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MEXICO

TRAVEL GUIDE

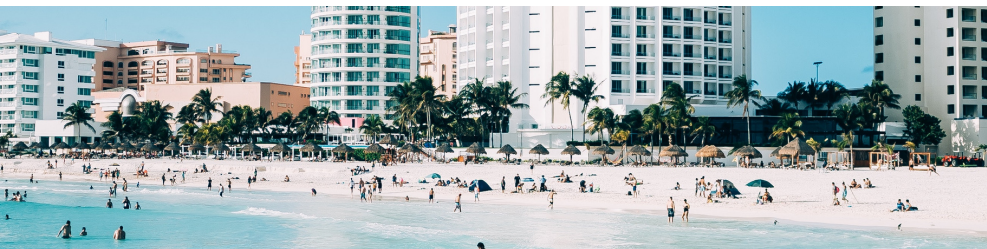
WELCOME



Welcome to Mexico – the 14th-largest country in the world, and the 10th most populated. There’s a lot more to Mexico than burritos and tacos!

Mexico has beautiful mountains, stunning deserts, virgin jungles, and world-class beaches – complete with surfing, snorkeling, diving, and water sports galore, not to mention relaxation and sunbathing.

Come to Mexico – not once, but many times over – and discover the best of what this wonderful country has to offer.



QUICK INFO

CAPITAL:

Ciudad de México (Mexico City)

POPULATION:

129 million (2021 estimate) – the 10th most populated country in the world!

CURRENCY:

Mexican peso ([click here](#) for current conversion rates)

VISA:

Most people from the Americas, Australia, or Europe can enter without a visa and stay up to 180 days.

SAFETY RANK:

#137 on the [Global Peace Index](#) (the USA is #121)

LANGUAGES:

Mexico has no official language. Most people speak Spanish, or one of over 60 indigenous languages.

TIME ZONE:

Mexico's time zones roughly correspond to the USA's. They range from UTC – 5:00 to UTC – 8:00.



WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT MEXICO?

Mexico is a huge country, and the weather across it varies a lot! So, naturally, the best time to visit depends on where in Mexico you're going. At sea level, especially down south in places like Cancún, the weather is warm for much of the year – perfect beach weather! However, at higher elevations (like at Mexico City) it can get quite chilly in the winter (November to January).

SPRING (APRIL TO JUNE)

Spring in Mexico is quite pleasant. However, many places will be crowded, as it's a popular “spring break” destination for university students.

SUMMER (JULY TO SEPTEMBER)

Many parts of the country are hot and/or humid in the summer. This is also the rainy season for a lot of Mexico. As the rain ends in the month of September and things cool down, this becomes a great time to visit the country.

FALL (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER)

Fall marks the end of hurricane season on the coasts and Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead).

WINTER (JANUARY TO MARCH)

The winter months are peak season for beachgoers along the Caribbean coastline.



DON'T MISS THESE TOP FIVE ATTRACTIONS IN MEXICO

But keep yourself sane - don't try to cram everything into one single trip!

The Pacific Ocean

There are a number of key places along the Pacific: **Ensenada** is a great destination near the US border. It is approximately 106km south of Tijuana. **Cabo** is legendary. Avoid the spring break crowds, and stay at one of the resorts – rather than in the city itself – for the best experience. **Puerto Vallarta** is much further south, and gives you a Caribbean feel but with the wonderful Pacific sunsets over the water!

Mexico City

The capital city may be a bit hectic, but it's a must if you want to feel like you've experienced this country. Mexico City has a fair amount of glam and some exquisite dining, which will redefine your perspective of "Mexican food." Add in loads of history (this used to be the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan) and the sites to see could fill a notebook! Don't miss out on a sojourn to Mexico's beating heart, the D.F. (Distrito Federal; "federal district").



The Caribbean

The highlight here is Cancún – home to incredible nightclubs and even more spectacular beaches. But it’s also worth it to take a trip along the coast, down the marvelously flat Yucatán Peninsula to Playa del Carmen (from which you can take a ferry to Cozumel for a relaxing stay on a Caribbean island) or Tulum (home of some great Mayan ruins). And, of course, the coconut-palm-lined beaches all along this stretch of coast are magnificent!

Guanajuato

This city in Mexico's central mountains has earned itself a listing as a UNESCO World Heritage site. From the unbelievable, picturesque houses, to its famed subterranean tunnels, Guanajuato has something to impress anyone. Also, if you’re a foodie, the dining options in this city are simply stellar.

The Cenotes

On the Yucatán Peninsula there is more than swimming, snorkeling, and diving at the beach. The cenotes – caves filled with water – are a must-see for any Mexican traveler who makes it to the state of Quintana Roo. Geologically unique, they were once sacred sites to the Mayan people; today, they have been transformed into wonderful swimming holes. If you make it into southern Mexico, don’t miss the cenotes!



BUT MEXICO IS HUGE! THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO SEE AND DO

It's the world's 14th-largest country, after all!

Mérida: Across the Yucatán Peninsula from Cancún, Mérida is a far less touristy city, and much older. Stay in one of the grandiose, exquisite colonial buildings and dine on some of the most deluxe Yucatan delights. Avoid the spring break crowds here!

Huatulco: Not far from Oaxaca, this charming town will conjure up ultimate feelings of relaxation as you'll want to spend all day (or perhaps all month) chilling out at the beach!

Zacatecas: This is an off the beaten path, older town that gives you an authentic Mexican experience up in the mountains.

Firefly Forest: Visit the state of Tlaxcala, near Mexico City, during the summer to see a magic show that your eyes won't believe!

Calakmul Biosphere Reserve: Don't forget that Mexico also has a jungle. Come here for an incredible experience with nature in one of the country's largest protected reserves.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TRAVELERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MEXICO

DO

- Do learn a little Spanish. ¡La lengua no es muy difícil!
- Do keep your wits about you. It's a country known for tourism so pickpockets are common in some areas.
- Do use sunscreen. Even if it's a cloudy day, put on the sunscreen!

DON'T

The things that terrify many people about Mexico are not prevalent across the entire country. Mexico is no more dangerous than most of the USA's big cities. But when you're in Mexico, there are some points that you should consider:

- Don't drink the tap water. It is much safer to stick to bottled water only.
- Don't stick out like a sore thumb. Dress appropriately and have respect for the locals.
- Don't forget to have a great time!





EAT SOME *REAL* MEXICAN FOOD

Mexican food – real Mexican food – is a blend of European and indigenous flavors, and it varies wildly by region. In 2010, Mexico’s food was recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage (ICH) of the world.

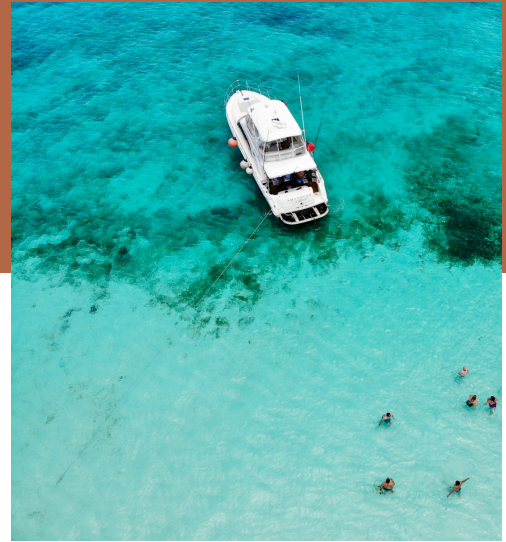
Here are the staples of Mexican food:

Corn: The grain of choice across the country is corn – from tortillas to the wrappings for tamales. In addition, corn is sold whole as grilled street corn.

Chili peppers: While Mexican food has a reputation for being incredibly spicy, the peppers actually give it a variety of flavors.

Mole (“moh-lei”): from the Nahuatl word for sauce, Mexican food isn’t complete without this (often spicy!) addition. In Mexico, meals may be a little different than what you’re used to.

Mexicans eat a big breakfast, and then wait until 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for “lunch” - the main meal of the day. Dinner is generally a much smaller affair at night.



HOW TO GET AROUND MEXICO

Buses

Mexico's buses are large, comfortable, and frequent and, they serve most destinations. However, the country is huge – and buses are not really a realistic way to get from Ensenada to Cancún!

Private car

Hiring a car (and a driver!) is the best way to get around on your own schedule, and see off-the-beaten-path destinations. There are numerous options for this and your travel agent can arrange one.

Boats

Travel by boat is really only possible if you're going to one of the islands, or are taking a cruise.

Or just fly

Planes are definitely the best and fastest way to get around. There are a number of local airlines, but sometimes booking a flight can be challenging. Utilize your travel agent or be prepared to show off your excellent Spanish with a phone that can make calls in Mexico!



TIPPING - SHOULD I?

Tipping in Mexico IS customary – unlike most of Europe and many places across the globe. Service workers make very low wages, and often rely on their tips to get by.

You can tip in pesos or U.S. dollars, though local currency is always more practical for the recipient.

Spas: 15-20%

Tour guides: 10-20%

Restaurants: 10-20%

Bars: About \$1 per drink

Hotel staff: 25-50 pesos for porters, and 25-50 pesos/night for the housekeepers.

READY TO GO TO MEXICO?

So that's Mexico! It's a huge, wonderful country that is full of so much to do and so much to see. Between thirty-one states and the federal district, there are endless opportunities!

Whatever your interests and whatever your budget, there's a place for you here. So don't wait! Contact me today to book your trip to this delightful, colorful country.

Ronda Wright



LET'S PLAN YOUR
MEXICO VACATION
TODAY!

Ronda Wright

Book a call today to get a complimentary travel consultation.

CONTACT ME TODAY!

404.381.1103

hello@thewrightgetaway.com