

Travel

We have learned that travel for those who do not have much travel experience, or who are tired, or who are prone to be frustrated with chaos...can be one of the more stressful parts of the trip. We have also learned that the larger group generally the more potential for stressful situations. On future trips, we will break down larger groups...1 captain responsible for 3-4 other people. Each captain is responsible to make sure their people make it through ticketing, security, and to the appropriate gate on time.

Please note that related people may go through ticketing, immigration, and customs together both in the USA and Mexico - this is a time saver.

Airports:

Atlanta Departing:

1. Ticketing and Checking bags

Travel from Atlanta will normally begin at the South Terminal where Delta and Sky Team carriers are located. People and baggage will be dropped at the curb. International travelers must use the regular ticketing agents inside...from the street facing the South Terminal this is to the far right. You may not use the curbside checkin or Kiosks for international travel. At the counter you will show your passport, check your bags, and receive your boarding pass.

2. Security

After checking your bags and receiving your boarding pass, each captain will take the people he/she is responsible for and proceed through security. (Just follow the well marked signs.) At security, notice whether people are required to take off their shoes. Please have your passport and ticket ready for inspection. Make sure any metal coins, phone etc...are in your carry on items. Any bottle containing liquid over 3 oz will be confiscated.

3. Gates and Food

After inspection, you will go down the escalator and board the train. You will get off the train at Concourse E. You will then go up an escalator. A food court will be directly in front of you with the gates to your right and left. Captains, if you have time go ahead and purchase food before going to your gate.

4. In Flight

On the plane you will fill out two forms, an immigration form and a customs form. Also, please try to use the bathroom facilities before the plane descends into Mexico City. Doing so will save us time in getting through immigration, baggage claim and customs at the MEX airport.

Mexico Arrival:

1. Immigration

After you depart the plane in Mexico City, your first stop will be immigration. Here you will show the immigration form you filled out on the plane and your passport. At immigration they will tear this form and give you the bottom section. **Put the paper in your passport - you will have to pay a fine and may miss your departing plane if you lose it.**

2. Baggage Claim

After immigration you will proceed to baggage claim. Please make sure you have your personal luggage, carry-on bags, and any team supply bag assigned to you.

3. Customs

After baggage claim you will proceed to customs. At customs you will give the customs agent the customs form you filled out on the plane, then you and your bags will be screened. You will also be asked to push a button. If you get a green light you may proceed out of customs. If you get a red light they will inspect all of your bags by hand. Relatives may go through together for this part of the process. We have not had any supplies confiscated - literature or medicine. Just stay calm and explain that these are free gifts for people you will be visiting while in Mexico. Only if they are giving you an extremely hard time, will your trip leader come and assist you. We normally have documents that give us permission to bring these things in, but we have never been in a situation where we had to use them.

Once you are cleared to depart customs you will go through sliding frosted glass doors. Your team will gather on the other side.

Welcome to Mexico!

4. Food

If a bus has been chartered, certain team members will be designated to buy food for the team. Eating on the bus saves a lot of time.

If a team is too small to make chartering a bus a good use of resources, then the public bus system will be used. Mexico's bus system is wonderful. Getting to it with your team will be the challenge. If you are leading a group...contact chetboyd@gmail.com for bus tips.

Mexico Departing

1. Ticketing and Checking bags

We will enter Terminal 2 (all International flights arrive and depart from Terminal 2). Go up to the 2nd level. You will need to show your passport and the slip of paper you having been keeping in your passport all week. If you have lost that paper, anticipate paying a fine of about \$50 and possibly spending an extra day or two in Mexico depending on how fast the immigration office is working that day.

2. Food

Straight across from checkin, there is a food court. If we have time you will order your food and drink at the food court and eat it there. If we do not have time you will just order food to go without your drink. You will be able to buy a drink on the other side of the Security Checkpoint.

3. Security

After the food court, each captain will take the people he/she is responsible for a proceed through security. (Just follow the signs - they are well marked.) At security, notice whether people are required to take off their shoes. Please have your passport and ticket ready for inspection. Make sure any metal coins, phone etc...are in your carry on items. Any bottle containing liquid over 3 oz will be confiscated.

4. Proceed to your gate. Be aware of the boarding time so you do not get left in Mexico City.

Atlanta Arrival

1. Immigration

On the plane, please check “no” on the forms about whether you were on a farm. Our experience is that they are only concerned if you are bringing in soil samples. They do not care about the dirt on the bottom of your shoes.

Please do not bring back any agricultural products like apples etc...if you have anything like this put it in the trash on the plane. Bagged coffee etc...is fine.

Please have your passport and forms ready for immigration.

2. Baggage Claim #1

We will need to claim all of our luggage and walk in the direction of security. Before getting to security you will need to recheck all of your main luggage...it will go ahead of you to the main South Terminal baggage claim next to the exits...which is very nice.

3. Security

Same procedure as normal.

4. Trains

Head to the trains, and ride the train toward baggage claim. When you get off the train you will go up the escalator and to the baggage carousels.

5. Automobiles - heading home

At this point either you will walk to the vehicles (if people drove to pick you up), or vehicles will be pulled to the curb (if they have been in a parking lot all week). Make sure the driver is alert and that at least the front passenger will be awake for the drive home.