Planning the Move



The content within this program, including but not limited to videos, written materials, expert interviews, and downloadable resources, is intended to assist individuals in understanding the processes and considerations involved in relocating to Mexico. However, it does not constitute legal, financial, tax, immigration, or real estate advice.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the information provided, laws, regulations, and policies in Mexico are subject to change. Therefore, we strongly recommend consulting with qualified professionals, such as immigration lawyers, financial advisors, tax consultants, and real estate specialists, before making any decisions or taking action related to moving to or investing in Mexico.

Choosing a Moving Company and Packing Tips

Relocating to Mexico requires careful planning, especially when it comes to selecting a moving company and packing your belongings efficiently. A well-organized move will help minimize stress and ensure that your items arrive safely.

Choosing a Moving Company

When selecting an international moving company, it's essential to choose one that has experience with relocations to Mexico. Here's what to consider:

- Reputation and Reviews: Look for companies with positive customer reviews and proven experience in international moves. Websites like *Trustpilot*, *Better Business Bureau (BBB)*, and expat forums can provide insights.
- **Licensing and Certification:** Ensure the company is licensed for international shipping and customs clearance. Members of organizations like *FIDI* (International Federation of International Movers) and *IAM* (International Association of Movers) are generally reliable.
- Customs Knowledge: Mexico has strict import regulations. Your moving company should be familiar with Mexican customs procedures and able to assist with the required paperwork.
- **Insurance Coverage:** Verify what type of insurance is included and whether you need additional coverage for valuable items.
- Transparent Pricing: Request a detailed quote, including packing, transport, customs fees, and any additional costs. Avoid companies with vague pricing structures.

Recommended International Moving Companies for Mexico:

- International Relocation Partner (our Number 1) www.internationalrelocationpartner.com
- International Van Lines (https://internationalvanlines.com)
- SIRVA (https://www.sirva.com)
- Allied International Movers (https://www.allied.com)
- Atlas International (https://www.atlasvanlines.com)

Packing Tips for a Smooth Move

Proper packing is essential for ensuring that your items arrive undamaged. Follow these best practices:

1. Organize and Declutter

- Before packing, go through your belongings and decide what to bring, sell, donate, or store.
- Consider the cost of moving large furniture versus purchasing new items in Mexico.

2. Pack in Categories

- **Essentials Box:** Pack a suitcase with essentials like clothes, toiletries, medications, chargers, and important documents to have on hand during the move.
- **Fragile Items:** Wrap glassware, electronics, and valuables in bubble wrap and place them in sturdy boxes with padding.
- **Heavy Items:** Pack heavier items (books, cookware) in smaller boxes to make them easier to lift.

3. Label Everything

- Use color-coded labels for different rooms to simplify unpacking.
- Mark boxes with fragile items clearly.

4. Follow Customs Regulations

- Mexico restricts certain items like firearms, plants, and perishable foods.
- Check Mexico's Aduanas (Customs) website for a list of prohibited and restricted items:
 https://www.aduanas.gob.mx

By selecting a reliable moving company and using strategic packing methods, you can ensure a smoother transition to your new home in Mexico.

Managing and Relocating Pets to Mexico

Moving to Mexico with pets requires careful preparation to ensure a smooth transition for your furry companions. Mexico has pet-friendly policies, but there are specific regulations regarding entry, vaccinations, and travel logistics. Below is a step-by-step guide to relocating your pets safely and legally.

1. Understanding Mexico's Pet Import Requirements

Mexico's Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA) oversees pet importation. Unlike some countries, Mexico does not impose quarantine for pets arriving from most nations, provided they meet health and documentation requirements.

Required Documents and Vaccinations

Health Certificate (Optional but Recommended)

- As of recent regulations, Mexico no longer requires a veterinary health certificate from the country of origin for dogs and cats. However, it is still highly recommended to carry one, signed and dated within 10 days of travel, as some airlines may require it.
- The certificate should confirm that the pet is free from contagious diseases and internal/external parasites.

• Rabies Vaccination Certificate

- Required for dogs and cats over three months old.
- o Must be administered at least 30 days before travel but not older than one year.

Deworming and Parasite Treatment

 Proof of internal (intestinal) and external (flea/tick) parasite treatment within six months before travel is recommended.

Microchipping (Optional)

 Mexico does not require microchipping, but it is strongly advised for identification purposes.

For official requirements, check SENASICA's website: https://www.gob.mx/senasica

2. Choosing the Right Travel Method for Your Pet

Flying with Your Pet

If traveling by air, you'll need to determine whether your pet can fly in the **cabin**, **cargo**, **or as checked baggage**.

- Cabin Travel: Small pets (typically under 20 lbs including carrier) may be allowed in the cabin with an airline-approved carrier.
- Checked Baggage: Medium to large pets may need to be checked into the baggage hold.
 Ensure the airline follows safe pet handling protocols.
- Cargo Travel: For pets too large to fly as baggage, pet relocation services can arrange transport via cargo.

Tips for Air Travel with Pets:

- Choose direct flights to minimize stress.
- Use an airline-approved carrier with enough ventilation and space for the pet to stand, turn, and lie down.
- Familiarize your pet with the travel crate weeks before departure.
- Avoid sedatives, as they can interfere with a pet's ability to regulate body temperature.

Pet-Friendly Airlines Flying to Mexico:

- American Airlines (https://www.aa.com) Cabin & cargo options
- Aeroméxico (https://www.aeromexico.com) Allows pets in-cabin and checked baggage
- United Airlines (https://www.united.com) PetSafe cargo program

Driving to Mexico with Pets

If entering by land, border officials may conduct a quick visual inspection of your pet.

www.GlobalCitizenLife.org

- Bring proof of vaccinations and deworming treatments.
- Keep pets restrained in a carrier or on a leash at checkpoints.
- Some hotels along major highways are pet-friendly plan accommodations in advance.

3. Settling Your Pet in Mexico

Once you arrive, it's important to help your pet adjust to their new environment.

Finding a Veterinarian

- Mexico has many qualified veterinarians (veterinarios), with English-speaking vets available
 in expat-heavy areas.
- Look for clinics certified by Colegio Mexicano de Médicos Veterinarios Especialistas en Pequeñas Especies (CMVEPSE).
- · Recommended vet directories:
 - PetBacker (Find English-speaking vets)
 - o <u>VetFinder</u>

Pet Registration and Licensing

- Pet licensing is not mandatory in Mexico, but some municipalities require dogs to be registered.
- If living in a condo or gated community, check for pet restrictions.

Finding Pet Supplies and Services

- Major pet stores in Mexico include +Kota, Petco, and Walmart for pet food and supplies.
- Grooming, boarding, and dog walking services are available in major cities.

4. Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Climate Adjustment:

 If moving from a colder climate, be mindful of heat sensitivity. Provide shade, avoid midday walks, and ensure fresh water is always available.

Street Dogs (Perros Callejeros):

 Mexico has a large population of street dogs, especially in urban areas. Avoid interactions, as some may carry diseases or be territorial.

• Emergency Care:

o Know the location of the nearest 24-hour veterinary clinic in case of emergencies.

By preparing in advance and following the necessary regulations, relocating your pet to Mexico can be a smooth and stress-free process.

Customs Regulations for Importing Belongings to Mexico

When relocating to Mexico, it's crucial to understand the customs regulations regarding what you can bring into the country, the necessary documentation, and the duty-free allowances available to expats. Below is a comprehensive guide to ensure a smooth transition when importing your personal belongings.

1. Understanding the Menaje de Casa (Household Goods Certificate)

If you are moving to Mexico as a temporary or permanent resident, you can apply for a *Menaje de Casa* (Household Goods Certificate), which allows you to import your personal belongings duty-free.

Who Qualifies for the Menaje de Casa?

- Holders of Temporary Resident or Permanent Resident visas.
- Returning Mexican citizens who have lived abroad for at least six months.

What Can Be Included?

The Menaje de Casa covers:

- ✓ Household items such as furniture, appliances, kitchenware, and linens.
- ✓ Personal belongings, including clothing, books, and jewelry.
- ✓ Computers, TVs, and other electronics (reasonable quantities only).
- \checkmark Tools for your profession (if they are not for commercial use).

Nestricted Items (Not Covered by Menaje de Casa):

- Firearms and ammunition.
- Large quantities of alcohol and tobacco.
- New items (anything appearing brand new may be subject to customs duties).
- Commercial or resale goods.

How to Apply for the Menaje de Casa

1. Prepare a Detailed Inventory List

 The list must be in Spanish and typed, specifying each item, quantity, and condition (used/new).

2. Have the List Notarized and Certified

 The inventory should be notarized and certified at a Mexican consulate in your home country before moving.

3. Submit to Customs (Aduanas) Upon Arrival

- Present the document along with your visa and passport to customs officials at the port of entry.
- **Tip:** The *Menaje de Casa* is **only valid for six months** after obtaining your residency visa, so plan your move accordingly.

2. Duty-Free Allowances for Travelers

If you are entering Mexico without a *Menaje de Casa* or as a tourist, you are still entitled to bring in personal items duty-free.

Personal Items Allowed Duty-Free

- Clothing, footwear, and toiletries for personal use.
- A laptop, camera, and mobile phone.
- Up to \$500 USD worth of goods per person (if arriving by air) or \$300 USD per person (if arriving by land).

3. Shipping vs. Bringing Items Personally

Shipping Household Goods to Mexico

- If you have a large volume of belongings, you may need to use an international moving company.
- Recommended international shippers to Mexico:
 - o International Relocation Partner (#1) www.internationalrelocationpartner.com
 - o International Van Lines (https://internationalvanlines.com)
 - SIRVA Worldwide Relocation & Moving (https://www.sirva.com)
 - Schumacher Cargo Logistics (https://www.schumachercargo.com)
- Important: If you are shipping large items, your belongings may be held at customs, requiring additional paperwork and taxes.

Bringing Items Personally (Driving vs. Flying)

- If you drive to Mexico, customs officials at the border may conduct a thorough inspection of your vehicle.
- If you fly, your luggage may be subject to a red-light/green-light customs check at the airport. A **green light** allows you to pass without inspection, while a **red light** means your baggage will be examined.

4. Paying Duties and Taxes

If you exceed the duty-free allowance or do not qualify for the *Menaje de Casa*, you may need to pay import taxes.

- Import taxes are generally 16% VAT (IVA) on the declared value of goods.
- Electronics and luxury items may have higher taxes.
- Customs officers will determine the value of your goods if no receipts are provided.
- **Tip:** Keep receipts for expensive items to avoid overvaluation by customs.

5. Prohibited and Restricted Items

Certain items are prohibited or require special permits to bring into Mexico.

No Prohibited Items

- Narcotics and illegal drugs.
- Firearms and ammunition (without a special permit).
- Certain fruits, vegetables, and animal products.

- Drones and radio-frequency equipment.
- Large quantities of medications (must have a doctor's prescription).
- Artwork and archaeological artifacts.

For an updated list of prohibited/restricted items, visit Mexico's Aduanas (Customs) website:

https://www.sat.gob.mx

6. Temporary Importation of Vehicles

If you plan to bring your car to Mexico, you may need a Temporary Vehicle Import Permit (TIP).

- Required for foreign-plated vehicles entering Mexico beyond the border zone (20-25 km inland).
- Valid for 180 days (Temporary Residents) or the length of your visa.
- Can be obtained online or at Banjercito (Mexican military bank) offices at the border.

For details, visit: https://www.gob.mx/banjercito

Final Checklist for Importing Belongings to Mexico

- Menaje de Casa (if applicable)
- Inventory list notarized and certified by a Mexican consulate
- Receipts for high-value electronics and luxury items
- Cash or credit card to pay import duties (if required)
- Permits for restricted items (if applicable)

By following these guidelines, you can ensure a smooth customs process and avoid unnecessary delays or fines when moving your belongings to Mexico.