



WELCOME TO MEXICO CITY



We hope that the following information will be of use to ICAO NACC Regional Office visitors.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mexico City has over 22 million people and is situated at an altitude of 2,240 meters above sea level. The old or colonial part of the city is located near the main Plaza (Zocalo) in the centre of town.

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE

The Mexican monetary unit is the Peso, for which the present exchange rate is approximately \$13.00 Pesos to one US Dollar (February 2010 – subject to variation). Dollars and traveler's checks must be exchanged at a bank or a currency exchange office.

Working hours for banks are 09:00 to 16:00 Monday through Friday. Currency exchange offices are open from 9:00 to 17:00, Monday through Friday; some of them work on Saturdays.

Casa de Cambio Tiber

Río Tiber 112, Col. Cuauhtémoc
Tel. 57 22 0808

TIPS ON TIPPING

Many foreigners in Mexico usually overtip in some areas and disregard tipping in others. Below are suggestions on when and how much to tip:

<u>Restaurants</u>	10% to 15%
<u>Barber shops / Beauty Parlors</u>	10%
<u>Cab Drivers</u>	10% over the taximeter and another 10% depending on volume of luggage. Green colored cabs have the right to charge 10% more than the meter indicates.
<u>Hotel (Bell Boy)</u>	Equivalent to \$ 1.00 USD per bag.

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND BOOKS

English newspapers such as *The News* and the *New York Times* can be found in the magazine section of Sanborn's stores and some newsstands. The same applies to books and magazines in Spanish, English, French and German. The largest supply of newspapers, books and magazines, both national and international, can be found in Sanborn's stores. Cultural and entertainment activities are published in the Weekly guide *Tiempo Libre*, which arrives at newsstands every Thursday.

TELEPHONE

You can dial direct to any part of the world from Mexico:

United States and Canada

001 + area code + phone number

For collect calls you must dial 090 and ask the operator to make the collect call (“Por cobrar”).

Caribbean, Central America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the rest of the world.

00 + country code + area code + phone number

For collect calls you must dial 090 and ask the operator to make the call

Mexico

01 + area code + phone number

For collect calls you must dial 020 and ask the operator to make the call

PUBLIC PHONES

Both local and long distance calls can be made through public phones on the street and almost every restaurant and hotels. In order to make calls from a public phone one must buy LADATEL phone cards, which are sold in Sanborn’s stores, Vips restaurants and some newsstands.

Long distance phone calls can be made from hotels but it is highly recommended to find out the hotel’s long distance rates to avoid unpleasant surprises.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Mexico has an excellent subway system popularly known as “Metro” at a very low cost. However, it is extremely crowded at rush hour at stations such as **Balderas, Pino Suárez, and Hidalgo**.

A number of buses are available in the city at low cost. “Peseros” or “Colectivos” (collective taxis) are also found easily around the city; the fare varies according to the distance traveled and is less expensive than taxis.

If you are planning to use the subway system or buses, we recommend not carrying important documents and being very careful with your wallet.

Taxi service is efficient, fast and comfortable. **However, tourists must be extra cautious when boarding taxis circulating in the streets.**

When tourists arrive at the Mexico City airport, they should look for **Taxis Autorizados** and not any other kind. To do so, you must go to a specialized booth clearly marked with a “**Taxis Autorizados**” sign. Indicate which part of the city you want to go, as the price varies depending on your destination. This is the only fare you will have to pay; a tip for the cab driver is optional. For more information on fares visit www.taxisdel aeropuerto.com.mx or call **Taxis del Aeropuerto** + 52 55 5571 9344.

The United Nations recommends that employees and visitors use authorized taxis in the airport and city taxis from authorized taxi stands. If you are staying in a hotel, ask the concierge or the front desk where you can find authorized taxi stands.

Taxi Stands (Sitio Taxis)

They are safe and trustworthy and a little bit more expensive than street taxis. To use them you have to call their central dispatch and they send them to your location. Taxi stands are listed in the yellow pages. They do not use taximeter and the rate is negotiable; **they are the best choice.**

TAXI STAND	TELEPHONE
TAXIMEX	9171 8888 / 5634 9912
Servitaxis	5516 6020 al 24
Sitio de Taxis Naciones Unidas (WTC)	5543 8243
Taxis del Aeropuerto	5571 9344
Taxis Génesis (Seguros Monterrey/New York Life)	5250 5659

Hotel Taxis

You can hire them by day or hour. The taxi drivers are certified tourist guides, they speak English and Spanish and they can take you to City sights. They are quite expensive and it is highly recommended to negotiate the total cost **BEFORE** boarding the taxi. Hotel taxis do not have a taximeter.

Bus Station

It is located outside Taxqueña's subway station. Buses leave every half hour to Tepoztlán, Cuernavaca, Oaxtepec, Cuautla and Acapulco.

SHOPPING

There are plenty shopping malls and department stores in Mexico City:

Antara Polanco	in Polanco, on Moliere and Ejercito Nacional
Galerías Insurgentes	on Insurgentes Avenue, southeast of the city
Gran Sur	in Periférico South, after Insurgentes South
Interlomas	in Bosques de las Lomas
Mundo E	north of the city
Pabellón Bosques	in Bosques de las Lomas
Pabellón Polanco	in Polanco, close the Periférico Freeway
Parque Duraznos	in Bosques de las Lomas
Paseo Arcos Bosques	in Bosques de las Lomas
Perisur	south of the city
Plaza Coyoacán	in Coyoacán, close to Universidad Avenue and Mixcoac
Plaza Cuicuilco	in Periférico South, next to the Sala Ollin Yolitzli
Plaza Delta	in Narvarte, close the Viaducto Freeway
Plaza Insurgentes	in the Colonia Roma, close Insurgentes Avenue
Plaza La Rosa	in the Zona Rosa
Plaza Loreto	nearby Ciudad Universitaria, south of the city
Plaza Satélite	north of the city
Plaza Universidad	in the Colonia Del Valle, in Universidad Avenue
Santa Fe	in Santa Fe

In most of these shopping malls you can find the following stores:

Liverpool	department store, Ticketmaster center
Palacio de Hierro	department store
Sears	department store
Sanborn's	coffee shop, store, magazines, candy store, etc.
Marti	sport goods

Shopping malls are open Sunday to Friday from 11:00 until 19:00 hrs.; Wednesdays and Saturdays until 20:00 hrs.

The NACC Office is located on Presidente Masaryk Avenue, which is famous for its designer stores, coffee shops and restaurants.

It is highly recommended to visit **La Casa de los Azulejos**, located in Madero street in Historical Downtown. This is the first Sanborn's store and coffee shop in what used to be a colonial residence totally covered in "talavera" tiles.

The **Zona Rosa**, located between Insurgentes and Reforma Avenues near the Independence Angel, is one of the best shopping areas in town after historical downtown. You can find clothes, shoes and restaurants with all types of food. Here you can find the **Mercado de Londres**, where you can buy arts and crafts, jewelry, silver, and Mexican clothes.

FONART stores are operated by the government and have a variety of excellent arts and crafts from all parts of Mexico. You can find FONART stores at the following addresses: Av. Paseo de la Reforma No. 116, Col. Juárez (close to the Zona Rosa), Av. Juárez No. 89, Col. Centro (Historical Downtown) and in Av. Patriotismo No. 691, Col. Mixcoac (south of the City) (www.fonart.gob.mx).

Other places to find a variety crafts at reasonable prices are Mexico's typical markets. It is recommended not to carry important documents and to mind your wallet. They are:

TYPICAL MARKETS	
Mercado de Artesanías de Buenavista	Located next to Buenavista's Train Station.
Mercado de la Ciudadela	Exhibition and sale of arts and crafts from all regions of Mexico. Located in Balderas and Plaza de la Ciudadela, Col. Centro. The artisans displaying and selling their work in this market are from the different ethnicities of Mexico such as: <i>Nahuas, Zapotecos, Otomíes, Mazahuas, Triquis, Tzentsgales, Tzotziles, Purepechas, Mayas, Mixtecos</i> and <i>Huicholes</i> .
Mercado de Sonora	Located in Fray Servando Teresa de Mier Street approximately four blocks away from La Merced subway station. You can find all sorts of witchcraft and fortune telling products; all kinds of healing herbs, alive animals, dog and cat food, ceramics, fruits and vegetables. Visitors should be cautious when visiting Mercado de Sonora, since it is located in a vulnerable part of Mexico City.
Mercado de Tepoztlán	Tepoztlán is a beautiful small town located in the valley and surrounded by cylindrical mountains only one hour away from the city. Wednesdays and Sundays are market days and you can find crafts, fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products. To get there you take the Cuernavaca highway and the "Cuautla-Oaxtepec" detour and follow the signs to Tepoztlán.

TYPICAL MARKETS	
Mercado de la Lagunilla	Located in Comonfort Street, near Reforma North and the Eje Lázaro Cárdenas. This market is famous as the ultimate “flea market” in Mexico City. On Sundays, visitors can find antiques and low cost shoes, clothes, furniture, electronics, lamps, etc. La Lagunilla is also popular for selling cheap imports such as clothes, television sets, recorders, cameras, etc. Visitors should be cautious when visiting La Lagunilla, since it is located in a vulnerable part of Mexico City.
Mercado de La Merced	Located outside the subway station of the same name, it specializes in selling fruits, vegetables, fresh and artificial flowers, baskets and other wicker items. Visitors should be cautious when visiting La Merced, since it is located in a vulnerable part of Mexico City.

MUSEUMS AND TOURS	
Anthropology Museum (Museo de Antropología)	Located in Reforma towards the residential neighborhood of Las Lomas. It contains Mexico’s history from the beginning of time. The Anthropology Museum is considered one of the world’s leading museums. Open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 9:00 until 19:00 and Sundays at 10:00 until 18:00. (http://www.mna.inah.gob.mx/)
Modern Art Museum (Museo de Arte Moderno)	Located in Reforma in front of the Anthropology Museum. Permanent exhibition of Mexican Artists and temporary exhibitions of artists from all over the world. Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11:00 until 19:00. (http://www.conaculta.gob.mx/mam/)
Chapultepec’s Castle (Castillo de Chapultepec)	During Napoleon’s invasion of Mexico in 1864, it was Maximilian and Carlota’s mansion; today it is a historic museum. Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 09:00 until 17:00. (http://mnh.inah.gob.mx)
Metropolitan Cathedral (Catedral Metropolitana)	Located in the Zócalo or Plaza de la Constitución; XVII century colonial architecture.
National Palace (Palacio Nacional)	Located in the Zócalo, it holds some of the best murals of Mexican artist Diego Rivera.
Palace of Fine Arts (Palacio de Bellas Artes)	Located next to the Alameda, <i>The Palacio de Bellas Artes</i> ("Palace of Fine Arts") is the premier opera house of Mexico City. It was designed by the Italian architect Adamo Boari in 1901 but construction was not completed until 1934. The building is famous for its art deco interiors, its extravagant Art Nouveau exterior in imported Italian white marble, as well as its murals by Diego Rivera, Rufino Tamayo, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco. The Palace of Fine Arts is headquarters of the National Symphony Orchestra and of the National Theatre, Opera and Dance Companies. (http://www.bellasartes.gob.mx/)
Three Cultures Plaza (Plaza de las Tres Culturas)	Historical plaza located in Tlatelolco near Reforma Avenue. It is called The Three Cultures Plaza because located at the same site are an Aztec Temple, a Colonial Church and a modern architecture building.
Ciudad Universitaria	In the south of the city, it is the largest university in Mexico – the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). Some of the buildings have murals of Mexican artists David Alfaro Siqueiros and Juan O’Gorman.

MUSEUMS AND TOURS	
Basílica de Guadalupe	There are two sanctuaries for “Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe,” one of colonial architecture, which is now closed, and the new basilica. Both are located in the north side of the city. The new basilica has a wooden roof donated to Mexico by Canada and the organ is a Casavant. It is worth visiting.
Turibus	The Turibus covers the touristic sector of Mexico City: The first stop is the Auditorio Nacional followed by the Museo de Arte Moderno, the Condesa, Plaza Madrid, Casa Lamm, Monumento a la Independencia (Angel), Reforma, the Hemiciclo a Juárez, the Zócalo, the Plaza Manuel Tolsá, the Museo Franz Mayer, the Plaza de San Fernando, the Monumento a la Revolución, Insurgentes, the Museo de Antropología, Arquímedes, Campos Elíseos, Presidente Masaryk, Moliere, the Restaurant Zone in Chapultepec, Lago Mayor, the Tláloc Fountain, the Natural History Museum the Papalote Museo del Niño and the Museo Tecnológico de la CFE. For more information visit www.turibus.com.mx
Teotihuacan Pyramids	In the northwest of the city, approximately 1 hour by car, the Teotihuacan pyramids rise as high as twenty-story buildings above the central Mexican highlands with a grandeur and mystery that stirs the imagination and inspires the soul. A bus tour is recommended.

ENTERTAINMENT

There are all kinds of shows in Mexico City for all ages. With the Ticketmaster system you can get tickets to concerts, plays, ballet and all kinds of shows. To contact Ticketmaster dial 5325 9000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.mx to purchase tickets or see available shows in Mexico. To use this service you must have a credit card, or if you want to pay in cash you can go to any Ticketmaster Center located in Mixup, Liverpool and Comercial Mexicana stores.

The *Ballet Folklórico de México*, founded by Amalia Hernández, performs Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday at the Palace of Fine Arts. This ballet is one of Mexico City’s most beautiful shows with typical dances of Mexico. Tickets for this show can be purchased at the Palace of Fine Arts’ box office or Ticketmaster. For updated dates and show times visit www.ticketmaster.com.mx.

RESTAURANTS

Prices per person range from US\$ 20-50. For a complete list of Mexico City restaurants, please visit www.restaurantesdemexico.com.mx.

MEXICO CITY WEATHER

The average temperature in Mexico City is (in Celsius):

Parameters	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Maximum average	21.2°	22.9°	25.7°	26.6°	26.5°	24.8°	23°	23.3°	22.3°	22.2°	21.8°	20.8°
Medium average	12.9°	14.5°	17°	18°	18.1°	17.2°	16°	16.3°	15.7°	15.1°	14°	12.9°
Minimum average	5.8°	7.1°	9.2°	10.8°	11.7°	12.2°	11.5°	11.5°	11.5°	9.8°	7.9°	6.6°
Humidity	55%	50%	45%	47%	54%	64%	70%	71%	71%	66%	62%	60%

ELECTRICITY

The electricity in Mexico is 110 Volts.

HOSPITALS

Hospital Español

Sociedad de Beneficencia Española IAP
 Av Ejercito Nacional 613, Col. Granada
 Tel. + 52 55 5255 9600
 Emergencies: + 52 55 5255 9645 al 49
 Web: <http://www.hespanol.com>

Centro Médico ABC – Observatorio

Sur 136 No. 116, Col. Las Américas
 Tel. + 52 55 5230 8000
 Emergencies: + 52 55 5230-8161 al 63
 Web: <http://www.abchospital.com>

Centro Médico ABC – Santa Fe

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 Col. Tlaxala Santa Fe, Cuajimalpa
 Tel. + 52 55 1103 1600
 Emergencies: + 52 55 1103 1666
 Web: <http://www.abchospital.com>

Hospital Ángeles Lomas

Vialidad de la Barranca No. 22, Col. Valle de las Palmas
 Tel. + 52 55 5246 5000
 Emergencies: + 52 55 5246 5092 / 5246 5093
 Web: <http://www.hospitalangeleslomas.com>