

# VISITING MEXICO BY PRIVATE BOAT

A QUICK GUIDE TO REQUIREMENTS  
FOR PRIVATE VESSELS, OWNERS AND CREW.

2020



GOBIERNO DE  
**MÉXICO**

**MARINA**  
SECRETARÍA DE MARINA

**MEDIO  
AMBIENTE**  
SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE  
Y RECURSOS NATURALES

**SEGOB**  
SECRETARÍA DE GOBERNACIÓN

**SHCP**  
SECRETARÍA DE HACIENDA  
Y CRÉDITO PÚBLICO

## PART 1



SECRETARÍA DE GOBERNACIÓN  
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE MIGRACION

## INTRODUCTION

The Instituto Nacional de Migración (*National Immigration Institute*) is the government arm required by Mexican Law to oversee foreign individuals visiting Mexico. INM has created a new PRE-TRAVEL simplified process in order to facilitate the documentation of those individuals wanting to visit Mexico by boat and wishing to engage in recreational activities, including sport fishing, whale watching, diving and cruising — among others.

The process involves the completion of three simple steps which may be completed BEFORE departing for Mexico, as outlined within this brochure.

## GET TO KNOW WHO'S WHO



The Maritime Authority works through MARINA (*Secretariat of the Navy*), to oversee compliance of the regulations issued by the IMO, in order to guarantee protected, efficient and safe maritime passages.



Provides Banking and Credit services to members of the Army, Air Force and Navy, and the General Public, and oversees the online services allowing payments for the temporary import of vehicles and boats.



An arm of the Mexican government which controls and supervises migration in the country.



The Mexican tax authority responsible for the supervision for compliance of tax and customs legislation.



The Mexican Navy is one of the two independent armed forces of Mexico. The naval forces are called the Armada de México. The Secretaría de Marina (MARINA) (*Secretariat of the Navy*) includes both the Armada and ministerial and civil service.



CONAPESCA is a decentralized body of SADER (*Ministry of Agriculture*) committed to legality, quality and transparency, in charge of fostering and developing coordination with various entities to implement policies, programs and regulations that lead and facilitate the development – competitive and sustainable, of the fishing and aquaculture sector of the country.



CONANP is the institution responsible for safeguarding the areas with the greatest biodiversity in Mexico.

## IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS & VESSELS WHICH MAY BE PROCESSED PRIOR TO CRUISING IN TERRITORIAL MEXICAN WATERS BY PRIVATE BOAT.

**NOTE:** These steps **MUST** be completed by individuals **PRIOR** to cruising in territorial Mexican waters for any length of time **WITHOUT GOING ASHORE**. e.g. visiting the Coronado Islands, fishing ventures, offshore cruising, etc.

### STEP ONE

Visit the following Internet portal to apply for entry to Mexico and pay the required fees: <https://www.banjercito.com.mx/registroEmbarques/>

For additional information visit:

<https://www.gob.mx/inm/acciones-y-programas/sport-fishing-and-nautical-tourism>

Follow the instructions and save the electronic receipt. You will need it when you e-mail the passenger list to INM in the next step.

Also print out a copy to keep with you on the boat.

The following information must be provided:

- Passport number of the person responsible for the vessel
- Vessel Documentation (State or Federal Documentation).
- A \$575 Mexican Pesos fee per each visiting foreigner as required by the Federal Fee Act (Ley Federal de Derechos), Article 8, Section I. The fee must be paid using a credit card for each person INDIVIDUALLY. Group payments are not allowed.

### STEP TWO

Download and complete the spreadsheet with the information of the vessel and passengers from:

<http://www.inm.gob.mx/gobmx/word/index.php/instructions-for-the-shipment-of-electronic-passenger-lists>

Here you will find the following:

- A Sample Form (spreadsheet) for submission of a list of maritime passengers and crew members — delete the sample information and insert your passenger list. Save it to your computer following the instructions on the web page including how to name the file correctly.
- A guide for filling the Form for the submission of a list of maritime passengers and crew members
- An e-mail Directory/List of INM Ports addresses for submission of lists of maritime passengers and crew members.

### STEP THREE

E-mail the completed spreadsheet to INM and copy of your receipt (See STEP TWO above, 3rd bullet, on how to find the correct e-mail address)

As an example, if you are leaving from Southern California you should send the e-mail to the Ensenada INM Office at: [BC\\_ensenada@inami.gob.mx](mailto:BC_ensenada@inami.gob.mx).

Visit the following for more information:

<https://www.gob.mx/inm/acciones-y-programas/sport-fishing-and-nautical-tourism>

Once the visitors information outlined above is sent to INM, INM will e-mail you back the entry authorization (or denial) to the individuals intending to enter Mexico's territorial waters onboard the given vessel. The document must be kept aboard the vessel at all times along with the receipt of payment.

**The receipt must be presented to the Mexican Immigration Authorities at the first Port of Entry in exchange for each individual's FMM (see next page for additional information).**

- The authorizing e-mail will also contain INM's permit to enter as a Visitor Without Permission to Perform Activities for Profit (i.e. work for income/profit).
- The length of the stay will be the amount of time requested by the applicant, but shall not exceed 180 days, and cannot be used for multiple entries and departures.
- A copy of your information will be sent to the Secretary of the Navy (MARINA) and to the Port Captain.





# MARINA

SECRETARÍA DE MARINA

## SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) OF THE MEXICAN NAVY

### WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

If the boat is in a serious and imminent danger situation, you must send the distress signal: Mayday, Mayday, Mayday through VHF channel 16 or 2.182 KHz medium wave frequency. It is mandatory to have a VHF radio in minor boats. In order to receive a quick response, it is essential to have a 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon station (EPIRB) on board.

### WHO SHOULD YOU CALL IN CASE OF A MARITIME EMERGENCY?

National Coordination center for Maritime SAR (NMRCC)

Telephone numbers:

Mexico City and metropolitan area,  
52 (55) 56-24-60-04

Rest of the country,  
01 800 MARINA 1 (01 800 627-4621)

SENSAR-PEÑASCO  
52 (638) 383 1691

Email: cc2\_emga@semar.gob.mx  
sarmarina@semar.gob.mx



## IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS WHICH MUST BE PROCESSED AT THE FIRST PORT OF ENTRY IN MEXICO BY INDIVIDUALS CRUISING MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS.

### Passport/Visa

- ALL foreigners traveling to Mexico, including U.S. citizens, are required to carry a valid and current passport to enter Mexico. Non-Mexicans from certain countries may also require a Visa. Contact a Mexican Consulate for a list of these countries or: <https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/saltlakecity/index.php/avisos/83-bya3>
- When arriving at your **first Mexican port of entry** you will need to check-in at the local immigration office and each crew member must present his/her passport and will need to fill out an entry permit, now called an FMM and pay \$575.00 Mexican Pesos per person at the bank, **unless the fee was paid online prior to arriving in Mexico in which case you must present every individual's online payment receipt.**
- The length of the stay will be the amount of time requested by the applicant, but shall not exceed 180 days, and cannot be used for multiple entries and departures.

A Passport **Book** allows U.S. Citizens to travel to/from Mexico using any means of transportation.



A Passport **Card** allows U.S. Citizens to enter Mexico territorial waters by boat e.g. on a sports fishing trip, and then return to the United states. **WITHOUT** going ashore in Mexico.

Immigration officials will keep the top part and you will keep the bottom part, which is your proof that you are in the country legally.

### FMM — FORMA MIGRATORIA MULTIPLE

- Forma Migratoria Multiple loosely translates into "Multiple Immigration Form."
- It is simply known as FMM, and it is the permit form required to enter Mexico by boat and whether you go ashore or not.

**Each person must fill out an FMM form upon arrival.**

- All foreigners entering Mexico by land with a trailerable vessel are required to obtain an FMM at the first port of entry, e.g. TIJUANA, TECATE, MEXICALI, NOGALES, etc.

If boarded by Mexican Authorities, you will be asked to show proof of a valid FMM.

**You keep this portion.**

**DO NOT LOOSE OR MISPLACE THIS DOCUMENT!**  
You will need to surrender it upon leaving the country.

## VESSEL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- Every vessel entering Mexico must carry ORIGINAL current Vessel Documentation or Registration that proves ownership; this means Federally Documented vessels will need to present a USCG Certificate of Documentation and undocumented vessels will need to have a valid State Registration. Foreign flag vessels from Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Japan, etc., will require a current Certificate of Registry.
- All vessels registered under a Corporation or LLC or when the legal owner is not on board, are required to have an original notarized letter onboard authorizing the Master or Representative to operate the vessel.
- Boat Captain or Master must present proof of competency for recreational boaters (example: Captains License, State Boating Card or International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (ICC)



## TEMPORARY IMPORT PERMIT FOR VESSELS (TIP)

All vessels larger than 4.5m (15ft) are required to have a Temporary Import Permit (TIP) when in Mexico.

The ORIGINAL TIP must be on board the vessel at all times.

A TIP may be obtained from the following sources:

- Online prior to your departure for Mexico. Apply between 60 and seven days before you depart at: <https://www.banjercito.com.mx/registroVehiculos/>
- At the first Mexican official port of entry in Mexico, available at any Banjercito CIITEV office at one of the following Mexican ports of entry, as well as border entry ports:
  - Acapulco ■ Coatzacoalcos ■ Ensenada ■ Guaymas ■ La Paz ■ Lazaro Cardenas ■ Manzanillo ■ Mazatlan ■ Pichilingue ■ Puerto Juarez ■ Puerto Vallarta ■ Salina Cruz ■ Tampico ■ Veracruz
- You may also acquire the TIP at the following Mexican Consulates:
  - CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino
  - ARIZONA: Phoenix ■ TEXAS: Austin, Dallas, Houston
  - COLORADO: Denver ■ ILLINOIS: Chicago ■ NEW MEXICO: Albuquerque

**YOU CAN VERIFY IF YOUR BOAT HAS A TIP ALREADY ISSUED TO YOU OR A PREVIOUS OWNER:**  
[https://portalsat.plataforma.sat.gob.mx/aduanas\\_cpitiv\\_internet/index.aspx#](https://portalsat.plataforma.sat.gob.mx/aduanas_cpitiv_internet/index.aspx#)



If the vessel does not have a Temporary Import Permit "TIP" on board, or fails to exit Mexico prior to its expiration, the vessel will be considered to be in Mexican territory illegally and may be subject to fines and/or confiscation by Customs Authorities.

Temporarily Imported Vessels cannot be sold in Mexico and chartering requires Mexican permits.

## VALIDITY OF A TIP

A TIP is valid for a period of 10 years from the issue date, allowing for multiple entries during this period.

A new Temporary Import Permit - TIP- may be requested for an additional 10 years for the same vessel as long as it is processed within 45 days prior to the permit's expiration date, by internet, through banjercito.com.mx, or at any of the CIITEV centers, without the need for the vessel's inspection, plus, there is not need to submit Exit papers if renewing the TIP within 45 prior to the TIP's expiration date.

## CANCELLATION OF A TIP

**If the vessel will be leaving Mexico BY LAND:**

Vessel must be made available for inspection to Customs Officials at the Port of Entry chosen to exit Mexico. The authorized individual must be present at the same time and must show the original Import Permit (TIP) and the Mobil Accessory List.

**If the vessel will be leaving Mexico BY SEA on its own bottom:**

Owner may cancel the TIP by surrendering the original and a copy of the following documents:

- Port Captain clearance
- Mobil Accessory List
- Original TIP (Temporary Import Permit)

**If vessel will be leaving Mexico AS CARGO on a Yacht Transport Ship:**

The TIP may be cancelled at the Banjercito office. The cargo manifest, indicating vessels characteristics (name, registration or HIN) must be submitted.

**NOTE:**  
 The above documents may be sent via registered mail to the Banjercito Central Offices or to a Banjercito office at any port of entry. Mexican Customs Officials will also accept the "Vessel Entrance or Clearance Statement" issued by U.S. Customs and Border Protection as proof that a vessel left Mexico and will facilitate the cancellation of the Temporary Import Permit.



**INSURANCE** All vessels in Mexican waters are required to show proof of valid Liability Insurance. Check your policy to make sure the vessel is covered in the areas you will be cruising and visiting.

