



ASF Auditoría Superior de la Federación
CÁMARA DE DIPUTADOS

10th meeting of the
INTOSAI
Working Group on
Value and **Benefits**
of **SAIs** (WGVBS)
September 6-8, 2017
MEXICO CITY

HANDBOOK FOR DELEGATES

Final Version

Contents

A. Organizing committee	2
B. Visa requirements	2
C. Embassies' assistance	4
D. Customs	4
E. Transportation services	4
F. Hotel and meeting venue.....	7
G. Working language	7
H. Working materials.....	7
I. Internet access.....	8
J. Meals	8
K. Protocolary and cultural events	8
L. Dress code.....	9
M. Currency	10
N. Electricity.....	11
O. Medical care.....	11
P. Weather conditions.....	12
Q. Landmarks and places to visit	12
R. Telephone dialing system.....	12
Annex 1: The San Ángel Inn Restaurant	14
Annex 2: Cultural program for accompanying persons (September 6-7).....	16
Annex 3: Cultural program for delegates & accompanying persons (September 8)	20
Sources of information.....	22

HANDBOOK FOR DELEGATES

Final Version

A. Organizing committee

- **Mr. Benjamin Fuentes-Castro**
Technical Secretary
E-mail: bfuentes@asf.gob.mx
Telephone: (+5255) 5534 1747
- **Mr. Erwin Alberto Ramírez-Gutiérrez**
Director of International Relations
E-mail: earamirez@asf.gob.mx
Telephone: (+5255) 5534 3141
Mobile phone: (+521) 55 54 36 00 62
- **Ms. Melissa Narro-Saucedo**
INTOSAI Affairs Coordinator
E-mail: mjnarro@asf.gob.mx
Telephone: (+5255) 5200 3607
Mobile phone: (+521) 84 41 32 81 18
- **Ms. Paola Romero-Gorrostieta**
INTOSAI Affairs Official
E-mail: promero@asf.gob.mx
Telephone: (+5255) 5200 3607
Mobile phone: (+521) 55 20 88 43 66
- **Mr. Francisco T. Parral Pineda**
INTOSAI Affairs Official
E-mail: ftparral@asf.gob.mx
Telephone: (+5255) 5200 3607
Mobile phone: (+521) 55 91 07 61 62

2

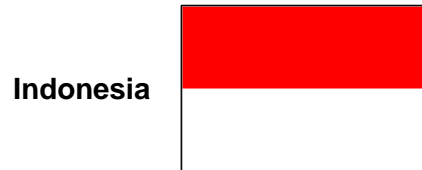
B. Visa requirements

According to the Mexican law, visas for business, holidays or any other kind of activity to enter Mexico will last 180 days without the possibility of working for remuneration.

Foreign nationals will not be needing a visa if they account with one of the following conditions:

- Document that accredits permanent residence in Canada, the United States of America, Japan, the United Kingdom, North Ireland, or any of the countries that are part of the Schengen area.
- Valid visa for the United States of America.

The foreign nationals of the following countries have to obtain a visa to enter Mexican territory:



Each participant is responsible for complying with the necessary immigration requirements to enter Mexico (and for carrying out the immigration procedures applicable within transit countries in your journey to Mexico). The SAI of Mexico has no legal faculties to carry out immigration procedures, it will only provide a visa facilitation letter if required.

C. Embassies' assistance

If your National Embassy to Mexico is going to provide your delegation with any kind of technical and logistical support before, during or after your stay in Mexico, please inform about this to the organizing committee at your earliest convenience for coordination purposes.

D. Customs

Foreigners are allowed to bring in their personal effects duty-free products. Failure to declare personal effects will result in their confiscation and a fine. Mexican customs provide information in English regarding entry into Mexico by air or land. Travelers carrying more than 10 000 USD or the equivalent amount in other currencies, cash, checks, money orders, or any other monetary instrument must make a custom declaration. Failure to make this declaration is against Mexican law and often results in detention.

E. Transportation services

The SAI of Mexico will kindly provide all the delegations with the transportation services for the event. However, due to logistical issues, all attendees must take into consideration that these services will be provided just from/to the hotel selected as the official venue for accommodation: **The Royal Pedregal Hotel.**

- *Airport – Hotel – Airport Transportation*

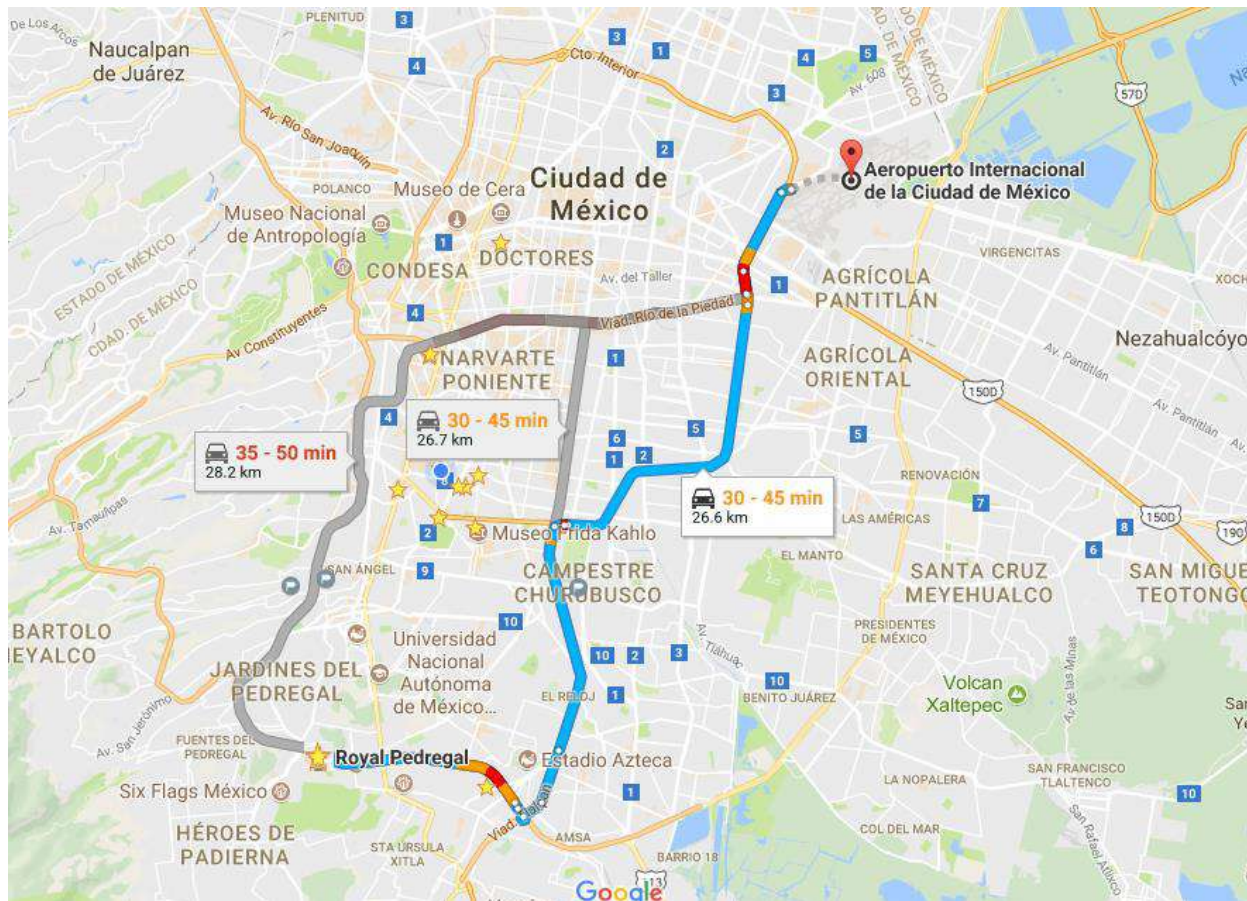
The SAI of Mexico will provide all the delegates and accompanying persons with the transportation service from the Mexico City International Airport to the Royal Pedregal Hotel. Upon your arrival and after immigration procedures, baggage claim and custom clearance, staff from the International Relations Department of the SAI of Mexico will be waiting for you outside the exit doors of the airport. To facilitate your identification, the person who will be waiting for you at the airport will be carrying a sign with the INTOSAI logo.



INTOSAI

INTOSAI logo

The day of your departure from Mexico City, transportation from the Royal Pedregal Hotel to the airport will be also provided by the SAI of Mexico. The organizing committee will previously hand you a brief note with the information required (date, time and meeting point) to take you to the airport. Please bear in mind that the Mexico City International Airport's regulations state that passengers traveling on international flights must be at the airline counter three hours prior to the flight time. When preparing your departure, also take into account that it takes up to one hour to arrive at the airport from the Royal Pedregal Hotel.



Route from the Airport to the Royal Pedregal Hotel¹

o *Hotel – ASF’s premises – Hotel Transportation*

On September 6 and 7, 2017, the SAI of Mexico will provide transportation services from the Royal Pedregal Hotel to the ASF’s premises in the morning, and it will also provide transportation back to the Royal Hotel Pedregal once the working activities have finished. All delegates will be picked up at **8:15 in the morning at the lobby** of the Royal Pedregal Hotel to be taken to the ASF’s premises. We will appreciate delegates are on time at the mentioned meeting point in order to avoid delays in the foreseen activities. Mr. Ángel David Gómez and Mr. Juan Antonio Ramírez,

¹ This map aims to show distance and alternative routes to the destination. Time estimate could change due to traffic jam, weather conditions and any other unforeseen situation.

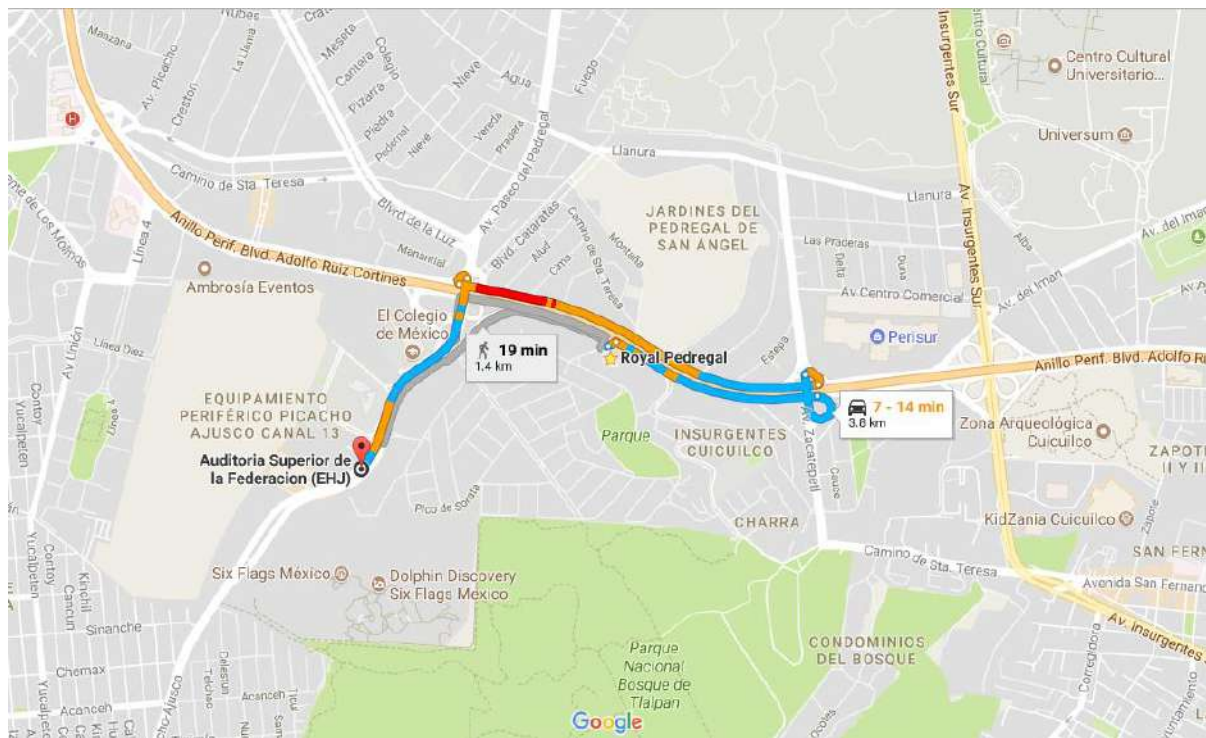
officials from the International Relations Department of the SAI of Mexico, will be accompanying you in these the morning transportation services.



Mr. Juan Antonio Ramírez
SAI of Mexico



Mr. Ángel David Gómez
SAI of Mexico



6

Route from the Royal Pedregal Hotel to the ASF's premises²

² This map aims to show distance and alternative routes to the destination. Time estimate could change due to traffic jam, weather conditions and any other unforeseen situation.

F. Hotel and meeting venue

The **Royal Pedregal Hotel** was selected as the official venue for accommodation, which is located at:

4363 Periférico Sur, Jardines de la Montaña,
Tlalpan, Mexico City, Z.C. 14210
Telephone: (+52 55) 5449 4052



Royal Pedregal Hotel

The SAI of Mexico has negotiated with the hotel a special rate for the 2017 WGVBS meeting attendees. All delegations have been previously asked by the organizing committee to make their own booking procedures directly with the hotel; accommodation costs are covered by the delegates. All guests are kindly invited to consult the Royal Pedregal Hotel's policies on: <http://www.hotelesroyal.com.mx/home>

The 2017 WGVBS meeting will take place at the **ASF's premises**, located at:

167 Picacho-Ajusco Roadway,
Ampliación Fuentes del Pedregal,
Tlalpan, Mexico City, Z.C. 14110



ASF's premises

G. Working language

The presentations and discussions during the 2017 WGVBS meeting will be held in English. Regarding those delegations that will be assisted by an interpreter, an internal booth within the meeting room will be available for the interpreter's work.

H. Working materials

All working materials for the meeting are available on the WGVBS website: www.wgvbs.org.mx. All delegates that will present a progress report or make a presentation were previously kindly asked by the organizing committee to send their corresponding materials to the WGVBS Secretariat **by August 31st 2017, at the latest**. If your delegation has not submitted its materials yet, please send them as soon as possible.

During the meeting, the SAI of Mexico will kindly provide the working materials (one binder with hard-copies) per delegation. In case you require an extra binder with the working materials, we kindly invite you to take the most of the available internet connection to consult the documents on the WGVBS website.

I. Internet access

Internet access will be provided during the working meetings at the ASF's premises. There is also WiFi at the lobby and restaurant of the Royal Pedregal Hotel.

J. Meals

On September 6-8, the SAI of Mexico will kindly offer the **lunch** to all the delegates. On September 6 and 7, the lunch will be served at the ASF's premises; the lunch on September 8 will take place during the Cultural Program. It is worth mentioning that the delegates' corresponding dietary restrictions have been taken into consideration for the choice of the meals.

K. Protocolary and cultural events

➤ Welcome cocktail

The SAI of Mexico is pleased to offer a **welcome cocktail** on September 5, at 20:00 hours, at the terrace of the ASF's premises, floor 12. Attendees will be picked up by Ms. Melissa Narro and Mr. Francisco Parral, officials from the International Relations Department of the SAI of Mexico, at **19:15 hours at the hotel lobby** to be taken to the cocktail. We will appreciate attendees are on time at the mentioned meeting point in order to avoid delays in the foreseen activities.



*Ms. Melissa Narro
SAI of Mexico*



*Mr. Francisco Parral
SAI of Mexico*

➤ Official dinner

Additionally, delegates and accompanying persons are invited to attend an official **dinner** hosted by the Auditor General of Mexico. This dinner will take place at the *San Ángel Inn Restaurant*, on September 7, at 20:30 hours. Transportation service from the Royal Pedregal Hotel to the restaurant, and later from the restaurant to the hotel, will also be provided by the SAI of Mexico. Attendees will be picked up by Ms. Melissa Narro and Mr. Francisco Parral, officials from the International Relations Department of the SAI of Mexico, at **19:30 hours at the hotel lobby** to be taken to the restaurant. We will appreciate attendees are on time at the mentioned meeting point in order to avoid delays in the foreseen activities. To know more about the San Ángel Inn Restaurant, we kindly invite you to refer to annex 1, at the end of this document.

➤ **Cultural programs**

❖ **For accompanying persons (September 6-7)**

A special cultural program for **accompanying persons** will be kindly offered on September 6-7 while the meeting discussion are being held. On Wednesday September 6, accompanying persons will be taken to the Xochimilco and Coyoacán neighborhoods (including the Dolores Olmedo and Frida Kahlo Museums). On Thursday September 7, they will be taken to the Mexico City historic center, the National Palace, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the Palace of Iturbide, and the Palace of Fine Arts. Attendees will be picked up by Ms. Paola Romero, official from the International Relations Department of the SAI of Mexico, at the hotel lobby at **9:00 hours** to be taken to the cultural programs on Wednesday and Thursday. We will appreciate attendees are on time at the mentioned meeting point in order to avoid delays in the foreseen activities. To know more about the places that will be visited, we kindly invite you to refer to annex 2, at the end of this document.



*Ms. Paola Romero
SAI of Mexico*

❖ **For delegates and accompanying persons (September 8)**

Furthermore, a cultural program on September 8 will be offered to **delegates and accompanying persons**, and it includes a visit to the Chapultepec Castle and to the National Museum of Anthropology. Attendees will be picked up by Ms. Melissa Narro, Ms. Paola Romero and Mr. Francisco Parral, officials from the International Relations Department of the SAI of Mexico, at the hotel lobby at **9:00 hours** to be taken to the cultural program. We will appreciate attendees are on time at the mentioned meeting point in order to avoid delays in the foreseen activities. To know more about the places that will be visited, we kindly invite you to refer to annex 3, at the end of this document.

L. Dress code

The dress code for men and women for the welcome cocktail and for the official dinner is casual business / traditional attire. During the meeting sessions, a formal suit/dress is appropriate, or a traditional attire is also welcomed for those delegates who prefer so.

For the cultural programs, wearing casual clothing and comfortable shoes is advisable. It is important to consider the use of sunscreen (sunblock) to protect yourself against ultraviolet radiation (UV) and sunburn. Wearing a hat and sun glasses is also recommended.

M. Currency

The national currency is the Mexican peso (MXN). Current coins in circulation have the following denominations: 10, 20 and 50 cents, as well as, 1, 2, 5, and 10 pesos. Moreover, bills are emitted in denominations of 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 pesos.



You can use either your debit or credit card when paying at the Royal Pedregal Hotel, restaurants, bars, department stores, and grocery shops. Most establishments accept payments made with the most common credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express). It would be useful to take into consideration that Visa and MasterCard are accepted in far more places than American Express.

10

Take into consideration that many other transactions in Mexico are done with cash, particularly when using public transportation, and buying handicrafts, souvenirs, food or any personal care items in local markets and small grocery stores. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to exchange the foreign currency into Mexican Pesos upon your arrival at the Mexico City International Airport, where you will find cheaper exchange rates than those offered by banks and hotels.

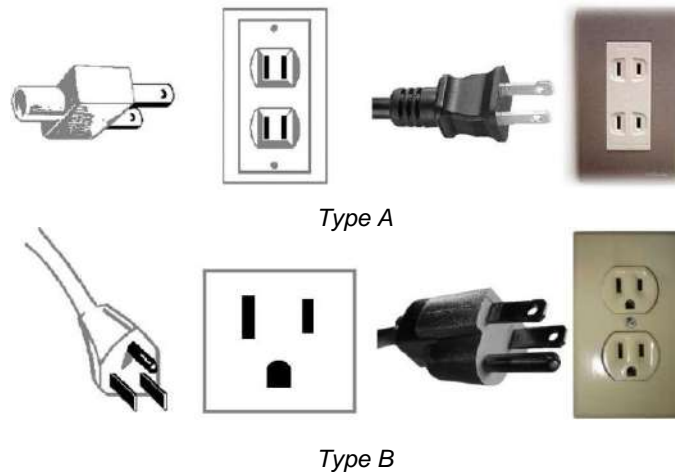
The current exchange rate³ of the Mexican peso between the U.S. dollar and the euro is as follows:

Mexican Pesos (MXN)	U.S. Dollars (USD)	Euros (€)
1 MXN	0.0559093 USD	0.0469462
17.8891 MXN	1 USD	0.839708 EUR

³ Information consulted at www.xe.com, on August 31, 2017. Exchange rates can change over time.

N. Electricity

Mexico's voltage is 127 volts at a frequency of 60Hz. If you are planning to bring some electronic equipment with you, please buy the suitable voltage converter and/or plug adapters. Plugs type A and mostly B are common in Mexico.



O. Medical care

As for any international travel, it is strongly advised that you are adequately covered by an international health insurance during your visit to Mexico.

Tourists are advised to visit private hospitals in the event of an emergency. Private hospitals and clinics offer good-quality care and are less crowded than public hospitals, but are generally expensive and expect payment in advance. Be prepared to pay for a treatment and then request a refund. If medical services are required, contact the organizing committee or your Embassy to obtain a list of reputable facilities or physicians in the area.

Pharmacies in Mexico City and main cities carry most medicines. It is advisable to consult a physician before purchasing medicine. If you take a prescription medication, bring along an adequate supply and a copy of the prescription. Make sure that both the generic and trade names of the drug are stated. To determine whether a particular medication is controlled in Mexico or if it requires a prescription from a doctor, consult the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS), whose webpage is:

<http://www.cofepris.gob.mx/Paginas/Idiomas/Ingles.aspx>

Tap water is not potable, please drink only bottled water. Avoid eating spicy food if you are not used to it, and consuming food or beverages sold by street vendors. Fruits and vegetables washed in tap water should be disinfected, peeled, or cooked. In hotels, restaurants and nightspots the standards of hygiene and food preparation are generally top-notch.

Also bear in mind that the altitude in Mexico City is equivalent to 2,240 meters above the sea level. Thus, some people might experience dizziness or fatigue. Take this into account when

performing any physical activity (e.g. climbing the pyramids or working out at the hotel). Individuals with heart, lung, or respiratory problems are advised to consult their doctor before booking their trip.

P. Weather conditions

The forecast of the weather conditions⁴ in Mexico City around the meeting dates is presented below:

DAY		DESCRIPTION	HIGH / LOW	PRECIP	WIND	HUMIDITY
MON SEP 4		PM Rain	21°/14°	90%	NNE 12 km/h	72%
TUE SEP 5		Rain	21°/14°	80%	NE 12 km/h	67%
WED SEP 6		Rain	21°/14°	70%	NNE 13 km/h	68%
THU SEP 7		Light Rain	20°/13°	60%	NNE 17 km/h	70%
FRI SEP 8		Showers	21°/13°	40%	N 17 km/h	63%
SAT SEP 9		Thunderstorms	22°/13°	80%	NE 15 km/h	64%
SUN SEP 10		Thunderstorms	22°/14°	80%	NE 14 km/h	62%

12

Q. Landmarks and places to visit

For further information about Mexico City, please visit the website of the Ministry of Tourism: <http://www.turismo.cdmx.gob.mx/> and <http://www.mexicocity.gob.mx/>

Other places of interest:

- The official tourist's guide (available in different languages) can be consulted at <http://cdmxtravel.com/en/>
- Turibus website: <http://www.turibus.com.mx/>

Consult with the *conciERGE* of the Royal Pedregal Hotel about sightseeing tours offered, some of them leave from the hotel, which could be convenient for you.

R. Telephone dialing system

Mexico's number code is +52, the one corresponding to Mexico City is 55.

⁴ Information consulted at *The Weather Channel* (www.weather.com), on August 30, 2017.

- If you require to make a telephone call to Mexico City from abroad, you have to dial 00 52 55 and the local number.
- If you have to call from abroad to a mobile device, you have to dial +52 1 55 and the mobile phone number (8 digits).
- If you have to call to Mexico City from the rest of the country, you have to dial 01 55 and the local number.

For **emergencies**, dial 911 (National System for Emergencies). If you want to report something anonymously dial 089.



Annex 1: The San Ángel Inn Restaurant

The **San Ángel Inn Restaurant** is an old Carmelita monastery converted into a restaurant, famous for its international cuisine. It is located in the southern part of Mexico City, and it is decorated in its interiors in the original Mexican-colonial style. Inside the restaurant you will also see its spacious flower-crowded gardens with its ancient trees and stone fountains.



Front of the San Ángel Inn Restaurant



Interior of the San Ángel Inn Restaurant

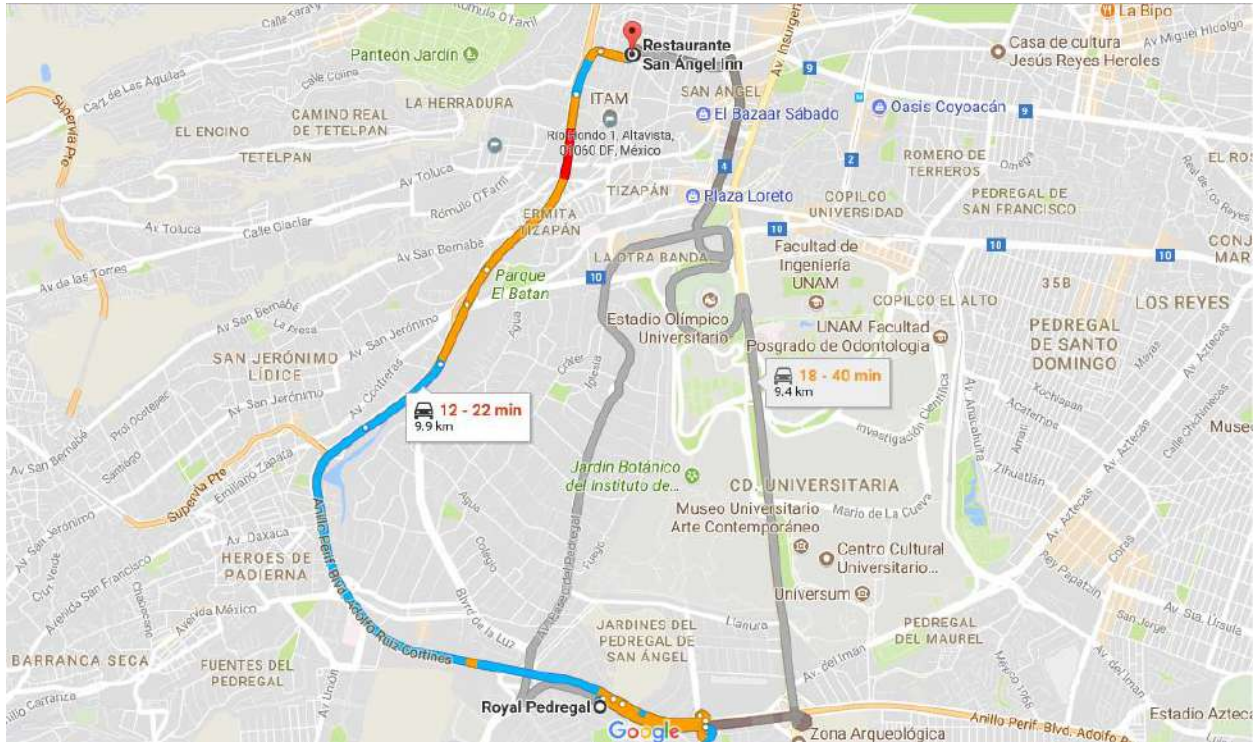
The construction of the *Goicoechea Hacienda*, where the San Ángel Inn Restaurant is currently located, is dated back to the Seventeenth Century. There are public records of the lands concession granted then by Carlos III of the Marchisate of Sierra Nevada in favor of Don Manuel Rodríguez-Pinillo-Y-López-Montero, Vicecount of San Miguel. This property was integrated into an “Hacienda” in 1776 by its then owner, Mr. Ramón Goicoechea.

Around 1906, after being a monastery and a pulque⁵ producing center, the property of approximately 40 hectares was acquired by the *San Ángel Inn Land Co.*, and gave birth to a housing development called “Altavista”. The main building (or ranch house) became then a famous hotel and restaurant named “San Ángel Inn”, operated by a French woman known as Madame Roux. It has been said that many famous characters of those days frequently visited the gardens and ballrooms of the inn.

In 1937, the Mexico’s National Institute of Arts and History (INHA) declared the property as a “Colonial Monument”. Don Carlos Prieto, distinguished entrepreneur, writer, musician, and its current owner, would entertain music concerts and art fairs in these premises. Furthermore, between 1955 and 1966, the Mexico’s Ibero-American University would give art and architectural courses at this place.

In June 1963, a group in investors inaugurated the new *San Ángel Inn Restaurant*. Throughout the years, its gardens, inner courtyards, and ballrooms are still impregnated with the memories of historical events and romantic legends of the past, with an original atmosphere of superior well-being and style.

⁵ Mexican’s traditional cactus alcoholic beverage.



Route from the Royal Pedregal Hotel to the Restaurant⁶

⁶ This map aims to show distance and alternative routes to the destination. Time estimate could change due to traffic jam, weather conditions and any other unforeseen situation.

Annex 2: Cultural program for accompanying persons (September 6-7)

➤ Xochimilco neighborhood

Xochimilco lies 28 km south of Mexico City. With its network of canals and artificial islands, it testifies to the efforts of the Aztec people to build a habitat in the midst of an unfavorable environment. Its characteristic urban and rural structures, built since the 16th Century and during the colonial period; have been preserved in an exceptional manner.

Xochimilco is a network of 'floating gardens' dating back to pre-Hispanic times and plied by *trajineras*, gondola-type boats, their (female) names emblazoned across their sunshades in letters of flowers. Mariachi musicians paddle by and will play to visitors, and food is served from passing boats. Tranquil canals and beautiful countryside views can be enjoyed. In some areas you will see the traditional 'rafts' of soil in which the plants grow, an agricultural practice dating back to the Toltecs and which has been declared UNESCO World Heritage. Xochimilco is famous for its flower and food markets, the perfect place to stop and eat some snacks before taking to the water.



Xochimilco Lake

➤ Coyoacán neighborhood

A delightful neighborhood of Colonial-era houses and cobblestone streets, the center of Coyoacán is famous for its two squares, *Jardín Hidalgo* and *Jardín Centenario*, the centerpiece of which is a fountain with a sculpture of two coyotes, after which the neighborhood is named. The squares are surrounded by bars, restaurants and cafés. On the evening of each September 15, a huge celebration takes place outside the town hall, or *Casa de Cortés* (which dates from 1755), to commemorate Mexico's independence.

Coyoacán can be enjoyed with an authentic cup of coffee, where the tranquility and the magic of its atmosphere can be felt. You can also enjoy its artistic and vibrant colors; or enjoy the sounds, the music and its secluded corners, along with the charming streets, alleys and iconic sites surrounded by New Spanish baroque houses, cultural centers, restaurants, bookstores and galleries.



The Coyote Fountain in Coyoacán

➤ **Dolores Olmedo Museum**

Located in Xochimilco, at Mexico City’s southern extreme, the Dolores Olmedo Museum is housed in a rambling stone structure, originally dating from the 16th Century, formerly known as *Hacienda La Noria*. By donating her art collection to the people of Mexico, Dolores Olmedo Patiño (1908-2002) created a cohesive whole, where treasures of the fine arts were incorporated into colonial construction added during the Seventeenth Century, surrounded by lush gardens, shaded by singularly Mexican plant species, and inhabited by gorgeous animals like the magical peacocks –seemingly confected of living jewels– and the enigmatic hairless Xoloiztcuintle dogs, a Pre-Columbian breed that is unique to behold and warm to the touch.

Since the museum opened its doors to the public in September of 1994, its greatest treasure is its painting. The world’s most important collections of works by Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo are housed here permanently and are adored by the legions of visitors who flock to admire them. There is, as well, a collection of the woodcuts and book illustrations by Russo-French painter Angelina Beloff, Rivera’s companion during his early years as a budding painter in Europe.



Dolores Olmedo Museum’s gallery

In addition, the museum offers a regular program of varied temporary exhibits, including the works of artists both Mexican and international, the contemporary, the established, all those who have found in this lovely scenery a worthy backdrop for their personal expression. It also offers concerts, recitals, dance programs, crafts fairs, among the weekend events included in the price of admission. Visitors can also enjoy plastic arts workshops for both adults and children, guided tours of the museum collections with well-informed commentary, informal talks and knowledgeable lectures. There are also available a shop stocked with books and folk art, and a charming café, shaded by ancient trees, with a view of the gardens and the venerable stone plaza.

➤ **Frida Kahlo Museum**

Located in one of the oldest and most beautiful neighborhoods in Mexico City, Coyoacán, the Blue House was made into a museum in 1958, four years after the death of the painter. Today it is one of the most popular museums in the Mexican capital. This beautiful house with its garden (popularly known as *Casa Azul* –“The Blue House”), where the artist Frida Kahlo lived (and died) with fellow artist Diego Rivera, contains a rich collection of works by both artists, as well as part of the latter’s collection of pre-Hispanic vestiges, and some of their personal effects and original furniture and fittings, providing an insight into their lives there, and that of their influential circle of friends. The Blue House contains some of the painter’s most



The Blue House

important works such as: Long Live Life (1954), Frida and the Caesarian Operation (1931), and Portrait of My Father Wilhelm Kahlo (1952), among others.

Built in 1904, the house is not particularly spacious. It now has a constructed surface area of 800 square meters on a lot of 1,200 square meters. According to historian Beatriz Scharrer, Guillermo Kahlo (who had been born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire) built the house in the style of the age: a central patio surrounded by the rooms. The exterior was designed in a thoroughly French style. It was Diego and Frida who later gave the house its distinctive air and who imprinted on it –by means of colors and traditional decorative elements– their admiration for the indigenous peoples of Mexico.

➤ **Mexico City historic center**

The main square is the political, economic, social and religious center of the country. Here is the *Templo Mayor* (the Major Temple), the remains of the Aztec temples, and a statue of an eagle perched on a cactus, which the Aztecs interpreted as the chosen place to build their city: Tenochtitlan. The *Palacio Nacional* (National Palace), which houses five murals by Diego Rivera, faces the square, as well as city hall and the Cathedral, the largest and oldest on the continent. The Mexico’s City historic center has been declared UNESCO World Heritage.



Mexico City historic center

➤ **National Palace**

The National Palace is the emblematic building par excellence of Mexico. Its architecture strengths the idea of a nation by giving testimony of the historical evolution of Mexico. It has been witness of many events that marked the course of the country and the Mexican cultural heritage. Nowadays, the National Palace houses the Homage Precinct to Benito Juárez, the Parliamentary Precinct and the Historical Collection of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP).



The Nacional Palace

➤ **Metropolitan Cathedral**

The Metropolitan Cathedral (*Catedral Metropolitana*) in Mexico City is the oldest and largest cathedral in all of Latin America. Begun in the late 16th Century, the cathedral is a medley of styles and dominates the city's huge square in the heart of the historic center, the *Zócalo*. The exterior of the basilica is a medley of architectural styles. Inside, four identical domes are supported by rows of columns. There are 5 naves and 14 chapels, mostly designed in the ornate Churrigueresque style (named for Spanish architect José Churriguera, who died in 1725). Like most Mexican churches, the cathedral is all but overwhelmed by innumerable paintings, altarpieces, and statues in full graphic color.



The Metropolitan Cathedral

➤ **Palace of Iturbide**

The Palace of Iturbide is a large palatial home located at the Mexico City historic center. It was built by the Count of San Mateo Valparaíso as a wedding gift for his daughter. It gained the name “Palace of Iturbide” because Agustín de Iturbide lived and accepted the crown of the First Mexican Empire (as Agustín I) there after the independence from Spain. Early in the 19th Century, the building housed the College of Mining, then remodeled in 1855 for use as a hotel. In 1965, it was purchased and restored by the National Bank of Mexico. In 1972, it became the home of the Banamex Cultural Foundation (Fomento Cultural Banamex).



The Palace of Iturbide

The foundation spent two years from 2002 to 2004 doing significant restoration work on the building and then reopened it as the “Palacio de Cultura Banamex.” It hosts a large number of temporary art exhibitions and art workshops for adults and children.

➤ **Palace of Fine Arts**



The Palace of Fine Arts

The jewel in the crown of downtown, the *Palacio de Bellas Artes* (Palace of Fine Arts) has a dazzling marble exterior and an art deco interior. The interior is decorated with paintings by Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Álfaro Siquieros and Rufino Tamayo, while the galleries host visiting exhibitions, and the auditorium, with a Tiffany curtain, hosts concerts, opera and ballet.

Annex 3: Cultural program for delegates & accompanying persons (September 8)

➤ Chapultepec Castle

The Chapultepec Castle was built in 1785, and it was the only monarchic castle in Latin America. This place is an amazing representation of the combination of neoclassic and neo-gothic architecture, in which important periods of the Mexican history are restored inside of its walls, gardens and rooms. It is also a representation of a fusion of many different cultures in a long period of time.



The Chapultepec Castle viewed from the air

Even though it was built with the intention of being a spot destined for the Spanish royalty's resting, this castle has had different uses throughout the years. During 1833, it was employed as the headquarters of the Military School, a few years later, in 1857, it became the central stage of one of the most important battles in the history of Mexico. However, its most important period dates back to 1864, when the castle became the property of Maximiliano from Hamburg and his wife Carlota. A couple of decades later, it became the residence of important figures such as: Mr. Francisco I. Madero, Mr. Venustiano Carranza, and Mr. Álvaro Obregón; all Mexican ex-presidents.

It was not until 1939 that the Castle was declared a historical monument, and became the official building of the National Museum of History. Nowadays, the edification is divided in two areas: the museum, and the fortress.

The museum is composed of nineteen exhibition rooms, where you can appreciate different art pieces of the Mexican culture. This showing exposes the important transformations of the independent Mexico, and reaches the current times.

Besides the incredible and privileged view of the city from the Castle, the fortress also shows the utensils, rooms, bathrooms, living rooms, kitchens, halls, and other spaces occupied by its different residents.

➤ National Museum of Anthropology and History

The National Museum of Anthropology contains several of the most important archeological and ethnological art pieces of Mexico.

This museum, which was inaugurated in 1964, is recognized and known for having a unique planning and design in the history of modern architecture in Mexico.



Front of the Museum of Anthropology

Two important themes are portrayed in the art of the museum: pre-Hispanic art and the ethnographic past of the different regions of Mexico. The National Museum of Anthropology is composed of twenty-four exhibit rooms, out of which, twenty three are used for permanent exhibitions, and one of them for temporal displays, which are usually samples brought from other parts of the world.

These rooms are distributed in two levels of the building. In the lower level, you can find the exhibition rooms dedicated to the introduction of the archeological culture of the Mexican territory, meanwhile in the second floor you can find the eleven ethnographical exhibit rooms displaying cultural material from indigenous populations that currently live in Mexico.

Sources of information

- **Dolores Olmedo Museum.** Consulted on August 30, 2017:
<http://www.museodoloresolmedo.org.mx/the-museum/>
- **Frida Kahlo Museum.** Consulted on August 30, 2017:
<http://www.museofridakahlo.org.mx>
- **Mexico City Essential Touristic Guide.** Consulted on August 30, 2017:
http://www.mexicocity.gob.mx/guias/biblioteca/guia_esencial/02%20Guia%20Breve_ING.pdf
- **México es Cultura.** Consulted on August 30, 2017:
<http://www.mexicoescultura.com/recinto/65611/en/>
- **Mexico's National Institute for Migration.** Consulted on August 23, 2017:
<http://www.inm.gob.mx/gobmx/word/index.php/paises-requieren-visa-para-mexico/>
- **National Museum of Anthropology and History.** Consulted on August 9, 2017:
<http://www.inah.gob.mx/es/red-de-museos/265-museo-nacional-de-antropologia>
- **Royal Pedregal Hotel.** Consulted on August 23, 2017:
<http://www.hotelesroyal.com.mx/home>
- **San Ángel Inn Restaurant.** Consulted on August 23, 2017:
<http://www.sanangelinn.com/>
- **The Chapultepec Castle.** Consulted on August 9, 2017:
<http://www.cdmx.gob.mx/vive-cdmx/post/el-castillo-de-chapultepec>
- **The Weather Channel.** Consulted on August 30, 2017:
<http://www.weather.com>
- **UNESCO.** Consulted on August 30, 2017:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/412>
- **Visit Mexico.** Consulted on August 30, 2017:
<https://www.visitmexico.com/en>
- **XE Currency Converter.** Consulted on August 31, 2017:
<http://www.xe.com/>