FREE CHECKLIST FROM SELLING PUERTO VALLARTA

Driving to Mexico Checklist

COLDWELL BANKER | LA COSTA

What we pack, pay and carry every year driving between Puerto Vallarta and Texas with our two dogs. Costs are from our October 2026 trip.

YOUR PAPERWORK

- [ ] Passport for everyone in the car
- [ ] Mexican residency card, if you live in Mexico
- [ ] Visitors: FMM tourist permit, from the immigration office at the border (free under 7 days, about $54 longer)
- [ ] Vehicle registration, plus title if it isn't in your name
- [ ] Borrowed or financed car: notarized letter of permission

YOUR CAR

- [ ] US or Canadian car: Banjercito Temporary Import Permit (TIP), about $51 plus tax and a $200 to $400 refundable deposit. Cancel it at the border on the way out
- [ ] US or Canadian car: Mexican auto insurance (a US policy isn't recognized in Mexico)
- [ ] Mexican car: US and Canada coverage for the dates you're there (ours, from Qualitas: $155 for three weeks)
- [ ] Toll tag loaded before you leave

YOUR HEALTH

- [ ] Check where your health plan works. Ours excludes the US
- [ ] Travel medical insurance if needed (ours: IMG, $5M coverage, $5,000 deductible each, about $400 for two for a month)
- [ ] Prescriptions in original bottles, plus copies

THE DOGS

- [ ] Screwworm (gusano barrenador) certificate, good for 5 days. Mexican vet going north (ours: 1,200 pesos), US vet coming home ($65 to $100)
- [ ] Book the vet no more than a few days before you cross
- [ ] Certificates in the glove box. Airlines always check
- [ ] Rabies certificate and vaccination records
- [ ] Pet-friendly hotels booked for every night

MONEY ON THE ROAD

- [ ] Tolls: 6,021 pesos round trip, 35 booths
- [ ] Gas: about $720 round trip
- [ ] Small bills and 10 peso coins for bathrooms
- [ ] Extra cash for the toll booths

OUR RULES FOR THE ROAD

- [ ] Toll highways (cuotas) only
- [ ] Never drive at night: unmarked speed bumps, animals, potholes
- [ ] 3 to 4 days, about 8 am to 3 or 4 pm each day
- [ ] Never below half a tank; stop at clean stations
- [ ] Short stops; stay with other cars on lonely stretches
- [ ] Share your location with a friend

Tolls, round trip	$322
Gas, round trip	$720
Travel medical, two people, a month	$400
US car policy, Qualitas	$155
Screwworm certificates, both ways	about $150
Total, two people and two dogs	**about $1,750**

Pesos at 18.72 to the dollar. Hotels and food not included.

Puerto Vallarta to Guanajuato	379 mi, 7h 46m
Guanajuato to Saltillo	382 mi, 7h 16m
Saltillo to Colombia bridge	201 mi, 3h 23m
Colombia bridge to Austin	237 mi, 4h 07m
One way	**about 1,200 mi**

This is our own experience, not legal, customs, immigration or insurance advice. Rules change, so confirm with CBP, SENASICA, Banjercito, your insurer and your vet before you go. Written October 2026.

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