

Visiting Mexico

When you visit Mexico, you will need to consider various aspects of the physical, cultural and legal environment. The specifics will depend on the purpose of your trip and your destination, but the following considerations apply to most travellers.

Travel

Travel within Mexico is mainly by inter-city buses and domestic airlines, although car travel and trains are also alternatives.

Private vehicles can be a good way to reach some isolated locations. Mexico has a modern system of toll freeways, but local roads are often in poor condition. Car rentals are available, although they are considerably more expensive than in Canada. Collision damage deductibles are sometimes as high as US\$2,000. Automobile insurance issued outside the country is not valid in Mexico. If you rent a car, be certain that you have full insurance coverage. If you have an accident, you will be jailed if you cannot provide proof of adequate insurance. Cheap rentals should be avoided because the cars are often in poor condition and inadequately insured. Many visitors

find it more practical to hire a car and driver. Travel on the highways at night can be dangerous.

Mexico has an extensive system of long-distance buses run by private companies licensed to operate on national highways. They are generally modern, comfortable and reliable, and many are equipped with video systems. First class buses make fewer stops but are not necessarily more comfortable than second class. Some deluxe buses on major routes feature food and beverage service. It is not advisable to travel on buses at night.

Mexico has more than 50 airports served by regular passenger flights. Mexicana and Aeromexico serve the major cities, and smaller regional carriers go to the smaller cities. Fares vary depending on the popularity of the route but are generally high.

Train service is a practical alternative on some routes. Ferrocarriles Nacionales de México (FNM), the national railway, is heavily oriented toward cargo, and passenger service can be unreliable and uncomfortable. But the FNM is now offering a