



Mexican Country Guide

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Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution in Mexico because of high levels of violent crime and drug-related violence. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. Reconsider your need to travel to the State of Guerrero, except for the tourist areas of the cities of Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo and Taxco, and the toll road to Taxco. This includes Acapulco. See [Safety and security](#). Reconsider your need to travel to the State of Michoacán, except the cities of Morelia and Lázaro Cardenas, and the Monarch butterfly reserves. Reconsider your need to travel to the State of Tamaulipas. Reconsider your need to travel to the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains in southern Chihuahua State, north-eastern Sinaloa State, north-western Durango State and south eastern Sonora State, except for the Chihuahua-Pacific Railway, due to very high levels of violent crime and lawlessness. See [Safety and security](#). Homicide rates in the states of Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo have risen sharply in recent years, including in areas frequented by tourists. See [Safety and security](#).

Be alert to the risk of violent crime and civil unrest when travelling by road in rural areas. See [Safety and security](#) and [Local travel](#). Petty crime is common. Thieves target tourists at airports, bus terminals and on the metro in Mexico City. Some criminals pose as police officers. Avoid displaying valuables. Be aware of your surroundings. Avoid travelling or walking alone at night, where possible. Violent crime related to the drug trade, including murder, kidnapping and carjacking, is widespread. Be vigilant, particularly in areas most affected by drug-related violence. See [Safety and security](#).

Mexico experiences earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, hurricanes and associated landslides, mudslides and flooding. Be prepared for a natural disaster, monitor local media reports and follow the instructions of local emergency officials. See [Natural disasters](#).

The above advice is an edited synopsis only. To read the full Travel Advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to subscribe to updates to this advice or to register your presence in Mexico, please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations & Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Mexico. Vaccination against Hepatitis B and Rabies (particularly if working with animals) should be considered by frequent or long stay travellers. Vaccination against Typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. Care with food and beverage selection is recommended. Malaria, Dengue Fever and the Zika virus occurs in Mexico, thus insect avoidance measures and anti malarial medication may be necessary depending on your itinerary. Mexico is listed as a zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/. Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Mexico should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the zika virus and other issues please visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian passport holders do not usually require a visa to enter Mexico as a tourist for up to 180 days. Travellers must present their passport (valid for at least six months beyond intended stay is recommended), an outbound or onward ticket, sufficient funds to maintain themselves during their stay and a landing card (available from airlines or at the port of entry). If entering Mexico via a land boarder, an entry fee of approximately US\$20 is payable. Further conditions also apply to minors and those with a serious criminal history.

For further information and to confirm that you are eligible to travel under this program, please contact the Mexican mission on the details adjacent. Persons travelling via the US or Canada are reminded of their obligation to comply with US and Canadian entry and transit requirements.

Mexican Representatives

Embassy of Mexico, Canberra

14 Perth Avenue
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6273 3963
Fax: (02) 6273 1190

Web: <http://embamex.sre.gob.mx/australia/>

Mexico also maintains an Honorary Consulate in Victoria that may be of assistance in some matters. However the Mexican Embassy should be the first point of contact for any consular enquiries.



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Time Differences between Mexico and Australia

Mexico has 3 time zones. Pacific (GMT -8, Baja), Mountain (GMT -7, Chihuahua, Nayarit, Sonora, Sinaloa and Baja Sur) and Central (GMT -6, remaining states). Daylight saving is observed in most states from the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October. The following times apply to the Central time zone only. To calculate the time difference of the other zones at 12 noon, add 1 hour to the Australian time for Mountain time or 2 hours for Pacific time. The following times in Australia are the following day to Mexico.

Mexico, 12 noon, Winter (Dec) = Perth 2am; Darwin 3:30am; Brisbane 4am; Adelaide 4:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 5am.
Mexico, 12 noon, Summer (Jun) = Perth 1am; Darwin, Adelaide 2:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 3am.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Mexico: +52

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:
01 800 123 0261

Travelex Card Services:
01 800 123 4847

Visa Global Assistance:
001 800 847 2911

MasterCard:
001 800 307 7309

American Express Travellers Cheques:
001 866 247 6878

Emergency Services: 066

Although there may be English speaking operators available, to avoid delay it is best to seek the assistance of a Spanish speaker to call the emergency service.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Mexico

Australian Embassy, Mexico

Ruben Dario 55
Col. Polanco
MEXICO CITY 11580

Tel: (+52 55) 1101 2200
Fax: (+52 55) 1101 2201

Web: www.mexico.embassy.gov.au

Australia also maintains an Honorary Consulate in Cancun that can provide limited assistance to Australian travellers and can be contacted on (+52 998) 898 1900 x 213. Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Mexico or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances

Duty Free limits when entering Mexico:

Alcohol: 3 litres of alcoholic beverages and six litres of wine.
 Tobacco: 20 packets of cigarettes or 25 cigars or 200 g of tobacco.
 Perfume: Reasonable amounts for personal use.
 Other Goods: Up to US\$300 or US\$75 if travelling by land.

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply to these and other goods, travellers should familiarise themselves with these restrictions before entry.

For further information on customs and duty free regulations when entering Mexico, please visit the Mexican Customs Service at www.aduanas.gob.mx

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Plug: Japanese
 Voltage: 110-120 volts
 Modem Plug: USA

Source: Korjo Travel Products. Please view the Korjo adapter guide at www.korjo.com.au for further information on this matter.



Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors).

For further details on Australian duty free allowances and other customs restrictions please go to www.border.gov.au.

Mexican Holidays 2018

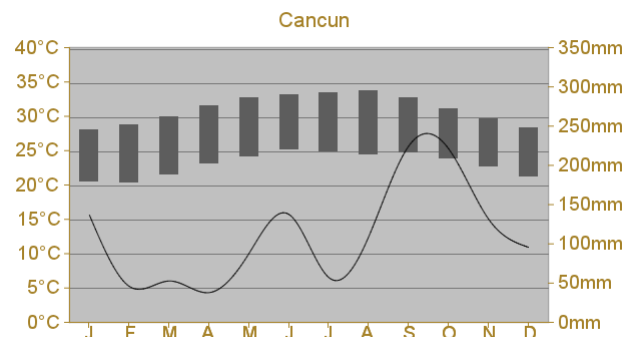
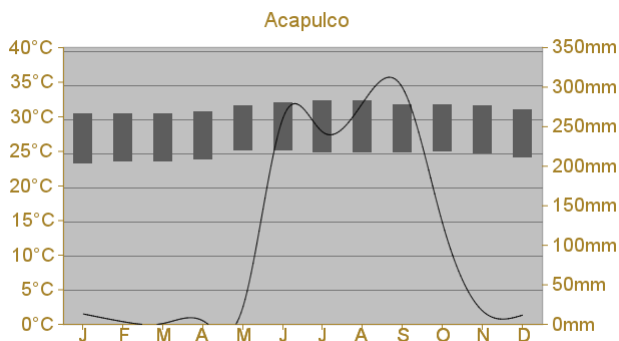
National Public Holidays

01 Jan: New Years Day	01 Jul: Election Day
05 Feb: Constitution Day	16 Sep: Independence Day
19 Mar: Benito Juárez Day	19/20 Nov: Revolution Day
30 Mar: Good Friday	01 Dec: Inauguration Day
01 May: Labour Day	25 Dec: Christmas Day
05 May: Battle of Puebla	

Other Days of Note

29 Mar: Maundy Thursday	02 Nov: Day of the Dead
01 Apr: Easter Sunday	12 Dec: Virgin of Guadalupe
12 Oct: Columbus Day	

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Mexico



Source: Mexican National Meteorological Service. For 5 day local forecasts please go to www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Exchange Rate

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 14.40 Mexican Pesos
 10 Mexican Pesos (MXN) = 0.69 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 13.85 Mexican Pesos
 10 Mexican Pesos (MXN) will cost 0.72 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging these currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Purchasing Power Parity

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Mexican Peso and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = \$85.68 Mexican Pesos
 Big Mac Mexico: \$48.00 (MXN) = \$3.33 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in Mexico is therefore 44% less expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

Currency Cheat Sheet

5 MXN = \$0.36 AUD		100 MXN = \$7.22 AUD		1,000 MXN = \$72.23 AUD	
10 MXN = \$0.72 AUD	200 MXN = \$14.45 AUD	2,000 MXN = \$144.45 AUD	30 MXN = \$2.17 AUD	300 MXN = \$21.67 AUD	3,000 MXN = \$216.68 AUD
40 MXN = \$2.89 AUD	400 MXN = \$28.89 AUD	4,000 MXN = \$288.90 AUD	50 MXN = \$3.61 AUD	500 MXN = \$36.11 AUD	5,000 MXN = \$361.13 AUD
60 MXN = \$4.33 AUD	600 MXN = \$43.34 AUD	6,000 MXN = \$433.35 AUD	70 MXN = \$5.06 AUD	700 MXN = \$50.56 AUD	7,000 MXN = \$505.58 AUD
80 MXN = \$5.78 AUD	800 MXN = \$57.78 AUD	8,000 MXN = \$577.81 AUD	90 MXN = \$6.50 AUD	900 MXN = \$65.00 AUD	9,000 MXN = \$650.03 AUD
		10,000 MXN = \$722.26 AUD			

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

Notes and Coins

The legal currency of Mexico is the Mexican Peso, which is abbreviated using the symbol \$. The subunit of the Peso is the centavo. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised not to take the below images with them when travelling.





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About Mexico

Full Name: Estados Unidos Mexicanos (United Mexican States).
 Independence: Declared 1810, recognized by Spain in 1821.
 Size: 1,964,375 sq km (25% the size of Australia).
 Population: 115 million (5 times the size of Australia). Mexico City 27 mil; Guadalajara 4.5 mil; Monterrey 4.3 mil; Puebla 3.2 mil.
 Religion: Catholic 77%, Protestant 6%.
 Language: Spanish 93%, Indigenous and Spanish 6%.
 GDP Per Capita: US\$14,800 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:
 1500-400 BC - Olmec civilization.
 250-900 AD - Myan Classic Age.
 1428-1521 - Aztec Empire.
 1519-1521 - Spanish forces led by Cortes conquer Mexico.
 1521-1810 - Colonial Period under rule from Spain.
 1810-1821 - Mexican War of Independence.
 1836 - Texas declares independence. Battle of the Alamo.
 1846-1848 - Mexican-US War. Northern states lost to US.
 1861-1867 - French Invasion and Second Mexican Empire.
 1910-1929 - Mexican Revolution.
 1929-2000 - Mexico ruled by PRI party.
 1985 - Earthquake strikes Mexico City killing 10,000.
 2000 - Vicente Fox and PAN party ends PRI's rule.

