

the conduct of business for up to 30 days per visit. This permit cannot be extended or renewed, and you will require a new one each time you re-enter the country. You can get this form from airlines, at the port of entry or from a Mexican consulate in Canada. If you want to pursue gainful employment in Mexico, you will need special documentation, discussed later in this guide.

Arriving by Air

Canadian tourists staying up to 180 days do not need to obtain a visa in advance. However, they must complete an entry form, available from airlines or at any port of entry. They will be given a tourist card (*Forma Migratoria Turista* (FM-T)). The FM-T is for all practical purposes a visa. An immigration official will stamp the visa and will determine the number of days you will be allowed to remain in Mexico. Do not assume that you will be granted the full 180 days. The authorities can demand this card at any time. The traveller must carry a copy at all times, and must surrender it on departure. Tourists are limited to activities defined by the FM-T category, which include sports, health, artistic and cultural activities. Only in exceptional circumstances can extensions beyond the 180-

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day limit be permitted, such as if a physician certifies that you are too ill to travel. Visitors can be expelled from the country if they violate their tourist status or stay longer than 180 days, and can be fined if they lose their FM-T.

Arriving by Land

Canadian driver's licences are valid in Mexico. But taking a Canadian automobile into Mexico can involve a few complications.

All tourists entering Mexico must obtain a Mexican tourist card (FM-T) except those staying in certain frontier areas along the U.S. border for 72 hours or less. Foreigners entering by car must pay a tourism tax of US\$19 on arrival and will then be given their tourist card.

In addition, a temporary vehicle importation permit — *solicitud de importación temporal de vehículos* — is required for a foreign-registered vehicle to enter Mexico. You can obtain one at the border by providing both the originals and copies of the following documents:

- proof of legal ownership of the vehicle;