



BeING · Be Global

YOUR PATH TO MEXICO

A guide to entry, residency, and citizenship

A clear map for arriving, staying legally, and choosing the route that fits you.

Updated 24 September 2020

Entry guide for 195 nationalities

Ordinary passports · tourism and other visits without paid work in Mexico

VISA-FREE - no Mexican visa SAE - Russia, Ukraine, Türkiye: electronic authorization, air travel only eV - Brazil: electronic visitor visa, air travel only VISA - consular visa in advance

COUNTRY	ENTRY RULE	COUNTRY	ENTRY RULE	COUNTRY	ENTRY RULE	COUNTRY	ENTRY RULE	COUNTRY	ENTRY RULE
Afghanistan	VISA	Congo - Kinshasa	VISA	Iran	VISA	Myanmar (Burma)	VISA	South Africa	VISA
Albania	VISA	Costa Rica	VISA-FREE	Iraq	VISA	Namibia	VISA	South Korea	VISA-FREE
Algeria	VISA	Croatia	VISA-FREE	Ireland	VISA-FREE	Nauru	VISA	South Sudan	VISA
Andorra	VISA-FREE	Cuba	VISA	Israel	VISA-FREE	Nepal	VISA	Spain	VISA-FREE
Angola	VISA	Cyprus	VISA-FREE	Italy	VISA-FREE	Netherlands	VISA-FREE	Sri Lanka	VISA
Antigua & Barbuda	VISA	Czechia	VISA-FREE	Jamaica	VISA-FREE	New Zealand	VISA-FREE	St. Kitts & Nevis	VISA
Argentina	VISA-FREE	Côte d'Ivoire	VISA	Japan	VISA-FREE	Nicaragua	VISA	St. Lucia	VISA
Armenia	VISA	Denmark	VISA-FREE	Jordan	VISA	Niger	VISA	St. Vincent & Grenadines	VISA
Australia	VISA-FREE	Djibouti	VISA	Kazakhstan	VISA	Nigeria	VISA	Sudan	VISA
Austria	VISA-FREE	Dominica	VISA	Kenya	VISA	North Korea	VISA	Suriname	VISA
Azerbaijan	VISA	Dominican Republic	VISA	Kiribati	VISA	North Macedonia	VISA	Sweden	VISA-FREE
Bahamas	VISA-FREE	Ecuador	VISA	Kuwait	VISA	Norway	VISA-FREE	Switzerland	VISA-FREE
Bahrain	VISA	Egypt	VISA	Kyrgyzstan	VISA	Oman	VISA	Syria	VISA
Bangladesh	VISA	El Salvador	VISA	Laos	VISA	Pakistan	VISA	São Tomé & Príncipe	VISA
Barbados	VISA-FREE	Equatorial Guinea	VISA	Latvia	VISA-FREE	Palau	VISA-FREE	Tajikistan	VISA
Belarus	VISA	Eritrea	VISA	Lebanon	VISA	Palestinian Territories	VISA	Tanzania	VISA
Belgium	VISA-FREE	Estonia	VISA-FREE	Lesotho	VISA	Panama	VISA-FREE	Thailand	VISA
Belize	VISA-FREE	Eswatini	VISA	Liberia	VISA	Papua New Guinea	VISA	Timor-Leste	VISA
Benin	VISA	Ethiopia	VISA	Libya	VISA	Paraguay	VISA-FREE	Togo	VISA
Bhutan	VISA	Fiji	VISA	Liechtenstein	VISA-FREE	Peru	VISA-FREE	Tonga	VISA
Bolivia	VISA-FREE	Finland	VISA-FREE	Lithuania	VISA-FREE	Philippines	VISA	Trinidad & Tobago	VISA-FREE
Bosnia & Herzegovina	VISA	France	VISA-FREE	Luxembourg	VISA-FREE	Poland	VISA-FREE	Tunisia	VISA
Botswana	VISA	Gabon	VISA	Madagascar	VISA	Portugal	VISA-FREE	Turkmenistan	VISA
Brazil	eV	Gambia	VISA	Malawi	VISA	Qatar	VISA	Tuvalu	VISA
Brunei	VISA	Georgia	VISA	Malaysia	VISA-FREE	Romania	VISA-FREE	Türkiye	SAE
Bulgaria	VISA-FREE	Germany	VISA-FREE	Maldives	VISA	Russia	180*	Uganda	VISA
Burkina Faso	VISA	Ghana	VISA	Mali	VISA	Rwanda	VISA	Ukraine	SAE
Burundi	VISA	Greece	VISA-FREE	Malta	VISA-FREE	Samoa	VISA	United Arab Emirates	VISA-FREE
Cambodia	VISA	Grenada	VISA	Marshall Islands	VISA-FREE	San Marino	VISA-FREE	United Kingdom	VISA-FREE
Cameroon	VISA	Guatemala	VISA	Mauritania	VISA	Saudi Arabia	VISA	United States	VISA-FREE
Canada	VISA-FREE	Guinea	VISA	Mauritius	VISA	Senegal	VISA	Uruguay	VISA-FREE
Cape Verde	VISA	Guinea-Bissau	VISA	Mexico	MX	Serbia	VISA	Uzbekistan	VISA
Central African Republic	VISA	Guyana	VISA	Micronesia	VISA-FREE	Seychelles	VISA	Vanuatu	VISA
Chad	VISA	Haiti	VISA	Moldova	VISA	Sierra Leone	VISA	Vatican City	VISA
Chile	VISA-FREE	Honduras	VISA	Monaco	VISA-FREE	Singapore	VISA-FREE	Venezuela	VISA
China	VISA	Hungary	VISA-FREE	Mongolia	VISA	Slovakia	VISA-FREE	Vietnam	VISA
Colombia	VISA-FREE	Iceland	VISA-FREE	Montenegro	VISA	Slovenia	VISA-FREE	Yemen	VISA
Comoros	VISA	India	VISA	Morocco	VISA	Solomon Islands	VISA	Zambia	VISA
Congo - Brazzaville	VISA	Indonesia	VISA	Mozambique	VISA	Somalia	VISA	Zimbabwe	VISA

How long may you stay? Up to 180 days is the maximum possible visitor stay, not a guarantee. The immigration officer determines the actual number of days at entry. Be ready to show the purpose of your trip, accommodation, onward/return ticket, and proof of funds; you may be referred for an additional interview.

How to stay beyond a tourist visit

The key question is not “which visa do I like?” but which legal basis actually fits your circumstances.

1 · TOURIST

Short visit

Tourism and permitted activities without paid work in Mexico; up to 180 days.

2 · TEMPORARY RESIDENCY

Over 180 days, up to 4 years

Check finances, family, study, work, property, investment and other routes.

3 · PERMANENT RESIDENCY

Indefinite status

Available after temporary residency or directly in certain cases.

4 · NATURALIZATION

A separate SRE procedure

Residency is not citizenship; separate time requirements apply.

Study and work. Student status is residente temporal estudiante; paid work generally requires authorization through INM. The right path depends on duration, employer, and activity.

Temporary residency: what to check

A quick self-check. Details depend on the specific legal basis.

FINANCE

Financial means

Documented income, pension, savings, or investments may qualify.

FAMILY

Family connection

Marriage, partnership, parents, children, and other legal ties.

PROPERTY / INVESTMENT

Property and business

Qualifying property, investments, and business assets may apply.

STUDY

Study over 180 days

For studies at a Mexican institution: residente temporal estudiante.

WORK

Paid work

A Mexican employer starts the process through INM.

INVITATION / SPECIAL

Invitation and special activity

Unpaid projects, research, and international mobility have specific routes.

Foreign income is not a work visa. It does not replace an independent legal basis for residency.

Permanent residency: an indefinite status

Permanent residency may follow temporary residency or be available directly in specific legal situations.

4 YEARS

After temporary residency

The standard route is after 4 consecutive years.

FAMILY

Family: when permanent residency may apply

Parents of a Mexican-born child and other defined family ties may qualify.

RETIREMENT

Retirement / independent income

A direct route for qualifying retirees and financially independent people.

PROTECTION

International protection

Refugee recognition or complementary protection gives access to permanent residency.

Permanent residency is not citizenship. Citizenship is acquired separately through naturalization.

Refugee protection: a separate path

Refugee protection is not simply a way to “get residency.”

WHEN

When it may apply

A well-founded fear of persecution or serious risk from violence or conflict.

1 • TERRITORY

Be in Mexico

Apply only from Mexico, through COMAR or INM where COMAR is unavailable.

2-3 • TIME & EVIDENCE

Apply and explain

The basic deadline is 30 business days after entry; tell your individual story and provide available evidence.

4-6 • PROCESS

Confidential and free

Protection from return applies during the process; outcomes may be recognition, complementary protection, or refusal.

This is international protection, not a way to regularize an economic or personal situation.

Naturalization: what comes after residency

Citizenship does not arise automatically from residency.

5 YEARS

General rule

Most applicants need 5 years of qualifying residency immediately before applying.

2 YEARS

Mexican-born child

A foreign parent may qualify after 2 years of qualifying residency.

2 YEARS

Marriage / Latin America / Iberia

The law provides shorter periods in specific cases.

IMPORTANT

Student status

Residente temporal estudiante does not count toward the standard naturalization period.

Documents, travel history, Spanish, Mexican history, and culture are reviewed as applicable.

Let's look at your situation

This guide gives you the map. In a free initial consultation, we can identify the route that is realistic for you and the first step to take.

We will review:

- your nationality, purpose, and intended length of stay;
- family situation, income, and documents;
- which entry and residency options may apply;
- what to do before buying tickets or filing documents.

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

Instagram: @mila.being | www.being.ing | WhatsApp: +52 5523438711

Official sources

Checked 24 September 2026. Requirements may change; always verify the procedure you plan to use with the official source.

01

Entry, SAE, and e-visas

INM: Sistema de Autorización Electrónica; SRE / Mexican Embassy in Brazil.

02

Migration status

Ley de Migración and Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM).

03

International protection

COMAR: refugee recognition requirements and procedure.

04

Naturalization

Ley de Nacionalidad, art. 20; SRE naturalization guidance.

Information only, not a legal opinion or a guarantee of a result.