

MADE FAQs.

1. Do I need a passport?

To enter Mexico you will need a valid passport with an expiration date at least six months beyond the dates of your stay in the country.

Here is the link for getting or renewing an American passport
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>

The cost for an American passport for an adult is \$160 and \$100 for a child. The average time for get a passport is 7-10 weeks, however it is possible to expedite it for an extra \$60, it is quite worth it as it seriously will cut around 4 weeks from the waiting time.

If you are traveling as a single parent with a child under 16, you will need a letter of consent from the other parent. The letter must be notarized. You can call to for more information at 1-877-487-2778

For those coming from Europe or other parts of Latin America, the first sentence applies to you too. However, cost, time of processing, etc. varies by your specific country's processes.

2. Do I need a Visa to enter Mexico?

Yes, but as a tourist, there is nothing you need to do ahead of time to be granted this kind of visa. There is an immigration form that is being phased out (FMM), but depending on which airport/airline/country you may be required to complete the FMM. You can complete the form preemptively and just hold on to it or wait and see if need it at your point of entry. If you need it, there will be blanks available to you. If no one asks for the form, be sure to ask the immigration officer who is reviewing your passport and placing the stamp in it for at least 30 days. You may need to show your return ticket, state where you are going to be traveling and staying (e.g., San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico City, etc.). The purpose of your trip is tourism. There are other ways/visas/statuses that each come with different lengths of time and different more complex requirements. The tourist visa is the most common and easy method to stay in Mexico for less than 180 days, however Mexican immigration isn't granting that many days anymore, 30 days is what you need. The less paperwork and bureaucracy you have to deal with the better and the more time and energy you'll have for exploring and experiencing SMA and others parts near to it.

3. How much money do I need while staying in Mexico and where can I get cash?

The dollar (USD) to peso (MXN) [exchange rate](#) varies daily. Currently it's around 17.5 pesos to 1 dollar. The exchange rate no matter what is in favor to those with dollars as the value is higher than the peso.

How much money you need really depends on the kind of lifestyle you want to live while at MADE. For example, you can have for lunch a delicious medium size handmade tortilla quesadilla for like \$2-2.5USD. You can find plenty of coffee shops where a latte costs the same. But, you can also find restaurants where the cost per person can approach those at similar restaurants in the US or Europe or any major city. And beyond eating out, groceries are reasonable. Grocery items are typically less expensive than they are in the US. Unless you are seeking specific imported products – they can get expensive. Fresh fruits and vegetables are abundant and inexpensive in the markets. Personal care items, over the counter medicines are comparable or often less expensive than in the US.

The best way to get cash is from an ATM affiliated with one of the big banks and located in Centro, the large grocery stores, or several other locations around town. However, you need to make sure you decline the exchange rate initially offered by the ATM. Doing so will default the exchange to the prevailing market rate (which should be pretty close to the rate in the link above). We will remind you this and will be happy to indicate you best ATMs to take money out near the property.

Credit cards are widely accepted. Though not everywhere, and usually not preferred over cash. It's always good to carry some cash and one card. You can use your debit card as well, but you may prefer to just carry a single credit card as a best practice for traveling in a different country. Also, you may want to verify with your credit card company that your card has no foreign transaction fees.

4. Should I have health insurance?

Check with your current plan to see what their international coverage is. Travel health insurance is an option you may want to explore. [Allianz Travel](#) is one company that offers different plans, the average monthly cost is 50-60 dollars.

The health system is quite different in Mexico as it is mostly socialized, but since you are a foreigner that does not apply to you. However, there are small doctor practices that can see you and provide you with a prescription. Also, meds are easily

available in Mexico, usually pharmacist will help you with what you need, there are only a few meds that need prescription such antibiotics.

If you need a doctor appointment for small health issues the average cost will be \$3-10USD.

5. Do I need to speak Spanish to be part of the MADE Creatives in Residence/be able to spend a month in SMA?

The answer is NO, since SMA is such a popular destination, many places have information in English and locals try to accommodate to foreigners as much as possible. But it is important for you to know that the official language in Mexico is Spanish, therefore people don't have to speak English or other languages. Of course if you know some Spanish locals will appreciate you making the effort to try to speak it.

6. When and how I pay the cost of the MADE Creatives in Residency?

To reserve your spot, we would like you to make a deposit/transfer for 1/2 of the cost..

Payment via Venmo or PAYPAL is preferred.

The deposit is NOT REFUNDABLE.

The rest of the cost you will pay it when you arrive, this via transfer as the deposit or in Mexican pesos, your host will let you know the second mode of payment.

It is important that you get familiar with ATM's in Mexico such declining certain charges from those machines and so on. But also get acquainted with Mexican bills.

7. Is there a dedicated studio space at the residency?

As I mentioned in the invite your studio space is also your room, each room has a bed, a side table with a lamp and a desk/small surface area with a chair. The apartments also have the same set up. For those who are painters I will have easels for you to use if you need to.

The small lounge area on the first floor has a couch and arm chairs but also a large table that could be use as communal studio working space. As you saw on the photos we provided on this website the property isn't that big and the outdoor hallway is surrounded by the rooms/connects the spaces. Our hope is that you all will come in and out each other's rooms, check what other creatives are doing and so on. Remember we are trying to be a community, connect, learn from each other and share our time and experiences.

8. Do I bring materials, or can I buy materials there?

All will depend on what you want to work on, or what you want to make or not while you are here. For photographers, musicians and so on yes maybe bringing some of your equipment or small instruments. For visual artists perhaps bring something that super important for you to use in your creations. For poets, writers, designers we are certain you can find materials here too.

For specific needs, there is a store called [El Pato](#), they sell all kinds of materials for arts, crafts and design, you can walk from the property and take a taxi back which it will cost you \$70-\$80MXN (about \$4 USD).

Also there is a place called [Zona de Papel](#) where you can find materials, it is around 20min walk from the property.

For the ones that may be taking loom or textiles classes or want to work on creating something along those lines there is a store called [Parisina](#), you will find a lot of there and at a great price.

For general things, there are so many *papelerias* and *mercerias* where you can find all kinds of resources. These places are wonderful to get less expensive materials.

A lot of the classes that we mentioned on the invite may include materials.

9. How is the weather? What type of clothing do I need?

[SMA weather is pretty comfortable](#), it varies from low 70s to mid 80s throughout the year. Summer can get hotter sometimes on the mid 90s, rain could be quite heavy during rainy season which is usually from mid Jun to end of August. Therefore shirts, light jacket or flannels are perfect. Sometimes mornings or evenings can get a bit chilly, but if you aren't completely prepared the crafts market sells beautiful wool garments for not a high price.

One really important thing is to bring comfortable shoes, it is incredibly great that you can walk pretty much anywhere in SMA. However don't forget it is a colonial town, which it means many of the streets in the city center and the first quadrant are cobblestone or other type of stone, in other words not even flat surface, so good shoes are a must.

10. Regarding transportation

Transportation options are extensive and safe. Whether by bus, shuttle service, taxi, or rental car, access to all that the region has to offer is easy. Despite being in central Mexico, travel to SMA is quite affordable and fairly easy. Two airports are a short shuttle ride to SMA, one in Leon (BJX) and one in Querétaro (QRO). The primary shuttle service, BajíoGo, is super reliable, with reservations easily made online. Both airports are serviced by all of the largest Mexican airlines as well as many regular flights by US carriers United and American Airlines. Direct flights to many locations in the US as well as Mexico, and Central and South America are available. Through connections in Mexico City (MEX), Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) or Houston (IAH), one can get to SMA from nearly anywhere in the world. Of course, we are happy to work with you and share our experience with travel to/from SMA as you plan for your trip.

11. In relation to food

Meals during your time in SMA are your responsibility, but fear not there are countless places to eat in SMA. From small mom and pop restaurants to food markets, street food, to high-end restaurants, it is fully up to you and your taste how you want to enjoy the cuisine of SMA. For those who want to cook more often, there are numerous little *tienditas* on nearly every corner to buy essential food products and two large grocery stores, all within a short walk of the property.

12. Cost and inclusion

We are not able to fully subsidize the entire *Creative in Residence* experience but have worked with our property partner to significantly lower the cost in comparison to other residencies. So that we can support each *Creative in Residence* personally during their time in SMA, there is a limit of only six creators per monthly residence.

All units are furnished. Cost is per unit, for one month and includes utilities and WIFI:

- (1) Small bright room with a full bed, and a small desk/working area \$500 USD.
- (1) Medium darker room with a full bed and a small desk/working area \$600 USD.
- (2) Medium lighted room with a full bed and small desk/working area \$700 USD.
- (2) 1 bedroom apartment with a full kitchen, living room with a sofa bed, a bedroom and bathroom, plus a small desk/working area –Single Occupancy \$1050 – Double Occupancy \$1,250 USD.

Also included in the cost is a weekly group dinner party and discussion session hosted by MADE. These weekly dinners will be a more “formal” opportunity to share with each other your journey so far and to reflect and celebrate the creative energy of SMA and how you plan to use or can influence your own work.

During your time in SMA, we will assist you however you want and need; to talk about your work or provide guidance on certain issues and fields in which we have expertise, or facilitating and helping you maximize your time here by supporting you to find and schedule classes or experiences in the different institutes and organizations. We will provide you with a comprehensive list of opportunities, so that you, as a *Creative in Residence* can fully enmesh yourself into this wonderful part of Mexico and its culture. There is a 75USD Administration Fee for this as it takes time and coordination.

An additional possibility that we are working toward is to bring an invited expert in a field relevant to the attending Creatives to come for a three-day visit to speak with you about their and your work, to motivate you to continue your journey and push your boundaries, and to take part in a discussion of a cohort exhibition / presentation of your creative work, this only if as a cohort there is an interest for it.

Also, we are hoping you will be enthusiastic about running a small workshop for the rest of the *Creatives*, nothing too complicated, more like a lighting/ignite talk or skill share session, something along the lines where you speak about or show a technique or tool that you have learned and have been using in your work. We will help you to organize yourselves and make it happen.