

Driving Tips: Please note that it is not recommended that you drive for your surgery. Other patients have done so and without incident, but most of them do return to recommend a lot of caution or use of the shuttle. There have also been patients who have been in an accident, so please drive cautiously. For those who choose to drive, we offer the following driving tips for your convenience.

Tips for Driving yourself to Mexico:

- **NOTICE:** first and foremost, we strongly advise against driving yourself. It's not safe, driving conditions are hazardous, the highways are isolated and easy to get lost on, and cell phones do not work after crossing the border (after about a mile there are no towers). The shuttle is safer, more reliable, and has many benefits....but mostly ~ it's just safer. If you drive yourself to the hospital, you 'must' have someone with you to drive you home. You will not be allowed to have surgery if you have not brought a guest with you and you are not using the shuttle.
- **BORDER CROSSING:** Do not try to cross the border at night (after dark) or try to find the hospital in the dark. Stay on the US side of the border if you arrive late and are driving yourself...and get up early and drive over the next morning. The border opens at 6 am.
- **INSURANCE:** Mexican law requires you to have Mexico insurance for driving your personal vehicle or rental (and permission + insurance from your rental agency if you rent). This is the law, and not doing so could result in confiscation of your rental or personal car; the rental company can make you pay for the car in full if there is an accident or theft. Never try to take a rental car across the border without a letter of written permission to take the rental out of the country. Even if your insurance company says they cover you into Mexico, this does NOT mean that your insurance will be accepted in Mexico. US insurance is NOT valid in Mexico. Mexico insurance costs about \$35 per day, but if you didn't have it, you'd be expected to pay all damages immediately or they could take your vehicle. Please do all your research and make sure you have the proper paperwork. You will find a lot of information and be able to purchase your additional insurance here: <http://www.sanbornsinsurance.com/>
- **ACCIDENTS:** The chances of being in a wreck are higher than normal, driving in Mexico is aggressive. If you aren't familiar with it....an accident could easily happen. Yes, we have had patients get into wrecks before while driving themselves. Fortunately there have been no serious accidents.
- **PERMISSION PAPERS:** make sure you get a letter of consent from your rental agency to take their car out of the country. Be sure it makes note of the location you are going and the expected return date. You must also do this for your personal car if there is a lien holder (you are still making payments) on it. Call your company and get them to fax your papers asap.
- **REGISTRATION:** Make sure the vehicle driver's name is on the registration or the rental agreement. The person driving the vehicle must be on the registration. So it cannot be in the patient's name since the patient cannot drive following surgery.
- **MAPS:** Use the instructions, maps, travel tips, etc on this page to download and print (for personal use only)
- **CONTACTS:** Be sure to take Dr. Levi and Marcos' cell numbers, just in case you need them. Also, please know that once you pass the border crossing within the first couple of miles your cell phones will lose service, even if you have international service - there are no towers in the area.
- **SPEED LIMIT:** Do the speed limit. Remember, the speed limits change to kilometers so adjust your speed accordingly.

- **STOP SIGNS:** Alto means stop. but it does not actually mean that everyone 'will' stop. Never cross an intersection (with or without signs) without stopping first to check for oncoming traffic unless you want to be in a fender bender!
- **OTHER:** Beware of large potholes and fast drivers once you get off the main highway. The townsfolk are extremely wonderful but they do have different driving styles.

**If you have questions, problems, or need help, please call
Dr. Levi during consultation hours - 4-8 pm central time @ 011-52-899-132-2614 or Marcos (shuttle
driver) @ 361-442-0348 (cell in US)**

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