

## PERSONAL SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

In Mexico City, as in many other large cities all over the world, the naïve stranger can get into unwanted trouble. The city government as well as the Universidad Iberoamericana are concerned about the increase in crime in various parts of the country during the past few years and make the following recommendations to help you avoid dangerous situations.

- **Be aware** of your surroundings at the airport, in restaurants or on the streets. Foreigners are easily identified as targets of theft as they carry cash, credit cards and valuables.
- **Do not** leave briefcases or purses on the floor or hanging from a chair in a restaurant.
- Be aware of **pickpockets** on the street, in the metro, or in a store.
- **Avoid large public gatherings** of people like demonstrations, celebrations, etc.
- **Do not flag down taxis** on the street. Use only taxis from a *Sitio*, a registered taxi service. When entering a taxi, remember that pickpockets could grab your belongings through open windows. If possible, investigate a route to the location where you are going before entering the taxi. If the driver acts strangely or if you suspect that the taxi driver appears to be taking a roundabout route, pay and exit the taxi at a convenient location (however, the driver might just be taking a short cut, so don't worry too much). Always have an appropriate amount of money ready to cover the taxi fare before entering the taxi. Do not wait until arrival to search for the correct amount of money. Each licensed driver is required to clearly display a photo identification card at the window of the taxi.
- Be aware that in Mexico City **safe and unsafe/dangerous areas can be located in immediate vicinity**. When walking around the greater city center area, be cautious not to enter such areas. Ask your host family or Mexican friends where not to go (especially at night).
- **Never travel alone after dark** or in unfamiliar neighborhoods. Students should **travel in groups whenever possible**, but especially to and from bars and restaurants.
- **Do not carry large amounts of cash, ATM cards, or credit cards.**
- **Do not carry your passport or visa.** It is preferable to carry a photocopy of these documents and leave the original in a safe place.
- If you become a robbery victim, give the perpetrator your valuables without discussing. Your valuables are not worth risking your safety. If you can't afford to lose a particular item, don't carry it.
- **Be careful when strangers address you.**
- **Do not hitchhike.**
- When traveling outside Mexico City take an airplane or use first-class bus service. **Avoid isolated beaches.** Camping is not recommended unless you do it in an established place that offers camping facilities.

Be aware of potential dangers and try to avoid them, but don't let worry dominate your stay in Mexico. Following the above mentioned recommendations, a pleasant and exciting world of opportunity, experience, and adventure awaits!

## TAXI INFORMATION

**Students should not flag down taxis on the street.** They should use only taxis from a *Sitio*, a registered taxi station. When calling a *Sitio*, the taxi station will send a taxi that will pick students up wherever they are. Students should consult the yellow pages under “Sitios de taxis” or ask local neighbors or their landlord to find a taxi station nearby.

*Recommended taxi sitios (selection):*

- **Super Sitio 160, A.C.**  
Radio taxi service (24 hours)  
Telephones:  
5590 3333  
5590 3381  
5590 3325
- **Sitio Reforma El Angel**  
Radio taxi service  
Telephones:  
5514 9165  
Cel.: 044 55 2767 7544  
Monday through Saturday  
5:00 am to 8:00 pm
- **Sitio Rojas**  
Radio taxi service (24 hours)  
Telephones:  
5245 1016  
5596 0672

You have also the option to use the service of “*Inter-Taxi*”, a private transportation provider in Mexico City. Calling this service, you will have to indicate your current location, your name and the color of your clothing (in case the driver shall pick you up on the street). The vehicles of Inter-Taxi do not have signs indicating that they are taxis - the driver will come by and call your name in order to identify himself. Costs will be calculated for driven kilometers, normally it should be slightly cheaper than a regular sitio taxi.

Telephones:

2603 4142  
2603 3268  
2603 2503  
2603 3557

## SUGGESTIONS TO STAY HEALTHY

- Do not eat in unhygienic places.
- Do not drink tap water. Buy bottled water or boil tap water instead.
- At the beginning of your trip, avoid eating fresh food that has been washed with tap water (salads, fruits like strawberries etc.). You can buy liquids to purify the water used to wash fruits and vegetables in the supermarket. Avoid eating raw vegetables in public places (salads, etc.)
- Adjust and experiment little by little with Mexican food to avoid stomach discomfort and digestive system ailments.
- Wash your hands after using public transportation.