

COMING BACK INTO THE UNITED STATES

TERMINATION OF THE RALLY: All Chapter 8 Rallies terminate at our destination in Mexico. When we approach the last

scheduled days of the rally, individuals will post a schedule and route that they propose to travel after the end of the rally and

welcome other rally participants to join them by signing a list. These groups are normally limited to a reasonable number of rigs.

Some continue their travels in Mexico and others return to the United States. We do not recommend anyone travel by themselves in Mexico. The support received by traveling companions during times of difficulty can turn an emergency into a

routine problem. Besides, it's a lot more enjoyable sharing new experiences with others. Remember not to exceed the issue

period of your Tourist Card.

LEAVING MEXICO: Drive directly through the Mexican Border Control Station if you are not turning in any documents. Church's

book has every border crossing identified with details on traffic control and ease of crossing.

You have the option to turn in your Tarjeta de Turista (Tourist Card) to any Migración (Immigration) Office and Importacion

Temporal de Vehiculos (Temporary Vehicle Import Permit) to any Banjercito before you cross the border. Remember that you

must turn in these two documents before they expire or you will have difficulty and/or pay a fine in order to return to Mexico at any

time, including that flying vacation to Cancun.

Turning in the Tourist Card is as simple as handing it to the Official on duty in the Migración Office. You do not get a receipt.

The vehicle with hologram sticker still attached and the original paper Temporary Vehicle Import Permit the hologram came on

must be returned to the Banjercito. The Banjercito Official will personally go to your vehicle, remove the hologram sticker, match

it to the vehicle's VIN, replace it on the paper Permit, and return to the office. Be sure to get a printed receipt showing that you

have returned your Vehicle Import Permit and that it is cancelled. Hold this receipt until your next visit. Receipt should include

hologram and visa

ENTERING THE UNITED STATES: Drive to and stop at the US Border Control Station using the designated RV lane or, if no RV

lane, any of the auto lanes no matter what type of rig you have. Be aware that some auto lanes do not have enough clearance to

drive your rig through so choose wisely. Do not use the commercial lanes. Be prepared for long lines and an extended wait.

There is a lot of construction in progress.

These documents are required in order to comply with US Immigration and Customs laws.

A. A **passport** for each person. The only proof of citizenship acceptable to US Customs is a passport. A birth certificate will no

longer be used to establish citizenship. Non US citizens must comply with US host regulations for their country of origin.

B. An original **Vehicle Registration** Certificate for each vehicle.

C. Proof of **vehicle insurance**.

Be prepared to be pulled over, questioned, and inspected by US Customs officials. There is normally an area set aside for you to

park your rig. Follow the official's directions. Read the US Customs handout which lists all the prohibited items and those items

which can be imported only in limited quantities. This handout can be obtained at any US Customs Office. We have found that

giving the officials a written list of items purchased in Mexico is helpful. If you still have any of the prohibited items, they will be

confiscated and disposed of. Do not try to hide anything. If you have any items requiring duty, they should be declared and paid

for at the office at each border station. Do not lie or be evasive when you answer their questions and this is not the opportunity to

be funny. These rules are strictly enforced!

You may have to sign a form if something is taken from you depending on the article. The form is the receipt of there taking it.

Do not bring plants of any kind into Mexico even dried as they may be confiscated on way back in if they are also found in Mexico.

CHECKLIST

Bring the original and one copy of:

- the front page of your passport
- registration for all vehicles you are taking into Mexico
- copy of your Mexican liability insurance for all motorized vehicles with a start date
- notarized letter from financial institution authorizing vehicle entrance into Mexico
- title – copies only
- USDA health certificate from your veterinarian for any dog or cat traveling with you
- medical evacuation card
- copy of international contact information for any credit card(s) as well as the account #'s

Put these in a safe place inside of your vehicle

Bring:

- Working CB radio with external antennae
- all prescriptions and over the counter medicines in their original containers – if you plan on purchasing medication in Mexico the label will most likely be written in Spanish so bring a pen so you can mark each with the English name and dosage
- camera, film, extra batteries
- flashlight and extra batteries
- anti-diarrhea (just in case)
- general first aid kit
- bug spray for you and one for your RV
- hand sanitizer
- borax (when sprinkled around the exterior of your RV it keeps ants from entering it)
- computer
- voltage and polarity tester
- baby wipes in a container you can slip into your bag or pocket for use in the banos
- a major credit card (for obtaining Holograma, accessing ATM's) Notify your financial institution you will be traveling in Mexico so they don't decline your using it.
- full propane tank – in Mexico it is butane and will freeze in cooler climates
- cash to convert to pesos
- favorite food or beverage that you will miss if it is not available in Mexico
- full water tank
- empty holding tank – there cannot be any paper in the holding tank in Mexico
- sense of adventure
- if you have walkie-talkies bring them. They are good to use in route or on the ground
- spare parts for your vehicle
- jugs or bottles of water

**MEXICAN BORDER NOTICE TO RETURNING TRAVELERS:
AGRICULTURE QUARANTINE INFORMATION**

Travelers entering the United States are required to declare any meats, fruits, vegetables, plants, animals, and plant and animal products they are bringing with them. The declaration must cover all agricultural items in baggage, hand luggage, vehicles, and on their persons.

Failure to declare any of these items may cause delays and result in fines of up to \$1,000 or more. Any agricultural items taken from the United States or any other country to Mexico may not be allowed to return. All agricultural items may require inspection and may be prohibited if they can carry plant pests or animal diseases.

Common Agricultural Items that are Permitted for personal use (not commercial) into the United States after inspection:

Avocados, without seed (not admitted if going to California)
Bananas
Blackberries, Blueberries
Cabbage
Cactusfruit (Only prickly pear fruit)
Tunas, pitaya (prohibited)
Carrots
Chestnuts
Coconuts, without husks or without milk
Dairy products (milk, cheese, butter, cream)
Dates
Dried beans, lentils, garbanzo, faba, corn for eating
Eggs, boiled or cooked only (raw are prohibited)
Grapes
Honey (with or without comb for eating only)
Lemongrass for tea (dried commercially packaged only)
Lemons (ponderosa lemons are prohibited)
Lettuce
Limes, Sour or Persian (sweet limes are prohibited)
Lychees
Meat of Beef, goat, raw or cooked under 50 lb
Meat of Poultry, thoroughly cooked (raw is prohibited)
Meat of Pork, only shelf stable, canned pork is admissible with the exception of chorizo
Medicinal herbs DRIED (some types are prohibited)
Melons (cantaloupe, honeydew, watermelon)
Mesquite firewood
Mint
Nopales (prickly pear cactus pads for eating)
Nuts, peanuts, almonds, acorns, pinon, walnuts
Ostrich eggs, when empty and clean
Papaya
Pecans
Peppers (except manzano peppers are prohibited)
Pineapple
Radish
Raspberries (fruit)
Rosemary (above ground parts)
Sage
Spinach
Squash
Strawberries
Sugarcane - only peeled pieces (chews) are enterable
Tamarind
Vegetables - most vegetables are permitted after

inspection (prohibited are potatoes, sweet potatoes/yam, camote, and manzanopeppers)

Watercress -----

Common Agricultural Items that are generally NOT Permitted into the United States for personal use:

Admissible animal products or meats, when over 50 pounds
Animal grease, pan drippings, or lard
Bird/animal cages, used/contaminated
Cactus/cactus parts, live or dead (cholla, saguaro, cordon)
Citrus leaves, stems, roots, wood or flowers
Chorizo w/poultry and pork products (or without labels)
Commercial quantities of any article
Cut flowers of chrysanthemum & gladiolas
Cut greenery of juniper, choisya, some others
Eggs, fresh (all bird eggs, including duck and quail)
Egg boxes used for packing that are not clean
Empty poultry eggs (cascarones)
fresh Lemon Grass
Fruits - prohibited, fresh or not thoroughly cooked/frozen
Garbage
Grapevines or crafts made with grapevine
Ham, bologna, sausage (without ingredient labels)
Live or dead birds or poultry
livestock feed with animal additives
Lumber, wood (requires special permits/treatments)
Manure or feces (including articles contaminated with)
Manzano peppers
Medicinal herbs or teas containing citrus products
Medicinal plant products that are not dried
Pet Foods (dog, cat, etc) containing animal products
Plants, seeds, cuttings, or plant parts for growing are not admissible without specific documents
Pork products (raw, cooked, fried or frozen)
Soil, yard debris, landscaping waste, dirt, manure
Straw or hay, grass
Sugarcane, whole or unpeeled
Vehicles contaminated with mud, dirt, manure
Wheat grain, bran or straw, or crafts with wheat

These lists are not all-inclusive, and are subject to change. Confiscated items are carefully inspected for pests and then destroyed. For additional travelers' information or questions about items not on these lists, visit the APHIS website at www.aphis.usda.gov or www.cbp.gov "Know Before You Go" or contact the local Agriculture Inspection office.

Local Program Aid Created by Agriculture Inspection of Customs and Border Protection of Nogales, Arizona (May 01, 2008)