



Travel Tips & Directions:

Driving Directions: (If you put Condominios Pilar, San Carlos Sonora, Mexico in your google maps, it should take you there, however, below are some travel directions and tips!)

From Tucson take I-19 south to Nogales, Arizona. Before Nogales at the border take Exit #4 for Hwy 189 South, Mariposa Road. This is the truck border crossing and is much faster than going through the Mexican town of Nogales. It is important to note that the truck border crossing is only open from 6 AM to 10 PM, (***Note these times may have changed due to Covid-19**) while the downtown Nogales Border crossing is open 24 hours. If you are crossing before 6 AM or after 10 PM follow the signs to Nogales Centro, and then Mexico/USA Border. You will see many signs that lead you to the Truck Route Crossing. Follow the signs to Hermosillo. "Puerto Fronterizo," translates as "Border Crossing." Cross the border and stay on Mexican Hwy 15 towards Hermosillo. Follow the lanes that are designated for autos. (You are not "declaring" anything unless you are bringing appliances or something of significant value that will stay in Mexico.) Once you cross into Mexico, there are a few checkpoints and toll stations as you cross the border and enter Mexico. The first checkpoint you drive through, right past the border, will either give you a green light, "pase," which means you are free to drive through without stopping, or you can get a red light, "alto," which means you have to stop to talk to an agent and they may ask to see what you are bringing into Mexico in your vehicle.

21 Kilometer Checkpoint :This stop is about 10 minutes down the road, known as the 21- kilometer checkpoint. It is where you will pick up your visa. Park in the lot and enter the first building on the left, where you will get your visas for the Mexican state of Sonora. You need a passport or passport card. Mexico has a new expedited system for travel in Sonora. If you are staying less than 7 days your visa will not cost anything. If you are staying 7 days or more (up to six months) you will get in line at the bank and pay approximately 500 pesos or \$25 US dollars, and then return to the booth with a receipt from your bank and the agent will stamp your visa and passport.

Tolls: You must pay the tolls with pesos. The first toll booth is 4.5 km past the border and most recently cost \$37.00 PESOS. **You can pay in dollars only at the first toll booth.** Your change will be in pesos. It is easiest if you go into Mexico with enough pesos to pay the toll booths. Expect at least \$250 pesos for all tolls. The exchange rate fluctuates but Pesos exchange at 18-20 pesos to 1 dollar which varies outside of banks. There are 2 toll booths before you reach Hermosillo. One is located in Magdalena de Kino, a town with a very interesting history and large cathedral. The last toll booth is just before you enter Hermosillo. Right now the toll workers are on strike, so you may not be asked to pay the tolls. You can, however, donate some pesos to the workers who are standing at the toll booth as you drive through.

From the 21K follow the signs to Hermosillo. It's about 3 hours. You will go through some small towns, pass by Magdalena, and go through Santa Ana. Once you get to Hermosillo, there is a new truck route that will take you around the city towards Guymas. You will want to take this route as going through Hermosillo is very busy and it is easy to get lost. If you end up in the city, pay close attention to the signs for Hwy 15 and Guymas. (If you get lost, don't worry, the locals are friendly and helpful.)

After Hermosillo, it's only 70 minutes to Condominios Pilar. In between Hermosillo and San Carlos, there is a military check point ("revision military"). Usually they wave through Americans, but sometimes they stop you and check your vehicle. There can also be temporary check stations at any point, but like this one, they will usually let Americans go through without any problem.

Before you reach Guymas, you will see the turn off to for San Carlos. Until the road construction is completed, it veers to the left and the toll road to Obregon is on the right.

(Be sure to follow signs to San Carlos, and not to Obregon) You will see the right turn ramp off the highway to San Carlos. Follow this, and you will be on a on a divided highway headed for San Carlos with its distinctive, very scenic mountain known colloquially as "Tetas de Cabra." Another common name for the mountain, which comes from the Yaqui Indians, is "Tetakawi". Travel about 3 miles towards San Carlos. At the first traffic circle with the colorful "San Carlos" sign, turn left around the circle to head back in the direction you just came. Before you leave the traffic circle heading eastbound, merge quickly to the right hand lane and prepare to turn right. Make a quick right at the first turn-off. Once off the main road, stay on the road until you reach a turn, so right. and follow the road all the way to Condominios Pilar.

Vehicle Titles: It is advised for you to have a vehicle title showing you as the owner of your vehicle(s). This will apply to any boat/ATV/trailer, etc. you may bring. You won't have to register your car if you are just traveling to San Carlos, but if you go beyond that you will need to register your vehicle.

Mexican Auto Insurance: You will need Mexican auto insurance since your U.S. coverage will only extend a short distance into Mexico. We buy insurance before leaving for vacation online at mexpro.com, but there is a Mexican insurance vendor at the 21-kilometer checkpoint going into Mexico. It is located in the small building left of the building where you pick up your visas. • Gas is easy to find at the numerous gas stations along the highway. At the Pemex stations, "Magna Sin" is unleaded. "Lleno," pronounced "yeah-no," means full. Gas is sold in liters (3.78L = 1 gallon). Only cash is accepted and there is no self-service. Most stations close by 10pm. Make sure you top off near the border, as it takes almost a full tank of gas to drive to San Carlos. • Do not bring guns or ammunition into Mexico. • There can be a long wait at the border when you travel northbound to the US. The wait time varies from 10 minutes to 4 hours, depending on the day, time and holiday season. There is an APP for border wait times, and you can look them up online. • **IF YOU ARRIVE BY AIR:** Passports are required for all international travel by air. Currently, the only commercial flights are to Hermosillo where you can rent a car. The drive from the Hermosillo airport to Condominios Pilar is about 90 minutes. Private flights are easy as you can fly directly into Guymas. The Guymas airport is only a 15 minute drive from the condos. The General Jose Maria Yanez Int'l airport services are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.