



INFOCARD ELANBiz Business Trip to Mexico

Last updated in September 2017.

For additional information, we invite you to use our [Ask the Expert](#) service.
ELANBiz is a Project funded by the EU and provides information free of charge.

Geographic Situation:

The Republic of Mexico is located in Central America, bordering with the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Its northern frontier is with the United States and the southern frontier with Guatemala and Belize.

Time:

UTC-5 (Southeast)
UTC-N (Centre)
UTC-(N+1) (Pacific)
UTC-(N+2) (Northeast)¹

Language:

The official language in Mexico is Spanish. The 92.7% of the population speak Spanish, 5.7% speaks an indigenous language and 2.5% speak English. The business language is Spanish.²

Religions:

Although Mexico is a secular state by law, 82.7% of its population is catholic.³

¹ Where N is 6 hours for the winter time and 5 hours for the summer time. The Summer time applies since the first Sunday of April at 2h00 in the morning until the last Sunday of October at 2h00 in the morning.
Centro Nacional de Metrología (CENAM), Hora Oficial en los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.: http://www.cenam.mx/hora_oficial/

² Learn more about indigenous languages at: <http://www-01.sil.org/mexico/23e-Lenguas.htm>

³ To learn more about religions consult: http://www.inegi.org.mx/prod_serv/contenidos/espanol/bvinegi/productos/integracion/sociodemografico/religion/Div_rel.pdf



Climate:

Mexico City suffers from constant precipitations in summer and strong temperature changes even in the same day. In Monterrey, the weather is a little dry and with extreme temperature changes. In Guadalajara, there is a temperate weather with occasional precipitations during the summer. To learn more about the weather visit the [National Meteorological Service's website](#).

National Holidays:

Non-working days during 2017 in Mexico:

- November 20th: Mexican Revolution (Monday)
- December 25th: Christmas (Monday)⁴

Non-working days during 2018 in Mexico:

- January 1st: New Year (Monday)
- February 5th: Constitution Day (Monday)
- March 21st: Birth of Benito Juarez (Holiday for Monday, March 19)
- May 1st: Labour Day (Tuesday)
- September 16th: Independence Day (Sunday)
- November 20th: Mexican Revolution (Holiday for Monday, November 19)
- December 25th: Christmas (Tuesday)

Opening Hours:

Opening hours usually go from 10:00 until 20:00, taking into account that shopping malls open at 11:00 hours. Some stores close between 13:00 and 14:00 for lunch break. Take into account that in small cities and non-formal business stores may be closed on weekends.

⁴ In the following address you will find details on national holidays: <http://explorandomexico.com.mx/about-mexico/4/172/>



Mainstream media:

“Televisa”	www.televisa.com/
“TV Azteca”	www.azteca.com
Newspaper “Reforma”	www.reforma.com/
Newspaper “El Universal”	http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/
Newspaper “El Financiero”	http://www.elfinanciero.com.mx/
Newspaper “El Economista”	http://eleconomista.com.mx/
Magazine “Forbes México”	www.forbes.com.mx
Magazine “Expansión”	http://www.cnnexpansion.com/expansion
Magazine “Líderes Mexicanos”	http://lideresmexicanos.com/
Magazine “Fortuna”	http://revistafortuna.com.mx

Before Travelling

Vacations

National Holidays, vacation days in summer (These are customary from July-August), Christmas days and at Easter as well, during these times, it is important to consider busy highways and airports. Mandatory vacation days are less than in Europe.

Visas:

Citizens from the UE can travel to Mexico without a visa only if the arrival is in a tourist status, and the time of their stay is maximum 180 days. If one wishes to live or work in Mexico, a Migratory Form (FM by its acronym in Spanish) needs to be arranged accordingly. If one is not travelling as a tourist, please consult the legal framework in the [website of the Secretariat of the Interior](#).



Entry of Commercial Samples:

Samples and sample books can enter national territory using the services of a customary agent, through ATA notebook, as a passenger or by courier meeting all the specified requisites for every case. In case of doing it through a customs agent, the goods must comply the next requisites: unitary value lower than a dollar, the product must have been damaged or marked in order to discard the commercial sale, be classified in the tariff head 9801.00.01 of the TGIE in which papers and payments of tariffs are not required. You can import by ATA notebook for 6 months. Import is available only in authorized customs offices.

Communications:

Phone calls can be made using a public telephone with the purchase of a LADA card or by unblocking your cell phone at any mobile phone shop, so it can be used in Mexico. Long distance calls are free of charge in national territory; nevertheless, international calls have an expense. Main cities have access to public Internet. Wi-Fi is offered at public locations such as malls, restaurants and main squares.

Money and Payments:

In most establishments, payments are made in cash using the national currency, the peso. Most credit cards are accepted as well. Money exchange offices are available, as well as banks or automatic ATMs. The money exchange service is not allowed through street vendors.⁵

Hotels:

The most important avenues in Mexico City are Reforma, Polanco and Insurgentes. It's important to take into account that the business activity in Mexico City is important, therefore reservations must be made in advance.

In the Country

Security:

Avoid making comments that denote economic capacity and convey the image of tourist, saddled with excessive money and withdrawal of money from ATMs in insecure areas. It is

⁵ In this direction you will find a list of exchange offices in the Mexico City.: <http://cambioPesodolar.com.mx/casas-de-cambio-en-el-df/>



suggested not to provide personal data in case of receiving threatening calls and night-time driving on the highway. For all European travellers, it is important to address the security recommendations published in the pages of the embassies of their countries.

Health service:

Health services in Mexico's main cities are of good quality. As a precaution, verify that your medical insurance is valid in Mexico, and while travelling have at hand contact details of the insurance company. It is advisable to eat at reliable food establishments in order to avoid stomach problems.⁶

Transport:

The most common method of transportation used by locals, are taxis, buses and particular cars. As a tourist it is possible to rent a private car. If you wish to use public transportation, the metro and metro bus are the most efficient ways to get around, but the most "practical" and secure way are the "site" taxis, never take one on the street. You can also use services such as Cabify and Uber.

When attending meetings in Mexico City, make sure to leave with enough time in advance because traffic is complicated. It is suggested to estimate an hour of travel between meeting and meeting.

Working Lunches:

Lunch hours are between 13:30 and 15:30 hours. Formal restaurants' quality is good in Mexico and there is variety. In high prestige restaurants or very crowded restaurants, reservations are necessary

Very frequently, breakfasts are at the first meeting in the morning and in Mexico they are very abundant.

Tipping:

In restaurants, between 10 and 15 percent of the account is left. It is customary to remunerate valets, buttons, parking assistants ("viene viene" in Spanish), and fuel dispensers among others.

⁶Consult the list of private hospitals in Mexico: <http://www.anhp.org.mx/directorio.php>



Business Protocol

- Refer to the person you are negotiating with using Mr. or Mrs.
- Punctuality is not a priority, it is assumed that everyone will be late, nevertheless it is recommended that the person that is going to sell or make the business be punctual, even if he needs to wait.
- Language is ambivalent and indirect. Saying “no” is viewed as rude so for denying or rejecting something bluntly.
- Hierarchy is important, and you must refer to everybody preceding the professional title (bachelor, master, doctor).
- Mexicans prefer doing business with people they know and trust.
- The duration of the meetings varies depending on the number of participants.

Practical Advice

- Travel with a voltage transformer and a plug adapter because plugs in Mexico are different from the ones in Europe. Voltage outlets are of 110v to 120v in Mexico, unlike European outlets which go from 220 to 240 volts.
- Buy a public phone card, specify it is a "LADA card" there is sometimes confusion between LADA cards and a prepaid mobile card.
- In Mexico City, no matter the season, it is important to keep in mind that temperatures in the city can change abruptly from one moment to another.
- If you need a taxi do not take one on the street, ask for the taxi directly from the location you are at, for your safety.
- If you are located in coastal cities, you must prevent mosquito bites so that you can avoid diseases like Chikungunya and Dengue.

Telephone Numbers and Relevant Links

- [Delegation of the European Union to Mexico](#) + 52 (55) 5540 – 3345
- [Official Portal of Tourism in Mexico](#)



Security

- **Highway Help** 078 <http://av.sectur.gob.mx/>
- **Judicial Police** 911 (emergency number)
- **Emergency Service** 911

Taxis

- [Uber](#)
- [Cabify](#)
- **Taxi Seguridad:** 00 52 55 5768 8557

Serviplus: 00 52 55 5598 2187



This Infocard has been prepared by the expert in Mexico.

If you want to get personalized information
send us a question through our service
[“Ask the Expert”](#).
It is free and you will receive the answer within
a maximum of 5 working days!

Didn't find what you need?

Ask the expert

Disclaimer

The positions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Neither the European Union nor any person acting on behalf of the European Union is responsible for the use which might be made of this information. Neither the European Union nor the ELANBiz consortium members are responsible or may be held accountable for any loss suffered as a result of reliance upon the content of this Info Card