

Automobile insurance issued outside the country is not valid in Mexico, and you must obtain insurance from a Mexican company. You must do this at the border before entering Mexico. The Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) and the American Automobile Association (AAA) can provide further information, from their offices nearest you. As in other parts of Latin America, if there is an accident, both drivers can be held responsible pending an investigation. They can be jailed and their vehicles seized if there is no proof of ability to pay. In case of serious personal injury, both drivers may be jailed in any event.

Vehicle traffic in Mexico City is restricted to control air pollution. The regulations are based on the last digit of the licence plate number. On every weekday, vehicles with plate numbers ending in designated digits may not be driven in the city. For example, if the plate number ends in 1 or 2, the vehicle may not be used on Thursdays. This amounts to a restriction on 20 percent of vehicles on each weekday. There are no restrictions on Saturdays or Sundays except when an environmental emergency is declared.

On federal Mexican highways, there is a vehicle assistance service called "Green Angel," operated by the Ministry of Tourism — Secretaria de Turismo. Green trucks equipped for basic repairs and first aid travel each major route at least twice daily.

Arriving by Sea

Cruise ships typically stop at more than one country on a voyage and many of them have their own requirements for documentation. Many such cruises originate and terminate in the United States. Travellers on these cruises require a valid passport and, in some cases, ship authorities may retain passports during the cruise. Otherwise there are no special requirements for arriving in Mexico by sea.

Canadian yachts can enter Mexico with relatively little procedure. Assuming that the vessel is longer than 4.5 metres, a temporary import permit — *Solicitud de importación temporal* — must be obtained. Every person on board must also complete a tourist card. The title to the boat, or a lease agreement for a rented boat, must be presented along with proof that the boat is registered to a foreign resident. You will also need an official document showing departure