



Mexico City - City Business Guide

brought to you by SkyTeam

Overview

Mexico City has the distinction of being the world's most highly populated city. Located in a sweeping valley, encircled by mountains and volcanoes, Mexico City is both physically striking and culturally impressive. The oldest and the highest city in America and the capital of Mexico, Mexico City is a showcase of remains from Mexico's great civilizations, the Aztecs and Spanish conquistadors. The city's historical heart is pedestrian and visitor-friendly, with more than 500 bronze plaques explaining particular structures' historical significance. Among this area's major attractions are Alameda Park, the Frida Kahlo Museum and the Basilica of the Virgin Guadalupe. At night the area buzzes with a festive energy as people crowd the outdoor markets, sidewalk cafés and nightclubs.

The country's key business center, Mexico City's major industries are finance, banking, trade, media, chemicals, textiles, pharmaceuticals and steel.

Business Etiquette

- * Dress should be conservative and formal.
- * Formal titles like Mr, Professor, Doctor should be used.
- * It is customary to shake hands with everyone both on arriving and leaving. Greetings become more informal (embraces, pats on the shoulder or back) with time and increasing familiarity.
- * The norm is to exchange business cards at the start of a meeting. Be sure to have an adequate supply.
- * It is customary to start a business meeting with a bit of casual conversation.
- * Invest time in developing personal business relationships as these will serve you well.
- * Respect the oft-complex hierarchies of Mexican businesses.
- * Meetings should be scheduled in advance over breakfast or lunch are the best times.
- * If invited to a Mexican home, give flowers or another hostess gift.
- * If your host does not smoke, avoid smoking.

Chamber of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce *Lucerna No. 78, Juarez 06600 ; Tel.: +52 55 5141-3800*

German Chamber of Commerce (CAMEXA) *Av Santa Fe, 170 ; Tel.: +52 55 1500 5900*

British Chamber of Commerce *Rio de la Plata No. 30, Cuauhtemoc 06500; Tel.: +52 55 5256-0901*

International Chamber of Commerce Mexico *Av. de las Naciones No. 1 Edif. World Trade Center Office. 20, Napoles 03810, Tel: +52 55 5488-2678/9*

Italian Chamber of Commerce. *Benjamin Franklin 222, 2º piso, Col. Escandón, Tel.:+52 55 5272-4300*

Japanese Chamber of Commerce, *Sevilla 9, Colonia Juarez 06600 Mexico D.F. Tel: 5207-5110*

Korea Trade Association (KOTRA) *Paseo De La Reforma No. 265, Piso 2, Col. Cuauhtemoc; Tel. : +52 55 5514-3172/5*

United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, *Anatole France # 311 Col. Polanco Mexico D.F. 11550; Tel: +52 55 5545 1813*

Embassies and Consulates

Brazil *Paseo de la Reforma 455; Tel.: +52 55 5553-3183*

China *Av. Rio Magdalena 172, Col. Tizapan San Angel 01090; Tel.: +52 55 5550-0823; 5616-0609*

Czech Republic *Cuvier 22, Col. Nueva Anzures 11590; Tel.: +52 55 5531 2544 ; 5531 2777*

European Commission *Paseo de la Reforma 1675, Col. Lomas de Chapultepec 11000; Tel.: +52 55 5540-3345*

France *Campos Eliseos 339, Col. Polanco 11560; Tel.: +52 55 9171-9700*

Germany *Lord Byron 737, Col. Polanco, Tel.: +52 55 5283 2200*

Italy *Paseo de las Palmas 1994, Col. Lomas de Chapultepec 11000; Tel.: +52 55 5596-2472; 5596-3655*

Japan *Paseo de la Reforma 395, Col Cuauhtémoc, CP 06500; Tel.:+52 55 5211 0028*

Korea (Republic of) *Lope de Armendariz 110, Col. Lomas de Chapultepec 11000; Tel.: +52 55 5202-9866; 5202-7160*

The U.K. *Rio Lerma 71, Col. Cuauhtemoc 06500; Tel.: +52 55 52 42 8500*

The U.S. *Paseo de la Reforma 305, Col. Cuauhtemoc 06500; Tel.: +52 55 5080 2000*

Netherlands *Montes urales sur 635, Tel.: +52 55 5202 8453*

Business Centers

Most large hotels also have business centers that offer many of the same services that independent centers provide.

HQ Reforma *Paseo de la Reforma #10, 19 Piso; Tel.: +52 55 5628-1200*

Hotel Camino Real *: Mariano Escobedo No. 700 Colonia Anzures Tel: +52 55 5263 8889*

Conference and Exhibition Centers

Fiesta Americana Blvd Puerto Aereo 502; Tel.: +52 55 5762 9934

Fiesta Americana *Paseo de la Reforma 80; Tel.: +52 55 5140-4100*

Four Seasons Hotel *Paseo de la Reforma 500; Tel.: +52 55 5230-1818*

Hotel Nikko *Campos Eliseos 204; Tel.: +52 55 5280 9191*

Translation Offices

ABC Traducciones *Providencia, 1227 501, Col. Del Valle Centro; Tel.: +52 55 5543 2684*

ABC insurgentes *sur 605, Tel.: +52 55 5543 2684*

Globcomm *canela 19-B, Tel.: +52 55 5485 0051*

Angloamericano *Campos Eliseos No. 107, Polanco Tel.: +52 55 5395 6779*

Berlitz de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. *Eugenio sue 316, Tel.: +52 55 5531 8462*

Centro Integral de Traducción e Interpretación, S.A.de C.V. *Av. Chapultepec, 471, 302 - Juárez 06600 México; Tel.: +52 55 5211 4015*

Recursos Tecnicos Para Conferencias, S.C. *Eugenia 13-602; Tel.: +52 55 5543-5011; 5523 0459*

Courier/Messenger Services

TNT *Tel.: +52 55 524 29159*

DHL *Tel.: 525 345 7000*

FedEx *Toll free 01-800-900-11-00*

UPS *Tel.: +52 55 5228-7900*

Internet Connection Place

All upper-range and most medium-priced hotels are equipped with dataports that allow guests to use laptop computers. Many hotels also offer business centers equipped with computers and Internet access. Outside hotels, cyber cafes are available including:

Javachat Internet café *Genova #44, Zona Rosa; Tel.: +52 55 5525 6853*

Cybercafe internet-station Mexico *Arquimedes 130 Loc.20; Tel.: +52 55 5280 6091*

Visas & Customs

Citizens of Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Japan, the U.K., and the U.S. do not need a visa for a stay up to 3 months. Citizens of the People's Republic of China must apply for a visa. Duty-free allowances are 400 cigarettes, 50 cigars, or 250g of tobacco; 3 liter of wine or spirits; a reasonable amount of perfume or eau de toilette, and; personal goods up to the value of US\$300.

Phone Information

The country code for Mexico is 52. The code for Mexico City code is 5 and dialed for all local calls.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Police, Fire, and Ambulance 080

Tourist Help Line +52 55 5250-0151

Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

For English-speaking international operators, dial 090. Toll-free numbers in Mexico start with 800. To reach them, you need to dial 01 followed by 800. For long distance calls within Mexico, you can use Ladatel phones, which are located in caseta de larga distancia, hotels, airports, railway and bus stations, and on major streets. Casetas are more expensive than pay phones, but you will have a better chance of successful connection. Long distance access prefixes are:

- * Direct National Long Distance (01 + area code + number)
- * National Long Distance with an operator service (02 + area code + number)
- * Direct Long Distance to North America (001 + area code + number)
- * Direct International Long Distance (00 + country code+ area code + number)
- * International Long Distance with an operator service (09 + country code + area code + number)

Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

CDMA is the major digital standard; main carriers are Iusacell, Telefonica Movistar, and Pegaso. GSM is supported by Telcel. If you choose to bring your cellular phone into Mexico, be sure to check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service.

Money

The monetary unit of Mexico is the peso. Although there are large differences in value, one peso can be divided into 100 centavos. Common coins are one, five, ten and twenty pesos, while common paper denominations are 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 pesos. Foreign currency can be exchanged at banks, authorized exchange bureaus, and hotels. Purchases should be made in pesos. ATMs are readily available. Major cards are widely accepted.

Tippling

- * **Restaurants** 15 percent of bill
- * **Bars** A few pesos per drink
- * **Airport Skycap/Porter** 5 to 10 pesos per bag
- * **Hotel Bell Desk** 10 to 20 pesos
- * **Hotel Housekeeping** 5 to 10 pesos per day and is optional
- * **Hotel Room Service** 10 to 15 percent of bill, depending on the hotel category and quality of service
- * **Taxis** Tips are not expected, but a token peso or two for kind service is a nice gesture. If you receive help with your bags 5 to 10 pesos
- * **Parking Attendant/Valet** 5 to 10 pesos
- * **Haircare/Personal Services** 10 percent of the total bill

Time Difference

The time zone for Mexico City is Central Standard Time, which is Greenwich Mean Time minus six hours. Mexico observes daylight-saving time the first Sunday in April through the first Sunday in October.





Mexico City - City Business Guide

brought to you by SkyTeam

VAT & Taxes

Mexico has 15% (10% in Quintana Roo, Baja California, and Baja California Sur) VAT or I.V.A. (*impuesto de valor agregado*).

Voltage

Mexico runs on the 110V, 60Hz system. Many Mexican outlets only accommodate two-prong outlets.

Local Transportation

A rental car is unnecessary. Taxis are relatively cheap and quick. You should use a designated taxi stand (*sitio*) or the *tourismo* taxis queued in front of hotels. Hotel taxis are more expensive, but are safer and offer better service. Rates go up about 20 percent after 10pm. *Paseros* (minibuses) have regular runs along the routes such as Paseo de la Reforma that most visitors need.

The clean, well-equipped subway system is clearly the most economic way to get around. Maps and stops are clearly marked, but beware that some transfer points entail a bit of walking. Stations and trains can be very crowded. Baggage larger than a shopping or shoulder bag isn't allowed or recommended.

In México City to avoid pollution we have the "One Day Without a Car" Program, and that depending on last digit on the licence plate cars are not able to circulate one day a week, for consulting the correspondance between the licence plate number and the day it cant circulate please call at +52 55 5658-1111

Health Info

Immunizations are normally recommended against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, typhoid, and hepatitis A for travelers. If you are traveling from an area known to be infected with yellow fever, a vaccination certificate is required. Drink only bottled water or water that has been boiled for 20 minutes. Beware of ice cubes that may not have been made with purified water. Vegetables and fruits should be peeled or washed in a purifying solution. A good rule to follow is if you can't peel it or cook it, do not eat it. Diarrhea may benefit from antimicrobial treatment which may be prescribed or purchased over the counter. Malaria is found in some rural areas of Mexico, particularly those near the southwest coast.

Climate

Mexico City has a temperate climate throughout the year, largely resulting from its high elevation (7,328 feet). Average daily highs range from 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (21 to 26 C), while lows fall in the range of 45 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit (7 to 18 C). Nights are cooler from November through March. Mexico City's warmest season lasts from April to October. Rainfall is frequent from May through September.

Public Holidays

- * **New Year's Day** January 1
- * **Constitution Day** February 5
- * **Anniversary of Benito Juarez's Birth** March 21
- * **Good Friday** Friday before Easter
- * **Easter** Sunday in mid-March or early April
- * **Labor Day** May 1
- * **Puebla Battle Day** May 5
- * **President's State of the Nation Address** september 1st
- * **Independence Day** September 16
- * **Dia de la Raza** October 12
- * **All Saints' Day** November 1
- * **Day of the Dead** November 2
- * **Anniversary of the Mexican Revolution of 1910** November 20
- * **Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe** December 12
- * **Christmas** December 25

Where to Eat

An upscale dining choice is **El Faro**, which specializes in Northern Spanish dishes. For a contemporary take on Mexican, try **La Chimenea**. Modeled after the Los Angeles institution, **Spago** features posh Italian cuisine. **La Fonda del Recuerdo** offers a menu of traditional Mexican dishes with an emphasis on fresh seafood from Vera Cruz. **Champs Elysées**, one of the capital's finer French restaurants, has been reliably feeding the Mexico City elite for almost forty years. In a colonial courtyard, **Bolivar 12** serves predominantly Mexican dishes, especially grilled meats and seafood. For a jacket-and-tie dinner, try **Los Irabien**, a gorgeous restaurant bedecked in fine art whose menu features highly imaginative twists on traditional Mexican dishes.

Local Gift Ideas

Favorite gifts are local handicrafts. Some specialties of this area are silver and copper objects, pottery, figurines, glassware and textiles. Exquisite examples of artisans' wares can be found in the Bazar Sabado, while the Mercado la Ciudadela and Dolores in the Centro Historico also have good selections at more affordable prices. FONART, one of Mexico's government-funded outlets, is worth a browse.

Leisure Time

A vision of the Virgin Mary is one of the main draws of Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, while the Metropolitan Cathedral is simply stunning. An extensive collection of indigenous cultural artifacts, dating from ancient to modern times, is on display at the regal Museo Nacional de Antropología. The Museo Rufino Tamayo features works by the artist it's named after as well as by other international and Mexican painters such as Picasso and de Chirico. A visit to the majestic marble Palacio de Bellas Artes is worthwhile not just to view a performance by the Ballet Folklórico but also to see the giant murals by Rivera, Rufino Tamayo, Siquieros and J. Clemente Orozco. Mexico Philharmonic is another of the city's renowned performing arts troupes. A charming colonial-style district that is pleasant to stroll through is the Floating Gardens at Xochimilco. In addition to the area's famous flower markets, many quaint shops and cafés are located here. The Chapultepec Forest is the site of a Castle, Zoo and the National History Museum. Discovered right below the city's historic center is Templo Mayor, an archaeological site that visitors can access. Only 45 minutes from the city are the legendary ruins of Teotihuacan, including the Sun and Moon pyramids.

