



## 2022 TRAVEL TIPS & IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please, **Read the Following & View Your Enclosed Itinerary for Flight Times & Roommates Names**

- ✓ You must arrive at the airport and check-in a minimum of 3-HOURS BEFORE the designated departure time on your itinerary.
- ✓ You must have a **valid Passport**, to check in at the airport for international travel.

### COVID TESTING REQUIREMENTS –

- **Entering Destination** – Currently, there are no COVID-19 testing requirements in place to enter Mexico. *\*Protocols are subject to change at any time in response to new COVID-19 measures by the Mexican Government. Visitors are responsible for checking the Mexico Travel website frequently for any updates.*
- **Returning To the U.S.A.** – Effective January 27, 2022, all air passengers 2 years or older returning to the United States, regardless of vaccinated status **are required to show their valid negative COVID-19 Rapid Antigen (viral) test result, taken no more than 1 day (24-hours) prior to the date/time of arrival to the United States.** Information courtesy of: <https://mx.usembassy.gov> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>. Testing can be performed at the hotel property and costs between \$25.00-\$30 USD (per person) for nasal antigen.

**Getting Ready!** - Your passport cannot expire within 6 months of your trip's return date (this has been stated on multiple GradWeek documents). You will be denied boarding at the airport if you do not have the correct required travel documents and all charges to change your flight will be at your expense. If you are **not a U.S. Citizen** but you are a permanent legal resident, you need to contact the Mexican Consulate for the most up-to-date requirements. Please visit any of the following websites for information: [www.mexonline.com/consulate.htm](http://www.mexonline.com/consulate.htm), <https://www.gob.mx/pasaporte> or <https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/suiza/index.php/seccion-consular/visas/english>.

**Packing Your Bags!** - Be aware that most airlines charge to check luggage and the costs do vary so try to pack light and **visit your airline's website to view baggage fees and weight restrictions prior to your arrival to the airport.** The enclosed Flight Itinerary indicates the airline you will be traveling on, flight check-in information, and roommates for the trip. **Be aware of your item restrictions for carry-on bags** (i.e., liquids, medications, etc.) **by going to the TSA website at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).** It is highly recommended that you make a photocopy of your passport, put your phone number on it and put that copy inside your checked luggage, but make sure your actual passport is securely in your carry-on. To help you decide what essentials to pack, check [Cabo San Lucas, Mexico's](#) weather forecast online a few days before your trip.

**Spending Money** - The best option is to take a debit card and withdraw money in "Pesos" once you arrive. It is always advisable to let your bank know when you will be using your debit card outside of the U.S. If you are using a credit/debit card, please be aware that most banks charge a service fee, plus a currency conversion fee when traveling outside of the US; so, check with your bank or credit card company prior to travel. Getting around is typically done by Taxi (rideshare like Uber or Lyft **DO NOT** operate in Mexico) so plan to have cash on-hand for Taxis. Traveling in groups is the safest and most economical way to go. How much money you take is up to you, but \$350 to \$500 is recommended for souvenirs, Action Pac events, transportation, and meals (if you not registered at an all-inclusive hotel).

**Day of Departure** - **Do not be late! You are 100% responsible for your transportation to the airport and must arrive, and check-in at least 3-hours before your scheduled flight time.** We recommend checking your assigned airport's website before you arrive for directions and terminal locations to ensure you know where to go and to have plenty of time. **You are required to go to the check-in counter of your listed airline to obtain your boarding pass (online check-in not available for group flights) and check-in any luggage you are not carrying on.** You can be denied boarding if you are late and/or do not have the required documents, and you will be responsible for any charges due to changes in flights. If your enclosed Flight Itinerary requires that you change planes, you will not be required to retrieve your checked luggage until after you arrive at your final destination ([Cabo San Lucas, Mexico](#)). When you arrive at your destination, make sure to retrieve any of your checked luggage from the baggage claim and follow signs to exit the building. Look for a GradWeek Staff member wearing GradWeek shirts & ID Badges. They will direct you to the buses that will take you to your hotel. **Do Not** talk to local vendors trying to sell you a transfer. **Hotel Only Package Travelers** – Your trip package DOES NOT include the transfers (unless noted otherwise), so if you purchased a HOTEL ONLY PACKAGE you are responsible for arranging your own transfers/rides to and from the Cabo San Lucas airport to your hotel. **IMPORTANT** – If mask guidelines are 'active/in effect', you must wear a mask while traveling and/or at your destination.

**At Your Hotel!** - Once you arrive at your hotel, you will be given a full Welcome Orientation by a GradWeek Staff member. They will check you in, explain any events or activities that may be held during your stay, and go over some basic guidelines and rules to make your trip is great and worry-free. Enclosed in your Departure Packet you will find an Action Pac flyer that lists the various activities and price options as well as the application form (required to be filled out to purchase). **Action Pacs are available for purchase on-site only at the Welcome Orientation by CASH ONLY** (U.S. dollars).

**GradWeek Staff** - While our staff is available at your destination 24/7, the Hotel Staff can help you with daily requests, such as more towels, more pillows, and any questions about the hotel and nearby shopping, restaurants, etc. The GradWeek Staff are NOT chaperones. GradWeek Staff are at the student hotel and available to travelers on-site 24/7 to ensure the program is running smoothly, coordinate transfers for all the arrivals and departures, present the Welcome Orientation, go over rules, provide a Destination Guide with an area map, and will assist you with any serious emergencies or roommate situations. If you need assistance while on the hotel property, please reach out to on-site Staff, and be patient with both GradWeek and Hotel Staff, as rude behavior will not be tolerated.

**Calling Home** - Parents want to know you have arrived safely. A quick call, text, d.m., or e-mail home to say you have arrived and to provide them with your room

number is **highly recommended**. Not all phone companies charge the same fees when traveling outside of the United States. You will need to contact your service provider **prior** to travel to find out what the additional charges will be if calling or texting to/from Mexico, and/or if they have international plans available. It is very *expensive* to make calls from your hotel room. If you do not want to take your cell phone, the next best choice would be to buy a long-distance calling card that can be accessed by any public phone.

**In-room Security Box** - Once you check-in to your room, we strongly recommend that you **use your in-room safety deposit box** to store your documents (Passport), cash, and other valuables including cell phones, cameras, etc. This will ensure that the items are securely locked away when not in use. Take a few minutes to check that everything in your room is in good shape and working order. Please **contact the GradWeek Staff or the Hotel's Front Desk personnel IMMEDIATELY IF you see anything broken, damaged, or not working properly**, to ensure you will not be held responsible for preexisting damages. **If the hotel reports any room or property damage from your room, ALL travelers in the room will be responsible for paying for those damages regardless of who in the room was at fault. Room doors should NOT be left open and unsecured.** Please be aware that the travel insurance **DOES NOT** cover you for loss of personal items such as cell phones, tablets, etc. If **ANY** incidences of theft occur on-site, it **MUST be reported** to the **hotel first, and prior to departure home!** While GradWeek will help assist with any local authorities if theft or loss occurs, we are not responsible for the cost of any cell phone replacements or other personal items.

**Ahhh...Paradise!** - This is your time to relax and have a fun time. **This does not mean you can do anything you want!** All local laws are strictly enforced in and outside of the hotel, and they **will not tolerate illegal activity, disorderly conduct** (including underage drinking) or property damage. Travelers caught doing any of the above will be required to pay for any incurred damages and risk being evicted from their hotel at their own expense, no exceptions! In Mexico you will be tried as an adult regardless of your age and unlike the U.S., in Mexico, you are essentially treated as "Guilty Until Proven Innocent." Use common sense and treat others with respect and you shouldn't have any trouble. However, using, possessing, buying, and/or selling drugs, fighting, vandalism, theft, and climbing hotel balconies are ways tourists often find themselves in a Mexican jail. If you taunt or harass a law enforcement officer, you will be arrested. GradWeek is not responsible for travelers that lose all or a portion of their vacation due to their behavior issues, violations, illegal actions, or damages and will not be entitled to a refund. Be smart, behave appropriately, be respectful to the locals and other guests, and stay safe by traveling in a group whenever leaving your hotel. **We highly recommend using the buddy system!** Please go out in groups, especially when going back to your hotel at night. Always remember that there is safety in numbers, and it is best to always tell a friend if you are leaving the hotel and/or an activity before everyone else.

**Policy on Alcohol Consumption** - The legal drinking age in Mexico is 18 and many clubs require a Photo ID upon entry. GradWeek does not promote or condone the use of alcohol to its travelers! GradWeek is aware that many events and activities in Cabo may have alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages available. Each participant chooses whether to consume alcohol or not. All local and federal laws are strictly enforced, and you will be held responsible if caught violating those laws.

**Returning Home** - **Before you can return home, regardless of vaccination status, you are required to show documentation of a negative viral test result taken within 1 day (24-hours) of your return to the United States before boarding** (information courtesy of – <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel>). You must show your negative result to the airline before you board your flight. The hotels offer COVID Testing for guests and costs between \$25.00-\$30 USD (per person) for nasal antigen test. **GradWeek Staff will post the time you need to be ready to board the bus** for your flight home in the lobby of the student hotel(s) the night before departure. Before leaving the hotel, **your room must be picked up and cleared of all trash. All registered guests in that room must wait until GradWeek Staff or Hotel Staff have inspected the room for any damage.** Should there be any hotel/room damage, you and your roommates will need to proceed to the hotel front desk **immediately** to take care of the damage costs and pay for any other incidental charges not included in your package price. Before checking out of your room, take a quick look around to make sure you have all your belongings. Once this is done, you will be given the "Ok" to board the bus for the airport. Make sure your luggage gets loaded on your bus and always keep your valuables with you. **GradWeek is not responsible for any items left behind. IMPORTANT** – If instructed by the transfer/bus company or airlines, you must wear a mask while traveling on the bus to the airport and for the flight. Travelers who do not comply with 'active/in effect' mask guidelines will be responsible for their actions. Double-check that you have all your belongings before deboarding the transfer bus. If you have a connecting flight, there will be an airline representative available to assist you with gate information to board your next flight home. Do not bring back any alcohol if you are under 21, it is against the law in the U.S.! Once you have cleared Immigration and Customs in Mexico, your checked luggage will be automatically transferred at your connecting city and will be available for pick-up at your final destination airport.

**How to use the Emergency Medical Coverage** - Even though over 95% of our travelers do not encounter any sickness or injury, it still may occur. If sickness or injury occurs that requires medical attention, GradWeek or Hotel Staff can direct you to the medical facility at your destination. The travel insurance plan through [Cultural Insurance Services International](#) (CISI) helps provide coverage for medical emergencies, sickness, and emergency medical evacuation. **For policy questions or to receive assistance while traveling, you must call (800) 303-8120, or email [claimhelp@mycisi.com](mailto:claimhelp@mycisi.com) and provide policy # GLM N18221767-IT.** The insurance agent will guide you through the policy, and if needed, help you file a claim for reimbursed for your approved medical costs up to the limits of the plan.

**Money Wire Transfers** - Should you run out of money at your destination, GradWeek provides a money wire transfer service for those students who may need additional funds on-site. This service is only available Monday through Friday from 8:30 am-3:00 pm (PST), and the required form can be accessed from our website at [www.gradweek.com](http://www.gradweek.com). The [Wire Transfer Authorization](#) form is located under the **ABOUT US** section, then click on **RESOURCES**. Please print and fill out the form completely and **EMAIL** it to [info@istours.com](mailto:info@istours.com) **PRIOR TO 3:00 PM** Pacific Standard Time (PST), Monday through Friday. The traveler receiving the money on-site can pick up their cash with their photo ID from our 24-hour GradWeek Staff **after 7:00 pm** ([Cabo San Lucas local time](#)). The wire limit is \$300.00 and there is a \$25.00 service charge per wire transfer.

**Parents wishing to Contact their Son/Daughter** - **PLEASE READ THE HIGH IMPORTANCE INSERT INCLUDED IN THIS PACKET!**



**Informational Documents** - Please visit our website at [www.gradweek.com](http://www.gradweek.com) under the **ABOUT US** section, then click on **RESOURCES** to view all of our valuable travel information and forms we provide including Preparing for Travel Letter, Travel Tips, Destination Guide, Action Pac, and Travel Protection Insurance.

**\*REMEMBER** – If you misplace your itinerary, you can always reprint a copy of your Trip Itinerary by logging into your online account at [www.gradweek.com](http://www.gradweek.com) and click on **TRIPS >> TRIP ITINERARY**.

## **HOTEL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Tesoro Los Cabos +52 (624) 173 – 9300, press 4 | <https://tesororesorts.com/los-cabos/>

Villa Del Palmar Beach Resort +52 624 145 7000 or (800) 897-1931 | <https://www.villadelpalmar-cabo.com/>