



HELPFUL INFORMATION

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL

- For airport transfer to your hotel, purchase a pre-paid ticket from an authorized airport taxi booth located within the airport. The booths are labeled "Transportación Terrestre."
- You can buy your ticket inside the baggage claim area while waiting for your luggage. Tell the vendor, "Four Seasons Hotel" to get the proper fare (approx. \$12 USD). The fare is per cab, not per person.
- The drive to the hotel should take approximately 20-45 minutes depending on traffic and the time of the day.

TRANSPORTATION IN GENERAL

- For your personal security, it is not recommended that you hail taxis in the street at any time during your stay in Mexico. It is preferable to hire hotel taxis or taxis parked at authorized cab ranks or "sitios."
- Uber also operates in Mexico City, and is available through the same app on your smartphone.

MONEY

- United States dollars are generally not accepted in Mexico City.
- Credit cards are widely accepted. Advise your bank of your travels.
- ATM machines give you pesos and are located at our hotel. (*Remember the Mexican peso also uses the \$ sign. Be wary as this can cause confusion*).

TIPPING

- Airport porters: 10-20 pesos (US \$.50-1.05) is sufficient. You do not need to hire an airport porter, but they will guide you efficiently to the authorized taxi rank and to your cab.
- Taxis and transportation services: It is not necessary to tip cab drivers in Mexico.
- Hotel: 10-20 pesos (US \$.50-1.05) per person is a good tip. It is considered a courtesy to tip the maid who services your hotel room. Sometimes the hotel will include this tip in your final bill. "Propina no incluida" means tip not included.
- "IVA incluido" means that tax (VAT) is included.

WATER

- The water in the hotel is drinkable. However, if you drink bottled water at home, you will probably wish to do the same here in Mexico City.

WHAT TO WEAR

- Mexico City is dressy and rather formal. Business attire is appropriate for all meetings and events on our agenda.
- Business casual - "sport coat and slacks with no tie" - is fine for the Welcome Reception.
- Wear comfortable shoes, as there may be some walking from the motor coach to ministries and restaurants.
- Like other large cosmopolitan cities such as New York or Paris, you should watch your belongings and not exhibit or expose expensive jewelry in public.

CELL PHONE USE

- Cellular telephones work throughout Mexico. Call your cell phone provider to add a Mexico plan for the week in order to avoid roaming charges.
- To make calls to the U.S. while in Mexico, dial 001 then the area code and number.
- To call Tijuana or elsewhere in Mexico dial 01 then the area code and number. It is less expensive to use your cellular phone than the telephone in your room.

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SIGHTSEEING SUGGESTIONS

WALKING

- **Reforma**, where the hotel is located, is one of Mexico's most famous and important avenues. It is surrounded by an increasing financial district as well as some of Mexico's notable historic, cultural and artistic museums and sights.
- **Polanco**, is another wonderful and safe neighborhood for walking, shopping and dining. There are dozens of great restaurants in walking distance. Many restaurants feature outdoor dining so you can enjoy the great weather.
- **Los Pinos (Former Residence and Office of the President)**: Colloquially known as "Los Pinos", the property became the official presidential residence in 1935 after President Lazaro Cardenas refused to live in Chapultepec Castle (prior official residence), and was inhabited by successive leaders. Upon taking office, President Lopez Obrador opened Los Pinos to the public. Entrance is free of charge.
- **Auditorio Nacional (The National Auditorium)**: This auditorium is situated on Reforma Avenue, at the artistic and cultural section of Chapultepec Park. It also includes some theaters: El Granero, Orientacion and El Bosque.
- **Bosque de Chapultepec**: Willow trees, ash trees, evergreen oaks and Mexican coniferous trees make this green area the largest one in the city. Historic and cultural places of interest in addition to recreational areas are all found here.
- **Casa del Lago**: Several cultural activities sponsored by the Autonomous University of Mexico take place here.
- **Castillo de Chapultepec**: This splendid neoclassic castle has been the stage for such historic events as the United States Army invasion in 1847. It served as the residence for Emperor Maximiliano and his wife Carlota in 1866 and later for President Porfirio Diaz.
- **Lago de Chapultepec**: Two artificial lakes measuring eight and seventeen acres respectively are ideal for canoe rides.
- **Monumento a los Niños Heroes**: This monument is to honor the Niños Heroes (Heroic Children) who defended the Castle against the United States invasion. It is located in one of the entrances of the Chapultepec Park.
- **Museo Nacional de Antropologia (The National Museum of Anthropology)**: This museum is located on Paseo de la Reforma Avenue and Gandhi Street in the first section of Chapultepec Park.
- **Museo Nacional de Historia (The National Museum of History)**: This museum is found on the top of the Chapultepec Hill, inside the Chapultepec Castle in the old park. It was built in the XVIII century and is surrounded by a wall. It has 20 halls.
- **Parque Zoologico de Chapultepec (The Chapultepec Zoo)**: The zoo was founded in 1923. It has an area of 14 hectares where animals from all the continents are exhibited. It is said that zoo and botanic gardens already existed in Tenochtitlan and Chapultepec before they were known in Europe. Among its attractions is a panoramic train that runs around the zoo.
- **Note: Museums in Mexico City are free on Sunday (and more crowded), and closed on Monday.**

SHOPPING

- **Avenida Presidente Masaryk** in Polanco is lined with international shopping. It's the Rodeo Drive of Mexico. Mexico's two most important department stores, Palacio de Hierro and Liverpool, have facilities in Polanco and anchor their respective shopping malls. It's a bit of a long walk from the hotel, so ask the doorman to call a cab if you wish to shop at either mall.
- **Antara Polanco** is an upscale outdoor mall a block north of the Palacio de Hierro across Ejercito Nacional on Calle Moliere. Further north is Plaza Corso shopping and office complex with the iconic Soumaya Museum as its centerpiece.



HELPFUL INFORMATION

- **The Ciudadela** complex on Balderas, also in the Centro Historico, is the place to bargain for what many call “arts and crap.” Nevertheless, there are treasures to be found in Talavera, mirrors, silver, leather, tablecloths, and art objects. Various stalls cover the entire area. Prices are low, but you still can bargain. Elsewhere on Balderas, sidewalk stalls sell bargains in clothing, ties and pirated CDs/DVDs.
- **Reforma 222** is a modern complex opened in 2007. The two towers of the complex became some of the tallest buildings in Reforma, and hold a glass-covered shopping center where you can find a great variety of stores, entertainment and restaurants.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MEXICO’S GOVERNMENT

- Mexico (official name Estados Unidos Mexicanos—or United Mexican States) has a Presidential form of government with a bi-cameral legislature.
- The country is divided into 32 states. The states are divided into municipalities. Mexico City, formerly known as the Federal District, became the country’s 32nd state in 2016 with a population of 8.9 million people. The metropolitan area, however, is much larger with a population of 21.2 million people, making Mexico City the most populous metropolitan area in the Western Hemisphere.
- The President, Senate and Governors are elected for one six-year term.
- Members of the lower house of Congress and Mayors (Presidentes Municipales) are elected for a three-year term.
- On June 2nd, state and local elections will take place in Baja California which will elect a new Governor, 5 local Mayors, and 25 state representatives. Members of state legislature and Mayors are able to run for re-election for the first time in Mexico.
- In last year’s Presidential election, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador from the MORENA party was elected President of Mexico with over 50 percent of the vote, and winning in 31 of Mexico’s 32 states. In addition, the MORENA party gained a majority in the Chamber of Deputies and the Mexican Senate.
- Prior to his election, Lopez Obrador was the president of MORENA (National Regeneration Movement), having previously led the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), and ran for President in 2006 and 2012. Lopez Obrador also served as Mayor of Mexico City from 2000 to 2005.
- MORENA’s ideology is left-wing oriented, often compared to nationalism and socialism. President Lopez Obrador’s campaign proposals included increasing equality between men and women, eliminating corruption and reducing crime, upgrading refining sectors and reducing crude oil exports, as well as doubling minimum wage in the northern border region.

“Northern Border Economic Zone” program

- Earlier this year, President Lopez Obrador implemented a “Zona Libre” program which aims to stimulate economic development along Mexico’s northern border. The program covers an area of 12 to 16 miles from the international boundary into Mexico, which for our region includes Tijuana, Tecate, Mexicali, Rosarito, and Ensenada. The new program includes:
 - o Reduced value added tax (IVA) from 16% to 8%
 - o Reduced corporate income tax (ISR) from 30% to 20% (restrictions apply)
 - o Matching fuel and electricity rates to prices in U.S. cities along the border
 - o Doubled minimum wage to \$176 pesos per day (About \$9 USD)President Lopez Obrador will evaluate results after the first quarter and make appropriate revisions if necessary.