

Safety tips for travelers

Daily, every day of the year, by the Colombia Bridge, an average of 2,480 vehicles crosses from Mexico to the United States and 857 vehicles from the United States to Mexico, of which almost 30% are private cars.

For us the safety of travelers who use the Colombia Bridge is a high priority, unfortunately crime and unsafe conditions in roads in México are a reality, especially in the roads of the northern border of the country.

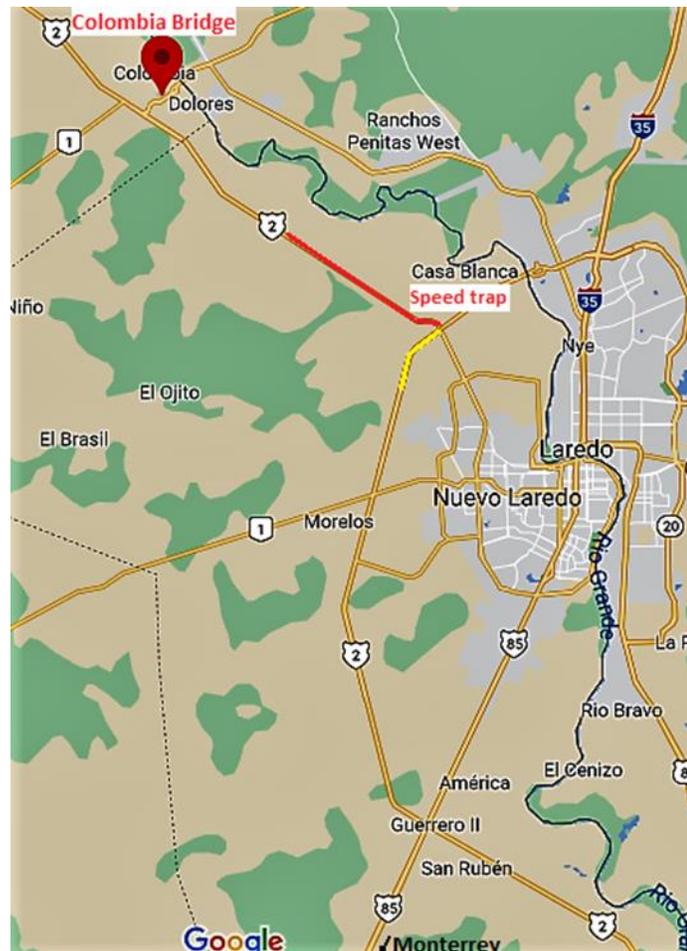
As a result of the incidents in recent weeks, Mexican security corporations are conducting more patrols on the highways that go from Monterrey to the border crossings with the United States.

Even though the incidence of crime among our users is low, to minimize the risks of being a victim of a crime such as an assault or suffering an accident during your trip, we give the following recommendations.

Before going on your trip:

- If you plan to travel from the United States or Canada to Mexico, check the travel alerts issued by the Department of State on this page: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mexico-travel-advisory.html>
- Send us an email to promocion@codefront.gob.mx to receive updated information on the safety and security conditions on the roads that converge to Puente Colombia.
- If you are going to travel from the west or central part of the country to go north for example to San Antonio Texas, you have several alternatives to cross: Piedras Negras International Bridge (Eagle Pass), Colombia Bridge (Laredo), Juarez Lincoln Bridge in Nuevo Laredo (Laredo) or Puente Anzaldúas in Reynosa (Mission). Check on Google Maps the distances and times with your origin and destination, find out about the unsecure conditions at the route you plan to use. Recent crime on the route to a border crossing advises against using it even if it is the shortest route; It will always be better to cross through the safest one, even if you have to travel a few more hours.
- To travel from Monterrey to the Colombia Bridge there are three alternatives, the best known and busiest is the Federal Highway 85 Monterrey - Nuevo Laredo toll road, on the same Federal Highway 85 there is the toll-free alternative (not recommended) and finally there is the State Highway NL001 Monterrey - Colombia, each one has advantages and disadvantages, investigate so that you can choose the most convenient one according to your travel plans, you can also contact us by mail at promocion@codefront.gob.mx to give you our updated recommendations.

- Regardless of the border crossing and the route you have chosen, plan to travel in daytime, avoid traveling at night. If you have to travel before dawn or at dusk, avoid doing it on the border strip. The border strip is the territory between the international dividing line in the north of the country and a parallel line at a distance of 20 kilometers into the interior of the country, the reference may be the old customs gate at kilometer 26 on Federal Highway 85 Monterrey - Nuevo Laredo
- If you decide to cross by the Colombia Bridge, plan especially your route along Federal Highway 2, between Colombia Bridge and Federal Highway 85, so that you can do it between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Avoid driving in that stretch at night or early morning.
- Check the map in this link so that you know the roads you are going to travel if you travel from Monterrey to the Colombia Bridge or from the Colombia Bridge to Monterrey: <https://goo.gl/maps/yzriCk2eULxvw1iXA> and in the image below the last section:



- Make sure your vehicle is roadworthy and fill its fuel tank before hitting the road. If your vehicle broke down during your trip, call 911 for help.
- Don't wear expensive jewelry or watches, keep your important documents and other valuables hidden in a safe place inside your vehicle, or better yet, do not take them on your trip.
- It is recommended to have a throw out wallet in case of an assault, with enough cash to leave satisfied the assailant and that does not require more, \$ 2, 000 to \$ 3, 000 pesos in bills of \$ 100 and \$ 200. And some expired credit cards or driver's license. And some credit cards or IDs that you can easily cancel and get back.

During your trip

- Always ride with your vehicle's doors locked and the windows closed.
- Obey the speed limits, for safety first, but also because toll highways have special surveillance to detect and fine speeding vehicles.
- Use Google Maps or the GPS in your vehicle to navigate to your destination and follow the instructions, they are very precise in distances and transit times. And if possible, share your trip with a relative or friend for greater peace of mind. Check in with your family member or friend every 30 minutes or so and let them know if you plan to stop and for how long.
- We advise you to fill up your car's fuel tank when leaving Monterrey so you do not have to stop anywhere until you reach Puente Colombia, consider a travel time of 3 hours from Monterrey to Puente Colombia. You have to make sure you have enough gasoline so you don't have to stop anywhere until you get to Puente Colombia. At the entrance of Puente Colombia there is a secure tourist parador with clean bathrooms.
- On the way from Monterrey to Puente Colombia, the last stop that may be secure is the one before reaching the toll booths on the highway (El Rancho Km 99), you have to make sure you have enough gasoline to avoid having to stop anywhere for any reason until you reach Puente Colombia. Criminals are in gas stations and convenience stores along the border choosing their victims.
- At Puente Colombia we offer free roadside assistance service in an approximate radius of 10 km from the bridge, the telephone number is 867 734 0149.
- On the map, in the section of Federal Highway 2 to the Colombia Bridge, which is marked in yellow, be alert for suspicious vehicles. And be more alert in the section marked with red. Any vehicle without license plates is suspect.

- Especially in the section marked with red (Speed trap), obey the speed limits, there are permanent operations of the Nuevo Laredo Transit Department to fine speeding vehicles. If you are stopped by them, demand that they hand you over the infraction, do not pay a bribe to the officer, you would be committing another crime. If they pressure you for money, do not offer more than \$ 500 pesos and tell them that you are going to call 911 for guidance and support.
- In Mexico, Police vehicles are clearly identified and have roof-top mounted light bars. If a suspicious vehicle catches up with you and turns on lights strobes on the grill, don't stop.
- Maintain a safe distance from any suspicious vehicles, if you are catching up with a slower suspect vehicle be prepared to pass it with determination and to make an evasive maneuver if necessary. If a suspicious vehicle is catching up to you, you can increase your speed to outrun it, if the suspect vehicle also accelerates keep calm, turn on the flashing lights of your vehicle and increase your speed to the point where you can maintain secure control of your vehicle, the driver should not be distracted, your safety comes first.
- Your companion will call 911, which is the number for emergency calls throughout the country and that you can call, even when your cell phone has no balance. If you are less than 10 km from Puente Colombia, after calling 911, you can call our Emergency Center the telephone number is 867 734 0149 to request for help.
- Authorities are on alert for reports of robberies and will arrive shortly to help you.
- BE ALERT most assailants surprise distracted drivers, box them in, and force them to stop. When a driver is alert, he anticipates the assailants' maneuvers and evades them, this discourages them and they prefer to abandon the pursuit. But if you do not feel safe driving at high speed, you can stop, your life and that of your companions is more valuable than the money that can be stolen.
- Exercise good judgment, if the assailants are armed or have blocked the road, stop, do not try to take video or photographs or make a call, this will aggravate the situation and may lead to an attack. Do not resist, hand over your throw out wallet and stay in your vehicle, if they want to steal your vehicle, hand it over and stay away from the assailants.
- If you become the victim of an assault or attempted assault as soon as you reach a safe place and you are calm, report the incident to us, preferably send us a message on our Facebook page to leave a written record:
(<https://www.facebook.com/puenteinternacionalsolidaridadcolombia>) you can also call 81 2033 9750 or send an email to seguridad@codefront.gob.mx.

All the information we receive is kept strictly confidential, with the information you provide us we will report to the authorities and warn other travelers of the danger.

By following these recommendations, you can substantially minimize the risks of suffering an accident or assault during your road trip to Puente Colombia.

Puente Colombia fast and secure crossing!

We invite you to follow us on our social networks:

<https://www.puentecolombia.mx/>

<https://www.facebook.com/puenteinternacionalsolidaridadcolombia/>

<https://twitter.com/PuenteColombia>

<https://www.instagram.com/puentecolombia/>

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