



Hello Everyone,

In this report, I answer some of the commonly asked questions I receive via email. As an added treat, I've included more of my own pictures, a crash course on Mexico's legislative system, and important passport information...

Hope the preparations for those of you already moving to Mexico is going really well.

Hi Barbie: If I want to go and spend a month in Mexico to test the waters so to speak, do you have any information on that? I'd be a female, traveling alone - would it be safe? Thx  
Edna

Hi Edna,  
Sure - just be careful. Are you extremely careful in New York City, in San Francisco, California, in Small Town, USA? We are. You might actually enjoy it even more if you could talk a friend into going with you!

Get all the information you can before you go. Know what to expect. I've receive may email from single gals, and they have been just fine - but, know where you're going - know what to do. Don't be foolish.

I just got an email from someone who "had a friend" who was in one of the larger cities in Mexico, and were at a bar and decided to walk to their hotel at 3 a.m. Excuse me, but that was stupid!...anyplace!!!

So, the police pulled them over - fined "or robbed" them of the cash they had on them - \$55. I'm thinking they were probably stumbling along and were lucky something worse didn't happen to them.

Anyway... I'll get off my pulpit and just say - be careful, enjoy yourself - and research, research, research before you go.

Best to you,  
Barbie



*Another of the beautiful monuments you can view along Mazatlan's Malecon.*

**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2006 6:15 AM  
**To:** barbie@retireinluxury.com  
**Subject:** Re: Hi, Peggy. Barbie here again.

Thank you Barbie.

I am doing fine but sure am missing Mexico - we just returned from our second trip to Cancun! We're looking at retiring in 5 years.

Just don't know when and where and how to invest or thinking if we should rent first in Mexico to see how we fare. That's why I'm doing research now.

Your articles are very helpful and you are so kind to write to me. Thanks again!

Hi Peggy,

Mazatlan was our choice.

Yes - renting even for a short while will give you a good idea of the area. But remember, when you go, go not as a tourist. Shop where the locals shop - eat where the locals eat. And most importantly, research, research.

Best to you,  
Barbie

I've had several email lately wondering about Mexico's government. So, here's a quick lesson on civics of Mexico - at least my understanding of it:

Mexico is a federal democratic republic, and is divided into 31 states plus the Federal District, which is the seat of government. (Corresponds to our District of Columbia)

The Mexican Constitution is the basic, supreme set of laws on which the country's overall organization is based. (Again, corresponds to the United States, or any other democracy.) The constitution governs the people of Mexico. The people of Mexico are holders of national sovereignty.

The executive branch of power is headed by the President of the Republic, who is elected through universal, secret vote for a term of six years. By law, there is no possibility of re-election.

The legislative branch of power is exercised by a general congress, known as the Congress of the Union, which consists of a Chamber of Deputies and the Chamber of Senators. Both Chambers are responsible for drafting, adopting and issuing laws, and for supervising public accounts. (Pretty much like ours).

The Chamber of Deputies is made up of 400 representatives elected through universal suffrage for a term of three years: 300 are elected through relative majority, while the other 100 are elected on the basis of proportional representation, ensuring the participation of all registered political parties in the Chamber.

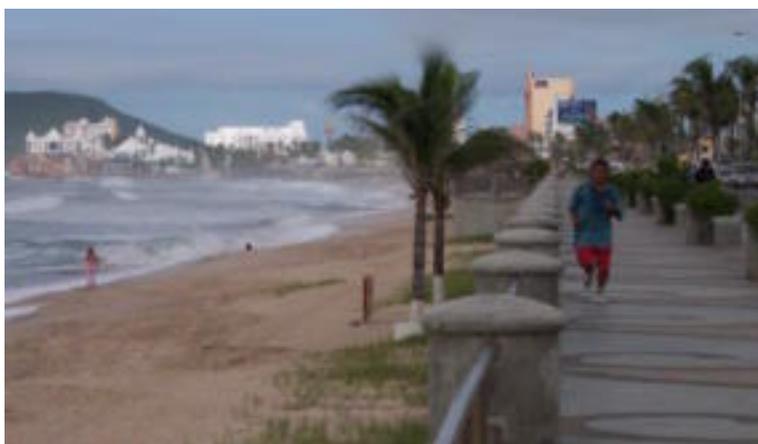
The Senate is made up of two representatives from each state and another two representing the Federal District. The administrative structure of the Judiciary branch of government is centered on the circuit system. There are 21 circuits with a total of 128 district courts.

The government is divided into three main branches: 1. Federal branch, which exercises power over the states, 2. State branch for when state matters are involved, and 3. Municipal branch, which oversees the political and administrative units that make up the states. The Constitution establishes the municipality as the basis of the territorial division and of the political and administrative organization of the states of the Republic.

A multi-party system forms the basis of democratic coexistence in Mexico. The main political parties are the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), the National Action Party (PAN) and the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). All registered political parties may nominate candidates for local and federal elections.



*A McDonald's in Mazatlan - very near Valentino's. Most of the menu you will be able to recognize.*



*A jogger on the Malecon, Mazatlan's waterfront street and the heart of life in Mazatlan. On the left you see Valentino's, located at the south end of the Golden Zone.*

**“Drug prices jumped 4% in first quarter of 2006”  
...AARP**

**“The increase was the largest jump since 2000.**

**Pharmaceutical companies use the excuse that the increases were in line with overall medical inflation – in other words – all medical costs are out of sight – and no one can or is trying to stop it.”**

## Requirements for a Passport

### Required Documents:

A) Single Women and Men 18 years and older  
Filled application.  
Birth Certificate (or certified copy) and two photocopies.  
I.D. with photo; original and two photocopies.  
Two passport photos, front view with no glasses.

B) Married Women  
Filled application.  
Birth Certificate (or certified copy) and two photocopies.  
Marriage Certificate (or certified copy) and two photocopies.  
If the marriage took place in the state of Texas, you must present the original marriage certificate with the apostille of the Secretary of State (Secretary of State, 1019 Brazos, B-31, Austin, Texas, 78701)  
I.D. with photo; original and two photocopies.  
Two passport photos, front view with no glasses.

C) Minors under 18  
Filled application.  
Birth Certificate (or certified copy) and two photocopies.  
I.D. with photo; original and two photocopies.  
Two passport photos, front view with no glasses.  
Both parents must accompany minors, each one carrying their I.D. and two photocopies.

D) Passport Renewal (with no observations or name change).  
Filled application.  
Two photocopies of pages 1 thru 5 of the previous passport.  
TWO passport pictures, front view with no glasses.  
Men under 18 years of age will have to be accompanied by both parents, each one carrying their I.D. & two photocopies.

Find out where to apply at <http://iafdb.travel.state.gov/>

**I do answer each and every email I receive! But, I have a problem you all can help me with.**

**Because of the number of email I receive, and then on top of that, the amount of junk email I receive, I worry that I may accidentally throw out an important question without ever seeing it.**

**So, I'm asking all of you who contact me with a question to *PLEASE* put on the subject line of your email:**

**"to Barbie at Retire In Luxury".**

**Thanks so much!**

### This is from a person living in Mexico:

"Mexican national health insurance through IMSS (the Social Security system here) can be purchased by foreign residents. Runs around \$300 or so per person per year. However, we're in good health, and prefer to pay out of pocket for private care if and when the need arises. Private care here is so affordable that paying as you go is a viable option, depending upon your risk tolerance and the depth of your resources."

Qualified physicians in Mexico charge as little as \$20.00 U.S. for an office visit.

## A Short Course Now, On Health Care In Mexico

The national health care program, IMSS:

1. Available in most major cities
2. Takes about 6 to 9 months for coverage to be activated after acceptance. Once accepted, you are a life member as long as premiums are paid.
3. At IMSS clinics you do not have a choice of physicians.

Available in Mexico:

1. Small clinics with general practitioner who is qualified to handle minor illnesses and injuries.
2. Small hospitals with surgeons, internists and pediatricians.
3. Large intensive-care facilities with various specialists.

The general requirements for joining the IMSS program are:

1. You will be asked to complete a questionnaire, with the assistance of a doctor.
2. Submit to a basic medical examination which includes checking your blood pressure and listening to your heart. Other tests may be requested.

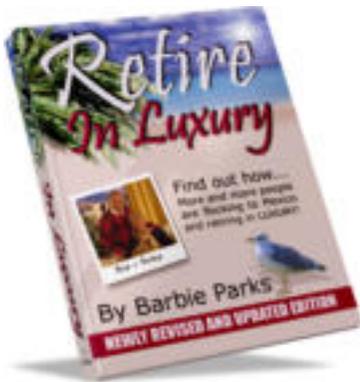
The cost of the health care coverage is approximately \$250.00 U.S. per year. You may apply only in January, February, July and August.

This program is open to all foreigners regardless of nationality and/or immigration status.



And, like I said, you will recognize most of the items at McDonald's.

This shows a breakfast - desayuno.



## Retire In Luxury

and

## Money Saving Mexico



**Each full of important information you'll be glad you have before you go to Mexico.**

**All you need to do is go to:**

**<http://www.retireinluxury.com>**

or

**<http://www.moneysavingmexico.com>**

**... and scroll down and place your order.**

*In just minutes you will be downloading all my information that will help you through the maze of questions toward a happy and successful retirement.*

*Save the files on your computer in a special folder so you can access them at your leisure.*

*It's easy to print the books off too, and put them in your retirement file.*

*Enjoy! Wishing the best of the good life to you and yours!*

*Barbie and Dick*

