



## Information for Caravans (Dec 15th, 2018)

**Important note:** Much of the information here refers to our longer Yucatan loop. **The Copper Canyon, Airstream & LGBT trips are much easier and have far better infrastructure overall (roads, RV parks, etc) than does the Yucatan loop.** Easier for large & long rigs. That is generally true for anywhere north of Puerto Vallarta or Mexico City. We try to be as honest as possible by telling you what to expect, warts and all, so please read this document with that in mind.

### Things that may prevent you from going:

- 1) If your vehicle has a lien against it (loan) or is co registered with someone not traveling with you, you will require a letter of permission to take it into Mexico. If they will not give it, your option is to refinance with someone who will or pay off the loan.
- 2) If you have a criminal record, check with a consulate
- 3) if you have Residente permanente status you will not be able to bring a vehicle into Mexico. Residente temporado is OK.
- 4) You must hold title to any vehicle you bring into Mexico. In BC, Canada this is your registration.

Americans may want to look into changing their insurance to Progressive, who cover collision in Mexico (you still have to buy liability). For those with liens, the financial institution may feel more comfortable about that.

- 5) If it is a company vehicle (even your own company) you require a letter from the company.

### Handicapped Customers;

Mexico has poor infrastructure for the handicapped. We have had customers in wheelchairs (it helps if they are lightweight). We may price the trip without tours and let handicapped customers pay a la carte.



### **Money & Payments: (also some more info further on)**

The currency of Mexico is the Peso. it is difficult to use dollars in Mexico and banks will usually only change \$300 at a time. The best way to get money in Mexico is via an ATM Machine. They are very common, and there is the Canadian Scotiabank & HSBC machines there as well. We advise you carry 2 different cards on different banks. Credit Cards are becoming more common, but they are still hard to use. Make sure you keep every credit card receipt, mistakes are common.

We allow (actually encourage) customers to pay between \$1000 & \$3000 in cash at the border, depending on the trip. This helps us with operating funds as Mexico is still largely a cash society. The cash amount allowed is determined at the final payment date 120 days before the trip. It generally has to be paid in **US dollars**. We will discount this amount by 3.5%. The US/CDN exchange rate is calculated at the 120 day mark. If we determine at the 120 day mark that Canadians can pay in Canadian for some reason (like we owe a Canadian Wagon Master Canadian funds), the discount will also be 3.5%.

We will let you know how much you may pay in cash at approx the 120 day point.

#### **Example:**

\$4000 owing at 120 days before. \$2000 allowed to be paid in cash. 3.5% discount is \$70, so balance paid is \$1930

If you wish to pay cash at the border, you must be there on the morning of the day before departure. The Wagon master needs time to convert cash into Western Express money orders & mail stubs home for safety. You can also give him Western Express Money orders, leave the payee blank.

**Note: Airstream caravans are handled by the WBCCI and payments & terms may differ from other caravans**



### Rendezvous points:

For Nogales departures, this is likely the Desert Diamond Casino off I-19 at Exit 80 south of Tucson. Please be there by noon, the day before departure. For Mission/Reynosa, it is Mission West RV park. Please be there a day before departure. The Desert Diamond requires a 6:30 Am Departure, Mission 7:30 AM.

### Repeat Customers:

We offer discounts to repeat customers. 7.5% if you took our 30 day trip, 15% if you took our longer trips. Also if you bring friends, we will give both of you a discount.

### Departure times & road logs

We aim for **8 AM** departures even on short days. This gives us leeway in case of breakdowns, etc. The road logs contain GPS Co-ordinates. These are so you can hopefully find your way should you get lost.

### Wagon Masters

The Wagon Masters are very important. They are responsible for setting departure times, assigning spots in RV parks, creating a social atmosphere and dealing with issues that arise. The Wagon Master is like the pilot of an airliner. While on the road he is in charge, and the **ONLY ONE** in charge. He/they will decide what to do in the event of breakdown, people getting lost, speed, and all other aspects of getting from one point to another. Opinions are welcome, breaking the rules is not. We have had one incident where a customer took it upon themselves to take over the caravan, while the Wagon Master was dealing with a problem, leading some rigs on ahead and leaving others by the side of the road, against the specific instructions of the Wagon Master. This is totally unacceptable and grounds for expulsion. Even if they feel they have good intentions and know better, the Wagon Master is in charge, not them. We never leave anyone stranded alone on the roadside with their rig, including the Wagon Master. Remember, the next time it may be your rig, so show consideration. Taking off in defiance of the instructions of the Wagon Master, will not be tolerated. It is the job of the Wagon Master to make decisions he feels are in the best interests of the caravan as a whole. Catering to the wishes of an individual customer is secondary, in instances of dealing with emergencies. All participants have to accept that. A caravan is not a Democracy in times of emergency. The Wagon Master has procedures to follow that have been developed over many caravans. They are tried & tested and designed for everyone's overall benefit & safety.



### **Upcoming trips:**

Spring 2020 - 30 day Mazatlan/Copper Canyon. Possible 30-35 day Colonial City & beaches add on (4 to 5 rigs minimum required to do that)

Spring 2020 - 85 day Yucatan loop

Spring 2020 - 60 day Airstream Caravan

### **Your holding tanks/Propane:**

We advise emptying holding tanks before any departures if possible. The wagon master will let you know what facilities are available at the next stop. We also advise running with propane off. Modern RV fridges will stay cold for hours. On an extremely long travel day you may want to make an exception. This is based on this author's experience with a serious accident in Canada where propane escaped and scared the living \$%^# out of me.

### **Radio & TV:**

Sirius & XM work, Sirius works better as its satellites are in a higher orbit. American satellite TV will work maybe as far south as Mazatlan. Canadian Shaw Satellite covers all of Mexico. This makes any rig with it, very popular on Superbowl Sunday or Grey Cup. We try to avoid tours on the days of major sporting events. Please note rumour is Shaw Satellite will be cutting service to Mexico in April 2019.

### **Liquor, drugs & guns**

First of all having a firearm or ammo is a serious crime in Mexico. If we find you brought them, you will be expelled with no refund, so please don't. Drugs are also illegal, including medical pot. Make sure prescription drugs are in the original containers or you have a doctor's note. Alcohol is OK. We usually have a happy hour after we get parked or when staying for awhile. Do not drink before a drive or get really drunk the night before.



If the wagon master can speak Spanish or we have an interpreter along, we will try to do some Spanish lessons en route.

Feel free to organize potlucks, they work well. Or any other legal activities for that matter.

### **Kettles, toaster & Coffee makers**

On Yucatan trips where power is far more limited, we suggest you bring a stovetop kettle, a stovetop toaster and a French Press for Coffee. You will find a list of other suggestions on what to bring later in this document

### **Infrastructure on the Yucatan loop:**

The Yucatan loop has at least 6-8 days of dry camping and power is limited in a lot of locations. This can be rectified to a point by purchasing a regulator as described later in this manual, but do not assume you will be able to run air conditioning at every location. You will need to take fans. Bedside 12 volt or inverter run fans are recommended. Most power is only 15 amp and if you can run air, you will have to avoid using other electrical run things like electric hot water heater elements and microwaves at the same time. The copper Canyon route has far more infrastructure although we still recommend a voltage regulator, if power is an issue to you. (See further on in this document)

Please realize this is not a cruise, it is an adventure and you will not experience all the conveniences you may expect from RV Parks in Canada and the US. We try to make it as comfortable as possible



### Attitude & Expectations:

This makes a huge difference. One of our competitors (many actually) seem to give the impression that you will stay in full service RV parks all the time. We don't do that. We feel it is far better to let you know exactly what to expect. Expect some RV parks with 15 amp service or power that occasionally does work, some dry camping, low water pressure, tight spots, some crappy roads, etc, etc. This is more the case with trips going through the Yucatan and the southern part of the country (both photos below), not so much with trips in the northern half. If you approach this as an adventure, not a cruise, you will have a fantastic time. If you are expecting to be coddled all the time, you will be disappointed. We do the best we can, but this is Mexico, not Canada or the US. It's tougher, but you will see stuff you won't see any other way. Especially on our tours, where we give the wagon masters free reign to take you to some pretty way out stuff, like primitive Mescal distilleries up in the hills, and remote Mayan ruins, restaurants that serve Scorpion tacos or museums full of mummified human remains that look like scenes out of Zombie Apocalypse. No other caravan company takes you to cool stuff like that. You will certainly have bragging rights with your friends. We have actually had one customer who complained, but then got home and realized they actually had the time of their lives, then turned around and booked another trip. We prefer you to realize that on the trip, not after. Think of it as RVing in the 1950's. Arizona & Florida will feel dull after. In the 50's & 60's Airstreams in the 100's caravanned in Mexico, the locals called them silver sausages. Now they are coming back starting in 2019. Lastly, remember a caravan is more than 50% a social experience. We need to maintain cohesion in order for any caravan to be successful.

We supply high quality tours & meals to other companies and those are also included on our trips, but we add more adventure to our trips than other companies we supply. We tend to avoid places that you would get to on a cruise or all inclusive vacation, and try to concentrate on places you won't see. After all, if you go to the trouble of driving your RV down, you want to see stuff that is unique. You will generally get everything our competitors offer, plus more, for a lower price as we do not have to contract out.

You have to be prepared to follow some rules and not try to undercut the wagon master. Remember he/they have a tough job and his prime concern is the smooth running of the caravan as a whole.





### Politics & Tolerances:

Unless everybody is obviously on the same page, avoid politics or religion. Especially American politics, which seem to be especially volatile these days. If you cannot separate politics & friendship, avoid the subject. (Canadians think all politicians are scoundrels.)

On the subject of politics I have to bring up the sensitive subject of Donald Trump. As you may realize, he is not "Mr. Popularity" in Mexico, except as a Piñata. Last year we found this **did not** transfer to individual Americans, but I would advise removing any "Make America Great Again" stickers or wearing the red hat. Flying foreign flags in Mexico is also considered bad taste. Hoisting a US flag in Canada is no big deal, after all Canadians are simply "unarmed Americans on Medicare", but avoid doing it in Mexico. Flag stickers are OK.

We are a very open minded & inclusive company. We do not care if you are Black, White, or Purple or what your politics & sexual orientation are, and we do not tolerate any open prejudices. As long as you are nice. We have, for example, had Wagon Masters (& customers) who are Straight, Gay, Republicans & Democrats or the Canadian equivalents. (Yes we do allow Canadians, I happen to be one, we even do trips in French) The commonality is that all are willing to take their RV into Mexico and have fun.

### Vagabundos del Mar:

We are associated with Vagabundos del Mar out of California and all ( except maybe Airstream) our caravans are officially Vagabundo del Mar caravans. **It is compulsory that you join. Airstream caravans are an exception.** You have to do this on your own, we deduct the \$35 US member fee from your final payment. It is up to you if you renew. We suggest you do this about a month before departure. There is no financial advantage to using their web site to sign up for our caravans. The link is <https://www.vagabundos.com/app/memberships/new>

We suggest those who are already Vagabundos del Mar utilize their insurance. Those who are not we suggest using either their insurance after you join or using Lewis & Lewis whom we also have an arrangement with. If you are using L & L, please contact Paul at [caravan-info@mexicocaravans.com](mailto:caravan-info@mexicocaravans.com) prior to doing so. Some say the more expensive Sanbournes is better insurance. It is up to you. **We are not in the business of selling insurance.**



### **Documents you require for crossing:**

Passports

Vehicle titles **or** registration. **Originals please!**

If the vehicle is company owned, or the registration shows another owner, you need a letter, even if it's your own company. Just make it look official.

If the registration **shows** a lien, you need a letter from the lien holder.

Drivers license

Credit card

Make 2 copies of everything. (front page of passport) No enlargements!

Have \$200 in US cash

If you have a 3/4 ton or 1 ton truck, there have been issues with weights. I advise taking it empty of fuel & minus tailgate to a weigh station and get an official looking certificate of weight. It has to be under 3500 kg or 7710 lbs. If you live in BC, contact me I have a good solution. Regulations say under 3500 kg cargo capacity, some border official have been interpreting this as GVWR, which it is not. Worst case we may have to go talk to the customs official. (Aduana). BTW, GVW is truck weight plus max cargo. Cargo capacity is GVW - truck weight. Wagon Masters do have copies of the regs just in case.

If you carry an ATV make sure you have either registration or bill of sale.

If you are towing, make sure the registered owners on truck & trailer match. If not, bring your marriage certificate.

Be ready to state your destination & hotel. Use Laguna del Tule, Melaque, Jalisco.

Pet certificate of health signed by a vet on his letterhead showing his license number.

Proof of rabies vaccine. (For your pet)





## Vehicle Permits

All vehicles require a permit. There are 2 types

Type #1: Trucks, non camperized Vans & towed cars & motorcycles over 250 cc. These are valid for 180 days only. Up to \$400 deposit is required (you get it back) Up to 3 times may be added, these include cargo trailers, utility trailers, Motorcycles under 250CC, ATV's

Type #2: Motorhomes, travel trailer & 5th wheels. These are valid for 10 years, no deposit

Each individual may have one permit of each type. They cost around \$70 US each. A truck & trailer combo will require 2 permits.

You can obtain these at the border or online within 60 days of crossing. The permit is sent to a Canadian or US address only within 2 weeks (Usually 3 days)

Step by step instructions with screen shots may be downloaded at <https://www.mexicorvbuddies.com/permits/onlineapplication.pdf>

This speeds up the border crossing a lot, but don't do it if there is any doubt you are not going, cancelling after is a nightmare. If you are doing a truck & trailer you will likely have to do them a day apart, since it may not allow you to do the second until the first has been approved. If you can only do one, make it the truck it is more time consuming at the border. **We may not want you to do this, we will advise.**

Do not affix the permit until you obtain your tourist card at the border and do not throw away the paper it is attached to, you will need it on exit.



### **Vehicle Insurance:**

You do need Mexican insurance. If you have Progressive, they cover collision, but you still need liability. Make sure you are covered for at least \$500,000. Lewis & Lewis give us 10 %, if you mention my name (Paul Beddows and that you are on a caravan). <https://www.mexicanautoinsurance.com/>. The form is at <http://www.mexicocaravan.com/Lewis2018.pdf>. There are 2 types of coverage depending on where you are going, make sure you get the right one and long enough to cover the trip, plus maybe a weeks delay, just in case. We also recommend Sanbournes, pricier, but probably better. We recommend holding off until close to departure, You can purchase it on line. Check with your US or Canadian insurance to see if they will suspend or rebate you for the time you are in Mexico. You may require proof (toll road receipts work well). I know ICBC in BC will rebate. Vagabundos also sells insurance, so you can compare. Make sure whatever you buy, they cover US labour rates in case you need to have repairs done in the US. Cover yourself for uninsured or underinsured 2nd party.

### **Waivers & Medical:**

You will be required to sign a standard waiver of liability and also a separate one if you are doing ad-hoc tours riding in the back of pickups etc. You will also be required to put a medical form in a sealed envelope that will be returned to you. It saves time if you download these and fill them out. Give them to the wagon master before departure. You can download these forms here: **Airstream customers see links at airstreammexico.com**  
<http://mexicorvbuddies.com/disclaimer.pdf>  
<http://www.mexicorvbuddies.com/medform.pdf>

It is up to you to cover yourself for any travel insurance, medical, trip cancellation, etc. You may want to check that insurance covers return of rig. There are links on our web site. The auto association sells cheap pet return insurance. Mind you, on a caravan somebody will likely volunteer.

### **Contact Numbers:**

**Gabriel (company owner|) Mexico Cell: 967-147-3333**  
**contact@mexicocaravans.com**  
**1-855-327-7555 press 1**



### **Pesos:**

We ask you to cross with at least 2000 pesos. You can get these in border towns in the US easily. You generally cannot use US dollars in Mexico. ATM's are common, try to use either Scotiabank or HSBC when possible. These are Canadian and will be easier to deal with in case of problems. Also, always cover your hand when entering a pin and try to check your accounts after, to ensure the amount went through correctly. Avoid using Credit Union cards, I have had machines process them without dispensing cash on 2 occasions. I now take out \$20 first to make sure they work. Try to have 2 different cards on different banks. Find a place in your RV to hide cash in a small lockbox, but leave a couple hundred pesos easily findable in a kitchen drawer. If somebody does break in, they will likely find it and search no further. Carry enough cash up front to cover tolls. I have never had a break in down there, by the way.

Do not access on line banking in public places. I advise using a VPN service or an encryption routine like Bit Defender Safepay. If you leave your home computer on, you can install the free Teamviewer software and do it remotely through your home computer.

### **Road Logs & GPS:**

We will make our road logs available by download before the trip. These are heavy on pictures from both Google Streetview and my Dashcam. All the road logs have GPS coordinates (in decimal format) for spots mentioned in them. I will also supply the coordinates for all the RV parks we use. We are not familiar with Mexico maps for other GPS units besides Garmin. If you are planning to buy a GPS, I advise a Garmin with a built in dash cam. **Note: You may print out road logs, however it is much easier to simply download them onto a tablet. If you do not have one, you can obtain a cheap one that will work off E-bay for example. We recommend at least 10 inch.**

### **Cell Phones:**

Everyone must have a cell phone that works in Mexico. We can assist you to get a "pay as you go" Telcel phone if you need one, but you should let us know in advance. These are in case we get separated outside of radio range. Note data packages on Mexican cells are cheap. We can assist once you are in Mexico.

**You can now buy Telcel cards ahead of time on Amazon.com or Amazon.ca including ones with data plans.**



### **Internet:**

Most RV parks in Mexico have WiFi, you can also get a data package for your cell. Please avoid streaming on RV Park WiFi, it slows it down for everyone else. Most WiFi in Mexico is copper DSL, not fibre or cable. 15 meg speed. Some is satellite with slow upload so not suitable for Skype. If you have to download large files, do it late at night.

### **Wagon Master recruitment:**

We are always looking for new blood, and they usually come from former customers. If it appeals to you, let the Wagon Master know and he will involve you so you can see if it's for you. Sociability & leadership skills are more important than an ability to speak Spanish. We often have interpreters along. We pay wagon masters a \$100 US per day plus their RV park fees. Sometimes higher for more experienced or with larger groups. You don't get rich, but it is a way to get your winter vacation paid for. That should not be your motivation, however. You have to enjoy people. Wagon Masters can make or break a trip. It is not an easy job.

### **Monarch Butterflies:**

We only visit these if the reserve is open and your trip goes near them. Sometimes optional

### **Hotels:**

There are at least 3 nights hotel stay on the Yucatan loop (Mexico City, San Cristobel). A couple on the Airstream trips (more if Copper Canyon is involved). On the Copper Canyon trip, there are 4 nights (3 nights Copper Canyon, 1 night Durango).

We will try to arrange pet care, when required. There may be a small charge. If you have a small dog, take a carrier, it may be permitted on tour buses if you tip the driver. Please note that the only dogs allowed on the Copper Canyon train are seeing eye dogs. No other service dogs are allowed.

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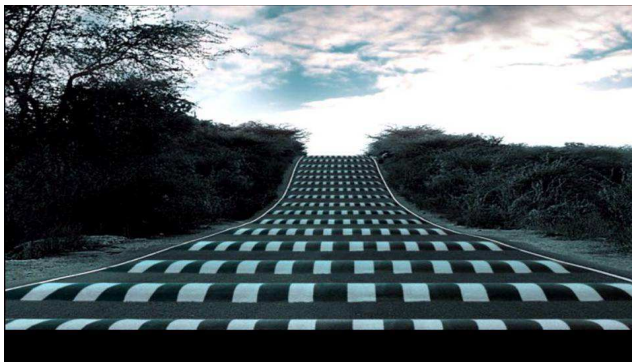


### **RV Park Parking:**

**The wagon master will assign sites.** In some cases he will park you a km or 2 before the park, go park himself (if he has a trailer or 5th wheel) then come back. If he has a motorhome, he will take a trailer or 5th rig with him so he can use their pickup to come back. In most cases we need to park trailers & 5th wheels first and unhitch and then bring rigs in large to small, in that order. The wagon master will assign sites, and we use GRMS radios to communicate while parking. Single travellers **must** accept assistance from another individual when parking. We have had mishaps in the past with singles insisting they know how to handle their own rig. That is the rule. We try to be fair in assigning sites so being last rig in the caravan is not a disadvantage. The wagon master will not grab the best spot. On the Yucatan route there are many instances where not everyone will have hook-ups, we will rotate and/or share.

### **Topes:**

Topes are speed bumps. There are over a million of them in Mexico. You can expect at least 3 of them anywhere you pass by any sort of habitation. Most are marked in some way, some are not. It is the unmarked one in the shadow of a tree that can nail you. You do not want to hit one at high speed. Get used to observing oncoming traffic and traffic ahead of you so you can spot where they are. Use your passenger as a Tope spotter. On the other hand many Mexicans view Topes as passing opportunities, so be aware of that as well. This is one reason you should keep the rig in front in view. That way the wagon master is the only one at risk. Toll roads do not have Topes. Amusing Fake photo below.



### **Meeting your fellow travelers:**

We have a forum you can join and communicate with other customers. It is located at [www.mexicocaravans.com/forum](http://www.mexicocaravans.com/forum)

There is also a facebook group <https://web.facebook.com/groups/1584004131912519/>



### **Metric:**

Mexico uses the Metric system, please measure the max height of your rig (including the A/C) in Meters and put a sticker on your dash. Don't fall off doing it, one customer did the day before he left and broke his ankle.

**Speeds and distances** are in Metric. Approximate, but close:

100 kph = 60 mph

90 kph = 55 mph

80 kph = 50 mph

60 kph = 40 mph

50 kph = 30 mph

1 Kilometre = 1000 Meters, approx 0.6 miles

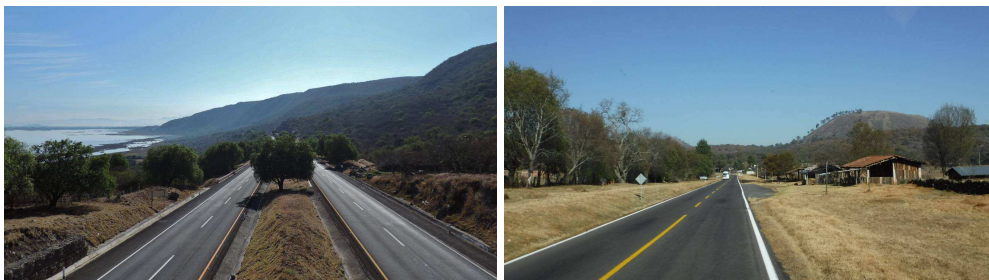
Memorize those and you won't have any issues

We **only use** Metric on the road to avoid confusion. Although I am originally British, I have to reluctantly admit it is the one good idea the French came up with.

**Temperatures:** 15C = 60F; 20C = 68F; 25C = 77F; 30C = 85F; 35C = 90F

### **Road types:**

There are Cuota's (toll) & Libres (free). We usually use Cuota's when possible, many are up to US interstate standards, Libres can be rough and have lots of Topes. In some cases if the wagon master feels the free road is more scenic and OK, he will use it. The chance of having an accident on a Cuota is a fraction of a Libre, and no Topes. Despite being pricey, they are worth it.





## **Speeds**

We generally do not exceed 100 kph, most of the time we do around 80-90 kph. Speed has always been an issue, with some feeling we go too fast, others too slow. Most caravans do find their own comfort zone. Never pass the wagon master, unless there is a good reason to do so, and try to keep your spot in the caravan order. We order rigs at the start of the trip, but often rearrange it later, or in some cases we re-arrange before certain parks where rigs have to be parked in order by type. Generally we try to put the highest rig behind the wagon master and fasten a pole on the rear of the wagon master rig set at that rig's height. That way he can see if he will clear an obstacle. If he does, so does everyone else. We also rearrange rigs depending on the range of their radios. We want to be able to pass messages all the way back.

We strongly advise a dash cam. They are cheap. If you are in an accident where it is not your fault, you have proof, also you will monitor the rear of the rig in front. Garmin also has models with them built in. If an accident is your fault, stash it.

## **Green Angels:**

We often use them as tail gunners. They are excellent mechanics, do not charge for labour and have quasi police powers. We do not always use them on toll highways as they patrol these regularly, anyway.

## **Tipping:**

You are under no obligation to tip. We do suggest you tip tour guides and drivers. Not a lot, maybe 50 pesos for a days tour to the guide and 20 for the driver. Restaurants about 10%, but we usually do cover the tip for meals we provide. You can tip the wagon master at the end of the trip but we suggest sending an envelope around rather than tipping individually.

## **Vegetarians:**

Please let us know and we will try to accommodate. So far we have only had carnivores.

## **Potlucks & Happy Hours:**

We encourage customers to organize Potlucks. On non travel days, happy hours are at 5 PM. on travel days, as soon as we all get parked & settled.



### Passing on the Highway:

It is standard in Mexico on 2 lane highways to drive partially on the shoulder so people can pass. Once you get used to it, it makes sense. Here is a video from my own dash cam of the procedure:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGdL1NODyp8>

We will use radios to tell the person behind if it is safe to pass. Very important you use their name or number. Try to warn the vehicle in front of you if somebody is coming up to pass them.

### Toll Booths:

We will get separated at toll booths, If there is an area to pull over, we will, otherwise we will go slow until everyone catches up, or sometimes pull to the side with hazards on.. Please be aware that some booths are for transponders only and you cannot use them. Try to radio back what you paid so the people behind have some idea of how much cash to dig out. Toll booths **only** accept pesos.

### Tow Cars:

We advise against taking them. You can, but here are the reasons:

- 1) You have to buy insurance for them
- 2) They add considerably to tolls
- 3) They are a pain to park in RV parks, you usually have to unhook before entering
- 4) Mexicans are not used to them. We had one incident where somebody tried to force themselves between a Class A and the vehicle behind (a tow car)
- 5) Taxis are really cheap, you will save more money by using them.

### Tires & Springs:

Trailer tires are not available in Mexico. If you tow a trailer or 5th wheel, please buy a new trailer tire and carry it off-rim in the bed of your truck as an extra spare. Chain it. Springs are available and I have broken one in the past. Maybe carry one or 2 spares in your truck bed. Even though you can get them, chances are if you break one, it may be in the middle of nowhere and we will have to replace it on the side of the road. I also advise carrying one set of replacement trailer wheel bearings. These are cheap & small. A small grease gun can be useful. **Airstream suspension is different from normal trailers.**





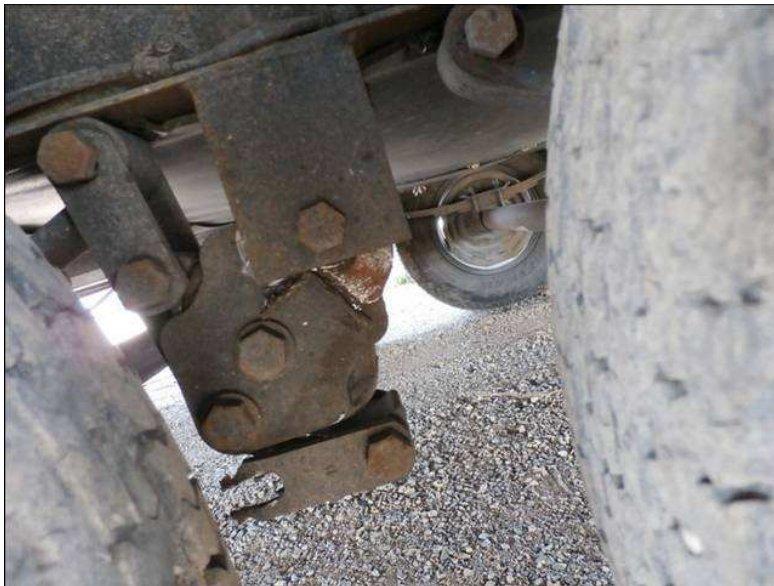
### Trailer Suspension:

Those with trailers should inspect their shackles for wear **if you have a trailer that uses them**. On most standard trailers, these are designed for those who go to the lake 2 weeks a year and are what is known as dry shackles. They can wear through. It is a good idea to replace them with MorRyde wet shackles which are lubricated and heftier. **This does not apply to Airstreams and some other brands.**

<http://www.morryde.com/products/70-heavy-duty-shackle-upgrade-kit>

If you have the dry version, you may want to pick up a spare set (about \$35 for 16). <http://www.easternmarine.com/lippert-shackle-link-122487> The picture below shows you what can happen (my trailer). You can see how it broke and the spring on the right top is resting on the frame. If both side breaks, not a good thing. See how the one on the left side at the top has worn oval and the bolt is close to breaking through.

Trailer spring breakage is not uncommon, and has happened on our caravans. If you tow a trailer or 5th wheel, we highly advise you to carry 2 spare springs. While they are available in Mexico, that does not help if you break one on the highway. They are not expensive and can sit in the bed of your pickup. A spare bearing set is also advised.



**NOTE:** Some Class A's no longer come with a spare. Unless you use a standard bus tire, you may want to see if you can find room for an off rim spare.



### Spare RV Parts:

RV parts are generally not available. Depending on your storage room you may want to bring spares. I carry a spare water pump as I feel that is something I could not live without. A cheap one is about \$40. A spare sewer hose and fitting is also a good idea. Before the trip we will share emails of other participants, you may want to confer among yourselves and each take one spare part. Sewers are often not easy to access, bring an extra hose & joiner.

### Spare Vehicle Parts

Please bring an extra air, oil & fuel filter with you. Change all 3, plus your oil, before you leave or cross the border. If your serpentine belt is getting old, it's not a bad idea to change it and keep the old one as an emergency spare. They do not sell diesel pickups in Mexico, but they sell gas ones, so spare parts for diesels are harder to obtain. I also went to a tire store and bought a **used** spare tire, off rim, for my pickup, and carry it in the bed.

### Pets:

We welcome pets, but you have to realize you can't take them everywhere and on most tours. They are not allowed in museums, restaurants, churches etc. We do arrange pet care in some cases, like tour using hotels overnight. We can hire a local, but we have found many are unwilling to leave dogs in their care. If they are small and you have a carrier, you may be able to leave them on the tour bus with the driver (tip him). We will try to pre-describe tour conditions (heat, etc) for each tour and you can decide if you wish to forgo that tour, or only one of a couple go, and we will discount you. You have to let us know **before** the trip. The **only** service dog recognized in Mexico is a seeing eye dog. You **cannot** buy dog waste bags in Mexico, bring plenty with you. Dog food is easily available. RV parks are a lot more lenient about dogs, but watch for stray dog packs at gas stations; keep your dog on a leash there. Put your dog on a program good for both fleas & ticks. Always give your pet bottled water. Dogs & cats only. No other animals are permitted.





### A quick lesson in Power: **VERY IMPORTANT**

- 1) Electricity in Mexico is not reliable
- 2) Voltages often range outside the acceptable values
- 3) Low voltage is worse than high voltage
- 4) Appliances are rated at a certain wattage.

The formula is  $\text{Watts} = \text{Voltage} \times \text{Current (amps)}$

If the voltage is too low, the appliance draws more current to compensate. Current in a roundabout way translates into heat, and the appliance can burn out

5) A 15 watt outlet in Mexico may be coming off a 30 Amp breaker or no breaker. Hence if you try running stuff like A/C's, water heaters at the same time, your cord can overheat and burn, so can the outlet it is plugged into. A fused extension cord is not a bad idea if you can find one. Other than that just be careful not to run more than one high current appliance at a time. Do not stuff adapters (15 to 30, for eg) into a compartment in your rig, hang it outside. If it overheats, any burning is outside the rig.

6) A surge protector is useless. We have had customers cheap out and assume it is enough. Unpleasant stuff happens.

So this is all a lead up as to why you need one of the devices on the next 2 pages, and make sure it is the right device. We will have to source the regulator option inside Mexico at the start of the trip. For Nogales crossings it is no problem, they are available at the first stop. The Yucatan groups really need them. The power protectors are available in Canada and the US, the regulators are only available, once in Mexico. A Hughes Autoformer also works but is not as good. Having both is not a bad idea, but if you have the regulator you really do not need the power protector, but on the other hand the power protector is also a good idea in the US and Canada.



**Power Protection: See following page on regulators, another better alternative. (better for Yucatan trips)**

Electricity in Mexico is not reliable. You need to protect your rig against too high or too low voltage. You should actually do this in Canada & the US as well. Unless you already have this built in ( some rigs do), you can purchase a portable protector. These are made by 3 companies, SurgeGuard, Progressive Industries & Camco. Camping World sells some. Here are 3 Amazon links so you know what to get:

[https://www.amazon.com/Technology-Research-34830-Portable-Surge/dp/B00T36Q7R2/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1499963169&sr=8-2&keywords=surge+guard+rv+power+protection](https://www.amazon.com/Technology-Research-34830-Portable-Surge/dp/B00T36Q7R2/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1499963169&sr=8-2&keywords=surge+guard+rv+power+protection)

[https://www.amazon.com/Progressive-Industries-EMS-PT30C-Portable-Protector/dp/B003AL23TC/ref=sr\\_1\\_sc\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1499963247&sr=8-2-spell&keywords=progressive+industries+rv+power+protection](https://www.amazon.com/Progressive-Industries-EMS-PT30C-Portable-Protector/dp/B003AL23TC/ref=sr_1_sc_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1499963247&sr=8-2-spell&keywords=progressive+industries+rv+power+protection)

[https://www.amazon.com/Camco-Defender-Voltage-Protector-PowerGrip/dp/B01LRJ6YAW/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1499963298&sr=8-6&keywords=camco+rv+power+protection](https://www.amazon.com/Camco-Defender-Voltage-Protector-PowerGrip/dp/B01LRJ6YAW/ref=sr_1_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1499963298&sr=8-6&keywords=camco+rv+power+protection)

Those are all 30 amp, you can also find them in 50 Amp versions.

You need to bring adapters to change 30 amp to 15 amp and vice versa. These are cheap and found in RV stores. There are times when you may not be able to reach the pedestal. You may have to reduce a 30 amp pedestal plug to 15 amp, so you can use an extension cord then convert it back to 30 amp. Not all pedestals have 30 amp sockets, many are 15. If your plug is 50 amp, you will need an adapter. Bring an extension cord.



We advise 2 sets of the plugs (left)



## Power Conditioners and Regulators

Home Depot in Mexico sells a power conditioner for about \$100 CAN. This will raise low voltage & drop high voltage. It will give you power when voltage is way out. You cannot run an air conditioner through one of these. It is 15 amp. It will, however, run a small 6000-9000 BTU AC as found in some Class B's. They come in a Red & White box.



Also available is a 30 Amp unit that has to be hardwired. (\$270 US) It will run A/C. You can do this by butchering a 30 amp extension cord. I did this, I carry the unit in a Milk crate, and simply shove it under my rig to protect from dew & rain. There are 3 wires to connect, the feed - male plug end (black) and the power out (also black) from the female socket end. You tie the 2 whites to the common (You may need a murette- see red one in photo below - to tie them together then take a 3rd short piece to the connector. The green you don't cut and just let it flow through. Detailed instructions may be found at <https://www.mexicorvbuddies.com/Regulator.pdf>



These come in 4 or 8 KV versions, 4 KV is sufficient for most. The 8 KV is larger. <http://www.isbmex.com/productos/corrector-de-voltaje-8-y-4-kva> **You will have to bring your own 30 amp extension, you can not find them in Mexico.** You can lock this unit using 2 locks and a cable. We are looking into sourcing them in Mexico close to the start points. **We already have someone in San Carlos**





Now I have discovered a source for what appears to be the same thing available on Ebay that looks to be in a neater package at a cheaper price. You will still have to butcher a 30 amp extension cable. It is a Nippon ATVR 5000.



Go to E-Bay and search for Nippon America automatic voltage regulator ATV 5000

Some reviews state the guts on these are not of great quality. I know the guts on the Mexican product are.

I see no reason why this will not work, **but I have not tested one, nor seen one used in Mexico.** What does concern me is that I seen no way to secure it with a lock leaving it under your RV, so it may take a walk. They are made in China.

**Note:** I have now seen one of these, the Mexican one is better



## Water & Sewer:

Mexican RV parks tend to place pedestals at the rear instead of the side. This means you may need a longer water & sewer hose. A sewer hose joiner is useful as you can always borrow somebody else's to dump if you can't reach the drain. A spare sewer cap is useful to drill hole in and let grey water dribble out in transit

I personally recommend 5 Star Happy Camper sanitizer. Use this and you will never go back to anything else. It is in powder form and much more economical. It also works in high heat. It is made in Medford, Oregon. There are Canadian & US distributors.

Canada: <http://www.happy-campers.ca/>

USA: <http://happycampersworld.com/>

Do not drink the water in Mexico, even if the park has safe water. Bottled water is cheap, get a 5 gallon container with a screw top cap. It may be wise to wait and buy one in Mexico, the most common brand is Ciel, and if you buy one of those, you may be able to do a straight exchange most of the time, otherwise you transfer water between whatever brand is available and your container. Easy to carry in the bed of a pickup, if you drive one. The water is so cheap you can even dump it if you have nowhere safe to carry a full one. Water pressure is usually low so it is best to fill your water tank rather than use the city water hook-up. Buy one of those blue inline filters (left picture) and maybe put a cap or 2 of chlorine in the tank. Use this for showers & dish washing. Put a little chlorine in the dish water. When you get back to the states, put a good dose of chlorine in the tank, fill it half full, drive around for a few hours to slosh it, drain & refill. If you have a suburban water heater, it is not a bad idea to carry an extra sacrificial rod (center picture). I would change it before you leave. If you have an Atwood, I would carry an extra water temperature sensor kit (right picture) as they are failure prone. They are cheap and easy to change on the road. I have had one fail and so has one other customer in the past. You can get all 3 parts on Amazon. Search under RV water filter, Suburban rod and Atwood ECO assembly.





### Propane:

Propane is about 1/2 the price it is in the US. Regardless, cross the border with full tanks as it can be hard or awkward to find. It is not sold in gas stations, but in separate propane vendor locations. Sometimes we have to hit 2 or 3 for the correct fittings. Further south it may be Butane, so you want to use it all up before encountering winter conditions.

### Generators:

You can use generators no problem, just be considerate of those next to you. On the Yucatan loop we have much more dry camping, so you may have to use them more frequently. Some parks do not have sufficient power to run A/C, especially if everyone tries to do it at once. **We set generator hours.** Solar is useful and a good investment.

### Departure times and informing the wagon master:

The wagon master will tell you a departure time, please try to be ready 5 min before. **The wagon master is not a wake up service**, he has his own rig to get ready. If you go to town or elsewhere on your own, please let the wagon master know. Please tell the wagon master before a departure if you are running low on fuel or need propane. The wagon master will have a short meeting either the night before, or in the morning to go over what to expect on the days segment. Some driving days are long. The wagon master does not tell you an 8 AM departure because he is a sadist. (Well, most aren't)

### Hoy no circular:

This is the driving restriction around Mexico City. We are just inside this zone at one RV Park. There are restrictions on driving on certain days depending on the last digit of your license plate. In other words there is one day a week you cannot drive. This goes by your towing vehicle, not your trailer. We should be able to avoid this by using a police escort. You can also get a 2 week exemption on-line (except for diesels) for free. We will ask you what your plate number is before departure and determine if there is anyone with an issue and rectify it. It may involve lying about being a diesel. If the issue is departure day, we can also rectify that by leaving at the crack of dawn. (yuck). **Note in Fall 2017 this was not an issue, we ignored it and had no trouble. We will advise before the trip**





### ULSD Diesel & Gas pumps:

Fill your tank before crossing, fuel costs more in Mexico.

ULSD has been unavailable in Mexico until recently. I have been told all of Mexico is now ULSD by November 2018. The important thing if you have a diesel newer than mid 2007 is to keep it under load. Do not drive it around.

<http://www.mexicorvbuddies.com/diesel.php>.

DEF is available in Autozone stores but is pricey. I suggest carrying it with you in more quantity that you think you may need.

Gas pumps in Mexico **are green for gas** and **black for diesel**, the reverse of the US & Canada. Fortunately they are usually on separate islands. If possible, I recommend a locking gas cap. Please tip attendants 40-50 Pesos. It's not much, but they appreciate it and hopefully will be less inclined to try to scam gringos in future. On most caravans we ask our customers to get a receipt. This allows us to get what is known as a "Factura" and use it as a tax deduction. In return we will add some extra goodies along the way, like Pizza & Margarita parties. You never pump your own fuel in Mexico. I advise paying in cash. They are not used to credit cards and mistakes are common. If you use a card, make sure you keep the receipt and check your charge card bill. Pay out cash carefully, there have been scams with them palming a 500 and claiming you gave them a 50. The new 500's look a lot like 20's which is a worst scenario. Make sure they zero the pump. The Spanish word for receipt is "recibo" (Ray see bo). For fill it up it is "llénalo" (Jen lo)

We sometimes try to stagger fill ups on longer caravans. It sometimes is not much of a problem if we have a good mix of Gas & Diesel rigs. You should top up when possible. We have had people run out of fuel before, because they think their range is good and they would rather get a snack while others are filling up. It is a big hassle. We do usually combine fuel & pit stops. Please do not start cooking, or wander off to a nearby restaurant, unless the wagon master tells you it is a long stop.



### **Communications on the road:**

We are now going to GRMS base units exclusively. We have found they are much better in range than CB's, plus much easier to install. The one we are moving to is the Midland micromobile MXT115 or MXT275 15 watt GRMS radio (about \$150 including antenna) . You can easily install this on a temporary basis and the antenna cable is thin enough not to be damaged by your rubber door seal if you cannot fish it through the firewall. It plugs into a cigarette lighter. You can manage with the 5 watt version, but the wagon master may not be able to hear you if you are not near the front. This radio is available direct from Midland or from Amazon and some other sources, simply google it. Some links are below. They are fully compatible with the handheld GMRS radios we also require you to have. The images below are my own unit, I used the Velcro they supplied and was able to route the antenna through my rear window.



They plug into a cigarette lighter, you may need a splitter. Ensure you mount it where there is air flow around the unit.

### **Communications on the road Continued:**

<https://midlandusa.com/product/mxt115-micromobile-2-way-radio/>

<https://www.amazon.com/Midland-Consumer-MXT115-Repeater-Channels/dp/B01MUGZ5XC> or if you prefer the integrated mike version

<https://midlandusa.com/product/mxt275-micromobile-two-way-radio/>

Canadians can order through <https://www.buylwowayradios.com/midland-mxt115.html>

On top of this you need a set of portable GRMS radios. These are compatible with the base units above, but lower range. See the next page.



### **Portable FRS/GMRS Radios**

We require you to have a set of GMRS/FRS radios. These are cheap. Generally under \$70 for a good set. Buy ones with the best range. They are marriage savers any time you need to park your rig. Do not use left & right, that is a recipe for disaster. Use driver side/passenger side. We use them on tours, parking rigs, in shopping malls, etc. Sometimes we use them as backup on the highway. They are available at Canada Tire, Walmart, Costco, Cabellas etc. Please keep them charged up.



On the road, please do not use base stations for frivolous conversation. Use "10-4 rig # X" or "roger Rig # X" to acknowledge, pass messages back down the line. The wagon master will instruct you in his preferred procedure.

Please ensure you charge portables every night. You may use them on the road to communicate with another specific rig on a separate channel and keep the base station free for more important communications.

**Please ensure you buy units capable of using channels up to 22**



### What if I break down:

We actually hope you don't, which is why we want you have your vehicle checked over thoroughly before departure. Please also make sure you check your trailer brakes. If it is something that can be fixed on the road we will stop the caravan and try to repair it on the roadside, or if it is movable, at the first wide area. The wagon master will place his rig at the rear and we will use somebody as a flag person. **We do not leave anyone alone unless we have a Green angel or police officer or someone else to assist you on site , and we may leave one of the wagon master couple or an interpreter with you. THE WAGON MASTER DECIDES WHEN ANYONE MOVES. It may mean a night in a Pemex if the caravan is delayed.** If it's major, we will assist you in getting it fixed and hire either one of our tour guides or the Green Angels to catch you up with the group. **This will be at your expense.** If you have a trailer or 5th, it is possible we may be able to use another customers truck to get your rig into an RV park. A similar situation may occur with an accident. This can be a hassle, especially if another insurance company is involved. They may want you to have your vehicle repaired locally. We try to talk them into allowing us to get it repaired further along where we may be stationary for a week, if the vehicle is drivable. I am going to be straight with you and tell you having an accident in Mexico can be a real hassle. We will do what we can and not leave you stranded. We have an extensive stable of tour guides across the country we can hire to assist you, and on some caravans, the owners son, Bernie, is along, and we can leave him with you to assist, and arrange someone to go along with you to catch up. In some cases if you have minor damage, it may not be worth getting insurance involved. We use toll highways, when possible, to minimize the chance of accidents. Keep that in mind before complaining about toll costs.

### Mordida (Bribes)

This is not common with Federales, it is still with local cops & transit police. It is illegal, but sometimes it is prudent. Pretend you don't speak Spanish even if you do, and radio that you have been stopped, the **Wagon Master will deal with it.** Follow his instructions and do not pay unless he indicates you should. If you have to bribe, ask the cop to pay the fine for you. That puts the onus on him. You do not want to follow a cop to the police station in a town in an RV where they may be low trees, archways or God knows what.

You have to keep in mind that cops looking for bribes are not necessarily bad people. The pay scale for local police is just above the poverty line. They have families to feed. We will often offer the police money to escort us rather than pay a fine for a ticket. If everybody chips in a little, it's better than a bribe, legal, and they are happy.



## Road Rules

It is illegal to turn right on a red in some areas. Use your left hand turn signal on a highway indicates to the person behind, it is OK to pass (think about that one). It is common to go to the right before turning left across a road. It works this way in Puerto Vallarta, for example. often there will be a loop on the right for a left hand turn. Watch speed limits especially in towns and **do not run a red**. We will not lose you.

Low trees on the right on 2 lane roads are common and you may have to go over into the oncoming lane to avoid them. Use your radio to help those behind you let you know its safe. Also be wary of low wires in towns, we have snagged them before. We carry lifters. Airstream caravans have no issue as they are lower profile.



## Stay over options

For 2019 we offered stay over options. Maybe in 2020. If you wish to extend your stay until a later trip comes through, we will assist you with arranging it. It amounts to 3-5 weeks depending on trip. You have to pay your own RV parks plus RV parks for any extra nights you are with the caravan coming back, over and above that you already paid for. You need to check with us what the options are for each specific trip. We may not be able to tell you until Fall.

Paul Beddows is often willing to lead you out of Mexico. This may not be the case in 2020 as he is planning on leaving his rig in Mexico, possibly in 2021 if he decides to drive a car down.



### **Stay over options Continued**

There **MAY** be an option in 2020 for those on the Copper Canyon trips to go further down to Melaque or stay over if already there if the colonial extension does not run. This will cost \$300 - \$350 US per rig (depends on numbers) and we will pick you up in Mazatlan, take you to Villa Corona hot springs resort near Guadalajara and arrange an optional tour to Tequila and some pyramids. We will then take you down to Melaque for a few weeks until the spring caravans come through. You can tack on to any of these except the Airstream one, unless they give you permission. That will put us there for the fabulous St. Patrick's week celebrations. You will be responsible for your own RV park costs and any added tours (Tequila, San Blas, etc). This is being arranged by, one of our Wagon Masters. It is not guaranteed. Regardless you can remain in the Mazatlan area.

### **Dental Work:**

Possible in Melaque where we are for a week on some loops, if we book it ahead. Good dentist, but he has to be booked.

### **Pharmacy drugs:**

Antibiotics are no longer available across the counter, but many prescription drugs are. We do recommend you bring a prescription for Ciproflaxen which is very effective against Montezuma's Revenge or bladder infections, which women seem to be susceptible to. Most US/Canada doctors will be more than happy to prescribe those.

### **Medical Care:**

There are good hospitals in Mexico and not so good ones. If we have to take you to hospital we will find the most decent ones available that will not break the bank. You should let us know what sort of travel medical coverage you have. maybe add it into the medical form you provide us with (<http://www.mexicorvbuddies.com/medform.pdf>) . Doctor visits are generally very reasonable. English speaking doctors may be easily found. Doctors are in all Farmacia Familiar's and a consultation (usually only in Spanish, but we can send a tour guide along) is only about 40 pesos. They are good if you need a quick prescription. It is up to you to arrange any medical travel insurance before you leave. Medical costs in Mexico are similar or a bit cheaper than Canada, much cheaper than the US. If you are Canadian check your coverage with your own Medicare, It varies from province to province. You may want to consider evacuation insurance, but Lewis & Lewis includes a form of that in their auto policy. They will fly you to some US Cities and Vancouver, BC, I am not sure about Sanbournes & others.





## Food & Restaurants

Our trips provide many meals. The procedure we use is to offer 2 or 3 menu items and give you a coloured ticket for your choice along with an alcoholic drink ticket. This speeds up the lunch or dinner considerably and avoids errors as we give the kitchen the other half. **There is one exception**, and that is if you inform us before the trip that you have a severe allergy that would be a problem, or if you are a vegetarian. In those 2 instances we will allow you to order separately off the menu. I hope everyone understands that we have to give some folks a break.

## Ad hoc tours

We often do these on longer tours, using taxis, volunteered pickup trucks, or even ride in the back which is still OK in most of Mexico (not Quintana Roo). You are not obliged to participate in these if you do not want to, but they are usually a lot of fun. You will have to sign a release and give it the wagon master (especially if you are in the back of their pickup.) The wagon master will have these. These trips are at cost, in other words you share any taxi fares equally among everyone, etc. Most end up at less than \$20.

## Here is a list of some stuff you may want to take

### MOTORHOME ITEMS

- Spare Air Filter
- Spare Oil Filter
- Spare Fuel Filter
- Spare Serpentine belt
- Spare tire off rim if possible
- Spare sewer hose & fittings or means to repair hose. You will need at least a 25 ft sewer hose.
- special fuel or oil additives
- Heavy extension cord, plus a 30 amp to 15 amp convertor plus & a 15 amp to 30 amp convertor plug
- Make sure your fresh water hose is extra long
- Distilled water for batteries
- Spare cheap RV water pump can be useful (about \$55 at Camping World). Hard to live without one.
- 2 blue inline water filters available at Camping World or Canadian Tire



## Continued

- Any other spare RV parts you cannot live without
- 1 (pref 2) 2 spare suspension springs if you have a trailer or 5<sup>th</sup> wheel that use them
- Power surge protector ( Surge Guard or Progressive) or a regulator
- 5 Gallon water jug with screw cap (can also find in Mexico)
- Bleach or Hydrogen peroxide for water sterilization (Bleach easily obtainable in Mexico)
- Ant traps & Ant powder. **RAID ant drops (will kill a nest)**
- Holding tank sanitizer, we recommend 5 star happy camper, it works well in heat and is in powder form. US supplier or Canada Supplier
- A pair of FRS/GMRS walkie talkies (cheap ones OK). Used on tours and for parking assistance in RV parks on arrival)
- GRMS base unit.
- A cheap dash cam is advised or a GPS with one built in.
- Any vehicle additives especially DEF (You may need twice the normal amount).
- Notarized letter showing permission to take any leased vehicle or vehicle not in your name into Mexico, especially if it shows on registration.
- Hair-band ties to tie cupboard knobs together so they don't open on road.

## PETS

- Pet vaccination certificate (rabies) & recent certificate of health showing vets license number & address.
- Revolution for dogs or cats (good for fleas & ticks)
- Dog waste bags, leash & maybe a chain, carrier for small dogs and maybe an outside pen.

## PERSONAL ITEMS

- Passports / Nexus card if you have one
- Original registration **or** titles for vehicles
- Charge card or 2
- At least 2 debit cards, preferably on different banks
- 2 Xerox copies of all paperwork
- Take any sort of paperwork you can think of plus copies. Even your marriage cert if you have one
- Driver's license. An additional convincing phony copy could be useful
- At least 2000 pesos
- Warm clothing for Copper Canyon
- Pack or small suitcase for Copper Canyon trip





## **MEDICAL**

- All drugs in original bottles especially prescriptions. No medical marijuana. commercial vitamins and things like that in original bottles are OK.
- Insect repellent (expensive in Mexico)
- After bite and/or Calamine lotion
- Suntan lotion (expensive in Mexico)
- Imodium, and I would ask your doctor for a prescription for Ciproflaxin 500 mg (Good for diarrhea or bladder infections)
- If you wish to protect against Malaria, Chloroquine is effective. Not a big risk.
- Sealed envelope with all your medical info, contact names, doctor names etc. (Downloadable form in this document)

## **FOOD ETC**

- Any diet soda you like besides Coke or Squirt
- You cannot take beef, pork or chicken in, you will likely get away with it, but they may take it away
- Wine (Mexican is lousy and expensive)
- Up to three litres of liquor and six litres of wine (if bringing more than allowed, you must declare it and pay duties).
- Liquor allowances are similar to the US & Canada but not strictly enforced.
- Viva brand paper towel (US version). These stick to themselves and will not unravel when you hit topes.
- If you need unscented toilet paper, get it in the US. Unscented anything, for that matter.
- Hypoallergenic laundry detergent if you need it

## **MISC**

- On all trips please bring a long extension cord (50 ft) plus a power bar. In some campgrounds we have to share a single outlet. This will provide power to at least run fans & charge batteries. Bring propane toaster & kettle & a French Press for coffee.
- A Sewer hose connector can be useful to join hoses together is a dump outlet is not in reach. Note dump at every opportunity, you may not have a chance at the next spot.