

1st Annual BMW Cross-Border Rally



Lozeto to Long Beach

Travelling into Baja is surprisingly simple but there are a few things that we need to be sure we take care of ahead of time.

Passport: If you don't already have one, get this well in advance. And if you already have one, make sure it isn't going to expire anytime soon. **Tip:** Prior to the trip take a picture of your passport and email it to yourself. That way if you lose your passport in Mexico you can produce a copy of it to the US Embassy.

Mexican Insurance: This is very important, especially in the event of an accident. There are several companies online and it's easy to purchase the insurance. I get mine through bajabound.com. They also have great Baja travel information.

FMM "tourist card": This card will be required for our trip. It's a lot easier to begin the application online before we leave. Below is the link, and make sure you pay the application fee online (approx. \$24). Get the card for longer than we expect to be there, just in case something happens, and you are forced to stay. I get the card for the maximum amount of time allowed. It costs the same.

<https://www.inm.gob.mx/fmme/publico/en/solicitud.html>

When we get to the border we will need to stop at the tourist office and get our FMM cards stamped. It only takes a few minutes if you have applied and pre-paid ahead of time. If you don't get the application done ahead of time, you will have to fill it out at the border, then leave and find a bank to pay the fee, then return to get the card stamped. So just do it ahead of time.

Additional medical and evacuation insurance: This is probably a good idea. There is information about this on bajabound.com

Medications: Bring the medications you need, but keep them in their original prescription bottles. Antidiarrheal, a good idea. The food is usually really great, but not always. Plan on drinking bottled water which is readily available.

Extra fuel: There is a stretch of FH1 that has a long gap between gas stations. While there is a fuel truck partway that dispenses gas out of drums, it's still a good idea to carry extra fuel. I carry three 30oz MSR fuel bottles.

Camping gear: You know the drill, pack light. We can share gear. Plus, when we camp out we probably won't be preparing meals. Maybe just coffee?