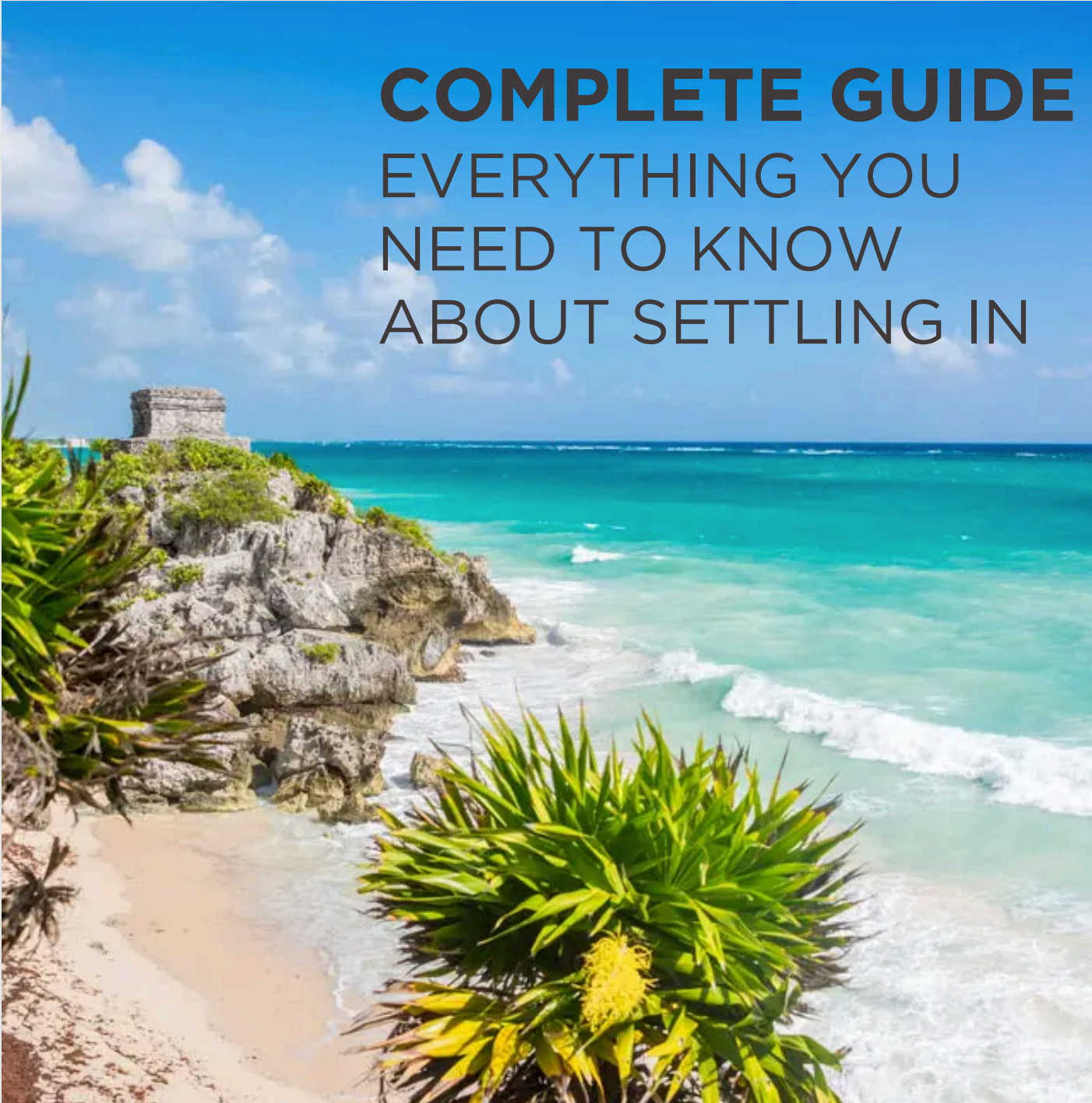


MEXICO

RIVIERA MAYA

J&M REAL ESTATE

JULIE CERQUEIRA
MIGUEL CERQUEIRA



COMPLETE GUIDE

EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT SETTLING IN

We are Julie and Miguel, a couple whose story is full of passion, dedication and know-how. Married for more than 20 years, we have devoted more than twenty years to the art of catering, successfully running our brasserie in a spirit of conviviality and excellence.

Building on this enriching experience, we have chosen to put our know-how at the service of real estate in this sunny country.

As a duo of real estate agents, we offer a unique approach by combining French elegance and refinement with Mexican warmth and hospitality.

Whether you are looking to buy or sell a property or property, do you want to come and settle in??..., we support you every step of the way with particular attention to detail and personalized service. We believe that real estate is much more than a transaction, it is a life experience. This is why we make it a point of honor to understand your needs and transform your project into reality.



J&M REAL ESTATE

JULIE & MIGUEL

THINGS TO KNOW....



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ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES



DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO SETTLE IN MEXICO

ARE YOU DREAMING OF A NEW LIFE UNDER THE MEXICAN SUN? HERE ARE THE ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INSTALLATION

Understanding the Different Types of Visas

Before packing your bags for Mexico, it is crucial to understand the different types of visas available to expats. The main types of visas include tourist visa, temporary resident visa and permanent resident visa. The choice of visa depends on the length of your stay and your planned activities in Mexico.

The tourist visa is generally valid for a maximum stay of 180 days and does not allow work. The temporary resident visa is ideal for those who wish to stay between six months and four years, while the permanent resident visa is for those who intend to settle down permanently.

1. The temporary residence visa

This visa is valid for four years, but it must be renewed every year. After four years, you will have to leave Mexico or apply for permanent residence.

Several reasons allow this visa to be issued:

- Exercise unpaid activities by a Mexican institution
- Study
- Make investments in Mexico
- Family reunification
- Work for a Mexican employer
- Invitation from a public or private organization or institution
- Persons holding a diplomatic, official or service passport.

The temporary residence visa gives authorization to the expatriate's spouse and children to stay in the country.

Please note, to work during your temporary residence in Mexico, it is essential to have a work authorization.

How much does it cost to apply for a temporary resident card?

There is normally a fee to apply for a temporary resident card. Although some purists apparently did not have to make the payment, the temporary resident card comes at a cost: in April 2023, it is set at 5328 Mexican pesos, or around 265 dollars.

2. The permanent residence visa

Expatriates can apply for a permanent residence visa once their temporary residence expires, i.e. after the 4 years.

This visa can also be obtained for family reunification. In this case, permanent residence is aimed at foreign nationals who are related to:

- A Mexican national
- A temporary or permanent resident in Mexico
- The holder of a Mexican visa targeting these migratory situations.

There is also a permanent resident visa for retirees. To obtain it, you must be able to prove your cessation of activity and demonstrate sufficient income.

The permanent residence visa confers the same rights to its holder as Mexicans. The right to vote and integration into the army are, however, not authorized with such a visa. However, it is possible to apply for Mexican citizenship after five years of residence.

You can find all the information on visas on the website of the consular section of the Embassy of Mexico in Washington <http://embamex.sre.gob.mx/eua>

Procedures common to any expatriation

Expatriation to Mexico also involves procedures common to any installation abroad:

- Language learning
- Termination of unnecessary banking, energy or insurance contracts
- Reporting your move to the administrations, including taxes.

On this last point, a bilateral convention exists between France and Mexico which avoids double taxation.

You should also remember to bring your useful documents:

- Diplomas
- Family record book
- Health record
- Birth certificates
- Marriage contract
- Etc.

⚠⚠⚠ All original documents, such as birth certificate, marriage certificate, marriage contract and diploma must bear the Apostille (official certification of authenticity easy to obtain before departure)_ and be translated into Multilingual or Spanish (for Mexico) ([ApostilleInt.com](https://www.apostilleint.com))

What is the Apostille?

The apostille is a formality intended to certify the veracity of the signature and the quality of the author of the document concerned and, where applicable, the identity of the seal or stamp with which this document is coated.

The apostille gives rise to the affixing of a stamp. The issuance of an apostille corresponds exclusively to a physical certification of signature and not to a certificate of the veracity of the content of the document nor of its conformity with French law.

Documents presented for apostillation must therefore bear in the original:

- the signature of the issuing authority;
- the status and name of the signatory;
- the seal of authority.

Where to submit your request?

Your request must be presented to the “**apostille**” service of the general public prosecutor's office of the **court of appeal** of the place where the signatory of the document or the authority having affixed a mention of registration or certification has its seat (for example, for a birth certificate drawn up in Libourne, you should contact the apostille service of the general public prosecutor's office of the Bordeaux court of appeal).

To find the court of appeal closest to your home, indicate your municipality or **your postal code in the directory of courts of appeal**

The request can be made on plain paper or on a form. Consult the form instructions. You must attach the document for which you are requesting the affixing of the apostille and a stamped envelope for the response.

Here is the link to the form for an Apostille request:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/replace-certify-docs/authenticate-your-document/apostille-requirements.html>

During the appointment, you will need to provide various documents such as your passport, passport photos, proof of financial solvency and an invitation letter if necessary. It may take a few weeks to process the application, so plan accordingly to avoid unnecessary stress.

“It should be remembered that a visa application is a relatively complex administrative process. It requires travel, the provision of numerous documents, the payment of fees and regular monitoring. Although it may seem tedious, this process is essential to make your project a reality”

If you wish to complete the procedures once in Mexico, you will need to go directly to the “**Instituto Nacional de Migración**” in your city. You can also complete certain procedures online.

.However, it is strongly recommended to go through a French-speaking law firm, on site, to help you with all the procedures, for making appointments (deadlines are often very long), saving time for you and also for the language barrier.

**⚠ It is very important to check that on each document issued here in Mexico, your first and last names are written identically, with the accent ready!! as on your original documents, as on your French passport for example
The comma that separates your first names must be there too!!**

it is possible (this happens regularly) that the Mexican administration makes a mistake in writing your complete identity...

Be aware that this will cause you problems later to be able to make your RFC or other request for papers, you will have to redo the entire procedure, with a loss of time and money too.

Work Permit in Mexico: What You Need to Know

To work legally in Mexico, you will need a work permit. This permit is usually linked to your temporary or permanent resident visa. Mexican employers must obtain authorization from the National Institute of Migration (INM) before hiring you

Obtaining the work permit requires additional documents such as an employment contract, proof of qualifications and a completed application form.

The process can take anywhere from a few weeks to several months, so it is important to prepare in advance.

“Canadians nationals, holders of a temporary residence visa issued within the framework of this Agreement by the Mexican authorities, may be issued a work permit, once they have obtained their temporary residence permit and after having applied for it from the National Migration Institute of the Ministry of the Interior of the United Mexican States, provided they meet the requirements provided for by the Mexican legislation in force. »

After obtaining your temporary residence card, you must therefore obtain a work permit to be able to start working for a Mexican employer or to be able to open your company. The steps to obtain this work permit for temporary residents in Mexico are explained on this page from the Mexican authorities:

<https://www.gob.mx/tramites/ficha/obtaincion-de-permiso-de-trabajo-para-extranjeros-residentes-temporales-en-mexico/INM795>

The documents needed to make your request

- Your valid temporary resident card.
- Proof of payment of fees. We give details about this further down in this chapter.
- A job offer from a natural or legal person indicating the activities you will do, the dates of your employment, the place of work and employer registration information.
- The form for requesting modification of the conditions of stay (Formato para solicitar trámite migratorio de estancia) completed and signed. You must complete this form online (we talk about it earlier in this file).
- Possibly a photocopy of your Mexican visa.
- You will also need a letter describing your job defined according to the INSEE equivalent occupational classification in Mexico:

the Sistema Nacional de Clasificación de Ocupaciones (SINCO).

Fees for the work permit application

There is normally a fee for applying for a work permit. These amount to around 196 dollars depending on the exchange rate, but you should not have to pay fees each time you change employers.

In the event of a change of employer, you should not have to redo all these steps, but you will still have to notify the INM of your change in situation.

Registration in the RFC: Why and How to do it (CONSTENCIA DE SITUACIÓN FISCAL)

The **RFC (Registro Federal de Contribuyentes)** is a tax identification number essential for working and paying taxes in Mexico.

This document contains key information about taxpayers, to identify and validate their economic activity, or about a company, to prove the constitution of the company and its legal registration. It must be applied for once you have obtained your work permit. Any expatriate who earns income in Mexico must register with the Servicio de Administración Tributaria (SAT).

Registration for the **RFC** can be done online or in person at an **SAT** office. You will need to provide your passport, your visa, proof of address (if you are renting, you will be able to take a gas or water bill, even if it is in the name of the owner, that is times) and complete the application form. Once registered, you will receive an **RFC** code which will be used for all your tax transactions.

⚠ **the deadlines for obtaining appointments at the S.A.T for an RFC or other request CAN BE VERY LONG....SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO WAIT more than a month or even two to obtain an appointment for a city like PLAYA DEL CARMEN.**

Practical Tips for a Successful Installation

Don't get lost in the administrative jungle!

Migración Riviera Maya <http://www.migracionrivieramaya.com/>
specialized law firm, supports you in all your procedures: temporary, permanent residence, work permit, RFC, etc...

It is an experienced team that guarantees rapid and efficient processing of your file, in full compliance with Mexican legislation. Benefit from personalized support and total peace of mind so you can concentrate on the essential: enjoying your new life in Mexico.

! For a successful installation in Mexico, it is essential to prepare well.

Learn some basics of Spanish to facilitate your integration and administrative procedures.

Learn about the different regions to choose the one that best suits your lifestyle and needs.

It is also important to familiarize yourself with the Mexican healthcare system and purchase appropriate health insurance.

Finally, don't hesitate to join expat groups for advice and support.

Good preparation will help you fully enjoy your new life in Mexico.

THE SECURITY

Safety in the Riviera Maya: A Protected Paradise





“

THE RIVIERA MAYA, A PARADISE REGION OF MEXICO, IS NOT ONLY A DREAM VACATION DESTINATION, BUT ALSO A SAFE HAVEN FOR EXPATS.

Are you considering moving to Mexico to enjoy its white sand beaches, its colonial cities, its tasty cuisine, its atmospheric streets, its much more relaxed lifestyle and an attractive cost of living? This is a great idea! But circulating stories of violence and conflicting safety information can sow doubt and leave you confused. Should we go or not? We lift the veil on the reality of security in Mexico and reveal to you the safest regions that best match your profile and your expectations so you can settle there.

“Although Mexico faces security challenges, particularly related to organized crime, it is important to nuance this image. Many parts of the country are safe and welcoming to expats. The Mexican government, as well as international organizations, are implementing actions to improve the security situation.

It is essential to learn about the safest regions and take the necessary precautions to live peacefully in Mexico.”

The Riviera Maya is often seen as a dream destination, but it's not just because of its stunning beaches and historic sites. The region has invested heavily in security measures to ensure the peace and quiet of its residents and visitors. Regular police patrols, advanced surveillance systems and collaborations with private security companies are in place to ensure a safe environment.

Community initiatives also play a crucial role

Neighborhood Watch programs and mobile apps like <https://guestassist.mx/> for reporting incidents have been launched, allowing residents to stay informed and respond quickly when needed.

VIGILANCE ZONES



Areas strictly not recommended (marked in red on the map).

It is strictly not recommended to travel to the following regions:

- **The State of Tamaulipas;**
- **The state of Guerrero**, with the exception of the resorts of Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo and Acapulco, (by air only);
- **The State of Colima**, except the city of Manzanillo, (by air only);
- **The south of the state of Michoacán**, from the city of Uruapán to the coast;

The cities of **Tijuana** and **Tecate** in Baja California Norte.

Areas not recommended (in orange on the map)

It is not recommended to travel to or stay in the following states unless absolutely necessary:

- **Baja California Norte** (except for the cities of Tijuana and Tecate, which are strictly not recommended);
- **Chihuahua;**
- **Sinaloa** (with the exception of the city of Mazatlán, under increased vigilance);
- **Durango;**
- **Nayarit;**
- **Zacatecas;**
- **Veracruz.**

Mexico finds itself at the crossroads of drug trafficking, between production areas in South America and the main consumer market in North America. This strategic geographic position has made the country a playground for drug cartels, who are waging a merciless war for control of drug routes. If homicides linked to drug trafficking represent a major problem, it is important to qualify this reality. You should know that most violence in Mexico is at lower rates than in a large number of countries. For example, there are 8 times more crimes committed in the United States than in Mexico.



“It is strongly recommended not to leave urban areas. Rural and mountainous areas, often under the control of organized crime, are places of drug production.”

“**The Riviera Maya** enjoys a reputation for relatively high security, in particular thanks to a reinforced security system including law enforcement and private security agents. Being “**a major economic hub**” for Mexico, the region benefits from particular attention in terms of security, in order to preserve its tourist appeal”.



“MEXICO IS A COUNTRY RICH IN CULTURE AND VARIED LANDSCAPES.

TOURIST AREAS ARE GENERALLY SPARED FROM THESE EVENTS.

BY CHOOSING POPULAR DESTINATIONS AND FOLLOWING BASIC SAFETY TIPS, YOU CAN FULLY ENJOY MEXICO WITHOUT WORRYING TOO MUCH.”

Respect the rules of common sense as you would in any other country, in Paris, New York or Montreal, and you will have nothing to worry about!



Nightlife

Avoid going out at late hours, especially if you are alone. Always prefer to be accompanied by someone when you go out late at night and stay on busy streets.

It is considered safe to go out at night in the tourist areas of the Riviera Maya (Cancun, Playa Del Carmen, Tulum,...). These places are very busy and well secured.

Common Sense

Avoid carrying too much money or carrying too many jewelry and valuable items. It is best to carry around with a small amount of money on you.

-Before leaving, take a photo or scan all your important documents: passport, license, Mexico travel insurance, etc. This way, in the event of theft, it will be easier to redo them.

At the Airport

As soon as you arrive at the airport, you may be approached by people offering to drive you into town. It is strongly advised to decline these offers, as they are often illegal taxi drivers charging exorbitant prices.

For safe and reasonably priced transport, go to the official information counters where you can find out about the different transport options available (official taxis, shuttles, buses). Remember to keep a watchful eye on your luggage until check-in to avoid any risk of theft."

Taxis

To avoid scams, systematically negotiate the price of the trip with the taxi driver before getting on board. Also make sure that the taxi is official by checking for a clearly visible registration number. If you have the possibility, opt for Uber: it is a reliable and economical transport solution, available in many Mexican cities such as México, Guadalajara, León, Guanajuato, Cancun, Los Cabos and Monterrey.

On the Roads...

The Mexican road network includes highways and more rustic secondary roads. They require more careful driving due to their sometimes degraded condition. When driving in Mexico, adjust your speed to road conditions, especially on secondary roads. Be especially vigilant for frequent potholes, speed bumps and weak road users such as motorcycles, cyclists and pedestrians. It is recommended to drive during the day and respect speed limits."

In some areas, many animals can cross roads. Always pay attention to this and avoid driving at night for this reason.

In the event of an accident in Mexico, stay calm and don't get upset. You should call the police at 911 **without moving the vehicles**, otherwise the insurance will not cover you.

Police and corruption

The police are very corrupt in Mexico and will not hesitate to arrest you for a more or less dubious pretext and extort a ticket from you during a traffic stop.

If corruption does exist within certain Mexican police forces, it is important not to generalize. The vast majority of travelers will not encounter any problems (and fortunately).

Even if this situation happened to you, corrupt police officers are not aggressive, they are only looking to get a ticket for a sometimes questionable offense.

Just in case, have a small bill (200 pesos) nearby and hide your bag under the seat. So the policeman will be satisfied with what you give him and let you go.

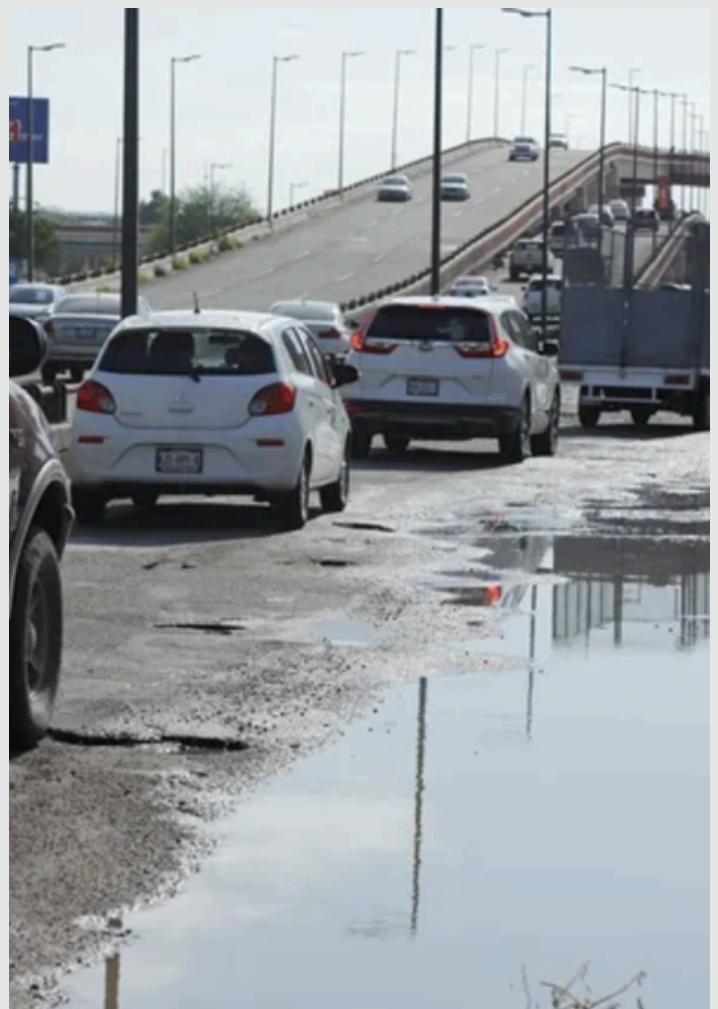
Even if it's annoying, consider it part of the adventure!!!



Speed control



A Tourist avenue



Potholes on Mexican roads

WHAT IS MEDICAL SUPPORT IN MEXICO?



Beyond its cultural riches and magnificent beaches, Mexico has established itself as a premier medical destination. Private clinics, equipped with the latest technology, offer a full range of medical services, a pleasant setting and personalized care, provided by qualified professionals. There are many preconceived ideas about the medical aspect in Mexico that it is bad. This is FALSE! There are good doctors, good care and excellent hospitals.

How does the health system work in Mexico?

Mexico has a public and private health care system.

The public system is primarily reserved for Mexican citizens, while foreigners can access private health care. Private hospitals and clinics offer higher quality care at a higher cost.

Private clinics in Mexico offer top quality health care with modern facilities and experienced doctors. They are mainly located in major tourist cities, such as Cancun, Playa del Carmen, Puerto Vallarta and Mexico City.

Medical care costs may vary depending on the city and clinic. They can be quite high, but they are still much lower than costs in the United States and Europe. It is important to note that costs can also vary depending on the type of treatment and the severity of the disease.

Prices for care and doctors' fees are completely free. Here are some examples of prices observed:

- **The equivalent of 63 \$ to 126 \$ for a specialist visit**
- **Around 524 \$ for a health check-up**
- **From 837 \$ for an MRI**
- **5233 \$ for a simple birth**
- **5233 \$ for appendicitis surgery**
- **Between 157 \$ and 210 \$ per night for a private room in a hospital.**

Mexico has qualified doctors and specialists in all branches of medicine, including cardiology, ophthalmology, dermatology, neurology, orthopedics and pediatrics. Most doctors and specialists are fluent in English and trained at the best medical schools in the country.

It exists here in Mexico, “**doctoralia**” <https://www.doctoralia.com.mx/t> to find your doctor, what city, what time....

The public health system in Mexico is primarily intended for Mexican citizens and is not recommended for foreigners. Public hospitals may be overcrowded and have limited resources and health care may not be of high quality. Foreigners are advised to favor private clinics for health care.

Choosing the Best Health Insurance for Expatriates

It is crucial for expats to take out private health insurance to cover high medical costs in the private sector.

Several insurance companies offer specific plans for expatriates, including coverage for consultations, hospitalizations, and medications.

It is recommended to compare different insurance options and choose the one that best suits your needs and budget

The different types of private health insurance in Mexico:

- **International health insurance:** This is generally the most comprehensive solution for expatriates. It covers medical costs worldwide, including in Mexico, and often offers assistance services (repatriation, translation, etc.).
- **Local insurance:** Specific to Mexico, it offers more targeted coverage for local care. It can be cheaper than international insurance but generally offers fewer guarantees.
- **Supplementary to the IMSS:** If you are affiliated to the IMSS (Mexican Institute of Social Security), you can subscribe to a supplement to improve your guarantees.

Insurance companies:

There are many insurance companies offering health coverage in Mexico. Some of the best known are:

International companies: Allianz, AXA, Cigna, etc. They generally offer contracts in English and French.

Local companies: GNP Seguros, Qualitas, etc. They offer contracts in Spanish and may be more competitive on price for long-term stays.

The costs:

Health insurance prices vary considerably depending on several factors:

- **Coverage:** The more extensive the coverage, the higher the price.
- **Age:** Older people generally pay higher premiums.
- **Health status:** People with pre-existing health problems may see their premium increase.
- **Standard of living:** Expatriates with a high standard of living generally take out more expensive contracts.

Tips for choosing your insurance:

- **Take stock of your needs:** What medical care might you need?
- **Compare offers:** Request several quotes from different companies.
- **Read the terms and conditions carefully:** Make sure you understand the warranties and exclusions.
- **Favor recognized companies:** Opt for companies with a good reputation and an extensive network of service providers in Mexico.

Call an insurance broker who will find you the best price offers based on your expectations by comparing each company.

The quality of coverage chosen depends on the following factors:

- **“Deductible”** (deductible): amount payable by the insured before the insurance begins to cover the care. One of the particularities is that the deductible can be annual (same operation as a franchise) or per act
- **“Coaseguro”** (coinsurance): percentage of costs that remains the responsibility of the insured for any act after paying the deductible (generally 10% of costs)
- **“Tabuladores de honorarios”** (table of fees): tables of the ceilings applied by the insurance company for each type of act
- **“Antigüedad”** (waiting periods): period imposed by insurance companies between subscription and coverage of certain pathologies or services. These periods generally vary from one to five years
- **“Emergencia en el extranjero”**: emergency cover abroad, the amount of which is limited.

Please note, however, that these private insurance policies do not cover routine preventive or routine care (visits, analyses). These insurances also only offer paltry assistance regarding maternity.

In addition, repatriation insurance and care provided in another country are not covered.

Choosing local private insurance can be an interesting option as an expatriate, mainly if your employer covers all or part of the contributions. If this is the case, it is nevertheless preferable to make sure that the guarantees of the contract suit you.

Access to medical care for expatriate children:

Expatriate children have access to medical care under the same conditions as adults. Pediatric consultations are available in public and private hospitals. It is important to choose health insurance that covers pediatric services and vaccinations.

Additionally, some international schools offer basic medical services on-site, which can be a benefit for families.



Cost of Healthcare: Doctors, Hospitals and Pharmacies in Mexico

Hospitalization costs in private hospitals can be high, especially for surgical procedures and specialized treatments. It is therefore essential to have good insurance coverage to avoid unexpected expenses.

The cost of medications in Mexico can vary greatly depending on the type of medication and the pharmacy. Generic drugs are often much cheaper than brand names.

Average cost of a doctor visit

On average, a medical visit with a general practitioner or specialist costs between 350 and 500 pesos (17 – 25 dollars). A home visit is about the same price.

Average cost of a hospital emergency room visit

The cost of health care varies greatly depending on the doctor, hospital or the nature and severity of the health problem.

The deposit to be paid in private hospitals to enter the emergency room is between 14,000 pesos (690 dollars) and 25,000 pesos (1235 dollars), depending on the type of care (treatment, surgery).

Cost of hospitalization in Mexico

A day of hospitalization in Mexico costs a little over 1000 \$.

A night of hospitalization in a single room costs around 3,000 and 5,300 pesos (148 – 261 dollars), depending on the type of room chosen.

Cost of medicines in Mexico

Medicines are generally quite expensive. Medicines made in Mexico are sometimes cheaper than in Europe or the United States. However, it is advisable to leave with 3 months of treatment if you are taking one, or to take out additional private health insurance in Mexico for expatriates.

Cost of a consultation with the dentist

A visit to the dentist in Mexico is around 400 – 800 pesos (19– 40 dollars). Installing a crown costs between 5,000 and 10,000 pesos (247 – 494 dollars).

	U.S.A	Mexico
	(private sector).	(private sector)
Generalist	100 \$	17 - 58 \$
Pédiatrics	200 \$	21 - 47. \$
Specialist.	210-400 \$	73 - 150 \$
Hospitalization day.	2873 \$	1050 \$
Dental implant	1200-2000 \$	480 - 660 \$
Childbirth.	15 000 \$	2930 - 5300 \$

Healthcare during your pregnancy in Mexico

If you are a legal resident of Mexico, you can access IMSS just like any other citizen and resident. However, IMSS only covers deliveries in public hospitals.

If you prefer to give birth in a private hospital, it is better to take out more comprehensive medical insurance for expats. This will also allow you to add a pregnancy and maternity insurance plan that covers prenatal tests, mother and child during the delivery process and the newborn for 30 days after delivery.

Cost of childbirth in Mexico

Motherhood is expensive in Mexico. You need to budget between 70,000 and 130,000 pesos (3460 and 6430 \$) for a natural birth and between 90,000 and 150,000 pesos (4445 and 7400 \$) for a birth with cesarean section.

Therefore, many women take out international health insurance.

Dental care in Mexico

Mexico is particularly renowned for its quality dental care, which is generally affordable even in the private sector.

For example, a deep scaling can cost an average of 200 pesos (around 12 dollars). This is also the reason why many travelers travel regularly to Mexico.

This is because most types of healthcare are cheaper there compared to other countries, including the United States and Canada. Most quality dental practices are located in large cities, but it is also possible to do your own research on the web and ask people you know for recommendations.

About medications

In Mexico, it is quite easy to obtain certain medications (such as antibiotics or painkillers) normally on prescription without consulting a doctor.

Note that insurance companies only reimburse prescription medications.

Pharmacies in Mexico



Mexican pharmacies are divided into two main classes:

Segunda class: Segunda class pharmacies are very common, both in large cities and in small ones. They only sell medicines without a prescription (which excludes psychotropic drugs, for example).

Primera class: Primera class pharmacies are fewer in number. You can get all prescription medications there.

In addition, many pharmacies have a small clinic. You can go there for a cold or food poisoning, for example. Most often, the doctor at the clinic charges nothing, or only 20-50 pesos. He prescribes medications available in the pharmacy. Prescription drugs made in Mexico are generally much less expensive.

What vaccines are required for Mexico?

To enter Mexico from Europe and North America, **no vaccination is required.**

You will not be asked for any document or certificate proving that you have been vaccinated against a certain disease when you go through immigration upon arrival.

On the other hand, for arrivals coming from a flight from a country where yellow fever is present, a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required.

There is no risk of malaria or yellow fever in the country, and other diseases such as dengue are extremely rare. However, for any trip abroad, it is advisable to be vaccinated against tetanus, diphtheria and hepatitis A and B in your country of origin.

Once you're in Mexico, you can also get vaccinated against rabies, tetanus or other diseases in case of an emergency, such as a dog bite. Many public clinics offer these vaccinations free of charge, even to foreigners. But be careful! You must first visit a doctor's office to get a recommendation on which hospital to visit.

Do you need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to go to Mexico?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries have required triple vaccination against COVID-19 to cross borders.

Mexico made the rather singular choice of leaving its borders open to all visitors, vaccinated or not, during the pandemic.

Vaccination against COVID-19 is not required to enter Mexico

What medicines to take to Mexico?

Before your departure for Mexico, I recommend that you see your general practitioner so that he can prescribe some **useful medications** in the event of a health problem there.

I myself always have a small **travel pharmacy** with me with medicines inside to deal with small ailments that might arise.

Don't hesitate to take with you:

- Paracetamol
- Medicines to treat stomach aches
- Medicines to treat nausea
- Medicines to treat diarrhea
- Antibiotics in case of bacterial infection

You can buy all these medications **locally** but finding a pharmacy when you need them can be complicated.

In addition, the language barrier can also be a barrier once you get to the local pharmacy.

Do not hesitate to have everything explained to you by your doctor or pharmacist before leaving for Mexico.

Also note that drug **prices are higher** in Mexico than in France.

How not to get sick in Mexico?

To avoid getting sick in Mexico, you should follow some hygiene rules such as:

💧 Do not drink tap water. Tap water is not drinkable in Mexico. Favor bottled water. They can be found in all grocery stores (Oxxo, Eleven 7, Go smart) and supermarkets (Chedraui, Soriana, Walmart) and in all formats.

🧼 Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water or hydroalcoholic gel before eating and after using the toilet.

🍖 Prefer cooked foods to raw foods. Cooking food eliminates many bacteria.

🐕 Do not touch stray animals on the street.

🧢 Protect yourself from the sun with a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.

☺️ Do not expose children to the sun during the day.

🦟 Wear mosquito repellent when you go to the forest or near bodies of water. (For visits to Cenotes for example)

What precautions should be taken with children in Mexico?

It is particularly important to protect children well from the sun, whether on the beach but also when visiting archaeological sites or nature reserves. The sun here is not the same as in France or Europe!

Avoid exposing children midday between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the UV index is at its maximum.

An anti-UV t-shirt is necessary in addition to a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen with an SPF 50+ index when you go to the beach.

Who to contact in case of a problem in Mexico?

If you have a health problem in Mexico, the first thing to do is to contact your health insurance who will direct you to the nearest hospital.

If you just want to contact a doctor, you can go to any pharmacy or clinic to get a diagnosis and a prescription for medication.

In case of a larger problem and for further assistance, you can contact your embassy in Mexico.

United states Embassy in Mexico

Paseo de la Reforma 305, Col. Cuauhtemoc, Del.

Cuauhtemoc Mexico 06500 Hidalgo, CDMX,

phone: +52 55 8526 2561

Canadian Embassy in Mexico

Schiller 529, Polanco, Polanco V Secc, Miguel Hidalgo,

11560 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico

phone: +52 55 5724 7900

TO RELOCATE.... WITH OR WITHOUT ITS PERSONAL EFFECTS?



Moving is no easy task. A move to the other side of the world is even less so. The idea of moving to Mexico is exciting, but an international move requires careful planning.

So that this new life is a success from the start, let's prepare together for your departure from France.

Here are some elements not to neglect.

Prepare Your Papers: Essential Administrative Procedures

When you move from France to Mexico, it is crucial to prepare your papers carefully to avoid any setbacks.

First of all, understand that you will absolutely need a visa to be able to stay in Mexico.

Without this, your trip to Mexico cannot exceed 180 days.

So, to live in Mexico longer, two options are available to you. The first is to apply for temporary resident status, the maximum duration of which is set at four years, and the second option is to apply for permanent resident status for an indefinite period.

To do this, contact the Mexican consulate in United states as quickly as possible: <https://www.gob.mx/sre/documentos/list-of-mexican-consulates-in-the-united-states?idiom=en>

In addition to the visa, make sure all your personal documents like passport, birth and marriage certificates are up to date. It is also recommended to translate certain official documents into Spanish to facilitate procedures on site. **(refer to the administration at the beginning of the guide)**

To do 6 months before your departure

Some formalities take time, others less. Here's everything you need to know (and remember) before you leave.

Anticipate school:

If you have children, remember to collect school records!!. You will be asked for admission, translated into Spanish, into their new school. (I tell you about it at the beginning of the guide)

For private education, you must contact the establishment directly. Registrations often take place in advance from January so don't wait to be there to find your child's school, do some research on the internet, there are a good number of international schools and don't hesitate to talk with them.

Anticipate the procedures at the consulate!!

MOVING CERTIFICATE:

This process must be carried out by the interested party **within six months following the issuance of the visa or residence card**. It is important to emphasize that the duration of the visa must be calculated from the date of issue. It is an official document given by the town hall of your municipality of residence on which you declare on your honor to transfer your main residence abroad; without it, you will not be able to move your belongings by container.

Any request for a moving certificate must be presented in four copies, each time including the original list of items.

Each of the four files must include the following documents:

1. Original and photocopy of passport;
2. Original and copy of the temporary resident card or permanent resident card or visa;

3. Moving list, signed on all sheets, including the full family name, domicile in Mexico on one side and domicile in France on the other. For electronic devices, the brand, serial number and model must be indicated

4. The costs relating to the moving certificate are payable only in cash with the additional amount.

Once the documents are complete, you must contact the consulate by sending all scanned documents to contactopar@sre.gob.mx. The Consulate will guide you to make the necessary corrections and will schedule an appointment for you.

Temporary residents will also need to provide:

- A sworn statement indicating their domicile in Mexico
- A sworn statement committing to taking all their personal effects when leaving the country;
- A sworn statement that the person concerned undertakes to notify the Mexican authorities of any change of domicile in Mexico.

⚠ The 3 certificates must be made in English and a version in Spanish for Mexico

Permanent residents are not required to provide the last two certificates regarding departure from the country and change of domicile.

Please note: The removal of the moving certificate will be done within two working days (from the date of acceptance of the file): no incomplete file will be admissible.

Useful information for moving to Mexico

If you are going to live in Mexico, it is possible to obtain a customs exemption if you already have temporary or permanent resident status. To benefit from this, you will need to present the following documents:

- detailed and signed inventory
- copy of passport
- certificate of change of residence (for example an employment contract or transfer order)
- proof of address
- application for free admission

Air Movers: An Option for Small Volumes

Air moving is a quick but expensive option, ideal for small volumes or valuable items. Air movers offer door-to-door services that take care of all aspects of transportation, from packing to delivery.

Moving your belongings by air freight:
is fast and efficient;

- offers short recovery times for your items;
- has easy delivery of your goods to their destination;
- is ideal for moving a limited volume of small boxes and essential objects;
- is necessary if the foreign country in which you are settling is far away and without a port.

Average prices for moving by plane range between 2,000 and 8,500 dollars for the transport of a volume of objects ranging from 100 to 1,000 kg. To see, they place your packages on pallets and you will pay the price based on the volume and total weight.

This type of transport has some annoying disadvantages such as:

- the cost and high rates of moving a large quantity of belongings,
- the strict and inflexible regulations of airlines for the transport of objects.

It should be noted, however, that **the price of this transport still remains competitive** compared to the shipping container option when it comes to **small volumes of goods to be transported**.

Numerous restrictions linked to the movement of goods may hinder your move abroad.

.

In fact, international moving by plane remains impossible for a certain number of specific goods. Find out before your departure and **plan the necessary formalities for transporting your belongings**.

Finally, the following items are prohibited on Mexican territory:

- narcotics or illicit substances
- antiquities and pre-Hispanic objects
- plants, fruits, vegetables or other organic substances
- pork, even canned
- weapons without a license.

In addition, **it is not recommended to bring valuable items or a new or used vehicle** due to local legislation. Furthermore, the current is different and your electrical appliances will operate slowly.

!? “Perhaps it will be more reasonable and wiser to bring only the minimum necessary and to buy everything once you get there.

Selling your furniture and objects before your departure will cost you less money and less stress to be able to recover them once you arrive in Mexico.”

Maritime Container Transport: Savings and Efficiency

Transport by sea container is the most economical solution for moving large volumes.

There are two main types of containers: 20 feet (33 m³) or 40 feet (67 or 76 m³), which you fill yourself or with the help of a professional mover.

This option is ideal for large-scale moves. It allows you to transport all your belongings in one go, but requires good organization and planning in advance.

The transport time is generally longer, ranging from a few weeks to several months.

With maritime transport, the international moving price can vary from 3,100 \$ to more than 15,000 \$ depending on the volume to be transported and the country of destination.

THE ADVANTAGES OF USING PROFESSIONALS FOR YOUR MOVE ABROAD

Choosing to contact international moving specialists allows you to benefit from numerous advantages. As experts, they provide you with advice and support you throughout your project. You have the assurance of rigor, mastery and respect for deadlines.

Choosing to use a moving company to move abroad means benefiting in particular from:

- Controlled logistics: your belongings are carefully packaged, protected, prepared for transport and handling. Your piano may have a tailor-made transport box, for example.
- Security throughout the moving service.
- Insurance: a declaration of value must be completed.
- Information on customs restrictions: moving professionals know the customs rules to respect (prohibited products, quantity to respect, quarantine, etc.).
- Handling of customs formalities: the moving company takes care of the documents to be completed and provided for each destination.

Your goods require specific packaging and protection, precise labeling, and a detailed packing list. You should know that some countries like Mexico ask for details of the items contained in each box as well as its value. International logistics documents are tedious to obtain and complete. **It will also be necessary to fill out the labels of each box or box in Spanish so that Mexican customs can have a complete translation of its capacity.**

Do not hesitate to make several comparative quotes before committing to a mover, prices can really vary depending on different packaging or other...

Going Through Customs: What You Need to Know

Going through customs is an essential step in your move. It is important to be familiar with Mexican customs rules to avoid any unpleasant surprises.

You will need to prepare a detailed list of all your goods transported and provide purchase invoices for valuable items. Certain taxes may apply depending on the nature and quantity of the imported goods, and inspections may be carried out by customs authorities.

Prohibited Items: What You Can't Carry

Knowing which items are prohibited from importing into Mexico is essential to avoid problems at customs.

It is absolutely forbidden to export antiquities and pre-Hispanic objects. For undeclared items, you risk a very high fine which exceeds the value of the item. It is prohibited to bring **plants, fruits, vegetables or any other organic substance** into Mexican territory.

Prohibited items include **illegal substances, firearms, explosives and certain non-prescription medications.**

Additionally, certain items such as **plants, fresh foods and animal products** may be subject to strict restrictions for health reasons. Inform yourself well before packing to avoid any confiscation or fine.



Miscellaneous recommendations

- Do not attempt to bring narcotics or illicit substances into or out of the country. The Mexican authorities are very strict.
- It is absolutely forbidden to export antiquities and pre-Hispanic objects.
- For undeclared items, you risk a very high fine which exceeds the value of the item.
- It is prohibited to bring plants, fruits, vegetables or any other organic substance into Mexican territory. Only canned foods are permitted, except those containing pork, in all its forms.
- Of course, all weapons are prohibited, apart from the specific permit.
- For any domestic animal that you wish to enter Mexican territory, you must present a document attesting to the good health of the animal, signed by a veterinarian and a certificate of vaccination against rabies less than six months old.

Drone: Can I come with my drone?



You will find at the following link all the regulations relating to the transport and use of drones in Mexico:

<http://www.sct.gob.mx/transporte-y-medicina-preventiva/aeronautica-civil/3-servicios/35-rpas-drones/>

It is mandatory to register your **RPAS**

Instructions for obtaining an **RPAS** registration issued by the Mexican Aeronautical Registry, a dependency of the Federal Civil Aviation Agency (AFAC).

Online pre-registration:

1. Complete form **ANNEX “K” REGULATIONS:**
REGISTRATION OF RPAS BY THE RPAS OPERATOR

2.If you are an individual, you must prove your identity by attaching a scanned copy of your official identity document.

3.If you are a legal entity, you must prove your identity by attaching a scanned copy of the certificate of incorporation and the power of attorney of the legal representative.

4. Check the data provided (waiting time to get your registration depends on it).

5. Prepare a scanned copy of the documentation that accredits ownership or possession of your PSAS (.pdf, .docx, .jpg or .png format).

6. Send an email to rpas@sct.gob.mx to request the registration of a PSAS, attaching the complete form as well as the printed version signed by you and adding your Federal Register of Taxpayers with homoclave, if you have one; as well as scanned copies of the documents which attest to the ownership or possession of your PSAS, and in each case, that indicated in points 2 and 3 of these instructions.

You will receive a response after your submission within 10 working days following the date of registration of your application.

Use the space provided in your email to mention if you had any difficulties or problems completing the form. Indicate the comments that you were unable to add, specifying which question on the form they refer to.

Going to Mexico with your pet



Traveling with a pet (dog or cat) to Mexico involves respecting several formalities to enter Mexican territory. This practical guide details all the steps for bringing a dog or cat to Mexico, customs checks and health requirements.

What are the formalities for traveling with your dog to Mexico?

Dogs arriving in Mexico must be accompanied by **an export health certificate** (accompanied by a copy), made by your veterinarian.

This health certificate must **be dated less than 10 days before departure** and must mention:

- Veterinarian professional registration number
- Owner's original name and address and address in Mexico
- Animal identification number
- Date of last rabies vaccination and its validity
- Certification that the animal has undergone preventive internal and external antiparasitic treatment less than 6 months before importation and that it is free of all parasites
- Certificate of good health

The only compulsory vaccination for your animal to enter Mexican territory is the Rabies vaccine (anti-rabies treatment).

It must be done within 10 days before departure.

Your dog or cat must also have an electronic identification chip, the tattoo is not enough, and must absolutely have its American identification passport issued by its doctor.

Please note that if your animal is less than 3 months old, it will not be able to travel.

TRANSPORT BY PLANE

To be accepted in the cabin, dogs must not exceed 8 kilograms (container included). This means that only small dogs and cats can travel in the cabin, in a closed bag or transport box placed at the feet of their owner.

Remember to register your pet according to the flight company and don't forget to get their ticket. (Please note that even if the animal travels at your feet under the front seat, it will cost you a special pet reservation ticket: 150 dollars for a dog if you travel with American airline for example).

So, depending on the size of your dog, it may have to travel in the hold of the plane. And in this case, the transport rules are very strict, starting with the choice of the transport crate. These rules have been designed to ensure maximum comfort for your dog, but also to reinforce his safety when he is in his cage, whether outside the plane or in the hold. Purchasing a cage that meets standards therefore guarantees that your animal will be accepted on board the plane.

Which transport crate for your pet?



The rigid transport cage with front opening

There are many models of dog transport crates on the market. But only certain cages are accepted in the hold of a plane. Accepted products must comply with a very specific standard: the IATA (International Air Transport Association) standard. This standard establishes guidelines to ensure the safety and welfare of animals during air transport.

In practice, this means that:

- The crate shell must be made of rigid plastic only.
- If the crate has wheels, they must be removed. If they are retractable, they must be blocked with adhesive tape.
- The door must have a centralized locking system which simultaneously locks the 2 closing points located at the top and bottom of the door.
- Door hinges must extend at least 1.6 cm beyond the horizontal edge above and below the door.
- The 2 parts of the hull must be held together by screws and bolts
- The carrier should have vents on all sides.
- The animal must be able to stand upright, with its head fully erect, without touching the top of its crate. He must also be able to turn around and lie down comfortably.
- The crate must have a double bowl for water and food. This must be empty, fixed and accessible without opening the box.

On the web or in pet stores, you will find transport crates that comply with **IATA** standards. The ideal is to have your dog try the cage to be sure you are choosing a product that is the right size. Otherwise, you can also take measurements of your pet and purchase it online. **IATA** standard shipping crates can also be purchased directly from some airlines.

Where to buy your dog's cargo crate?

On the **web or in pet stores**, you will find transport crates that comply with IATA standards. The ideal is to have your dog try the cage to be sure you are choosing a product that is the right size. Otherwise, you can also take measurements of your pet and purchase it online. IATA standard shipping crates can also be purchased directly **from some airlines**.

Which airlines accept dogs?

Fortunately, some companies make it easy for you to bring your pet, whether it's a cat or a dog, with the rest of your family to Mexico.

You have the case at AIR CANADA, XL AIRWAYS, AEROMEXICO, AIR CARAIBES, IBERIA, BRITISH AIRWAYS,

Remember that when traveling, travel sickness can also affect your pet, so it is advisable to ask your veterinarian for appropriate treatment before departure because some flights can make you feel nauseous.

Reminder

If your dog travels in the cabin, it will be weighed just like your cabin baggage. If the total weight of the cage and the dog exceeds the authorized limit, it will be sent in the hold. In this case, the crate must comply with IATA (International Air Transport Association) standards.

Once you arrive in Mexico...

Once you arrive on Mexican territory, after disembarking from the plane at the airport, you will have to pass a document check at the **OISA (Oficinas de Inspección de Sanidad Agropecuarias)**

Present the original and a copy of the health certificate issued by your veterinarian. the issue date must be less than 15 days old.

Physical inspection of pets at OISA

OISA agents will check the conformity of the physical description established in the health certificate with your pet (sex, breed, color), as well as its state of health and the absence of external parasites. If external parasites are present in the pet, you must have the corresponding treatment applied by a veterinary zootechnician, at the expense of the importer.

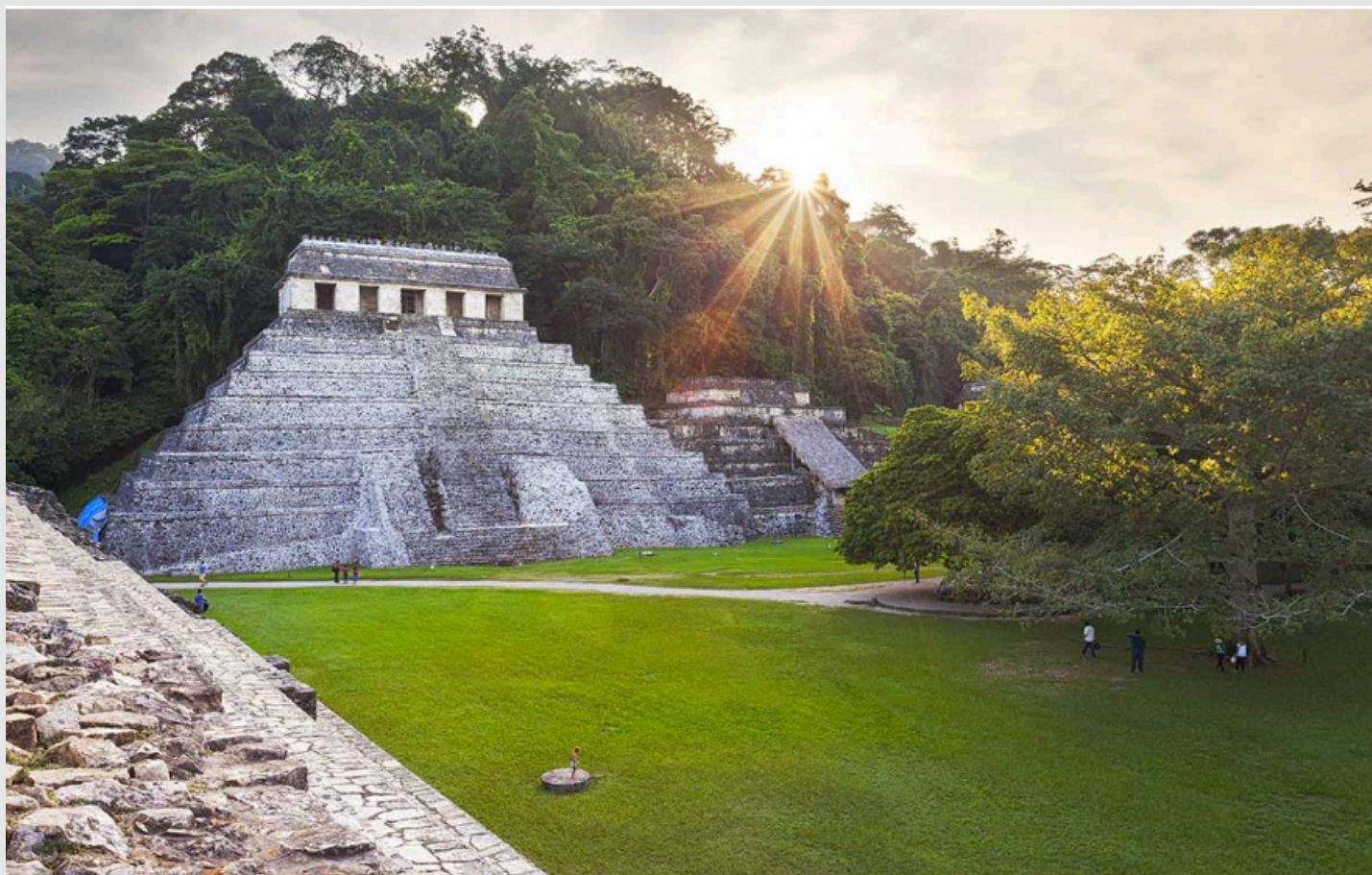
Issuance of the zoosanitary certificate for import to OISA

Once the preceding provisions have been executed, a zoosanitary certificate for import will be issued by official agents of **OISA**.

Is there a quarantine to enter Mexico?

There is no quarantine to enter the country with your dog unless they do not have all their documents and vaccinations in order. In this case, he will have to stay at the **OISA** until a veterinarian examines him, certifies his good health and administers an anti-rabies vaccine as well as preventive treatment against parasites. All this is the responsibility of the owner.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION ON MEXICO



PRACTICAL INFORMATION ON MEXICO

If you are a permanent resident of the following countries: Canada, United States, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, one of the Schengen Area countries and one of the Pacific Alliance member countries, you do not need a visa to enter Mexico for tourism, business or transit purposes. All people in this category must present their valid and unexpired resident card as well as their passport. Both documents must be valid for the duration of your stay in Mexico.

If you have a valid, unexpired visa from the following countries: Canada, United States, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and one of the Schengen Area countries, you do not need a visa to enter Mexico for tourism, business, or transit purposes. All people in this category must present their valid, unexpired visa and passport. Both documents must be valid for the duration of your stay in Mexico.

If the U.S. visa on your passport or resident card has expired but you have an official document or form proving your legal status in the United States, you must apply for a Mexican visa at this consulate (please see: <https://visasconwas.youcanbook.me/>). All EAD cards, I-797 A forms, Advance Parole forms, I-20 OR DS-2019 are not accepted for entry into Mexico.

Customs

You can bring with you a carton of cigarettes, 25 cigars or 200 gr. tobacco, three liters of alcohol and three bottles of wine per person over 18 years old, your tennis, golf and scuba diving equipment. A camera, a video camera, books, medicines with their prescription. Everything is exempt from customs duties.

If customs officials find undeclared items, they can impose severe fines and penalties.

Currently, all food imports are strictly prohibited.

Please note: If you are carrying more than 10 thousand US dollars or the equivalent in currency, cash, checks, money orders or monetary instruments, you must declare the excess amount. Failure to make this declaration is a violation of Mexican law and often results in detention.

Time zones

Mexico from Cancun to Mexico City to Sinaloa is spread over 3 time zones. These correspond, as in the United States, to the time change from the East Coast to the West Coast.

When it's 8am in New York, it's 8am in Cancun

when it is 8am in New York, it will be 7am in Mexico City (center) and 6am in Sinaloa

Driving

In general, the traffic laws in Mexico are approximately uniform between states and very similar to our American driving. The only real difference is that he is much less respected!

Let's just summarize that Mexicans are not very civil while driving.

The highway code in Mexico has few particularities:

- All passengers in a vehicle must wear their seat belts, both front and rear.
- Using a cell phone while driving is prohibited unless you are equipped with a hands-free kit.
- The tolerated blood alcohol level is set at 0.08%

In Mexico, you will have to adopt a slightly more intuitive, alert and slightly more aggressive driving style, but you will acclimate to it very quickly. In the countryside, no problem you won't see the difference. However, be careful when driving in Mexico City, it's another world! Only recommended for good drivers.

Money

The national currency is the Mexican peso (**MX**).

Note that the "\$" sign is used in Mexico to denote pesos; American dollars are denoted **US\$** or **USD**.

Banks are open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. And often on Saturdays until 2:00 p.m. They are equipped with ATMs, which accept major bank cards. Attention ! the amount of withdrawals may be limited,

The exchange of dollars is done without any problem.

Credit cards

Get a credit card (Visa, Eurocard/Master Card or American Express) with which you can withdraw money from any bank (almost all banks in Mexico are equipped with ATMs) and pay most of your expenses.

Having an online **Wise** account can also be an asset for being able to pay large amounts or for instant transfers.

Electricity

110 volts and US plugs.

The Mexican electrical system is the same as in the United States.

Phone

Calling Mexico from the United States... it's complicated! First think of “+” or “00” for international, then “52” for Mexico, then if it is a cell phone add “1”, if it is a landline “nothing”, then the state identifier “55” for example for Mexico City or “999” for Yucatan, and finally finish with the 6, 7 or 8 digits of Mexican numbers. A real headache.

Emergency number: **911**

Emergencias (emergencies): **911**

Cruz roja (Red Cross): **065**

Roadside assistance: **078**. This assistance service operates 24/7, 365 days a year. It provides information, guidance or assistance.

American Embassy in Mexico: **+52 55 5080 2000**

Internet

You will find free wifi almost everywhere (airports, bus stations, night buses, hotels, restaurants, etc.).

When traveling, it is always recommended to have at least one working phone with internet and battery. Do not hesitate to bring an external battery pack if necessary (or a cigarette lighter charger even if most rental cars already offer USB sockets). Finally, having a working phone on you in addition to the obvious security issues will help you make your choice of visits (knowing the prices of activities, opening hours, reviews of restaurants, etc.).

Upon arrival, purchasing a Mexican SIM card will save you astronomical sums of out-of-package costs on your telephone subscriptions.

The purchase and reloading of the chip with credit is done in **OXO** stores (more than 16,000 stores throughout Mexico), you can reload it in cash along the way. Plan on around 1.5 dollars per chip, and around fifteen dollars for recharging.

Be careful, Google Maps uses a lot of credit, don't forget to download the entire maps of the visited regions on WIFI beforehand. You will be able to navigate in airplane mode and thus reserve your credit for cultural points.

Water

Never drink tap water, prefer mineral water in a sealed bottle or filtered or purified water; avoid ice cubes (unless they have been made with "agua purificada" (purified water) which is the case in most quality bars, hotels and restaurants).

Security

Be careful with your personal belongings in markets (pickpockets) or in cities (especially in Mexico City). Please leave your valuables and papers in the hotel safe, and keep a simple photocopy of your passport with you. Avoid uncrowded streets, especially in the evening.

LANGUAGES

There is no language officially enshrined in the Mexican constitution. At a time of reconciliation between all pre-Hispanic and Spanish populations, the constitution was revised in 1917, and although written in Spanish it in no way imposes its use. Mexico officially recognizes 68 languages and 364 dialects within its borders. The language used is Spanish. It is spoken by the overwhelming majority of residents. The second most spoken is pre-Hispanic. It is Nahuatl and is used by more than a million Mexicans. You will quickly realize as you move away from the tourist routes that even today many Mexicans in the remote countryside do not speak Spanish.

Religion

The Catholic religion is by far the most widespread with 95% of its practitioners. During the history of colonization, quite fascinating phenomena of religious mixing occurred. Thus, many Saints are unique to Mexico. For example, do you know the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico? It appeared on the tunic of a native when the Spanish arrived.

Today, she is their Virgin Mary. Likewise in the south, symbols, cults, traditions and churches have mixed with ancient pre-Hispanic beliefs. Many rituals remained, and gradually became integrated into the practice of Catholicism. Shamanism for example. The consumption of cacti and other hallucinogenic substances for spiritual purposes in Mexico is absolutely not incompatible with the precepts of the Catholic religion. Nor the purifications of the soul thanks to temazcales. Shamanic medicine is still widely practiced. And what about the Day of the Dead, this very special night during which Mexicans communicate with their deceased. Many ancestral customs have now been integrated into the Gregorian calendar. Be sure that each village has its priest and healer. Sometimes they are the same people. These two vocations, more than one might think, guarantee the stability of the Mexican countryside.

At the restaurant

The prices announced are inclusive of tax. Legally, you can confine yourself to it. Be aware, however, that servers are paid little or not at all. Tips actually represent the overwhelming majority of their salary. In Mexico, normal service would be around 10% of the bill. They can be included in the credit card payment or left in cash on the table. If you really feel that the waiter has done a good job, do not hesitate to thank him by leaving a 15% tip. Conversely, if you consider that you have been really poorly served, leaving nothing for the waiter will be more than enough to express your dissatisfaction. Be careful, if you ever forget to leave the usual 10%, the waiter will take it as an expression of your dissatisfaction with his work and may report it to you.

Tips

Don't hesitate to tip people who serve you. It's something very natural in Mexico. This is done a lot and by everyone. You will see that even the poorest leave tips.

More than moral obligations, they are habits and customs of thanks. Leaving little is not particularly frowned upon (except in catering). The few pesos lying around in your pocket will not be offensive.

Here are some examples of the indicative amounts of tips to leave: waiters (10% of the bill), gas station attendants 5-10 pesos, valet parking 20-30 pesos, maid 30-50 pesos, at the market you can leave change, etc. Generally speaking, you only give out of desire. It is a reward for a job well done and at the same time a motivation to work well. If you really feel that you are being poorly served, not giving a "propina" will be more than enough to express your dissatisfaction. In Mexico, no need to get excited!

Useful

Another joy, and not the least, is the pleasures of the table.

Declared an intangible heritage of humanity by UNESCO in 2010, Mexican cuisine, composed of endemic ingredients (corn, avocado, tomato, cocoa, etc.), is tasty and uniquely rich. Tacos are a must, and each region has its own (see the documentary *Las Crónicas del taco* to get an idea of the variety).

Don't miss the mole (a cocoa-based sauce), cochinita pibil (roasted pork), sopa de lima (chicken lime soup, traditional dish from the Mexican state of Yucatán), or even the tacos al pastor (methodically cooked meat dish)...



**“Mexico never ceases
to seduce you...”**



“IF YOU DREAM OF THIS.
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THE PROPERTY YOU NEED”

JULIE CERQUEIRA
+52 981 279 1330

MIGUEL CERQUEIRA
+52 981 279 1045

www.jmrealestatemx.com

jmrealestate.mx@gmail.com

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