

Driving in Mexico

Have all documentation with you when driving

It is a legal requirement in Mexico to be fully documented in a car. When you are driving you must have with you:

- **Your Drivers License**
- **Proof of Mexican Car Insurance**

If you get pulled over by the Police you will have to provide the documentation listed above.

Speed limits in Mexico are posted in kilometers per hour

If you are ticketed for a driving violation in Mexico you have the right to ask for and be issued a traffic ticket which can be paid at the police station or by mail. Police officers are not legally allowed to receive payment for violations (or bribes), but the age old ritual of 'mordida' still prevails in many parts of Mexico

Tips for a Safe & Enjoyable Time while Driving in Mexico

RULE #1: Always purchase Mexican Auto Insurance prior to entering Mexico. US and Canadian insurance is not recognized by Mexican authorities, and the consequences for driving uninsured can be severe. If you are in an accident or other vehicle-related problem while driving without Mexican insurance, it is highly likely that your vehicle could be permanently confiscated and you could be detained by the police.

Even if you are not concerned about protecting your own vehicle with Full Coverage Insurance, you should at a minimum always purchase Mexican Liability Auto Insurance to cover any damages you may cause to third parties. All of Adventure Mexican Insurance Services' Mexican auto insurance includes a minimum of \$50,000 US dollars (limits can be increased) of combined single limit liability coverage, and the rates are extremely reasonable. Legal Service is also an important aspect of Mexican auto insurance that you should not go without.

All of our Mexican insurance also includes Legal Service at no extra charge. This Legal Service covers attorney fees, and bail bond costs which may be incurred due to a vehicle related accident. (Refer to your Mexican auto insurance Terms & Conditions for full details).

Driving conditions in Mexico are often very different from the US or Canada. For your safety, you must drive slowly and cautiously in Mexico.

Do not drive at night:

- Most cases of highway crime occur at night.
- Loose livestock often wander onto roads at night and are difficult to see
- Many vehicles in Mexico do not have functioning headlights and brake lights, creating dangerous situations

Always keep an eye out for:

- Loose Livestock: Horses, cows, pigs, and dogs are often found wandering loose in the road.
- Construction sites are often unmarked and equipment can be left on the road

Prevent your vehicle from being stolen:

Unfortunately, vehicle theft can be a problem in Mexico, and tourist vehicles are often the targets of theft.

- Employ at least one type of anti-theft device: Steering wheel locks, kill switches, and other anti-theft devices are highly recommended.
- Always park in a parking area that is clearly visible and contains other vehicles.
- Never leave your vehicle parked on the side of the road or highway.
- For overnight parking, always try to park in area that is gated or employs a security guard.

Rainy and Wet Conditions:

The dirt and oil on the road mixes with rain to cause extremely slippery conditions.

- When it begins to rain, slow down to a crawl.
- RVs / Motorhomes and vehicles with trailers should avoid driving in the rain as much as possible

Learn Local Driving Signals:

- Flashing headlights from an oncoming vehicle is often a warning signal that you are both approaching a narrow place in the road that will not fit 2 vehicles.
- To be safe, always let the other vehicle pass the narrow section first, then proceed once the area is clear

Beware of 'Topes':

- Topes are giant speed bumps located throughout Mexican roadways.

Other Tips:

- In case of an accident or loss, you must report the claim in Mexico prior to entering the US in order for your Mexican Insurance to cover the claim. (See your GE Mexican Auto Policy for the toll free claims phone numbers).

- Research your route for safety using current maps. It is also recommended to ask questions about your route from the Mexican Tourism Office, Travel Clubs, or at stopping points along your trip. · Have your car serviced prior to leaving on your trip.
- Never operate your vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Buying Fuel (gasoline) for your Vehicle in Mexico

Pemex gas stations are the only official outlets where you can purchase fuel in Mexico. The unleaded gasoline is called 'Magna Sin', which is supposed to have an octane rating of around 90. At some locations you may be able to find 'Magna Premium' which is supposed to have an even higher octane level, but 'Magna Premium' is not available at all Pemex locations. Diesel fuel is also available at most Pemex stations, and it is labeled 'Diesel Sin'. Make sure to read the label of the fuel before filling up because the color coding system on the pumps is different from the US (in Mexico, a green pump usually means it is 'Magna Sin', while in the US a green pump usually means Diesel). If you find a pump labeled 'Nova', be aware that this is LEADED gas, and should not be used unless your vehicle can run on leaded fuel.

Be prepared to pay for your fuel with cash. Although some Pemex stations close to the US border may accept US dollars, you should expect to pay for your fuel with Mexican currency.

Although the gasoline quality has improved dramatically over the years, it is probably a good idea to bring along a spare fuel filter for your vehicle just in case there is any debris in the fuel that could clog your existing filter. (A fuel filter is usually less than \$15 at an auto parts store in the US).

During busy travel times there may be fuel shortages at some of the more remote Pemex stations, so it is always a good idea to top off your gas tank whenever you can.

Gasoline is measured in liters in Mexico, so make sure to remember your gallons to liters conversion:

1 gallon = 3.3785 liters

Be aware that some gas stations in Mexico have been known to attempt certain 'rip-off' ploys. To avoid being ripped-off, make sure the fuel pump is set to \$0.00 when you begin fueling. Also, pay attention to how much change you should receive in return when paying for your fuel. Gas station attendants have been known to intentionally give tourists the incorrect amount of change.