

Move to Mexico in 2026



Your Step-by-Step Checklist for a Smooth Transition



Why Preparation Matters

Taking the right steps ensures a seamless relocation experience to Mexico

Preparation is essential; it **transforms dreams** into reality with clear, actionable steps.



Define Your “Why”



01 Clarify Your Reasons

Identify your motivations for moving, whether it's retirement, lifestyle change, or a new job opportunity.

02 Full-Time or Part-Time

Decide if you will reside in Mexico full-time or part-time, impacting your lifestyle and planning.

03 Identify Must-Haves

List your essential preferences like climate, healthcare, local community, and proximity to amenities.

Qualifying for Residency Visa

01 Review Visa Options

Explore **Temporary, Permanent,** and **Family Unity** visa options to suit your needs in Mexico.

02 Verify Income Requirements

Check specific income, pension, or savings criteria necessary to qualify for your chosen visa. **For 2026, you must prove an income of at least \$4,300 USD monthly for the past 6 months for a temporary residency or \$72k USD in savings for the past 12 months. [See recent requirements here.](#)**

03 Gather Necessary Records

Collect essential documents such as birth and marriage certificates, starting the **Apostille** process early for efficiency. Apostilles don't expire, so it's best to start that process early.

Reality Check: Mexico's residency requirements are stricter than they were just a few years ago. If you qualify now, it's smart to act sooner than later. Especially if you are qualifying based on current employment.

[Learn how consulates differ- and why it matters](#)



Common Mistakes



- Not Applying While Still Employed
- Not Getting Documents Apostilled
- Not Knowing You Can do “Consulate Shopping
- Not Bringing The Right Documents to Your Consulate Appointment
- Volunteering Unnecessary Info At The Mexican Consulate
- Not Knowing The FMM Process For New Residents
- Not Having A Plan for Canje in Mexico
- Hiring the WRONG Professionals
- Not Knowing Key Holidays in Mexico— which could affect the time frames
- The List Goes On and On... But Luckily The Right Professionals Can Help

Experience Mexico



01 Explore Diverse Regions

Discover Mexico's incredible cities. There are dozens of cities in Mexico that are great options! And there's everything from beaches to mountains, small and big! There's something for everyone

02 Experience Daily Life

Immerse yourself in everyday activities, from local markets to community events, to understand the true Mexican lifestyle. Do you like it? Can you see yourself living here?

03 Engage with Locals

Don't be afraid to talk to anyone who speaks English, and ask them about daily life. What are their pros and cons of that city. Build connections with residents, asking about their experiences and gaining invaluable insights into life in Mexico.

[Watch our city tour videos before you visit- we cover dozens of cities across Mexico](#)

Build a Reality-Based Budget



01 Research Rent

Investigate local rental prices by region, considering seasonal variations and whether the property is furnished or unfurnished. You might find expensive rentals in trendy neighborhoods. But just a few streets away might be a less popular option with much more affordable rentals. [See how we find the best rentals in Mexico.](#)

02 Estimate Utilities

Calculate average utility costs for electricity, water, and internet services to ensure an accurate monthly budget. And remember that warmer weather cities in Mexico tend to have higher utility costs. But even in the warmer cities, the costs of electricity are usually far less than a similar warm city north of the border.

03 Budget for Groceries

Assess the cost of groceries and dining options available in your area to create a realistic food budget. And remember that shopping like a local will be the best way to save long term.

Understanding Healthcare in Mexico



01 Public vs. Private Care

Compare the benefits of public healthcare which is affordable, versus private options that offer quicker access to services. There are options like IMSS- a government healthcare system. There are also private insurance options. And also to be self paid is very common

02 Nearby Hospitals

Identify essential hospitals and clinics within close proximity to ensure access to quality care when needed. And remember that not all of Mexico is the same. That very charming small town in the middle of nowhere, might not have a major hospital nearby.

03 Out-of-Pocket Costs

Understand potential out-of-pocket expenses for treatments and medications to budget effectively for healthcare needs.

[See how expats actually pay for healthcare in Mexico](#)

Plans Before You Leave



01 Decide on Your Current Home

Consider whether to sell, rent, or keep your home based on your relocation plans and financial goals.

02 Plan Vehicle Logistics

Assess whether to sell your vehicle back home, bring your US or Canadian car to Mexico (if you are eligible), nationalize your foreign plated car in Mexico, buy a car in Mexico, or just go without a car for a while.

03 Set Up Mail Forwarding

Organize mail forwarding services to keep receiving important correspondence while settling into your new life in Mexico. There are a lot of different options nowadays.

Decide What You're Bringing



01 Downsize or Evaluate

Consider your essentials and sentimental items; decide what you truly need for your new life in Mexico. But that's only for you to decide- just because people on the internet tell you to sell everything, doesn't mean you should.

02 Shipping vs. Buying New

Compare the costs of shipping your belongings against purchasing new items locally to find the best option. In Mexico, many electronics are more expensive than north of the border. And it may be harder for you to find 20 different options for a rice cooker, a laptop, a food mixer, etc.

03 Electronics Compatibility

Ensure your electronics will work in Mexico, especially checking voltage requirements for a smooth transition. Mexico has 110v

Embrace Mexican Culture



01 Start Basic Lessons

Begin with **simple Spanish phrases** to ease communication and enhance your experience in Mexico.

02 Learn Local Customs

Understanding **Mexican traditions** will help you connect with locals and appreciate the culture deeply.

03 Adjust Expectations

Be prepared for **different service standards** and lifestyle rhythms, adopting a more relaxed approach to daily life.

Create Your 2026 Timeline



01 Choose Move Date

Select either early or late 2026 to ensure a smooth transition based on personal and professional commitments.

02 Plan Temporary Housing

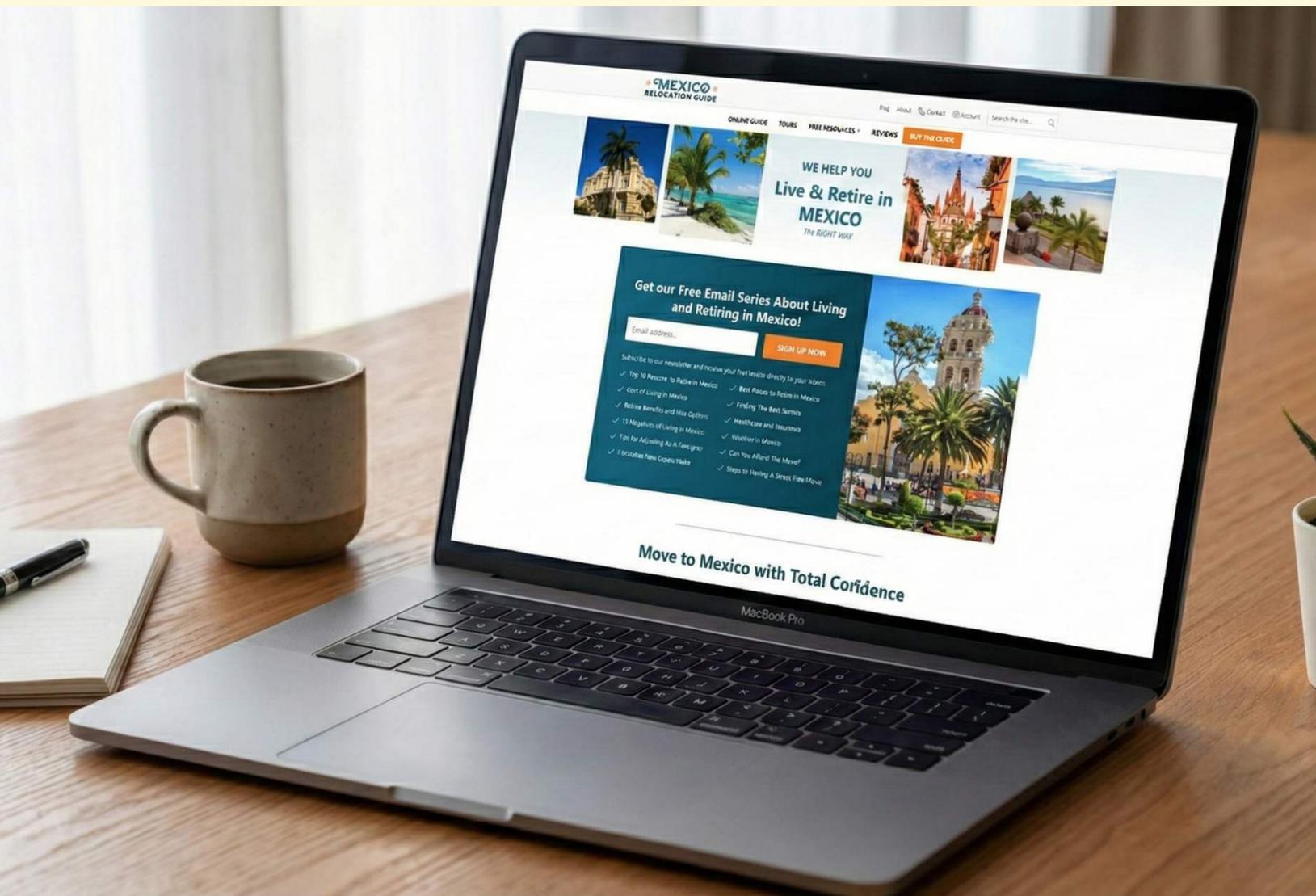
Research options for short-term accommodations while settling in, ensuring comfort during your transition period.

03 Work Backward from Deadlines

Identify key visa and document deadlines to create a structured timeline for your relocation journey.

Get our Move to Mexico 6 month Checklist

Trusted Resources



01 Avoid Outdated Information

Stay updated with the latest **guidelines and tips** to ensure your move is smooth and informed.

02 Learn from Experts

Consult with knowledgeable locals and professionals for **insights** into living and relocating to Mexico. Be careful with newbie “experts” that have no idea what they are doing

03 Ask Before Hiring

Do your due diligence before hiring a professional. Hiring the wrong “expert” can cost you more in the long run. I’ve seen all kinds of mistakes and scams take place over the years with unscrupulous people.

I’ve helped thousands of people move to Mexico, and the biggest problems I see aren’t about Mexico itself. They come from skipping steps, hiring the wrong people, or relying on unverified/ outdated information.

Stop the Guesswork

If you've spent hours scrolling through Facebook groups or YouTube videos trying to figure out how to move to Mexico, you know how frustrating it can be.

One person says one thing, and another "expert" says something totally different — and you're left wondering what's true...

The truth is, Mexican bureaucracy changes quickly.

What was accurate six months ago, might already be outdated. That's why so many people end up wasting time, money, or even getting scammed by bad advice.

So, How Do You Avoid Getting It Wrong?

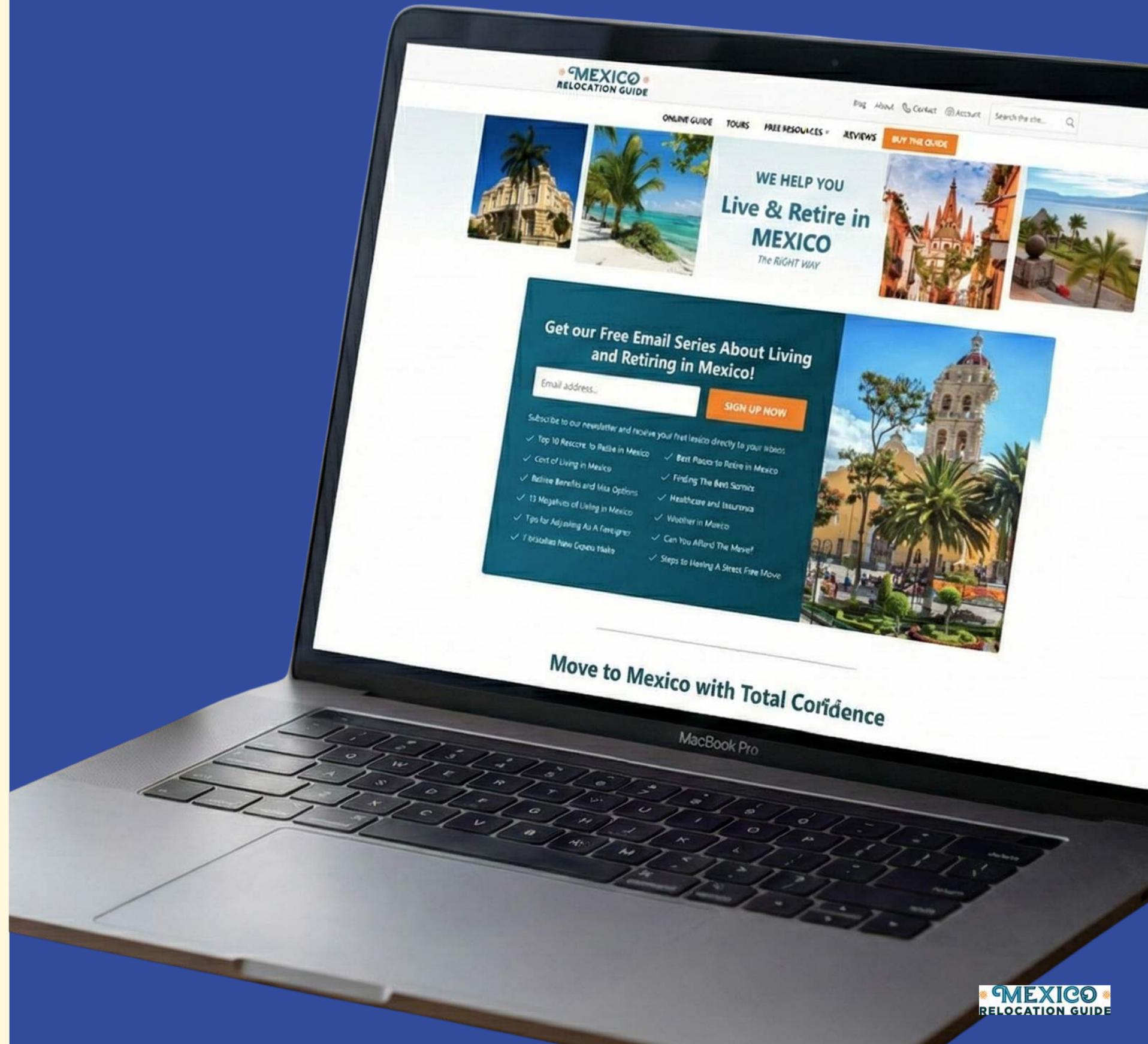


A Resource You Can Trust

That's exactly why I created our website- **Mexico Relocation Guide**. I have a variety of free resources available on our site to help you prepare your move to Mexico.

I have FREE:

- Residency Visa Guides
- City Tour Videos
- Blog Posts Covering a variety of topics
- Cost of Living breakdowns

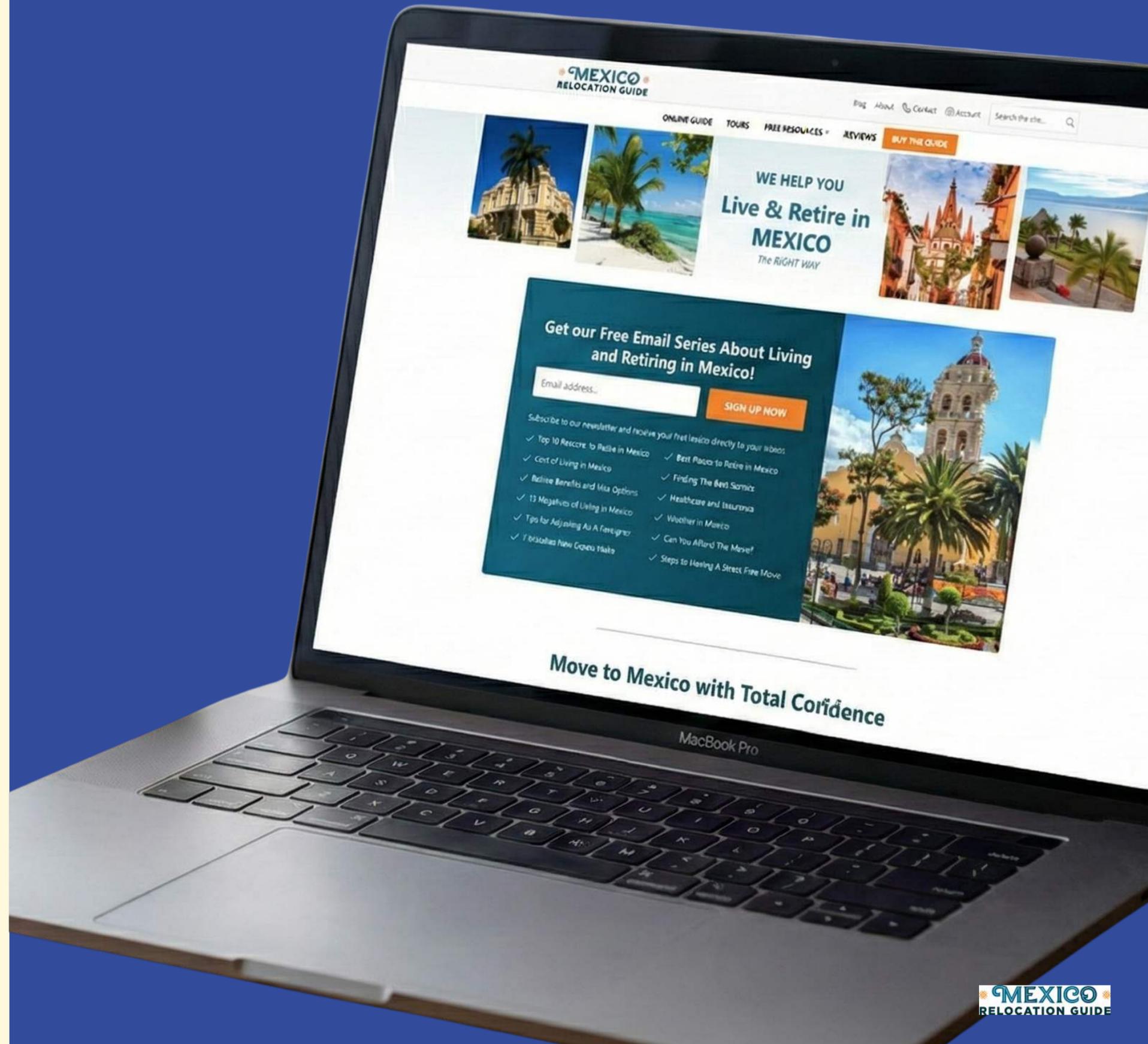


A Resource You Can Trust

But once you're ready to move to Mexico, and aren't sure what the next steps are... we've got you covered

With our **COMPLETE Mexico Relocation Guide**[®], you get instant access to our directory of contacts across Mexico:

- Immigration Facilitators
- Realtors
- Moving Companies
- Pet Transporters
- Relocation Tour Guides in 60+ cities
- And a variety of local resources to simplify your move.



Testimonial

“After getting frustrated with other options, it was a huge relief to have the level of detail, extent of contacts, and regularly updated information in Mexico Relocation Guide.

The other group members are supportive, the Q&A informative, and the guide is time- and money-saving to cut down on confusion and improve the odds of success.

Well worth the investment when you know you're ready to go beyond the casual vacation or tourist trip.”

Amy DeCew

This is just one review from the hundreds of reviews we have online. Check them out.