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COUNTRY/ AREA STUDY BRIEFING Mexico

Date: 09 July 2019

Ref#: 2019-042

COUNTRY RISK/ THREAT LEVEL: 4 (Civil Unrest; Kidnapping; Drug Cartel Disputes and Violence; Gang Violence; Police Corruption)																																		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left; color: red;">RISK/ THREAT ANALYSIS</th> </tr> <tr> <td>POLITICAL UNREST</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: red;">HIGH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ECONOMIC UNREST</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: orange;">MODERATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CIVIL UNREST</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: orange;">MODERATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TERRORISM- (Cartel)</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: red;">HIGH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SABOTAGE</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: orange;">MODERATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VIOLENT CRIME</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: orange;">MODERATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PETTY CRIME</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: orange;">MODERATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NATURAL DISASTERS</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: blue;">LOW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OVERALL THREAT</td> <td style="text-align: center; color: orange;">MODERATE</td> </tr> </table>	RISK/ THREAT ANALYSIS		POLITICAL UNREST	HIGH	ECONOMIC UNREST	MODERATE	CIVIL UNREST	MODERATE	TERRORISM- (Cartel)	HIGH	SABOTAGE	MODERATE	VIOLENT CRIME	MODERATE	PETTY CRIME	MODERATE	NATURAL DISASTERS	LOW	OVERALL THREAT	MODERATE	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">CALLING CODE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>COUNTRY CALLING CODE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">+52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EMERGENCY LINE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">911</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">CURRENCY RATE</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1 US DOLLAR (USD)=</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19.19 MEXICAN PESO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 MEXICAN PESO (MXN)=</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.052 US DOLLAR</td> </tr> </table>	CALLING CODE		COUNTRY CALLING CODE	+52	EMERGENCY LINE	911	CURRENCY RATE		1 US DOLLAR (USD)=	19.19 MEXICAN PESO	1 MEXICAN PESO (MXN)=	0.052 US DOLLAR
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SUMMARY COUNTRY EXECUTIVE

Mexico is the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world and the second most-populous country in Latin America after Portuguese-speaking Brazil. Highly developed cultures, including the Olmec, Maya, Toltec, and Aztec, existed long before Spain conquered Mexico in 1521. Mexico was a Spanish colony for 300 years until 1821 when it formally achieved independence.

For 70 years, Mexico's national government was dominated by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which won every presidential race until the July 2000 presidential election when Vicente Fox became the first president to come from the opposition. President Fox completed his term on Dec. 1, 2006, and he was succeeded by Felipe Calderon.

Mexico is endowed with substantial natural resources, and is a major oil producer and exporter. The Mexican economy is highly dependent on exports to the United States, which account for about 90 percent of its total exports. Mexico has undergone a profound economic transformation since the mid-1990s as a result of economic liberalization and its joining the North American Free Trade Agreement (a free trade bloc with the U.S. and Canada also known as NAFTA). There has been rapid and impressive progress in building a modern, diversified economy, improving infrastructure, and tackling poverty. Today, the country enjoys a more open economic and political system and is more integrated with the world economy.

Since 2010, Mexico has plagued by rampant violence and crime at the hands of narcotics traffickers and cartels, as well as drug gangs. The degree of criminality affecting broad swaths of Mexico has raised questions about the Mexican government's ability to adequately deal with rampaging drug gangs who have turned portions of the country into lawless enclaves. Indeed, in the first part of 2010 alone, more than 7,000 people have died in drug-related violence in Mexico, while approximately 25,000 people died in drug-related violence for the previous three and a half years, according to Mexico's Office of the Attorney General.

For his part, then-President Calderon interpreted the rising rate of bloodshed in the most favorable manner by saying it showed that the drug cartels were under pressure from his government's crackdown. To that end, he drew attention to the fact that in the same three and a half year period, thousands of troops had been deployed at key locations across the country, 75,000 weapons had been decommissioned, and 78,000 people had been detained on narcotics-associated operations. Nevertheless, President Calderon simultaneously warned that drug gangs and cartels are intent on imposing their own authority in pockets across Mexico. Not surprisingly, anxiety was on the rise as Mexicans worried about the "Colombianization" of the ongoing drug war in their own country.

The election of President Enrique Pena Nieto in 2012 has not significantly influenced the general climate of lawlessness and turmoil that Mexico has grappled with in recent times as a result of narcotics gangs. Indeed, the case of more than 40 missing students at the hands of drug gangs in late 2014 was a reminder of the continued plague of narcotics-centered terrorism in Mexico.

In 2015, irrespective of President Pena Nieto's failure to deal with the gruesome violence plaguing the country at the hands of narcotics traffickers, his ruling party, the PRI, claimed victory in parliamentary elections.

Mexicans elected leftist candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the MORENA party and the Together We Will Make History coalition as the 58th President of Mexico on July 1, 2018. He garnered over 40% of the overall vote and defeated center-right candidate Ricardo Anaya of the PAN party and the big tent For Mexico to the Front coalition, who obtained 27.6% of the overall vote. José Antonio Meade of the business-friendly Populist Party PRI and Everyone for Mexico coalition came in third with 18.3% of the vote. Jaime Rodríguez Calderón ran as an independent and came in fourth place with 5.2%. Obrador's Together We Will Make History coalition has been projected to capture the majority of the seats in the Mexican Congress, which means one party will control both the presidency and the bicameral legislature for the first time in 21 years.

SUMMARY COUNTRY EXECUTIVE- Continued

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) has enough seats in both houses of Congress to approve legislation. AMLO favors the reversal of his predecessors' pro-business policies. He has eliminated the Mexican pro-investment agency ProMexico, suspended oil, and electricity bidding rounds, and cancelled the USD13 billion Mexico City Airport project. He has also eliminated a special economic zones project, undermined regulatory agencies, called for the voluntary renegotiation of electricity contracts, and cancelled a gold project in Baja California Sur, among others. The 7 June migration control deal with the US prevented the imposition of US tariffs on Mexico. The Mexican economy would have significantly suffered if such tariffs were implemented as the US purchases about 82% of Mexico's total exports. Mexico has committed to deploying 6,000 National Guard to prevent migration flows entering the US through its territory and to temporarily accept asylum seekers who cross into the US and are returned to Mexico. The number of US apprehensions at the border, however, has risen in 2019 reaching a six-year high (144,278), in May 2019. Should such numbers continue rising, the probability of the US threat of imposing tariffs re-emerging will increase. In first-quarter 2019, Mexico's GDP fell 0.2% from October to December 2018. Mexican industry is now in a technical recession and the service sector declined for the first time since third-quarter 2017. IHS Market has revised its GDP growth forecast down further as first-quarter results were poor and the new administration continues to send negative signals to businesses, hurting investment. Our latest forecast calls for Mexico's GDP to grow 1.2% in 2019. AMLO is likely to struggle to contain existent drug-related turf wars. The fragmentation of drug cartels is increasing homicide risks beyond traditional hotspots such as Guerrero, Michoacán, and Tamaulipas to states such as Guanajuato, Puebla, and Veracruz. Cargo theft and extortion risks will likely increase in 2019.

Mexico remains a high-risk country for political violence. The country retains a civil commotion peril due to frequent, large-scale protests countrywide. Some of these have also involved violence and looting and suspected anarchists have also committed acts of malicious damage along the marching routes. It has been recorded broadly the same number of anarchist terrorist attacks against commercial property compared to 2015. These have occurred in major cities, including in the capital. The terrorism and sabotage peril therefore remains for 2019.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Operational Outlook

Companies that operate in Mexico are likely to face operational challenges when dealing with state and municipal governments. These range from barriers in obtaining environmental and land-related permits to corruption. Firms also face non-payment risks when dealing with financially troubled states. Authorities estimate there are a total of 2,873 rules, procedures, and regulations that private companies need to follow to operate in Mexico, with local business groups openly calling for a reduction in the regulatory burden.

Terrorism

Drug cartels are likely to target public and security force installations, local politicians, or members of the security forces with firearms in violent hotspots such as Guerrero, Michoacán, and Tamaulipas state. The intensity of conflict between security forces and the cartels, as well as turf wars between different organized crime groups, varies by region and often shifts geographically. The strengthening of the New Generation Cartel in Jalisco increases the risk of drug-related violence rising there, as well as in Colima, Guanajuato, and Veracruz states. Extortion risks are also rising as cartels seek to diversify their revenue streams.

Crime

The presence of drug cartels and related gangs brings risk of crime throughout the country, though the threat is particularly pronounced in states such as Guanajuato, Guerrero, Puebla, Tamaulipas, Michoacán, and Veracruz. Extortion and kidnapping risks have increased as drug cartels have fractured, encouraging small criminal groups to look for new sources of illicit income. The primary risks in the capital, Mexico City, are petty crime and express kidnappings. Robbery risks also persist, with several recent reports of thieves targeting upmarket restaurants in the Condesa district in order to steal all their customers' valuables.

Social Stability

Protests are increasingly likely to affect private companies and supply chains. The profile of groups driving demonstrations varies by location, but includes trade unions, local communities, teachers, and public-sector workers. They generally demonstrate by blocking highways, disrupting cargo, and blockading commercial sites and airports. Looting incidences, particularly targeting department stores, are rising nationwide, particularly following natural disasters or major anti-government protests. Mining and onshore hydrocarbon projects face community unrest and social investment demands, as well as surface rights' negotiations with rural landowners. Local communities at times disrupt projects when environmental disputes arise.

Health

Vaccines required to enter the country

No vaccinations are required to enter the country.

Vaccines recommended for all travelers

Routine vaccinations: Consult your doctor to ensure all routine vaccinations - such as for diphtheria, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, influenza, measles, mumps, pertussis, rubella, varicella, etc. - are up to date (include booster shots if necessary).

Vaccines recommended for most travelers

Hepatitis A: The vaccine is given in two doses, six months apart, and is nearly 100 percent effective. The WHO recommends the vaccine be integrated into national routine immunization schedules for children aged one year or older.

Typhoid fever: The typhoid fever vaccine can be administered via injection (administered in one dose) or orally (four doses). The vaccine is only 50-80 percent effective, so travelers to areas with a risk of exposure to typhoid fever, a bacterial disease, should also take hygienic precautions (e.g. drink only bottled water, avoid undercooked foods, wash hands regularly, etc.). Children can be given the shot beginning at two years of age (six for the oral vaccine).

Vaccines recommended for some travelers

Hepatitis B: The WHO recommends that all infants receive their first dose of vaccine as soon as possible after birth, preferably within 24 hours. The birth dose should be followed by two or three doses to complete the primary series. Routine booster doses are not routinely recommended for any age group.

Rabies: The rabies vaccination is typically only recommended for travel to remote areas and if the traveler will be at high risk of exposure (e.g. undertaking activities that will bring them into contact with dogs, cats, bats, or other mammals). The vaccination is administered in three doses over a three-to-four week period. Post exposure prophylaxis is also available and should be administered as soon as possible following contact with an animal suspected of being infected (e.g. bites and scratches).

Malaria: There is currently no malaria vaccine. However, various antimalarial prophylactics are available by prescription and can reduce risk of infection by up to 90 percent. Different medications are prescribed depending on the risk level and the strains of the virus present in the destination. Antimalarial tablets need to be taken throughout the trip to be effective and may need to be taken for as long as four weeks following the trip.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION- Continued

Natural Risks

Mexico's hurricane season on the Pacific (west) coast extends from May 15 to November 30 and on the Atlantic/Caribbean (east) coast from June 1 to November 30; the largest concentration of storms typically occurs between August and October. Hurricanes have the potential to cause major damage and loss of life, as well as travel disruptions, particularly in Mexico's coastal states. In August 2016, Tropical Storm Earl and its remnants resulted in flooding and landslides in central and southeastern Mexico, leaving more than 50 people dead. Several storms struck the country in 2017, although none resulted in catastrophic material damages or a significant number of casualties. Regularly updated information regarding all tropical storms is available at the website of the US-based [National Hurricane Center](#). If a storm is forecast, follow all instructions issued by local authorities, in particular evacuation orders. Distance yourself from natural bodies of water and mountainous areas as much as possible as a precaution against floods and landslides.

More generally, flooding and landslides are common following heavy rains, including within Mexico City. Be aware that the risk of contracting water- and mosquito-borne diseases tends to rise after periods of heavy rains.

Additionally, the south and west of Mexico is located in an active seismic zone. Two powerful earthquakes struck the country in September 2017. An 8.2-magnitude earthquake struck off the southwestern coast in September 2017, causing deaths and major destruction in the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. This was followed less than two weeks later by a 7.1-magnitude earthquake that struck Mexico City and nearby states (epicenter in Puebla). In total, the earthquakes destroyed some 60,000 buildings, damaged more than 100,000 others, and left nearly 500 dead. These were the most devastating to hit the country since 1985 when an 8.0-magnitude earthquake rocked the capital region, leaving some 10,000 people dead and billions of dollars in damages.

Tsunamis are possible along the Pacific coast in the event of an offshore earthquake.

Mexico is also home to 16 active volcanoes, notably Colima/Volcán de Fuego (485 km [300 mi] west of Mexico City) and Popocatepetl (60 km [40 mi] southeast of Mexico City). Volcanic activity at Popocatepetl sometimes disrupts flights at nearby Puebla International Airport (PBC) and ash can reach as far as Mexico City.

Transportation

Travelers should be aware that Mexico suffers from a high rate of traffic accidents; the country experiences over 16,000 traffic fatalities per year.

For security reasons, individuals should not hail taxis on the street but should instead order them in advance from a reputable (licensed) company or use a taxi stand. Public transit should be avoided in some areas due to high rates of crime (e.g. pickpocketing and armed robberies) reported on municipal and intercity buses; in Mexico City, the metro and metro bus services are generally considered safe, especially during the day.

Security conditions on highways can vary considerably from place to place. Highway banditry is not uncommon in areas lacking adequate national police or army presence. In general, national highways - particularly highways with tolls (cuotas) - are the safest choice for travelers. If attacked, obey all orders and never attempt to drive around a roadblock, which are frequently manned by highway bandits.

The following recommendations are applicable to all automobile journeys in the country:

Before getting in or out of a vehicle, take note of your surroundings. Always drive with doors locked, windows rolled up, and a sufficiently full gas tank. Leave room to maneuver between your car and the car ahead (particularly in traffic) to avoid becoming inadvertently or intentionally trapped (and thus vulnerable to criminals). Park in well-lit, secured areas whenever possible. Avoid making your car particularly recognizable (e.g. bumper stickers, etc.). Vary your hours, commute, etc., to avoid becoming a predictable target. If you believe you are being followed or threatened in some way, drive to a busy and/or secured area (not home).

Government and police checkpoints are common. As such, you should always carry your passport, visa/residency card (if applicable), the original copy of your Forma Migratoria Múltiple (FMM) - issued to foreign visitors upon entry into Mexico - and car registration/insurance documentation. If you approach a checkpoint, remain calm and follow all instructions. If you are detained, immediately ask to contact your embassy.

Keep in mind that police corruption is a major issue in Mexico. Never attempt to bribe an officer but be prepared to be propositioned. It is therefore advisable to travel with 1000 pesos (50 euros) in cash separated from the rest of your money for this reason. Similarly, traffic cops (tránsitos) are notorious in some areas for demanding excessive "fines" (mordidas), a type of extortion, from foreign drivers. Generally speaking, corruption is a more significant issue within municipal and state police forces, and less so within the army or the federal police.

Protests are common in Mexico and demonstrators commonly erect makeshift roadblocks to disrupt. As violence is relatively common, never attempt to cross a roadblock or drive around one without permission. A "toll" may be demanded. Due to high rates of air pollution, permanent driving restrictions are in place in the capital region. Cars that are nine to 15 years old are banned from the streets between 05:00 and 22:00 (local time) one day per week as well as two Saturdays per month. Cars older than 15 years are banned one day per week and all Saturdays. All cars with foreign license plates, no matter what their model year, are also banned from the roads between 05:00 and 11:00 one day per week and all Saturdays. There are no driving restrictions on Sundays and there are no restrictions for driving hybrid and electric vehicles, as well as domestically registered cars that are eight years old or newer. The "[Hoy No Circula](#)" schedule regarding driving restrictions for older and foreign cars, based on license plate numbers, is available online. Additional driving restrictions are regularly implemented during periods of high air pollution.

It should also be noted that Mexico City is notorious for road congestion. Traffic conditions have gotten progressively worse over the past decade and traffic can prove dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists; take care when crossing streets.

CITY BRIEFING

Cabos San Lucas, Mexico

CITY RISK/ THREAT LEVEL: 2
(Violent and Non-Violent Crime; Gang Activity; Kidnapping; Drugs, Robbery, Theft, Armed Robbery; Corruption; Bribery)



RISK/ THREAT ANALYSIS	
POLITICAL UNREST	LOW
ECONOMIC UNREST	LOW
CIVIL UNREST	LOW
TERRORISM	LOW
SABOTAGE	N/A
VIOLENT CRIME	HIGH
PETTY CRIME	MODERATE
NATURAL DISASTERS	LOW
OVERALL THREAT	MODERATE

CITY CALLING CODE	
CALLING CODE	+624
EMERGENCY LINE	911
CITY CULTURAL SUMMARY	
Nationality:	Mexican(s)
Ethnic Groups	
Mestizo	60%
Amerindian	30%
White	9%
Aboriginal	1%

CITY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Los Cabos, resort area centered on the towns of Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo, Baja California Sur state, Mexico, encompassing much of the S tip of the Baja California peninsula. The communities have developed rapidly since the late 20th century, with much of the development taking place in waterfront areas along the Pacific Coast and the Gulf of California. The area features rugged mountains, desert landscape, and salt water ideal for swimming, boating, and fishing.

Cabo San Lucas has, not unexpectedly, become one of México's most successful and most popular beach resorts. Cabo has been rated as one of Mexico's top 5 tourist destinations; is home to ten world class golf courses; it is known for its beaches, scuba diving and surfing locations, balnearios, the sea arch El Arco de Cabo San Lucas, and marine life. The Los Cabos Corridor has become a heavily trafficked holiday destination for tourists, with numerous resorts and timeshares along the coast between Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo.

Year-round average temperature of 78 degrees. It gets a little cooler in the winter and a bit warmer in the summer.

Quality restaurants are the rule in Cabo, rather than the exception. Restaurants of many cuisines, from small taco stand to tables in the sand on the beach, to elegant cliff side dining.

Nightlife- There are several first-class nightlife clubs in Cabo, including El Squid Roe, Cabo Wabo, Hard Rock Cafe, Pink Kitty and the Giggling Marlin and are usually next to quiet wine bars.

In the last 5 years, Cabo has had 5 hurricanes with most incurring very little damage. In 2014, there was 5 deaths recorded and are the only deaths in the past 5 years due to tropical storms/ hurricanes. Mexico's hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, but the country is at its highest risk of strong storms from August through October

The cartels and organized crime syndicates across the country operate according to hierarchy and territory. Those in charge govern over "plazas" or geographical areas, running "cells" who act as enforcers and engage in a variety of illegal activities. Cells operate lower level drug, arms, and human trafficking. Members also extort, kidnap, and murder possible opposition or family members of those involved in the drug trade. Recent figures released show that the first three months of 2019 have seen a 9.6 per cent increase in murders from the same period in 2018. The figures are particularly concerning as 2018 was the highest murder rate since Mexico began keeping records of homicides. It is of note that crimes are still widely believed to be under-reported by victims and their families. It is understood the increase of violent conflict is a result of the fracturing of cartels and disputes over drug-trafficking routes; such as those in Baja California, disputed by the Jalisco and Sinaloa cartels. The scale of conflict is significant as there could be as many as 100,000 members involved in the drug-trafficking industry, with profits from US exportations estimated at between \$19 billion and \$29 billion annually. The drug-trafficking business and the governmental corruption that has allowed it to exist are pervasive within the country; because of this many Mexican and foreign businesses have chosen to hire private security.

However, most individuals are not in direct danger of cartel-related violence. There is a risk of being caught in the crossfire or of becoming a victim of gang-related crimes such as theft, however targets of the main cartels are typically involved in the industry, or family members of someone known to the cartels. Individuals may be more at risk of petty crimes in specific areas, such as densely populated municipalities like Mexico City. The crime of express kidnapping appears to be on the increase; holding a person in order to extort money, often through the use of credit and debit cards at ATMs. Credit card "skimming" by bank or shop employees is also a threat. Individuals are advised to use bank branches during business hours and pay attention to any suspicious activity shown in bank statements. The use of inside ATMs is also recommended. Tourists are advised to conceal valuables and exercise caution when paying for items or withdrawing cash. Moped riders often target those carrying bags or mobile phones.

Despite experiencing significant security issues, largely due to the widespread cartel activity, Mexico received over 10.6 million tourists in the first quarter of 2018. Popular areas for visitors include Cancun, Mexico City, Oaxaca, and Los Cabos. Tourist areas and resorts are relatively safe for visitors, although travelers are discouraged from using street taxis and to stay close to resort areas where security is in operation.

Mexico has a 39% increase in kidnapping from last year at this time and 98% is criminal related, with 2% militant/ cartel related. 97% of the victims are local nationals with 3% being foreign nationals. Cabo San Lucas has had a slight increase, however they occur outside the resort areas.

Security risk is high in the upper Sur Peninsula and Moderate in the Lower Peninsula

LOCAL MEDIA

Cabo San Lucas produces a daily newspaper in English, The San Cabo Daily News. It can also be read online. <http://paper.li/cabosanlucasnet>

TRANSPORTATION- You don't need to rent a car in Los Cabos, taxis (most often sedans) are everywhere, but if you plan on spending a great deal of time traveling, you may want to compare taxi prices (which run high with a one-way trip from Cabo San Lucas to San José de Los Cabos costing around \$30 USD) with renting a car. However, if you plan on spending most of your time in one city – at the beach, a golf course, or a spa – there is not much need to worry about transport. Your hotel can help you arrange taxi transport or you grab a cab on the street.

Use toll roads when possible and avoid driving alone or at night. In many Mexican states, police presence and emergency services are extremely limited outside of the capital or major cities. This is not the case within Cabo San Lucas and all of Los Cabos

ROAD CONDITIONS- <http://www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/road-conditions/>

TRAFFIC- It is generally safer to drive during the day anywhere in the world because there is better visibility and drivers are usually more alert. When driving in Cabo San Lucas, you never know what obstacles you will find on the road. This can be potholes, speed bumps (topes) dead or live animals, rocks, and other drivers with no tail lights. If you really have to drive at night, do so very carefully and defensively.

Remember "060" when driving in Mexico. The Mexican government funds a fleet of trucks carrying crews that speak English that cruise the roads looking for tourists in need of road assistance. They are called the Los Angeles Verdes or Green Angels because the trucks are painted green. They carry tools and spare parts, and will come if you dial 060 and ask for assistance.

Keep to the beaten track when driving in Mexico alone. Although road bandits are few and far between, so are gasoline stations and any type of real help if you get in trouble on the road. When driving on your own, keep to the main roads that are in better condition.

Turn signal rules when driving in Mexico. A left turn signal does not always mean that the driver in front of you is going to turn left. It can mean you can pass; it can also mean the driver just forgot to turn it off. If you are not sure what to do, hang back a little and see what happens. Even if you think you are being invited to pass but are not sure, don't pass.

Shoulder etiquette when driving. A shoulder on the road when driving is not for just for breakdowns. If it is a two-lane road and there are two vehicles coming at you side-by-side, you have to go on the shoulder and let them pass.

Bribery, "Instant fines" (mordida or bribes) are an accepted thing while driving, but not all traffic cops are on the take. To be on the safe side, ask to see the chief if you are disputing the ticket. A cop on the take will back off at this request. You can also just accept the ticket; most traffic tickets can be paid state-side

Flashing lights means slow down when driving. When a driver going towards you flashes his or her lights at you, it can mean two things. One, that you should slow down because the road is narrow or there is a bridge and only one of you can pass. In this instance, the driver who first flashes lights will go first. The second thing it could mean is that there is some trouble up the road that the driver just passed, and is just warning you to be careful.

Have adequate Mexican insurance. Just in case something happens when driving, adequate Mexican insurance coverage will ensure that you will get over the situation as quickly and safely as possible. Not having enough or the right kind of insurance can mean a hefty payout or some time getting acquainted with a Mexican jail cell. When driving in Mexico, be prepared for the worst.

Kidnapping Threat

Kidnapping remains an underreported crime, and the Consulate estimates that there could be as many as three to four actual cases for each reported case. Virtual kidnapping – a telephonic extortion scam in which no one is physically detained – continues to be much more prevalent than traditional kidnappings.

Police Response

Throughout the region many enforcement officers on the municipal, state, and federal levels have been removed from their job for failing the vetting process known as the "control de confianza." The State Police in all states of the Consular district maintain a uniformed police, who serve in protective and crime prevention functions. Police are more responsive in cases of active threats or violent crime. Uniformed police are known as preventativos, and their purpose is to patrol and prevent crimes from occurring. In cases where businesses report specific concerns/threats, these uniformed forces are often deployed to protect the threatened interests. Each state maintains a force of investigative police, overseen by the Attorney General. State Transit Police are generally professional and adequately equipped for their task of road safety and enforcing traffic laws. Municipal governments may also have transit police.

How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

In some instances, U.S. citizens have become victims of harassment, mistreatment, and extortion by alleged and certified Mexican law enforcement. Authorities have cooperated in investigating such cases, but one must have the officer's name, badge number, and patrol car number to pursue a complaint effectively. Please note this information if you have a problem with police or other officials. When in doubt, ask for identification.

Crime Victim Assistance

Reporting crimes can often be a long, frustrating experience. Uniformed police officers cannot take reports of crime (called a denuncia), and all reports must be made to the local branch of the State Prosecutor's Office (called the Ministerio Publico). When making the report, the burden of proof is placed on the individual to substantiate that a crime occurred. Even when the report is properly filed, it must be ratified by the complainant several days later. Major crimes (kidnappings) are investigated and often resolved. Crimes against foreigners are likely to get more attention from the authorities than crimes against Mexican citizens. Despite the substantial obstacles to reporting a crime, the U.S. Consulate encourages all U.S. citizen victims of crime to report the crime to the Ministerio Publico and the American Citizen Services office of the Consulate.

Hospitals- US State Department has issued a security message dated 20 May 2016. It has listed the following hospitals as conducting predatory practices:

- 1.- Cabo Medical Integral, S de RL de C. V y/o One World Hospital
- 2.- Hospital Amerimed San Jose del Cabo S. A de C. V (Cabo San Lucas)
- 3.- St. Josephs, S de R. L de C.y/o Saint Luke's Medical Center
- 4.- Hospital Amerimed San Jose Del Cabo S. A de C. V (San José del Cabo)

US State Department security message that visitors should use either public hospitals or the following hospitals in Cabo San Lucas:

HOSPITAL GENERAL

Address: Ave. Los Pinos S/N, Col. Los Arcos
Cabos San Lucas, Baja California Sur
Tel. 146-4262/4263/4375

SANATORIO DEL SAGRADO CORAZÓN DE JESÚS ANIKAN

Address: Francisco Villa y Avenida de la Juventud S/N
Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur
Tel: 143-0236 Emergency Cell: 108-0380

BLUENET HOSPITALS

Address: Transpeninsular Km 6.3, Col. Cabo Bello,
Plaza Del Rey. Cabo San Lucas BCS. ZC 23455
Tel: 104.3910 Emergency Cell: 104.3911

RED CROSS-

Mexican Red Cross
Calle Juan Luis Vives 200
Colonia Palanco
Mexico D.F. 11510
Telephone: +52 551 084 4505
Email: dirgral@cruzrojamexicana.org.mx

CDC Country-specific Vaccination and Health Guidance

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has a dedicated page containing health information for travelers to Mexico here:
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/mexico.htm>

EMBASSY INFORMATION-

U.S. Consular Agent- Los Cabos
Tiendas de Palmillo, Carretera Transpeninsular
KM27.5 Local B221
San Jose Del Cabo
Baja California Sur, C.P. 23406
Telephone: +52 624 143 3566
Email: ConAgencyLosCabos@state.gov

For after-hours emergencies, please call the Duty Officer at the U.S. Consulate General Tijuana. From Mexico, please dial 001 (619) 692-2154, from the U.S., please call (619) 692-2154.

U.S. Embassy- Mexico

Paseo de la Reforma 305
Colonia Cuauhtemoc
06500 Mexico, D.F.
Telephone: +011-52-55-5080-2000
Regional Security Officer: Anna Kephart

DOCUMENTS- Travelers should make copies of personal documents, including passports, visas, and identification cards as hotels may keep passports and visas of new guest's overnight. All confidential information including credit/ debit cards, Social Security Cards, Military or Company Identification should be guarded closely. If such information cannot be carried on your person, it is advised to secure it in a safe storage location.

When traveling, enroll into the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

180 DAY INCIDENTS

VIGILS AGAINST DETENTION OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS PLANNED FOR 12 JULY

According to reports on 8 July 2019, "Lights for Liberty" vigils against the detention of undocumented immigrants in the United States are planned to occur across the country on the night of 12 July. Organizers have planned major events in the cities of El Paso, Homestead, New York, San Diego and Washington, D.C, the national capital. Activists plan to gather at Lafayette Park in the capital to demand that the U.S. Congress shut down the detention facilities and to call for the resignation of President Donald Trump due to his government's policy toward the undocumented migrants. Additionally, vigils in relation to the issue are scheduled to take place in 13 other countries, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Mexico and the U.K; organizers plan to stage a moment of silence at 2100 local time during each event.

Mexico Is At The Center Of Travel Warnings Due To Increasing Violence Levels

Mexico is at the center of travel warnings following increasing violence levels in tourist hotspots Cancun and Playa del Carmen – and experts have warned it could be the "worst year on record" for tourist deaths. The country has been at the center of recent FCO warnings after outbreaks across the resort.

UBER VERSUS TAXI DRIVERS PROTEST

The lucrative tourist market is at the heart of a dispute between taxi drivers and Uber chauffeurs in Baja California Sur as the state Congress considers the approval of a new transportation law. Taxi drivers in the tourism-oriented state have protested against the legislative proposal that seeks to regulate Uber and other ride-sharing services and allow them to operate legally.

While the governor pressures Congress to pass the law, taxi drivers in destinations such as La Paz and Los Cabos vow to do all they can to stop it. If Uber is given the green light, more protests are likely to follow, warned Ramón Ceseña, municipal director of transportation in Los Cabos, a taxi driver and allegedly an instigator of operations against Uber drivers.

Currently there are reports that taxi drivers are harassing tourists who use UBER car services and in some cases have been assaulted. UBER drivers have been blocked at the airport until their passengers exit the vehicle and use local taxi services. It is being reported that if the law is passed, there will be an increase in violence between UBER car services and taxi drivers.

U.S. EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY ISSUES WEATHER UPDATE

Mexico's hurricane season for the Atlantic basin and Eastern Pacific is underway. The season formally runs until November 30, 2019, though historically most cyclones develop between July and October. Hurricanes and tropical storms may cause life-threatening flash flooding, dangerous winds, treacherous surf and rip currents, and other hazardous conditions. Torrential rains from these storms can cause flooding hundreds of miles inland, sometimes persisting for several days after the storm has dissipated.

"In the aftermath of a storm, there may be widespread damage to infrastructure (such as roads, electricity, and phone and internet service) and serious shortages of habitable accommodations, food, water, and medical facilities. Storms can result in airport closures or limited flight availability due to runway or terminal damage and a shortage of electricity. U.S. citizens in affected regions may face delays returning home, and may even need to stay in emergency shelters with limited food, water, medicine, and other supplies."

4.9 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE REGISTERED IN CABO SAN LUCAS

On May 14, 2019, The National Seismological Service (SSN) indicated that an earthquake of magnitude of 4.9 occurred south of Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur at 4:50 pm.

So far there has been no structural damage or alteration of basic services.

WOMAN FOUND DEAD IN MULEGE BCS

On April 04, 2019, the body of a woman was located in the town of Santa Rosalía, in the municipality of Mulegé, Baja California Sur with multiple blows to the head.

At around 8:30 p.m., in the neighborhood of El Montado, public security agents confirmed that a corpse was found on the site. The scene was secured by investigation agents and experts assigned to the Office of Expert Services, who proceeded to the removal and transfer of the body to the Forensic Medical Service (Semefo) for the necropsy of law.

MORE THAN 200 ARRESTS FOR HOMICIDE IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

As a result of the strategy implemented by the State Preventive Police (PEP) against crime in Baja California, more than 200 murderers (with order of apprehension or re-apprehension) have been caught, some of them leaders of criminal organizations.

These assurances were carried due to intelligence work, information exchange with corporations and most importantly, investigations derived from citizen complaints made to the Emergency Number 9 -1-1 and Anonymous Denunciation 089.

TOURISTS HIJACKED OUTSIDE WALMART IN LOS CABOS

On February, 2019 in Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur. - An armed robbery was recorded in the parking lot of Walmart Cabo San Lucas, the victims: two foreign tourists. A man forced them to give him their belongings by threatening them with a knife.

After the incident, the tourists requested support from the 911 emergency telephone service. Police arrived and are investigating.

Cabo San Lucas safety guidelines

Exercise increased caution when visiting local bars, nightclubs, and casinos. Maintain your situational awareness of events happening around you and be informed of threats and security issues where you are traveling.

Ensure everyone is notified of increase threat level conditions.

Avoid routines. Maintain a low-profile and pre-plan any outings.

Be aware of any unattended baggage, luggage, briefcases, or objects.

Keep all electronics secured. Use the hotel room safe or use the main hotel safe if they have one.

Avoid talking aloud of any plans in a public setting.

Contact the Embassy or Consulate if you are being followed or under surveillance

Have a plan for disasters or medical emergencies

Do not wear company attire in public. Avoid identifying yourself as a corporate employee

Do not use laminated business cards on luggage or baggage.

Do not wear expensive jewelry or show large amounts of currency whether it is local or U.S. Do not display signs of wealth

Be aware of any taxis you enter. Best practice is to arrange services in advance.

Do not engage in political or religious conversations with stranger or aloud in a public setting.

Be extra vigilant when visiting banks or ATMs

Enroll in Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) <https://step.state.gov/step/>

- Receive alerts
- Help to locate you in an emergency

Follow the Department of State on Facebook and Twitter

Review the Crime and Safety Reports in Mexico

<https://www.osac.gov/Content/Report/72d11598-3cfa-4ff4-a9bc-15f4aec22ce4>

U.S. citizens who travel abroad should always have a contingency plan for emergency situations

Exercise increased caution due to crime.

Criminal activity and violence, including homicide, remain a primary concern throughout the state. While most homicides appeared to be targeted, criminal organization assassinations and turf battles between criminal groups have resulted in violent crime in areas frequented by U.S. citizens. Bystanders have been injured or killed in shooting incidents.



Cabo San Lucas

www.loscabosguide.com

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Alcaravea Restaurant | 12. Campestre Restaurant | 23. Golden Zone | 34. Mango Cantina | 45. Photomexico |
| 2. Arre Mango Restaurant | 13. Canela Restaurant | 24. Immigration Office | 35. Mango Deck Restaurant | 46. Police (Tourist Department) |
| 3. Baja Cantina Dockside | 14. Captain Tony's | 25. Invita Bistro | 36. Maria Corona Restaurant | 47. Romeo y Julieta Restaurant |
| 4. Bank-ATM | 15. City Express | 26. John's Place | 37. Mexican Pottery | 48. Sea Cabo Activities |
| 5. Black Forest | 16. Columbia Export Service | 27. La Casa De Don Juan | 38. Mi Casa Restaurant | 49. Señor Sweets |
| 6. Buccaneer Queen | 17. Daikoku | 28. La Cueva Food & Climbing | 39. Nicksan Restaurant | 50. Silverados Sportfishing |
| 7. Cabo Flyboard | 18. Eco Cat Tours | 29. La Doice | 40. No Worry's | 51. Solomon's Restaurant |
| 8. Cabo Realty Pros | 19. El Coral Restaurant | 30. Los Barriles Restaurant | 41. Pancho's Restaurant | 52. Stop Light |
| 9. Cabo Sailing | 20. El Patio Choyero | 31. Madeira Bistro | 42. Pan di Bacco Restaurant | 53. Sunrider Cruise |
| 10. Cabo Sails | 21. Feinstein (Custom Jewelry) | 32. Mahi Sushi | 43. Paacock's Restaurant | 54. Vinoteca |
| 11. Cabo Wabo | 22. Fire Department | 33. Mail Boxes Cabo | 44. Pez Gato/Tropical Cruise | 55. Wild Canyon Store |

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