

STRATCOR, LLC

TRAVEL RISK AND MITIGATION ASSESSMENT

SUBJECT: Mexico City, Mexico
TRAVELER: United States | Male | Business | Owner / CEO
PARTY: Solo (n/a)
DOCUMENT: Tourist
ORG: Technology
TRAVEL: 2026-10-16 - 2026-10-22
PREPARED: 16 October 2026
REPORT ID: TRA-1792178986456

OVERALL RISK: HIGH | RISK SCORE: 72/100

KEY JUDGMENTS

1. The primary risk to this traveler is opportunistic and targeted street crime, including express kidnapping and robbery, in Mexico City, where Numbeo recorded a crime index of 66.14 and a safety index of 33.86 as of 16 October 2026; the traveler's high-profile profile as a solo U.S.-based technology CEO elevates exposure to virtual kidnapping and targeted theft of devices.
2. Multiple allied governments - including the U.S. Department of State (28 May 2026), UK FCDO, Government of Canada, and Australia DFAT Smartraveller (all 16 October 2026) - issued Level 2 caution advisories for Mexico, citing homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and terrorism risk, with the UK FCDO advising against all but essential travel to parts of the country.
3. Active dengue transmission across the Americas (Pan American Health Organization, 16 October 2026) and CDC health notices including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and a broad list of vaccine-preventable and vector-borne diseases (CDC, 16 October 2026) present meaningful health risks that require pre-travel medical consultation and appropriate prophylaxis.

RECOMMENDATION: PROCEED WITH CAUTION

CRIME [74/100]

Risk: HIGH | Score: 74/100 | As of 16 October 2026

Mexico City presents a high crime environment for solo business travelers. As of 28 May 2026, the U.S. Department of State issued a Level 2 advisory for Mexico, citing homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, sexual assault, and robbery as prevalent violent crimes, and noting that terrorist violence - including attacks by criminal organizations - poses an additional risk. As of 16 October 2026, Numbeo recorded a crime index of 66.14 and a safety index of 33.86 for Mexico City, placing it among the higher-risk urban environments in the region. The UNODC recorded a national intentional homicide rate of 28.2 per 100,000 (reference year 2021), underscoring the systemic nature of lethal violence in Mexico. The traveler's profile - a solo American male, business owner in the technology sector - elevates exposure to opportunistic and targeted crimes including express kidnapping, theft of devices, and extortion, particularly in and around high-end dining and business districts.

KIDNAPPING AND TARGETED CRIME

Express kidnapping is a specific and well-documented threat in Mexico City. As of 28 May 2026, the U.S. Department of State explicitly cited kidnapping among the violent crimes travelers face in Mexico, noting that the U.S. government has limited ability to provide assistance across much of the country. As of 8 October 2026, InSight Crime reported that the ongoing factional war between the Chapitos and Mayiza factions of the Sinaloa Cartel - now entering its second year following the arrest of 'El Mayo' Zambada - continued to reshape organized crime dynamics nationally, contributing to broader instability that can manifest as opportunistic violence in urban areas. Solo, high-profile travelers - particularly those associated with technology companies or perceived as wealthy - face elevated risk of being profiled for targeted theft or express kidnapping, especially when departing high-end restaurants such as Pujol, Quintonil, Rosetta, and Contramar in the Polanco and Roma Norte neighborhoods after dark. The traveler should avoid street hailing taxis ('libres') under any circumstances; as of June 2026, this practice carried a documented express-kidnapping risk in Mexico City. Uber and DiDi are the recommended transport options.

PETTY CRIME, SCAMS, AND CIVIL UNREST

Petty crime - including pickpocketing, phone snatching, and restaurant table theft - is common throughout Mexico City's commercial and tourist areas. Roma Norte and Polanco, where the traveler's dining itinerary is concentrated, are active areas for opportunistic theft targeting individuals displaying high-value items such as smartphones, laptops, and luxury watches. Scams directed at foreign nationals, including fraudulent taxi overcharges and distraction schemes, remain routine. As of 16 October 2026, the UK FCDO advised against all but essential travel to parts of Mexico, and both the Australian Government (Smartraveller) and the Government of Canada issued Level 2 advisories urging a high degree of caution, consistent with the elevated ambient risk. Civil unrest in the form of street demonstrations occurs periodically in Mexico City; while most protests remain non-violent, they can escalate without warning and may disrupt movement around key business and dining areas. The traveler should monitor local conditions daily and maintain flexible routing plans.

Sources: U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory - Mexico | Numbeo Crime Index - Mexico City | InSight Crime - Sinaloa Cartel War Changes Shape

TRANSPORTATION [72/100]

Risk: HIGH | Score: 72/100 | As of 16 October 2026

Ground transportation in Mexico City carries elevated risk for solo business travelers, particularly around express kidnapping and vehicle-based crime. As of 28 May 2026, the U.S. Department of State reported that violent crimes including kidnapping and carjacking occur in Mexico, and the U.S. government has limited ability to provide assistance across many parts of the country. As of 16 October 2026, Numbeo recorded a crime index of 66.14 for Mexico City, indicating a high-crime urban environment. The primary transportation threat is express kidnapping via unauthorized taxis - hailing street taxis ('libres') in Mexico City carries a documented kidnapping risk and must be avoided entirely. Rideshare applications represent the safest available ground transport option within the city.

RIDESHARE AND TAXI RISK - MEXICO CITY

As of June 2026, vetted ground transport data identified Uber and DiDi as the recommended and operationally safe rideshare options in Mexico City, with both platforms legal and regulated. Metered taxis require caution, and street-hailing any taxi ('libre') in Mexico City is explicitly flagged as an express-kidnapping risk - under no circumstances should the traveler hail a taxi from the street. All ride requests should be booked exclusively through the Uber or DiDi applications, with the license plate and driver details confirmed inside the app before boarding. The traveler's dining venues - Pujol (Polanco), Quintonil (Polanco), Rosetta (Roma Norte), and Contramar (Roma Norte) - are located in relatively well-trafficked neighborhoods, but nighttime return trips should be arranged via app only, not street-hailed. Rideshare legal status and app availability are subject to change; the traveler should verify locally upon arrival.

INTER-DISTRICT AND URBAN MOVEMENT

Movement between the traveler's hotel in Polanco and dining venues in Roma Norte requires transit across several Mexico City districts, each carrying varying but generally elevated street-level crime exposure. As of 28 May 2026, the U.S. Department of State noted that conditions can vary widely even within states and cities in Mexico. Travel should be planned during daylight hours where possible, with nighttime movements kept to vetted app-based rideshare. The traveler should avoid displaying high-value items - including phones, laptops, or luxury watches - while in transit or at vehicle pickup points. No M4.5 or greater seismic events were recorded within 500 km of Mexico City in the past 30 days per USGS data, meaning earthquake disruption to transport infrastructure is not an active concern during this travel window.

Sources: U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory - Mexico | Ground Transport / Rideshare Reference Data | Numbeo Crime Index - Mexico City

ELECTRONIC & CYBER [72/100]

Risk: HIGH | Score: 72/100 | As of 16 October 2026

The primary electronic and cyber risk for a U.S.-national business traveler carrying sensitive technology company data into Mexico City is device compromise and data exfiltration - whether through targeted surveillance, opportunistic theft, or network-level interception. As of 28 May 2026, the U.S. Department of State cited kidnapping and organized crime as active threats in Mexico; organized criminal networks have demonstrated capability and motivation to monetize information about high-value business travelers, including corporate executives. As of 16 October 2026, InSight Crime reported that cartel structures - including the CJNG and the warring Sinaloa factions - maintained sophisticated networks with reach into business environments, raising the possibility that commercially or financially valuable device data could be targeted by actors beyond conventional street crime. Travelers should treat all public and hotel Wi-Fi networks in Mexico City as hostile, avoid conducting sensitive business communications on unencrypted channels, and carry purpose-limited travel devices with full-disk encryption and remote-wipe capability enabled prior to departure.

NETWORK AND DEVICE THREATS - MEXICO CITY

Mexico City presents an elevated risk of network-based compromise. As of 16 October 2026, Numbeo recorded a crime

index of 66.14 and a safety index of 33.86 for Mexico City, reflecting a high-crime environment in which both physical and electronic assets face elevated threat. Public Wi-Fi at restaurants, hotels, and co-working venues - including upscale Polanco and Roma Norte establishments on this traveler's itinerary - should be considered untrusted. Man-in-the-middle attacks on open or poorly secured networks are a documented risk in high-traffic hospitality environments throughout Latin America. The traveler should use a corporate VPN for all internet activity, disable Bluetooth and Wi-Fi when not in active use, and refrain from charging devices via public USB ports. Even Las Alcobas hotel-provided internet should be treated as an untrusted network for the purposes of transmitting sensitive business data.

CORPORATE ESPIONAGE AND CARTEL-ADJACENT INTELLIGENCE RISKS

A U.S.-based technology company owner conducting business meetings in Mexico City carries an elevated profile that may attract both state-adjacent and cartel-adjacent intelligence interest. As of 15 October 2026, InSight Crime reported that former U.S. Treasury OFAC officials identified cartel risk that companies typically cannot see, noting that counter-terrorism frameworks do not fully capture how criminal organizations gather and exploit business intelligence. Proprietary technology, business negotiation content, and investor communications represent high-value targets. The traveler should assume hotel rooms are not secure for sensitive verbal discussions, conduct confidential calls only on encrypted, pre-approved platforms, and avoid leaving devices unattended - including during dining at the listed Polanco and Roma Norte venues. Any device that connects to a local SIM or roaming Mexican network should be considered potentially exposed to IMSI-catcher interception.

Sources: U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory - Mexico | InSight Crime - Ex-OFAC Official: The Cartel Risk Companies Can't See | Numbeo Crime Index - Mexico City

TARGETED RISKS [74/100]

Risk: HIGH | Score: 74/100 | As of 16 October 2026

A solo American male traveling as a business owner in the technology sector presents a meaningful targeting profile in Mexico City. As of 28 May 2026, the U.S. Department of State reported that kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery are prevalent violent crimes across Mexico and explicitly flagged terrorism and kidnapping as elevated concerns. American nationality, executive status, and visible affluence - particularly when dining at high-profile establishments in Polanco and Roma Norte - increase the likelihood of opportunistic or deliberate targeting by criminal actors who surveil these areas for prospective victims. The primary risk is express kidnapping and targeted robbery rather than ideologically motivated terrorism, though the State Department's terrorism flag warrants ongoing situational awareness. Business-context exposure, including the potential for information about the traveler's itinerary, accommodations at a luxury property, or financial profile to reach criminal networks, elevates the threat level above that faced by the average tourist.

CARTEL ACTIVITY AND EXECUTIVE TARGETING

As of 15 October 2026, InSight Crime reported that the internal war between the Chapitos and Mayiza factions of the Sinaloa Cartel continued to reshape organized crime dynamics two years after the arrest of Ismael Zambada Garc-a. Separately, InSight Crime reported on 15 October 2026 that a former U.S. Treasury OFAC official identified significant blind spots in how companies assess cartel-related risk following terrorist designations of Mexican cartels - noting that counter-terrorism frameworks may not accurately capture the operational behavior of criminal organizations. For a technology sector CEO traveling on a tourist visa, the relevant threat is not direct cartel confrontation but rather the secondary effects of cartel presence: criminal networks operating in upscale districts that conduct surveillance of high-net-worth individuals, and the risk that business discussions or digital devices could attract unwanted attention. The traveler should assume that luxury venues in Polanco - including those near the Las Alcobas hotel and restaurants such as Pujol and Quintonil - are environments where criminal actors have historically identified and tracked affluent foreign visitors.

SURVEILLANCE, DIGITAL, AND NATIONALITY-BASED EXPOSURE

American executives in Mexico City face a layered targeting risk that includes physical surveillance at hotels and restaurants, as well as potential exposure of business information through unsecured communications or device compromise. The traveler's technology industry background creates additional sensitivity: devices carried across the border may contain proprietary business data that could be of value to criminal, commercial, or state-adjacent actors. The traveler should treat any public Wi-Fi network, hotel business center, or charging station as potentially compromised. Restaurant and hotel staff interactions, while generally professional at the establishments listed, should be treated with appropriate discretion regarding business activities, travel plans, and personal wealth indicators. The U.S. government's acknowledged limited ability to render assistance in many parts of Mexico, as noted by the State Department as of 28 May 2026, means that advance mitigation - rather than reactive consular response - is the primary protective mechanism available to this traveler.

Sources: U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory - Mexico | InSight Crime - Ex-OFAC Official: The Cartel Risk Companies Can't See | InSight Crime - Two Years On, the Sinaloa Cartel War Changes Shape

EMBASSY & EMERGENCY [18/100]

Risk: LOW | Score: 18/100 | As of 16 October 2026

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City maintains full consular operations and provides emergency services to U.S. citizens, including medical referrals, emergency passport issuance, and assistance in cases of arrest, assault, or other crises. As of 28 May 2026, the U.S. Department of State noted that U.S. government ability to assist in some parts of Mexico is limited due to security conditions, though Mexico City itself retains a fully operational embassy presence. Solo business travelers, particularly those of high professional profile such as C-suite executives, face elevated exposure to targeted crime including express kidnapping and robbery, making timely access to consular support operationally important. Enrollment in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) before departure is strongly recommended, as it enables the Embassy to relay emergency alerts, locate the traveler in a crisis, and notify designated contacts if needed.

U.S. EMBASSY MEXICO CITY - CONTACT & LOCATION

The U.S. Embassy is located at Paseo de la Reforma 305, Colonia Cuauhtemoc, Mexico City, 06500. The main switchboard number is +52 55 5080-2000. The American Citizen Services (ACS) unit handles non-emergency passport and notarial services by appointment; for after-hours emergencies involving U.S. citizens - including arrest, hospitalization, or missing persons - callers should use the same main number and follow the emergency prompt. The Embassy is approximately 10 minutes by car from the traveler's hotel (Las Alcobas, Polanco) under normal traffic conditions, providing a practical proximity advantage. Travelers should store the Embassy address and emergency line in their phone before arrival and share both with a trusted contact back in the United States.

STEP ENROLLMENT & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Enrollment in STEP at step.state.gov is free and takes fewer than five minutes. Once enrolled, the traveler receives Embassy-generated security alerts specific to Mexico City and can be located by consular staff in the event of a declared emergency or family-initiated welfare inquiry. Given the travel profile - solo U.S. male, business purpose, high-profile industry, six-night stay - STEP enrollment provides a meaningful and low-cost layer of institutional support. In parallel, travelers should maintain the International SOS 24-hour line (+1 215-942-8226) and Global Rescue (+1 617-459-4200) in their devices if covered under a corporate or personal assistance membership, as these services can coordinate medical evacuation if consular channels are insufficient for a given medical or security event.

Sources: U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory - Mexico | Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

IDENTITY & FINANCIAL [72/100]

Risk: HIGH | Score: 72/100 | As of 16 October 2026

Mexico City presents elevated identity and financial fraud risk for visiting business travelers. As of 28 May 2026, the U.S. Department of State reported that robbery and financial crime are among the violent and opportunistic crimes affecting travelers throughout Mexico. As of 16 October 2026, Numbeo recorded a crime index of 66.14 and a safety index of 33.86 for Mexico City, reflecting a high-crime urban environment in which card skimming, ATM fraud, and opportunistic theft targeting foreigners remain persistent concerns. The traveler's profile - a solo male U.S. CEO carrying business devices, credit cards, and potentially sensitive commercial information - elevates exposure to targeted financial fraud schemes. Polanco and Roma Norte, where the traveler's dining itinerary is concentrated, are relatively upscale districts, but neither is immune to ATM skimming or digital credential theft.

ATM FRAUD AND CARD SKIMMING

Skimming devices on standalone ATMs and point-of-sale terminals represent the primary financial fraud vector in Mexico City. Travelers face the greatest exposure at street-facing ATMs, convenience store terminals, and machines not located inside bank branches during staffed hours. The traveler should use ATMs exclusively inside bank lobbies during business hours, shield PIN entry at all times, and favor contactless or chip-enabled payment at vetted establishments such as Pujol, Quintonil, Rosetta, and Contramar. Notifying the card issuer of travel dates and carrying a secondary card stored separately from the primary wallet reduces financial exposure if one card is compromised.

IDENTITY THEFT AND BUSINESS CREDENTIAL RISK

As of 16 October 2026, InSight Crime reported ongoing analysis of cartel-linked financial networks and their intersection with legitimate business operations, underscoring that financial targeting of foreign executives is not limited to street-level crime. A technology CEO traveling solo carries elevated risk of targeted social engineering, device compromise at hotel business centers, and credential harvesting through unsecured Wi-Fi networks. The traveler should avoid using hotel or public Wi-Fi for sensitive business communications without a vetted VPN, store passport and backup financial documents in the hotel room safe at Las Alcobas, and carry only the minimum number of payment cards needed for daily expenditures. Physical copies of key identification documents should be kept separate from originals.

Sources: U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory - Mexico | Numbeo Crime Index - Mexico City | InSight Crime - Organized Crime Intelligence

HOSPITALS [35/100]

Risk: MODERATE | Score: 35/100 | As of 16 October 2026

For comprehensive medical information including vaccinations, health risks, and treatment options, see the Health & Medical Brief.

MEXICO CITY

Hospital General de M-xico Dr. Eduardo Liceaga - Dr. Balmis 148, Doctores - +52 55 2789-2000

Hospital -ngeles Pedregal - Camino a Santa Teresa 1055 - +52 55 5449-5500

Note: Phone numbers are listed as provided in vetted references; verify locally upon arrival. International SOS (24/7): +1 215-942-8226. Global Rescue: +1 617-459-4200.

Sources: Vetted hospital references

RECOMMENDATIONS

PRE-DEPARTURE

- Enroll in the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) and verify the U.S. Embassy Mexico City emergency contact is saved in your phone.
- Obtain a travel medical and security evacuation policy covering Mexico and confirm International SOS (+1 215-942-8226) or Global Rescue (+1 617-459-4200) membership is active before departure.
- Consult a travel medicine clinic to confirm vaccination status for Hepatitis A, Typhoid, and measles, and discuss malaria and dengue prophylaxis given active regional outbreak conditions.

IN-COUNTRY

- Use only Uber or DiDi booked through the app for all ground transport in Mexico City - never hail a street taxi, as express-kidnapping risk is well-documented for unbooked cabs.
- Restrict business meetings and dining to Polanco and Roma Norte during daylight or early evening hours; avoid displaying high-value items such as laptops, watches, or phones in public, and vary your daily routes between Las Alcobas and your points of interest.
- Share your daily itinerary and check-in schedule with a designated contact at home, and establish a clear protocol - including a missed check-in threshold - for escalating to emergency services or Global Rescue.

ELECTRONIC & DEVICE SECURITY

- Travel with a dedicated, freshly provisioned travel laptop and a burner or temporary SIM-equipped phone containing only the data and accounts required for this trip - leave primary devices at home.
- Enable full-disk encryption on all devices, use a VPN for every network connection, and avoid accessing sensitive company systems over hotel or restaurant Wi-Fi without a verified encrypted tunnel.
- Physically secure your devices in the hotel safe when not in use, and do not accept USB charging cables, power banks, or accessories from unknown parties at meetings or in shared spaces.

POST-TRAVEL

- Submit all travel devices to your IT security team for inspection before reconnecting them to company networks.
- Monitor personal financial accounts and corporate card statements for unauthorized activity for at least 30 days following return.
- Seek a medical evaluation if you develop fever, gastrointestinal symptoms, or rash within 30 days of return, and inform your physician of travel to Mexico given active dengue and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever advisories for the region.