or **surname.**

- The Catholic Church continued keeping records after the creation of the civil registration in 1859. Therefore two types of records are available for the marriages. Be sure to search both records. With the separation of church and state in Mexico, formalized by the 1917 constitution, civil authorities determined that for couples to be legally married they had to be married by the state. Because of the close affinity of the Catholic Church and the state authorities, this rule was not always followed, and church weddings were accepted by the state. Normally, however, couples were married by civil authorities prior to a church wedding. On rare occasions they were married civilly after a church wedding.

- Some municipios are small and therefore only have one civil registration office, but there are other larger *municipios* that have several sub civil registration offices that report to the main municipio office.

- Death records can be particularly helpful for people who may not have had a civil birth or marriage record but died during the period when civil registration had begun.

Search Strategy

- Search for the relative or ancestor you selected. When you find his birth record, search for the births of his **brothers and sisters**.
- Next, search for the **marriage of his parents.** The marriage record will have information that will often help you find the birth records of the parents.
- You can **estimate the ages** of the parents and determine a birth year to search for their birth records.
- Search the death registers for all known family members.
- Repeat this process for both the father and the mother, starting with their birth records, then their siblings' births, then their parents' marriages, and so on.
- If earlier generations (parents, grandparents, etc.) do not appear in the records, search neighboring parishes.