



## General Advice

### Health and Safety

- While it is true that hotels and resorts filter water, this does not guarantee that all bacterial agents are safely removed, nor does it mean that you will not possibly get sick. Bottled water is readily available throughout Cancun, so be on the safe side and avoid drinking tap water.
- Another very important Cancun travel tip to remember is that sunscreen is only effective here if it is waterproof. It is highly unlikely that you will never get in the ocean or a pool, so think beyond your tan when protecting your skin.
- When shopping or clubbing, stay with the crowds. No city in the world should be walked alone at night. Even a safe place like Cancun is best explored in a group.
- Pedestrians do not have the right of way in Mexico. Let the cars have the road.
- Call your cell phone provider before leaving the States to make certain your phone will work in Mexico and that you will not be billed for roaming or international rates on minutes used.
- Cancun is on Central Time and observes Daylight Savings Time.

### Dealing with Salesmen

When exiting the airport, look straight ahead to the exit. DO NOT engage with any of the people on the side that will approach you for excursions, transfers or anything. Look straight ahead and ignore them and exit the doors. Do not believe people in information booths who say they are not selling time shares. They are.

### Where to Walk?

Beachfront hotels are private property and prefer that guests from other hotels not use their property to access the beach. There are ten public access points throughout Cancun that will allow any guests from any part of the island quick and convenient access to the water.



## Handling Legal Entry

- You can only enter Mexico with certain legal documents. These documents include passports for US Citizens when flying into the country. Your passport must have at least 6 months left on them before they expire for them to be valid for entry.
- **Bring a pen on the plane with you!** They will hand out immigration forms for you to complete prior to landing. You will need your passport (and reading glasses) to complete this form.
- If you are bringing a child younger than 18 into the country who is not your own, you **MUST** have a notarized letter from the parents or guardian(s). This applies to family members as well as non-family members.
- Go to the Consulate if you have any legal issues in Cancun. Do not take/rely on advice or legal tips from Cancun locals if you find yourself in any type of dispute or legal matter. Go directly to your nation's embassy and speak with your consulate.

## Money Matters in Cancun

- Mexico has very strict laws when it comes to defacement of currency. No bills that have been torn can be passed in Cancun—not even as tips or petty change. If someone offers you a torn bill, politely asked for one that has not been defaced. Otherwise, you have just lost money.
- Although you **CAN** convert US dollars to pesos, I find that it is unnecessary for an all-inclusive vacation such as yours. US Dollars are widely accepted in most places, and it's safe to use your cc at the resort for small purchases in their gift shops.
- If you buy calling cards, buy only the ones made by the phone companies TelMex or LadaTel. These cards are also supposed to have a small microchip on them.
- If you are using your credit card, make sure you advise the card company that you are traveling so they don't put a freeze on your card for suspicious purchases. Also get a PIN for your card so you can use it at an ATM if necessary – but **BE CAREFUL** to know what your card company's interest charge is for cash withdrawals.
- Gratuities at the resort are included in your vacation package, but any additional tips for your housekeeping and pool bar servers is always appreciated. I bring \$1s and \$5s for this purpose.