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Mexico Special Report



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One evening, while sorting through the stacks of papers I had accumulated for months on retirement, and making additional notes, my youngest son stated:

“MOM, YOU SHOULD GET ALL THAT INFO INTO ONE PLACE...”

...“You’ve done so much research on retirement and for your trip to Mexico and you’ve gotten so much great information, why don’t you put it all down on paper so other folks won’t have to spend so much time doing the same thing.

HEART ATTACK IN THE AIR...

The decision to retire culminated the day we were flying home from a business trip to Reno, Nevada. Dick, my husband had his second heart attack, somewhere over Texas. Though it was very minor - “just a couple of little arteries closing off”, and there was no real damage to the heart muscle, that was enough for us to finally decide ...it was time to retire - NOW.

Dick had quad-bypass surgery ten years ago. But now he had the second attack - that was enough warnings! He just has to retire and get rid of the stress of his high pressure position - and retire.

We had talked about retirement for a few years now, since Dick had turned 62 in fact, but just never thought we could actually afford to take that giant step.

Now the die was cast - we were retiring - and going to enjoy the rest of our years in peace and relaxation ...ready or not.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



What to do - where to go - how to get started??? In one respect, we are very lucky, in that we have moved to several different communities during our 42-year marriage.

That basically meant that we had no really strong ties to any one specific area.

We have relatives in Ohio, and one son who lives in Boston, one son who lives here in Louisiana, and one son who has given us our two grandchildren, living in Prague, Czech Republic, at the moment, but he will soon be back to his home in Arizona.

We have friends scattered throughout the states due to our moving. We’ve had lots of wonderful experiences from living in varied and unique

locations and we have enjoyed and learned from, every different place we’ve lived.

We do love it here on the north-shore of the New Orleans area, but the cost of living is relatively high here - especially for a retiree.

So, the first thing that came to mind was to check out the cost of living in different locales.

All I can say is - thank goodness for computers and the Internet! I’ve enjoyed researching subjects for years. Guess it all started when our sons were in school. I remember typing (as I’m sure many of you do), late into the night, especially through college, getting those reports finished up for them.

Then came the advent of CPS’s. Wow! The whole world at your fingertips. More information than

you would ever really need to know! But, just how to find the specific information that is pertinent to your questions - that's the big trick!

After putting "cost of living" into the search for a few days and coming up with basically nothing of interest, I finally got a hit! In my book, *Retire In Luxury*, there is a very informative chart for you to browse through, plus our personal monthly expense chart that will be a basis for your own expense chart. Explicit details are in my book *Retire In Luxury*.

Mexico is a country and has states, much as the United States of American does. Can you name any of them? Do you have any idea where they are?

A valid, up-to-date passport ensures re-entry into the United States. It can also be helpful in cashing traveler's checks and in other transactions, as it serves as your photo I.D.

COMMENTS ON THE EXPENSE CHART

Utilities may be a little less. We'll check on that while we're down there, and question some of my email friends already living there.

Home Insurance, from what I understand is very reasonable, because most of the construction is cement, brick and stucco. Not exactly great fodder for fires.

Flood Insurance in southern Louisiana is just prudent. Wonder about in Mexico? Probably depends completely on the area we choose.

Life Insurance hopefully, the policies we carry will be paid up, so shouldn't have to pay much more on those.

Auto Insurance here in Louisiana is really steep. "Laissez les bonnes temps roulez". Thank goodness, public drunkenness in Mexico is not tolerated, so we're told.

AARP Health Insurance. We support many of AARP's ideas. Membership gives us some great discounts.

Internet Service Provider. Here, at first, we were worried. But, it seems the price will stay about the same. I'm used to broadband and fast Internet connections. Wonder if I can get that in Mexico?

Housing costs: We'll probably have to pay an association fee in Mexico...maybe.



Electricity in Mexico is 110 volts, same as it is in the U.S. You can use your hairdryer, and other appliances. But you may need an adapter because not all sockets in Mexican establishments have a ground. (That's the third prong on a plug.)

To: Barb
From: Elliott

Hi Elliott, yes you can live well for 2k a month. It is the initial shock of insurance and setting up cable, phone, food, rent, deposits, etc. It is nothing to spend 100 a day but now our rent, cable, Internet and more is paid thru Jan so we can get back to a stable budget.

Read many actual emails in my books, [Retire In Luxury](#) and [Money Saving Mexico](#)

RENT A POST OFFICE BOX

You will need an American address if you plan to live in Mexico.

This is accomplished by renting a mailbox from any of the many places that provide the service i.e. Mailboxes R Us.

This is a necessary step for many reasons. It will be your official U.S. address, first of all, which enables you to receive bills. Some companies, such as some satellite dish /television companies only bill to the United States. Their service is not allowed in some other countries.

So, if you buy their service, and then happen to move to Mexico with the little programmed box, your bill will still be sent to a proper U.S. address. You then have someone forward the mail to you or you can pick the mail up on an excursion back to the states, or have a friend who is making the trip pick your mail up.

THE GREEN ANGELS

Hopefully you will never need them, but on major highways throughout Mexico, the Green Angels roam the highways. They have green uniforms and green and white pickup trucks. Service is rendered free to you if you have had to pull over with vehicle trouble.

You must pay for any parts, gas, etc, but the service is free, and they do provide towing. To get their assistance, pull off the high way completely, and lift the hood. You can also call The Ministry of Tourism at 91 (800) 90-392.

There are emergency telephones (Movitel) every few miles, on most of the newer toll highways, in case of problems with your vehicle, too.

My opinion: You should strive to mainly drive only on the toll (cuota) highways in Mexico.



DRIVING RESTRICTIONS

Due to pollution, Mexico City and parts of the state restrict driving. Check your last digit on your license plate to find out when you are allowed to drive there. Even foreigners are required to follow these restrictions. There may be serious consequences if you do not adhere to the law.

PETROL

Unleaded gas is available throughout Mexico, but there is one small piece of equipment you may want to take with you!!!...

...my important tidbits in my book [Retire In Mexico](#) can mean success and an easy enjoyable trip, or being unprepared and perhaps stuck in Mexico.

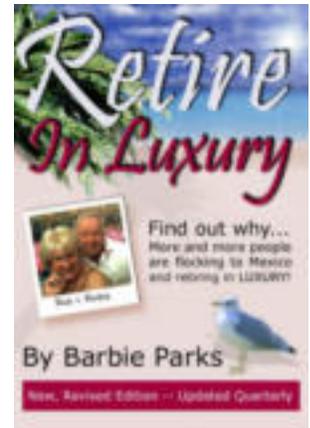


TAXES

After you have purchased a residence in Mexico, your property taxes on that property are due January 1, annually.

No bill is sent to you, you just go to the municipal office with your deed, your FM-

3, and pay what you owe - it will probably be a modest amount. My book [Retire In Luxury](#), tells just how to pay and how to get a discount!



CURRENCY EXCHANGE

You probably should always try to exchange your U.S. dollars for Pesos at a bank. Especially when you're not that

familiar with the going exchange rate. The banks will almost always give you the correct and best exchange rate.

Beware any guy on the corner though. He may offer you a whole stack of paper money that can look appealing, but may be worth 50 cents U.S.

You can also safely go to a casa de cambio, where you may or may not get a bit lower exchange rate than the bank is offering, but you may not have to stand in line so long. Just check the rates posted - there are many of these cambios and the rates vary day to day.

OUR PRECIOUS PETS

Contact your Veterinarian well in advance to make sure he has the forms for taking a pet out of the country. For pets taken into Mexico,

owners must present a signed certificate from your Vet stating the pet is in good health and listing their inoculations for rabies and distemper, dated not less than one month nor more than 12 months previous.



OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY IN THE COUNTRY OF MEXICO

From the first day that I started researching the possibility of us retiring to Mexico as U.S. citizens, I heard that foreigners can NOT own property in Mexico. Then, after leaning that was a misconception, I still heard "Yes, but you can't own near the coast". Wrong again. Ownership of land within 50 kilometers of the coast - formerly the "forbidden" zone, is made possible by consulting a reliable realtor or contractor, and having them lead you through the process of setting up a Bank-Trust - a Fideicomiso.

To acquire valid ownership rights, it is necessary to have your property title recorded. For citizens of the United States of America, the title will transfer to a Mexican bank, which acts as trustee of your interests.

The Baja peninsula lies within a Restricted Zone, and the Mexican government prohibits direct ownership of real property there by foreigners. So, you assume ownership through the Trust - the Fideicomiso. You have heard the story of how a lot of people lost their homes on the Baja - guess they didn't buy properly, and so the Mexican government enforced their law. Do everything properly - not only in Mexico - and life is always easier, more pleasant and more secure.

The Fideicomiso, established to protect your beneficial rights under guidelines provided by the Mexican government, is basically...and in my books [Retire In Luxury](#) and [Money Saving Mexico](#), this subject goes on to explain a lot of very important facts to enable you to legally own property in Mexico.

[Click here for Your Free Mexico Real Estate Report](#)

The capital of Mexico is Mexico City,
in the Distrito Federal.

1/4th of Mexico's approximate 107,000,000 population
live in the Mexico City Area.

Approximately 1/10 of the 107,000,000 population
now live in the United States.

THAT ALL IMPORTANT FM3 and OTHER FORMS

If you are going to be in Mexico for a longer period than 72 hours, you need to get a Tourist Card - FM-Tourista. Good for a 90-day stay with the option of renewing an additional 90 days.

You can obtain an FM-3 and other forms by... and I go into exact details in my book, *Retire In Luxury*, just what you need to do...

It's easy when you know how!

*From: Sam
To: Barb*

Re: car insurance

Don't forget to buy your Mexican car insurance because your U.S. Insurance is not valid in Mexico. We have a local agent here in Mazatlan, Jorge Maximum, who takes good care of us. You can reach him via e-mail at xxxxxxx@goodinsuranceagency.com. He probably won't be the cheapest but he will sell you a policy that won't be canceled if you have an accident...The insurance which many border insurance companies sell. And is placed with a reputable insurance company. He placed ours with xxxxx a subsidiary of xxx. We had originally bought car insurance over the Internet from Someplaceontheinternet Agency and was supposedly insured by xxxxx - the Mexican authorities took over control of the company because of their unstable financial situation but xxxxx never notified their policyholders that their insurance was no longer valid. The way that I found out about the situation was a posting on an Internet forum. Buenas suerte.

TEMPORARY VEHICLE IMPORTATION PERMIT

You will need a temporary vehicle importation permit for your car when you drive into Mexico. This basically gives you permission to take the auto into Mexico as long as you take it back out before the permit expires. Learn how easy this is accomplished in my book, *Retire In Luxury*.



At the time Dick and I were preparing for our exploratory trip to make sure we would be happy retiring in Mexico, AAA was sort of a one-stop shopping place for us. At that time, they offered auto coverage for travel in Mexico. Shortly after that, the Mexican government put stipulations on auto insurance, so there is no longer such an insurance offering through AAA.

Though it was then available, we decided against AAA's insurance, for different reasons.

However...the one-year coverage we did finally decide upon was just a bit more than we were paying for U.S. auto insurance for one month!

YES VIRGINIA --

There really are SAM's Clubs and
Walmarts in Mexico!
They both have locations in Mazatlan!

! AND THIS IS WHAT REALLY SOLD US ON MEXICO... !

From: Bill

To: Barbie

We're doing it on \$1,500 per month and just qualified for a new mortgage!!



NOW WE'RE CONFIDENT ENOUGH TO HIT THE ROAD AND ENTER MEXICO AT NOGALES...

...and head to Mazatlan, which is approximately 630 miles south of the border of Nogales, Arizona, on Mexico route 15.

1. At Nogales, simply follow the signs to the border.
2. At the border, staffed with guards, your car triggers either a red or green light.
 - A. If you're lucky the light will flash green and you simply continue through.
 - B. If the red flashes, you stop and you may be questioned and possibly searched as well as your car.
3. Then, about 17 miles into Mexico, there is another checkpoint. Here, expect to spend maybe an hour.
 - A. There are four numbered stations at this point.
 - a. Station #1 is where you will fill out a tourist visa or what ever visa is appropriate for your circumstances, and present your passport or... my book, [Retire In Luxury](#), tells In exact step by step details of what to expect.

HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED WHAT I SELECTED TO INCLUDE IN THIS INFO-BROCHURE.

Some of the other topics I cover in my books, [Retire In Luxury](#) and [Money Saving Mexico](#) are:

Spanish words that you will find are indispensable

Manners and customs

How's the water down there?

Can you receive Social Security in Mexico - and how.

The Internet availability in Mexico

One car for BOTH of us?

How you can easily keep in touch with your family in the U.S.

Actual grocery prices

How to get your finances in order

Dragons in the closet

Medical and Dental care in Mexico

Medical evacuation insurance

Airport pickup and car rental

Information on utilities

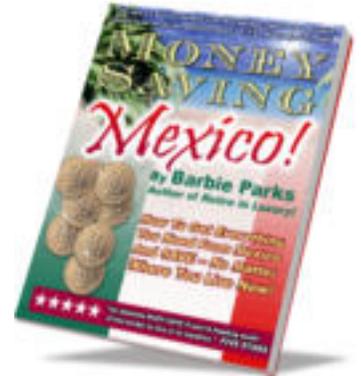
Essential conversion charts

Who do I contact for information on available properties in Mexico?

and so much more, including a diary on our personal experiences in Mexico, including costs.



[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

