

Travel Warning U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE Jan 09, 2014

[U.S. Department of State: Alerts and Warnings](#)

The U.S. Department of State warns U.S. citizens about the risk of traveling in Mexico due to threats to safety and security posed by Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) in the country. U.S. citizens have been the target of violent crimes, such as kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery by TCOs in various Mexican states. For information on security conditions in specific regions of Mexico, which can vary, travelers should reference the state-by-state assessments further below.

General Conditions: Millions of U.S. citizens safely visit Mexico each year for study, tourism, and business, including more than 150,000 who cross the border every day. The Mexican government dedicates substantial resources to protect visitors to major tourist destinations, and there is no evidence that Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) have targeted U.S. visitors or residents based on their nationality...

Nevertheless, U.S. travelers should be aware that the Mexican government has been engaged in an extensive effort to counter TCOs which engage in narcotics trafficking and other unlawful activities throughout Mexico. The TCOs themselves are engaged in a violent struggle to control drug trafficking routes and other criminal activity. Crime and violence are serious problems and can occur anywhere. U.S. citizens have fallen victim to criminal activity, including homicide, gun battles, kidnapping, carjacking and highway robbery. While most of those killed in narcotics-related violence have been members of TCOs, innocent persons have also been killed. The number of U.S. citizens reported to the Department of State as murdered in Mexico was 71 in 2012 and 81 in 2013.

Gun battles between rival TCOs or with Mexican authorities have taken place in towns and cities in many parts of Mexico, especially in the border region. Gun battles have occurred in broad daylight on streets and in other public venues, such as restaurants and clubs. During some of these incidents, U.S. citizens have been trapped and temporarily prevented from leaving the area. TCOs have used stolen cars, buses and trucks to create roadblocks on major thoroughfares, preventing the military and police from responding to criminal activity. The location and timing of future armed engagements is unpredictable. We recommend that you defer travel to the areas indicated in this Travel Warning and exercise extreme caution when traveling throughout the northern border region.

The number of kidnappings throughout Mexico is of particular concern and appears to be on the rise. According to statistics published by the Mexican Secretaria de Gobernacion (SEGOB), during the first 11 months of 2013 kidnappings nationwide increased 32 percent over the same period in 2012. While kidnappings can occur anywhere, according to SEGOB during this timeframe, the states with the highest numbers of kidnappings were Guerrero, Tamaulipas, Michoacán, Estado de Mexico, and Morelos. Additionally, according to a widely publicized study by the agency responsible for national statistics (INEGI, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography), Mexico suffered an estimated 105,682 kidnappings in 2012; only 1,317 were reported to the police. Police have been implicated in some of these incidents. Both local and expatriate communities have been victimized. Almost 90 kidnappings of U.S. citizens were reported to the U.S. Embassy and consulates in Mexico between April and November of 2013.

U.S. citizens are encouraged to lower their personal profiles and to avoid wearing conspicuous jewelry or clothing bearing logos of U.S. sports teams or military themed apparel which that may identify them as U.S. citizens. U.S. citizens are encouraged to maintain awareness of their surroundings and avoid situations in which they may be isolated...

The Mexican government has deployed federal police and military personnel throughout the country as part of its efforts to combat the TCOs. U.S. citizens traveling on Mexican roads and highways by car or bus may encounter government checkpoints, staffed by military or law enforcement personnel. TCOs have erected their own unauthorized checkpoints, at times wearing police and military uniforms, and killed or abducted motorists who have failed to stop at them. You should cooperate at all checkpoints.

Baja California: Tijuana, Ensenada and Mexicali are major cities/travel destinations in the state of Baja California - Exercise caution in the northern state of Baja California, particularly at night. There were 458 homicides in Tijuana from October 2012 through September 2013, compared with 324 for the same period a year earlier. Murders in Mexicali declined in the same period from 166 to 132. In the majority of these cases, the killings appeared to be targeted TCO assassinations. Turf battles between criminal groups resulted in assassinations in areas of Tijuana and Mexicali frequented by U.S. citizens. Shooting incidents, in which innocent bystanders have been injured, have occurred during daylight hours.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the State Department's internet web site, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts can be found. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook as well. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 001-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Tijuana Consulate: Paseo de Las Culturas s/n Mesa de Otay, telephone (011) (52) (664) 977-2000.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY / ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I have read and understood the current Travel Alert for Mexico, posted by the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Bureau of Consular Affairs. I have voluntarily joined a Maquiladora Tour to Tijuana, Mexico. I understand that there are great differences between this country and my own. These differences include climate, living conditions, diet, water quality, transportation, medical care, and physical safety. I also understand that health care facilities in Mexico are minimal and that access to all types of health care, including for emergencies, may be difficult. I understand that I will not be able to expect the same type of health care as I would receive in my own country. I understand that the San Diego Maquiladora Workers' Solidarity Network (SDMWSN) and other individuals and organizations that sponsor, organize and promote this maquiladora tour are not responsible for my health care or coverage, either during the tour or afterwards. Furthermore, I realize that there are no guarantees against personal injury, robbery, or death while part of this Maquiladora Tour.

I understand that there are specific legal requirements for travel to Mexico, and illegal activity could result in grave legal consequences for myself, the SDMWSN, and individuals and organizations that sponsor, organize and promote this maquiladora tour. For this reason, I agree to abide by Mexican law while I am in Mexico. I understand that the Maquiladora Tour ends with the final planned activity of the tour followed by the immediate return across the border, and after this time SDMWSN and individuals and organizations that sponsor, organize and promote this maquiladora tour are discharged and held harmless in any participant's decision which deviates from this process after the tour is completed in Mexico.

With this understanding, and in consideration for my participation in the Maquiladora Tour, I completely accept and assume all responsibility for any and all risks of damage, sickness, or personal injury which may occur during, or resulting from my participation in the tour, including, but not limited to, those risks described above. In signing this document I expressly release, discharge, and hold harmless the SDMWSN and individuals and organizations that sponsor, organize and promote this maquiladora tour to the maximum extent permitted by law in any state, territory, district, or country.

I have read and understand the foregoing and sign it voluntarily. I am of sound mind and act of my own free will and without any coercion or duress in signing this *WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK*.

Name:
Signature:
Email:
Date: