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WELCOME GUIDE TO MEXICO

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LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME

- Mexico City is one of the largest and most densely populated cities in the world.
- It is located in the Valley of Mexico (Valle de México), a large valley in the high plateaus at the center of Mexico, at an altitude of 2,240 metres (7,350 ft).
- The Mexico City metropolitan area population is around 22 million people, and it has a lot of traffic, therefore location is of the utmost importance.
- When looking for a place to live, you should make sure that your new home is located as close as possible to your workplace and/or your children's school(s).
- There are many schools, including international schools, from where you can choose.
- You have to apply in advance to guarantee a place.

My experience

- We are Peruvian and a family of 5.
- Me and my husband, and three kids.
- Two of them studying in the University, the youngest finishing high school.
- Our language is Spanish, so it helps us adjusting to the country, although the slang is different.
- We liked it here very much.

Employment opportunities for spouses

- For the dependents of staff members of international organizations who wish to work, there is an instruction memo from the Foreign Ministry to the migration of office (Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM), called Circular de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (in Spanish only).
- You can find more information regarding work permits on the following websites.-
- <http://www.gob.mx/tramites/ficha/obtencion-de-permisode-trabajo-para-extranjeros-residentes-temporales-enmexico/INM795> -
http://www.sat.gob.mx/informacion_fiscal/obligaciones_fiscales/personas_fisicas/info_gral/Paginas/inscripcion_en_el_rfc.aspx

HEALTH

- It is not recommended to drink the water from the tap in Mexico, but rather to get purified water. Another option is to buy a water filter for your tap. It is also recommended to wash fruit and vegetables well to prevent diseases.
- Pollution can be very heavy in CDMX and may have various effects on the eyes, lips, lungs, etc. A lot of people use air filters in their houses. It is also recommended to stay abreast of changes in air quality in your area. Some apps you can use to check air quality levels are: - Aire Mexico - Air Bubbles - Breezo Meter.

SAFETY

Once you have arrived in Mexico, I would highly recommend attending the security and family safety induction organized by UNDSS. This will allow you to get to know the risks you may be exposed to and/or how to act when faced with possible security issues, both inside and outside your home. After the induction, you can get an official United Nations badge. One thing they mentioned us upon arrival is to never take taxis from the street, only taxis from secured companies (Uber or taxi de sitio).

Also, there are some safety issues regarding violence and delinquency that you have to be aware of.

Mexico City is a seismic zone, so you should look into a house/building where it is appropriate to live. Also, it is advised not to live in a house which door goes directly to the street, but an apartment or a home in a condominium would be fine.

LIVING IN CDMX

- Mexico City is a metropolis that has a wide offer of activities. There is an infinite number of tourist attractions, from museums to handicraft shops and typical food.
- Places you must not miss are: - Zócalo (central square) - La Ciudadela handicrafts market - Palacio de Bellas Artes (fine arts museum) - Museo de Antropología (anthropology museum) - Museo Soumaya - Tours on Turibus - Chapultepec Castle with national history museum - Coyoacán - San Ángel - Xochimilco, among others.

Special Holiday in Mexico

The **Day of the Dead** is a [Mexican](#) holiday celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions, and by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died, and helping support their spiritual journey. In Mexican culture, death is viewed as a natural part of the human cycle. Mexicans view it not as a day of sadness, but as a day of celebration because their loved ones awaken and celebrate with them. You can watch the movie “Coco” to learn more about Mexican Traditions.

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Associations and Expat Clubs

- Mexicans Diplomats Association (Asociacion de Diplomáticos de Mexico (ACD) organizes social, cultural and charity activities. Email: acdinmexico@gmail.com. Please also see the the ACD Mexico page on FaceBook.
- There is also an organization from spouses of the UN, who organize some events and has a chat, where you can get information of events.
- For French-speakers, México Accueil organizes a lot of cultural and charity activities. To become a member, you need to pay an annual membership fee.

MEXICO WITH CHILDREN

- CDMX has a lot to offer for children. The main attractions are: - Museo Papalote - Kidzania - Acuario Inbursa - Six Flags - Granja de las Américas - African Safari (Puebla) - La Feria (amusement park) - Parque Xochitla - Zoológico de Chapultepec (zoo) - Desierto de los Leones - Paseo de la Reforma (this main street closes to traffic on Sunday to facilitate walking, running, cycling, skateboarding etc.) - Restaurants with children's facilities: have a look at www.winterland.mx - Activities with children: www.plans4kids.com - <https://www.timeoutmexico.mx/ciudad-demexico/ninyos/ludotecas-para-ninos>

MEXICO IN COVID-19

- COVID-19 risk in Mexico is high at the moment.
- If you get sick in Mexico and need medical care, resources may be limited.
- We are doing a non-mandatory self isolation in our home.
- We try to avoid close contact by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) away from anyone who is not from our household.
- We also wear a mask to keep our nose and mouth covered when in public settings, and glasses or something to protect our eyes.

States designated red under Covid-19

- It is highly recommended that you get in touch with your security official regarding safety precautions in general and Covid in particular.
- There is a traffic light system including red, orange, yellow and green.
- Under red, only essential activities are allowed. Essential activities include: the provision of medical services and supplies, grocery delivery services, operation of grocery stores, restaurant delivery and carryout services, assurance of public safety, maintenance of fundamental economic functions and government social programs, work in critical infrastructure, construction, and manufacturing of transportation equipment.
- This situation is changing by the day, and even though restaurants may be open, precautions have to be taken.

States designated orange under Covid-19

- Under orange, hotels, restaurants, barber shops, open-air parks, and gyms are limited to 50 percent capacity.
- Markets and supermarkets will operate at 75 percent capacity.
- Additionally, shopping malls, churches, cinemas, theaters, museums, and cultural events will be limited to 25 percent capacity.
- If you were to decide travelling inside Mexico, it is highly recommended to contact your security official, as some regions of Mexico have severe security issues, and others are categorized as red for Covid.

Thanks,
Yudith

