



The United Mexican States

(GMT - 6 hours)

Geographic Overview: Mexico bordered by the United States, Belize and Guatemala comprises nearly two million square miles of coastline, desert, rain forest, mountains, and fertile plains. From the American borderlands of the wide, agriculturally rich north, the country narrows gently as it sweeps south and east.

Area: 1,964,375 sq km, of which 1,959,248 sq km are continental and 5,127 sq km are islands.

Capital City: Mexico City (Distrito Federal)

Languages: The official language is Spanish. There are at least 62 indigenous languages.

People: A large proportion of the population in Mexico are mestizo 50-60%, indigenous are from 25-30%, Caucasians from 9-15% and a small black minority.

Religion: The vast majority are Roman Catholic. 5-6% of the population belong to other denominations

Currency: Mexican peso

Major Political Parties: Partido Accion Nacional (PAN); Partido de la Revolucion Democratica (PRD); Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI).

Government: Mexico has a Federal republic system of government covering the 31 states and the Federal District of Mexico with powers separated into three branches: independent executive (President), legislative (Congress) and judicial (Supreme Court of Justice, federal and local systems). The President is elected for a six-year term and may not hold office a second time. Congress is bi-cameral and consists of a Senate (128 seats) and a Chamber of Deputies (500 seats). The judges making up the Supreme Court are appointed by the President, with the consent of the Senate.

International Direct Dialling Codes:

Mexico 00 52; Mexico City 00 52 5; Monterrey 00 52 81; Guadalajara 00 52 36; Acapulco 00 52 74; Puebla 00 52 22; Tijuana 00 52 66; Veracruz 00 52 29

Fixed Date National Holidays:

1 January, 5 February, 21 March, 1 May, 16 September, 20 November, 25 December

Variable Date National Holidays:

Easter Week (not a national holiday, but widely taken)

Mexican Embassy (London)

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Mexican Embassy - Consular Section

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British Embassy (Mexico)

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British Consulate in Monterrey

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British Trade Office in Guadalajara

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British Mexico Chamber of Commerce (Mexico)

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Mexico Newspapers

<http://www.economista.com.mx> - El Economista
<http://www.heraldo.com.mx> - El Heraldo de México
<http://www.el-universal.com.mx> - El Universal
<http://www.novedades.com.mx> - Novedades
<http://www.jornada.unam.mx/ultimas> - La Jornada
<http://www.reforma.com/> - Reforma
<http://www.oem.com.mx/elsoldemexico/> - El Sol de Mexico
<http://www.siempre.com.mx/> - Siempre

Mexico - other useful sites

<http://www.inegi.gob.mx> - National Statistics Office

<http://www.banxico.org.mx/> - Banco de Mexico

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/?P=2&NLang=en> – Ministry of Economy