

# Before You Visit Mexico: 5 Things You Need to Know Checklist



We created this list to streamline your process of visiting Mexico.



## All foreign citizens entering Mexico **must have a valid passport.**



State-issued “enhanced” driver’s licenses are not recognized by Mexico. Here is what is accepted in Mexico and at re-entry into the United States:



A [Passport Card or Passport Book](#)



Before you depart for Mexico, consider enrolling in the U.S. State Department’s [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)



## All foreign citizens traveling to Mexico must fill out an Official Entry Immigration Form (FMM) when traveling beyond 20 km into the interior of Mexico from the United States.



You can fill out the form at Mexican Immigration offices and checkpoints located in border communities. [FAQ about the FMM.](#)

[www](#)

Alternatively you can fill one out [prior to travel online here.](#)



If you are bringing a U.S. vehicle into Mexico and traveling beyond “free zones,” you must register your vehicle under a [Temporary Vehicle Importation Permit \(TIP\)](#) and leave a refundable deposit with Mexican authorities. You will also want to secure Mexican auto insurance for your vehicle.



## Personal possession of firearms and ammunition in Mexico is forbidden.



[Do not enter Mexico with either of these items.](#)



## You may cross into Mexico and cross back into the United States with as much money as you desire.



However, [amounts in excess of \\$10,000 must be reported to U.S. Customs & Border Patrol.](#)



## When entering Mexico by vehicle, foot, ship or plane, you may be stopped by the Mexican government’s customs and treasury agency, known as SAT.



Typically this occurs if you have the luck to encounter a red instead of green light at the customs checkpoint after crossing the international line into the country.



If you receive a red light, you must stop for an inspection of your vehicle and luggage by SAT and/or Mexico’s National Guard.



If you are bringing goods into Mexico, [their value may not exceed \\$3,000 \(\\$4,000 for computer equipment\).](#)

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