THE GLOBAL EXPAT HUB
Country Relocation Guide

MX

Mexico

Your complete guide to moving abroad

The easiest place in the world to make friends, with a cost of living that stretches a foreign income a long way.

CAPITAL	CURRENCY	LANGUAGE	REGION
Mexico City	Mexican peso	Spanish	North America

theglobalexpathub.com · Free launch edition, 2026

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WHY MEXICO

An honest snapshot

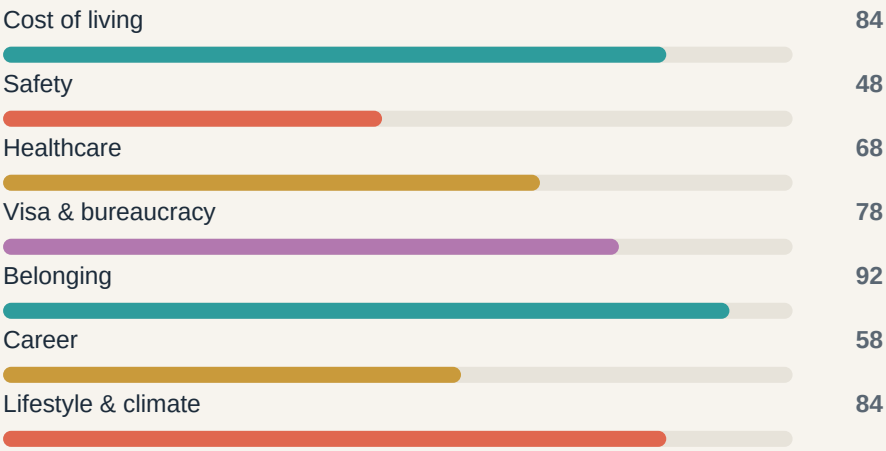
Mexico is scored the same way as every country on The Global Expat Hub: seven weighted dimensions combined into one liveability score, kept independent of any advertising. Here is how it rates, and what that means for a move.

74 /100

Liveability score

Safety rating: 48/100

Region: North America



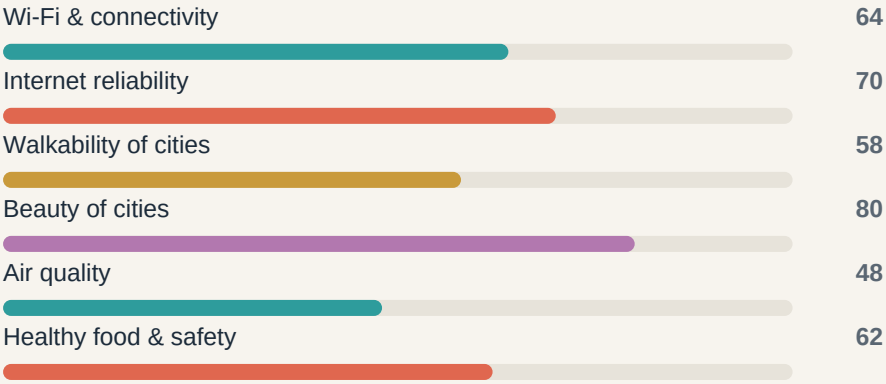
Scores are editorial estimates for planning, not legal, immigration or financial advice.

MEXICO BY THE NUMBERS

Cost of living & essentials

Worth of the dollar	$1 ≈ MX$16.9 (Mexican peso)
Utilities (85 m² flat)	$65/mo · electric, water, sewer, garbage
Home internet	$25/mo
Mobile / eSIM	$15/mo local · travel eSIM ≈ $18/10GB
Fuel	$1.30/litre
Doctor visit	$30 (private)
Emergency room	$200
Dental	$35 / $50
Cost to give birth	Public free with IMSS / private $2,000–6,000
Life expectancy	75 years
Unemployment	3%
Adult literacy	95%
Rural land	$1,000–5,000 rural; coastal lots far higher

Connectivity, walkability & beauty



English day-to-day	Basic–Moderate
Remote-work time zone	Excellent US overlap, hard for EU

LIVING IN MEXICO

Climate, law & getting around

Everything from desert north to tropical south; the central plateau is mild year-round with a Jun–Sep rainy season.

14°C	18°C	17°C	16°C
57°F · Jan	64°F · Apr	63°F · Jul	61°F · Oct

Rainfall	about 850 mm (33 in) a year
Snow	Only high mountains
Severe weather risk	60/100 — Hurricanes on both coasts Jun–Nov, earthquakes in the centre and south, flooding
Time zone	Mostly CST (UTC–6), no DST since 2022; Quintana Roo UTC–5
Drive on the	Right
Taxes (property)	Predial ~0.1% of assessed value; very low
Taxes (income, local)	None at state level
University	UNAM and public universities near-free (small fees); private $5–15k/yr

Official law & sources

Legislation: Cámara de Diputados legal library — https://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/
US Embassy: https://mx.usembassy.gov · Wikipedia law overview available on the country page.

GETTING IN & STAYING

Visas & residence

- Temporary Resident visa (1–4 years) on proof of income or savings
- Permanent Resident visa for higher income or after four years temporary
- 180-day visitor entry for most nationalities, not for repeated long stays

Retiring in Mexico

Permanent residency on proof of pension or savings; large retiree communities around Lake Chapala, San Miguel de Allende and the Yucatán coast.

Schemes that attract expats

- Temporary residency on ~$4,300/mo income or ~$73k savings
- Permanent residency on ~$7,100/mo pension
- Foreign income generally untaxed while non-resident for tax

Remote work & digital nomads

No dedicated visa; Temporary Resident visa on income works; 180-day visitor entry common

PLAN · AFFORDABLE MOVE

Affordable Move

Estimated first-year setup

$8,250

You're moving on savings or a modest income, doing the paperwork yourself, and treating the first year as a test. You'll rent furnished, fly economy, ship almost nothing, and learn the language in group classes.

Ongoing monthly living for one adult on this tier: about $850/month, plus utilities around $65.

First-year cost breakdown

Scouting trip flights *one to two return tickets*	**$650**
Scouting trip stay *two to four weeks in the neighbourhoods you might live in*	**$700**
Visa, permits & translations *government fees, apostilles, translations; luxury adds an immigration lawyer*	**$700**
Relocation flights *one-way, with extra baggage*	**$700**
Moving & shipping *affordable: suitcases only; luxury: full container and white-glove*	**$750**
Housing deposit & first rent *deposit plus first month, scaled to the local rental market*	**$1,200**
Furnishing & setup *affordable leans on second-hand and furnished lets*	**$450**
Health insurance, first year *basic international cover through to premium global plans*	**$1,050**
Language classes *apps and group classes through to private tutoring*	**$200**
Local admin & first-month living *registration, SIM, transport, groceries before income settles*	**$1,100**
Contingency *10% of the total above*	**$750**
Total	**$8,250**

Timeline

Decide & research — ~8 wks

Shortlist two cities, read every section here, join local expat groups online, start a language app, open a savings tracker.

Paperwork — ~10 wks

Gather documents, get apostilles and translations, apply for the visa yourself, arrange basic international health insurance.

Scouting trip — ~3 wks

One trip, two to three weeks, in a furnished rental in your first-choice neighbourhood. Visit a supermarket, a clinic, a bus route and a coworking space.

Move — ~4 wks

Sell or store what you can't carry. Two suitcases each. Book a one-month furnished rental to land in, then find a lease locally.

Settle — ~8 wks

Register your address, get a SIM and a bank account, join group language classes, say yes to every meetup for two months.

AFFORDABLE MOVE · CHECKLIST

Your affordable move checklist

Tick these off as you go. Everything here is scaled to this tier and to Mexico's own prices, visa routes and timelines.

- [ ] Two-city shortlist with a written reason for each
- [ ] Visa route chosen and requirements printed
- [ ] Passport valid 18+ months
- [ ] Documents apostilled and translated
- [ ] Basic international health insurance quote
- [ ] Six months of living costs saved in cash
- [ ] Scouting trip booked in a furnished rental
- [ ] Furnished landing rental for month one
- [ ] Pet paperwork started (if applicable)
- [ ] Belongings reduced to two suitcases each
- [ ] Bank told you're moving; a no-foreign-fee card in hand
- [ ] Language app streak of 60+ days
- [ ] Group language class booked for week two
- [ ] Expat group memberships joined online
- [ ] Contingency fund kept separate and untouched

PLAN · MID-RANGE MOVE

Mid-range Move

Estimated first-year setup

$16,250

You have a steady income or remote job, want the move to be smooth rather than cheap, and will pay for help where it saves weeks. You'll ship some belongings, rent a proper apartment, and use a relocation agent for the hard parts.

Ongoing monthly living for one adult on this tier: about $1500/month, plus utilities around $65.

First-year cost breakdown

Scouting trip flights *one to two return tickets*	**$1,100**
Scouting trip stay *two to four weeks in the neighbourhoods you might live in*	**$1,600**
Visa, permits & translations *government fees, apostilles, translations; luxury adds an immigration lawyer*	**$1,000**
Relocation flights *one-way, with extra baggage*	**$1,150**
Moving & shipping *affordable: suitcases only; luxury: full container and white-glove*	**$2,500**
Housing deposit & first rent *deposit plus first month, scaled to the local rental market*	**$2,150**
Furnishing & setup *affordable leans on second-hand and furnished lets*	**$1,300**
Health insurance, first year *basic international cover through to premium global plans*	**$1,700**
Language classes *apps and group classes through to private tutoring*	**$450**
Local admin & first-month living *registration, SIM, transport, groceries before income settles*	**$1,800**
Contingency *10% of the total above*	**$1,500**
Total	**$16,250**

Timeline

Decide & research — ~6 wks

Shortlist two or three cities, read every section here, book a consultation with a relocation agent, start language lessons.

Paperwork — ~8 wks

Documents, apostilles, translations; a lawyer or agent files the visa; comprehensive international health insurance arranged.

Scouting trip — ~3 wks

Two to four weeks across two neighbourhoods, in an aparthotel or boutique hotel. View apartments with an agent, tour schools if needed.

Move — ~5 wks

Partial shipment of furniture and personal items; sell the rest. Fly with pets in the hold or via a pet relocation service. Land in a serviced apartment.

Settle — ~6 wks

Agent handles registration and utilities. Lease signed within a month. Weekly private language lessons; join clubs and classes, not just expat groups.

MID-RANGE MOVE · CHECKLIST

Your mid-range move checklist

Tick these off as you go. Everything here is scaled to this tier and to Mexico's own prices, visa routes and timelines.

- ☐ City shortlist scored against the sections here
- ☐ Relocation agent or immigration lawyer engaged
- ☐ Visa filed with a tracked timeline
- ☐ Comprehensive international health insurance in place
- ☐ Scouting trip: two neighbourhoods, apartment viewings booked
- ☐ School applications submitted (if applicable)
- ☐ Moving quotes from three companies; partial shipment booked
- ☐ Pet relocation service booked
- ☐ Serviced apartment for the first month
- ☐ Bank account and money-transfer service opened
- ☐ Tax advice taken on residency timing
- ☐ Private language tutor booked
- ☐ Driving licence exchange researched
- ☐ Furniture and appliances plan for what's not shipped
- ☐ Contingency fund at 10% of the plan

PLAN · LUXURY MOVE

Luxury Move

Estimated first-year setup

$46,200

Time matters more than money. You'll hire a full-service relocation firm, an immigration lawyer and a buyer's or leasing agent, fly business, ship everything, and land in a home that's ready.

Ongoing monthly living for one adult on this tier: about $3450/month, plus utilities around $65.

First-year cost breakdown

Scouting trip flights *one to two return tickets*	**$3,250**
Scouting trip stay *two to four weeks in the neighbourhoods you might live in*	**$5,550**
Visa, permits & translations *government fees, apostilles, translations; luxury adds an immigration lawyer*	**$2,400**
Relocation flights *one-way, with extra baggage*	**$3,200**
Moving & shipping *affordable: suitcases only; luxury: full container and white-glove*	**$8,800**
Housing deposit & first rent *deposit plus first month, scaled to the local rental market*	**$6,050**
Furnishing & setup *affordable leans on second-hand and furnished lets*	**$3,900**
Health insurance, first year *basic international cover through to premium global plans*	**$3,800**
Language classes *apps and group classes through to private tutoring*	**$1,100**
Local admin & first-month living *registration, SIM, transport, groceries before income settles*	**$3,950**
Contingency *10% of the total above*	**$4,200**
Total	**$46,200**

Timeline

Decide & research — ~4 wks

Relocation firm briefed. Two private scouting itineraries prepared. Lawyer confirms the best visa route, including investor and talent options.

Paperwork — ~6 wks

Lawyer files everything; you sign. Premium global health cover with medical evacuation. Tax structuring advice before you become resident.

Scouting trip — ~2 wks

Private itinerary in a five-star or boutique property, drone and video previews of homes before you fly, viewings with a buyer's or leasing agent.

Move — ~4 wks

Full container with white-glove packing and unpacking. Pets flown with a specialist. Home leased or purchased and furnished before arrival.

Settle — ~4 wks

Relocation firm completes registration, utilities, schools, staff and vehicles. Private language tutor. Introductions to clubs and community.

LUXURY MOVE · CHECKLIST

Your luxury move checklist

Tick these off as you go. Everything here is scaled to this tier and to Mexico's own prices, visa routes and timelines.

- ☐ Full-service relocation firm engaged
- ☐ Immigration lawyer engaged; visa route confirmed
- ☐ Tax and estate advice taken before residency
- ☐ Premium global health insurance with evacuation cover
- ☐ Private scouting itinerary with home previews
- ☐ Buyer's or leasing agent appointed
- ☐ Home secured and furnished before arrival
- ☐ Full-container shipment with insurance
- ☐ Pet specialist booked door to door
- ☐ School places confirmed
- ☐ Vehicle purchase or lease arranged
- ☐ Private language tutor scheduled
- ☐ Banking and wealth management set up locally
- ☐ Household staff or property management if needed
- ☐ Contingency at 10%, held in local currency

PLAN · RETIREMENT MOVE

Retirement Move

Estimated first-year setup

$23,250

You're moving for good on a pension, savings or both, and the priorities are different: a visa that doesn't depend on a job, healthcare you can rely on as you age, a tax outcome that doesn't shrink your income, and a community you'll actually enjoy. Comfort matters more than speed; certainty matters more than either.

First-year cost breakdown

Scouting trip flights *one to two return tickets*	**$1,100**
Scouting trip stay *two to four weeks in the neighbourhoods you might live in*	**$1,600**
Visa, permits & translations *government fees, apostilles, translations; luxury adds an immigration lawyer*	**$1,000**
Relocation flights *one-way, with extra baggage*	**$1,150**
Moving & shipping *affordable: suitcases only; luxury: full container and white-glove*	**$2,500**
Housing deposit & first rent *deposit plus first month, scaled to the local rental market*	**$2,150**
Furnishing & setup *affordable leans on second-hand and furnished lets*	**$1,300**
Health insurance, first year *basic international cover through to premium global plans*	**$1,700**
Language classes *apps and group classes through to private tutoring*	**$450**
Local admin & first-month living *registration, SIM, transport, groceries before income settles*	**$1,800**
Retirement visa, lawyer & pension certification *immigration lawyer, apostilled pension letters, medicals, translations*	**$1,850**
Private health insurance, first year (age 60+) *comprehensive cover until public-system access*	**$3,450**
Tax & estate advice *double-taxation, pension treatment, wills*	**$1,100**
Contingency *10% of the total above*	**$2,100**
Total	**$23,250**

Timeline

Decide & research — ~10 wks

Shortlist two places using the retirement page, the healthcare and hospitals pages, life expectancy, climate and the 'by the numbers' section. Read the retirement-visa route and the tax scheme for pensioners. Talk to two retirees already there.

Paperwork — ~14 wks

Pension or income letters certified and apostilled, police certificate, medical, birth and marriage certificates translated. Apply for the retirement or passive-income visa with a lawyer. Quote private health insurance for your age with pre-existing conditions declared.

Long scouting stay — ~6 wks

Six weeks in the town you'd live in, in the season you'd like least. Register with a GP or clinic, visit the hospital, price a pharmacy run, join a club, test the walk to shops.

RETIREMENT MOVE · CHECKLIST

Your retirement move checklist

Tick these off as you go. Everything here is scaled to this tier and to Mexico's own prices, visa routes and timelines.

- ☐ Retirement, pensionado or passive-income visa route confirmed with a lawyer
- ☐ Pension and income letters certified, apostilled and translated
- ☐ Police certificate and medical done within validity windows
- ☐ Private health insurance in place for age and conditions, until public access
- ☐ Prescriptions and medical records for a year, translated summary
- ☐ Tax residency date, pension treaty and estate advice taken
- ☐ Home-country pension paid to a local or multi-currency account
- ☐ Six-week scouting stay completed, including the hospital visit
- ☐ Home rented before buying; at least one year
- ☐ Local will and power of attorney prepared
- ☐ Registered with embassy or consulate
- ☐ Community found: club, faith group, volunteering or class
- ☐ Plan for care needs: home help, assisted living options and costs
- ☐ Return-trip fund kept for family emergencies
- ☐ Contingency at 10%, held in local currency

PRACTICALITIES

Getting there & the calendar

Main gateway airports

Mexico City (MEX), Cancún (CUN), Guadalajara (GDL), Monterrey (MTY)

Low-cost carriers: Volaris, Viva Aerobus, Spirit, Frontier, JetBlue

Volaris and Viva undercut everyone domestically; Mexico City's new AIFA airport (NLU) is far from the centre.

Holidays & festivals

National day: Independence Day, 16 September.

- Día de los Muertos (1–2 November)
- Guelaguetza in Oaxaca (July)
- Guadalupe pilgrimage (12 December)
- Carnival in Veracruz and Mazatlán

BEFORE YOU GO

Three ways we can help

Search jobs for free

Our job board is free for everyone. Browse remote and in-person roles that hire foreigners, filter by country, and apply directly. Employers post for a flat fee; you never pay to look. Start at theglobalexpathub.com/jobs.

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Ready to research your move?

This guide is a companion to the full, always-updated Mexico page on The Global Expat Hub, where you'll find live travel advisories, official links, the job board, partner listings and more.

VISIT THE FULL GUIDE

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All figures are editorial estimates for planning and were current at publication in 2026. Tax rules, visa schemes and prices change; verify before you rely on them. This guide is not legal, immigration, medical or financial advice.

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