

This attendee guide containing helpful tips and recommendations for planning your visit to Mexico City for the 2023 UC Chicanx Latinx Alumni Association Summit in Mexico City. There is a checklist and printable contact sheet at the end of the guide.

Local Guide Map

A [local guide map](#) is available with a few recommendations for museums, galleries, libraries, bookstores, and restaurants around Mexico City. The map also includes location of Casa de Universidad de California and recommended lodging, Krystal Grand Suites Insurgentes. Many highlighted locations are near the conference hotel, but there are a few notable places further away.








The last page of this guide is a handy contact and information sheet to print and bring for your travels in the city.

Passport & Travel Documents

Make sure your passport is up-to-date and check in with your country's government agency to ensure you have all the proper documentation for entering/exiting Mexico. As of late 2022, Mexico City does not require the [Forma Migratoria Múltiple](#) (Tourist Card) for air travel.

Climate & Altitude

The average temperature in [Mexico City](#) in October for a typical day ranges from a high of 69°F (21°C) to a low of 46°F (8°C). Some would describe it as mildly cool, humid but cool. Check [The Weather Channel](#) or your preferred weather website/app a few days before traveling to help you pack a comfortable wardrobe.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						
82° 55°	81° 57°	79° 55°	79° 55°	78° 56°	80° 55°	81° 55°

Mexico City has an altitude of over 7,000 feet (2,000 meters). Visitors who live at lower elevations may need some time to acclimate to the lower pressure and reduced oxygen levels. Drink lots of bottled water, take aspirin or ibuprofen, and go slow the first day to help prevent altitude sickness. Refer to the CDC's Yellow Book chapter on [High-Altitude Travel and Altitude Sickness](#) for more information. For a resource in more layman's terms, [REI](#) has a basic guide on preventing and treating altitude sickness.

Dress

The dress code for the summit is business casual. We also recommend bringing campus spirit gear for more casual occasions.

Umbrellas and rain gear given we are entering a wetter season. Bring layers given the nights can be chillier at the city's higher altitude. Mexico City is a cosmopolitan and modern city that embraces diversity and creativity. You will find people wearing all kinds of styles and colors, from traditional Mexican clothing to trendy streetwear. However, there are some cultural norms and expectations that you should be aware of when dressing in Mexico City. For example, Mexicans tend to dress more formally and conservatively for work or social events. They also tend to avoid wearing shorts, flip-flops, or tank tops in public places, as they are considered too casual or inappropriate. Additionally, some religious sites and museums may have dress codes that require covering your shoulders and knees.

Airport Travel Information

See the Transportation section in this local guide for more information on what to expect when flying into Mexico City's Benito Juarez airport.

[What to Expect When Arriving and Departing Mexico City's Benito Juarez Airport](#)

[Authorized taxi stands](#)

[General Tourist Tips](#)

Getting To/From the Benito Juarez Airport

Mexico City International Airport ([Benito Juarez Airport](#)) is the closest airport to the conference hotel, [Krystal Grand Suites Insurgentes](#). Check out this [Medium article](#) about what to expect arriving and departing from this airport.

Uber is a recommended rideshare service for traveling around Mexico City, including to/from the airport. Learn more at the dedicated [Uber page for Mexico City airport](#). In the app, take note of the Puerta (door or gate) closest to you for pickup location.

[Authorized taxi stands](#) are available inside Terminal 1 and Terminal 2. You will need to purchase a ticket (estimated 400 pesos or \$13-\$15) at the stand before getting into a taxi. ATMs are available in the terminals. Give the attendant the hotel address (**Address:** Av. de los Insurgentes Sur 1991, Guadalupe Inn, Álvaro Obregón, 01020 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico, **Phone:** +52 55 5322 1580) and they will provide you a ticket to take to a licensed taxi. Some recommend writing the hotel address on an index card to give to both the taxi stand attendant and driver.

Putting you within a 10-minute drive of Frida Kahlo Museum and World Trade Center Mexico City, Krystal Grand Suites Insurgentes offers an airport shuttle (available 24 hours) for MXN 350 per vehicle. The restaurant is the perfect spot for a bite to eat, and after visiting the 24-hour fitness center for a workout, you can unwind with a drink at the bar/lounge. Other highlights at this upscale hotel include a snack bar/deli and a terrace. The property is just a short walk to public transportation: Miguel Angel de Quevedo Station is 14 minutes away.

The [Metro](#) (subway) or [Metrobus](#) (buses) are not recommended for getting to/from the airport.

Getting Around the City

The [Metro](#) (subway) and [Metrobus](#) systems are an affordable and easy way to get around once you are ready to explore Mexico City. It is recommended to keep all your valuables inside clothing and avoid rush hour.

[Uber](#) and other rideshare options are recommended over taxis. Lyft is not available in Mexico City, but other rideshare options include [Didi](#), [inDrive](#), and [Cabify](#). Feel free to download multiple apps so you can compare prices and see which app works best for you.

If you do wish to take a taxi, do not hail one off the street. Always go through a taxi booth to purchase a trip. Authorized taxis are lined up along the hotel and available at many bus terminals.

Communications

[WhatsApp](#) is the preferred method for text communication in Mexico. It is very simple to use and links to your mobile number. WhatsApp uses the internet connection so you can avoid any international SMS fees.

Check with your mobile service provider for coverage in Mexico City. T-Mobile, for example, offers free data and calling in Mexico. If not free, daily rates will be low cost and worth it to have access. Not sure? When you land, turn off Airplane Mode and your carrier will alert you to cellular and data costs, if any.

Although Mexico City has a robust public wi-fi service, you may not always have access to your phone. Try the analog way by using a phrase guide. Here are few options:

[Rough Guide Mexican Spanish Phrasebook](#)

[Berlitz Mexican Spanish Phrase Book and Dictionary](#)

It is also helpful to download a translation app, like [GoogleTranslate](#). This app is free and allows for several means of translation, including a conversation feature to help with audio translation during conversations and a camera feature to translate text with your camera in case you need to read a sign, menu, etc.

Accessibility

The tourism board of Mexico has provided a Mexico City Accessibility [guide](#). The information is available as a PDF you can download for future use. You will find descriptions for accessibility features for specific restaurants, parks, museums, libraries, transportation options, etc.

You can find more accessibility considerations for getting around the city in the Transportation section.

Money

Mexico City is a large modern city. Credit cards are widely accepted at the hotel, sit-down restaurants, and shops. Restaurants generally do not split the charge so have cash if you plan to share the bill with someone or if dining at smaller, more casual venues.

Museums generally do not accept credit cards. They are all relatively inexpensive but plan to have enough cash on hand.

You should plan to exchange a day or two's worth of money at your local bank before leaving your home country to get you to the hotel and settled into the neighborhood. Check with your local institution to understand their conversion rate and procedures. Small bills are highly recommended as many places cannot provide change for larger bills.

Banks, ATMS, and casa de cambios are plentiful options while looking to exchange or withdraw money while in Mexico. There is a Santander Bank ATM in the conference hotel lobby for convenience. Look carefully over conversion rates and fees before accepting transactions. Below are various resources to help you figure out a plan for exchanging money. Your bank may be part of a network with Mexican banks and offer no-fee ATM access.

[TripSavvy](#)

[Forbes](#) (general guidelines for exchanging foreign currency)

For tipping guidelines see [Frommers](#) and [Tripadvisor](#) (scroll towards the bottom of the guide)

As of February 2022, the conversion rate is roughly 1 USD = 17.40 MXN

This rate may alter slightly over time and depending on where you are exchanging money. You can check this rate through your local bank and other financial institutions.

[This app](#) is a convenient way to convert US dollars to Mexican pesos. It is a good idea to check a variety of sources to get an average of what to expect when you are looking for a place to exchange money while in Mexico.

Meals & Dining

The summit will be providing light refreshments at the reception on Wednesday, October 4 and light breakfast and lunch on Thursday and Friday. Dinner is on your own for all three nights.

Mexico City is home to a world class dining scene. Whether you are looking for fancier dishes or something simpler, you will be sure to find something delicious wherever you are.

Many restaurants closer to the Historic Center are highlighted on the [local guide map](#). Peruse the restaurant guides below for more in-depth exploration of restaurants throughout Mexico City.

Lunch and dinner tend to be more leisurely experiences, so please allow plenty of time at restaurants, especially with a group. This could be over an hour for lunch and several hours for dinner. Many restaurants do not split bills, so either use one card, or pay in cash. It may be helpful to split particularly large groups into smaller tables. Tipping in Mexico City is customarily around 10%.

Helpful phrases:

- Estoy (Estamos) listos para ordenar = I (We) are ready to order
- Quisiera _____, por favor = I would like _____ please
- Soy alérgico a _____ = I am allergic to _____
- ¿Tienen algún plato vegetariano? = Do you have any vegetarian dishes?
- ¿Qué recomienda usted? = What do you recommend?
- Necesitamos más tiempo para decidir = We need a moment to decide
- Señor/Señora, la cuenta, por favor = Mr./Mrs., the bill please

Refer to your phrase guide or various websites (ex: this [Guardian article](#)) for other helpful phrases to know when dining.

Restaurant Guides

For recommendations specifically within the Historic Center:

- [Culture Trip](#)
- [Atlas Obscura - Gastro Obscura](#)
- [Trip Advisor](#)

For recommendations throughout the city:

- [Bon Appetit](#)
- [Eater](#)
- [Frommer's](#)
- [Fodor's](#)

General Resources

[Tourist Guide to Mexico City](#) (English and Spanish)

[Tourist Information for Mexico City](#) (site in Spanish, some guides are bilingual)

Basic Pre-Trip Checklist & Tips

- Ensure passport is up to date and check in with your country's website for other relevant travel documentation. The Tourist Card replaces the need for a travel visa. [United States passport info](#).
- Purchase phrasebooks and download any language apps to help you communicate more effectively in Mexico City. See the Communications section some suggestions.
- Start planning any extra excursions you would like to enjoy during your stay in Mexico City. See the [local guide map](#) for ideas. Identify which destinations require extra planning on your part - booking tour guides, figuring out transportation logistics, booking advanced reservations for museums or restaurants that require it, etc.
- Go to your bank or local financial institution to convert currency for at least 1-2 days. Don't leave this to the last minute - your bank may need to get currency shipped from elsewhere if they don't have enough on hand. See the Money section for more info on converting currency.
- Add your schedule to your digital calendar so you can coordinate tours/activities, meals, and conference presentations.
- Gather your passport and other travel documents to place in an easy to access part of your luggage.
- Make sure all rideshare, communication, and other relevant apps are downloaded so you can easily utilize them once you are in Mexico City. If any apps are new to you, take them for a test drive beforehand to get comfortable with their features.
- Stay hydrated, get plenty of rest, and pack ibuprofen/naproxen to help prevent altitude sickness and soften the effects of jet lag.

Event Location | Lugar de Evento

La Casa de la Universidad de California, Del Carmen No., Chimalistac Delegación
Álvaro Obregón, C.P. 01070, Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico

Tel. +52 55 5662 4016

Recommended Hotel | Hotel Recomendado

Krystal Grand Suites Insurgentes
Av. de los Insurgentes Sur 1991, Guadalupe Inn, Álvaro Obregón, 01020, Ciudad de
México, CDMX, Mexico

Tel. +52 55 5322 1580

Need help?

For logistical matters related to the summit during business hours, contact:

Tel. +52 55 5662 4016

Lost after hours?

Contact your hotel front desk.