

Mexico

The Department of Foreign Affairs and the IIPC remind you that while most visits to Mexico are trouble-free, you are advised to **exercise a high degree of caution if visiting Mexico, particularly areas close to the US Border such as Tijuana, because of the high level of violent crime.** Pay close attention to your security at all times and monitor the media for information about possible new safety or security risks.

The border region with the US is considered especially unsafe. Foreign visitors and residents have been among the victims in this region, including the cities of Nuevo Laredo, Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez, Nogales, Reynosa and Marmoros.

Irish tourists or students who consider it necessary to visit Tijuana should remain in the Zona Río and Av. Revolución areas of the city and avoid the Zonas Norte and Oriente.

You are likely to face prosecution and lengthy sentences if found in possession of any amount of illicit drugs. There have also been reported cases of police extortion.

In recent years **a number of Irish students have had their passports and other valuables stolen while on day visits from San Diego to Tijuana.**

If this happens to you, you will be refused re-entry into the US if you cannot produce a valid passport and visa. If you are not in a position to pay the fine, the only alternative is to travel the 1,500 miles to the Embassy of Ireland in Mexico City to obtain a replacement passport.

Please therefore take extreme care with your passport and other personal documentation when travelling to Mexico to avoid an unpleasant and inconvenient situation.

Be AWARE:

- Consumption of excessive amounts of alcohol, particularly in warm climates, may impair your judgment and lead you into serious difficulties.
- There are reports that there is a market for stolen passports in Mexico, so store your passport and other valuables safely and use alternative ID or a photocopy of the personal information page of your passport where possible.
- Do not walk alone after dark, and even if in a group be very vigilant.
- Use only authorized taxis from taxi ranks.
- Be very careful when withdrawing money from ATM machines, withdraw only small amounts and ensure that you use ATM machines in secure areas and during daylight hours.