

Before You Go

The amount of preparation you need depends on the purpose and duration of your trip. If you are on vacation, and your stay will be fairly brief, you can use the tourist card (*Forma Migratoria Turista* or FM-T) provided by the airline during your flight. If your trip includes business, be prepared to provide information about the purpose of the visit and the companies or individuals you will deal with. A salesperson calling on a client needs less documentation than someone going to Mexico to perform services for a fee.

There are four categories of business traveller recognized under the NAFTA. Business visitors who do not intend to enter the local labour market can enter with a business visitor visa — *Forma Migratoria de Negocios* (FM-N) — that can be obtained from airlines, at the Mexican port of entry or from a Mexican consulate in Canada. Professionals working on contract, intra-company transferees, traders and investors may need professional advice to prepare documentation in advance. The Mexican Embassy in Ottawa or the consulates in other parts of Canada can provide up-to-date information.

Regardless of the purpose of your trip, you will require proof of citizenship to enter Mexico. A

My name is ...

Mi nombre es.../Me llamo...

I don't speak Spanish.

No hablo español.

Canadian passport is the simplest way to prove your citizenship and comply with the requirement for photo identification. A passport is also convenient identification for other purposes, such as changing money in Mexico and re-entering Canada. Also check your immunizations and verify whether other health precautions are necessary. Take into account the high altitudes in the Mexico City area and potential problems with water quality. Book arrangements for travel and accommodation well in advance. Review the contents of this booklet carefully to ensure you have all the documentation you may require.

Mexican authorities vigorously enforce immigration and entry laws. If you are found to be in infringement of Mexican immigration laws, you may face deportation. If the purpose of your visit is anything other than tourism (e.g., not-for-profit, artistic, cultural or sporting activities or business), we recommend that you contact Mexican authorities to obtain the proper visa.