



THE *abundant* TRAVELER  
TIPS FOR VISITING MEXICO

# Your *Free* Mexico Guide

## **Packing:**

### **Interior Mexico**

Pack in layers. Many areas of Mexico is at Altitude where it's cold in the evenings. Also, men tend to wear long pants, and women tend to wear more conservative skirts and shorts/pants.

### **Beach**

Typical beach attire including swimsuits, sunscreen, hats and coverups. Remember Mexico can be a bit more conservative if you are away from the larger beach towns.

### **Tip:**

Leave expensive jewelry and designer clothing at home.

## **When to go:**

I love traveling to Mexico all times of the year. Since the country is closer to the equator, expect warm/hot weather unless you are traveling to central Mexico where cities are at altitude.

This includes Mexico City, Guadalajara and San Miguel de Allende.

### **Tip:**

Try to visit in the off season when the popular locations are not so busy. Try Playa del Carmen in October or November. Try San Miguel and Oaxaca in April.



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## **Money:**

### **Cash**

Always carry some cash for incidentals and shopping in the markets. Make sure to carry smaller bills as well.

### **Tipping:**

It's common in restaurants to give the waiter the tip amount prior to running your credit card instead of adding the tip when you sign.

### **Who to tip:**

It is nice to tip waiters, hotel cleaners and your breakfast servers at your hotel. Tip private drivers

## **Money:**

### **Currency**

Always use the Mexican peso even if they allow your own currency. The exchange rate is better if you pay in pesos

### **Credit Cards**

Pay for everything you can with a credit card as credit cards tend to have the best exchange rates.

### **Haggling:**

You can haggle prices in the markets, but only a small amount

### **Tip:**

Always use an ATM inside a bank. Better security for keeping your money safe



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## Getting There:

It's relatively easy to get to Mexico on most airlines. I like Southwest and American from the USA, and I like Aeromexico for internal flights.

### Planes:

There are inexpensive flights throughout Mexico, and it's easy to find a flight on google or Rome to Rio.

### Tip:

When arriving in Mexico, make sure to keep your FMM card that immigration gives you on arrival. You have to have this piece of paper when you leave the country.

## Getting Around:

### Cars:

I rarely rent a car in Mexico as I'm usually staying in 1 location. If you'd like to rent a car, I recommend driving during the daylight hours only.

### Buses:

Mexico has luxury buses that travel between all major cities. I highly recommend seeing the country using the luxury buses. Local buses are also 'fun' for short trips.

### Taxi/Uber:

Uber is great and I use it all the time. Taxis: agree to a price before you get in the taxi.



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## Food

### Best in the world:

I think Mexico has some of the best food in the world. From the moles to the ceviches to the peppers and salsas, Mexico has it all. Do not think that 'real' Mexican food is orange queso and nachos.

### Classes & Tours

The food is so regional, and I recommend taking a cooking class and a food tour in every city that you visit.

### Tip:

Oaxaca and Puebla are 2 of the most famous cities for food. Make sure to try these cuisines even if you are in another area of Mexico.

## Drinks:

### Water:

I recommend drinking bottled water just to be on the safe side. Ice is usually made with purified water and is generally safe.

### Tequila & Liquor:

Tequila and Mescal are actually made to sip. I advise spending a few extra pesos and ordering a high quality tequila or mescal and stay away from the cheap liquor.

### Tip:

If you start to have a bad stomach, try Mexican Coke or sparkling water with ginger to settle your tummy.



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## Where to stay:

### Hotels:

I recommend staying in hotels as they have access to concierges, taxis and are an easy location for Ubers.

### Airbnbs:

Airbnbs are great if you are staying for an extended period of time. I highly recommend making sure the airbnb has a secured entrance and is in a safe neighborhood.

### Tip:

Don't do all inclusive unless you are in Mexico to simply sit at a pool and relax. There's so many things to do and places to eat, and I prefer getting out there to see it all.

## Safety:

### Tips:

- Don't bring expensive jewelry or clothing
- Get travel insurance
- Get Medjet medical evacuation insurance
- Pay attention to your surroundings
- Don't drive after dark
- Don't drink too much
- keep your purse to your front when walking in crowded areas
- Be understated
- Ask for help, the Mexican people are incredibly friendly and helpful.
- Use your common sense



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## Language:

They speak Spanish in Mexico, and it is helpful to learn a few niceties including, "please", "thank you", "Where's the bathroom", and "How do you say \_\_\_ in Spanish"

### Tip:

Big tip: at public restrooms, M stands for Mujer which means woman. M on the bathroom door means it's the ladies restroom. :) Ps. Ladies, carry your own toilet paper just in case.

*Have a blast!*

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