



Office of Security Passport and Visa Program

Important Links

- U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs — <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>
- U.S. Passports & International Travel, Alerts and Warnings — <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>
- U.S. Visas — <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html>
- Washington Passport Agency - <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/information/where-to-apply/agencies/washington.html>
- Smart Traveler Enrollment Program - <https://step.state.gov/step/>
- M40 Passport & Visas Sharepoint Site — http://one10.dot.gov/office/ost/security/Passports_Visas/SitePages/Home.aspx

Contact Information

Business Hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: DOTHQ ID Center, W12-180

Email: Passports@dot.gov

Phone: (202) 366-0092

MEXICO TRAVEL WARNING

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/mexico-travel-warning.html>

The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens about the risk of traveling to certain parts of Mexico due to the activities of criminal organizations in those areas. U.S. citizens have been the victims of violent crimes, including homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery in various Mexican states. This Travel Warning replaces the Travel Warning for Mexico issued December 8, 2016.

For information on security conditions in specific regions of Mexico, see our state-by-state assessments below. U.S. government personnel and their families are prohibited from personal travel to all areas to which the Department recommends “defer non-essential travel” in this Travel Warning. As a result of security precautions that U.S. government personnel must take while traveling to parts of Mexico, our response time to emergencies involving U.S. citizens may be hampered or delayed.

Gun battles between rival criminal organizations or with Mexican authorities have taken place on streets and in public places during broad daylight. The Mexican government dedicates substantial resources to protect visitors to major tourist destinations and has engaged in an extensive effort to counter criminal organizations that engage in narcotics trafficking and other unlawful activities throughout Mexico. There is no evidence that criminal organizations have targeted U.S. citizens based on their nationality. Resort areas and tourist destinations in Mexico generally do not see the level of drug-related violence and crime that are reported in the border region or in areas along major trafficking routes.

U.S. government personnel are prohibited from patronizing adult clubs and gambling establishments in the states of Coahuila, Durango, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosi, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, Jalisco, Colima, and Nayarit.

Kidnappings in Mexico take the following forms:

Traditional: victim is physically abducted and held captive until a ransom is paid for release.

Express: victim is abducted for a short time and commonly forced to withdraw money, usually from an ATM, then released.

Virtual: an extortion-by-deception scheme where a victim is contacted by phone and coerced by threats of violence to provide phone numbers of family and friends, and then isolated until the ransom is paid. Recently, hotel guests have been targets of such “virtual” kidnapping schemes.

U.S. citizens have been murdered in carjacking's and highway robberies, most frequently at night and on isolated roads. Carjackers use a variety of techniques, including roadblocks, bumping/moving vehicles to force them to stop, and running vehicles off the road at high speeds. There are indications that criminals target newer and larger vehicles, but drivers of old sedans and buses coming from the United States are also targeted. U.S. government personnel are not permitted to drive from the U.S.-Mexico border to or from the interior parts of Mexico. U.S. government personnel are prohibited from intercity travel after dark in many areas of Mexico. U.S. citizens should use toll roads (cuotas) whenever possible. In remote areas, cell phone coverage is limited or non-existent.

The Mexican government has deployed federal police and military personnel throughout the country as part of its efforts to combat organized criminal groups. U.S. citizens traveling on Mexican roads and highways by car or bus may encounter government checkpoints, staffed by military or law enforcement personnel. In some places, criminal organizations have erected their own unauthorized checkpoints, at times wearing police and military uniforms, and have killed or abducted motorists who have failed to stop at them. You should cooperate at all checkpoints.

State-by-State Assessment: Below is a state-by-state assessment of security conditions throughout Mexico. Travelers should be mindful that even if no advisories are in effect for a given state, U.S. citizens should exercise caution throughout Mexico as crime and violence can still occur. For general information about travel and other conditions in Mexico, see our [Country Specific Information](#).





CONTINUED MEXICO TRAVEL WARNING

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/mexico-travel-warning.html>

For further information:

- See the State Department's [travel website](#) for the Worldwide Caution, [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information for Mexico](#).
- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive security messages and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Contact the [U.S. Embassy in Mexico](#), located at Paseo de la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc, at +52-55-5080- 2000 x4440, (5080-2000 for calls in Mexico City, 01-55-5080-2000 for long distance calls in Mexico) 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. After- hours emergency number for U.S. citizens is +52-55-5080-2000.
- Call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Please go to the <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/mexico-travel-warning.html> and review the State-by-State Assessment of security conditions throughout Mexico. Travelers should be mindful that even if no advisories are in effect for a given state, U.S. citizens should exercise caution throughout Mexico as crime and violence can still occur. For general information about travel and other conditions in Mexico, see our [Country Specific Information](#).

Important Links

- U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs — <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>
- U.S. Passports & International Travel, Alerts and Warnings — <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>
- U.S. Visas — <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html>
- Washington Passport Agency - <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/information/where-to-apply/agencies/washington.html>
- Smart Traveler Enrollment Program - <https://step.state.gov/step/>
- M40 Passport & Visas Sharepoint Site — http://one10.dot.gov/office/ost/security/Passports_Visas/SitePages/Home.aspx

Contact Information

Business Hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: DOTHQ ID Center, W12-180

Email: Passports@dot.gov

Phone: (202) 366-0092

