

Directions to Casa Vida y Esperanza:



From Tucson, take Interstate 19 south to Nogales. When approaching Nogales, take Exit 4, "Border Truck Route." Turn right to head to the border.



It is a bypass that will save you from having to go through downtown Nogales Mexico. There is a 37 peso (~\$3.70) toll, but it is worth it.

***Crossing before 6AM or after 10PM:** The truck route bypass is only open between 6AM and 10PM, so if you come outside those hours you will need to go through the downtown crossing by continuing on I19 all the way to the border in the center of Nogales.*

At the end of the ramp at Exit 4, you come to the stoplight for Mariposa Road. Go Right (West) on Mariposa. There is an IHOP on your left and a nice gas station on your right. It is a good idea to fill up your tanks in the US as the gas is less expensive and better quality.

Shopping Note: You are only about _ mile from a Super Walmart and Home Depot where many groups stop to shop before coming down. Just take a left on Mariposa (East) and then turn right (South) at the third stoplight onto Mastick Way. Walmart is straight ahead and you will see Home Depot to your right of the stoplight before Wal-Mart.

Follow Mariposa Road about 3 or 4 miles to the border. You can cross the border without having to stop. When you cross the actual border (the big fence and yellow gates) you hang to the left and head up the big hill and open road. Follow the sign for Hermosillo. Don't stop for the customs inspection station with the red/green light pole just across the border off to the right. That checkpoint is only if you want to go back into Nogales.



The bypass is a wide road that climbs through some hills. Take it for about 4 miles until you come to a toll booth. (37 pesos, ~\$3.70 US dl.)



About 200 yards after the toll booth is the first red/green light or check point. You take the "nothing to declare" or "nada de declarar" lane.



Pull off into the parking lot at the right where the sign says "Parking for Permits."



If you get a green light you can continue on. If you get a red light, you pull off to the left and tell the people where you are from and where you are going. They may search your luggage or car. This is no problem, just watch them politely. If you don't speak Spanish say, "I'm sorry – I only speak English."

Driving Note: Speed limits are marked in Kilometers per hour, but you will notice that many drive faster than the speed limit. It is not recommended to go faster than 65 MPH. Note that there is no shoulder at the edge of the road. Be sure to slow down for towns. They usually have speed bumps (topes). Now continue heading south on 15, which is the main four lane road. It is about another 5 miles to the 21K border. You will see several big blue signs on the right hand side of the road as you approach.



The process for the visitor visa:

You need to get a visitor visa for each person. It's the first building you get to. Here you will need a government issued birth certificate (hospital version is no good) or US Passport. You get the visa in the first building you come to.

Note: You no longer need a permit for your vehicle as long as you are not going any further south than Empalme, which is south of Hermosillo.

After you leave the parking lot you will go through the "nada de declarar" or "nothing to declare" lane. You don't have to stop. Pull off to the right, only if you get a red light.

Getting to Imuris

Follow 15 South to Imuris. Watch out for speed bumps! They are called topes and you need to almost come to a complete stop or you could damage your vehicle.

Imuris is about 30 miles south of the 21K border. Before you get to town, you will see a few abandoned rail cars on the right. Imuris is on a plateau. It is a town of 10,000. There is a small white sign that says Imuris. There are wide white strips that cross the road to remind people to slow down as you enter town. There are tacos stands, a Pemex gas station and an OXXO food mart on your right.

Continuing on to “Casa Vida y Esperanza” in Magdalena

Magdalena is another 20 minutes south on the 4 lane highway 15. When you approach Magdalena, there is an exit for the business district. The sign overhead points you to the exit for Magdalena and straight ahead for Hermosillo. A landmark you will see is a prison on your right. You can go either way, but for the sake of simplicity, go straight toward Hermosillo. You will come to a toll booth after 3 miles where you pay 19 pesos (~\$1.90 US dl.). There is no cost to go through town, but it takes longer and there is more traffic.

After the toll booth it is about another 3 miles until the business route that goes through town and the toll bypass come back together. Where the two roads meet, there is a hotel named **El Saguaro** on the left (East) side of the road. The road that leads to the orphanage is about a quarter of a mile past the hotel and on the right. If you come to the gas station La Misión, you’ve gone too far. The front entrance is about 100 yards from the highway, so you will see it just on the other side of the railroad tracks.

Be Careful: Watch out for trains on the tracks just before the entrance to the CVE campus especially at night. There are several per day.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Am I allowed to drive a rental car into Mexico?

A: Some rental companies don't allow their vehicles to be driven past the 21K border into Mexico. The ones that do are Hertz, A-1 van rental, and Tucson based Enterprise. You need to buy Mexican Insurance from the rental company.

Q: Is their electricity the same as here in the states?

A: Yes

Q: Do I need to bring my own bedding (sheets, pillow, blankets, etc.) and towel/washcloth?

A: There are bunk beds in the volunteer dorms that you will need to bring sheets, blankets, etc. for (“single”/“twin” bed size) and your own pillow as well as your own towel and washcloth. Carefully consult the complete “Packing List”****

Q: Can we drink the water?

A: Here at CVE we have a water filtering system that provides us with safe drinking water. Outside of CVE, you should drink only bottled water- never tap water.

Frequently Asked Questions (Cont.)

Q: Do I have to have a passport to cross by car in Nogales or just an official copy of my birth certificate?

A: To cross into Mexico by land (if you will be driving across in Nogales) in 2007 you will only need an official copy of your birth certificate (passports will work also but are not necessary by LAND or sea crossing till as early as January 1, 2008). To enter Mexico by plane starting January 23, 2007 you will have to have a passport.

Other Tips

A good place to buy Mexican car insurance is:
<http://www.mexicoautoinsurance.com/>

Other Questions

CVE office phone number in case you need it is 632-32-25101 within Mexico (if calling long distance in MX first dial 01-). From the US you dial 011-52 and then the number. We also have a US phone number 480-704-4145

Thank you for coming to visit us! Have a safe trip! God speed and God bless!