

The Guide



The countess's green court

Valet parking is a sport in this *colonia* that was once home to a horse race track. Wind your way through the tree-lined streets as you go dog walking or bar hopping.

"We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are." ANAÍS NIN

Condesa

Send-us-Suggestions line:

Have a favorite bar, taco stand, art gallery or yoga center?

Send us your city-wide suggestions — all of them!

theguide@insidemex.com

BARS

2. Black Horse

Mexicali 85

5211-8740

Tues – Sat: 5 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Sun – Mon: closed

www.caballonegro.com

Pub with live music

3. Cinna Bar

Nuevo León 67-1

5286-8456

Mon – Wed: 7 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Thurs – Sat: 7 p.m. – 2:30 a.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Prices: \$110 martinis exóticos

www.cinnabar.com.mx

Thai and Vietnamese fusion dining

4. Condesa d.f.

Veracruz 102

5241-2600

Sun – Tues: 1 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Wed – Sat: 1 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Prices: \$115 cocktails

Restaurant opens for breakfast, lunch and dinner; Mart Sushi Bar on the terrace opens at 7 p.m.

5. El Mitote

Ámsterdam 53

5211-9150

Tues – Sat: 8 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Prices: tapas from \$45 to \$125

Tapas bar

6. Elodia y Sus Bondades

Mazatlán 138

5286-9126

Mon – Wed: 1:30 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Thurs – Sat: 1:30 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Sun: closed • Payment: all cards

Valet parking

Beer, bar and botanas

7. La Botica

Alfonso Reyes 120

Mon – Sat: 5 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Sun: closed • Payment: cash only

Mezcal, mezcal cocktails and tamales

8. La Cabaña del Tío Manolo

Campeche 415

Mon – Wed: 6 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Thurs – Sat: 6 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Payment: cash only

Rock & Roll and burgers

9. La Cervcería

Vicente Suárez 38-H

5212-1421

Mon – Sat: 12 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Sun: 12 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.

Payment: all cards

Mariscos, beer and bar

10. Pata Negra

Tamaulipas 30

5211-5563

Mon – Sun: 1:30 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Prices: \$95 El Martini Pata

Negra, \$35 beer

www.patanegra.com.mx

Jazz and tapas

11. St. Patrick's Pub

Campeche 410

5211-3330

Mon – Sun: 12 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

www.pubmexico.com

More than 30 imported beers

LATE NIGHT

12. A.M.

Nuevo León 67-2

5286-8572

Wed – Sat: 10 p.m. – 3:30 a.m.

Cover • www.amlocal.com

10. Salón Pata Negra

Tamaulipas and Juan Escutia

(above Pata Negra)

2454-9378

Tues – Wed: 10 p.m. – 3:30 a.m.

Thurs – Sat: 9 p.m. – 3:30 a.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

BILLIARDS

13. Malafama

Michoacán 78

5553-5138

Sun – Wed: 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Thurs: 11 a.m. – 1 a.m.

Friday – Sat: 11 a.m. – 2 a.m.

Payment: cash only

Prices: \$80/hour of pool

RESTAURANTS

14. 50 friends

Italian

Cadereyta 19

5553-4353

Sun – Wed: 2 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Thurs – Sat: 2 p.m. – 3 a.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Will deliver: 2 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Prices: pizzas from \$90 to \$160

15. Agapi Mu

Greek

Alfonso Reyes 96

5553-4167, 5286-1384

Tues – Sat: 1:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Sun – Mon: 1:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Average cost: \$150

Greek dancing Thurs, Fri, Sat

16. Barracuda Diner

American diner

Nuevo León 4-A

5211-9480

Sun – Wed: 1 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Thurs – Sat: 1 p.m. – 4 a.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Average cost: \$120 to \$150

Will deliver within 5-6 blocks

17. Bistrot Continental

Fusion

México 157

5564-6810

Mon – Sun: 1 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Average cost: \$250

Fondue overlooking Parque México

18. Bistrot Mosaico

French and International

Michoacán 10

5584-2932 (they don't take

reservations)

Mon – Sat: 1 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Sun: 1 – 5:30 p.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Average cost: \$300

Small bakery and deli inside

19. Café La Gloria

French home cooking

Vicente Suárez 41-D

5211-4185

Sun – Wed: 1 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Thurs – Sat: 1 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Average cost: \$150

20. Capicúa

Spanish tapas

Nuevo León 66

5211-5280, 5286-3697

Mon – Sat: 1 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Sun: closed

Payment: all cards • Valet parking

Average cost: \$250

Carry-out orders

21. Don Keso

Salads, baguettes and pizza, bar

Parras 73-B

5553-3065

Mon – Sat: 10 a.m. – 2 a.m.

Sun: 1 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Payment: all cards

Will deliver in Condesa

Average cost: \$60 to \$80

22. El 10

Argentine

Alfonso Reyes 66

5553-0734

Mon – Sun: 1 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Payment: cash only

Valet parking

Average cost: \$150

Will deliver

Benjamin Hill 187

5276-2616

Same hours

23. El Jamil

Lebanese

Ámsterdam 306

5564-9486

1. Barney's A CHILL BAR IN BOLD



Fernando Montes de Oca 43

5212-0007

Tues – Sat: 7 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Sunday – Monday: closed

Payment: all cards except

American Express

Valet parking

Average cost: \$250

Dig that red interior with pizza, the bourbon-and-grenadine Red Rider cocktail and live rock on Saturdays.

Mon – Thurs: 2 p.m. – 11 p.m.
 Friday – Sat: 2 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
 Sun: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.
 Payment: all cards
 Valet parking
Average cost: \$300

24. El Japonés

Japanese
Vicente Suárez 42
5286-0712, 5286-0795
 Tues – Sat: 1 p.m. – 12 a.m.
 Sun – Mon: 1 p.m. – 11 p.m.
 Payment: all cards
 Valet parking
 Will deliver
Average cost: \$180

25. La Creperie de la Paix

Crepes and salads
Michoacán 103
5286-0049
 Mon – Sun: 7 a.m. – 1 a.m.
 Payment: all cards
 Valet parking
Average cost: \$170

26. La Esquina del Mercado

Hamburguesas al carbon, Argentine dishes
Corner of Michoacán and Vicente Suárez
 Mon – Sat: 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 Sun: 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 Payment: cash only
Prices: \$60 for a burger, fries and a soda

27. La Morena

Oyster bar and seafood
Atlixco 94
5211-0250, 5256-0157
 Mon – Sun: 1 p.m. – 1 a.m.
 Payment: all cards - Valet parking
 Will deliver (5286-5309)
Average cost: \$250

28. Ligaya

Contemporary fusion
Nuevo León 68
5286-6268, 5286-6380
 Tues – Sat: 2 p.m. – 12 a.m.
 Sun: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
 Mon: closed - Valet parking
Average cost: \$300

29. Mamá Rosa's

Italian-Mexican fusion
Atlixco 105
5211-1640
 Sun – Wed: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Thurs – Sat: 8 a.m. – 1 a.m.
 Payment: all cards - Valet parking
Average cost: \$200

30. Mibong

Thai, Malaysian, Vietnamese
Campeche 396-B
5211-2078
 Sun – Wed: 1 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.
 Thurs – Sat: 1 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.

Payment: all cards
 Will deliver in Condesa
Average cost: \$180 to \$200

31. Orquídeas

Eclectic
México 117
5574-7464
 Mon – Sat: 8 a.m. – 12 a.m.
 Sun: 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 Payment: all cards
Average cost: \$150

32. Parrillada Uruguaya Don Asado

Uruguayan beef and pizza
Michoacán 77
5286-0789, 5553-2831
 Mon – Thurs: 1:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
 Friday – Sat: 1:30 p.m. – 12 a.m.
 Sun: 1 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 Payment: all cards - Valet parking
Average cost: \$150

33. Restaurante Daikoku

Japanese
Michoacán 25
 Mon – Sat: 1 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
 Sun: 1 p.m. – 11 p.m.
 Payment: all cards
 Valet parking - Will deliver
Average cost: \$200

34. Rojo Bistrot

French
Ámsterdam 71-C
5211-3705
 Mon – Thurs: 2 p.m. – 12 a.m.
 Friday – Sat: 2 p.m. – 1 a.m.
 Sun: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
 Payment: all cards - Valet parking
Average cost: \$250 to \$300

35. Segundo Paso

International restaurant/bar
Ámsterdam 76
5553-3902
 Mon – Sat: 1 p.m. – 2 a.m.
 Sun: 1 p.m. – 10 p.m.
 Payment: all cards - Valet parking
Promedio: \$200 to \$250
 Will deliver in Condesa

NATURAL FARE

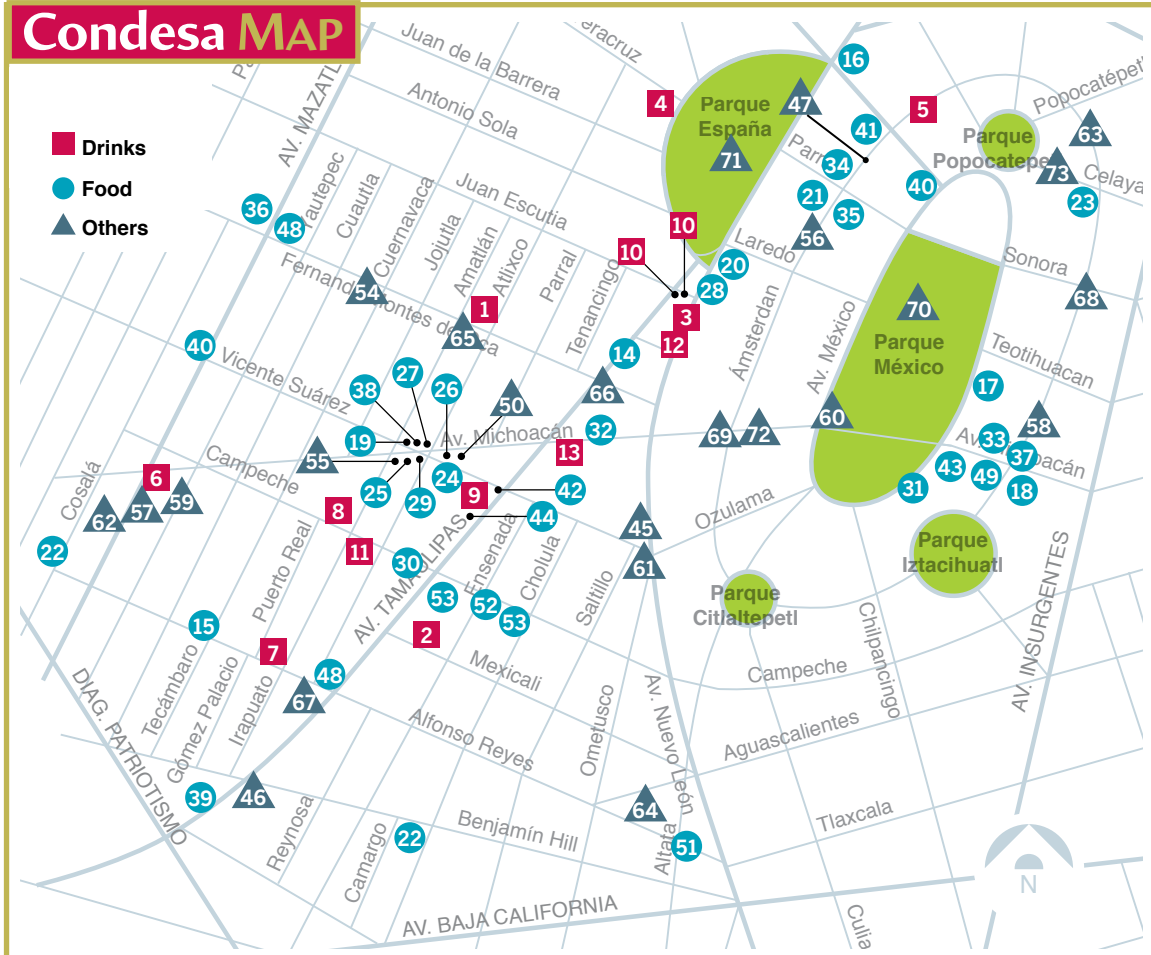
36. The Green Corner

Mazatlán 81 Local 1-2
5286-3939
 Mon – Sun: 7:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Average cost: \$80
www.thegreencorner.com

37. Frutos Prohibidos y Otros Placeres

Ámsterdam 244-B
5264-5808
 Mon – Friday: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.
 Sat – Sun: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 Payment: cash only
Average cost: \$60

Condesa MAP



38. La Buena Tierra

Atlixco 94
5286-4095, 5211-0250
 Sun – Thurs: 8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
 Friday – Sat: 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 Payment: all cards
 Valet parking - Will deliver
Average cost: \$105 lunch

CAFÉS

39. Coffee Shop El Hijo del Santo

Tamaulipas 219
5515-2186
 Mon – Sat: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 Payment: all cards
www.elhijodelsanto.com.mx

40. Finca Santa VeraCruz

México 13-C
1054-6558
 Mon – Friday: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 Sat: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 Payment: cash only
 Will deliver
www.finca.com.mx

Vicente Suárez 114-E
 Same hours

41. La Esquina del Té

Ámsterdam 55
5553-9081
 Mon – Sat: 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
 Sun: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 Payment: all cards

42. La Selva Café

Vicente Suárez 38-C
5211-5170
 Mon – Sun: 8 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
 Payment: all cards
www.laselvacafe.com.mx

43. Piccolo Toscano Café

Michoacán 30-A
5584-3681
 Mon – Sun: 7 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.
 Payment: cash only

44. The Village Café

Tamaulipas 99 - 5211-0446
 Sun – Wed: 8 a.m. – 11 p.m.
 Thurs – Sat: 8 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.
 Payment: all cards
www.villagecafe.com

Tongue Tied?

MULTILINGUAL TRANSLATION SERVICES

Deutsch
 English
 Español

Specializing in Legal, Migratory, Medical, Bureaucratic, Transactional and Bank Documents

Sabine Persicke K.
S_persicke@yahoo.com.mx
 References available

Rowena Galavitz

focusing on art and culture...

Translation
 (Spanish to English)

Editorial coordination
 Copyediting and proofreading

Look me up on the Internet or contact me at:
rowenagalavitz@yahoo.com
 References available

BOOKSTORES

45. Cafetrería El Péndulo

Bookstore, café and restaurant
Nuevo León 115

5286-9493

Mon – Friday: 8 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Sat – Sun: 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Payment: all cards

Valet parking

www.pendolo.com

46. Centro Cultural Bella Época Rosario Castellanos

Bookstore, cafeteria, movie theatre and gallery

Tamaulipas 202

5276-7110, 5276-7139

Sun – Thurs: 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Friday – Sat: 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Payment: all cards Valet parking

www.fondodeculturaeconomica.com

47. Conejoblanc

Bookstore and café

Ámsterdam 67

5286-7430

Sun – Wed: 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Thurs – Sat: 9 a.m. – 12 a.m.

www.conejoblanc.com.mx

NIEVES & ICE CREAM

48. Nevería Roxy

Mazatlán 80

Mon – Sun: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Cash only

Have a sundae at the counter

Tamaulipas 161

Same hours

49. Tepoznieves

Michoacán 30-A

Mon – Sun: 11 a.m. – 8:30 pm

Payment: Cash only

MARKETS

50. Mercado Michoacán

Between Michoacán and
Vicente Suárez

Mon – Sun: 8 a.m. – 6 or 7 p.m.

Produce, meat and comida corrida

stands

TACOS

51. El Califa de León

Altata 22, corner of Alfonso

Reyes

5271-7666, 5271-6285

Will deliver 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 a.m.

52. El Kalimán

Corner of Ensenada and

Campeche

53. El Tizoncito

Campeche 362-A

5211-5139, 5286-5374

Will deliver

Tamaulipas 122

SHOPPING

54. 5 L-Mento

Cuernavaca 79

3186-0972

Mon – Sat: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sun: 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Payment: all cards

Furniture, bicycles, clothes, lamps

and accessories

55. Artefacto

Amatlán 94

5286-7729

Mon – Friday: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sat: 12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Sun: 12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Payment: all cards

Fine artesanía and textiles

56. Colectivo 7

Ámsterdam 92

5553-1793

Mon – Sat: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.,

4 p.m. – 8 p.m. • Sun: closed

Seven designers pool their col-

lections.

57. El Milagrito

Mazatlán 152-A

5553-5334

Mon – Sat: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Payment: varies by item

Mexican icon kitsch

58. Modifica

Ámsterdam 289

5264-4055

Mon – Sat: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sun: 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Payment: all cards

Vases, lamps and picture frames

59. NaCo.

Yautepec 126-B

Mon – Sat: 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Payment: Visa and MasterCard

www.chidochido.com

Chilango slang on T-shirts

TAXI SITIOS

60. Sitio de Parque México

Michoacán and Ámsterdam

5286-7164, 5286-7129

61. Sitio 262

Vicente Suárez and Nuevo León

8590-6720, 8590-6721

FITNESS AND DANCE

62. Dance Proyect

Mazatlán 161

5553-4802, 5553-4803

Classes: jazz, ballet, hip-hop,

tap, yoga, belly, pilates, salsa and

zumba



PARQUE MÉXICO

Get a dog. Take her for a walk.
Make new friends.

Prices: \$80/class, various

packages

www.danceproyect.com.mx

One free demo class

63. Qi

Ámsterdam 317

5564-6406, 5584-8377

www.qi.com.mx

Gym, rock climbing wall, spa,

meditation room, yoga, pilates and

more

VIDEO RENTAL

64. Videodromo

Alfonso Reyes 238

5211-1932

Mon – Sun: 12 p.m. – 10 p.m.

www.videodromo.com.mx

Home delivery!

INT'L CALLS

65. Call Back

Fernando Montes de Oca 46

5211-2976

Mon – Friday: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sat: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Prices: USA and Canada
\$2.50/minute, England,
Australia and New Zealand
\$3/mtnminute

FLOWER STANDS

66. Fernando Montes de Oca and Tamaulipas

67. Tamaulipas and Alfonso Reyes

68. Ámsterdam and Sonora

69. Ámsterdam and Michoacán

PARKS

70. Parque México

71. Parque España

SUPERMARKET

72. Superama

Michoacán 38

Mon – Sun: 7 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Pharmacy open same hours

COMUNITY ORGANIZATION

73. American Legion

Celaya 25

5564-4490 (office hours, Tues-

day – Friday)

Tues – Sun: Bar and restaurant

1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Tuesday: Jazz starts at 3:30 p.m.

Friday: Bar 5 – 11 p.m., Happy

Hour 5 – 7 p.m. with live music

Saturday: Bingo from 4:30– 6:30

p.m., \$30 pesos/10 games

unasletras.com

Motolinía 20, esq. 5 de Mayo Centro Histórico
Reservations: 5512 3369



"among an elite group of
25 exciting new nightspots worldwide"
Condé Nast Traveler 2006

IS YOUR car illegal?



Gail Page

DRIVING INTO AND AROUND MÉXICO... LEGALLY

BY ARAN SHETTERLY

A couple of months ago, a friend of mine called from Brownsville, Texas. “Hi Aran,” he said with the tense and slightly worried tone of a person bracing himself for confusing red tape in a foreign language, “I just wanted to make sure I have my documents in order before I cross the border (see box).”

“Do you own your car outright or are you paying down a car loan?” I asked. When my wife and I drove into México, our entry had been delayed

for a day and a half when we learned at the last minute that the customs officials at the border would require a letter from the lending bank before allowing our car into the country. That letter came at a steep price: a year’s car payments in advance.

Alex, not the bank, owned his car and he did have all the proper documents, but he continued, “I’m confused about something. The visa that accompanies my Fulbright Fellowship lasts nine months. When I cross into México they are going to give me a six month permit for the car. Does this mean that they will confiscate my car after six months?”

“No,” I answered, “You are OK.”

If I hadn’t faced a similar dilemma a month earlier I

wouldn’t have known what to say. In June, as the expiration date for our tourist visas (FM-Ts) drew near, our application for residency visas (FM-3s) had not yet been accepted. We could fly out of the country and return, thereby renewing our FM-Ts for another three months. But what about the car? According to what I could find on the internet, a foreign-owned car is allowed to stay in México only six months out of every twelve. Therefore, if we left México by car and attempted to return a few days later, the border authorities would let

my wife and me back in, but not the car.

I consulted Roberto Torres, the excellent immigration lawyer at the law firm Solorzano, Carvajal, González and Perez Correa. A couple of days later, he sent me an e-mail that began: “Even when the [car] permit has an expiration date...the lifetime of the permit is understood to extend for the entire time that the importer keeps his migratory status up-to-date.”

In other words, as long as we were legal and our visas had not expired, the car was legal! (I was able to corroborate this revelation at only one website, www.rollybrook.com, a site created by Mr. Rollins Brook. It’s well worth a visit to Mr. Brook’s site to review the ins-and-outs of a variety of topics related to setting up a legal life in México as a foreigner.)

We did have to fly out of and back into México to renew our FM-Ts. (If we had left by car, it’s true that the car wouldn’t have been allowed back into the country for six months.) Also, to help explain the lapsed permit on our windshield to any inquiring Mexican policemen, we made sure to carry a copy of the law that Mr. Torres had quoted in our glove compartment (see box).

“Your car’s status depends on yours. The nine-month visa you received with your Fulbright takes precedence over the six month sticker the authorities put on your car at the border,” I told Alex with newfound authority.

Conveniently for us (although this didn’t apply to Alex’s situation), when my wife and I crossed the border we guaranteed the car importation bond with a credit card. This meant that once we received our FM-3 visas, we did not have to advise Mexican customs of the change in status. If we had paid the bond in cash, we would have been required to let customs know about our new visa status within 15 days, thereby adding one more step to staying legal.

“By the way,” I asked Alex, “are you going to be driving through México City? There will be days when you are not allowed to drive your car.”

“What?!”

“It all depends on the last digit of your license plate number. One Thursday afternoon, we had a little chat with every policeman on duty as we drove down Insurgentes....”

Good luck and safe driving.

Paper trail

What you need at the border

- 1 Passport (as of January 8, 2007, a passport will be required of all individuals entering México).
- 2 Valid US, Canadian, or International driver’s license.
- 3 Vehicle Registration

Certificate or Vehicle Title in the driver’s name.

4 Lease contract if the vehicle is leased or rented.

5 Notarized letter of permission from lien holder if you bought your car with a loan.

6 Proof of Mexican auto insurance.

7 An international credit card to post bond on the car, OR between \$200 and \$400 USD in cash that will be returned to you when you cross the border back into the United States with your car.

What you need driving around México

1 Tourist (FM-T) or residency (FM-3/2) visa copy.

2 FM-3 solicitation form copy in the name of the car importer, if your FM3 is in process.

3 Marriage certificate copy if you are driving with your spouse and he/she

might drive too.

4 Article 106 of the Customs Law – Ley Aduanera copy – (find it at www.insidemex.com).

5 A copy of the 2006 External Commerce Rule number 3.2.6. (find it at www.insidemex.com)

6 Customs Office General Administration phone number in México City: 55-91-57-38-93.

You can report any abuses to them.

7 Mexican auto insurance contract.

NEXT MONTH

The secret to driving 7 days a week in the D.F.

All phone numbers are local to México City. Country code: 52 City area code: 55

Australian Embassy

Ambassador: Neil Mules
Ruben Dario 55
Colonia Polanco
 Telephone: 1101-2200
 Fax: 1101-2201
 Website: www.mexico.embassy.gov.au
 Email: embaustmex@yahoo.com.mx

British Embassy

Ambassador: Giles Paxman
Río Lerma 71
Colonia Cuauhtémoc
 Website: www.british-embassy.gov.uk/mexico

Consular Section

Consul: Andrew Morris
Río Usumacinta 26
 Colonia Cuauhtémoc
 Telephone: 5242-8500
 Fax: 5242-8523
 Email: consular.mexico@fco.gov.uk

Canadian Embassy

Ambassador: Gaëtan Lavertu
Schiller 529
 Colonia Polanco
 Website: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/mexico-city
Consular Section
 Telephone: 5724-7900 ext. 3322D
 Fax: 5724-7943
 Passport Section
 Fax: 5387-9305

French Embassy

Ambassador: Alain Le Gourriérec
Campos Eliseos 339
Colonia Polanco
 Telephone: 9171-9700
 Fax: 9171-9703
 Website: www.ambafrance-mx.org

Consulate General

Consul: Didier Goujaud
Lafontaine 32
Colonia Polanco
 Telephone: 9171-9700
 Fax: 9171-9858
 Website: www.consul-

france-mexico.org
 Email: consulat.mexico-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Irish Embassy

Ambassador: Dermot Brangan
Cda. Boulevard Avila Camacho 76-3
Colonia Lomas de Chapultepec
 Telephone: 5520-5803
 Fax: 5520-5892
 Website: http://foreignaffairs.gov.ie/irish-embassy/Mexico.htm
 Email: embajada@irlanda.org.mx

German Embassy

Ambassador: Dr. Roland Michael Wegener
Lord Byron 737
Colonia Polanco
 Telephone: 5283-2200
 Fax: 5281-2588
 Website: www.mexiko.diplo.de

Japanese Embassy

Ambassador: Yubun Narita
Paseo de la Reforma 395
 Colonia Cuauhtémoc
 Telephone: 5211-0028, 5514-4507
 Website: www.mx.emb-japan.go.jp/

New Zealand Embassy

Ambassador: George Robert Furness Troup
Jaime Balmes 8, 4th Floor
Colonia Los Morales, Polanco 11510 D.F.,
 Telephone: 5283-9460
 Fax: 5283-9480
 Email: kiwimexico@prodigy.net.mx

United States Embassy

Ambassador: Tony Garza
Paseo de la Reforma 305
Colonia Cuauhtémoc
 Telephone: 5080-2000D
 Fax: 5525-5040
 Website: http://mexico.usembassy.gov/index.html
 Email: ccs@usembassy.net.mx (Citizens Consular Services)

Green Guide

HSBC BUILDING



Luz Montero

The Green Giant

By Jamie Rosen

With its new 32-story tower, located at the Angel of Independence on México City's main avenue Paseo de la Reforma, HSBC has created the first green office building in México. The bank spent an additional \$3 million on the Torre HSBC in order to comply with green building practices, according to Claudio Tanco, HSBC's Head of Corporate Real Estate.

Although the company pays a flat fee for water and doesn't save money by reducing consumption, it nevertheless put in place a treatment plant to capture rainwater and drainage from bathroom sinks for reuse in its air conditioners. "It would have been easy to do," said Bernardo Barona, an HSBC architect. "We decided against it because it would have been too smelly. Bad for customer service."

Tanco is optimistic that his will be the first office building in Latin America to receive the certification of the U.S. Green Building Council. Known as LEED, the certification covers not just the building but also the behavior of the 2,200 employees who use it, which has led to HSBC introducing changes in the work environment.

Some have been straightforward, such as using stylish, comfortable chairs made of recycled (and recyclable) materials. Others take more time to get used to, such as waterless urinals and motion sensors that turn off the lights in the conference rooms (requiring people to periodically flap their arms to remind the room's sensors that someone's inside).

The general reaction among employees has been one of cooperation and pride. The building's 180 parking spots reserved for carpoolers (defined as three people per vehicle) are always full.

And yet the contrast of having a green building in a city noted for a lack of environmental consciousness is apparent, as in the garage where a single bike was locked up in an area designed for hundreds. Asked about this, Mr. Tanco smiles. "A little at a time."



A TREATMENT PLANT to capture rainwater and drainage from bathroom sinks for reuse in its air conditioners.



WILL BE THE FIRST OFFICE BUILDING in Latin America to receive the certification of the U.S. Green Building Council.



THE BUILDING has motion sensors that turn off lights in conference rooms