

Introduction

Mexico is one of the most popular destinations for Canadian travellers. One million Canadians visit Mexico each year. Vacationers are drawn by the country's superb beaches, pre-Columbian ruins, colonial architecture and the sights and sounds of numerous cultural events. Business travellers are attracted by Mexico's status as one of the most open economies in Latin America. Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Canadians enjoy special access to pursue investment opportunities, work as professionals or intra-company transferees, and sell their goods and services. Many Canadians combine business and pleasure when they go.

Mexicans are warm, hospitable people, and Canadians will find themselves welcome in their country. But careful preparation is a key part of any successful foreign trip. This is especially true in countries such as Mexico, where a different culture and legal

system will be encountered. A simple checklist of travel requirements can mean the difference between a minor glitch and a major disaster.

Mexican Culture

Whether you are travelling, living or working in Mexico, you will find yourself in a vastly different culture from the one you're used to at home. Mexicans, like Canadians, have as many differences among them as they have characteristics in common. We often use the word "culture" to describe the common characteristics. As important as these generalizations are to our own learning process, always remember that every person is a unique individual. Mexico is a rapidly changing society, where young educated executives are taking over decision-making positions from a more traditional, older generation. And there are distinct regional variations.

Mexicans are friendly and outgoing people, who readily welcome foreign visitors. They appreciate Canadians as people who come from a multicultural society and are sensitive to cultural differences.

Do you speak English?

¿Habla usted inglés?

I don't understand.

No entiendo.