

Moving to Mexico

Lee Harrison



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- ▶ Don't move your household to Mexico to save money on furniture... Furniture is not expensive, and MANY properties will come furnished.
- ▶ In for a penny, in for a pound: the cost is the same whether you fill the container or not.
- ▶ In Mexico, you have the option of doing it yourself, or using a mover.



General items to keep in mind

WHETHER YOU'RE DOING IT YOURSELF OR NOT

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- ▶ You **MUST** use a customs agent to get the exemption
 - ▶ Even if you're doing the move yourself

Your inventory is critical, no matter how you're moving

- ▶ A comprehensive inventory will save you HOURS at customs if you're driving in... and avoid problems if you're shipping.
- ▶ Use "craigslist" value for your items

#	Description, English	Descripción Español	Valor Recambio (USD)	Valor Recambio (MXN)	Cantidad	Comentarios
J-08	Pillow, decorative	Almohada de adorno	\$3.00	\$62	2	Flowered
J-09	Wind Chime, green	Carillón de viento	\$1.00	\$21	1	
J-09	Carpet Pad, rubber	Goma antideslizante	\$5.00	\$103	2	
J-09	Rug, bath, green	Tapete, verde	\$5.00	\$103	1	
J-09	Blanket, white & clay	Cobija, blanco y terra cotta	\$5.00	\$103	2	
J-09	Table Cloth, decorative	Mantel de mesa	\$3.00	\$62	1	
J-09	Wall decoration, stained grass	Adorno, mimbre	\$10.00	\$207	2	
J-09	Placemats, set of 6, grass	Individuales, juego, mimbre	\$6.00	\$124	1	
J-09	Mattress protector	Protector de colchon	\$10.00	\$207	1	
J-10	Corkscrew, folding	Sacacorcho	\$2.00	\$41	2	
J-10	Scissors, kitchen	Tijeras de cocina	\$1.00	\$21	1	
J-10	Grater, on handle	Rallador	\$2.00	\$41	1	

If you are moving yourself

When you need a customs broker

- ▶ You must use a broker for duty-free importation (residency visas only)
- ▶ You must use a broker if the value of the items you're bringing in is over \$3,000
 - ▶ Tourism items (cameras, luggage, laptops, etc) do not count against the \$3,000 limit, and are never taxed.

Importation of household, Duty Free

Is “Free” worth it?

- ▶ You’ll get a \$1,000 exemption for your “dutyable” items, so your \$3,000 shipment is taxed at \$2,000.
- ▶ \$2,000 times 16% is \$320. Less than the broker’s fee and without the coordination issues.

**If you’re bringing less than \$3k (craigslist value) just drive it in...
(works for non-residents, too)**

Car Permits



- ▶ You can drive your car or truck into Mexico, with a vehicle import permit
- ▶ Available for tourist entries and temporary residents (not permanent residents or citizens)

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- ▶ Temporary Residents: Either stop at border or go to consulate
- ▶ Non-residents can use the border station, or get them in advance online at <https://www.banjercito.com.mx/registroVehiculos/>

Tips and tricks

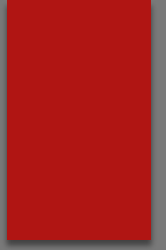
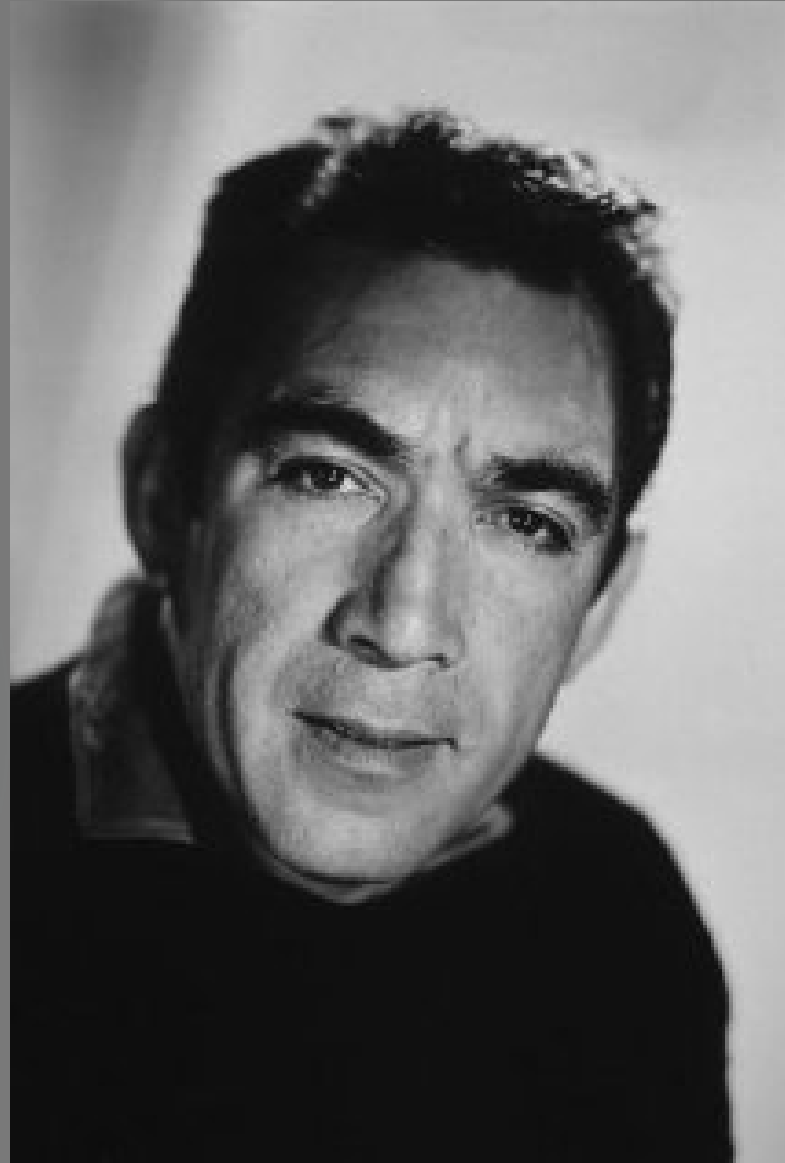
- ▶ Weigh your loaded vehicle prior to entry, if possible
 - ▶ It'll help if you're suspected of being overweight
- ▶ Show your inventory to the inspectors right away, before offloading anything
- ▶ Do not attempt to sneak through the “nothing to declare” line (unless you have no household items at all).

If you are using a mover

The originating agent: James Ryan



Receiving moving agent: Gustavo López



Customs facilitator: Freddy Lucio



Dock worker: Eduardo



Moving with a mover

- ▶ Make sure you have a door-to-door contract that includes packing and un-packing
- ▶ The moving company will take care of customs
- ▶ Follow the guidance of the moving agent and customs broker

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Moving insurance

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- ▶ Use an “insurance value” column on your inventory
- ▶ Never mind what it’s worth...insure it for what you want to get paid if it’s broken or lost
- ▶ The boat won’t sink...truck won’t get lost... but something may break

Tracking your ship

www.marinetraffic.com/ais/
www.vesselfinder.com/



Clearing customs

- ▶ Go to witness your inspection, if possible
- ▶ Delays at the port incur container charges (for sea shipments)

The extra costs (sea shipments)

- ▶ There will always be extra port costs not in the estimate
- ▶ Should amount to no more than a few hundred dollars

The arrival: This...



The arrival... or this.



The arrival

- ▶ Always insist on unpacking (*statement in dispute*)
 - ▶ You'll see the damages
 - ▶ They'll take the trash
- ▶ Check off the boxes using your inventory

Event free moves...usually



Questions?