



This Ebook is a curation of our most popular articles published on our website at OwnMexico.org which we created to document our own experience in owning property in Mexico, and then moving to and living in Mexico.

You can find the online version here:

<http://www.ownmexico.org/our-how-to-mexico-guide/>

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Getting Started (Our Story)

Mexico has long been a popular vacation destination for North Americans. However, today, it is becoming a desirable place to vacation, retire and invest. Traveling, retiring and moving to Mexico gives you the opportunity to create a whole new life for yourself, build new relationships and immerse yourself in a new culture.

<https://youtu.be/yFYnx7q9MQ4>

When we made the decision on moving to Mexico we were extremely fortunate to have received helpful tips and information from other expats and neighbors who had gone through the same process. We now want to return the favour and help others with this process.

Our new 'How To' section will provide you with a complete guide on how to buy, move to, invest, retire and live in Mexico. From driving to Mexico to obtaining the proper Visa, we will be providing information that we hope will be helpful to you. And the information doesn't just stop after the purchase has been made. We will continue to provide you with everything you'll need, from helpful driving tips to how to get your Visa. When we made the decision on moving to Mexico we were extremely fortunate to have received helpful tips and information from other expats and neighbors who had gone through the same process. We now want to return the favour and help others with this process.

HOW TO DO YOUR FIRST 7 DAYS IN MEXICO-PART I



You're here! You put in the hard work to make Mexico your new home, and now it's time to settle in. Catch your breath, grab a refreshing beverage, and take note of our 7 helpful ways to do your first 7 days in Mexico.

1. Home Sweet Home

Naturally, you'll want to make sure that everything is in its proper place in your new home. This means that your belongings have arrived safely, any pre-ordered services have been completed, and your deliverables are in tip-top shape. Next, go through the home and double-check those things that are a “must” for comfortable living. For example, check that the plumbing is functioning, that the lights turn on and off, and that the pool has been cleaned. Take photos and document the things that need to be addressed, and be sure that any guarantees are completed as quickly as possible.

1. Back to Basics

The next step to your first 7 days in Mexico is to gather all of your basic necessities. If you don't know the best places to go, let us know. We'll be happy to point you in the direction of

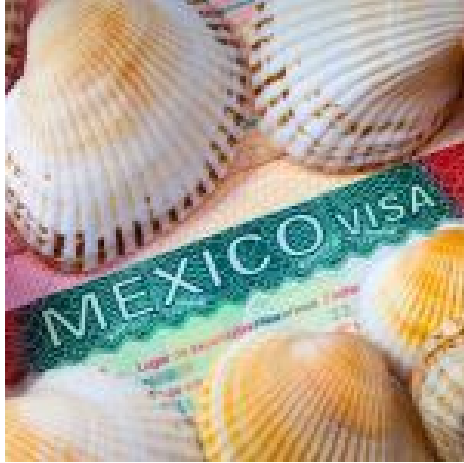
neighbourhood markets (where the locals or expats in Mexico tend to shop) or national/international box chains (where tourists feel most comfortable).

Shopping List

- groceries
- water/beverages
- paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, etc.)
- plastic goods (trash bags, Ziploc bags, plastic wrap, etc.)
- pet supplies
- soap (dish, dishwasher and laundry)
- health/body items
- electronics (chargers
- bug spray
- sunblock
- light bulbs
- chargers/extension cords
- utility items (broom/mop, dust pan, tools, nails, chaulking, etc.)



1. Skip the Lines by Making Appointments



Now that you're a new expat in Mexico, you're going to need to get your documentation and accounts in order. This includes drivers licenses, [temporary/permanent visas](#), health/medical papers and banking accounts/cards. The lines at many of these departments (especially the department of motor vehicles and immigration offices) can move at a snails pace. However, if you schedule an appointment in advance, maybe even a week or so early, you'll have a more laid back experience. If an appointment isn't available, be sure to arrive to the appropriate office first thing in the morning. Bring some entertainment and a snack to keep yourself occupied and nourished.

Be sure to find out what you should bring in advance. For example, you'll need these items for a drivers license in Mexico:

- Original and copy of your passport photo page
- Original and a copy of your immigration documents
- A utility bill (i.e. electric bill) from your Mexico-based residence
- Cash to pay the fees
- Know your blood type

Once you have everything in order, make colour copies of important debit/credit cards, licenses and documents. (Don't forget the backsides, too.) Store the copies in a safe space, and maybe

even on the cloud. If you don't have access to a printer, stop by one of the many local printer shops in your neighbourhood. Prices vary, but are generally very affordable.

HOW TO DO YOUR FIRST 7 DAYS IN MEXICO – PART II



1. Locate Your Local Healthcare and Wellness Providers

If you don't already have your healthcare providers in place, this would be a good time to do so. And if you have pets, be sure to locate a trusty local veterinarian. If you need referrals, we can help you [find quality medical care in Mexico](#).

- Dentist
- Doctor
- Chiropractor
- Accupuncturist
- Osteopath

- Massage Therapist
- Podiatrist
- Psychologist
- Optometrist
- Nurse
- Midwife
- Obstetrician/Gynecologist
- Pharmacist

1. Be Your Own Welcoming Committee

Be sure to connect and network with the people that live in your immediate area. You don't need to be best friends, but a warm smile and kind spirit can open doors of support. We can't tell you how many times a friendly relationship with our neighbours has help us out of some sticky situations. We have a Huatulco community Facebook page that is very useful, a list of [restaurants](#) that we can recommend you and our local and best mechanic in town.

A good place to start is to get [involved in charity work](#). Attend a fundraiser to meet some people, or invest some time and energy in a volunteer activity. Let us know if you're interested in this option, as we can match you up with some legitimate options here in the Huatulco area.

1. Explore Like a Tourist

Chances are you've already explored all that your area has to offer. Or have you?! New businesses, services and entertainment venues are always popping up in Mexico (which is one of the many things we love about this country). Check out what's new in your immediate and surrounding areas. Experience your home as a tourist, which will help when you have out-of-town guests who want some touristy options.

1. Take Care of You



The most important how to of your first 7 days in Mexico is to take care of yourself so that you're refreshed enough to think straight, settle in, and help others. It's kind of like the airplane emergency advice – to put your mask on first before assisting others. Taking care of yourself could mean heading to the beach to soak up some rays and play in the water. It could mean going for a massage, eating a good meal, or enjoying the night life. Taking care of yourself as a new expat in Mexico could also be as simple as getting in a long siesta (nap) or hanging out on the deck of a boat with your favourite people (and a drink in hand). Whatever helps you to relax should be a regular part of your schedule.

If you have some tips as an expat in Mexico, we'd love to hear from you. Comments welcome below.

To learn more or ask questions, [contact us today](#). We're here to help you with recommendations – from real estate and restaurants to schools and hideaway beaches – for Huatulco and its surrounding areas.

MOVING TO MEXICO – OUR STORY



In 2011 my husband and I made the decision to quit the rat race in Calgary, Alberta and move to the Oaxaca coast of

Mexico. We had been looking for a life change for quite some time.

The daily stresses of long commutes, high costs of living and 'keeping up with Joneses' left us feeling like there was something more out there.

We had traveled up and down Mexico's coastlines and knew we had a love for the country, the culture and the people. After spending time traveling in Mexico we found our perfect geographical location because of the consistent hot and sunny weather, miles of beautiful sandy beaches, crystal blue waters and low cost of living. All of this within a short, direct flight. After realizing we found our perfect location, we purchased a vacation [property](#) along the [Oaxaca](#) (Wa-Ha-Ka) coast, our dream home and our dream location.



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We decided. We were moving to Mexico.

We announced to our friends and family that we were moving to Mexico. "But what will you do?" they asked. People could not understand why we were stepping off of the hamster wheel, selling everything and moving to Mexico. There was no doubt that we were scared to make this change, but our reason for doing so was solid and clear. We were excited to slow our pace, get a new perspective on life and immerse ourselves in a beautiful culture in an amazing location. Our 'Why' was clear. Our 'What Now' was the next step.

Moving in the right direction

After assessing our budget and investigation new career opportunities we resigned from our jobs. I resigned from an 11-year career in management and my husband decided to refocus his experience in construction, marketing and real estate to our new home country. We put our home on the market and began the process of downsizing our life to what we hoped would be a simpler one.

Looking down the road to new opportunities we decided to make the drive south to Mexico with our Chevy Avalanche. This is a drive we ended up doing two seasons in a row; the first from Calgary and the west coast [route](#) and the second from Saskatoon on the east/central [route](#). We have to admit, the thought of driving into and through Mexico was a little scary. We made sure to do our research and ensure we had all of our travel documents, vehicle and health [insurance](#) in order. After doing our final checks, we set off to drive across three countries and start our new life marketing, selling and renting real estate. Overall our travels have been a good experience...although we are more than happy to share a funny story or two over a cerveza of some of the more eventful driving experiences we've had.

Three years later we feel we've truly found the work-life balance we were looking for. We have recently opened up a full service real estate [company](#) and have had growth and success with our vacation rental company now serving clients from Huatulco to Puerto Escondido. We are building wonderful relationships through our business and personal life and now have more time for what is important to us.

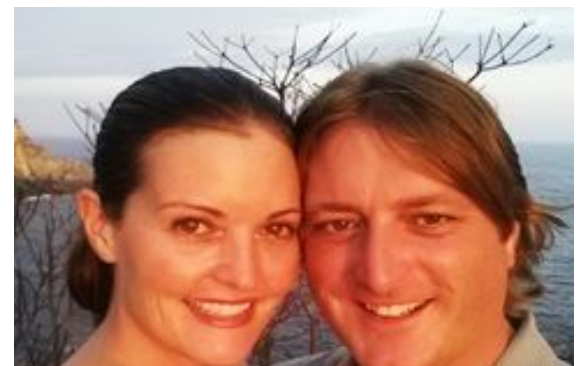


There are still challenges we need to overcome. After three years we still are not fluent in Spanish. Although it is not 100% necessary to speak Spanish in order to live in Mexico, it is something that will enrich our lives. We have recently registered for Spanish classes and are excited to learn the language.

The Best Decision Yet

Living in Mexico

has been nothing short of an amazing and fulfilling experience. We have seen the most spectacular sights,



eaten some of the best meals, explored nearly untouched beaches and have met the most wonderful people. We've taken up yoga, surfing and snorkeling and have just scratched the surface with the eco-tourism to explore in the area.

Moving to Mexico was the best decision we've made!

A great leader (and my husband's all time favorite hockey player) once said "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take". We took the shot and seized the opportunity to make some changes in our life and get some balance back. It hasn't been easy all the time but it's sure been worth it!

HOW WE STARTED & SUCCEEDED IN OWNING MEXICO

How We Started – 0.0 to Success Road Map

1.0 – General Location

1.1 – We were long time lovers of Mexico for 3 reasons:

1.2 – The Beaches are abundant and World Class.

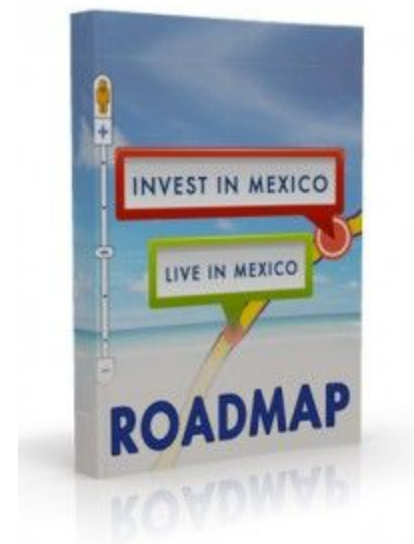
1.3 – It is a short and easy flight from Canada and the USA.

1.4 – There are still spots that are authentic Mexico. (fewer tourists and therefore inexpensive)

1.5 – We started traveling the coasts of Mexico right out of high school and continued for 20 years.

2.0 – Narrowing Down the Location

2.1 – Discovering and spending time in [Oaxaca](#) (Wa-Ha-Ka) state, the [Huatulco](#) (Wa-Tool-Co) region was the best surprise yet.



2.2 – It has the most consistent weather in Mexico with average temperatures of 28 degrees Celsius (82.4 Fahrenheit) – It's guaranteed!

2.3 Beautiful and peaceful beaches alongside crystal blue waters.

2.4 – No rain in the winter season.

2.5 – It's laid back authentic Mexico charm was obvious and very attractive.

2.6 – The obvious cleanliness made us ask more questions and we discovered it's award winning commitment to the [environment](#).

2.7 – Known as one of the safest states in Mexico.

3.0 – Pin Pointing the Location

3.1 – The Center of the Oaxaca Coast or 'Costa Chica' (Little Coast) had everything we loved about Mexico and more...

3.2 – With one trip here we knew this was it; quiet and peaceful, giving us that small town feeling we were looking for.

3.3 – The cost of living is 50% less than in Canada.

3.4 – Three unique developments stood out in our minds in this perfect location.

4.0 – Picking the Development

4.1 – We researched and participated in live presentations, video meetings, emails and phone calls with a trusted real estate agent.

4.2 – At this point we were so excited we booked a [‘stay & play’](#) down in paradise to gather more information about these developments and further explore the surrounding area.

4.3 – All 3 developments are on 100% privatized land. As explained to us privatized land is the only way for a foreigner to own undisputed real estate title on the Mexican coast (Fideicomiso)

4.4 – Each development was appealing with close proximity to beaches, extraordinary views along the rugged coastline, great value, huge investment potential due to our timing and the opportunity to earn revenue with our investment.

4.5 – During the [‘stay & play’](#) we were able to work through our own self-realization process in order to determine what we really needed as opposed to what we thought we wanted. In the end the panoramic views at [Viewpoint](#) are outstanding with only a 5 minute walk into the peaceful village, beach and markets. We found our paradise.

5.0 – Picking the Floor Plan

5.1 – During the ‘stay & play’ we were able to experience what it felt like to live and own there before taking the plunge and we were able to stay in a suite with a similar floor plan to what we were interested in.

5.2 – We worked with the Canadian sales team and toured some of the 11 different floor plans in the quaint 34-unit building

5.3 – We lounged by the pool watching whales, enjoying cervezas while we BB-Q’d and decided between our favorite 2 suites

5.4 – One more trip off the development for a snorkel tour and a lovely authentic Italian meal on the beach in [Zipolite](#) reassured us we were in the right spot.

5.5 – The next day we felt prepared to make our decision on a top floor penthouse.

6.0 Making the Offer

6.1 – At this point we sat down with our agent and asked all the questions we had not yet covered.

6.2 – He thoroughly explained how the buying and title process worked from here. Although the process was a little different than in Canada, having titled ownership worked much the same as back home.

6.3 – Many Canadians were already successful achieving title and now we were going for it but not before feeling completely comfortable with our decision.

6.4 – We made an offer on our dream condo in our dream location with a few little upgrades we felt we could not live without.

6.5 – We were so thrilled that our offer was accepted and we were going to complete the deal making our dreams come true. Soon, we too would be Owning a little piece of Mexico!

7.0 – The contract

7.1 – The next day of our ‘stay & play’ we met with our agent again, but this time with the developer. They wrote up a purchase contract for us with our extra items.

7.2 – The contract was printed in Spanish and English and was easy to read.

7.3 – We reviewed the contract, including the required down payment and payment schedule.

7.4 – We truly were delighted how simple it was to this point. The payments were all in Canadian funds to our Canadian developer.

7.5 – We signed the deal – It was now time to celebrate!

7.6 – Around the pool we met and celebrated with other owners, it was a wonderful evening and a sunset I will never forget.

8.0 Possession and the Closing Process

8.1 – After returning back to Canada proud of our new investment, we forwarded our deposit for our new ocean front condo.

8.2 – Construction started on some of the finishing touches and extras in our unit.

8.3 – The developer referred us to a Mexican lawyer, living and working in Canada, who helped us through the title process.

8.4 – Our unit was finished, we were sent pictures of the completion of our unit and we gained possession and closed on our new Mexico condo.

8.5 – From here we were awarded full title (Fideicomiso) shortly after from a notary in Oaxaca, Mexico

9.0 – Success

9.1 – Wow, what a great ride. We are now proud owners of a luxury ocean front condo in Mexico

9.2 – The process was straightforward and easy dealing with fellow Canadians

9.3 If we can do it, we know you can too.

10.0 – Living In Mexico

10.1 – After many discussions we made the decision to take things further and move to Mexico.

10.2 – We believe in the area, quality of life, and investment potential so much we decided to get involved.

10.3 – Now, we own, we invested, and we became involved in the sales, marketing and rental [program](#) here on the Oaxaca coast in Mexico.

10.4 – We invite you to come down and see us to find out why after travelling both coasts of Mexico, a couple from Saskatchewan, Canada chose the Huatulco region (Oaxaca coast) for their own piece of paradise.

HOW WE STARTED

Our Story...



Erin and I began our investment vacation property journey like most people. We began vacationing and realized that certain regions were more attractive than others. When we started to return to our favourite locations, we naturally began to think about buying (or at least on how to reduce our expense of our vacations). We even started to think about how we could make money from our vacation property.

We will now share with you our story of how we became to own property in Mexico.

Building Wealth in Canada

At the early age of 20 we invested in our first property In Saskatoon Saskatchewan. In 2001 we moved to Alberta. I worked hard in the plumbing trade and a thirst for the building process and passion for real estate evolved further. Through more hard work I started a plumbing business and we became more involved with investing in real estate. We built and bought real estate in order to invest and we rented our properties to help build equity for our future.

Our plan was working well. Equity was being built. With all this hard work going on, we realized we needed a vacation! We combined our love for real estate and the passion for the mountains and bought our first investment vacation property in [Kimberley](#), British Columbia. We started a website and rented our property when we were not using it. We used this property in both the summer and winter and continued to build equity through vacationers travelling to the area.

Typical Snowbirds Vacationing

Like most Canadians we needed to get away from the cold and snow at least once a year and seek some beaches and hot sun. We became sun seekers. Throughout the years we traveled to many destinations around the world. It didn't take us long to figure out that Mexico was our preferred sun destination. This was due to the beautiful beaches, short flight and authentic, friendly culture. We traveled up and down the coasts of Mexico enjoying the many different areas, but over time, one area stood out from the rest. Once we found the Huatulco area, we knew we found our preferred sun destination. We traveled to Huatulco numerous times, enjoying the pristine beaches, consistently hot temperatures, low cost of living and most importantly lack of tourist population.

Thoughts of Vacation Home Ownership

As we lay on the beach one lazy day we pondered how we could continue to visit our favorite sun destination while turning it into an investment. We thought, "Why not buy an investment vacation property in the Huatulco area like we have in Canada?" Immediately our minds started to race with questions on how we could make this dream a reality.

We already knew we loved the Huatulco area in Mexico so we had a rough idea on where we



wanted to be. Next we had to decide what kind of property we wanted to own. Upon returning home we continued to research what was available and how to start this process. I must admit, at first this was all very overwhelming. Buying real estate in another country seemed frightening and we were concerned about having our hard earned money stolen.

Doing Due Diligence (getting good advice)

We consulted real estate professionals both in Canada and Mexico to help bring security to our future investment and vacation property. We then booked another trip in the form of a 'Stay & Play' the next chance we had and stayed at [Viewpoint at Puerto Angel](#), which we researched from Canada. Through doing our due diligence, consulting professionals and trusting some fellow Canadians who were developers we were able to continue through the process easily and safely and now we are living the Own Mexico dream!

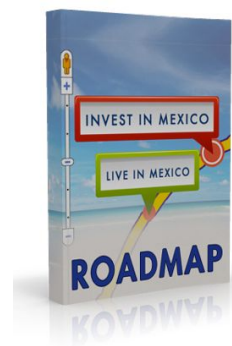
We hope to see you in paradise and help you succeed with your very own, Own Mexico story.

With Kind Regards,

Brent May

[hr]

Check out our 'How We Started 0.0 to Success' [Roadmap](#)



HOW YOU CAN START & SUCCEED IN OWNING MEXICO

How You Can Start – 0.0 to Success Road Map

We created a simple road map to show you how easy the process is. Follow the mapped out steps 0.0 to 10.0 and see how you too can live the dream of owning ocean front property in Mexico. If we can do it, we know you can do it too! Enjoy!

0.0 General Location

- You, like us, are a lover of Mexico because of;
- The Beaches are World Class and are abundant.
- It is a short and easy flight from Canada and the USA
- There are still spots that are authentic Mexico (fewer tourists and therefore inexpensive)

1.0 Narrowing Down the Location

- Read the [‘Why Oaxaca \(Wa-Haw-Ka\)’](#) page and understand it is a laid back paradise that can not be ignored.
- Learn more about the state of Oaxaca by visiting [TomZap](#) and attending up and coming information sessions.
- It has the most consistent weather in Mexico with average temperatures of 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit)
- Beautiful and peaceful beaches alongside crystal blue waters.
- No rain in the winter season.

2.0 Pin Pointing the Location

- Identify developments that are right for you.
- We are at the Center of the Oaxaca Coast or 'Costa Chica' (Little Coast) and have everything you love about Mexico and more...

3.0 Picking the Development

- Now it is time to pick your development – Viewpoint at Puerto Angel or Oasis Pacifico are the two best values on the Oaxaca Coast.
- Have your questions answered. Meet us and attend our live in person presentations, video meetings, send emails and make phone calls with the sales team.

4.0 Picking the Floor Plan

- Now the you have chosen the development pick out the floor plan the best suits your needs.
- Utilize the sales staff to assist you with this process.

5.0 Book A Stay & Play

- Come down, stay at Viewpoint at Puerto Angel. Tour floor plans of Viewpoint or homes and lots at Oasis Pacifico. More information can be found on our [stay & play](#) page.
- The stay & play will be an enjoyable experience. Take the time to enjoy your piece of paradise.

6.0 Making the Offer

- Contact the sales staff to make an offer on the floor plan of your choice.
- Discuss options and upgrades with your sales representative and have your final questions answered.

7.0 The Contract

- Once the offer is accepted review the purchase contract to ensure all the details have been recorded.
- The contracts are printed in Spanish and English and are easy to read and understand.
- Ask the sales staff if you need assistance or a referral for review of the contract.

8.0 Possession and the Closing Process

- Provide the deposits outlined in the contract.
- Upon completion of the unit complete a final inspection in person, or by video to ensure that the unit is finished to your liking.
- Take possession, complete payment, and start enjoying you unit.

9.0 Furnishing Your Unit

- There are many options of local artists and craftsmen in the area. We have 2 places we recommend to our clients who make quality furniture and have excellent service.

10.0 Success

- Congratulations you are now proud owners of a luxury ocean front condo in Mexico. Let the fun begin! It is now time to truly make Mexico your own. Own it!
- The process is straightforward with added peace of mind dealing with fellow Canadians. We did it and we know you can do it!

Buying Property in Mexico

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT – PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Congratulations on purchasing your vacation home in paradise!

Now that you are a vacation home owner you may be interested in earning some rental revenue for your property. If you are looking to protect your investment and are not looking for a second job, then hiring a property manager may be a good decision for you.

You should consider hiring a property manager if:

You don't live near your rental property. If your rental property is located far from where you live, hiring a property management will be invaluable to you. You will not be able to handle the many issues that will arise for your property from far away. Property managers offer a friendly face to renters and provides an on-site assurance that issues will be resolved in a timely and efficient manner.

You want to make money. Many owners will not hire a property manager because of the costs associated in doing so. What you don't realize is that you will actually earn more money in the long term due to the increased care of their property. Hiring a property manager to perform regular inspections, organize scheduled cleanings, doing in/out rental damage inspections and handling maintenance issues in an efficient and timely manner, you will have less damage and repairs to deal with in both the short and long term. Your property will remain in great shape year after year, which will also result in more rentals as people will opt for your property over one that has not been properly looked after.

You want to save time and headaches. From check in to check out, it can be very time consuming handling rentals. The tasks of taking meter readings, performing inspections, dealing with complaints and repairs, prepping for new tenants, and finding vendors and labourers can turn into a constant source of stress if you are trying to do them over and above your already busy life. Do you want to take on a second job of handling your investment? Having a good property manager can allow you to maximize your rental revenue without sacrificing your time and stress level.

You have a few investment properties. If you have a few investment properties than you are likely to benefit even more from a property manager. You may even be able to work out a better rate from your property manager for work required.

Protect your investment, earn some rental revenue and rest easy by hiring a property manager. Contact us to find out more about our property management [services](#) in Huatulco.

HOW TO SAVE MONEY: DEVELOPERS VS. REAL ESTATE AGENTS IN MEXICO



Considering a real estate development purchase? Congrats! It's an exciting ride filled with new options to discover and challenging variables through which to sift.

As owners ourselves, we cheer you on during this process! As agents, we know what it'll take to make your dream a reality. That is why we've chosen to discuss a hot topic for new real estate adventurers: to go with a developer for an upcoming purchase

or to use real estate agents in Mexico.

The "Agent Hop"

One temptation for new owners is the "agent hop". This is a term that describes the practice of skipping over the agent and heading straight for the developer. And hey, we get it – a client's job is not only to get what they want, but to save money doing it. But all too often, they think this strategy will save them money. And maybe it will. But as long-time agents, we know that (having market experts in your corner) is the always to best way to save money in the long run.

Our job is to share EVERYTHING regarding purchase options and the sale itself so that clients can engage in the power of choice when it comes to purchasing property in Mexico.

Outstanding Customer Service

Developers have one mission: to get the properties in place in order to make as much money as quickly as possible before moving on to the next project. They aren't always willing to pause their forward motion to answer a long list of buyer questions.

Real estate agents, on the other hand, are tasked to offer the level of customer service you need to start this complicated-but-rewarding journey. Agents listen. They note what you want, and especially what you don't want. Agents respect your budget needs, and present only those [investment opportunities](#) that speak to your preferences. They also work behind the scenes to minimize your headaches and maximize ownership fun!

Know the Market

Real estate agents have to know what is available on the market at any given time. They stay abreast of up-and-coming projects as well as newly-renovated areas. They can tell you what property values have increased or decreased, what is going in around the corner and what communities offer the kind of services you need for easy living.

Agents can also open up their collection of real estate options, showing you everything that is available in your desired shape, size, location and price range. You will want to tap into that when shopping around for the best deal.

Insider Track

Developers tend to be in tune with their projects only. They may not have their fingers on the pulse of other opportunities. And if they do, their information is general. This is where real agents in Mexico can step in. Being more objective, they can offer the kind of detail you need to make the best decision for your circumstances. They can tell you whether the development is up to code, if it's on schedule and what other clients are saying about their experiences.

Full Disclosure

Let's face it, agents make money no matter what property you choose to buy. That is why they are happy to offer full disclosure. Developers, on the other hand, may not be so willing to share

undesirable facts about their property. You'll want to work with someone who knows the wonderful things – and damaging aspects – of a purchase in any given development.

Full Buyer Representation

Once you've made your purchase decision, paperwork soon follows. And there's an awful lot of it with legalities, banking transactions and taxes with which to contend. You need someone who is well-versed in these finer details to dot all of the "i's" and cross all of the "t's". Real estate agents in Mexico are far better at this process than developers. They are dedicated to helping you work out the financials and file the necessary paperwork to get you into your new home as efficiently – and as accurately – as possible.

To learn how to save money with your upcoming real estate purchase, [contact us](#) today. In fact, we specialize in Huatulco Mexico properties, and would be happy to show you how you can get more [bang for your buck](#) in this up-and-coming coastal destination.

To read more about "how-tos" for ownership in Mexico, check out our helpful [blog](#). You'll find everything from [altruistic endeavors in Mexico](#) to [earning a revenue](#) in this full-of-opportunity nation.

Check out our client and owner [testimonials](#) and see what others had to say about how we handled their purchase.

HOW TO GET MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK WITH HUATULCO REAL ESTATE



You work hard for your money, and we want you to keep as much of it as possible. That's why we're gathering 6 how-to tips to help you get more "bang for your buck" with Huatulco real estate.

Chances are you've either been to Mexico and want to experience more of its charming communities or you've spent quality time in what we believe is the most beautiful location on Planet Earth, Huatulco.

Either way, you're in for a treat when it comes to [investing in Huatulco real estate](#).

An Economic Overview

Nationally speaking, Mexico went through the global economic crash that affected so many nations. However, the blow wasn't as drastic here as it was in the U.S. and in Europe. In fact, the economy was stronger then and it continues to be on an upswing, especially with regards to real estate investments. Mexico's real estate values are perhaps better than ever.

The Economic Downturn Meant an Upturn for Savvy Real Estate Investors

A few years ago, high-end condos and villas on the beach were suddenly affordable for the average investor. The annual property values steadily increased each year, and the proximity between Canada and the US made it all the more convenient for maintenance and renovation.

The Mexican government was thrilled and made it easier than ever for [short- and long-term expats](#) to buy land and invest in real estate. Foreigners were able to buy and sell property in Mexico using what they call a fideicomiso. It's a special real estate trust that allows titles to go to foreign investors. The property can be sold, transferred and willed, just like a real estate property back home.

Fast forward to today and not much has changed.

Affordable AND convenient luxury is still accessible for those who want to jump in on a “no brainer” real estate investment opportunity.

How Can You Get Involved?

Everyday we get calls from those wanting to get involved. So we're opening our “Huatulco Real Estate Know-How Kit” to give you more “bang for your buck” tips:

- Location is everything – This common phrase is really true. Location is everything. To determine if your selected real estate property is in a good location, ask these questions: Is the potential property located in a safe neighborhood? Is it close to shopping areas, nature, etc.? Is it situated in a renovated community or in an “up and coming” area? Is the area noisy or dirty? If you don't know the answers to these questions, ask around.
- Figure out what's most important to you – If you're an avid surfer, maybe something on the beach is worth the extra money. If you're bringing your family to live in Mexico year-round, look for property that's close to the good schools. Match up your lifestyle to the real estate opportunities.
- Determine when the home was built – Newer homes come with new plumbing, wiring, air conditioning, and energy efficient features. But they also come with unforeseen

challenges and appreciate quicker than older homes. Bear in mind that there are plenty of older homes that have the kinks worked out, making them a great value.

- Do your due diligence – As you enter into the real estate investment arena, it's important to note that it's not the same in Mexico as it is in other countries. Count on this as you complete the paperwork and work with third-party service providers. This does not mean, however, that you're going to get yourself into a pickle. It just means that you should ask about the reputation of anyone with who you work. Also, be sure to find out if there is any unfinished business on the property such as past-due liens.
- Negotiate – Everything is negotiable in Mexico. In fact, sometimes the prices are inflated intentionally to allow for room to haggling on price. Take advantage of this common practice and don't worry about feeling too shy to try. You may just save yourself several thousands of dollars for your effort.
- Consider renting out your property – If you only plan to visit your new property from time to time, consider renting out your home. The rent will cover the mortgage as well as any applicable tax write-offs such as travel expenses, legal and professional fees, insurance and repair work.

To learn more about Huatulco real estate, [contact us](#) today. We'd be happy to walk you through the process and answer any questions you may have.

And if you have already invested in Huatulco real estate, we'd love to hear from you. Feel free to share your success stories and helpful tips below.

Travelling to Mexico

HOW TO GET THROUGH THE AIRPORT MORE QUICKLY



Ask any traveler to describe their most stressful experience while flying and most will have some sort of negative experience about airport inconveniences and frustrations. From losing a bag to missing a flight, everyone has a pre or post-flight horror story.

But getting from the check in line to your destination doesn't have to be a bad experience.

Check our 10 steps to breezing through the airport and arriving to your tropical destination ready for a wonderful time.

Fly at Off-Peak Times: Choosing the very first or very last flight of the day is a great option to avoiding the crowds.

Get Priority Status – If you are a frequent flyer it may be beneficial to become part of an Airline loyalty programs. These programs offer quicker check-ins including quicker access through security .

Pick Your Seat Wisely – Using miles or airline loyalty programs can help you get the best seat.



FLIGHT	DESTINATION	TIME	STATUS
AB 1350	PARIS	00:25	BOARDING
CD 4521	BERLIN	00:35	GO TO GAT
AF 4370	LONDON	00:40	BOARDING
BA 0300	SINGAPORE	00:45	BOARDING
BK 4311	MEXICO CITY	00:50	CANCELED
QX 2376	MANILA	00:50	BOARDING
HA 5160	CHICAGO	01:00	BOARDING

In order to be up and out of the plane as quickly as possible, choose an aisle seat at the front. This is key!

Check in Online – Thanks to smartphones it is easier than ever to check in for your flight. With a few simple taps on your phone you can get checked in, select your seat and set your

carry on baggage amount.

Watch and Learn – Check out the travel ‘pros’ around you. They are the suit-wearing savvy business travelers with the Tumi luggage. Business travelers know how to choose fast lines and move through them quickly. If you can get behind them in a line you can watch, learn and have the advantage of being behind a speedy traveler.

Don't Forget Your Laptop – If you are traveling with a laptop or device remember to take it out and put it in a separate bin through security.

Dress for Speedy Success – Keeping the metal to a minimum in your travel attire will allow you to breeze through the machines in the security line so you can get to your gate. And don't forget to empty your pockets of all that change as well.

Carry-on and Coast In – Getting away on a short vacation or tropical [destinations](#) require less clothing to take. What do you need really? Pack the swimsuit, flip flops and cover up and avoid checking a bag. This is a great way to avoid those pesky baggage fees, but you can skip the baggage claim and breeze on through. When you land you can grab your bag on the plane and head to the nearest exit.

Keep Your Passport Handy – You know you are going to need it. Why not keep it as handy as possible. We suggest keeping your passport in the front pouch of your carry on bag.



Watch Your Liquids – Make sure you remove that bottle of water and all other large bottled liquids from your bag. If you must take liquid you can check the bag it is in or ensure it meets the minimum ounce requirements with your airline. And don't forget to bring or use the provided plastic bags for your liquids into.

By following these steps you can avoid those pesky line ups and get through the airport quicker resulting in a stress-free trip from check in to check out.

HOW TO FLY TO HUATULCO – PART II



FLYING TO HUATULCO – PART I discussed 5 tips that will help you get the best price and times for your flights to Huatulco to enjoy your upcoming Mexico Vacation Rental. We listened to your feedback to Part I and to your requests for additional flight assistance and have created FLYING TO HUATULCO – PART II that gives you 5 more things that can help you get here easily and enjoy your time even more.

As the demand continues to grow for flights to Huatulco (HUX) we have decided to dedicate ourselves to help you fly here with ease. Every season there are more and more flights from Canada and the United States. It can be confusing to find the perfect mix of schedule and price but we hope these tips will help you.

TIP #1 – Shorter Stays: When booking a stay longer than 1 to 2 weeks some airlines will offer more flexibility but for the shorter stays it is wise to use the search sites and to go directly to the airline sites since some search sites do not have deals with all of the airlines that come to Huatulco.

[Sunwing](#) may not always be the best choice but worth a look.

[Air Transat](#) tends to offer more flexibility on longer stays.

[Air Canada](#) flies direct to Huatulco from Toronto twice a week.

[United](#) is another great option from the US or Canada via Houston with flights 7 days a week.

Lastly (and we're pretty excited about this!) [Westjet](#) flies direct to Huatulco twice a week from Calgary & Toronto and once a week from Vancouver and Edmonton.

You can get more information about which airlines service Huatulco from this site: [Huatulco International Airport](#).



TIP #2 – More Flexibility:

[Interjet](#) is an airline name you need to remember if you want ultimate flexibility when travelling to Huatulco. They will not show up on an Expedia search so make sure to check flight options on their direct website. Interjet offers 2 to 4 flights a day from Mexico City to

Huatulco and often allow you to arrive without an overnight layover. It is a great airline with roomy seating. They even offer a complimentary alcoholic beverage if you choose to indulge.

TIP #3 – Package Trick: With Sunwing being a charter flight specific airline, often you will find they will advertise a higher price for “flight only” because they want to sell their packages or sometimes “flight only” will sell out. The tip is you can book a very inexpensive package and still rent a condo or participate in a [Stay & Play](#) for a very affordable price. Hotel Isla is a new hotel in Huatulco that offers affordable accommodations and often last minute packages can be booked for \$700 or less. You of course are welcome to stay there, however we are also happy to help you with other amazing [accommodations](#).

TIP #4 – Back Up Plan: – Have a backup plan. When planning a trip to Huatulco watch the direct flights and wait for the price or deal you want. We often book our flights the week before we go but we always have a backup plan which involves a non-direct flight through Mexico City, Houston or Toronto.

TIP #5 – Longer Stays: If you plan to stay more than 2 weeks, or are fortunate enough to spend 4 weeks or more, do not worry about booking your return flight home. I am sure now you are

seeing the pattern that it is not wise to book a flight too far in advance or you are likely to pay more. Book an inexpensive flight to get down to paradise, enjoy some fun in the sun and keep an eye on your return flight later in the trip.

We hope you found our tips helpful. There is word on the streets of Huatulco that the massive hotel chain, the Riu is going to start to build soon on the land they have already purchased in Tangolunda. With the addition of this 500+ room hotel and another shopping area being built we are sure to see more direct flights being announced. We know that WestJet is keeping their eye on the area and we hope the Riu is the incentive to finally bring them to the area. With a top emerging market like Huatulco, access can sometimes be a tradeoff to the low ocean front real estate [prices](#). In any event if you need assistance finding flights to Huatulco we are always available to chip in our 2 cents...or pesos!



FLYING TO HUATULCO – HOW TO GET HERE



With increased demand to this Southern Mexican paradise, flying to Huatulco is getting easier.

There are generally two main gateways to the Huatulco international airport ([HUX](#)); through Houston from the US/Canada and Mexico City (D.F.) from Mexico. The other way into Huatulco is through direct charter flights (more info below).

From Canada

Yes! Huatulco has direct flights from Canada, but operate only in high season. The airlines that arrive to this paradise are:

- Calgary (YYC)

- Westjet Airlines: Two direct flights a week from Calgary (YYC).

- Sunwing Airlines: It has direct flights on Tuesdays from Calgary (YYC) to Huatulco (HUX).

- Air Canada: Fly directly to Houston (IAH) and from Houston you can take a flight to Huatulco (HUX) with Continental Airlines. You can check the Air Canada itinerary [here](#).

- Air Canada Rouge: Offers direct flights from Calgary (YYC) to Huatulco (HUX) during high season.

- Air Transat: Fly weekly Mondays from Calgary (YYC) to Huatulco (HUX) in high season.

- Aeromexico: Offers direct flights from Calgary (YYC) to Mexico City (MEX).

- Edmonton (YEG)

- Westjet Airlines: It has a direct flight a week from Edmonton (YEG) to Huatulco (HUX) during high season.

- Sunwing Airlines: Offers direct flights on Tuesdays from Edmonton (YEG) to Huatulco (HUX) in high season.

- Air Canada: Flies direct from Edmonton (YEG) to Houston (IAH) and from Houston you can take a flight to Huatulco (HUX).

- Air Transat: Offers weekly flights from Edmonton (YEG) to Huatulco (HUX) during high season.

- Montreal (YUG)

- Sunwing Airlines: Facilitate your visit to Huatulco with direct flights on Tuesdays from Montreal (YUG) to Huatulco (HUX) in high season.

- Air Canada: Flies directly to Houston (IAH) and from Houston you can take a direct flight to Huatulco (HUX) with Continental Airlines.

- Interjet: It has direct flights from Montreal (YUG) to Mexico City (MEX).

- Regina (YQR)

- Sunwing Airlines: Flies directly to Huatulco (HUX) on Tuesdays in high season.

- Saskatoon (YXE)

- Sunwing Airlines: Offers direct flights to Huatulco (HUX) from Saskatoon (YXE) during high season.

- Toronto (YYZ)

- Westjet Airlines: Offers two direct flights a week to Huatulco (HUX).

- Sunwing Airlines: Flies directly to Huatulco (HUX) on Tuesdays during high season.

- Air Canada: Flies directly to Huatulco (HUX) on Tuesdays and Saturdays and has two daily flights from Toronto (YYZ) to Mexico City (MEX) during high season. It also offers direct flights to Houston (IAH) and from Houston you can fly to Huatulco (HUX) via Continental Airlines.

- Air Canada Rouge: Offers a direct flight on Saturdays from Toronto (YYZ) to Huatulco (HUX) in high season.

- Air Transat: Flies weekly on Fridays from Toronto (YYZ) to Huatulco (HUX) during high season.

- Interjet: It has direct flights from Toronto (YYZ) to Mexico City (MEX).

- Aeromexico: Flies to Mexico City (MEX) from Toronto (YYZ).

- Vancouver (YVR)

- Westjet Airlines: It offers a direct flight a week from Vancouver (YVR) in high season.

- Sunwing Airlines: Facilitate your visit to Huatulco with direct flights on Tuesdays from Vancouver (YVR) during high season.

- Air Canada: Four daily flights from Vancouver (YVR) to Mexico City (MEX).
- Air Transat: Flies weekly on Monday from Vancouver (YVR) to Huatulco (HUX) in high season.
- Interjet: It has direct flights from Vancouver (YVR) to Mexico City (MEX).
- Aeromexico: Flies to Mexico City (MEX) from Vancouver (YVR).

- Victoria (YYJ)

- Sunwing Airlines: Offers direct flights on Tuesdays from Victoria (YYJ) to Huatulco (HUX) in high season.

- Winnipeg (YWG)

- Sunwing Airlines: It has direct flights from Winnipeg (YWG) to Huatulco (HUX) on Tuesdays in high season.

Click below and book your flight today!



From the U.S.

The United States also offers you the chance to get to know Huatulco thanks to the airlines that operate direct flights to our destination or to Mexico City, making your visit easier and more pleasant. Here we present the airlines that you can travel to:

- Atlanta (ATL)

- Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).

- Austin (AUS)

- Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).

- Boston (BOS)

- Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).

- Chicago (MDW)

- Interjet: Flies direct from O'Hare, Chicago (ORD) to Mexico City (MEX).

- Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).

- Volaris: It has direct flights to Huatulco (HUX) from Chicago (MDW) every Saturday at 7:00 am.

- Dallas (DFW)

- Interjet: Offers flights from Fort Worth, Dallas (DFW) to Mexico City (MEX).

- Aeromexico: It has flights to Mexico City (MEX) from Dallas (DFW).

- Denver (DEN)

- Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).

- Detroit (DTW)

- Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- Fresno (FAT)
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- Houston (IAH)
 - United Airlines: In high season, there are flights from Houston (IAH) every day except Saturdays and return flights from Huatulco (HUX) depart from Monday to Thursday.
 - Interjet: It has direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- Las Vegas (LAS)
 - Interjet: Flies direct from Las Vegas (LAS) to Mexico City (MEX).
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- Los Angeles (LAX)
 - Interjet: Flies direct from Los Angeles (LAX) to Mexico City (MEX).
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- Miami (MIA)
 - Interjet: Flies direct from Miami (MIA) to Mexico City (MEX).
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- New York (JFK)
 - Interjet: Flies direct from New York (JFK) to Mexico City (MEX).

- Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- Orlando (MCO)
 - Interjet: Fly direct from Sanford, Orlando (SFB) to Mexico City (MEX).
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- Portland (PDX)
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- Sacramento (SMF)
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- Salt Lake City (SLC)
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- San Antonio (SAT)
 - Interjet: Flies direct from San Antonio (SAT) to Mexico City (MEX).
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- San Diego (SAN)
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- San Francisco (SFO)
 - Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).
- San José Cal. (SJC)

– Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).

• Seattle (SEA)

– Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).

• Washington D.C. (WAS)

– Aeromexico: Offers direct flights to Mexico City (MEX).

Click below and book your flight today!



From Mexico

- Mexico City (MEX)

- Interjet: It is our favorite airline in Mexico and the one with the most flights from Mexico City (MEX) to Huatulco (HUX). They do not appear on Expedia or other travel search websites, but depending on the season they can fly 2 to 4 times a day, which allows them to reach Huatulco in these cities on the same day. Interjet offers free drinks on the flight and receives our likes!

- Aeromexico: It has direct flights from Mexico City (MEX) to Huatulco (HUX) every day from 8:00 am.

- Volaris: Flies from Mexico City (MEX), to Huatulco (HUX) every day; one flight a day and usually departs after 2:00 p.m.

- VivaAerobus: The lowest cost airline, flies from Mexico City (MEX) to Huatulco (HUX) and Puerto Escondido (PXM) every day.

- Magnicharters: Flies directly from Mexico City (MEX) to Huatulco (HUX) every day except Tuesday.

- AeroMar: Flies from Mexico City (MEX) to Puerto Escondido (PMX) and to Oaxaca City (OAX).

- Guadalajara (GDL)

- Volaris: Flies from Guadalajara (GDL) direct to Huatulco (HUX) on Monday and Thursday and soon a new air route will open to Puerto Escondido (PXM).

- Monterrey (MTY)

- Volaris: It has flights from Monterrey (MTY) direct to Huatulco (HUX) on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

- VivaAerobus: Flies direct from Monterrey (MTY) to Huatulco (HUX) on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

– Magnicharters: It has two flights a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays from Monterrey (MTY) to Huatulco (HUX).

• Oaxaca (OAX)

– TAR Airlines: Flies from Oaxaca City (OAX) to Huatulco (HUX) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Sundays.

– Aerotucan: Flies from Oaxaca City (OAX) to Huatulco (HUX) in high and low season, only 40 minutes of flight!

• Tijuana (TIJ)

– Volaris: Soon a direct flight will be opened from Tijuana (TIJ) to Huatulco (HUX).

• Querétaro (QRO)

– TAR Airlines: Flies direct from Queretaro (QRO) to Huatulco (HUX) on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays and stop at Oaxaca City (OAX) on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Click below and book your flight today!





Want more info? Check out our insider flight tips [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) for additional flight information to Huatulco.

Getting Around

After flying to Huatulco and arriving in paradise, the taxi has to be the easiest and most cost effective way to get around. There are so many taxis that you don't have to worry about going to a taxi stand. Simply standing at the side of the road where you are and waiving for a taxi should be sufficient...and you won't have to wait long. All taxi rates are set in advance based on distance and most local trips should cost you anywhere between \$20-\$50 pesos. Once you start to stray outside the immediate town expect to barter with your driver on the cost to take you to a destination.

Rental Car Locations

- Oaxaca Car Rental – their prices tend to be a little less expensive and they are willing to work long term rentals deals if you are down for a longer period of time. Their cars have always been clean, run well, and they have never been late for an appointment or blown a rental deal. For reservations please contact Patricio Hernandez at 958 581 0293 or email him at: reservaciones@oaxacacarrental.com.mx. You can also visit

www.oaxacacarrental.com.mx. Their address is: Blvd. Benito Juarez s/n, Local 5, Bahia de Tangolunda

- Hertz – certainly a well know rental company, they have friendly English speaking staff. Their rates are less expensive however I would like to see the company pay a little more attention to detail and the condition of their vehicles. It is certainly an option but I would consider it a second option. Please contact Angeles Monterrubio at: 958 103 5396 or email: amonterrubio@avasa.com.mx Blvd. The address is: Benito Juarez Num.8, Local 1 Int.
- Europcar – located at the Crown Pacific Bahia de Tangolunda. Visit www.europcar.com.mx.

Suburban

We are happy to offer airport transportation with our professional driver. We offer airport sign with guest name(s), safe transport to your destination point and luggage service to your accommodation. [Contact us](#) for details.

Bus

There are really multiple levels of buses along the entire coastline but the one that most people will be interested in are the trans-regional buses. The Ado station in Huatulco is the launching point for your journeys to the east or west of Huatulco. These buses are usually very clean with comfortable seats and are consistent with what we would have in Canada or the United States. The fees are very reasonable, and if you don't mind a couple of extra stops before you reach your ultimate destination, then this is a great way to do it on the cheap. A bus from Huatulco to Puerto Escondido will set you back about \$80 pesos.

HOW TO TAKE YOUR PET TO MEXICO



Many travelers and owners think of their pet as part of the family. They wish to have their dog or cat with them at all times. If you want to take pet with you on your Mexico vacation or to live with you in Mexico, there are a few steps you need to take before your departure.

You are allowed to enter Mexico with up to two dogs or cats. If you are traveling with more animals, it is recommended to contact the Mexican consulate or embassy nearest you for more information. Dogs and cats three months or less may not legally enter Mexico.

Before you take your pet to Mexico, they are required to be examined by a veterinarian and have up-to-date immunizations as you may be required to present the following documents when entering Mexico with your pet:

- A certificate of good health issued by a licensed veterinarian within ten days of travel and;
- Proof of vaccines against rabies and distemper administered at least 15 days before the pet's arrival in Mexico.

Be sure these documents are dated and that you keep an extra copy for your records. It is also important that they clearly state your name and address, include a complete description of your pet's species, age and sex and state that your pet has been examined and found to be free of all contagious diseases.

If you are traveling to Mexico by air check with the airline about their rules for transporting pets.



It is also a good idea to check with your hotel or vacation rental manager as many places do not accept pets.

Your animal may be placed in quarantine when entering Mexico if you do not have the proper paperwork with you. Even if all of your paperwork is in order, if your dog or cat does not look like it is in good health further examination by a licensed vet (at your expense) will be required before they are allowed to re-enter the United States or Canada.

Some countries mandate that any certificate issued by a Canadian or US veterinarian have an official stamp.

For more information on bringing other animals and birds into Mexico, visit the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services [website](#) (US) or the CFIA Services [website](#) (Canada) to find the latest requirements.

During your stay in Mexico with your pet, some other tips for a stress free stay include:



- Bringing a first aid kit for your pet. These can be purchased at your veterinarian's office or local pet store. If your cat or dog gets a tick and you are not near a vet, this kit will help you remove it.
- Put your pet on heartworm medicine. Dogs pick up heartworms quickly and easily when they are running around in rural places.
- Give your pet flea control medication. Especially if you are hoping to keep your pet with you in the hotel or vacation property. This will prevent your dog from picking up fleas from the last guest.

By following the above steps you will find it very easy to take your pet to Mexico. Both you and your furry friend will have a wonderful stay!

HOW TO DRIVE TO MEXICO – DEPARTURE CHECKLIST



Before you embark on your drive to Mexico, take a look at our checklist and tips for a worry free road trip.

Mexican Vehicle Insurance – it is highly recommended to purchase your Mexican vehicle insurance online before your drive to Mexico as opposed to buying at the border. This will save you both time and money.

Some insurance companies you can check out online include:

<http://mexicanautoinsurance.com/?gclid=CKrosoSo6LICFQfhQgodgmkAoA>

<http://www.sanbornsinsurance.com/>

<http://www.mexadventure.com/>

Financed Vehicles – Ensure you get written permission from your lien holder to drive to Mexico.

Vehicle Permits – As of 2015, you need a Temporary Vehicle Importation Permit (TVIP) to drive anywhere in Mexico except Baja California, parts of Sonora, and within about 18 miles of the north border. Fees are \$40 USD for a motorcycle, \$50 for a car, and \$60 for a motorhome. If your vehicle is 2007 or later, you will also need to leave a \$400 deposit, less for older vehicles; if you are even hours late on returning the TVIP, you will lose your deposit.

- You need to obtain a vehicle import permit. The Banjercito, the Mexican entity that processes the Mexican vehicle import permits, now allows you to process the vehicle permits online. Visit <https://www.banjercito.com.mx/registroVehiculos/> to request your vehicle permit and pay the compulsory deposit.
- You may request your permit 7 to 60 days prior to entering Mexico by vehicle.
- You may ONLY request a permit for a vehicle that is registered to your name or that of your spouse, your children, or your parents.
- You may NOT request a permit for a vehicle weighing more than 3.5 metric tons (7,716 lbs).
- If you are a foreign citizen, before starting the vehicle permit application process, you must apply for an immigration preauthorization for your [FMM](#), AKA tourist card. The cost for the tourist card is about \$23USD. The vehicle permit will be issued for the same period as that stated on your immigration pre-authorization.
 - Once the payment has been accepted, Banjercito will send the permit to your address within 7 business days.
 - After you have received your permit, you must send a copy of the documents you provided during the application process in one of the following ways:
 - Sending the scanned documents by e-mail to itvnet@banjercito.com.mx.

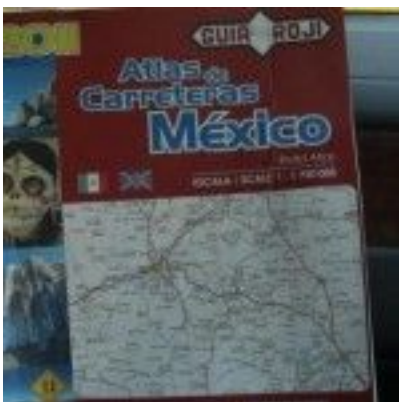
- Through courier service to the following address: Av. Industria Militar 1055, Col. Lomas de Sotelo, Del. Miguel Hidalgo, México, D.F., CP. 11200
- Delivering them in person to any Banjercito office.

Once you have entered Mexico, you must go to the Immigration Office and exchange your pre-authorization form for the proper tourist visa. Some people find it easier to just get the TIVP at the Immigration Office, rather than online, since you have to go there for your final visa anyway.

Deposit amounts are as follows:

Vehicle Year Model	Deposit Required (USD)
2007 and newer models	400 USD
2001 to 2006 models	300 USD
2000 and earlier models	200 USD

Tip – please ensure you keep your tourist card in a safe place. Upon leaving the country you must surrender your tourist card to immigration officials. If you do not have your tourist card, or if your tourist card is expired, you may be fined. If your tourist card is lost or stolen, you will need to pay a fee to get a replacement tourist card at an immigration office, or you may be fined when you're leaving the country.



Get a Good Map of Mexico – It is important to purchase a good Mexico roadmap with up to date information on roads and updated infrastructure. We recommend the Guia Roji Map of Mexico as it is specific and provides details on every road in

Mexico. This map can be found at many stores including Staples, Indigo and Chapters bookstores and also can be purchased on Amazon.com. Use this map to ensure you arrive to your destination safely and in time.

Passport – it is recommended to make a copy of your passport, leaving one at home in Canada and one with you during your travels.

Phrase book – If you don't speak Spanish, bring a basic Spanish phrase book before your trip. It will give you basics in case you run into vehicle trouble so you can tell someone you need a mechanic, help changing a tire or that you are lost.

Lonely Planet Site – This website is the largest travel guide book assisting travelers with travel tips, accommodation information and information about countries all over the world.

GPS – this small piece of equipment can save you a lot of hassle and you will be thankful you have this small device. Not only it can show you the route and estimate your arrival time, it also can direct you to the nearest gas station, coffee shop, park or many other points of interest.

Staying Connected – If you plan on using your cell phone in Mexico, ensure you contact your carrier to make sure your cell phone will have service in Mexico. Many cell phone companies require you to request Mexico service. Your cell phone carrier can also give you dialing instructions for while you are in Mexico. Mexico dialing is as follows:

- Calling Mexico from Canada: dial 011 + 52 + phone number
- Calling Canada from Mexico: dial 00 + 1 + phone number

It may be wise to buy a magic jack for your trip. It is a device you plug into the USB drive of your computer, plug a regular phone into the device and then you can make free calls to USA and Canada. You can get one at Future Shop for about \$30 (one time), \$19/year and then \$10/year for a Canadian number. Rates to Canada via Telmex are cheap, but this device works out to being paid off if I use it for 150 minutes a year. If someone calls you on the Magic Jack number and you are not home, they can leave a message and it will be sent to your email account in a wave file. Check out our 'Staying Connected' [article](#) for more information.

Cash for Tolls – Once you arrive in Mexico it is important to obtain enough cash for the toll roads that you will be driving on. Tolls that we drove through ranged from \$51-\$387 pesos and we paid a total amount of \$831 pesos on our trip.

Green Angels – The Green Angels are government-operated trucks driven by mechanics who patrol the roads and provide service to vehicles. To date, Mexico is the only country with this service. Labour and towing are free, but to replace a part would be at the expense of the car owner. In addition, they are equipped to give tourist information as they are connected to government offices via a network. Although their services are free, tips are appreciated.



Contact your National Consular Agency & Register your Travel information – this can be done online at <http://www.voyage.gc.ca/>

Vehicle Check Up

- Check Your Fluids – Make sure washer fluid is topped up. Change your oil regularly – about every 4,000 or 5,000 kilometers. Transmission and brake fluids should also be checked but usually don't need to be changed as often.
- Inspect Your Brakes – Some people are way harder on brakes than others, but the average lifespan for brakes is about 50,000 km.
- OK The Tires – Check all the tires and make sure they're at the right pressure. Also check for wear, if there's uneven wear or wear on an inside or outside edge. Also a good idea to change your winter tires to summer tires for better mileage. Check your spare tire as well, to ensure it has enough air pressure. And make sure you have a lug wrench in your trunk and a jack so you can change the tire yourself if you need to.
- Don't Forget the Belts & Hoses – Check if belts are frayed or any hoses look like they're about to burst. You can do that just by looking under the hood at the fan belt and radiator hoses.

- Check your Lights – Make sure your brake lights, headlights, high-beams, signal lights and fog lights are all in working order. With any luck you won't really need fog lights at all.
- Only Wipe with Soft Blades – Your car's wiper blades must be "supple," not dry or cracking, or else they won't do the job properly.
- Test the Gauges – Test to make sure the temperature gauge doesn't go all the way to the red – that is not a good sign. Also, look for any flashing lights or icons that might indicate a problem. The battery should indicate about 14 or 15 volts. The car horn should be working too.
- Use the Right Octane – Higher end cars and newer cars might need supreme gas, so be sure to use that. The 91-octane gas is important for newer engines that use more compression. If you use the cheaper [lower octane] gas, it'll explode too early. You'll hear a knocking noise if you're using the wrong octane, and that will damage the engine and cost you more money in the long run.
- Get a Safety Kit – It's a good idea to buy a kit for emergencies that includes a blanket, first aid supplies and a light. Bring an extra litre of oil and some extra gas if you have the proper container.
- Bug Wash/Water Jug – Mexico does not sell washer fluid, so it may be wise to bring a jug with you. It is also recommended to bring a jug of water in case your vehicle overheats on the highway.
- Have your vehicle manual handy – have a look in your vehicle's owner's manual and don't forget to keep it in your glove box on your trip. The owner's manual contains a lot of useful information from how to tow a trailer to how to change the flat tire and where is the jack located. If you need to top up engine oil or other fluids during a trip, you can find the fluid capacity specifications as well as recommended fluid types in your owner's manual. It also contains instructions how to jump-start a car if the battery dies, what to do if the engine overheats, how to change a headlight bulb and many others. If you don't have an

owner's manual, many car manufacturers offer to download an electronic copy of the owner's manual. You can order the printed version from your local dealer.

Check Up Before you Check Out – there are no required inoculations for travel to Mexico.



Resort areas and popular ancient sites in Mexico are pretty low risk areas. It is wise to bring insect repellent (repellent with DEET works best) if you plan on visiting lagoons or swampy areas during your stay. If you are planning to visit the jungle areas in Mexico, consult with your physician about taking malaria tablets. Preventive medical care in Mexico for senior travelers should include shots against Hepatitis A, which is common in Mexico, and typhoid. Hepatitis A vaccine should be given within 4 weeks before departure and oral tablets against typhoid taken until completed.

Health Insurance – Check to see if your insurance carrier will pay for medical care in Mexico. Otherwise, you can purchase extended medical coverage. Short-term policies exist for trips between 4-14 days. Frequent travelers or longer-term visitors should consider policies for 1, 3 and 5 years.

Itemize Your Goods – When driving to Mexico it is recommended to have an inventory list of what you have brought into the country. If asked by the border guards, having an itemized list of items will save you time when crossing the border into Mexico.

Here's the complete list of what anyone with either an FMT (tourist card valid up to 180 days) or FM3 (one year visa) is allowed to bring duty free into Mexico:

- Articles for your personal use, such as clothing, footwear, grooming and toiletry articles in reasonable amounts.
- Photographic, movie or video camera including its power source, and 12 rolls of film.
- Sports equipment for one person, provided it can be carried by one person.

- Up to 20 books and/or magazines.
- A laptop computer and accessories (per person)
- Valises, suitcases etc. to carry the goods.
- If of legal age, 20 packs of cigarettes, 20 cigars or 200 grams of tobacco, 3 liters of alcoholic beverage.
- Various objects worth up to \$300 USD.
- One set of binoculars.
- A T.V., screen size up to 12"
- One portable radio apparatus for recording or playing, or both.
- Up to 20 Laser disks, Compact disks or cassette tapes.
- A typewriter or laptop/portable/notebook computer and power source.
- A musical instrument that is easily portable.
- One tent and camping equipment.
- A maximum of 5 childrens' toys.
- One set of fishing tackle, one pair of skis, 2 tennis racquets.
- A water glider, with or without sail.
- A video recorder/playback machine.

To learn more about what you can and cannot bring into Mexico, check out this article:

http://www.aduanas.gob.mx/aduana_mexico/2008/pasajeros/139_10179.html

Once you've gone through the list then you can drive to Mexico worry free!

Stay tuned for our next article where we will provide you with information on crossing the border into the U.S. and Mexico as well as our travel log from our Canada to Mexico trip.

Relocating to Mexico

HOW TO GET YOUR PERMANENT RESIDENT VISA



Recently, Erin and I applied for our Permanent Resident Visas here in Mexico. This process has 2 stages and can take a bit of time. So, I thought I would share our experience with you, if you don't want the inconvenience of having to leave the country every 180 days to renew your Tourist Visa.

You have two options for residency in Mexico, a Temporary Resident Visa (4 years) or a Permanent Resident Visa. The criteria for temporary vs. permanent vary slightly, but if you're

planning to buy or already own a home here in Mexico, I suggest you go straight to permanent residency.

Since we just completed this process, I'd like to share with you some important points and some "lessons learned" from our experience.

Lessons Learned

The first thing you'll need to know is where to start the process, and it's not where you might think. You actually have to begin the process outside of Mexico! Yep, that's right. I know a lot of expats that come here ready to begin their journey to becoming a resident only to find out they now have to leave to do it!

The first stage of the resident visa process begins with you submitting an application and an interview at a Mexican Consulate beyond Mexico's borders. A lot of articles and experts will tell you that you have to begin the process in your home country. That's not true! And, in fact, that didn't work for Erin and me. We made our initial petition back home at a consulate in Canada, and we were denied!

For whatever reason, the officials at that particular consulate said, "No". Which was more of an inconvenience than anything because there's no "three strikes you're out rule". It just meant we needed to find another consulate where we could schedule another interview. So, on our following trip home, we visited a different Mexican Consulate in a different Canadian city. And, again, "Nope!". Sigh!

Polling Other Expats

At this point, we started asking around. Polling our other expat friends who had been through the process to see where they had gone for their initial interview. We kept hearing the same city mentioned, again and again, Phoenix, Arizona. It seemed that, again, for whatever reason, the journey to residency was just easier if one took the path that leads through Phoenix.

Lucky for us, we had an International Living conference coming up in Phoenix! So, we made plans to arrive early and scheduled yet another interview. And it didn't matter at all that we hold Canadian Passports.

And, you're going to want your passport with you at the interview because that's where they will attach your permission to continue with the next phase of the process once you've returned to Mexico.

But before you do anything, you're going to want to make sure you qualify for residency first.

Do You Qualify?

Most permanent resident petitioners will qualify by one of these three means:

1. You are related to a permanent resident of Mexico or a Mexican by birth up to the 2nd level (i.e., grandparent, parent, sibling, daughter, son or grandchildren). In the case of siblings, it only applies if the applicant is under the age of 18 years old, is not married and is under the sibling's legal representation.
2. You won't be earning money in Mexico or are retired and can prove sufficient monthly income from your pension or other means to cover living expenses during your stay in Mexico or have sufficient savings/investments that allow you to maintain yourself living in Mexico.
3. You have held a Temporary Resident card for four consecutive years.

There are three other ways to qualify for permanent residency in Mexico, but I'm assuming, if you're reading this, you're not a political refugee seeking asylum. So, I'll skip that one and a few others that likely don't apply!

Enlist The Help Of A Professional

Once you know you qualify, you'll want to gather the necessary documents to prove that to the officials who will be interviewing you. So, if you are qualifying based on income or assets, this means financial records. If it's based on relations, birth certificates and family documents.

There are also several forms to be filled out (in Spanish) that make up your application.

Erin and I elected to work with a local lawyer here in Huatulco to help us prepare our documents and walk us through what to expect during the process. I highly recommend this. It will not only save you a lot of time but also a lot of potential headaches, especially if you don't speak Spanish.

How Much Money Do You Need To Qualify?

In all likelihood, you'll petition under the financial qualification, so here is some detailed information on what you will need to provide taken from a Canadian Mexican Consulate web page:

1. Original and a photocopy of proof of monthly income from pensions in the amount of \$2,765.00 Canadian Dollars during the past six months, or
2. Original and a photocopy of proof of investment or bank accounts with an average monthly balance equivalent to \$110,615.00 Canadian Dollars during the last twelve months.

These dollar amounts change a bit every year, so you'll want to check for the most current information before you schedule your interview.

In Phoenix, we found the interview process very easy and pleasant. We were asked several standard questions and then asked to provide our application and documentation. It was clear we met the qualifications, and there were no issues with our paperwork. However, we still had to wait a few days (this can take up to 10 days) before we could return to the consulate and get our passports back with the special Mexican Visa sticker in them to let immigration officials know we'd soon be getting permanent residency.



Timing is Everything!

You'll want to make sure you show that to the immigration officials upon your return to Mexico. From the date you get that special sticker in your passport, you have 180 days to return to Mexico. And once you enter the country, you have 30 days to start the next stage of the process, which will take place at a local immigration office.

In some cities, you may need to make an appointment in advance to begin the next. Here in Huatulco, we're lucky, we can just walk in, and there's never a long wait if any!

Since we had decided to work with a local immigration lawyer to help us, the rest of it was easy, but I wouldn't say simple. It's not like you're just going to walk into your local immigration office, flash your shiny new visa sticker in your passport and it's a done deal!

In-Country Process

Nope! You'll make several more trips to the local immigration office, fill out more required forms, provide personal documents, supply passport photos and, of course, pay for your Permanent Visa (currently \$4,828 Pesos). Which, by the way, you're not going to do at the Immigration

office, you'll have to go to a bank to do that! You can also expect to provide your fingerprints to be kept on file before your Permanent Visa card is approved and printed. Then, you'll wait a week or so and return to pick up your card, which looks a lot like a driver's license.

Are you starting to see why it was a "no-brainer" to pay a local lawyer to walk us through the process and file our paperwork with us? Again... Highly recommended!

So, you're probably wondering just how long this process could take. Well, it depends on how long you wait in between being granted your initial visa, the one in your passport, and when you re-enter Mexico, of course. But I can tell you once you're in country and begin the process here it may take up to a month to complete the process and actually have your residency card in hand. And this is important to remember because you can't leave the country while the process is on-going, or if you must leave, you'll need to get special permission and documentation to do so.

Renewal & Benefits

Once you have your Permanent Residency card, you will have to renew it every ten years to keep your photo current.

It may seem like an intimidating process, but it's well worth it. Once you have residency in Mexico, you are entitled to certain perks that go beyond not having to leave the country every six months. Such things as, access to the social health care system, and if you're over 60, you can apply for a special seniors' card that gives you deep discounts on travel, food, and in some cities even property tax and water bills!

HOW TO MOVE YOUR CHILDREN TO MEXICO-PART I



You've decided to move to Mexico – congratulations! We can't wait to welcome you here. This is a big decision, and if you're bringing your child, it's monumental. Like you, your child will be exposed to a new culture, language, perspective and network of people that will be life-changing. Below are a few tips to help you move your children to Mexico and prepare them for emotional, social and academic success as expats in Mexico.

Consider the Age

Sharing the news of your pending move to Mexico depends entirely on your child's age, personality and connection to their country of origin. If you have more than one child, one may be accepting of the news while the other is reluctant. That's okay. That child may just need a little more time to process the information. But don't worry. Children are resilient, and your

excitement will be contagious. Have a plan and mind, and be ready to answer questions that may arise.

Newborns and Toddlers – Newborns and toddlers are much easier to move from one country to another. They'll go where you go, and accept changes in the environment more readily. As much as possible, stick to your child's routine during the transition, and in your new home. Eating, bathing and sleeping – these are important moments of the day that when maintained, will help them to feel secure.

School Age Children and Teens



Sharing the news of your move with a school-aged child or a teenager can be fun! Mexican-themed props, movies, maps, globes and music will really build excitement. Go online together and check out age-appropriate links about your new home. Ask your child to help with decisions, such as picking out which home to live in and what color to paint their room. Sign them up for an activity they've always wanted to try. You might want to

throw a party as you get closer to “move to Mexico” day. Serve traditional Mexican fare, and string up a piñata filled with candy and toys.

Sharing the news of your move to Mexico could also solicit a “no thanks, I'd rather live with grandma.” That's okay. It's normal. Just recognize that if your child or teen is reluctant, it could be due to the fear of being accepted by new classmates and finding extra-curricular activities that they enjoy. Be patient. Reassure them that everything is going to be okay. Your family is in this together and they will help to move your children to Mexico. Maybe offer an outlet to share their thoughts and feelings, such as writing in a journal, creating a vlog or honoring their “past life” with framed pictures and DIY scrapbooks. Talk often about expectations, excitements and anxiety. Be open and honest, reassuring your child that they will have fun, make friends and be able to stay in touch with loved ones back home via technology. Maybe even book a flight for

them to visit friends in your home country, or to bring their favorite pal down for the next holiday break!

Speak Spanish Whenever Possible

If your family isn't fluent in Spanish, start learning and practicing as a family. Master the basics such as days of the week, months, numbers, colors and the alphabet. You can learn online, with an app or hire a private tutor. For added fun, include some cultural lessons/experiences, such as Dia de los Muertos and traditional Mexican birthday parties!

Summer is Best for a Family Move to Mexico

We recommend scheduling your move your children to Mexico in the summer. This will allow you and your child to visit their new school, meet with administrators, attend orientations, shop for supplies and more. They'll also have time to catch up if they're academically behind, and to work through any nerves about their new school, teachers and classmates.

To be continued.....

HOW TO MOVE YOUR CHILDREN TO MEXICO-PART II

Be Picky about School

School is the next step. Take your time with this, as there are all sorts of school options in Mexico from which to choose. Public, private, international – your location and budget may determine which is the best fit for your children.

International Schools

International schools cater to families who have traveled in from another country, and who want to give their children an advantage when it comes to a post



secondary education abroad. It's not uncommon to hear multiple languages spoken in the halls. However, the language of instruction is preset. If you'd like your children to have a post secondary option in an English-speaking country, you may want to consider the many American schools located across Mexico. The coursework may be more aligned to what your children is used to in their home country. International school administration eases the transition for you and your children by creating opportunities to get involved socially as well as academically.

Private and Public Schools

Private and public schools are great for immersing your children in the Mexican language and customs. They will experience fresh perspectives that could open doors academically and later in life, professionally. The downside may be that your children might feel isolated at first. But not to worry. The school, and expat community, can offer help and resources to help during the transition.

The key is to do your due diligence when looking for a school, and to do it early. Research as much as possible. Ask questions until you and your children are satisfied. This will be particular helpful if you can do it as early in the moving transition as possible. Below is a checklist of items to consider when speaking with a contact at a potential school:

- The school's approach to education
- School culture
- Student/teacher ratio
- Student population
- Documentation needed to enroll (birth certificates, school records, letters of recommendation, etc.)
- Curriculum
- Tuition, if applicable

- Referrals from other parents

Act Like a Tourist, Live Like a Local

There will be a lot to do when you first move to Mexico as we mention in [How to move your children to Mexico part I](#), but be sure to take the time to enjoy your new area. Do all the things a tourist would do. Eat in specialty restaurants. Go zip lining. Ride horses. Rent four wheelers and head up the trail to a hidden beach. Treat it like a “stay-cation,” especially since you've worked very hard to move to Mexico. Eventually, you'll start to live like a local, connecting with nationals and local expats to share tidbits of successful living in Mexico.



Relax and Enjoy

It will take about one year to truly settle in, so enjoy every day, [birthday](#), holiday and season as it comes. You're in this together, and the memories made during this time will last a lifetime. Enjoy all of the wonders and sensations of your new country, and watch how fast you and your children will reap the benefits of this family-bonding adventure!

MOVING TO MEXICO: THREE MONTH RELOCATION PLAN



Mexico is a fantastic country to visit: the beaches, the wildlife and of course, the country's unique culture and people. It's not surprising that so many Canadians and Americans are making the decision to cross the border and set up a new life for themselves or to enjoy spending their hard-earned retirement pension.

If you've decided to take the plunge, get ready for some intense planning activity. The first step is to get yourself a three-month (at the very least) countdown checklist. You could even print this page and keep it nearby to make sure you remember absolutely everything.

Three Months to Go...

Getting your Passport and Visa in Order

Unless you are a pensioner or satisfy certain other criteria, in which case you may be able to organize a permanent residency permit straight off, you will need to apply for temporary residency and, if relevant, a work permit first. All of this is now organized via the Mexican consulate in your country or, should I say, Mexican consulates – be prepared for a different service and different rules depending on where you decide to apply!

Your whole move hinges on getting your visa approved in time, so you have to keep your eye on the ball throughout the application process. You will only be allowed to apply for a visa if you have a minimum of one year left on your passport so prioritize renewing your passport if necessary.

To Take or to Leave Behind

We all accumulate way more stuff than we think we do, so the sooner we get to work separating what we are going to take with us from what needs to be sold, donated or recycled the better. It is wise to get a breakdown of costs from your Mexican moving company so you can make a judgement on whether the cost of moving larger items is worth it. Fortunately, since Mexico's electricity supply is similar to that in the US and Canada we don't necessarily have to get rid of our widescreen TVs or computer towers or mess around with adaptors.

Selling or Renting your US or Canada Home

Moving house interstate can be stressful enough so moving to Mexico can really pile on the pressure. The key is to prepare well in advance and to carefully time crucial steps (closure, signing of rental documents, giving notice, etc.) Hint: Don't actually do any of these things before you have received your visa approval!

If you are selling your home, you really need to have it on the market as soon as practical though. You will probably need to leave the closing to an agent or a trusted representative so this is the time to get all that in place. If you are renting it, decide on furnished versus unfurnished).

Vehicles

If you were thinking of just driving your US or Canadian-plated car straight into Mexico then think again. Recent changes require all foreign cars to be imported (unless you will be staying only in the border areas or other free zones) and this has to be arranged in advance. You will need to get in touch with a customs agent to do this and actual costs involved will depend on the particulars of the vehicle you intend to import. In some cases, it may be better to service and sell your vehicle instead but that will depend on your circumstances.

Pets

Last, but definitely not least, if you are going to be bringing your pet into Mexico, they will need to have a state vet-approved health certificate and be immunized against rabies and distemper at least 15 days prior to arrival. Some pets (e.g. reptiles, fish, rodents) may need import permits too. If you will be flying with your pet, there may also be restrictions imposed by the airline. Start the ball rolling as early as possible so all is in place well in advance.



Two Months to go...

Now is the time to start thinking about which moving company you are going to use. It is advisable to choose one with plenty of experience of moving clients from the US and Canada to Mexico since they will be used to dealing with the red tape. One part of the move involves creating your 'Menaje de Casa.' This is an inventory of all items you will be bringing with you, including their value. It has to be written in English and Spanish and is presented at the Mexican border. Your Mexican moving company can advise you further about this.

Start getting all necessary paperwork together including passports, birth certificates, bank statements, pay slips, share certificates, etc. Speak to your tax advisor about the best framework for your new circumstances and consolidate your finances (pay off credit cards, apply for Mexican bank accounts and close down existing accounts where necessary, etc.)

If you are flying in, book your tickets and check weight restrictions on luggage to help you plan what to take with you.

One Month to go...

Your passports and visas should all be approved by now and you should have a clear moving date in mind. Use this to organize your house sale; arrange closing (or new tenant arrival) for the day after you move to give the cleaners and moving company plenty of time to work in.

Inform all third parties about the move. For those that need it, give your new Mexican address or temporary holding address and begin closing down/transferring all services. Some of those you may need to advise are:

- Local authorities
- Cell phone/cable provider
- Gas, water and electric suppliers
- Banks and insurance companies
- Car registration, insurance and breakdown companies
- Newspaper and milk deliveries
- Gym and club subscriptions
- Health services (doctor, dentist, therapist, etc.)
- Schools

During this period you should also obtain copies of any med prescriptions and any school documents (grades, reports, etc.) that may be needed.

Final Week

Your final week should be spent in donating or recycling anything you have not managed to sell, labeling all items you are bringing with you, ready for your Mexican moving company, and double checking all sale/rental arrangements. Organize a professional cleaning company to arrive early on moving day.

Try to give yourself the last evening off, perhaps by booking into a hotel or staying with friends (remember, you may not even own a bed by this stage!) Then it's over to the cleaners and movers. Providing they specialize in [international moving](#), your moving company will be more than capable of ensuring a seamless transition over the border. Just make sure you don't pack your visa, passport or money in the removal trucks!

Arrival in Mexico

You've done it! You are standing on Mexican soil and your new life begins here. There are some simple formalities to go through when you arrive, namely lining up to get your documents checked and visa stamped, but then it's off to your new home to settle in. Just make sure you register your visa at the national migration institute (INM) within 30 days of your arrival; they will then sort out your resident's permit card for you.

Written by Pamela Taylor – The Eye, Huatulco

HOW TO FURNISH YOUR MEXICO DREAM PROPERTY

You did it – you purchased your Mexico dream property. Congratulations! We know that you'll have a lot of fun discovering the nuances of your new casa (house). While you're settling in, it's common to wonder about home furnishing, wondering what you'll need and where to get the items that turn your house into a home.

Huatulco Mexico has a variety of shopping options to personalize all of your living spaces. Quaint shops, open-air markets, big box convenient stores and even sidewalk and beachside vendors offer unique pieces that will inspire conversation and create a homey feeling.

Below are some of our favourite must-have items for furnishing your Mexico dream property:

1. Barro negro pottery is our top must-have. It is very distinctive, made from dark clay that is local to the Oaxacan r This special pottery comes in a variety of designs, from bowls and vases to pitchers and ornaments.
2. Day of the Dead (or El Dia de Los Muertos) figurines are symbolic of one of Mexico's most popular holidays. It is an occasion when Mexicans honor their dearly departed with alters comprising of food, liquor, photos and trinkets. Locally made figurines and shadow boxes, sold by local artisans, are a big part of the experience, allowing you to bring this festive tradition into your home.
3. Painted masks are a great choice for whimsical décor elements. They have long been a staple of traditional Mexican dances, and are considered to be highly valuable by museums and art galleries across the country. With local purchases, you too can create your own mask collection. Choose masks made from wood and coconut shells, featuring animals, people, devils, demons and hermits.
4. If you like textiles, rugs and clothing, consider decorating your home with handwoven and stitched cotton goods. You can pick up locally made items made right here in the Huatulco area by Telares Oaxaqueños. It is a small textile factory that creates cotton



blouses and guayaberas (men's shirts). These items can be framed and used to add interest to a master or guest bedroom. Other locally made textiles, such as handwoven blankets, will keep you and your guests sleeping in warmth and traditional luxury.



5. Alebrijes, painted pieces of folk art, have been a long-standing artisan tradition in the state of Oaxaca. Today they are collectors items, and are cherished pieces in homes and offices around the world. You can pick these up at most shops around Huatulco Mexico. Also, check out the whimsical wooden animal sculptures that are made from the copal tree. These are not only eye-catching, but they are supposed to bring good luck!

Shopping Beyond Huatulco Mexico

Huatulco Mexico is a great place to shop, but if you're looking to see what else can be purchased, check out the neighboring town of La Crucecita. La Crucecita is a bustling shopping area with all sorts of treasures for the home. Ceramics for tables, dressers and shelves. Sarongs and tapestries are great for tables, walls and window treatments. Woven baskets are ideal for plants, magazines and an array of odds and ends. Woodworking brings character to nooks and crannies. Silver, naturally, adds sparkle and refinement to tables and shelving. The list goes on and on!

One of our most favourite stores in La Crucecita is Museo de Artesanias Oaxaquesas. It features a large number of crafts made here in Oaxaca, including rugs, embroidered textiles, leather goods and fanciful masks. Artisans even display their talents right there in the shop! You'll learn where the dye comes from, how the yarn was made and how the rugs are woven. Each product is displayed with a biography of the artisan and a description of how it was made.



And when we need to take a break, we stop in at one of the local restaurants or tequila shops. While there, visit the parish church, La Parroquia de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe. It makes a

great landscape, overlooking a spacious grassy knoll. Take a picture, print it out and frame it for your new Huatulco Mexico home.

If you want a quieter shopping experience, head over to the Pochutla Market. (It's a 10-minute taxi ride from La Crucecita.) Pochutla Market will share many conversational style pieces that are crafted in Huatulco as well as in the state of Oaxaca.

Full Turnkey Service

Want everything taken care of? We recommend a local designer who offers full turnkey furnishing services. Many buyers do not have time to furnish their rental or investment property on their own and would much rather walk in the front door to a beautifully furnished home. Turnkey packages are available and include everything needed from furniture, linen, cutlery, electrical goods, and window treatments to patio furniture. Because everyone has different tastes and styles our local designers will send samples and photos and work with you to ensure your home is as beautiful as you have dreamed. With the internet and email to do this is a very easy procedure.

Do you have a favorite shopping location in Huatulco? Have you found some cherished items to furnish your Mexico dream property? If so, feel free to share below.

And if you'd like help with traveling, retiring and moving to Mexico, [contact us](#) today.

6 HOW-TO TIPS FOR YOUR BIG MOVE TO MEXICO



We congratulate you on your decision to move to the land of mariachis and tequila, chips and salsa, sunsets and sandy beaches, rich culture and warm hospitality.

You're in for a one-of-a-kind adventure!

But now that you've made up your mind to become an expatriate in paradise, you may wonder what it takes to make the big move.

Below are 6 of our favorite how-to tips to prepare for your big move to Mexico:

Big Move to Mexico Tip #1: Proper Paperwork at Your Fingertips

To live in Mexico, you'll need to have a temporary visa. Eventually, you can earn a permanent visa. And if you're planning to work in Mexico, you'll need a work visa.

To handle all of this documentation, either contact the nearest Mexican consulate or embassy in your area or an immigration lawyer once you're in Mexico. Your tourist visa will give you 6 months to be in the country before you'll need to change your visa status or leave the country. If you choose to go through the visa process on your own – and some expatriates do – just be sure to read and follow the immigration laws paying special attention to the financial requirements and submission deadlines.

As for other documentation, be sure to get current originals and copies of the following:

- Birth certificates
- Certificates of adoption



- Driver's licenses
- Marriage certificates
- Medical records
- Membership cards
- Passports
- Professional licenses
- School records

Big Move to Mexico Tip #2: To Your Health

Most soon-to-be-expatriates update their immunizations before they arrive in Mexico. Talk to your health care provider or travel health clinic (at least 6 months before your move date) regarding these immunizations:

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Polio

Be sure to keep a record of your health history on hand in the event you'll need a physician's care while living in Mexico. Once you arrive, you should establish yourself with a local provider.

If you do find yourself in need of medical treatment, rest assured that you'll be in good hands. Mexico is known in the international medical community as having outstanding care. Mexico has some of the best doctors, surgeons, medical schools and healthcare facilities in the world. We dare to say that you're likely to receive better care – both pre- and post-treatment) here than in other parts of the world. (And you don't have to wait to get the help you deserve.)

In fact, millions of North Americans, Europeans, and South Americans elect to come here for treatments ranging from dental work to surgeries.

Big Move to Mexico Tip #3: Animal World

If you're bringing your furry sidekick (dog or cat) with you, you'll need a veterinary health certificate with proof of immunizations and an annual rabies shot for each pet. This certificate will need to be completed and signed within 5-7 days of your travel date.

(Related Article: [How To Take Your Pet to Mexico](#))



Big Move to Mexico Tip #4: Moving Your Belongings

Every Canadian is different when it comes to bringing their belongings. Some prefer to sell everything while others bring their entire house in a truck. The latter option can be expensive thanks to customs fees.

If you're still set on bringing your belongings with you, shop around for a moving company that is both affordable and reputable. Also, check with your local consulate to find out what exit and entrance documents

you'll need to bring items into the country.

Big Move to Mexico Tip #5: Money Matters

Successful expatriates spend at least 6 months for their relocation to Mexico. This includes working with local and international financial advisors to be certain their affairs are in order. The

goal is to be able to stretch and access your funds in order to live a happy and comfortable lifestyle in Mexico.

Once the long-term details are in place, it's always a good idea to keep in touch with any Canadian-based banking institution. Some have branches in Mexico. Let them know of your relocation plans.

You'll need to know how to make deposits and withdrawals, transfer funds, and exchange money. They may charge additional fees for international transactions – money and wire transfers, ATM withdrawals and changing account information.

Big Move to Mexico Tip #6: On the Fast Track to Mastering Spanish

Here's one of the best tips we can pass on. The faster you master Spanish, the faster you'll acclimate to your new home. (Sure there are English speakers in Mexico, but don't count on the fact that you'll see them beyond the resorts and expat communities.)

There are a number of ways to get you conversing with the locals in no time: DVDs, CDs, books and online resources. These are great, but the best method is to hire a tutor. He or she will customize a series of lessons to help you reach your language goals.

In the meantime, start working on the following word categories to get a jump start on speaking the most widely used language in the world:

- Days of the Week
- Everyday Greetings
- Months
- Numbers



- Pronouns
- Time
- Verbs

Most people need from 6-12 months of lessons to work their way up to conversational Spanish.

So there you have it, our favorite tips for your big move to Mexico. If you're an expatriate living in Mexico, we'd love to hear from you. Share your favorite tips below.

HOW TO MOVE TO MEXICO – THE RELOCATION PROCESS



Once you have made your decision to move to Mexico, there will be a lot of planning and organizing to do before you leave your home country.

This 'How To Relocate' guide will provide you with a checklist of items that need to be considered leading up to your moving day and will ensure a smooth move to your new casa South of the border.

Relocation Consultants – These companies offer a range of services, from background research to full-service moving management. You will pay more based on the amount of services you wish to have these consultants handle on your behalf. Using relocations consultants will cost you more, but will make your move to Mexico very seamless.

Travel Documentation – Ensure you and your family have a valid passport and that you have your proper visa to live



and work in Mexico. You can contract services of an Immigration Lawyer to assist with the visa process.

Driver's License – Mexico doesn't require you to have an International Driver's license, so be sure to take your home country license with you. You can apply for a Mexican driver's license if you wish.

Pets – You can take your pets to Mexico, but you will need to apply for permission, as your pet will need to have its' papers in order. You will also need to supply a Health Certificate issued by an official authority or by a licensed veterinarian provided that his signature is approved by a state veterinarian and proof of vaccines against rabies and distemper, administered at least 15 days before the arrival of your pet in Mexico.



Moving Companies – If you are using a moving company to move to Mexico it is wise to choose well established companies that will provide you with a quote to have personal items moved to Mexico.

Change of Address – Contact all organizations about your change of address. Arrange a holding and/or forwarding address in your home country if you still don't yet have a permanent address in Mexico.

Medical Records & Prescriptions – it is wise to obtain copies of you and your family's medical records as well as any prescription medicine you are taking if you need to buy more in Mexico.

What Can I Bring?



Mexican Customs Law states you can bring any household goods and personal effects, including personal items and furniture, clothes, books, furniture, appliances, computers, entertainment electronics, musical instruments, and artwork. The artwork must not be complete collections for the

installation of expositions or an art gallery. You can bring scientific instruments and tools needed for your profession or hobby, however cannot bring tools and instruments for the installation of laboratories, clinics or workshops.

Medical equipment (wheelchairs, blood pressure/sugar monitor, oxygen generator) are duty free and most medicines in reasonable quantities are allowed, but should be in the original pharmacy packaging with the doctor's name.

Items you cannot bring include guns and ammunition. Mexico is extremely strict about this. You cannot bring fresh or frozen food, including cheese. Packaged and canned goods are usually allowed. Fresh or dried plants and plant material including spices and seeds are also prohibited.

Previously you had to get paperwork issued by your Mexican consulate called a Menaje de Casa (household items), that allowed you to bring household belongings without paying an import duty. While the Menaje is gone, it is still useful to prepare a list for use with the customs folks at the border.

The move to Mexico is a big process and involves many steps and decisions. By using the information your move will be smoother and easier.

HOW TO GET A VISA

If you have fallen in love with Mexico's beaches, culture and lifestyle and have decided you want to stay longer than a typical vacation it is important you understand the country's immigration and residency policies.

Getting your Temporary Resident Visa in Mexico

Foreigners wishing to live in Mexico longer than 180 days must apply for a "Visitante-Rentista" or Temporary Resident Visa (formally know as an FM-3) under current Mexican Immigration Law. This applies to foreigners who wish to reside temporarily or permanently in Mexico and either live on funds from abroad or if they wish to work in Mexico. Such persons are permitted to engage in any remunerative activity in Mexico if they apply to do so. A foreigner meeting the requirements may acquire resident status for a year, which must be renewed on a yearly basis.



In order to get your temporary resident Visa, you are required to submit the following:

- A completed Visa Application
- A passport valid for at least one year.
- Original and photocopy of the migratory document proving your legal migratory status in your home country.
- One (1) photograph measuring (3.5 cm X 3.1 cm)
- Payment of fees must be made in cash for the issuance of the visa.
- Original or photo copy of investment receipts of bank statements showing an average monthly balance of \$29,407.00 CAD during the past 12 months OR

- Original and photocopy of documents showing that the applicant has employment or a pension with a monthly tax-free income of over \$1,764.00 CAD during the past 6 months.

After three to five years, one can apply for permanent resident status as an immigrant.

Foreigners must apply in their home country at the Mexican consulate nearest their home city.

This rule was changed in 2013.

Getting your Permanent Resident Visa in Mexico

If you plan on making Mexico your home you may want to consider obtaining a Permanent Resident Visa. In order to get your permanent resident Visa, you are required to submit the following:

- A completed Visa Application
- A passport valid for at least one year.
- Original and photocopy of the migratory document proving your legal migratory status in your home country.
- One (1) photograph measuring (3.5 cm X 3.1 cm)
- Payment of fees must be made in cash for the issuance of the visa.
- Original or photo copy of investment receipts of bank statements showing an average monthly balance of \$117,628.00 CAD during the past 12 months OR
- Original and photocopy of proof of tax-free monthly income from pensions in an amount greater than \$2,941.00 CAD during the past 6 months.

Because the regulations sometimes change, it's wise to confirm them with a Mexican embassy or your consulate before you go.

- [US Consulate of Mexico](#)

- [Canadian Consulate of Mexico](#)

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FM3 VISA

Canadians wishing to live in Mexico longer than 180 days must apply for a “Visitante-Rentista” or Temporary Resident Visa, under current Mexican Immigration Law. This applies to foreigners who wish to reside temporarily or permanently in Mexico as pensioners and live on funds from abroad. Such persons are not permitted to engage in any remunerative activity in Mexico. A foreigner meeting the requirements may acquire retiree status for a year, which must be renewed on a yearly basis. After five years, one can apply for permanent resident status as an immigrant. Canadians must apply in Mexico only by the INM office serving the city where you will be living. You are required to submit the following:

- A completed Visa Application
- A passport valid for at least one year.
- Two (2) identical, passport-sized frontal photographs (this is done in the city you are applying for your FM-3.
 - There are photo shops everywhere in Mexico that can assist you with getting your pictures taken for your Visa and it should only take about 20-30 minutes to get this done)
- Proof of financial resources. Proof of address, usually a utility bill or letter from your landlord.
 - The income requirement is a monthly income from outside México equal to 250 times the basic minimum wage in México City. Each dependent will increase the basic amount by 50%. For 2012 the min wage is \$62.33 pesos, therefore the

minimum monthly income requirement for a single person in 2012 is \$15,583 pesos.

- Documents accepted as proof of financial resources (bank statements showing monthly interests, social security letter or pension receipts). The documents submitted must be notarized.

The INM office will give you a form to take to a bank to pay. The fee in 2012 is approximately \$1,145 pesos. In addition there is a \$550 peso fee for changing from FMM to FM3.

Your FM-3 will be a wallet-sized plastic identification card with your picture on it.

Renewing your FM-3 migratory card

When the visa is granted, the applicant will receive an FM-3 migratory card. To renew this form, the renewal must be requested through the regional offices of the Ministry of the Interior (outside of Mexico City) or with the National Institute of Migration of the Ministry of the Interior (Instituto Nacional de Migración, Secretaría de Gobernación), in Mexico City.

Helpful Tips

If you don't know the language or don't have the patience, it may well be worth the cost to hire an expediter or Lawyer to process the documentation for you, especially the first time.

Source: More information can be found at: http://rollybrook.com/how_to_move_to_mexico.htm

Lifestyle Adjustments in Mexico

HOW TO SWIM IN THE OCEAN



We grew up as lake kids in Canada and have many wonderful experiences waterskiing, tubing spending all day in the water enjoying our beautiful Saskatchewan lakes. But when we began traveling and eventually moving to Mexico we fell in love with its' aquamarine waters and the colorful and interesting marine life it has to offer. Even though we knew how to swim and handle ourselves in the water, swimming in the ocean was a whole new ballgame.

The ocean offers many challenges and can be down-right intimidating. With these 'How To Swim in the Ocean' safety tips you can learn how to swim in the ocean safely so you can enjoy all the amazing things it has to offer.

Marine Life Must-Knows

The ocean has critters and creatures that can cause harm, and it's good to be aware of these critters before you dip in. Jellyfish (called "malaguas" locally) can be a challenge as they are transparent, so it is difficult to see them. Additionally, sharks, stingrays and barracudas can



approach shallower waters and can cause pain inflicting bites and stings. It's best to avoid locations where these creatures have been spotted and swim in clear water when the sun is brightest. We also recommend to consult with lifeguard or local who can tell you where the problematic areas are and if any critters have been spotted.

Get Current

Before heading out check online or with the local lifeguard what type of currents you should expect. Lateral currents flow parallel to the beach. They can be subtle or move very fast. This type of current are less dangerous. Rip currents are the major cause of swimmer and surfer accidents. These type of currents are characterized by their strong flow of water rushing back out to sea. Rip currents occur when large amounts of water build up near the shoreline due to natural wave action. The powerful water flow can pull swimmers into deeper water. Typically, the size and strength of a rip current is in direct proportion to the size and frequency of the wave action – the larger the waves, the stronger the rip currents. On many occasions one can tell there is a large rip current by the sandy discoloration of the water.

If you get caught in a rip current, swim with the current until you are able to peel off to either side. Then, swim back to the shore at an angle, rather than trying to fight the current.

Get a Feel For It

Sometimes you can't see the ocean floor when heading in for a swim. If you are not familiar with the beach you are visiting, make sure you wade through the water slowly to get a feel for rocks and drop offs. Never dive head-first into unfamiliar waters. It is also important to shuffle your feet while walking into deeper waters. Stingrays tend to bury themselves in shallow, sandy waters. If stepped on they could lash its' tail upwards and could easily puncture your skin. Shuffling your feet alerts stingrays to your presence so they have time to move away. If you are stung by a

stingray notify a lifeguard or head to the nearest hospital where they can treat the injury, clean the wound and provide antiseptic to avoid infection.

Makes Friends with the Flags

A lot of beaches are marked with flags to help swimmers identify any hazards.

Understanding what these flags mean will help keep you safe before or during your swim. Red flags are the most serious of all beach warning flags as it warns of serious water hazards. It could mean the surf is high or there are dangerous currents, or both.

While you can still swim if there is a red flag, you need to exercise extreme caution. Yellow flags mean that ocean conditions are rough, but not life-threatening. It means a potentially high surf or dangerous currents and undertows.



Swimmers should exercise extreme caution. Green flags is an 'all-clear' sign that it is safe to swim. It is still important to remember however that the ocean is unpredictable, so you should still exercise caution. Blue or Purple flags typically mean that jellyfish or other dangerous marine life have been spotted. In this case use extreme caution and keep a close watch for dangerous critters.

Avoid Alcohol

If you are thinking of taking a swim in the ocean, it's important to keep a clear head in case you encounter any of the above discussed hazards. Steering clear of alcohol before diving in is highly recommended. Alcohol and sun can be a potent. Not only does heat and sun dehydrate you but it also can heighten the effects of alcohol. Inebriation could change your perspective on

your environment, and will slow your reaction time. Just as you would not get behind the wheel of a vehicle while intoxicated, you should also avoid swimming during this state.

We hope these 'How To' tips have been helpful and offered you some good information to have an enjoyable time swimming the ocean and a great day at the beach!

7 HOW TO TIPS TO BARTER LIKE A PROFESSIONAL IN MEXICO



Mexico has all sorts of nooks and crannies that provide “shop till you drop” adventures. Neighborhood boutiques, open-air markets, art galleries, stall-filled plazas and high end malls—you’ll find one-of-a-kind items to brighten your home or office and delight friends and family.

But while you’re shopping to your heart’s content, you may notice something a little different about your experience: bartering.

Sure, we’re used to bartering (or haggling) when it comes to buying real estate and vehicles, but bartering for artisan foods and products? That can be a real shock.

We say give it a go, you may actually find that you enjoy one of Mexico’s favorite pastimes.

Mexico’s Bartering Culture

Mexico fosters a culture of bartering. You see it everywhere from street-side stalls and flea markets to beach vendors and taxis. In fact, this money-saving practice will help you get “brag-able” deals on embroidered clothing, hats, handbags, beaded jewelry, tooled leather items, printed art, masks and artisan goods.



Bartering, however, is only used in certain places across the country. You won’t see it in name brand department stores and resort locations with their own eateries and gift shops.

Bartering

Here are some tips that will soon have you bartering like a professional:

1. Mind Your Manners – Before starting your bartering adventure, it’s important to be respectful. Many Mexican market traders are polite and enjoy a good trade from time to time, but they can become offended if you’re rude, stubborn, and/or aggressive. It’s also important to realize that many of these vendors are poor artisans who make their living

and support their families by selling handmade arts and crafts. A devaluation of their work can be very offensive, so please be realistic with your offers.

2. Pre-Shopping Plans – Before you buy, figure out what the price is and what your maximum offer will be. Most bartering experts suggest an opening bid at 40-50% off what you're willing to pay.
3. Never Accept the First Price You're Offered – Enough said.
4. Make the Offer – With respect, make your offer. And if you speak some Spanish, use it. This will show respect for the culture and potentially give you a better outcome.
5. The Walk Away – If the vendor does not like your initial offer, he or she may counteroffer. You can go back and forth as you'd like, but if you do not want to pay the "final asking price," be prepared to walk away. Do this no matter how perfect the item might be. Simply smile and say "no, gracias". Either the vendor will give in when you're about to open the door or you'll leave only to find something else that meets your need and budget down the street.
6. The Costco-Like Effect – Perhaps you can sweeten the deal by buying in bulk. This is a great strategy to use when you need to buy for multiple people on your souvenir list. It can either be the same item in repeat or a collection of items. Either way, you can cash in on the bulk savings.
7. Cash is King, Especially Foreign Cash – Prices are typically noted in Mexican pesos or American dollars. The exchange rate is often 12 to 1. You can get a better deal if you're paying with US Dollars. Just make sure you do the math correctly so you're not overpaying. Also, carry pesos and dollars in many denominations as vendors typically do not carry change.
8. Wrapping it Up – No matter what happens, offer up a warm "Muchas gracias!" as you head out on the next leg of your shopping adventure.

If you have other barter like a professional tips, we'd love to hear from you. Leave a comment and help others with their money-saving adventures.



And if you'd like to know more about saving money in Mexico, [contact us](#) today about making your dreams of home ownership in Mexico come true.

HOW TO FIND HIGH QUALITY MEDICAL CARE IN MEXICO



It's easy to think of all the wonderful times you'll experience as an expat in Mexico. But what would you do if "wonderful" turned into a "get medical care in Mexico" emergency?

Where would you go? What would you do? How would you pay?

Did you know that Mexico has some of the best hospitals and clinics in the world?

In fact highly qualified doctors-to-be come from all over the country and from other nations to train in Mexico's first-rate medical schools. Today every midsize and large metropolis is home to at least one internationally renowned hospital.

As an expat in Mexico, you need a physician whom you can trust. The best way to find such a skilled individual is to ask around for referrals. Other expats are usually very happy to share their good – and not so good – experiences regarding healthcare providers in Mexico.

That's what we did after our [move to Huatulco Mexico](#). There is a great expat community here that is quick to point new residents in the right direction. We've found that the questions below will help you get started with your "find a trusted healthcare provider in Mexico" search:

- How quickly can you get in to see the provider?
- Are phone calls and emails returned promptly?
- Where is the physician/practice located?
- Will he/she make house calls?
- Is the physician a specialist or does he/she provide general care?
- What is the best way to get there?
- With which healthcare facility is the doctor affiliated?
- When x-rays and lab work are needed, can they be done on-site?

You can read my blog post [My First Surgery in Mexico](#) for the answers to many of these questions.

The next question you may have is “How much will this cost?”

Let's Talk Money

Did you know that healthcare in Mexico is much more affordable – and safer – than you might think? Naturally, prices vary depending on the nature of the visit, but you can count on these healthcare estimates:

- Physician/specialist visit or house call – \$30 to \$50 US
- Dental visit for cleaning – \$35 to \$60 US
- Overnight stay in a private hospital room – \$50 to \$80 US
- Lab tests – a third less than in the US
- CAT scan – a quarter less than in the US

Now let's talk about health insurance Mexico coverage.

Read about: [Depression Disorder](#)

Health Insurance in Mexico

Many expats sign up for the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social ([IMSS](#)) national health insurance. It's approximately \$400 US per year and typically covers medical, dental, vision, hospitalization and prescriptions. And all you need is a valid resident visa and a willingness to live with these possible inconveniences:

- Most IMSS physicians are government-employed. They typically do not have the same medical “pedigree” as fellow colleagues working in private facilities.
- Many of the doctors and nurses speak only Spanish.



- You may have to wait anywhere from 12 to 48 hours to get an appointment or receive lab results.
- The overall orderliness of participating clinics may be less than what you're used to back home.
- Although many of the prescribed medications can be filled on-site, you may wish to visit a local pharmacy to get scripts filled.
- If you have a serious or time-intensive condition, you may want to seek alternatives. Most cities have a Red Cross (Cruz Roja) that will offer services to foreigners in need of emergency medical attention.

Some expats, with resident status, opt to purchase IMSS health insurance and use it when they have a major medical emergency. For everyday healthcare issues, they pay out of pocket for a private clinic visit because the rates are so affordable.

Private Health Insurance



Some expats purchase private health insurance from companies such as [Grupo Nacional Provincial](#), [MetLife Mexico](#) and [Monterrey-New York Life](#). Annual rates vary, but you can expect to pay between \$700 and \$4,500 US per year for a premium if you're under age 64. Again, we recommend talking with other expats for private health insurance recommendations.

Pill Me!

Prescription drugs manufactured in Mexico cost, on average, about 50% less than the same drugs cost in the U.S. In most cases, they are the same medications, manufactured in the same factories as those sold in other countries.

If you're bringing U.S.-manufactured prescriptions with you, you may wish to talk to your doctor about stocking up on refills. However, you will likely be able to get the same kind in Mexico, and

many are sold over-the-counter. (Exceptions include sleeping pills, strong pain-relievers, and narcotics).

Alternative Medical Treatments

As in other locations around the world, there are a number of alternative medical treatments and providers readily available in Mexico. Almost every community has some sort of natural healing practitioner:

- Acupuncture
- Chiropractic
- Homeopathy
- Massage
- Reiki

Just be sure to ask for referrals when seeking alternative medical treatments. Not all “providers” are certified, so be sure to do your homework when it comes to finding high quality medical treatments.

If you’re seeking additional help regarding quality medical care in Mexico, alternative medical treatments and private health insurance, let us know. We’d be happy to share with you our experiences and get you on your way to living a happy, healthy life as an expat in Mexico. As I said earlier, I share more information on medical care in Huatulco, in my post – [My First Surgery in Mexico.](#)

Of course if you’re looking for a fresh start and your dream home in [Huatulco Mexico](#), we can help with that too. [Contact us](#) today.

HOW TO FIND ROMANCE IN MEXICO



If you've ever dreamt of meeting an attractive foreigner, kanoodling over exotic foods, walking hand in hand on the beach and dancing the night away to romantic ballads, then look no further.

Whether you're looking for a casual fling, a travel companion or a serious relationship, we here at OwnMexico.org will show you how to find romance in Mexico!

Keep an Open Mind

It's important to keep in mind that finding romance in Mexico does not come with a magic spell, pill, equation or location. But if you're willing to cast aside your inhibitions and be willing to explore new ventures, you'll have success.

Branch out of your comfort zone. Be spontaneous. Engage in the Mexican and expat culture, and accept invitations to socialize with new groups of people. You just never know who you're going to meet at the [birthday party](#), golf retreat or farmers market. Your next love connection could be the best friend of your host, a musician in the band or another expat who just settled in two doors down.

Where to Go to Find Romance

If you've recently moved to Mexico, you may not know where to start finding singles in your area. No problem. We've got you covered.

1. Local Clubs and Bars – If you like the sights and sounds of a thriving nightlife scene, there are all sorts of local watering holes to check out. From the neighborhood cantina to the five-star restaurant and lounge, there are plenty of opportunities for you to meet local and international patrons that could catch your eye.
2. The Café around the Corner – Cafés and tea houses are ideal for those who enjoy a quiet moment. They can also provide a great meet-n-greet venue for those who want to check out those with similar interests in a relaxing and aromatic environment.
3. Soak Up the Culture – Museums, libraries, open-air markets and festivals – these tend to attract others with similar interests. Strike up a conversation with attendees and see if a spark will ignite! Don't forget to [learn some Spanish](#). A language barrier can stunt a budding romance, so make an effort to learn at a few words and phrases at first and then add more to establish your budding Spanish vocabulary.
4. Exploring the City – Mexico is an international destination, and because of its thriving travel and tourism industry, it has its fair share of day-trips and tours. Take advantage of what's offered in your community. You're likely to learn something new and meet Mr. or Miss Fabulous.
5. Expat Groups – Don't dismiss the opportunity to meet a man or woman from another country. Get involved in expat groups such as [non-profit organizations](#), athletic teams and hobby-related groups.
6. Set Yourself Up for Success – You know the saying, "Friends of a feather flock together," is significant when it comes to dating. You have certain friends for a reason, so maybe their friends are worth meeting! Let them know that you're looking, and you may just have a blind date set up for this weekend!
7. Online Dating Sites – Mexico has its fair share of online dating services. It's a great way to meet people whom you wouldn't normally cross paths. Some sites offer free

memberships, but if you want quality candidates and added access to their database, then consider making a small investment for better sites. Here are four of the most notable sites used in Latin America:

- [Mexican Cupid](#)
- [Latin American Cupid](#)
- [Badoo](#)
- [Amigos](#)

8. Cast a Wide Net – Dating is often a numbers game. The wider you cast your “dating net,” the more chances you’ll have to make a love connection.

A Final Thought

We’d be remiss if we didn’t mention a word about safety. No matter where you are in the world – even in our own safe community of Huatulco Mexico – be as safe as possible. Go out with a friend or in a group. Keep an eye out for shady dealings, listen to your instincts and keep your phone handy. Avoid drinks that are not made by a bartender or handed to you by a server. If someone is giving you the creeps, remove yourself from the situation as quickly as possible.

We wish you all the best as you enjoy the adventure that is romance in Mexico.

If you have any additional ideas to share, we’d love to hear from you. Feel free to include what has – and hasn’t – worked for you as an expat in Mexico.

And when you’re ready to make a love connection with a piece of dream real estate in Huatulco Mexico, then [contact us](#). We’ll help you find your very own slice of paradise.

HOW TO EAT LIKE A LOCAL IN HUATULCO MEXICO



When you're traveling to Mexico, you won't want to miss out on the delicious fare that awaits! From taco stands to ma-and-pop restaurants, you'll get a taste for authentic flavors that are missing in the touristy establishments.

Now's your chance to eat like a local, to enjoy Mexican recipes have been passed down from generation to generation, and many from indigenous cultures such as the Maya and Aztecs.

Here in Oaxaca, specifically Huatulco Mexico, you'll find plentiful seafood, unique sauces and one-of-a-kind spices, each served up with love (and often a slice of family history).

Seafood – With 36 beaches, it's no surprise local Huatulco restaurant menus weigh heavily on fresh catches of the day. Sweet and savory shrimp, crab, squid, shark, lobster and endless varieties of fish are served up as tasty appetizers and entrées.

Sauces – Forget those jars of sauces that line grocery store shelves back home, and get ready for a real treat: homemade Huatulco Mexico sauces. Available with every meal, you'll find thick, flavorful sauces that range from mild and savory to hot and memorable.

Herbs and Spices – Oaxacans love to flavor their foods with savory herbs and spice combinations. One culinary favorite is hoja santa which gives a special Oaxacan flavor to chicken, pork and fish dishes. It's also essential in the much-loved verde(green) mole.

In Huatulco specifically, locals love to dine specific ingredients, entrées and beverage. So if you're ready to eat like a local, take note of these fresh, mouthwatering gastronomical experiences:

1. Mole (from the Nahuatl word milli meaning sauce or "concoction") is a thick sauce unique to Mexico. In fact, Oaxaca is known as the "Land of Seven Moles." While every Oaxacan home has its own variation, mole is typically made from unsweetened chocolate, spices and of course, many of Oaxaca's famous chiles. Depending on the cook, nuts, bread, cinnamon, sugar, lard, plantains and cloves may also be added. While historians cannot be certain, mole is thought to have been served to the conquistadors by Montezuma, the Aztec king. Today, it often tops the entrées as well as anything else a mole-lover wishes: produce, nuts, breads and cookies!
2. Hot chocolate. Enough said, right? But you haven't had hot chocolate unless you've tried the world-renowned Oaxacan Hot Chocolate. Oaxacans like their chocolate melted and blended with milk or water and sprinkled with ground cinnamon. The flavor is likely to be a bit more bitter than what you may be used to, but you're actually getting the real flavor (and health benefits) of authentic, unprocessed chocolate.
3. If you're a cheese lover, you can't miss out on Oaxaca's famous Quesillo. Also known as queso Oaxaca or queso de hebra, quesillo is a mild string cheese made from cow's milk. Quesillo is stretched, making long strips before it's rolled into a ball. It's used to make quesadillas, tlayudas and empanadas de quesillo con flor de calabaza (empanadas made with squash blossoms).

4. Tlayudas are Oaxaca's answer to Italian pizza. Made from blandas (oversized corn tortillas), tlayudas are layered with asiento, a paste made from black beans and pork fat. Quesillo is sprinkled over the tlayudas and topped with tomato, avocado and lettuce or shredded cabbage. The accompanying meat is up to you. Choose from beef (tasajo), sausage (chorizo) or pork (cecina). Vegetarians need to pass up tlayudas. Simply ask for "tlayuda sencilla sin asiento" which is made without lard and meat.

5. Meat lovers will go gaga over Oaxaca's Tasajo. It is thinly sliced grilled beef that is often served with the ever-popular Tlayudas.

6. While Tequila is Mexico's drink, its cousin, Mezcal, is very popular in Huatulco Mexico. Made from the green agave plant, Mezcal comes with quite the kick. Mezcal is enjoyed as a shot with an optional lime and dash of salt. Sometimes you can find Mezcal bottled with a worm which always makes for a great gift to share.

7. Okay, we've saved the best for last: Grasshoppers. Sure, it might freak you out initially, but these crunchy insects are a snack-able delight in Huatulco Mexico. They are fried – antennae and all – and served with a dash of lemon and salt, and/or chili and garlic. Simply pop 'em into your mouth like you would peanuts or popcorn. Delish!

So there you have it, how to eat like a local in Huatulco Mexico with 7 of our gotta-try recommendations. Feel free to add your own as foodies are always looking for new flavors and experiences.

And if you're ready to LIVE like a local, [contact us](#) today. We specialize in making real estate investment dreams come true.

HOW TO THROW A TRADITIONAL MEXICAN BIRTHDAY PARTY



Mexico loves its holidays, festivals and fiestas. But nothing can compare to the celebration of one's birthday.

If you are invited to a traditional Mexican birthday party, consider it an honor. As a guest, you'll be treated like royalty.

But if you want to do the same for your friends and family, treat them like the kings and queens they are with a traditional Mexican birthday party.

Here are some ways to get the party started:

Traditional Mexican Birthday Greetings

"Feliz Cumpleanos" is the greeting shared with the birthday boy or girl. It literally means, "Happy Completed Years". It's a way of showing great respect for those who have reached maturity in age and experience.

What to Wear

While semi-casual clothing is appropriate for a Mexican birthday party, it's not uncommon for the host and birthday boy or girl to wear colorful ethnic outfits. This is a day of celebration, so you can go as fancy or as laidback as you'd like.

A Mexican Birthday Must-Have: Music



A Mexican party is not a party at all without music to fill the house. Ranchera and Mariachi music styles are popular choices. But if your party is grand, you may want to hire a Mexican band to add an impressive dimension to the fiesta.

Deck the Halls with Traditional Mexican Decorations



One cannot host a Mexican birthday without the famous Piñata. In fact, this was a tradition started by the Mayans and Aztecs. The spilling of prizes represented God's abundance. The tradition continues today as candy and token gifts pour from brightly colored papier-mâché Piñatas.

Once you've hung your piñata on the ceiling or from a tree or pole, sing this song as blindfolded participants take their turn breaking open the piñata with a large stick or bat.

English Translation

Hit it, hit it, hit it (or go, go, go)

Don't lose your aim

Because if you lose it (your aim)

You will lose the path.

Hit it, hit it, hit it (or go, go, go)

Hit it, He didn't hit it

Take away his token

Because it's now my turn!

I'm next!

Another Mexican Birthday Must-Have: Food

Traditional dishes are prepared in anticipation for friends and family who travel from near and far. A feast with arroz con leche (Mexican rice pudding), taquitos (rolled tacos), sopapillas, chips and homemade salsa, churros and flan is typically prepared to honor the birthday person. And to toast, cold cervazas, margaritas and shots of tequila are clinked together with a hearty “salud” (meaning to your health).

Let Them Eat Mexican Cake

And what would a birthday party be without cake? Mexican birthday cakes are very similar to what you'd find in Canada or the U.S. Colorful, decorated and sugary, these treats are as appealing to the eye as they are to the taste buds.

Before the cake is cut, everyone gathers around, giggling with anticipation of what's to follow. Cameras flash as a rousing chorus of “Las Mañanitas” (meaning “Little Mornings”) is sung.

Click to hear Las Mañanitas sung by actor/singer Javier Solís (1931-1966).

Spanish Version:

Estas son las mañanitas, que cantaba el Rey David,

Hoy por ser día de tu santo, te las cantamos a ti,

Despierta, mi bien, despierta, mira que ya amaneció,

Ya los pajarillos cantan, la luna ya se metió.



Que linda está la mañana en que vengo a saludarte,

Venimos todos con gusto y placer a felicitarte,

Ya viene amaneciendo, ya la luz del día nos dio,

Levántate de mañana, mira que ya amaneció.

English Translation:

This is the little morning song that King David sang

Lovely girls covered in frosting because today is your saint's day and we are singing it for you

Wake up, my dear, wake up, look it is already dawn

the birds are already singing and the moon has set

How beautiful is the morning in which I come to greet you

We all came with joy and pleasure to congratulate you

The morning is coming now, the sun is giving us its light

Get up, it is morning, look it is already dawn.

Afterwards, guests begin to chant "Mor-di-ta, Mor-di-ta!" Translated into bribe, but for this case, "little bite," the birthday person is expected to take the first bite without flatware or hands. Just to make sure the obligation is fulfilled, a mischievous friend or family member will push the birthday person's face into the cake—or lift it up to achieve the same results. Cake on the face is all a part of the birthday fun.

Now It's Your Turn

If you're ready to shower a loved one with birthday wishes of love, hope, happiness and prosperity, then consider throwing them a traditional Mexican birthday party today.

And if you're ready to make Mexico your home away from home, contact us for more information. We specialize in making your real estate investment dreams come true.

7 SIZZLIN' "HOW TO LEARN SPANISH" TIPS

Do you dream of hanging out with the locals, letting one of the world's most eloquent (and popular) romance languages roll off your tongue? If so, now's the time to hit the books and let those "r's" roll! It's time to learn Spanish. Picking up a new language is both exciting and challenging. One would say it's a mind bender, taking time and patience. But once you become fluent, a whole new world of opportunities will open up for you. Maximize your study in minimum time with our 7 Sizzlin' "How to Learn Spanish" Tips:

1. Hit the Books – Books, newspapers and magazines – they're all readily available online and in bookstores all over the world. Pick up a few to start your Spanish speaking adventure.

Bonus: Purchase a Spanish-English dictionary. Keep it handy at all times. As you think of words you'd like to learn, look them up. Jot them down in a notebook and repeat them as often as possible. Repetition is, after all, the key to learning.

1. Go Hardcore with Learning Spanish Software Programs – There are countless language software programs on the market. Pick one that will allow you to learn while you're running errands, driving into work or lounging around on a weekend.

Bonus: Visit your mobile app store for how to learn Spanish apps. These handy programs can enrich your Spanish vocabulary with "Word of the Day" messages, flashcards or quizzes.

1. Turn to the Silver Screen – Have a free afternoon? Why not head for the movie theater to catch the latest Spanish movie? Or if you'd rather kick back at home, order up a movie

and set the language to Spanish. As you listen, pay close attention to the pronunciation. Mimic what you hear over and over and over again until it sounds natural.

Bonus: Use the subtitles to learn how to correctly spell the Spanish words.

1. Check out the Tube – Entertain your brain by watching TV! That's right, Spanish teachers and tutors recommend Mexican soap operas (telenovellas) and news reports. The actors and newscasters speak slowly and leave out the confusing slang and colloquialisms.

Bonus: Pay special attention to facial expressions and gestures. These will give you some context to the storylines and news reports.



1. Think 'Community' – Most communities have Spanish speaking groups. Look them up online and find out how you can get involved. Perhaps they need some help with their website, fundraising or social events. You can help others while practicing your conversational Spanish.

Bonus: Ask others to correct your Spanish speaking mistakes. (And don't worry about making mistakes. It's all a part of the learning process. Plus, others will be happy to help you on your 'how to learn Spanish' quest.)

1. Buddy Up – One of the best ways to learn Spanish is with a buddy. Work together to create a lesson plan.

Bonus: From time to time, add a little healthy dose of competition to keep you motivated. The winner can be treated to dinner at a favorite Mexican restaurant!

1. Go for the Whole Enchilada – The best way to master the Spanish language is to travel to a



Spanish speaking country. Take an extended holiday, or better yet, [live there](#) for some time.

If you're a little nervous about complete immersion, consider one of the many Mexican cities and villages with a substantial English-speaking community. These include Cancun, Puerto Vallarta, San Miguel and our favorite, Huatulco Mexico. The people here warmly welcome new expats, helping to ease them into a new life in sunny Mexico. Bonus: 'Dip your toe' in the local culture by talking with the locals, joining a club or getting involved with [nonprofit organizations](#). You'll have fun while learning...and isn't that what learning a new language is all about? Buena suete (good luck) on your how to speak Spanish adventure. And if you'd like to know more about [Huatulco](#) Mexico, [contact us](#) today. We specialize in making dreams come true and are happy to help you reach your goal of speaking Spanish like a local! If you have other sizzlin' tips to share, we'd love to hear from you. Leave a comment and help others with tried-and-true tips to mastering Spanish.

10 "HOW TO" SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL EXPATS IN MEXICO



You're now an expat living in Mexico? We are delighted to have you join our thriving "expats in Mexico" community.

To help you make the most of this whirlwind adventure, [we are sharing our own](#) 10 "How to" Secrets of Successful Expats in Mexico!

1. Tough Love = Expat Success

The only way we know how to help expat-hopefuls is to be as real as possible. That means sharing 3 “tough love” truths to be understood and practiced as an expat living in Mexico.

If you can master these, you’ll find all of the life-enriching goodness you want in this beautiful country:

1. You are the minority.
2. Things are not done the same way as in your home country.
3. Practicing patience will go a LONG way in helping you become a happy expat living in Mexico.

If you think these are do-able, then read on as the rest of our “Successful Expat” secrets will be a piece of cake!

2. Learn Spanish

Knowing even a little of what we call “survival Spanish” will open up a whole new world for you. You’ll be able to move more freely within your community. Here are some of our favorite “learn Spanish” suggestions:

- Take a course at the local language school.
- Hire a tutor.
- Read books, newspapers and magazines in Spanish.
- Practice along with programs such as Rosetta Stone.
- Listen to Spanish music. Lyrics have repetitive melodies which reinforce new vocabulary and syntax.



- Watch Mexican novellas (soap operas). The actors speak slowly and announce their words.
- Play Spanish board, number and memory games.
- Label the objects in your home, office or classroom using their Spanish names.
- Watch a movie or DVD in Spanish.
- Study restaurant menus. Identify ingredients such as pollo (chicken), leche (milk), queso (cheese), arroz (rice) and verduras (vegetables).
- Ask other nationals and expats in Mexico to help you with certain words and phrases. Jot these tidbits into a pocket-friendly notebook for quick reference.

It will take some time to learn Spanish so be patient with yourself. Have fun and before you know it, you'll be speaking (and dreaming) in Spanish. Buena suerte! (Good luck!)

3. Learn the Lay of the Land

As an expat living in Mexico, get familiar with the geography of your immediate location. Familiarize yourself with streets, back roads and water ways. Then expand outward. Learn about the environment, how to get to certain landmarks and where the states are located.

4. Dive into Local Culture

Become a part of the community by understanding the local culture. This means knowing the history of your village or city, recognizing nuances in behavior and knowing social etiquette. There are a million ways to dive into the local culture. Below are some of our favorites:

- Go to museums.
- Take in local shows.
- Watch a parade.



- Join in a nonprofit organization.
- Attend religious events.
- Take public transportation.
- Head to the [beach](#) for an afternoon of people-watching.
- Read books and watch documentaries on Mexican culture.
- Frequent ma-n-pop establishments.
- Invite a neighbor for dinner.

5. Take a Genuine Interest in Others

Take the time to get to know your neighbors. These include the people living in your residential area as well as local business people, educators, artisans, tour guides, restaurateurs, etc.

Get to know their names. Ask them how they're doing. Inquire about their family (which is always a great question as Mexicans are very family-oriented). Accept their invitations to events and be generous with invitations of your own.

Gradually the locals start to trust you, and who knows, you may just make some of the best friends you've ever had!

6. Keep a Journal

Living in a different country will afford you all sorts of experiences. Sometimes it's so easy to forget these life-changing moments.

One way to fix this is to keep a journal. We guarantee that in 10 years, you'll have volumes of amazing stories to share with others.

7. Get in Tight with the Expat Community

product or service could the Mexican and expat community need? Can you provide that product or service? If so, be sure your solution is something you can handle with well-established know-how.

10. Take Time to Hit “Reset”

With all of these life-enhancing tips, there will be days when you need a rest. Take time to kick up your feet, do what you like to do and hit reset. [Connect with friends](#) from home, invite them to visit or even take a trip to remind you of why you moved to Mexico in the first place. And when you're ready, you can jump back into embracing your big adventure living in Mexico.

Adjusting to a new lifestyle in a new setting isn't for the faint of heart. And here you are! If you're like us, we can say it's well worth the adjustment. We love Mexico and couldn't imagine living anywhere else.

If you're an expat living successfully in Mexico, we'd love to hear from you. Leave a comment or one of your secrets of successful expat living in Mexico.

Don't forget to contact us if you're looking for [Huatulco Mexico](#) real estate investment opportunities. We are happy to give you all of the information you need to start living the dream as a successful expat living in Mexico.

HOW TO LIVE IN MEXICO – AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE



Home... the expression symbolizes comfort and security for man. When choosing how to live in Mexico, most cases involve an acquisition of land. This can produce stress and concern for some. The process of looking for titles and transferring land are similar to other neighboring countries and states. Here are two basic rules to follow when researching your future investment or retirement property in Mexico.

Rule number one: Choose the neighborhood and the group that fits you

In thinking about how to live in Mexico and the acquisition of something as vital as a house, it is important to include the right people standing for the purchaser and his well being. This can be achieved through first picking the general region where you believe you would like to reside.

The [Oaxaca coast](#) of Mexico is an amazing location for expats and retirees. Choose a professional in the area who will act on your behalf and offer full buyer representation for your land acquisition. They should be experienced and offer a knowledge of the area. They should also be expected to work under a high level of care, and should stick to a code of morals, in addition to having admission to a growing number of properties accessible for sale via automated data bases.

The [professional](#) that you choose should also be accustomed to the area, have necessary real estate values, give you tips on how to live in Mexico and ought to make an impact on you with her or his drive honesty to get what you are in search of. When you find the individual you feel at ease with, allow him to carry out his work.

Rule number two: Scan the area

Once you have chosen the right area, a representative with whom you feel at ease, and a likely land, it is important to research the area. Is it old? Is it novel? What will it appear like in ten years? What does the infrastructure look like? Are roads or other growth projects intended for in the future? Where are churches, schools, shopping amenities? Are there land owner charges for protection of general parts? If so, what is the amount and when are they remunerated? Are there agreements and clauses recorded for the handling of the property?

Mexico can be a wonderful and memorable place to reside for retirees, for people working from home, for people in search of a holiday home or a great investment... most of all, for people dreaming of an improved quality of life.

By following these two rules you will be able to purchase property with ease in order to live, invest and retire in Mexico.

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Related articles on how to live in Mexico:

Reasons to invest in Mexico –

<http://www.ownmexico.org/blog/top-reasons-for-a-mexico-property-investment/>

How to choose the perfect location – <http://www.ownmexico.org/blog/mexico-property/>

INSURANCE IN MEXICO – HOW TO INSURE YOURSELF TO REST EASY



If you are planning on driving your vehicle to Mexico purchasing vehicle insurance should be a top priority. As comprehensive as your home country vehicle insurance is, it won't cover you in Mexico. Fortunately, affordable insurance is available in Mexico and can offer you peace of mind in your travels.

If your US or Canadian vehicle is improperly insured in Mexico and you become involved in an accident it will cost you a lot of money or worse, leave you imprisoned in a Mexican jail house.

Mexico Law states that only insurance companies licensed in Mexico, or brokers in the U.S./Canada working in conjunction with a Mexican insurance company, can provide the type of auto insurance coverage recognized and accepted by Mexico's legal system.

What to look for in an Accredited Insurance Company

Those looking to purchase vehicle insurance in Mexico can be misled by thinking they can rely on the broker, rather than the Mexican Insurance Company, to properly handle claims that may arise during their stay in Mexico. The company underwriting your policy is much more important than the Broker selling you the policy. The main things you should look for in your Mexico insurance company are:

- The Insurance company underwriting your policy is financially sound.
- The broker you work with is licensed and that there is transparency of the policies they offer. Go online and check them out or inquire on their customer service structure should you require to make a claim. Also, it is important to go through the fine print of your policy thoroughly and discuss any questions you have with your broker.
- When in Mexico your policy covers your personal liability as well as your legal counsel. It is also important that they provide a "bail bond" element. If you are involved in a serious

accident where the police are involved, you WILL be detained until blame is assessed. If this process is protracted, the bail-bond may get you released pending inquiries.

- The broker and affiliated insurance company should provide local support services in Mexico so that if a claim occurs you can easily call for help by English-speaking representatives who can dispatch the help and support you need.

Read more about good vehicle insurance companies to check out in our 'How To' article [“How to Drive to Mexico – Post Departure Checklist”](#)

Planning Ahead

Contact your home vehicle insurance agent to see if he can find you a plan. Although virtually no Canadian or American insurance company offers vehicle insurance in Mexico, they may have access to Mexican auto insurance companies through brokerages.

If your agent is not able to offer you options for Mexican insurance brokerages, you can purchase Mexican auto insurance coverage online. It is also possible to purchase Mexican auto insurance near the border. Once you near the Mexico border you will begin to see insurance companies that offer vehicle insurance for foreigners. We purchased auto insurance at [Sanborns](#) when we crossed the border and found it reasonably priced and easy to obtain. You can also purchase online insurance with Sanborns.



Making a Claim in Mexico

The policy documentation your insurance company provides should be clear on the steps to take in the event of an accident. Should an accident occur, do not wait until you return to your home country to make a claim. Most policies require you to make a claim while you are in Mexico and won't process your claim if you wait until your return to Canada or the U.S.

The first thing you want to do is contact the insurance company’s help line. They will be able to dispatch your Insurance Assessor to the scene of the accident and make arrangements for lawyers and/or other services to assist in the event of a serious accident.

Part of the claim procedure may involve you producing a police report as well as other relevant documentation related to the accident, such as information on repairs made to get your vehicle on the road again.

Requirements for Mexican Auto Insurance

Along with a valid passport, there are other documents you need to obtain before you legally drive in Mexico. All of the adults in your group must obtain a Mexican tourist visa at a Mexican consulate or at a port of entry after you cross the border into Mexico. The application for the tourist visa is pretty straightforward, but you will have to go to a nearby Mexican Bank (“Banjercito”) branch to pay the necessary fee, which is about \$20 each. Mexican tourist visas are good for up to six months.

The Mexican authorities also require a “Temporary Vehicle Importation Permit” for every foreign vehicle driven in Mexico. There are some exemptions if you are staying in the northwestern states of Baja California and parts of Sonora, however these permits are required everywhere else within Mexico. This permit is obtained at the same place you receive your tourist visa. At the customs port of entry or Mexican consulate, you will be required to show the authorities at the Banjercito branch your passport, a valid driver’s license and your vehicle registration or title. Banjercito offers an online application for the permit in English on the website. The fee for this permit is about \$30, while the required bond deposit can be up to \$400 depending on the age of your vehicle.

Deposit amounts are as follows:

Vehicle Year Model	Deposit Required (USD)
2007 and newer models	400 USD

2001 to 2006 models	300 USD
2000 and earlier models	200 USD

It is important to remember to return this permit before you leave Mexico with your vehicle. If you leave without doing so you will lose your bond deposit and any future vehicle importation permit applications will be denied.

By following the above tips and information you can insure yourself and rest easy during your travels throughout Mexico.

