

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the right.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry a valid license, passport, vehicle documents and proof of Mexican liability insurance. U.S. driver's licenses are valid in Mexico. Drivers from some countries must obtain an International Driver's Permit prior to travel.
- ❑ Passports from many countries are valid up to 180 days. Non-U.S. travelers from other countries entering Mexico via the U.S. are subject to all requirements and regulations applying to U.S. visitors.
- ❑ When no immigration officer is present to stamp passports on arrival via land borders, visiting drivers must go to the nearest immigration office to receive a stamp. Failure to do so may result in high fees and an inability to depart the country. If arriving by air and using an e-gate, entry ticket must be retained and presented upon departure. Digital proof of entry may also be downloaded at Portal de Servicios del INM within 60 days of arrival (site is in Spanish only). Travelers may be required by Mexican immigration authorities to present both passport and entry permit at any time.
- ❑ Border control agents may require visitors to show proof of return or onward ticket, hotel confirmation and sufficient funds for duration of stay. Persons staying in a private home should be able to produce a "letter of invitation" that includes the full names of hosts and visitors, contact details, local address and reason for visit.
- ❑ If traveling with a child, immigration officers may require proof of your relationship such as a birth or adoption certificate, divorce or marriage certificate, "parental responsibility" order and reason for travel.
- ❑ Laws require that vehicles are driven only by their owner, or that owner be present in the vehicle. Mexican citizens who do not hold dual U.S. citizenship may not operate U.S.-registered vehicles. Impoundments and fines equal to vehicle value are assessed for violations.
- ❑ Strict laws apply to drivers entering from the U.S. border. If traveling beyond the border "free" zone, drivers must apply for a temporary vehicle import permit from Mexican customs agents or through the Banjercito military bank (<https://www.gob.mx/banjercito/articulos/sistema-de-importacion-temporal-de-vehiculos>). Permits may also be acquired in advance of travel through some Mexican consulate offices within the U.S. A monetary deposit is required and is refunded upon departure from Mexico before permit expiration date. Vehicles with expired registration, temporary or paper license plates will not be admitted across the border.
- ❑ Persons entering the country via land borders with the U.S. and Guatemala must have a valid passport book or card. Check-in at an INM (National Migration Institute) office or via www.inm.gob.mx/fmme is required. A Forma Migratoria Multiple (FMM) must be filled out and stamped at an INM office upon entry and exit. In general, stays of up to 180 days do not require a visa, but officials may impose other limits at their discretion.
- ❑ Individuals crossing the Mexican border in a U.S.-registered vehicle must have a temporary vehicle import permit. Limited zones in Baja California, Baja California Sur and Sonora allow cars without an entry permit. Outside of these areas, vehicles without the necessary permit may be impounded.
- ❑ Mexican authorities determine the authorized length of stay for travelers arriving by air; a date stamp is entered in passports. Passport cards are not accepted.
- ❑ The Mexican peso (MXN) is the official currency. U.S. dollars are accepted in some border towns and large cities.
- ❑ Drive with windows up and doors locked at all times. Avoid driving and walking at night, and always carry a charger and cell phone equipped to make calls in Mexico. For safety, use toll roads ("cuota") instead of free "libra" roads when available.
- ❑ Pedestrians make up an estimated 17% of traffic fatalities. Pedestrian infrastructure is underdeveloped in many areas and lacking in others. Persons on foot are at high risk from reckless motorists, and drink drivers in tourist areas with bars and clubs.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.05 g/dl for most drivers; 0.02 for motorcyclists, and zero for professional drivers. Despite legal limits, alcohol use is involved in many serious and fatal traffic crashes. Unregulated alcohol may contain dangerous or fatal ingredients.
- ❑ Males account for 81% of all road crash deaths. Motorcycle deaths in the State of Mexico are particularly high, with males making up about 87% of serious injuries and fatalities.
- ❑ There are an estimated 12.0 road deaths per 100,000 people in Mexico, compared to 2.1 in Sweden and 1.5 in Norway.



Source: CIA Factbook

ROAD CULTURE

- **Driving standards** are often poor. Not all states require motorists to pass a driving test. Many drivers lack insurance.
- **Aggressive and reckless** road behaviors are common: drivers often speed and pass under unsafe conditions, including on blind curves. Slow-moving traffic leads to dangerous overtaking.

Road Culture, continued

- **Drivers may** run through red lights and change lanes without indicating.
- **Motorists** frequently disregard pedestrians, even at marked crossings.
- **Vehicles may** be poorly maintained and lack standard safety features including seat belts, roadworthy tires, headlights, taillights, turn signals, working brakes and windshield wipers.
- **Drivers** and bicyclists often fail to use lights at night.
- **Hitchhiking** is common and unsafe. Do not accept rides from strangers or pick up unknown persons.

ROAD CONDITIONS




- **Of the** 704,884 km (437,995 miles) of roads, 175,526 km (109,067 miles) are paved and 529,358 km (328,928 miles) are unpaved. Paved roads include 10,845 km (6,739 miles) of expressways.
- **Road conditions** vary greatly throughout the country. In general, “cuota” toll roads are better maintained than secondary highways and rural routes. Fees may be paid in cash at toll booths; some may accept credit cards.
- **Many roads** lack lane demarcations or other markings.
- **Roads are** generally inadequately lit or unlit, especially in rural and mountainous areas.
- **Streets** may be unnamed. One-way streets often lack signs.
- **Potholes** are common, even on main roads.
- **Many roads** are narrow, winding or have sharp curves with blind spots.
- **There are** many unmarked speed bumps (“topes”), even on main roads. Homemade speed bumps include large ropes spread across roads with “topes” signs, particularly in rural areas.
- **Abandoned** vehicles may block roads, including main routes.
- **Construction zones** are often unmarked and unlit.
- **For safety**, drivers should stop only at busy rest areas and gas stations.
- **Mexico is subject to** power outages. Public transportation, road infrastructure/traffic signals, airports, telecommunications, medical services and supply of basic necessities may be interrupted.
- **Telecommunication** networks, including satellite navigations systems, are unreliable in rural areas. Carry an up-to-date paper map. Leave details of travel plans with a trusted person.
- **Frequent demonstrations** take place, often on significant dates or in response to political or economic issues. Protests are unpredictable and have turned violent. Avoid all demonstrations. Mexican law prohibits non-resident participation.
- **During protests** and demonstrations, roads, including major routes, may be blocked. Highway toll booths are sometimes taken over by criminals demanding fees; criminals may also erect illegal road blocks and demand money or valuables from drivers.
- **Be alert** to loose livestock and other animals on roads, particularly in small towns and rural areas.
- **Kidnapping and robbery** are common. Taxi drivers and individuals impersonating taxi drivers are often involved in robbery and “express kidnapping” schemes during which victims are forced to withdraw cash from ATMs in exchange for their release.
- **Crime rates** are high and include violent assault, carjacking, homicide, kidnapping, sexual assault, extortion and attacks related to cartel/ gang activity. Armed carjackings and other crimes are prevalent along the Pacific Highway. Recreational and sports utility vehicles (SUVs) are

Maximum Speed Limits (unless otherwise posted)

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	50 kph (30 mph)
Rural roads	80 kph (50 mph)
Highways	110 kph (68 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Examples of road and traffic signs in Mexico

								
No entry	Unpaved road ahead	No switching to right lane	One-way road	Road junction	Overtaking prohibited	School zone: drive slow	Two-way traffic	Sharp curve to left

Road Safety Review: Mexico

Road Conditions, continued

often targeted. If you believe you are being followed, drive to the nearest police station.

- **Rape and sexual assault** frequently occur, particularly in certain resort areas at night and during early morning hours. Attacks occur in hotel rooms, on hotel grounds and on beaches.
- **Criminals may** deliberately cause crashes for the purposes of false insurance claims or to demand cash from driver victims.
- **Road scams** are common and include criminals posing as police officers who target visitors in rental cars. Actual police officers have also been involved in extortion scams, demanding money from drivers for alleged traffic violations. Do not hand over passports or money; instead, request a copy of fine or ticket, ask for identification, and make note of badge number and patrol car number.
- **Government checkpoints** staffed by National Guard or military personnel are common on roadways. Checkpoints may also be set up by state and local police. At security and police checkpoints, comply with instructions from authorities.
- **Unofficial checkpoints** may be erected by criminals for the purposes of abduction or extortion. Violence may be directed at those who refuse to pay fake “tolls.”
- **Use only** official international border crossings. Avoid crossing at night.
- **Conditions** in many parts of the country are volatile and change rapidly. For up-to-date safety warnings, refer to the U.S. State Department’s Mexico Travel Advisory at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Mexico.html> prior to travel.
- **Violent clashes** between armed rival gangs and drug cartels in Culiacán, Mazatlán and surrounding areas have involved motorists being stopped on major roads and along the highway linking Culiacán to Mazatlán.
- **Due to** ongoing cartel and organized crime, violent gun battles between rival factions, human trafficking and murder, avoid all but essential travel to the states of:
 - » **Baja California**, including Tecate and roads linking Tecate and Tijuana. Exceptions are transits through the Tijuana airport, the Cross Border Xpress bridge linking airport terminals across the Mexican-U.S. border, and Federal Toll Road 1D and Via Rápida through Tijuana to the border.
 - » **Sonora**, excluding the cities of Hermosillo, Guaymas/San Carlos and Puerto Peñasco.
 - » **Chihuahua** except the city of Chihuahua, the border crossing in Ciudad Juárez accessed by Federal

Toll Road 45; Federal Toll Road 45D connecting Chihuahua and Ciudad Juárez; Copper Canyon rail route to and from Chihuahua and towns on this route, including Creel; the road from Creel via San Juanito to San Pedro; and State Highway 16 from San Pedro to Chihuahua.

- » **Sinaloa**, except the cities of Los Mochis and Mazatlán; Road 32 between El Fuerte and Los Mochis; Federal Toll Road 15D along the length of the state; and the Copper Canyon rail route to and from Los Mochis, El Fuerte and towns immediately beside this route.
- » **Tamaulipas**, except the border crossing at Nuevo Laredo reached by Federal Toll Road 85D from Monterrey; federal highways 80, 81 and 85 between Tampico, Ciudad de Victoria and Magueyes, and all of Tamaulipas south of these highways.
- » **Zacatecas**, and areas southwest of road 45D in the State of Guanajuato.
- » **Michoacán**, except the city of Morelia accessed by federal toll roads 15D, 126 and 43; and Federal Toll Road 48D between the city of Morelia and the General Francisco Mujica airport; town of Pátzcuaro accessed by federal toll roads 14D and 15 from Morelia, boat trips out to islands on Lake Pátzcuaro; and Federal Highway 15D.
- » **Jalisco**, including areas south and southwest of Lake Chapala to the border with the Colima; and the northern municipalities of Bolaños, Chimaltitán, Colotlán, Hostotipaquillo, Huejúcar, Huequilla el Alto, Mezquitic, San Martín de Bolaños, Santa María de los Ángeles, Totatiche and Villa Guerrero.
- » **Colima**, except the city of Manzanillo accessed by sea or air via Manzanillo-Costalegre International Airport, and direct travel on road 200 from the airport to Manzanillo.
- » **Sinaloa**, excluding the city of Los Mochis.
- » **Guerrero**, except the town of Zihuatanejo/Ixtapa if accessed by air.
- » **Chiapas** to within 40 km (24.8 miles) of the Guatemalan border between the Pacific Coast up to and including the border crossing at Gracias a Dio; Federal Highway 199/Carretera Federal 199 between Rancho Nuevo outside San Cristóbal de las Casas, and the Chancalá junction outside Palenque at the junction of federal highways 199 and 307.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges:
 - » **Carretera Federal Highway 1** (Carretera Transpeninsular/Transpeninsular Highway) runs along the Baja California Peninsula from Cabo San Lucas to Tijuana and is 1,711 km (1,063 miles) long. It becomes U.S. Interstate 5 at the border near San

Road Conditions, continued

Ysidro and is regarded as extremely dangerous. The road has frequent twists and blind corners. Guardrails, hard shoulders and adequate signs are lacking. Regular heavy traffic includes freight trucks and large recreational vehicles. Crashes are common due to speeding and drivers passing on blind corners.

- » **Veracruz Highway** is regarded as one of the most dangerous roads in the world due to carjackings and violent crime against motorists. Avoid this road.
- » **Queretaro-León/Mexico 45** is one of the busiest highways in Mexico, running through a valley bordered by multiple large cities including Irapuato, León, Salamanca, Silao, Celaya and Queretaro. Infrastructure has not been developed or expanded to handle high levels of increased traffic over recent years, including large transport trucks. High numbers of daily crashes are attributed to speeding, dense traffic, poorly maintained road surfaces and narrow lanes.
- » **Espinazo del Diablo (Devil's Backbone)** is a dangerous high-altitude road located between Mazatlan on the west coast and Durango along the western slope of the Sierra Madre Occidental. Set 2,440 meters (8,005 feet) above sea level, it begins at km 168 of Mexican Federal Highway 40. There are many hairpin turns along its length, with steep, unprotected drops along road edges. Paved surfaces are generally well-maintained, though ice may be present during winter weather. Loose rocks and heavy fog are common.

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **During annual** spring break season, millions of U.S. citizens travel to Mexico's beach towns. Alcohol use is widespread. Reckless driving and inattentive pedestrian behavior is common.
- **Many cities** in Mexico, including Mexico City, are located at high altitude. Altitude sickness symptoms include dizziness, lack of coordination, headache, fatigue, shortness of breath and nausea, and can impair driver judgment and increase road risks.
- **Mexico is subject to** hurricanes, tropical storms, high winds, floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and forest fires.
- **Hurricane season** is generally from mid-May to late November. Even small tropical storms can develop quickly into major hurricanes.
- **Floods** and landslides may accompany or follow storms, particularly from June to November. Do not step or drive into flood waters, which may contain strong currents and

obscure potholes, branches and other debris.

- **There are** multiple active volcanoes, including Popocatepetl and Colima. A 12-km (7-mile) exclusion zone is in effect around Popocatepetl. Eruptions may occur at any time. Falling ash and toxic fumes can affect drivers and pedestrians.
- **There is** a risk of earthquakes throughout the country. Tremors occur regularly in the states of Oaxaca, Chiapas and Guerrero. Seismic activity may be followed by aftershocks, landslides and tsunamis.
- **Forest fires** are a risk during the dry season from January to June in the north, northeast, south, southeast and central regions. Smoke may impair driver vision.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation** options include cars, taxis, rideshares, motorbikes/motorcycles, buses, minibuses (also called "microbuses," "colectivos," "combis" and "peseros"), metro systems, trolleybuses, cablecars (called "cablebuses"), trains, bicycles and boats.
- **Taxi** and transport drivers generally do not speak English. Carry destination written in Spanish.
- **Taxis include** official taxis and unregulated "libre" taxis.
- **All** government-regulated taxis in Mexico City bear license plates beginning with the letter "A" or "B."
- **For safety**, book taxis thorough a reputable hotel or regulated taxi stand (called a "sitio"). When booking a radio taxi, request driver's name and vehicle license plate number from dispatcher.
- **Sitio taxis** display a company logo and license plate number on the side of vehicle.
- **In Mexico City**, official taxis are pink and white. The CDMX app allows passengers to book taxis.
- **Libre taxi** passengers have been robbed and assaulted.
- **Credit card** fraud involving taxis is common. Carry small bills for payment.
- **At airports**, use only pre-paid authorized taxi services. Purchase tickets from a "taquilla" (ticket window) in the arrivals area.
- **Do not enter** a taxi occupied by others, and insist that driver not pick up additional passengers.
- **Rideshares** are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle. Note that

Transportation, continued

- violent confrontations have occurred between taxi and rideshare drivers, resulting in passenger injuries; instances, including blocked roads, have occurred in the hotel zone in Cancún and at the Cancún Airport.
- **Motorbikes** and motorcycles are popular. Many are driven by visitors unfamiliar with road conditions, traffic regulations and safety rules.
- **Buses** provide the main form of public transportation. Women traveling alone on public transportation have been harassed and sexually assaulted.
- **Buses** include local/city buses (“camiones”), inter-city buses, minibuses/microbuses) and private coaches.
- **Many** public buses and minibuses throughout the country are poorly maintained.
- **The Metrobus** system in Mexico City is generally regarded as reliable. Sections at the front of vehicles are reserved for women and children.
- **Public buses** in Mexico City and major tourist destinations have onboard security and are regarded as reasonably safe. In other parts of the country, safety varies.
- **Use intercity buses** only during day. First-class buses from private companies with VIP or executive class options, and which use toll road routes, are recommended.
- **Bus hijackings** have occurred. In general, first-class bus companies make passenger security checks upon boarding.
- **Most towns** and cities have one main terminal for long-distance buses, called Terminal de Autobuses, Central de Autobuses or Central Camionera or La Central.
- **Major** bus companies operating long-distance executive services include Primera Plus, ETN Turistar, Grupo ADO and Grupo Estrella Blanca.
- **Tickets** for first-class, deluxe and executive buses may be purchased at terminals prior to travel. Some companies offer online ticket purchases.
- **Minibuses/colectivos/combis** and peseros (often vans and large SUVs) travel along fixed routes. Destinations are displayed on cards on vehicle windshield. Avoid these forms of transportation. Vehicles may lack standard safety features and be recklessly driven.
- **There are** metro systems in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey. Train cars are frequently crowded.
- **During** twice-daily rush hours, metro cars at the front of trains are reserved for women and children.
- **Rail service** is limited. There is one passenger train line running through the Sierra Madre Occidental between Los Mochis and Chihuahua, known as the Ferrocarril Chihuahua Pacifico.
- **Bicycle travel** is popular in many areas, including tourist destinations and coastal resort areas.

Infrastructure is lacking. Cyclists are often required to share busy, narrow roads with motorized traffic. Drivers often disregard the safety of bicyclists.

- **Tour boats** and ferries are common in coastal areas. Vessels may not meet western safety standards. If traveling by boat, avoid vessels that appear to be overcrowded or poorly maintained. Do not travel during high seas or inclement weather. Bring your own life preserver.
- **Piracy** and armed robbery occurs against ships in coastal waters of the Bay of Campeche.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Traffic rules** are poorly enforced.
- **Drivers must** be at least 18 years old, and a minimum of 21 years to rent a vehicle. Some rental agencies may have additional restrictions.
- **Seat belt use** is mandatory for drivers and passengers. Children under the age of 12 or below 145 cm (57 inches) in height must be secured in a safety restraint appropriate to age and size.
- **Children** are allowed in front seats if in an age-appropriate safety restraint. Children in rear-facing child seats may only ride in front seats if passenger air bag has been deactivated.
- **Helmet use** is compulsory for motorcycle drivers and passengers. Laws apply to all roads and engine types, but do not require helmets to be fastened. For safety, fasten helmet.
- **New restrictions** are in place affecting motorcycle drivers in the State of Mexico, including testing for practical and theoretical skills, along with adherence to safety practices.
- **There are no** restrictions preventing children from being motorcycle passengers.
- **Drivers must** come to a full stop at a yellow traffic light.
- **At roundabouts**, traffic already present or approaching from the left has right-of-way.
- **On hills**, traffic moving uphill has right-of-way.
- **Right turns** on red are allowed where signs indicate.
- **Left turns** at traffic lights are prohibited unless a green arrow is present.
- **On-the-spot** fines are legal, but requests from police officers for cash payment is not. Drivers should be prepared for officers to react negatively to requests for a written ticket.
- **Police may** carry out random breath tests.

Mexico City (Capital)

- » Largest city. Transportation options include cars, taxis, rideshares, motorbikes/motorcycles, buses, minibuses, colectivos, combis, peseros, metro systems, trolleybuses, cablebuses, trains, bicycles and boats.
- » Driving is not recommended. Traffic is heavy and undisciplined. Routes are confusing.
- » Car theft is a risk in many parts of the city. Parking is difficult to find.
- » Restrictions (part of the “Hoy No Circula” pollution reduction program) apply to vehicular traffic from Monday through Saturday based on license plate number. Vehicles without State of Mexico (Estado de Mexico) or Mexico City registration plates may not enter the city between 5 am and 10 pm Monday to Saturday. Electric and hybrid vehicles are exempt. Additional restrictions for other vehicles apply from February to June.
- » Taxis include official “sitio” taxis and unregulated “libre” taxis.
- » All government-regulated taxis in Mexico City bear license plates beginning with the letter “A” or “B.” Vehicles are white and magenta in color, and have a red box on license plates with the word “Taxi.”
- » Do not hail taxis on the street. Order through a reputable hotel or restaurant.
- » Taxis are metered, but drivers may fail to activate meters unless passengers insist. For details on taxi use and safety, see “Transportation.”
- » Buses include local, long-distance and minibuses. Most buses accept coins as payment for fares.
- » In addition to many small bus stations, there are four main terminals: Central de Autobuses de Autobuses de Pasajeros de Oriente, Central de Autobuses del Poniente, Central de Autobuses del Norte and Central de Autobuses del Sur.
- » Metrobús is a Bus Rapid Transit system with dedicated lanes along Avenida de los Insurgentes.
- » Metrobús vehicles are red and white. A smartcard is necessary for travel; cards may be purchased at vending machines in metro stations.
- » Minibuses/microbuses are green and gray-white in color.
- » Green Ecobúses and orange-and-green RTP buses are operated by the city government.
- » Mexibús has three lines covering the State of Mexico.
- » Red double-decker tour buses (Turibus) are available throughout the city. Buses run from about 9 or 10 am to 7 pm daily. For details on bus use and safety, see “Transportation.”
- » There are 15 trolleybus lines operated by the Electric Transport Services. Pay on board with exact change.
- » Tren Ligero is a single-line light rail system linking Tasqueña Metro Station with Xochimilco south of the city. Fares may be paid in cash (coins) or by smartcard.
- » The metro is generally regarded as safe and efficient, although cars are crowded during commuter rush hours. The first two cars of each metro train are reserved for women and children.
- » There are 12 metro lines. Trains run until midnight from 5 am Mon. to Fri., 6 am on Sat. and from 7 am on Sun.
- » Rechargeable transportation cards are required for travel. Information signs are in Spanish only. Not all train cars have visible route maps on display.
- » The Ferrocarril Suburbano commuter rail system links the city with northern Mexico State municipalities. There are three lines: Buenavista-Teotihuacan line (Blue), Buenavista-Cuauhtitlan line (Red), and the Green line connecting to Nezahualcyotl to Chalco.
- » Buenavista railway station is the main train station.
- » The El Insurgente intercity passenger train is a new link between the city and Toluca.
- » Cablebus is a cable car system operating from Indio Verdes metro station.
- » EcoBici is a citywide bike-sharing program with more than 440 stations. Download the EcoBici app to use.
- » Cycling infrastructure is lacking. Bicyclists are generally required to share busy roads with motorized traffic.
- » “Trajinera” canal tour boats are operated by multiple companies. Safety records vary. Vessels may not meet western safety standards and be overcrowded, in poor repair and lack adequate life-saving equipment.
- » If traveling by boat, avoid vessels that appear to be overcrowded or poorly maintained. Do not travel during inclement weather. Bring your own life preserver.

**Mexico City, continued**

- » Benito Juárez International Airport is the main airport, located 9.6 km (6 miles) from city center.
- » Transportation between the airport and city is by car, taxi or bus.
- » There is a bus station located in the arrivals terminal.
- » Felipe Ángeles International Airport is a military airport with new facilities for commercial passenger flights, located 49 km (30 miles) from the city.
- » Transportation between the airport and city is by car, taxi and bus. Rideshares were not available at the time of this report's preparation.
- » Vivabus airport transport links the airport and Central de Autobuses del Norte and Central de Autobuses del Sur Terminal Taxqueña bus stations in the city. Departure schedules are erratic.
- » Mexibus is a city bus connecting the airport to Ojo de Agua. From there, connections are available to Ciudad Azteca, where Metro line B connects to the city.
- » Most major car rental agencies are represented at both airports.

Tijuana

- » Second-largest city. Located in the state of Baja California across the border from San Diego, California.
- » San Ysidro Port of Entry is one of the busiest land border crossings in the world, and includes both vehicular and pedestrian crossings. Conditions may be congested and chaotic. Personal and vehicle inspections may add to crossing times. Border procedures may change; verify details prior to travel.
- » Transportation options include cars, taxis, rideshares, motorbikes/motorcycles, buses and minibuses (also called "microbuses," "colectivos," "combis" and "peseros"), and bicycles.
- » Motorbikes and motorcycles are popular and may be driven by visitors unfamiliar with road conditions, traffic regulations and safety rules.
- » Taxis include official taxis and unregulated "libre" taxis.
- » Use only official, metered "sitio" taxis. Drivers may neglect to start meter unless passengers insist.
- » Sitio taxis display a company logo and license plate number on the side of vehicle.
- » For safety, book taxis thorough a reputable hotel or regulated taxi stand (also called "sitio"). When booking a radio taxi, request driver's name and vehicle license plate number from dispatcher.
- » Rideshares are available. For details concerning taxi and rideshare safety and use, see "Transportation."
- » Buses provide the main form of public transportation. Women traveling alone on public transportation have been harassed and sexually assaulted.
- » Buses include local/city buses (called "camiones"), intercity buses, minibuses/colectivos/combis/microbuses and peseros (vans and large SUVs) and private luxury coaches.
- » Terminal Central de Autobuses de Tijuana is the main bus station. Most international routes are served by this station.
- » Minibuses/colectivos/combis/microbuses and peseros travel along fixed routes. Destinations are displayed on cards in vehicle window. These vehicles should be avoided. Many lack standard safety features, are poorly maintained and recklessly driven.
- » There are many pedestrians, particularly in tourist zones and border gate areas. Drivers may not observe pedestrian safety. Distracted pedestrians may step into roadways.
- » Motorists should be alert to pedestrians under the influence of alcohol in areas with bars and clubs.
- » Bicycle travel is popular in many areas, including tourist destinations and coastal resort areas. Infrastructure is lacking. Cyclists often share busy, narrow roads with motorized traffic. Drivers may disregard the safety of bicyclists.
- » The Tijuana rail station no longer serves passenger routes and is restricted to freight.
- » General Abelardo L. Rodríguez Airport/Tijuana International Airport is located 8 km (6 miles) east of city center.
- » Transport between the airport and city includes cars, taxis, rideshares, the CBX (Cross Border Express) shuttles and local buses.
- » Mexicocoach buses provide shuttles between the airport, San Diego Santa Fe Station and San Ysidro Transit Center.



Tijuana, continued

- » Long-distance buses to other areas in Mexico include Autobuses ABC and Greyhound.
- » Use only official airport taxis. Fares are regulated. Rideshares are also available.
- » Some hotels provide shuttles to and from the airport for guests. Arrange transport prior to travel.
- » Most major car rental agencies are represented at the airport.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Mexican law prohibits** discrimination against persons with physical, sensory or other challenges. Laws may be unevenly enforced.
- **Access** to public transportation, lodging, communications/information and general infrastructure is better in major cities than in rural areas and small towns.
- **Buses and taxis** throughout the country are generally inaccessible. Some taxi and tour companies may arrange for wheelchair-friendly vehicles if booked in advance.
- **Mexico City's** metro system requires the use of stairs.
- **Travelers with** mobility, sensory and other challenges should contact individual hotels and service providers prior to travel to determine accessibility.
- **City streets** and sidewalks often lack curbs and are old and uneven.
- **Dedicated** parking spots for mobility-challenged drivers are available in Mexico City, but not prevalent in other areas of the country. Parking attendants may offer assistance if asked.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **U.S. citizens** are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) prior to departure for updates on travel concerns in their destinations: <https://mytravel.state.gov/s/step>
- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
- **Responders to emergency numbers** and medical staff may not speak English. Having a Spanish-speaking person available to assist with calls is recommended.
 - » Police/emergency: 911
 - » Ambulance and fire: 911 or 066
 - » Mexico City Tourist Police telephone: (0052) 55 5207 4155; via WhatsApp: (0052) 55 4891 1166
 - » Green Angels: 078 or 800 006 8839
- **Police responses** to emergency situations may be slow, even in major tourist areas.
- **Green Angels/Angeles Verdes** (truck fleets staffed with bilingual emergency crews) are available on toll ("cuota") highways and major motorways from about 8 am to 8 pm. Assistance is free. Download the app prior to travel.
- **CCTV cameras** throughout Mexico City are equipped with buttons that link immediately to emergency services.
- **Ambulance services** are available throughout Mexico but may be less prevalent in rural and remote areas.
- **Emergency responder** training may be below western standards. Ambulances may not be equipped with up-to-date equipment. Injured or seriously ill persons may wish to take a taxi to the nearest medical center instead of waiting for an ambulance.
- **Adequate medical care** is widely available throughout Mexico. In rural areas and small towns, it may take longer for first responders to reach patients and provide urgent medical assistance.
- **Health facilities** in Mexico City and other major urban centers are regarded as good.
- **Medical** and emergency services, supplies and training of medical staff may be below western standards beyond major metropolitan areas.
- **Some resorts** have exclusive agreements with specific health care providers and ambulance services, leaving travelers with few choices in an emergency situation.
- **Private hospitals** may ascertain the credit card and insurance limits of patients, charge that amount and then discharge patients or transfer them to a public hospital.
- **Many** hospitals and clinics will refuse to deal directly with insurance companies. Payment may be required at the

Emergency Information, continued

time of services or prior to the delivery of care.

- **Some medications** prescribed in other countries are illegal in Mexico, including medical marijuana and pseudoephedrine found in common over-the-counter sinus treatments. Verify legality prior to travel, and carry all medicines in original packaging, accompanied by a written doctor's prescription that states dosage and that medication is for personal use; this should include a Spanish translation. Travelers should be aware that even with a written prescription, persons with substances included on the Mexican Drug Schedule are subject to arrest.
- **If arrested** or detained by Mexican authorities, U.S. citizens must request that the U.S. Embassy or consulate be promptly contacted. Mexican officials will not do so without being asked.
- **There are** seven multilingual Centers for the Care and Protection of Tourists (CAPTA) and Tourist Assistance Centers (CATTAC), located in Los Cabos, La Paz, Acapulco, Playa del Carmen, Mazatlan, Ciudad Madero, and Queretaro.
- **If involved in a crash:**
 - » Call police and emergency services.
 - » Notify insurance company.
 - » Move vehicle to the side of the road if there are no injuries.
 - » Collect contact information from other driver(s) and any witnesses; take photographs of scene if possible.
 - » Foreign drivers, especially those who do not speak or understand Spanish, are frequently held liable regardless of circumstances.
 - » Drivers involved in a crash may face imprisonment and have their vehicles seized. Those without Mexican liability insurance may be prevented from leaving the country until any injuries or damages have been fully paid for.

**ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)**

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

Disclaimer: ASIRT provides this information as a service to travelers. This Road Safety Review is intended to provide general guidelines for travelers to countries around the world. Any electronic links provided in this Report are for illustrative purposes and ASIRT is not responsible for the content provided within these electronic links and/or videos.

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