



Country Intelligence Brief

Mexico

Overall Risk Rating

3.00 - Moderate

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Ratings Overview

Security

3.50 - High

Civil Unrest	3.25
Crime	3.50
Kidnapping	4.00
Terrorism	2.50
Armed Conflict	3.00
Security Services	4.00

Infrastructure

2.00 - Low

Ground Transport	2.50
Cyber	3.00
Maritime	3.25
Air Travel	1.50
Utilities	2.00

Environment

2.75 - Moderate

Man-Made Hazards	2.75
Seismic	3.00
Storm Systems	2.75
Natural Hazards	2.50

Health and Medical

3.00 - Moderate

Disease and Health Threats	3.25
Medical Facilities and Services	2.50
Mental Health	3.50
Food and Water Safety	3.25

Political

3.00 - Moderate

Corruption	4.25
Government Stability	2.00
Rule of Law	3.00
Sanctions	1.50

LGBTQ Security

2.00 - Low

LGBTQ Legal Environment	1.00
LGBTQ Enforcement	3.00
LGBTQ Social Environment	3.00

FactBox

Location	Mexico
Government Type	Federal Presidential Republic
Population	132,997,658 (2026)
Languages	Official languages: Spanish Other languages that are considered official or widely spoken: English; Mayan and Nahuatl (Indigenous) Languages that should only be used discreetly: None
International Country Code	+52
Time Zones	UTC-5, UTC-6, UTC-7, UTC-8
Traffic	Drives on the right
Drinking Water	Not Safe to Drink

Overview

3.00 - Moderate

Mexico, along with Brazil in South America, remains one of the two principal anchor economies of Latin America. The country's economy is highly intertwined with that of the US, with industrial parks ("*maquiladoras*") in Mexico providing a significant manufacturing base for US multinationals. Tourism, both domestic and international, and agriculture continue to be key sectors of the formal economy. The informal economy is heavily influenced by drug trafficking, resulting in the rise of several powerful drug-trafficking organizations (DTOs) that have divided much of the country's territory. Turf wars between cartels and clashes with government forces have resulted in significant violence in some areas, while other areas remain less affected, highlighting Mexico's heterogeneous risk environment. Opportunistic crime is a concern in all cities, with violent crime posing additional threats in some areas. Natural hazards, including earthquakes and hurricanes on both coasts, continue to present significant risks for travelers

Security

3.50 - High

Insecurity poses a high risk throughout Mexico. In major urban areas, such as Mexico City, Monterrey, or Guadalajara, nonviolent petty crimes of opportunity and express kidnappings pose the most significant threat to foreign travelers. However, violence connected to drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) poses a significant threat throughout most of the country. Major violent confrontations between rival organizations and with authorities commonly occur in DTO strongholds, such as Culiacán or Tijuana. Organized crime groups, including the Sinaloa Cartel (Cártel de Sinaloa, CDS) and Jalisco New Generation Cartel (Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación, CJNG), continue to be key drivers of violence and instability. DTOs have the capability to rapidly increase violence in the cities if their leadership is challenged by the government, as was seen in the Feb. 2026 attacks that occurred following a military raid that resulted in the death of a major DTO leader. Protests are also common in Mexico, and activists frequently stage disruptive demonstrations over political and economic issues.

Civil Unrest

3.25

Current Situation

Mexico continues to experience localized social unrest driven mainly by security concerns, political disputes, labor grievances, and longstanding concerns. Recent demonstrations have focused on high-profile cases involving disappearances, organized crime violence, allegations of government failures in public security and justice, and disputes over public-sector labor policies. Civil society groups, victims' organizations, student movements, and labor unions remain active in demanding accountability, policy changes, and improved government services.

In addition, the National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE) has organized large-scale demonstrations, strikes, and road blockades, particularly in Mexico City and southern states such as Oaxaca, Chiapas, Guerrero, and Michoacán. CNTE protests are primarily focused on teachers' labor rights, pension reforms, salary demands, and opposition to aspects of federal education policy. These actions have periodically caused significant transportation disruptions and heightened tensions with authorities.

Triggers

- Major political developments, including controversial legislation, constitutional reforms, electoral disputes, or allegations of government overreach.
- High-profile security incidents, including organized crime violence, mass casualty events, kidnappings, disappearances, attacks on public officials, journalists, or civilians, and discoveries of clandestine graves.
- Allegations of human rights abuses, excessive use of force, security force misconduct, or perceived failures by authorities to investigate crimes and deliver justice.

- High-profile incidents involving gender-based violence, femicide, or government decisions affecting Indigenous communities, land rights, natural resources, or major development projects.
- Significant labor and social-sector disputes, including CNTE mobilizations, strikes, pension and education reform disputes, austerity measures, and reforms affecting public services or state-owned enterprises.

Background

Social unrest in Mexico is concentrated in major urban centers, including Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey, Puebla, Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez, and Oaxaca, as well as other state capitals. Demonstrations are also common in southern states such as Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Guerrero, where indigenous, environmental, educational, and social movements maintain a strong presence. Protests are typically driven by concerns over public security, disappearances, corruption, gender-based violence, labor rights, education policy, and indigenous rights. While many demonstrations are planned in advance, smaller protests can also emerge rapidly in response to violent incidents, judicial decisions, or controversial government actions.

Most protests remain peaceful, though there is a moderate risk of localized violence, vandalism, clashes with security forces, and confrontations between rival groups during politically sensitive events. Road blockages are a common tactic and can significantly disrupt transportation networks, border crossings, airports, government facilities, and commercial activity. Strike action, particularly by teachers' unions such as the CNTE, transport workers, and other public-sector employees, can also cause widespread disruption. Demonstrations linked to security issues, organized crime, or high-profile political developments generally present the greatest risk of escalation.

Crime

● 3.50

Mexico's crime threat can vary significantly across locations. Certain cities are known for their relative safety, including many of the country's popular beach destinations, such as Cancún and Puerto Vallarta. In locations such as these, opportunistic crime in crowded areas and transport hubs is by far the biggest concern, though sexual assault is also a continual worry given such locations' popularity with the student "spring break" demographic. Other cities, such as Culiacan and greater Acapulco, have significant violent crime threats, including kidnapping and homicide, which occur alongside more traditional petty crime. The capital, Mexico City, lies somewhere in the middle of the spectrum, though certain neighborhoods there do have quite high violent crime rates.

Rural areas, which are generally less prone to such crime in Latin America, do not necessarily offer safer environments than urban locales within the Mexican context. Some rural areas, including those in Oaxaca and Chiapas, do indeed see low penetration by drug-trafficking organizations (DTOs) and, therefore, little drug-related violence. However, these states represent the exception, as a majority of Mexican states have substantial areas that serve as the area of operations for at least one DTO. Foreigners traveling in rural areas where DTOs operate are unlikely to be specifically targeted but can easily end up being victimized by drug-related violence, including kidnappings and carjackings, by being in the "wrong place at the wrong time". Rural areas with an active DTO presence also sometimes see the emergence of organized citizen defense groups that have essentially turned into paramilitary organizations and/or militias, again posing an incidental danger to passers-by.

Another specific threat zone lies along Mexico's northern frontier with the United States. Due to both heavy drug and human trafficking across the border, the presence of organized crime and DTO structures in the northern border states is extreme. The government has struggled to permanently curb insecurity in cities such as Nuevo Laredo, Tijuana, and Ciudad Juarez. Typically, the pacification of one area merely squeezes violence into another area within the same state or region, and a subsequent movement of federal and state resources to combat the new problem area can eventually mean a return of violence to previously pacified locations. Significant movement restrictions are often put in place for diplomatic personnel working in border states, such as US consulate employees there. Such restrictions will often change over the short term, as security situations can be quite fluid along the border.

Extortion has become a regular modus operandi of drug trafficking organizations operating throughout Mexico. Businesses oftentimes have to pay protection fees to criminal organizations in order to operate without significant disruption. When businesses refuse to pay extortion fees to criminal organizations and gangs affiliated with them, significant violence can occur. While it is most common in high-risk areas, popular tourist spots have also been affected by extortion-related violence.

Kidnapping

4.00

The threat of kidnapping in Mexico is high; however, kidnappers are more likely to target locals. The most common types of abduction in Mexico include basic opportunistic kidnap-for-ransom, express kidnapping, and virtual kidnapping. Until recently, most abduction victims were Mexican businesspeople, ranchers, and members of well-known or wealthy families; however, criminal organizations are increasingly targeting middle- and even low-income victims, including children. Criminal organizations have infiltrated police forces in certain areas, and many officers are complicit in kidnappings. For this reason, many abductions go unreported for fear of retaliatory attacks.

Mexican citizens have been the main target of kidnappers in Mexico, but foreigners have also been targeted. Moreover, as Mexicans have taken extensive security precautions - such as purchasing armored vehicles, hiring bodyguards, and exercising meticulous care in establishing everyday safety routines - kidnappers may be inclined to focus on less savvy foreign residents. However, armored vehicles run the risk of attracting unwanted attention from criminals who perceive the passengers to be wealthy or at least have wealthy connections. Long-term visitors and residents in Mexico should consult with corporate or contracted security professionals to receive training in surveillance detection and response, defensive/evasive driving, kidnapping and ransom insurance, and other methods to mitigate the threat of abduction.

The level of sophistication among Mexican kidnappers ranges from large, well-organized rings that seek exorbitant ransoms, have extensive support networks (including police officers), and hold victims for extended periods, to low-level "start-ups" that occasionally botch abductions and kill or abandon their victims. Criminal organizations have kidnapped migrants, civilians and police officers as a form of violent conscription, seeking to increase their workforce.

Kidnappings are especially common in Mexico's major cities and suburbs, including Mexico City, Acapulco, Monterrey, Guadalajara, and Tijuana. However, kidnapping rates have significantly increased in Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Guerrero, and Michoacan states since 2014. After splintering off from large drug-trafficking organizations, local gang-like structures have emerged in regions that were relatively safe just a few years ago.

Terrorism

2.50

Drug-trafficking organizations (DTOs) often employ group kidnappings, beheadings, and other terror-like tactics in their fights with rivals and the government, at times seeking to spread terror among civilians in order to intimidate them into acceding to DTO demands. DTOs can also use military-grade weapons and drones to drop explosives, carry out assassinations and attempted assassinations of officials, and conduct attacks on the Mexican military and police. This has led some governments, including that of the US, to designate major Mexican DTOs as terrorist organizations. However, unlike traditional terrorist organizations, Mexican DTOs have no true ideology; these organized crime groups instead engage in violence to consolidate their control of profitable trafficking routes.

Armed Conflict

3.00

Mexico's war on drug trafficking as well as drug-trafficking organizations' (DTOs) offensives against each other both share aspects of a low-intensity civil conflict. The largest DTOs in the country are the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, though both of these organizations are divided into various factions that sometimes fight among themselves, and many smaller DTOs also operate in the country. The boundaries defining which DTOs informally control which territories are continually shifting and often overlapping, thus producing

significant conflict. Ports of entry and exit have seen the worst of the conflict, including seaside cities such as Acapulco and Manzanillo, along with border towns like Ciudad Juarez, Tijuana and Nuevo Laredo. Increased violent crime in Guanajuato, Jalisco, Queretaro, and Zacatecas has posed significant problems for the authorities as the DTOs battle over drug trafficking routes and resources in the region. Criminal organizations use central Mexico to manufacture and traffic synthetic narcotics such as fentanyl and to steal petroleum products from the region's many pipelines. Criminal organizations have also shown an increased willingness to attack government armed forces, even overwhelming security forces in some cases. As a result, the number of police officers killed while on duty has been steadily increasing.

As the government sends in forces to secure these areas, violence often drops there yet rises in another location after cartels respond by shifting their operations, leading many to decry such a "whack-a-mole" pacification strategy as ineffective over the long term. Certain areas, however, remain generally shielded from significant violence due to their economic importance and stronger government security efforts there, including Mexico City.

Pre-dating the rise of the cartels has been the existence of leftist guerrillas in southeastern Chiapas state, who have staged an insurgency since the early 1990s. Active conflict has subsided between guerrillas and government forces for many years, although a formal peace deal has proven elusive.

Internationally, the country maintains generally good relations with the rest of Latin America and the world.

Security Services

 4.00

The capabilities and responsiveness of security services in Mexico are generally adequate in the business districts and upscale areas of large cities, including Mexico City, Monterrey, and Guadalajara, and popular tourist destinations; however, they tend to be poor elsewhere. Although Mexico has a number of different security forces, foreign nationals and local residents will most likely interact with local and state police forces. The National Guard and military units could be seen patrolling inter-state highways and high crime areas. Resources vary greatly between police forces across Mexico and largely depend on jurisdiction and whether the area is urban or rural. In larger metropolitan areas, security services tend to have better access to resources, while in rural areas, the response time is notoriously slow. Police, particularly local (municipal and state) officers, have been convicted of murder, robbery, rape, kidnapping, corruption, and human rights abuses. Foreign travelers and expatriates should report crimes to state or federal officials, and to their diplomatic mission. Police officers in large cities and popular tourist destinations may speak some English.

Infrastructure

 2.00 - Low

International carriers are considered safe for travel to and from Mexico.

Mexico's road network is quite comprehensive and, by Latin American standards, in generally good shape.

The ports are considered efficient. Most ferries are safe, however there are some concerns.

Basic services such as water, electricity and fuel availability are highly reliable in urban areas and in most rural areas, as well.

The country is considered an attractive target for cyber criminals. Its defenses against such attacks are considered weak-to-moderate, as it does receive some defense aid and assistance from the US.

Ground Transport

 2.50

Mexico, like its North American neighbors Canada and the US, has a strong car culture which has resulted in a rather well-developed road network. Highways are in generally good condition, though toll highways are of better quality than non-toll highways. Roads in major urban

centers are also adequate, as are the majority of secondary roads in the country. However, some secondary roads may be dirt-based, particularly if they are privately maintained. Exceptions to the country's overall good road quality occur primarily in states with more mountainous topography, as landslides or mudslides induced by either seismic or weather-related events can severely damage roads there.

Driving habits can be aggressive and erratic at times, but less so than in other parts of Latin America. Areas along the border with the US will often have more orderly driving cultures due to the large influx of US drivers on a daily basis. Road fatalities are moderate by global standards, higher than North American and European averages but lower than in most other parts of the world, including in many other countries in Latin America.

Local Buses

● Unrated

Intercity bus travel is available between most major cities. Intercity buses in Mexico have an average safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a high threat to travelers. Terrorists have not attacked buses in Mexico in the past decade. Terror warnings are rare on Mexico's intercity bus network.

City buses are available in most urban centers. City buses in Mexico have an average safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a high threat to travelers. Terrorists have not attacked city buses in Mexico in the past decade. Terror warnings are rare on Mexico's city bus networks.

Minibuses ('micros') are available in cities in Mexico but have a poor safety record.

Mass Transit

● Unrated

Metro systems are available in some major cities in Mexico. The country's metro systems are generally efficient and safe. Serious incidents are uncommon, but service interruptions and operational disruptions do occur, including weather-related suspensions. Securing personal items on board the metro trains is important, as theft is common. Terror warnings are rare on Mexico's metro networks.

Taxis

● Unrated

Taxis are readily available in most major cities in Mexico. Overcharging, robbery, kidnapping, and assault are commonly perpetrated against taxi passengers. Taxis arranged in advance by upscale hotels or trusted business associates are generally safer than those hailed on the street.

Ride-sharing services or vehicles ordered through online apps are available in most major cities in Mexico. Substantial tensions between traditional taxi services and app-based ride-sharing services occasionally lead to violence or vandalism that poses a threat to patrons of app-based ride-sharing services.

Informal taxi systems are available in cities in Mexico but have a poor safety record due to high rates of crime.

Train Travel

● Unrated

Train Safety

Trains in Mexico have an average recent safety record. Derailments and rail accidents involving passenger trains rarely occur.

Reliability and Availability

Passenger rail has expanded materially, including the operating Tren Maya service in southeast Mexico and new/advancing passenger rail projects such as Mexico City–Pachuca and Mexico City–Querétaro. Rail travel is available between several major cities and some smaller towns. Commuter rail services operate in a few major cities. Punctuality varies by operator and corridor; current performance is operator-dependent. Major passenger rail in Mexico remains limited to a few corridors, so intercity rail is not a comprehensive nationwide transport option.

International Rail Travel

Mexico has international rail connections with the US. Rail connections between Mexico and the US are used for freight only.

Vehicles and Roads

● Unrated

Road safety conditions in Mexico are generally adequate. Traffic in Mexico drives on the right. Roads in cities are paved and well-maintained, whereas roads in rural areas are poorly maintained. Drivers generally ignore traffic laws. Police do not enforce traffic laws. Serious traffic accidents are common. Criminals often steal from parked vehicles. Armed gangs have a history of attacking vehicles in rural areas. Foreigners planning to drive in Mexico must have an International Driving Permit (IDP) valid driver's license. Car rentals are available in most major cities.

International Road Travel

Mexico has international road connections with Belize, Guatemala, and the US. Delays are common between Mexico and the US due to tight security measures. Connections between Mexico and countries are subject to border controls, and passengers may be required to pass through customs before crossing.

Cyber

● 3.00

Geostrategic Concerns

Mexico presents a medium cyber risk, driven by high criminal activity, uneven public-sector resilience, and growing espionage interest. State-linked groups from more than 10 countries have targeted users in Mexico in recent years, with activity concentrated among threat actors linked to China, North Korea, and Russia, which have targeted government, higher education, and media organizations. Commercial spyware is a credible surveillance concern for journalists, activists, political figures, and high-profile business personnel.

The legal and governance environment has undergone improvements in recent years, but it remains fragmented. In March 2025, Mexico issued new transparency and personal-data laws, including the Federal Law on the Protection of Personal Data Held by Private Parties, and shifted data-protection authority from the former National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (INAI) toward the Secretariat for Anti-Corruption and Good Governance (SABG). However, Mexico still lacks a fully mature, economy-wide cybersecurity law covering all critical sectors.

Cybercrime

Cybercrime in Mexico is high-volume and financially motivated, but it is more a major target market than a top-tier global origin point. Its role in North American supply chains, finance, energy, logistics, and heavy use of digital banking increases the payoff for criminals targeting Mexican operations; the country ranks second only to Brazil in Latin America and the Caribbean for ransomware and extortion leak-site listings. The main threats are phishing, credential theft, banking malware, payment card fraud, ransomware, data extortion, cryptomining, and the sale of compromised access.

Victimization is concentrated in sectors with sensitive data, operational downtime pressure, or cross-border exposure. Manufacturing, technology, financial services, and government are the most affected sectors. Banking malware also remains a local concern.

DTOs add a distinct organized-crime layer, involving mainly surveillance, intimidation, and hired technical support. DTOs use mainstream digital infrastructure to scale traditional criminal activity. They reduce in-person exposure by using social media, open messaging platforms, encrypted applications, digital payments, and cryptocurrency to advertise drugs, recruit couriers, coordinate deliveries, and collect proceeds. DTOs have begun to leverage cybercrime-as-a-service in their operations, using AI and deepfakes for extortion, fraud, and virtual kidnapping. They are more likely to buy or rent access, skills, data, and tools from criminal markets than to operate as mature cybercrime platform providers themselves. This lowers the technical threshold for cybercrimes, making organized extortion, fraud, surveillance, and targeting of business personnel cheaper, more scalable, and less dependent on advanced in-cartel skills.

Law-enforcement capacity, through the National Cyber Incident Response Center (CERT-MX), is improving but remains stretched. Deterrence remains uneven due to high caseloads, inconsistent inter-agency coordination, and gaps between federal policy and state-level implementation.

Maritime

● 3.25

Port overview

Mexico has 28 seaports along its eastern coast in Gulf of Mexico and 13 on its western Pacific coast. Of these, the most significant are Manzanillo, Lazaro Cardenas, and Ensenada on the Pacific coast, and Veracruz and Altamira in the Gulf of Mexico. These ports are some of the largest in their respective regions and have been seeing an increase in capacity in recent years, with Mexico seeing an increase in container port traffic of nearly 150 percent between 2009 and 2019, with the trend continuing upwards since then.

Cartel-related criminality is a concern in Mexican ports, most notably drug and human trafficking. Port security was placed under the responsibility of the Mexican military in 2017 and Mexican authorities have claimed some success in reducing criminality as a result, although this is disputed. The discovery of illegal drugs onboard vessels has resulted in the lengthy detention of vessels and crew without charge, even in cases where the discovery was reported by the crew prior to arrival in port.

Ferries

Ferry travel is available between several Mexican ports, as well as along Mexico's waterways. International cruise ships call at ports throughout Mexico. At present, there is no international ferry travel operating to and from Mexico, other than a hand-operated ferry crossing the Rio Grande linking Tamaulipas to Texas, US. There are minimal risks associated with ferry travel in Mexico, although the US State Department had previously issued an advisory against using ferries between Playa del Carmen and Cozumel following an explosion aboard a ferry in 2018. The advisory has since been lifted.

Maritime threats

Shipping in the Gulf of Mexico and off Mexico's Pacific coast is most likely to face threats from natural disasters, particularly tropical cyclones. The hurricane season lasts between June 1 and November 30, although cyclone activity can occur outside these dates. Criminal activity at sea, such as drug and human trafficking and migrant smuggling, may also affect shipping in both the Gulf and off Mexico's Pacific coast. The associated risks are likely to be limited to navigational hazards, due to the limited use of automatic identification systems (AIS) by vessels engaged in such activity, although commercial shipping may also be required to assist migrant vessels in distress. Other minor factors to consider in the Gulf of Mexico are underwater landslides, which although rare have the potential of causing tsunamis, as well as oil spills, with some of the world's largest offshore oilfields located in the Gulf.

Maritime piracy has become increasingly prevalent off Mexican waters in the Gulf of Mexico, most notably in Campeche Bay off Tabasco and Campeche states. Attacks have primarily targeted oil industry assets with boardings of offshore drilling platforms and support and supply vessels, with the resulting theft of high-value equipment. There is a minimal risk of piracy other than petty thefts along Mexico's Pacific coast.

Air Travel

1.50

There are no major concerns over domestic or international air travel in and out of Mexico. The country meets ICAO standards, and none of Mexico's airlines are on the list of blacklisted airlines in the European Union (EU). The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) returned Mexico's civil aviation authority from "Level 2" to "Level 1" status as of Sept. 2023 following a previous downgrade in May 2021. The level 1 status assesses that the government meets the minimum international safety standards as laid out by ICAO guidelines, as well as allows Mexico to add new service and routes to the U.S.

Mexico's primary airport is Mexico City International Airport (MEX), located approximately 13km (eight miles) east of downtown Mexico City. There are also international airports in surrounding cities: Cancun International Airport (CUN), Guadalajara International Airport (GDL), Tijuana International Airport (TIJ), Monterrey International Airport (MTY), Los Cabos International Airport (SJD), Puerto Vallarta International Airport (PVR), Merida International Airport (MID), and Del Majio Airport (BJX).

Main concerns for the country's airports include capacity issues, with the government having reduced the number of flights into MEX on several occasions. Additionally, corruption is endemic among airport authorities. Crime, such as pickpocketing, also occurs at Mexico's airports. Flights may be canceled due to adverse weather conditions, particularly during hurricane season in October. There are several modes of transport from MEX, including buses, metros, and taxis. Other airports might not have adequate public transport.

Utilities

2.00

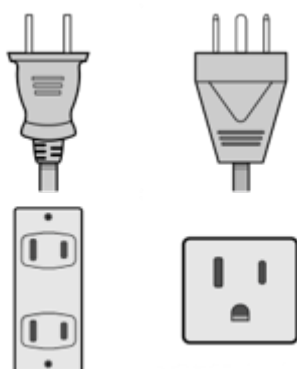
Utilities in major cities and towns are generally reliable. Rural areas are also typically well connected to utility grids. Certain areas of the country, however, are prone to drought and/or desert conditions, and water availability may be affected in rural areas there. Internet and telecommunications are of generally modern standards, though reception may be weak in the country's various mountainous areas as well as in more remote forests and jungles in the southeast.

Electricity

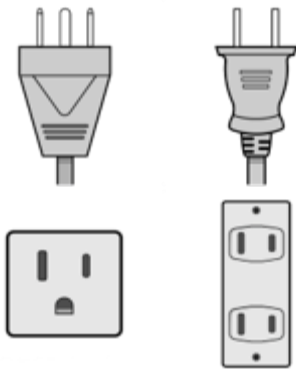
Unrated

Electricity is supplied in Mexico at 127 V, 60 Hz. Mexico uses Type A and B plugs.

Plug Types



Types de prises



Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Internet service in Mexico is readily available in most public and private accommodations. Internet activity is may be monitored in most areas; see Information Security advice sheet.

Environment

2.75 - Moderate

Mexico's climate varies immensely due to its diversity of geography. Extractive activities, both legal and otherwise, bring some risk of environmental hazard. Air pollution is also a historically notable problem in Mexico City. Earthquakes are a fairly common occurrence. While most are moderate, some can be severe. Both the Gulf/Caribbean and Pacific Coasts are vulnerable to organized tropical systems, although heavy rainfall can occur regardless of whether it is associated with a formal organized system; the hurricane season generally lasts from June through November, with activity peaking by September.

Man-Made Hazards

● 2.75

Although Mexico has transitioned to a service- and manufacturing-based economy, mining and oil remain two export mainstays. There have been noted industrial accidents in both these sectors, specifically involving chemical spills and water contamination. Mexico operates a number of oil platforms in its territorial waters in the Gulf, and has had explosions and system failures occur on them in the past. Inland pipeline spills have also occurred, and their danger is accentuated as cartels and other criminal groups tap into pipelines to attempt to illegally siphon off oil.

Finally, due to its immense size as well as its geography of being surrounded by mountains, air pollution in Mexico City has historically been quite problematic. Stricter environmental regulations have improved air quality, but pollution still remains a concern.

Seismic

● 3.00

As with all countries along the Pacific Rim, Mexico is quite susceptible to seismic activity and registers a notable number of quakes every year. Most are mild-to-moderate and occur along the Pacific Coast, though larger quakes have hit the country in the past and caused significant destruction. The country also has a number of volcanoes that dot its landscape, some of which remain active and present both a localized danger to nearby communities and a more generalized danger to air travel, which can be disrupted by volcanic ash plumes.

Storm Systems

● 2.75

The states along the Gulf/Caribbean and Pacific Coasts are highly vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms, which typically form June-November. The country has been hit by a number of such powerful tropical systems over the years, with damage ranging from moderate to catastrophic. Tidal surge, heavy winds, flooding, and mudslides are all major factors associated with these events. However, even non-tropical storms can prove threatening in terms of flooding and mudslides, depending upon topography. Because a considerable part of the country lies at a higher altitude, temperatures can sometimes dip below freezing at night and, in the event of precipitation, produce snowfall that disrupts land transportation in affected areas, as the populace is generally not accustomed to snowy conditions.

Early forecast models indicate lower levels of tropical activity in the Atlantic basin based on the expectation of moderate to strong El Nino conditions.

Forecast Parameter	Average (based on historical activity 1991-2020) Tropical Storm Risk CSU AccuWeather			
Number of Named Storms	14	12	13	11-16
Number of Hurricanes	7	5	6	4-7
Number of Major Hurricanes (Cat 3+)	3	1	2	2-4

Based on data over the past 40 years, approximately 80 percent of storms form after Aug. 15, with the season peaking in September.

Natural Hazards

 2.50

There is no one Mexican climate. Zones will range from tropical coast to central highlands to desert, with many microclimates in between. As such, it is impossible to make generalizations about the climate within the country. However, none of the Mexico's climates save in extreme desert regions are inhospitable, and these desert areas are generally unpopulated. Those along the Gulf/Caribbean and southern Pacific Coasts must frequently cope with extremely high temperatures, which can raise the risk of sunburn, heat stroke and dehydration for those unaccustomed to dealing with such environments. Similar risks also exist in the northern border states, which are at lower elevation and therefore have significantly higher temperatures than central Mexico.

The wildfire season in Mexico primarily aligns with the dry season; it typically runs January-June in the central, northern, northeastern, southern, and southeastern areas and May-September in the northwestern parts of the country. Wildfire activity typically peaks in spring and can result in loss of lives, damage to infrastructure and property, and transport disruptions.

The precipitation from the North American Monsoon typically progresses northward from southern Mexico in early June into the southwest US by early July and persists across the region through mid-September. By early to mid-September, wind patterns have generally reverted to a westerly pattern, bringing an end to the monsoon. Near-daily isolated storms are possible in parts of Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico in the US, as well as in Sonora, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, and Durango states in Mexico and surrounding areas during the monsoon season. Parts of northwestern Mexico typically receive more than 75 percent of their annual rainfall during the monsoon period, and Arizona and New Mexico receive more than 50 percent.

Thunderstorms are fueled by daytime heating, build up during the late afternoon and early evening, and dissipate by late night. The next day starts fair, with the cycle repeating almost daily. Severe storms could produce torrential downpours, flash flooding, hail, and strong winds. Flash flooding is a danger during the monsoon; normally dry streams, creeks, and arroyos could quickly become inundated with floodwaters. Lightning strikes are also a danger. Dry lightning may ignite wildfires before heavier rainfall becomes widespread. Wind gusts of up to 80 kph (50 mph) could cause power outages throughout the affected area. Wind from thunderstorms could also lead to dust storms, particularly in the southwestern US.

Forecast models indicate above-normal precipitation is possible across southwestern US August-October and across northwestern Mexico in August.

Air Quality

● Unrated

Air Quality

Air pollution routinely exceeds recommended thresholds in urban areas. Air pollution has been proved to cause or contribute to thousands of deaths per year across the country. Alongside the typical urban causes of poor air quality, another contributing factor to the pollution levels is the reliance of many Mexicans on the use of firewood and charcoal for cooking purposes. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress ([map](#)).

Health and Medical

3.00 - Moderate

Mosquito-borne diseases are the major epidemiological concern in the country. High-quality medical facilities and specialist care are available in most major cities, including Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Cancun, particularly in private hospitals and clinics. However, health services in rural and remote areas are more limited. Major medications are generally available in pharmacies in cities and larger towns, but availability in less populated areas may be more variable. All major medications can be obtained in most cities. The availability of medicines in less populated areas will vary, but is still generally adequate. Tap water is not considered safe for drinking unless otherwise directed.

Disease and Health Threats

● 3.25

Diseases of High Risk

- **Traveler's Diarrhea:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. This is the most common illness in travelers. People who become ill by an infectious agent that causes traveler's diarrhea most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stools despite an empty gastrointestinal tract.
- **Dengue Fever:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mainly during the day. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms of dengue fever include a sudden onset of fever and at least one of the following: severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, muscle and/or joint pain, rash, easy bruising, and/or nose or gum bleeding. Fever and other symptoms generally appear abruptly four to seven days after being bitten. Some people have reported experiencing no symptoms. Dengue fever is endemic throughout central and southern Mexico, and sporadic periodic outbreaks occur in the northern states bordering the US. Risk is minimal in Mexico City due to high elevation. The risk of infection exists year-round; however, the risk is highest from May to November.
- **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **Chagas Disease:** Transmitted through the reduviid beetle or contaminated blood products. Rarely through contaminated food products. Reduviid beetles are mostly found in buildings constructed of mud, adobe brick, or thatch. The acute stage generally occurs immediately after being infected. Most individuals do not have symptoms or experience only mild symptoms. Individuals who develop symptoms generally show nonspecific symptoms such as fever, headaches, vomiting, and diarrhea. Most infected individuals will never progress to the chronic stage. However, in up to 30 percent of patients, chronic Chagas disease can cause extensive heart and central nervous system damage, leading to death. Signs of chronic Chagas disease include an enlarged heart, dilated esophagus, and/or dilated colon. The risk of infection exists nationwide. Most cases occur along the Pacific Coast and the Gulf of Mexico, as well as in central and southern Mexico.

- **Hepatitis E:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.

Diseases of Moderate Risk

- **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever include a fever, rash, headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, muscle pain, and/or red eyes. It may be lethal if left untreated. Cases are concentrated in northern border states, but occasionally are reported in Sinaloa, Yucatán, and Veracruz.
- **Malaria:** Transmitted through mosquito bites. Symptoms of malaria most commonly include fever, chills, headaches and body aches, nausea and vomiting, and general malaise. These symptoms usually develop 10-28 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. However, there are reports of symptoms beginning as early as seven days to as late as one year. Preventative medications (prophylaxis) are available. The risk of infection is low and exists in Campeche, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Oaxaca, Sinaloa, Sonora, and Tabasco states. No risk of infection exists along the border with the US.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Transmitted by contaminated milk, water, and food. Raw fish and shellfish from contaminated waters are likely to be infected. Symptoms of typhoid fever usually include fever, abdominal pain or discomfort, chills and body aches, weakness, and loss of appetite.
- **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids and effectively prevented with vaccination. An unexpected medical or dental emergency may place the unvaccinated traveler at risk. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **Tuberculosis:** Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider obtaining a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, a bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum. Some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of HIV infection, many people, but not all, experience influenza-like illness, including fever, swollen glands, sore throat, rash, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms, also called acute retroviral syndrome (ARS), can last from days to weeks. Without treatment, the infection can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Diseases of Low Risk

- **Chikungunya:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly during daytime hours. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms commonly include fever, joint pain, muscle pain, headache, and rash. People usually develop symptoms three to seven days after being bitten. Most people recover within a week, but joint pain can persist for months. Risk is year-round; however, risk is highest from June to October.
- **Leptospirosis:** Transmitted through exposure or ingestion of water contaminated with the urine of infected animals. Flooding poses an additional risk of contracting leptospirosis. Initial symptoms of leptospirosis typically develop two days to four weeks after exposure. Such symptoms include headache, fever, muscle aches, chills, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Those who may be at high risk can take an antibiotic prophylaxis.

- **West Nile Virus:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly between dusk and dawn. Bite prevention is essential. West Nile virus symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash. Most people experience no symptoms.
- **Zika Virus:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mainly during the day, or sexually through an infected partner. Mosquito bite prevention and practicing safe sex are essential. In many cases, the Zika virus is asymptomatic; however, in some cases, it may cause symptoms similar to dengue and chikungunya, including fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes. Significant birth defects have been associated with Zika virus infection in pregnant women. Partners of women who have recently traveled to an area with Zika virus circulation are encouraged to use condoms for at least six months or the duration of a partner's pregnancy. During 2016, health authorities reported cases in all states except Baja California, Chihuahua, Distrito Federal, Durango, Guanajuato, Mexico, Queretaro, and Tlaxcala states. Risk is year-round; however, risk is highest from June to October.
- **Leishmaniasis:** Transmitted through the bites of sandflies. Risk is greatest from dusk to dawn. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is the most common form of *Leishmania* infection, causing skin sores that are usually painless. Visceral leishmaniasis is the second most common; typical symptoms include high fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anemia. If left untreated, this form of leishmaniasis is nearly 100 percent fatal within two years. Most cases are concentrated in Quintana Roo, the southern region, and Nayarit. Risk is highest in areas with moist, organic matter (e.g., jungle floor).
- **Rabies:** Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Do not approach unfamiliar animals. Wild and domestic animals pose a threat.
- **Avian Influenza (H5N1):** Transmitted through direct contact with poultry, birds, and bird droppings. Symptoms of human H5N1 are usually severe, including high fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The risk of human infection from avian influenza H5N1 is generally low, but it is greater for individuals with frequent, close contact with wild birds and/or live or recently dead poultry.
- **Hantavirus:** Transmitted through inhalation or ingestion of infected rodent urine or feces. Early symptoms include fever, headaches, muscle aches, stomach aches, dizziness, and chills. Late symptoms include potentially fatal fluid in the lungs and shortness of breath. Late-stage symptoms generally appear four to 10 days after early symptoms.
- **Altitude Sickness:** Some locations in Mexico are above 2,440 meters (8,000 feet). Some people may experience adverse health effects at such altitudes. Ascend gradually to allow acclimatization and remain watchful for signs of altitude sickness or more severe manifestations.

Health Requirements

● Unrated

Yellow Fever: Vaccination Not Required

There are no recommendations or requirements for yellow fever vaccination in Mexico. There is no risk of yellow fever.

Health Recommendations

● Unrated

Recommended Immunizations for Travel to Mexico

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a healthcare professional at least four to six weeks before the trip. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and the annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID-19 vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses, administered at least six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. It is recommended that all susceptible people traveling for any purpose, frequency, or duration to countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity be vaccinated or receive immune globulin before departure. A booster is recommended for partially vaccinated travelers.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after a complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing the full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours for short-term protection.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, the WHO and CDC recommend vaccination for individuals who will be performing occupational or recreational activities that increase the risk for exposure to potentially rabid animals, such as animal handlers, field biologists, cavers, missionaries, veterinarians, and some laboratory workers. It is also recommended for travelers who might have difficulty getting prompt access to safe post-exposure prophylaxis. Mexico has reported rabies in domestic animals, thus most travelers are at risk. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated, especially those staying with friends or relatives in endemic areas or visiting smaller cities or rural areas. Widely used formulations require between two and four doses, depending on the formulation and the recipient's vaccination history. Booster vaccination is required every two or five years depending on the formulation. The last dose should be taken at least one week before travel.

Medical Facilities and Services

 2.50

The quality of healthcare services varies greatly throughout the country; good health care is available in private hospitals and clinics in major cities but are limited in rural areas. Ambulance services are widely available in major cities. However, emergency responder training and availability may be below U.S. standards and not available in rural or remote areas. Outside of state capitals and larger urban areas, medical and emergency services may be limited. This includes immediate response, ambulances, basic medical equipment and expertise. Some Mexican facilities may accept international health insurance, but a more likely scenario involves up-front payment by the patient and subsequent reimbursement by the carrier. Make sure you get travel insurance.

Medications and Pharmacy

 Unrated

Pharmacies across Mexico are readily available, especially at hospitals and clinics. Supply of most medicines needed by travelers is high. It is recommended to only purchase medication from reputable pharmacies to limit the risk of using counterfeit products or medicines of poor quality. Prior to traveling confirm the status of your "over the counter" medicines with accredited foreign government offices of Mexico in your country. Always carry your prescription medication in its original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription and any other relevant documentation.

Mental Health

 3.50

Mental health services are limited across much of the country, and conditions are often poorly managed.

Food and Water Safety

 3.25

Drinking water may be unsafe in Mexico, especially in rural areas. Use only bottled, boiled, or otherwise purified water for drinking and cooking. Do not use ice cubes made from unpurified water sources. Eat only thoroughly cooked food served hot, or fruits and vegetables that

you have cleaned and peeled; avoid salads. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Avoid street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

Political

3.00 - Moderate

Despite years of politicians promising to crack down on corruption in government, graft remains endemic in Mexico. Rule of law is limited in many states due to narco-related or other criminal activity. The Mexican system of governance, however, remains among the most stable in Latin America, despite high levels of corruption and large pockets of insecurity.

Corruption

4.25

Corruption remains endemic in Mexico. The national government, recognizing the extent of the problem, has claimed to have made tackling corruption a priority, but similar pledges by previous governments have had only limited success. Particularly damaging have been recurrent scandals involving the influence of drug-trafficking organizations (DTOs) on government officials.

State and local security forces are considered to be significantly more susceptible to the influence of such criminal elements, although federal forces have also been implicated. More familiar forms of corruption, such as money laundering and embezzlement, are also considered severe problems in the public and private sectors. Major anti-corruption drives are usually promised during every election cycle, but rarely go far due to the complex and deep structural components of corruption in the country. Typical travelers are unlikely to witness corruption firsthand, except when dealing with police, who are known to solicit bribes from foreigners during traffic stops.

Government Stability

2.00

Mexico operates using a presidential representative democracy in which a directly elected president is both head of government and head of state. The legislative branch, a directly elected bicameral Congress, is charged with passing legislation, and an independent judiciary interprets legislation and the Constitution. Elections are usually peaceful and are generally considered free and fair, although localized episodes of violence do occasionally occur in their lead-up and their aftermath; allegations of voting irregularities often mark Mexican elections, but most observers concur that any such irregularities do not affect the overall outcome of major contests such as presidential elections.

Mexico, for all its past failings in securing internal stability, has maintained its core democratic structure for close to a century. Though areas of the country have certainly fallen outside the rule of law and corruption runs high even in areas with a strong government presence, central government institutions have remained stable.

Rule of Law

3.00

The lack of rule of law in large swathes of the country is a direct result of the extent of cartel influence in Mexico. While each state has its own functioning government, those with high-profile cartels see the state's power highly curtailed. Because the federal government is constantly mobilizing resources to counter cartels and other criminal organizations in different areas, the situation regarding rule of law can often be quite fluid, particularly in the northern border states. Even in historically stable areas such as Mexico City, the rule of law can be undermined due to the prevalence of corruption and graft that results in a culture of impunity for the well-connected. In general, the country's upper class is far more insulated from the reach of the criminal justice system than the middle and lower classes, again calling into question the uniformity of rule of law.

Sanctions

1.50

The international community generally views Mexico as a cooperative country, and multilateral sanctions are typically a non-issue. Unilateral sanctions, as levied by specific governments, primarily target individuals suspected of involvement with drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) rather than the country as a whole.

The United States imposes targeted sanctions on individuals and entities linked to DTOs, including the Sinaloa Cartel (Cártel de Sinaloa) and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación). These sanctions use measures such as asset freezes and prohibitions on U.S. persons engaging in transactions with designated parties. However, such sanctions have targeted individuals rather than the entire government.

Legal

Unrated

Visitors to Mexico are subject to local laws, which may not mirror, either in whole or in part, those of their home country. Those deemed to be in violation, even unknowingly, may be fined, detained, imprisoned, temporarily or permanently expelled, or tried *in absentia* depending on the nature of the offense. Home-country consular officers are typically systematically informed of a detention and permitted to provide support services at the request of their detained citizens. When there is no treaty in force, notification and access depend on whether the two countries have direct or indirect diplomatic relations. Consular officers cannot interfere with local judicial proceedings, nor provide legal advice or representation at trial, and are unable to pay legal fees or fines with government funds. The status of dual nationals will be determined by local officials, with all attendant ramifications for access and support.

Emergency Contacts

Unrated

Emergency Contacts

Ambulance 911

Fire 911

Police 911

Embassies and Consulates

Unrated

US Consulate (Hermosillo)

Address Monterrey #141 entre las calles, Rosales y Galeana, Col. Esqueda, C.P. 83000, Hermosillo, Sonora

Fax (52-662) 217-2571

Email HermoACS@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/hermosillo/>

Austrian Embassy

Address Sierra Tarahumara 420, Colonia Lomas de Chapultepec, 11000 Mexico City D.F.

Fax (52-55) 5245 0198

Email mexiko-ob@bmeia.gv.at

Web Site <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/oeb-mexiko/>

US Consulate (Monterrey)

Address Alfonso Reyes No. 150, Col. Valle Poniente, Santa Catarina, Nuevo Leon, 66196

Email MonterreyACS@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/monterrey/>

US Consulate (Nogales)

Address Calle San Jose s/n, Fraccionamiento los Alamos, C. P. 84065 Nogales, Sonora.

Fax (52-631) 313 4652

Email NogalesACS@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/nogales/>

Delegation of the European Union

Address Paseo de la Reforma 1675, Lomas de Chapultepec, C.P. 11001 Mexico, D.F.

Email DELEGATION-MEXICO@eeas.europa.eu

Web Site http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/mexico/index_en.htm

French Embassy

Address Campos Eliseos 339, 11560 Mexico DF, Mexico City

Fax (52-55) 9171 9893

Email presse.mexico-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Web Site <https://mx.ambafrance.org/>

US Consulate (Matamoros)

Address Constitución No. 1, Col. Jardín, Matamoros, Tamaulipas 87330

Fax (52-868) 816-4113

Email MatamorosACS@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/matamoros/>

Canadian Embassy

Address Schiller 529, Col. Bosque de Chapultepec (Polanco), Del. Miguel Hidalgo, 11580 Mexico City, D.F.

Fax (52-55) 5724 7980

Email mex@international.gc.ca

Web Site <http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/mexico-mexique>

US Consulate (Ciudad Juarez)

Address Paseo de la Victoria 3650, Fracc. Partido Seneca, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua

Email CDJSCS@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/ciudad-juarez/>

US Consulate (Nuevo Laredo)

Address Paseo Colon 1901, Colonia Madero, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas 88260

Fax (52-867) 719 5359

Email NuevoLaredo-ACS@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/nuevo-laredo/>

US Embassy

Address Paseo de la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc

Fax (52-55) 5080 2005

Email acsmexicocity@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/>

US Consulate (Tijuana)

Address Paseo de las Culturas s/n, Mesa de Otay, Delegacion Centenario, Tijuana, Baja California 22425

Email ACSTijuana@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/tijuana/>

German Embassy

Address Horacio No. 1506, Col. Los Morales Sección Alameda, Deleg. Miguel Hidalgo 11530 Mexico City

Fax +52 55 52 81 25 88

Web Site <http://www.mexiko.diplo.de>

US Consulate (Merida)

Address Calle 60 No. 338-K x 29 y 31, Col. Alcala Martin, Merida, Yucatan 97050

Fax (52-999) 942 5758

Email AskMeridaACS@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/merida/>

Australian Embassy

Address Ruben Dario 55, Col. Bosque de Chapultepec, 11580, Mexico City

Fax (52-55) 1101 2201

Email australianembassy.mexico@dfat.gov.au

Web Site <https://mexico.embassy.gov.au/>

US Consulate (Guadalajara)

Address Progreso 175, Col. Americana, Guadalajara, Jalisco

Fax (52-33) 3826-6549

Email ACSGDL@state.gov

Web Site <https://mx.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulates/guadalajara/>

Spanish Embassy

Address Calle Galileo 114 (esq. Horacio). Colonia Polanco, 11550, Delegación Miguel Hidalgo, Ciudad de México.

Fax (+52) 55 52 82 13 02 / 15 20

Email emb.mexico@maec.es

Web Site <https://www.exteriores.gob.es/Embajadas/mexico/es/Paginas/index.aspx>

British Embassy

Address Calle Rio Lerma 71, Col Cuauhtamoc, 06500 Mexico DF

Email ukinmexico@fco.gov.uk

Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-mexico-city>

Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at: <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com/>.

HIV Testing Requirement: Not required.

Pre-Departure

Unrated

- Corruption remains endemic in Mexico, and business travelers should undertake anti-bribery and corruption briefings before traveling. Travelers should also undertake a pre-travel security brief on the associated threats and operating environment and are recommended to have undertaken annual travel security training.
- Good medical facilities can be found in most major cities but in rural areas may be of a lower quality. Travelers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from the country and should review contingency operations, business continuity and crisis management plans. Travelers should identify possible sources of medical support in country, such as the availability of a hotel-provided doctor for minor ailments.
- Mexico has high levels of unrest and a strong protest culture, particularly over political and economic issues. Travelers should conduct research into Mexico's current stability. If the travel dates coincide with planned elections, anniversaries or significant dates, additional measures may need to be taken.
- Travelers should provide friends and family with a copy of their travel itinerary, make a copy of important travel and identification documents, and if applicable, obtain their visa prior to arrival. Travelers should also have information on their meeting host, accommodation, relevant embassies and trusted local contacts easily accessible.
- Parts of Mexico are quite susceptible to seismic activity, and travelers should familiarize themselves with evacuation plans issued by local government or relevant authorities. Before travel to Mexico City, travelers should download the [911 CDMX app](#), which warns users of impending earthquakes.

On Arrival

Unrated

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- Travelers should have a meet and greet procedure in place and minimize the time spent in the common areas of the airport, which are less protected. Travelers should proceed through arrivals in a timely manner and depart as soon as practicably possible.
 - Travelers should continually reassess the security and threat environment through a range of multi-source intelligence advisories.
 - Travelers should carry a copy of their travel documents at all times.

In Transit

● Unrated

- Travelers should avoid using street taxis and public transportation, which are often targeted by criminals. If traveling by taxi, do not hail taxis on local streets. The use of dispatched taxis, hotel taxis or safer "sitio" taxis or locally vetted transport providers is the most safe and reliable form of travel. Vehicles should have emergency equipment appropriate to the local geography and climatic conditions. Fuel levels in vehicles should be at least half-full. Travel routes should avoid isolated areas and potential choke points where practical. Travelers should establish a formal identification of the driver before commencing any trip.
- Where practical, travelers should fly to Mexican destinations rather than drive inter-city.
- Travelers should only travel with minimal non-essential valuable items, and valuables should not be displayed publicly. Travelers should vary routes and times and should minimize road travel after dark.
- Outside of urban areas, travelers may encounter checkpoints manned by military personnel. Drivers should not drive through unless waved on. Should security forces demand to see any documents, travelers should cooperate fully with them. The driver, or security detail, should be the one(s) communicating. At night, turn on the interior car light during any approach.

At Your Hotel

● Unrated

- Travelers should stay at reputable hotels with good standards of international-level security. Hotels should be located in areas of town that have not previously witnessed significant protests or demonstrations and are not marred by ethnic or political tensions.
- On arrival at the hotel, travelers should ensure that the driver stays on site until check-in has been confirmed. Similarly before departing to the airport when leaving the hotel, drivers should wait until flight check-in is confirmed.
- Travelers should favor rooms on floors between 2 and 6, and as far as possible from the main entrance and principal public areas. Rooms with access from a side balcony or fire escape should be avoided.
- Travelers should always lock the door (and any connecting doors) to their room and use the chain or spy hole when receiving a visitor. Do not open the door to the hotel room, especially late at night, until the visitor's identity has been confirmed; meet strangers first in the lobby.
- Travelers should monitor local media for updates on earthquakes and seismic activity.

In the Street

● Unrated

- Travelers should be aware of the national culture and behavioral expectations. Travelers should keep a low profile, and should not become involved in local political issues and avoid discussing politically sensitive topics in public.

- Mexico has high levels of unrest, and travelers should avoid sensitive areas; during periods of heightened tension, travelers should avoid symbolic places - such police stations, government buildings, fast food restaurants and banks – and locations of previous protests. Travelers should avoid any demonstrations, protests and rallies which may attract security forces and law enforcement officers and which present a dynamic and volatile environment.
- Crime in Mexico ranges from principally opportunistic to violent. Travelers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by; do not get into an argument and avoid eye contact with strangers. Travelers should avoid overt displays of wealth and dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment. Do not display money, jewelry or valuables, and keep a low profile. Travelers should be aware of their location and surroundings. Avoid high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travelers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
- In crowded situations, travelers should be aware of jostling, as this may be a ploy for pickpockets. Travelers should also be aware of any loitering people and also that attackers may first pass their victim to attack from behind.
- Travelers should settle small bills with cash and have a spare credit card available. Travelers should use only small denominations of the Mexican peso and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on their person. Reduce the contents of wallets and purses, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships and accounts. Do not use credit or debit cards unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments.
- Travelers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travelers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- Travelers should be aware that photographing government buildings or military facilities may result in detention by authorities.
- LGBT+ travelers should note that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity remains widespread in Mexico, though the situation varies somewhat by region; public displays of same-sex affection may lead to harassment or violence. Legal protections for LGBT+ individuals are generally strong by Latin American standards, but enforcement can be lax.

Culture

Unrated

Standard Hours of Operation

Business: Monday-Friday, 0800-1800

Government: Monday-Friday, 0800-1800 (approximately)

Banking: Monday-Saturday, 0900-1600

Business attire is generally semi-formal in large cities, including Mexico City, Monterrey, and Guadalajara. Men should wear a suit, a button-down shirt, and dress shoes. For women, a suit or mid-length skirt and blouse with dress shoes is appropriate. In small- and medium-sized cities, business attire tends to be business casual.

Appointments are best scheduled Monday-Friday between 0900-1700. Arriving on time to meetings with large corporations or international companies is expected; however, late arrivals are common for less important engagements. Arriving late for social events is a common practice. Informal or personal discussions are common. Scheduled meetings will typically run longer than expected. If a meeting includes dining out, the host will typically offer to pay the check. Alcohol taken during lunch and dinner meetings is considered normal.

Spanish is commonly used for business purposes. Attempts by visitors to speak in the native language are generally well-received, though many professionals are able to speak some English. Business cards are widely used. Always use Mr./Ms./Dr. or a local title until the host

indicates that using first names is appropriate. Addressing the host according to his or her official title is seen as a sign of respect. When beginning and ending meetings, people typically shake hands; if a man and a woman, or two women are friends, they may kiss cheeks. It is important to say goodbye to each individual instead of giving a collective goodbye.

Gestures

● Unrated

Business cards are widely used; when in use, they are presented with the Spanish side of the card facing the upwards.

When beginning the meeting, shake hands with everyone at the meeting. At business meetings address everyone by their title and last name.

Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or insulting:

- Placing your hands on your hips.
- Burping while in public.
- Using your fingers to make a V sign and placing it next to your nose.

Religions

● Unrated

Roman Catholic 83%, Other, including Pentecostal, Jehovah's Witness, other Evangelical Churches, unspecified, 17%

Ethnicities

● Unrated

Mestizo (Amerindian-Spanish) 62%, predominantly Amerindian 21%, Amerindian 7%, other 10% (mostly European)

Significant Dates

● Unrated

2026 Significant Dates

Jan. 1 New Year's Day

Feb. 2 Constitution Day

March 16 Benito Juarez's Birthday

April 2 Maundy Thursday

April 3 Good Friday

May 1 Labor Day

May 5 Cinco de Mayo

Sept. 16 Independence Day

Nov. 16 Revolution Day

Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadeloupe Day

Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Financial

Unrated

Financial systems can differ considerably by jurisdiction. Acceptance of cash, debit, and credit cards also varies across the country. Some locations may only accept cash due to the absence of card-processing machines. Banks or legal money changers typically offer the official exchange rates. While the import and export of both local and foreign currency are authorized, sums should not exceed the amount declared upon arrival.

Currency

● Unrated

Currency Name/Code

The official currency of Mexico is the Mexican Peso (MXN). One MXN is made up of 100 cents (centavos).

Currency Convertibility

Banks or legal money changers may the best exchange rates in Mexico. Mexico forbids foreigners from exiting with local currency in amounts greater than an equivalent of USD 10,000.

Credit Card

● Unrated

Major credit cards are widely accepted in shops, restaurants, and hotels.

Taxes and Tipping

● Unrated

It is customary to tip hotel personnel, wait staff in restaurants, and taxi drivers 10-15 percent of the bill; there may be a service charge on the bill.

Bank and ATM

● Unrated

ATM Availability

Automated teller machines are widely available in Mexico, except in some remote towns. Always choose a machine located in a secure area, preferably within hotels or other populated, well-lit locations.

Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally 0900-1600 Monday-Friday. Cash advances on major credit cards issued by foreign banks are permitted.

LGBTQ Security

2.00 - Low

Mexico remains an overall low-threat environment for the LGBTQ community as its population is generally tolerant, and the legal environment is inclusive of LGBTQ individuals. The country continues to be at the forefront of prioritizing LGBTQ rights relative to other Latin American countries and has introduced a host of pro-LGBTQ laws and policies in recent years. Despite this, the social environment for the LGBTQ community varies widely by state. The physical threat of violence for transgender women is elevated compared to other LGBTQ subgroups.

LGBTQ Legal Environment

● 1.00

The legal environment in Mexico poses a minimal threat to LGBTQ individuals. Both same-sex sexual acts and same-sex marriage are legal across the country. In March 2024, the representatives of the Mexican Chamber of Duties (Lower House of Representatives) banned conversion therapy, 267 voted in favor, 104 voted against the bill, and 33 abstained. A total of 18 state legislatures also banned the practice. In December 2022, the Mexican Senate approved equal social benefits for same-sex couples. In February 2023, the National Electoral Institute allowed the "X" gender marker on voter IDs without requiring a birth certificate. Several states, including Chihuahua, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Mexico City, Jalisco, Tabasco, and Nuevo Leon, now recognize non-binary gender markers on birth certificates; all have age

restrictions except Jalisco. As of February 2024, 21 states have adopted laws recognizing gender identity. The Federal Law to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination (2003) protects LGBTQ individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the provision of goods and services, employment, education, healthcare, and housing, while penalizing incitement to hatred motivated by anti-LGBTQ sentiment. This legislation also established the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED) to further promote equality and inclusion for the LGBTQ community and other marginalized groups. Some states consider crimes motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity as aggravating factors under hate crime provisions. Mexico City and the state of Nayarit have incorporated the crime of transference into local legislation.

LGBTQ Enforcement

● 3.00

Enforcement poses a moderate threat to the LGBTQ community, as authorities are inconsistent in enforcing LGBTQ-related laws throughout the country. Violent crimes against the LGBTQ community often go unpunished, and LGBTQ individuals have reported discrimination from police officers. Human rights organizations report that most crimes, including anti-LGBTQ hate crimes, are almost never solved due to high levels of institutional corruption and systemic dysfunction within law enforcement and the criminal justice system. This is further exacerbated by the interference and influence of organized crime groups, who often intimidate and threaten officials. A 2016 Executive Commission for Attention to Crime Victims (CEAV) and Fundacion Arcoiris Report indicated that authorities solve less than 10 percent of crimes committed in Mexico, and regarding anti-LGBTQ crimes, convicted perpetrators were typically set free. In 2024, Fundacion Arcoiris reported 187 anti-LGBTQ hate crimes. As of March 31, 2025, 11 cases were recorded. However, human rights groups continue to express concern over a lack of arrests for perpetrators of anti-LGBTQ crimes.

LGBTQ Social Environment

● 3.00

The social environment poses a moderate threat to the LGBTQ community in Mexico, as societal tolerance is mixed and varies by location. Generally, urban areas pose a lower threat than rural areas. In Mexico City, the population is highly tolerant of LGBTQ individuals. Organizations frequently host pride events, and many LGBTQ individuals have expressed feeling a high level of safety and acceptance throughout the city. However, tolerance of the LGBTQ community is not prevalent nationwide, and violence against LGBTQ individuals, particularly transgender women, has risen in recent years despite protective legislation. The LGBTQ platform Visible, which allows individuals to self-report incidents of violence and discrimination against the LGBTQ community in Mexico, recorded 821 incidents in 2023 and 255 incidents in 2024, but only 12 in 2025 as of March. These incidents range from verbal abuse to physical and sexual assaults. It is not yet clear whether the early 2025 decrease is part of a larger trend. Civil society organization Letra S reported 66 murders of LGBTQ individuals in 2023, of which 43 were transgender women. In 2024, the organization reported that 80 LGBTQ individuals were killed, of which 55 were transgender women. However, the organization has stated that the total number of LGBTQ deaths was likely much higher, as they are only able to track incidents that were officially registered by the justice system or covered by the media. Additionally, the National Observatory of Hate Crimes Against LGBT People has documented 25 hate-motivated incidents in the first quarter of 2025, including 11 disappearances and 14 deaths. LGBTQ public officials and activists have also been targeted for violence in recent years. In 2023, Ociel Baena, the first openly non-binary magistrate, and Ulises Nava, an LGBTQ advocate, were killed in two separate incidents in Aguascalientes. In January 2024, four LGBTQ advocates were killed, including Samantha Fonseca, a transgender activist and Senate candidate, and Miriam Rios Rios, an LGBTQ activist and politician. In February 2024, Miguel Angel Zavala, an LGBTQ mayoral candidate, was killed in Michoacan. Human rights organizations and LGBTQ individuals also report physical violence at the hands of police and other officials. One such incident occurred in November 2022 in which police officers detained and assaulted several transgender women in Guanajuato, prompting a local rights group to demand an investigation. Furthermore, violence against LGBTQ individuals occurs regularly along the US-Mexico border as they wait for the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to process immigration requests. Human Rights Watch (HRW) has documented several cases of Mexican police and other border officials extorting bribes and assaulting LGBTQ asylum seekers. Mexico City-based LGBTQ activist groups have said that many LGBTQ individuals forego waiting to immigrate to the US and instead choose to reside in Mexico City to avoid further persecution and violence at the border. There is a high threat of discrimination and violence at most Mexican shelters at the US border, such as churches. Some members of the LGBTQ community, particularly transgender women, have been attacked and killed in churches and other shelters in border cities, such as Tijuana.

Active Alerts

No Alerts

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