Travel Security

Business Travel 1 week

10-08-2023

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Mexico in Numbers

Data about Mexico: https://datamexico.org/

President:	A. M. López Obrador (next election 2024)
Population:	ca. 130’000’000 habitants (av. age 29.2 years) ca. 89% Christians (majority Catholics) >50 different ethnic groups (Maya, Huchiol, …)
Capital:	Mexico City (CDMX) Metropolitan: 22’000’000 habitants Altitude: 2’400 m a.s.l.
GDP (nominal):	1.350 trillion USD 10’400 USD per capita
Currency:	MXN Mexico Peso (1,00 EUR = 18,00 MXN)
NatCat risks:	Earthquakes, Volcano, Tropical storms
Crime:	Organized Crime, Gang Groups, Corruption

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Mexico City (overview)

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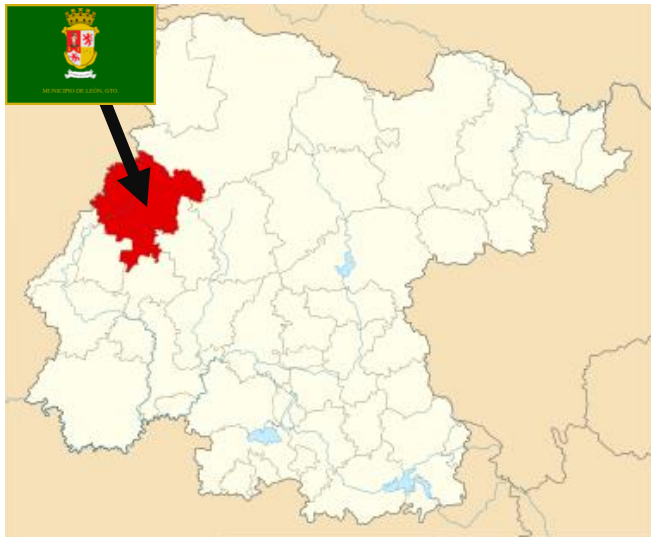
León, Guanajuato



Climate data for Downtown Leon [hide]													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	30.0 (86.0)	33.0 (91.4)	35.5 (95.9)	42.2 (108.0)	39.5 (103.1)	38.0 (100.4)	34.5 (94.1)	36.0 (96.8)	33.5 (92.3)	37.0 (98.6)	33.0 (91.4)	36.5 (97.7)	42.2 (108.0)
Average high °C (°F)	23.6 (74.5)	25.7 (78.3)	28.2 (82.8)	30.5 (86.9)	31.7 (89.1)	29.9 (85.8)	27.5 (81.5)	27.6 (81.7)	27.1 (80.8)	26.9 (80.4)	25.8 (78.4)	24.0 (75.2)	27.4 (81.3)
Daily mean °C (°F)	15.7 (60.3)	17.3 (63.1)	19.5 (67.1)	22.1 (71.8)	23.7 (74.7)	23.1 (73.6)	21.3 (70.3)	21.4 (70.5)	21.0 (69.8)	19.7 (67.5)	17.9 (64.2)	16.2 (61.2)	19.9 (67.8)
Average low °C (°F)	7.7 (45.9)	8.9 (48.0)	10.9 (51.6)	13.8 (56.8)	15.7 (60.3)	16.4 (61.5)	15.2 (59.4)	15.2 (59.4)	14.8 (58.6)	12.5 (54.5)	10.0 (50.0)	8.3 (46.9)	12.5 (54.5)
Record low °C (°F)	0.0 (32.0)	−1.5 (29.3)	0.0 (32.0)	3.0 (37.4)	8.5 (47.3)	7.0 (44.6)	7.0 (44.6)	3.0 (37.4)	5.0 (41.0)	3.0 (37.4)	1.0 (33.8)	−2.5 (27.5)	−2.5 (27.5)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	15.1 (0.59)	11.0 (0.43)	5.7 (0.22)	8.1 (0.32)	24.6 (0.97)	107.5 (4.23)	182.6 (7.19)	160.0 (6.30)	111.5 (4.39)	39.3 (1.55)	9.4 (0.37)	6.5 (0.26)	681.3 (26.82)
Average rainy days (≥ 0.1 mm)	2.7	1.6	1.3	2.0	4.9	11.6	16.2	13.3	10.3	5.0	1.3	1.4	71.6

Founded	January 20, 1576
Population	Ca. 1.722.000 habitants
Altitude	1.800 – 2.000 m a.s.l.

The city of Leon is well known for its leather and footwear industry. But in the last decade, the city has also developed important economic activity in the automotive industry.

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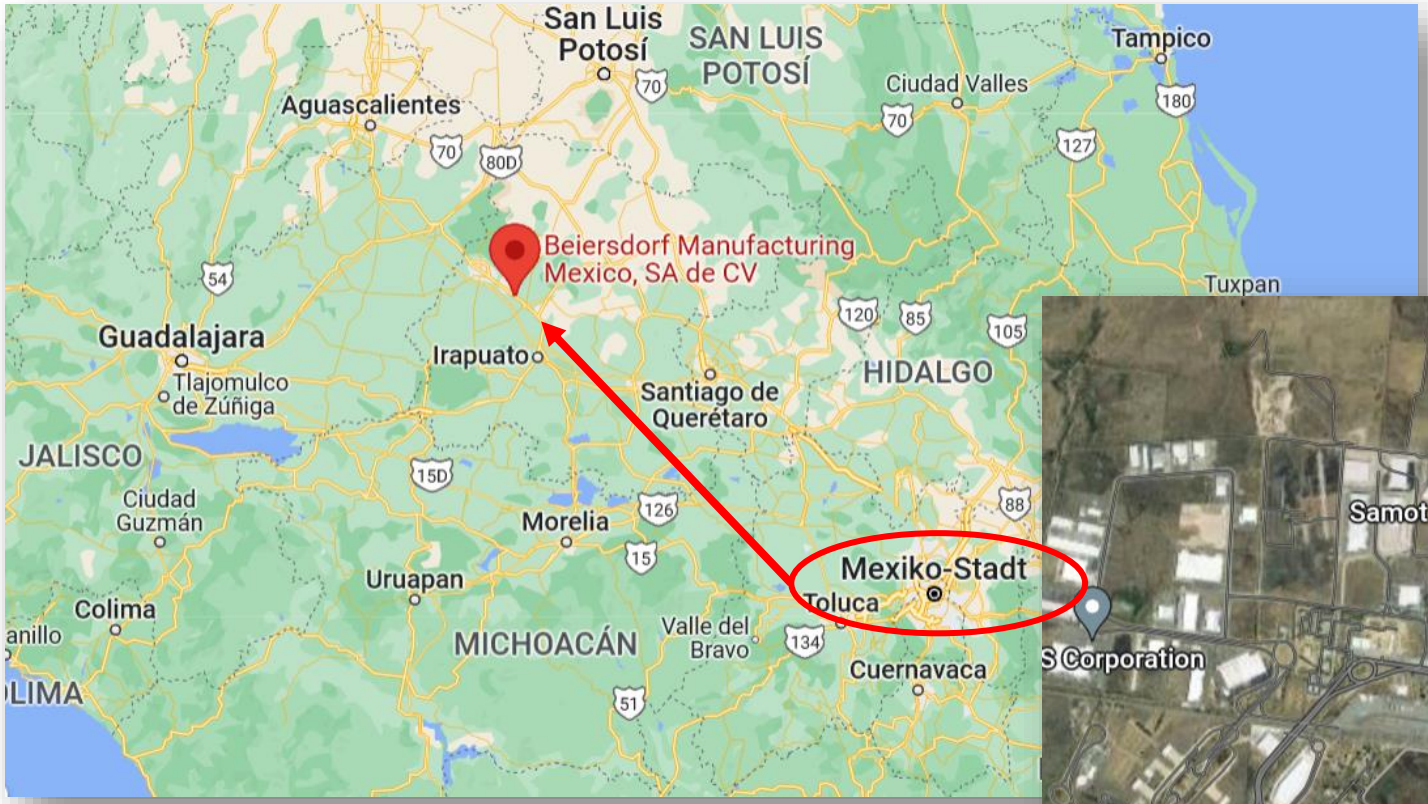
BMM Silao – Puerto Interior Silao (Industrial Park)



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MEX Airport – Terminal 2

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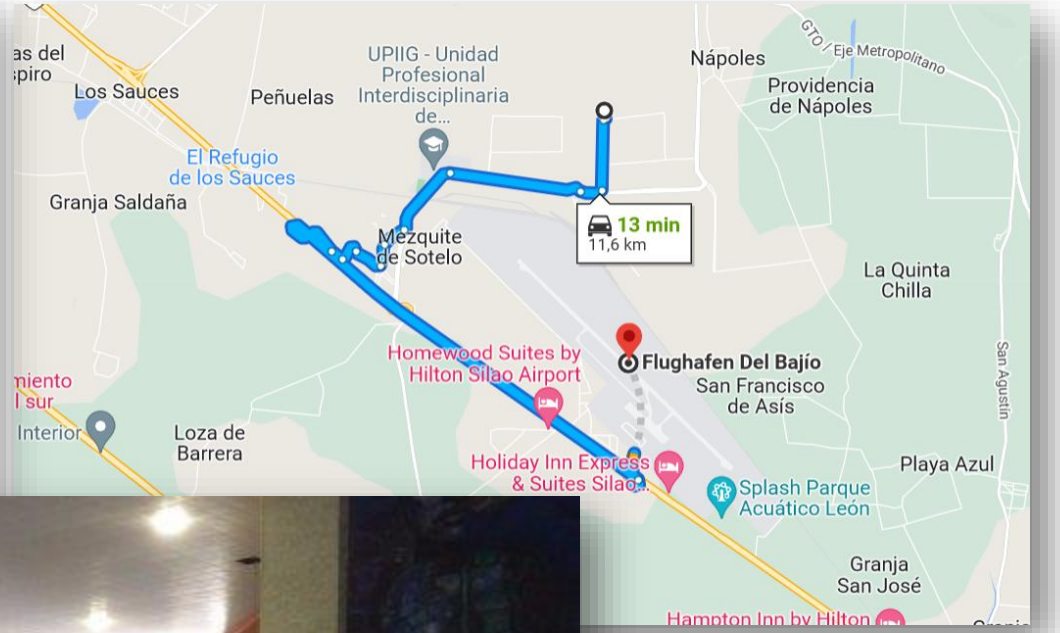
BJX Airport – Aeropuerto Internacional de Guanajuato



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BMM Silao – Main Entrance and Construction Site

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BMM Silao – Construction Project „Agave“

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Mexico Statistics (comparison to the NL)

Crime	Cases per 100k habitants Mexico	Cases per 100k habitants Europe (NL)
Homicide rate	28.4 (CDMX 14.1)	0.6
Assault rate	254.3	26.8
Robbery rate	257.7	46.2
Rape rate	12.6	7.1
Burglary rate	67.7	368.6
Private car theft rate	108.7	126.6
Kidnapping rate	1.5	2.5

Differences of crime

Mexico: Crime is carried out often with violence

Netherlands: Crime is carried out with less violence

Monthly Crime Reports: https://elcri.men/en/

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Organized Crime (Drug Cartels „Narcos“)

MS13 influence (SLV & HND)

ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS AND THEIR SUBGROUPS

Sinaloa	Tierra Caliente	Tamaulipas
Sinaloa Federation	*Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG)*	*Tamaulipas*
Beltran Leyva Organization remnants	*Knights Templar remnants*	*Los Zetas remnants*
Tijuana cartel remnants	*La Familia Michoacana remnants*	*Gulf cartel remnants*
Juarez cartel remnants		

Timeline

1980s	Marihuana and Heroin hub LATAM/US
1993	„El Chapo“, Guzman, Sinaloa Cartel
2006	President F. Calderon, “Mano Duro”
2011	CJNG (VER massacre against Zetas)
2014	- (Sinaloa takeover)
2015	- (Jalisco, fight against Mil. and Pol.)
2017	- (Guanajuato; petroleum market)
2019	- (Uruapan, Michoacan)

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Organized Crime (Drug Cartel „CJNG“)

- CJNG is operationally present in 23 of Mexico’s 32 states (although has allies in all 32 states) and continues to be led by founder Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, alias “El Mencho” (DEA US$ 10mio).
- CJNG’s assets are thought to be worth over US$ 20 billion
- Despite the fact that CJNG is one of the youngest cartels in Mexico it is considered to be one of, if not, the most powerful and violent cartel in Mexico today.

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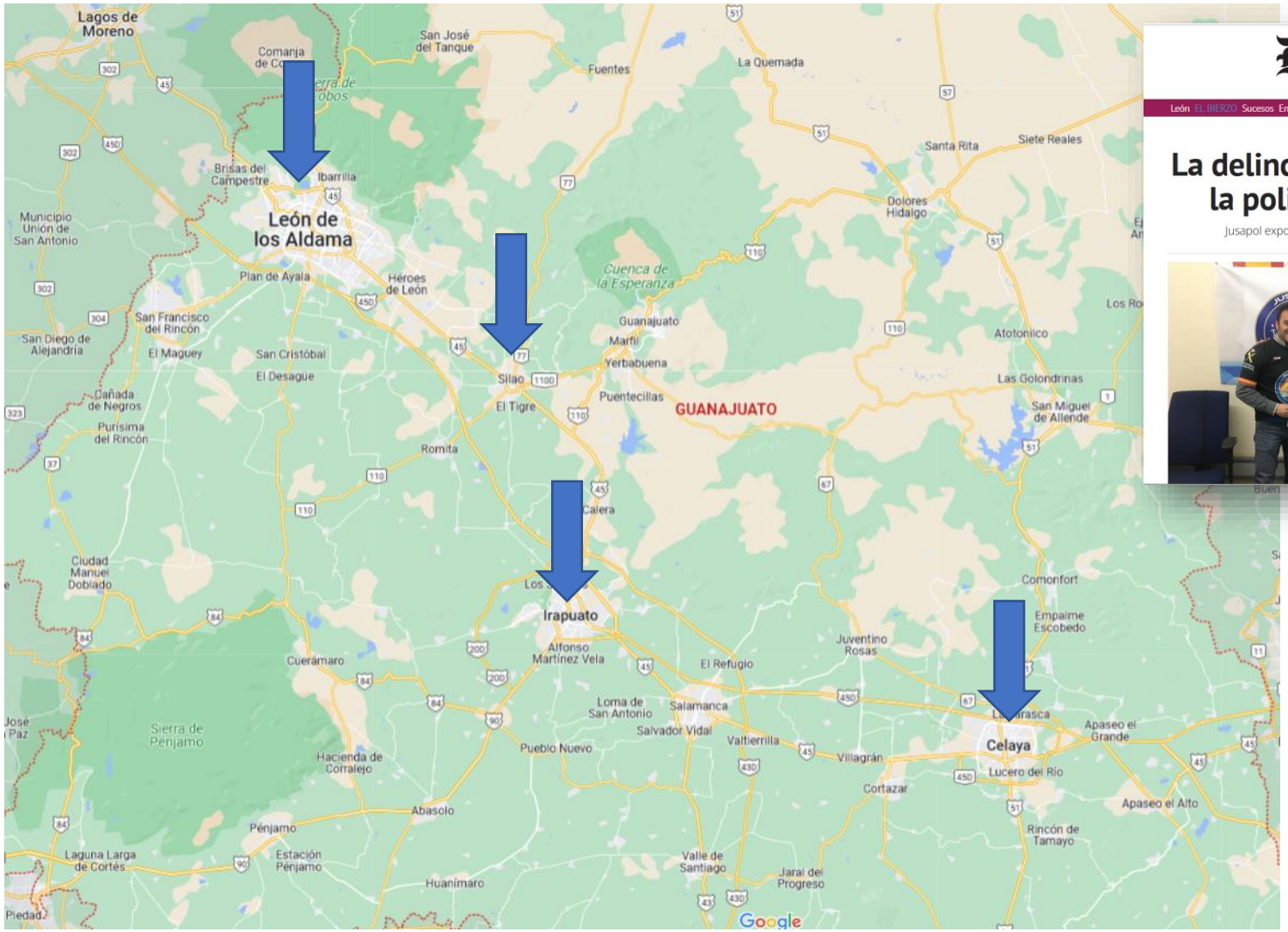
Orientation Map Guanajuato



Diario de León

León EL BIERZO Sucesos Empleo Provincia Cultura Deportes Castilla y León Sociedad Opinión Media Participa Más

La delincuencia crece en León un 31% y la policía no ve medidas bastantes

Jusapol expone al PP la necesidad de hacer frente a la reforma de la Ley de Seguridad

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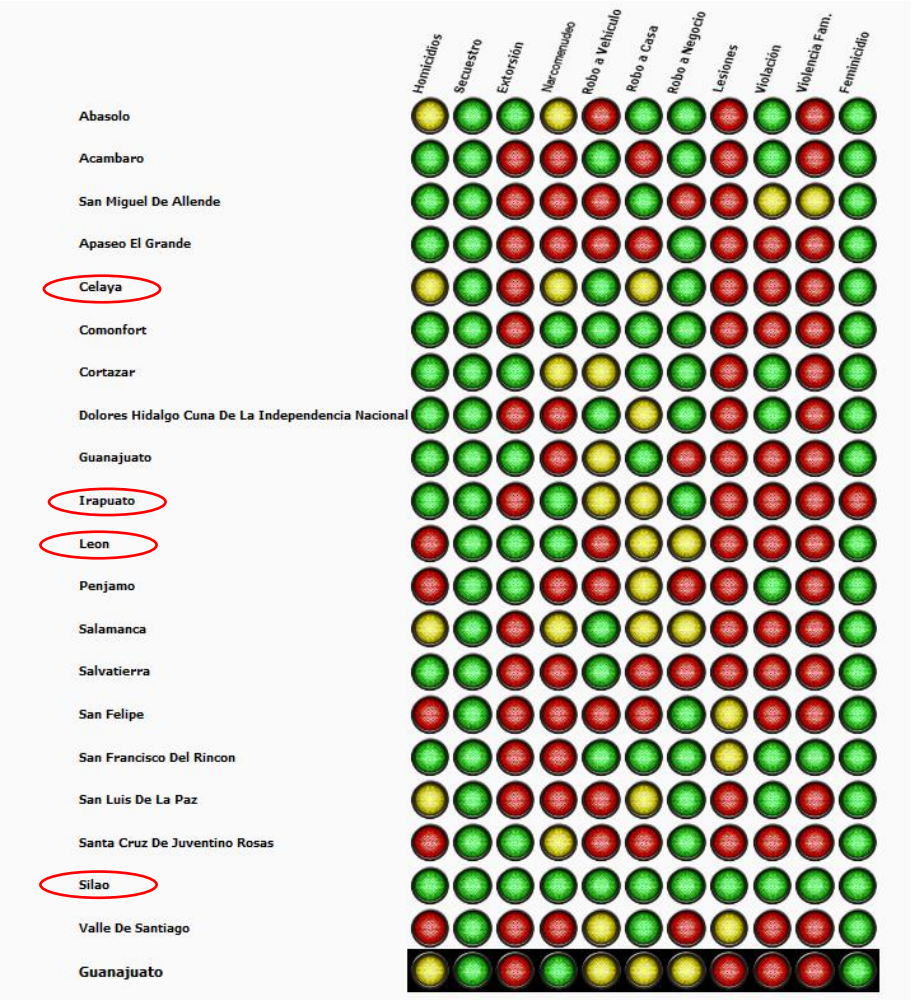
Conflict Map Guanajuato



http://guanajuato.semaforo.com.mx/

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Organized Crime (CJNG - Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación

Awareness (PP)

- ✓ Avoid night-time driving overland/highways
- ✓ Low profile (as well in the social media)
- ✓ Avoid routines (problematic with e.g. School)
- ✓ Keep an eye on housekeeper, gardeners, etc

- ➢ Military structured and organized
- ➢ Professional Armed Forces Equippment
- ➢ Special Forces
- ➢ Jammes, Crypretd Communication
- ➢ Cyber Specialists

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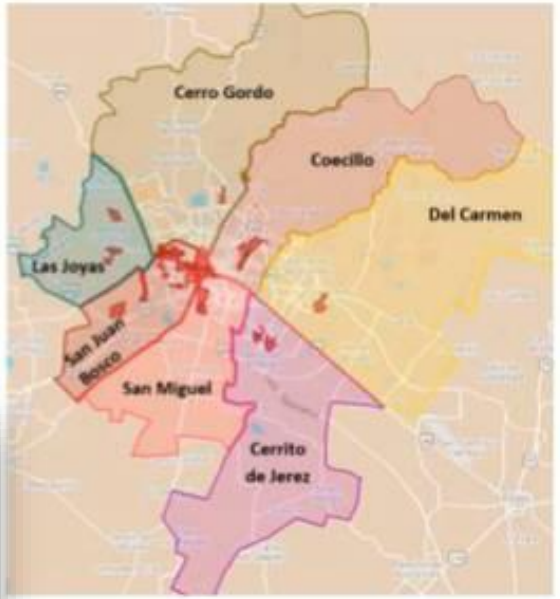
Leon - Neiborhoods with increased risks

Riskiest neibohoods in Leon

- ✓ 40 neiborhoods are between the highest in crime statistics
- ✓ 30 required priority atention
- ✓ Authorities are working in actions oriented in crime and delincuency prevention since March 2022.

ZONAS DE INTERVENCIÓN

Atención Prioritaria (30 colonias)



Delegación San Juan Bosco
- Chapalita
- Flores Magón
- León II
- Los Olivos
- Obrera
- Periodistas Mexicanos
- Piletas I-IV
- San Juan Bosco
- Vibar

Delegación Las Joyas
- Joyas de Castilla
- La Soledad
- Paseo de las Torres

Delegación San Miguel
- Barrio de Santiago
- Bellavista
- Centro
- Jardines de San Miguel
- Las Margaritas
- Obregón
- San Miguel

Delegación Coecillo
- León I
- Maravillas
- Presidentes de México
- Presitas
- Revolución
- San Felipe de Jesús

Delegación Cerrito de Jerez
- Diez de Mayo
- Parque La Noria
- Valle de Jerez

Delegación Cerro Gordo
- Hacienda Echeveste

Delegación Del Carmen
- Villas de San Juan

Interactive Crime Map:
https://delitosmexico.onc.org.mx/mapa/guanajuato?unit=folders&indicator=researchFoldersRate&period=1-2020&group=month&crime=0&domain=

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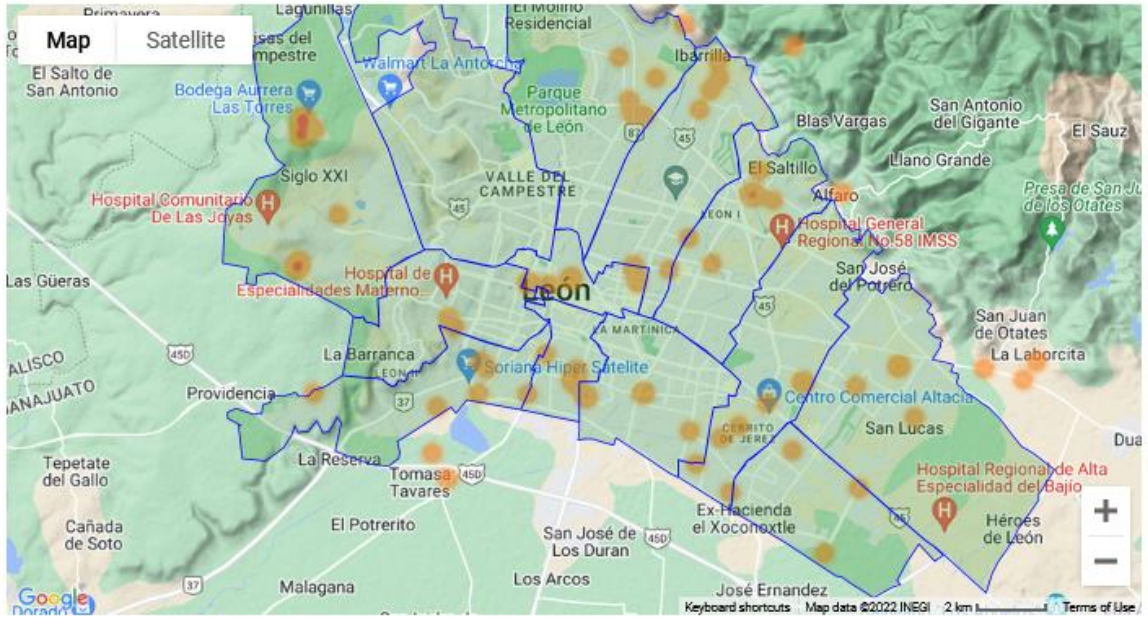
ExPatriot - Location Decistion Making

Mapa de calor de los homicidios dolosos Julio 2021

Periodo: 01 al 31 de Julio



AFECTACIÓN

De 1 a 9	A partir de 10

Source: https://www.leon.gob.mx/seguridad

Imoprtant Descition Points (Matrix)

Positive (search)

- Workplace/Office
- Supermarket
- School
- Hospital
- Transportation (Road Accesses, Airport)
- Police Department/Firebrigade

Negative (avoid)

- Zones with increased Crime
- Exposed Floodrisk Zones
- Narrow and unstructured constructed areas (earthquake and fire risk)

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Tailored Recomendations for Leon/Gto and sourrounding

- Risk increases after sunset!
  - Avoid driving on highways after 7:00 p.m.
  - Avoid secondary and and/or small confusing roads.
  - Don't use unknown shortcuts
    - Prefer to use google maps instead of Waze. Waze usually sends more for shortcuts than google maps.

- Social Specialties' in Gto
  - Form a group of close people, trusted friends with whom to consult when in doubt about whom to relate to.
  - Avoid going to invitations outside the city (countryside, ranches) or remote places in the city, always be polite when decline and putting another supposed commitment before.
  - Avoid nightclubs as much as possible.
  - Low Profile
    - Avoid the use of flashy cars or luxury brands.
    - Avoid putting establishments to the public.

- Make purchases in well established super markets, big places.

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Tailored Recomendations for Leon/Gto and sourrounding

- Do not go to small gyms that lack security measures.
- If you drink alcoholic beverages, do it at home, in well-established places and preferably buy the full bottle and open the seal in your presence.
- Do not consume non-bottled or "craft" alcoholic beverages
- Try to keep short trips to the main routine destinations such as school, the supermarket, the gym, etc.

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Recomendations – younger people

- Avoid the use of taxis on the street and public transport in general, travel through application taxis such as Uber and Didi and only in cars of people you know.
- In case of going to meetings or social centers, keep the meeting between acquaintances, politely avoiding third parties.
- Do not get involved in disputes, as far as possible.
- Especially avoid the purchase and consumption of narcotics, kindly stay away from people who promote their use and who consume them.

At school:

- Avoid disputes and greater conflicts (esp. with local Mexican Kids)
- Don't show off about family assets and relation to company
- Know the friends and their families of your Kid

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Global Hotspots 2021/22

Cartel violence

Forgotten conflicts

Economic disruptions

Covid 19

Military withdrawal

Global travel restriction

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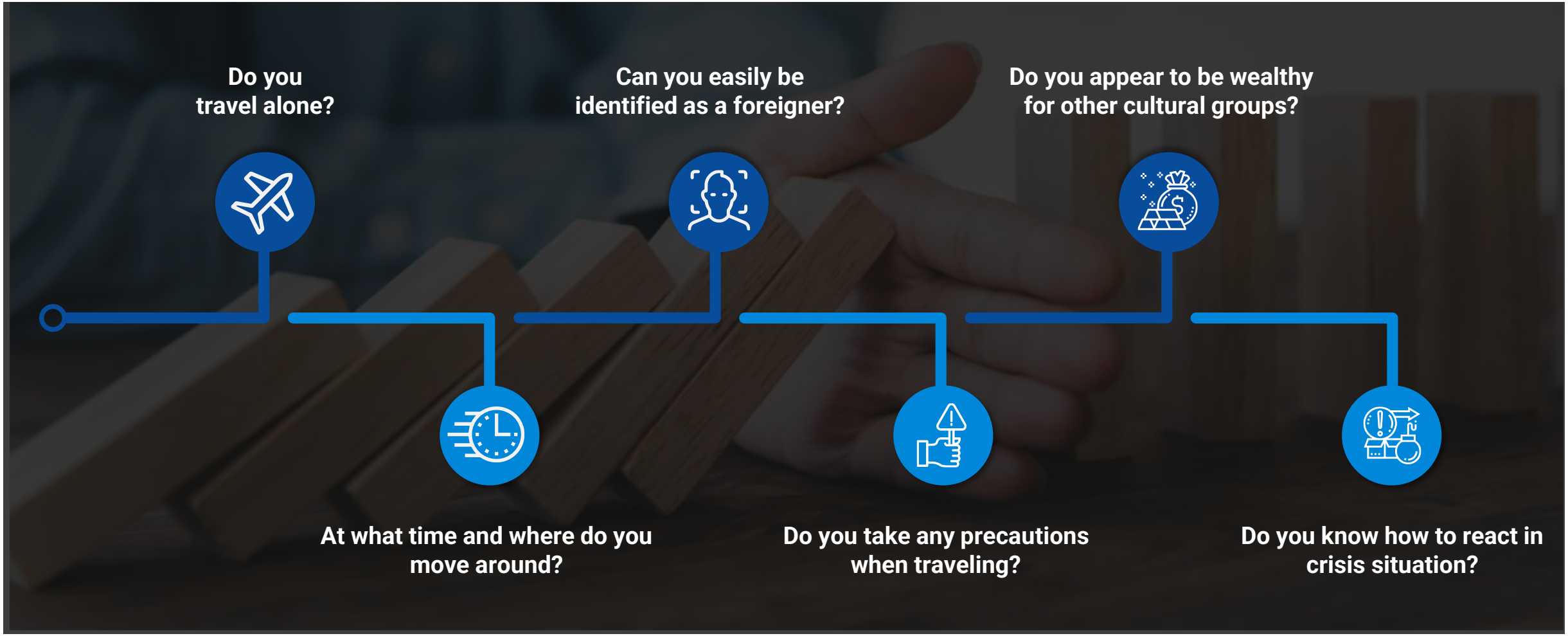
Risk indicators en route



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The personal color code…

- Radar on, everything‘s fine
- Radar identifies a possible problem. Start making plans!
- Immediate Danger, Action!

Color Code changes to orange when

- The place becomes more lonely, crowds or an unclear situation arise, others try to manipulate us or we have a bad gut feeling

Color Code changes to red when

- There is an acute danger to life, limb or health
- Immediate escape from the danger zone to a safe haven

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Attention

Children

- ✓ Never give big notes for lunch etc. ($ MXN)
- ✓ Clothes: Be aware of brands, football clubs, etc.
- ✓ Stress: Other language, food, friends and culture
- ✓ Local vs. international friends (care the profiles)
- ✓ Aware no scare

Attention is a limited good

We **separate** the <u>important</u> from the <u>unimportant</u>

What does our personal radar detect when we are en route?

Autopilot off! Radar on!

Personal Color Code

<u>Trust your gut instinct</u>

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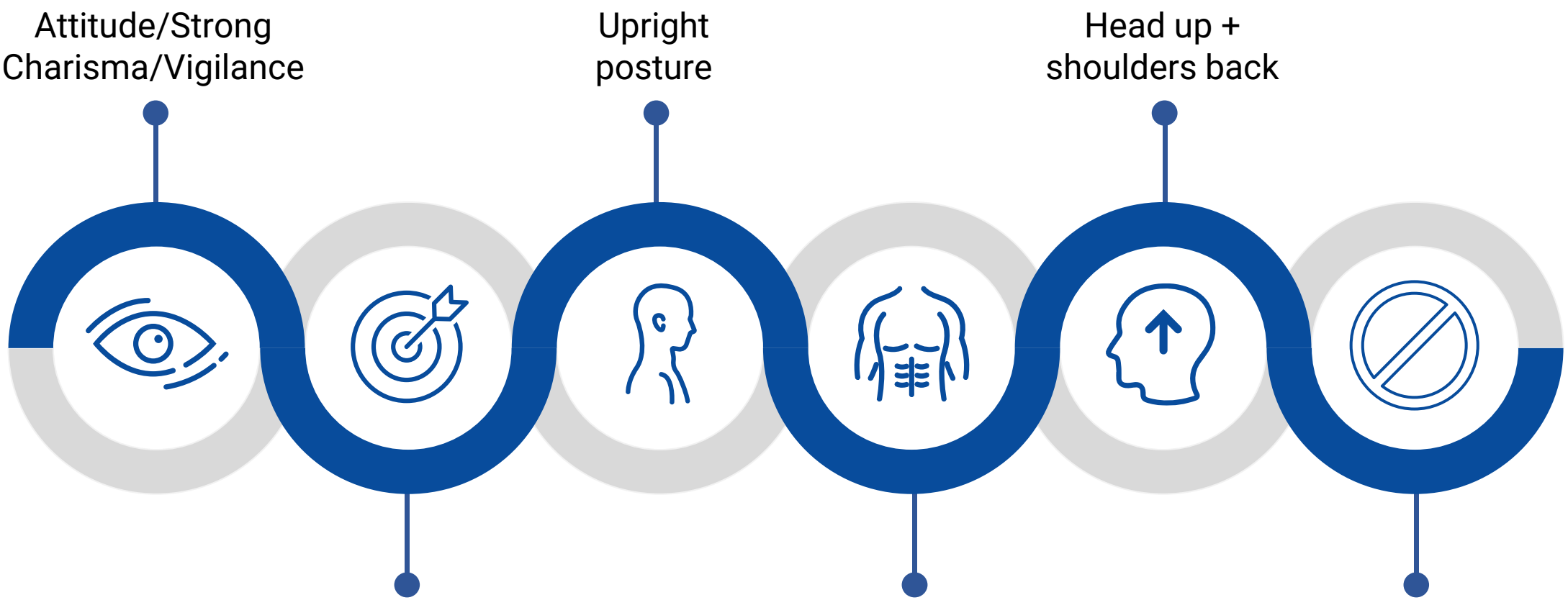
Perpetrators seek Victims, no Challenges



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Travel Security

1. Document Security
2. Clothes & Luggage
3. En route
4. At the Airport
5. Accomodation
6. In a Risk Situation

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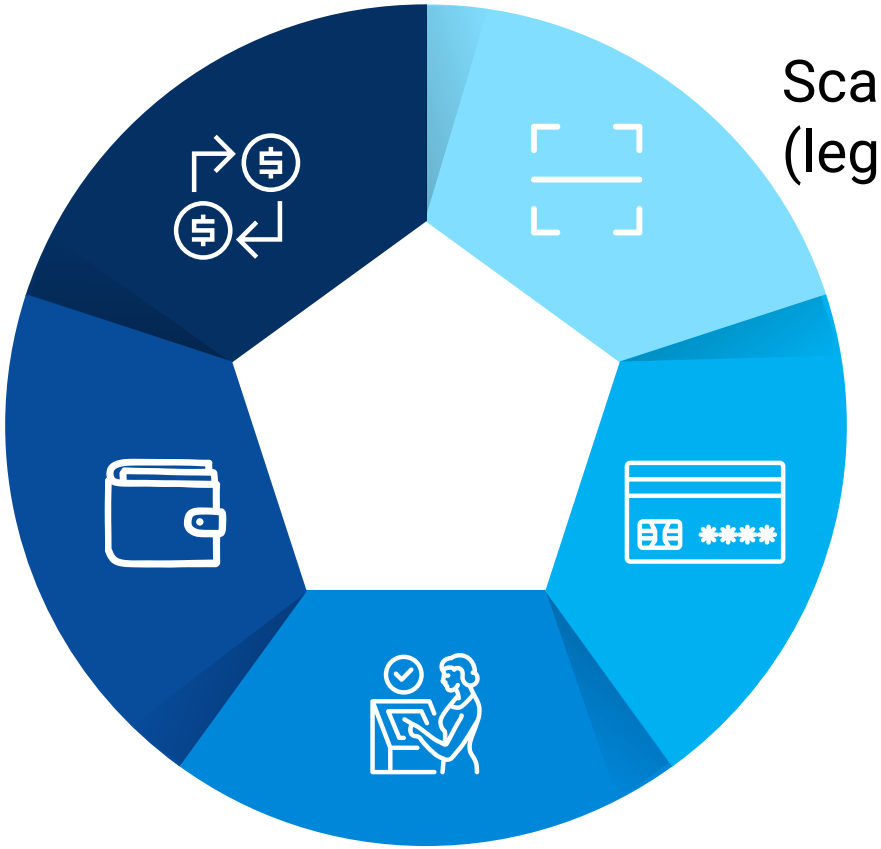
Documents & Money

Be informed about the cash exchange procedures

1.00 Euro =
18.696366 Mexican Pesos
1 MXN = 0.0534863 EUR

Always carry an older wallet (MXN, small notes) with you



Scan all important documents (legalized copy of passport)

Make sure that you know the PIN-number of your credit card

Only use ATMs in your hotel or in a safe building, never on the street

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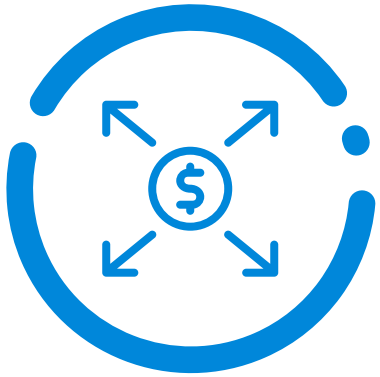
Clothes & luggage

Low profile



Distribute your valuables (cash, credit cards) all over your body

Your luggage and wallet should be practical but inconspicuous, elegant luggage attracts the attention of criminals

Label your luggage as inconspicuously as possible. No company logos

Avoid anything that might indicate personal wealth

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En route: Taxi

If possible, a pick-up service should always be pre-arranged

Have your taxi ordered only by people who have an interest in your safe arrival

Only use registered taxis

Always wait for your taxi in the restaurant, not outside

Don't get in a cab with locals already sitting in it

Don't tell the driver details about your travel plans

Keep your luggage with you and pay only after you have unloaded it

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At the airport

If your aircraft is delayed, stay in the lounge, not in the waiting area

Beware of theft and robbery, especially in WC facilities

It is safer behind the security checks

Beware of the control locks. Keep an eye on your personal valuables

Make sure you know who is picking you up

Upon arrival, be aware of possible spying

Do not exchange money on the black market at the airport

Benito Juárez International Airport (MEX)

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Vehicle possabilities

Uber is common in Mexico, mostly in bigger cities;
Always check if App-profile matches with the plates and driver name

Certified Taxis are common and can be found areawide in big cities.
Most Taxi drivers outside international airport usually speak less or poor English

Not recommended.

- Mexico roads are danger to drive (ca 17k death / year)
- Car rental is available at the airport.
- Be aware of the hughe traffic and chaotic traffic organisation
- Always book the full insurance package
- In case of a care accident, esp. in SP, be aware of motorcycles

← Navigation Apps

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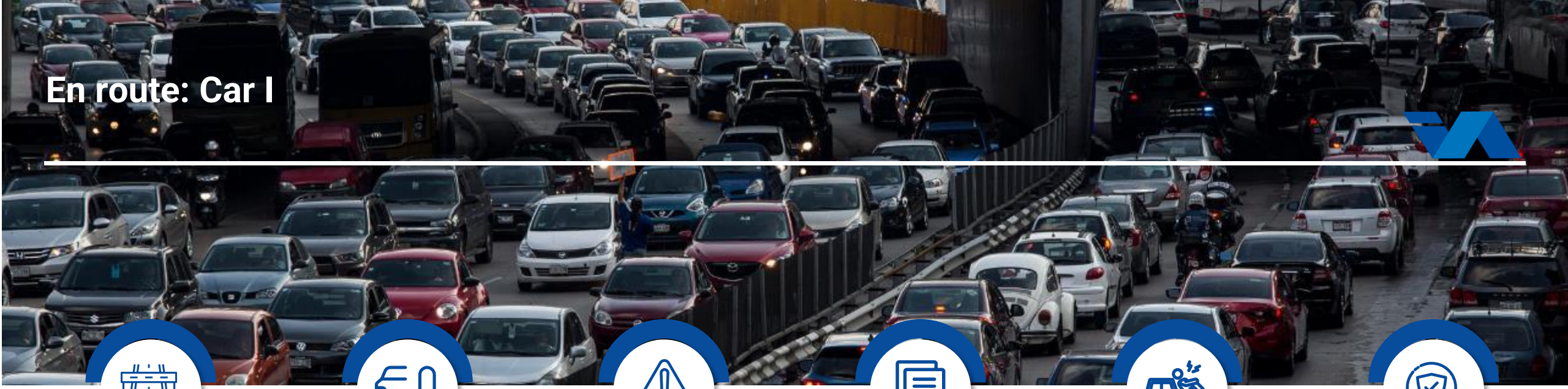
En route: Car I



Only use heavily frequented main roads, avoid unclear and non-illuminated side streets

Keep the windows closed and the doors centrally locked

Attentive observation of other road users with a view to suspicious vehicles and persons

Report pursuers via cell. Drive to the nearest police station

Under no circumstances stop to give direct accident assistance, breakdown assistance etc. to strangers

Security before politeness

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En route: Car II

Avoid night journeys if possible

Do not stop at night if possible, especially not in unclear or deserted places

Be particularly careful at night in the intersection area, where the traffic light signs are sometimes disregarded (crossing the intersection at "red")

Stay calm with military and police controls. During a car inspection, the windows must be lowered so that these persons can look into the vehicle. Avoid hectic movements

Be prepared for the ingenuity of the perpetrators: fake accident situations, false uniforms, windscreen soiling, people in need of help, advertising material containing drugs, etc.

- Be aware of speed control
- Restrictions: Not all plates are allowed in CDMX
- Motorcycles are driving very crazy and are organized in groups

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Car preparation in high-risk areas

- ✓ Use always securee Parking Places - (e.g Valet Parking)
- ✓ "Manobrista": Do not leave valuables/important items in the car (Check vehicle damages, gasoline level, etc.)
- ✓ Lock always the car when leaving alone

- Check your car before you leave (inside & outside)
- **Secure the windows with shatter protection film**
- **Avoid stickers, especially political** or pro-Western signs
- **Plan your route precisely**. Avoid typical demonstrations areas and known danger zones
- Make plans for alternative routes **(remember major roads for orientation)**
- Check the situation before you start the journey
- Keep clear and up-to-date maps with you so that you can use alternative routes if necessary
- The best car to use is a "low-profile" **SUV**

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En route: General Information

Do not carry business cards with you when having dinner with already known business partners

Exchange your contact details with your business partner

For longer trips: get a local mobile phone

(MEX has good contracts with free data packages)

Avoid going out alone, e.g. attend events only after prior arrangement

Keep an eye on your food / drinks. There is a risk of drug administration

Change your daily routines

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Accommodation: Hotel

When checking in, just state your name and your company's address

If possible, choose a room between the 2nd and 6th floor

Familiarize yourself with the evacuation routes

Never open the door when you do not know who is in front

Meet your visitors in the lobby

Make use of existing security equipment

Be aware that your communication can be monitored by unauthorized persons

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Accommodation: Apartments

- Do not enter your apartment if you notice that "strangers" are in the vicinity for a longer period of time
- If you live in an apartment building, don't be so polite and hold the door open for people you don't know
- Do not open your apartment door when "strangers" are standing in front of it
- **Be friendly to the guards** (they have usually good information)
- Keep an eye on your living environment and your surroundings
- Report observations to your security officer

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What happens under high stress?

Pulse and Blood Pressure increase	Breathing gets deeper	Muscles tense up	Tremors	"Tunnel vision": limited perception	No pain sensation	Automatic reaction, not controlled by the mind	Aggression, rage	Escape or fight

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In risk situations: Robbery

Inner Attitude

It is not worth it!

Escape, no fight

Hand over prepared wallet

No resistance

No tricks, no provocations

Do not look directly at the perpetrator (fixate)

Do not follow the perpetrator

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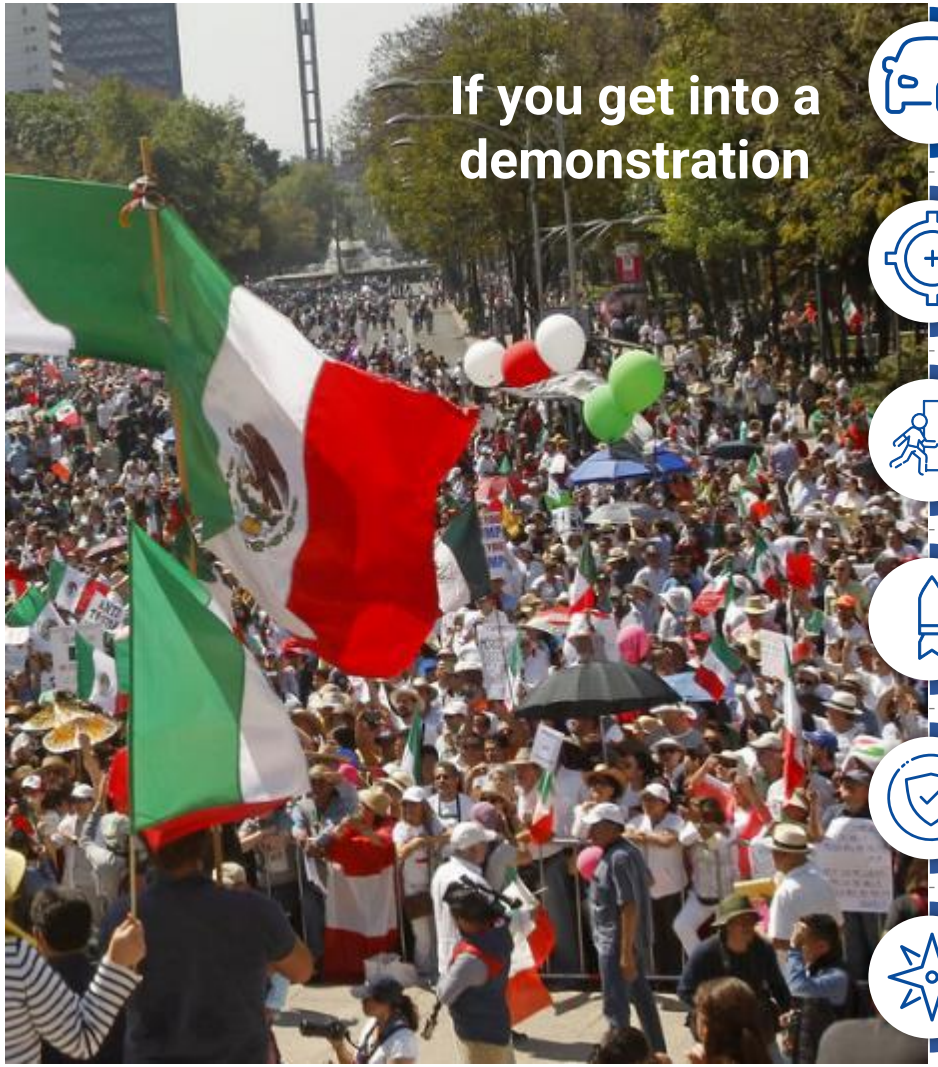
In risk situations: Demonstrations



If you get into a demonstration

- Stay in the locked vehicle
- Leave the danger area in the vehicle as quickly as possible
- Escape out of the vehicle only in extreme exceptional situations
- Take cover from projectiles, shots fired
- Activate contingency plans & search for safe harbors
- Orientation Skills

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In risk situations: Shooting

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In risk situations: Arrest

Inner Attitude

- Calm and self-confident appearance (do not exaggerate))
- Preserve your dignity
- Insist on contact to embassy / consulate
- Communication with the crisis manager
  (a phone call is usually always allowed; except “Spy suspicion”)
- Sign nothing for the promise to be released then.
- Never offer “quick-despatch money” to Police Officers
- Ask officers to identify themselves

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In Risk Situations: Carjacking

No resistance, no escape attempts.

Signal cooperation, show hands

Pay attention to signals from the perpetrator (does he want money or the car)

Give clear instructions to passengers

No fast movements

No attempts to take bags etc. with you

Grasp the belt buckle along the belt, unbuckle it (before opening the door)

Slowly open the door and remove it against the traffic

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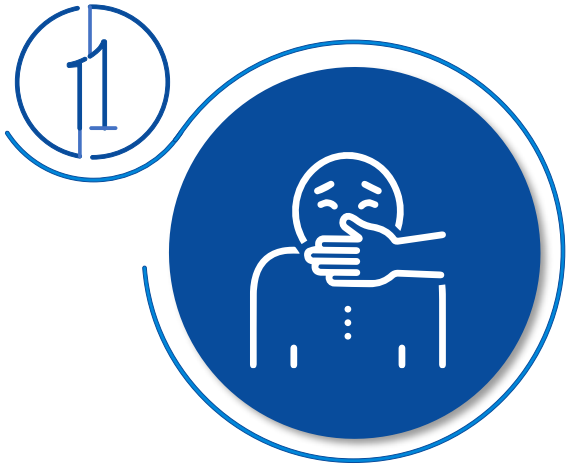
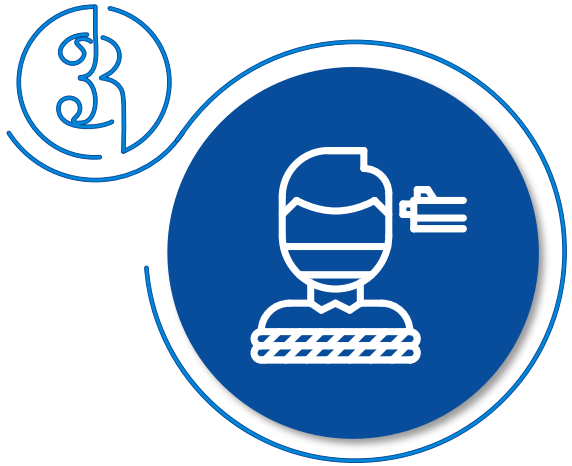
Categories of Kidnappings



Conventional short- and medium-term kidnappings

"Express" kidnapping



"Virtual" kidnapping

BMM case (subcontrator at construction site

"Extortion through threatened kidnapping"

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In Risk Situations: Virtual Kidnapping

Short time frame

High ingenuity of the perpetrators

Feigning of a hostage situation

Selection of victims: Business people, travelers

Time of the crime: Frequently during normal office hours

Crime scenes: Company, Hotel

Verification!!!

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In Risk Situations: Express – Kidnappings

Duration a few hours

Perpetrators are usually petty criminals, occasionally groups

Target: Robbery, ATM robbery, rarely extortion of the family

Victim selection: Random circumstantial evidence of wealth, car clothing

Time of crime mostly in darkness

Crime scenes: ATMs, car parks, cars

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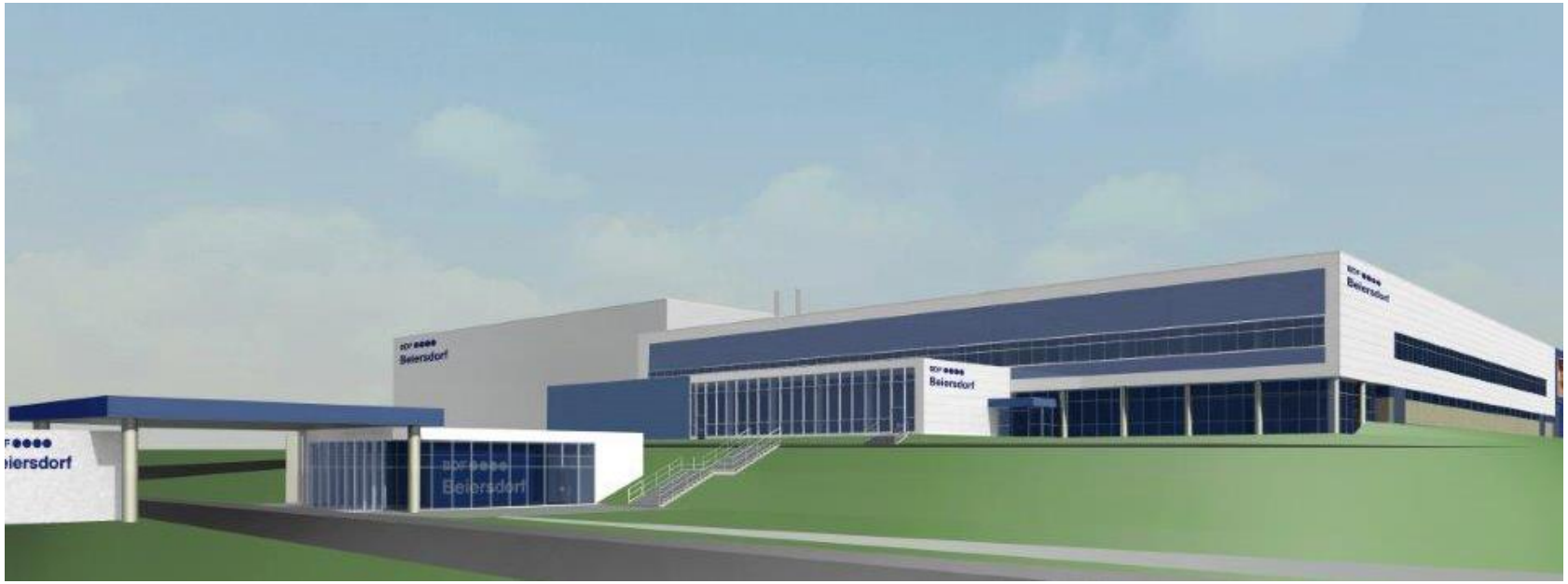
Thank you for your attention



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