

## Returning Home

When planning your trip home, there are a few things to consider. First, make sure you have cash ready to pay the Mexican departure tax. In early 2001, this tax was US\$18. The peso equivalent is accepted, but Canadian dollars are not. Normally this tax must be paid in cash on departure from Mexico, although in some circumstances it may be included in the airline ticket price. The tax applies to adults and to children two years of age and older.

On departure, travellers must surrender the tourist card they were given when they entered the country.

Returning travellers should be prepared for customs procedures when they enter Canada. Everything acquired abroad must be declared, so keeping receipts of all purchases is advisable. Customs forms are usually distributed on flights to Canada and are available at airports and land and sea ports of entry.

Canadian residents can bring back \$50 worth of goods after 24 hours outside the country, \$200 worth after 48 hours and \$750 worth after seven days. Alcohol and tobacco may not be included in the 24-hour exemption, but otherwise you may include up to 1.14 litres of liquor or 1.5 litres of

wine, or a case of 24 355-millilitre containers of beer. Tobacco imports are restricted to 50 cigars or cigarrillos, 200 cigarettes, 200 grams of tobacco and 200 tobacco sticks. Travellers importing alcohol and tobacco products must satisfy the age restrictions of the province or territory where they enter Canada.

Canada imposes special restrictions on a variety of imported goods. They include meat and dairy products, plants, weapons, vehicles and environmentally harmful products, as well as exotic animals and goods based on their exploitation. Check with Customs Border Services in advance if you plan to import any articles in these categories. It is illegal to bring obscene materials or hate propaganda of any kind into the country.

Canadians who have resided in Mexico for 12 months or more are entitled to special customs treatment for household and personal items. Details of these provisions are found in *Moving Back to Canada*, a booklet published by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency.

If you have any doubts about what you're allowed to bring back, call the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency's toll-free information service.