

- Your hotel has information about local tourist attractions. Major sidetrips to beaches and the interior of the country should be arranged through the appropriate empresa. Some advance notice should be given.
- Although health conditions in Cuba are generally of a high standard, we strongly recommend that you drink only boiled or bottled water.
- Even if your knowledge of Spanish is limited to a few words or phrases, use them as often as possible.

## If You Are Travelling on to Mexico

A special transit card is required to enter Mexico from Cuba. No previously issued tourist card and/or visa to Mexico are valid for the flight from Havana to Mexico City. The transit cards issued in Havana allow the traveller to stay in Mexico for a five-day period only. In order to obtain the Mexican transit card you must supply to the Mexican Embassy, No. 518, Calle 12, Miramar, Havana, Cuba the following: a Cuban exit permit (salida), three passport photos, a smallpox vaccination certificate, evidence of onward transportation arrangements and proof of admittance to a third country. The Mexican Embassy is open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. A fee is charged. Visitors to Cuba wishing to travel on to Mexico should allow sufficient time during their stay to meet these requirements which usually take 24 hours.

To have an airline ticket to Mexico confirmed (see above) you must have your Mexican transit card. Remember, airline tickets must be confirmed at least 72 hours in advance.

As it is difficult to have passport pictures taken and processed quickly in Cuba, travellers should obtain them in Canada prior to departure.

The Canadian Embassy in Havana can provide application forms for a Mexican transit card. If an application is presented at the Mexican Embassy before 1:00 p.m. it can usually be picked up the following day between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The above notwithstanding, if you are going to fly via Mexicana Airlines, your transit card can be obtained free of charge at the Mexicana Airlines Office at once.