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### U.S. travel warning on Mexico is more precise on violent areas

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Guatemalan police detain suspected members of a Mexican drug cartel. (Agence France-Presse)

By Hugo Martin  
February 9, 2012 | 10:49 a.m.

The U.S. State Department has issued an updated travel warning for tourists planning to visit Mexico, adding information on drug violence on a state-by-state and city-by-city basis.

The new, more detailed [warning](#) comes in response to concerns expressed by Mexico tourism officials, who worried that previous travel warnings scared off U.S. tourists by generalized about the threat of crime violence in Mexico.

"The Mexico Tourism Board has long advocated for travel advisories which abide by three key tenets: context, clarity and specificity," said Rodolfo Lopez-Negrete, chief operating officer for the Mexico Tourism Board. "The revised U.S. State Department travel advisory regarding Mexico adheres to these principles and should serve as model for the rest of the world."

The latest warning notes that 47,515 people were killed in narcotics-related violence in Mexico

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between Dec. 1, 2006 and Sept. 30, 2011. The number of U.S. citizens reported to the Department of State as murdered in Mexico jumped from 35 in 2007 to 120 in 2011.

But the travel warning says tourist destinations are typically not the center of narco-traffic violence. The previous U.S. travel warning on Mexico, issued last April, mentioned several states where violence could pose a threat to tourists and generally warned them to stay clear of the northern states bordering the U.S.

In contrast, the travel warning issued Wednesday describes the recent drug-related violence in several individual states and cities.

For example, for the state of Aguascalientes, the warning says: "You should defer non-essential travel to the areas of the state that border the state of Zacatecas. The security situation along the Zacatecas border continues to be unstable and gun battles between criminal groups and authorities occur. Concerns include roadblocks placed by individuals posing as police or military personnel and recent gun battles between rival [transnational criminal organizations] involving automatic weapons."

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**cranston36** at 3:59 AM February 20, 2012  
Don't go to Mexico. Close the border.

**lifes-funnybone** at 10:01 AM February 11, 2012  
clos1974. Sorry to hear you won't visit my neighbors of Oklahoma and Kansas. If you really are an American I can see no reason why you would feel that way.

**clos1974** at 11:32 AM February 10, 2012  
Its funny how we are quick to judge a country based off a report made by the US State Department. the same people (Government) who aid and better themselves rather than the us residents. (IE. bail outs, Obama). I am mexican and born and raised in san francisco and live in laurel canyon in LA and i have never been to mexico,i would like to some day. You have to be smart when travelng anywhere. Think about where you live today and your backyard . there are danger zones everywhere you go. I would not live in watts or south central LA or Comptom due to drug and gang wars there. there are many black people and white people embattled in gun /drug wars here too. So really think about your own backyard and your safety where you live and not worry about another country. we need to take care of our selves here in LA.  
There are many wars in other countries i would not visit either like Cuba or Middle East or Asia. . We only hear about wars that are close to US . Ive been to NYC and there are many areas there to avoid and always watch your back and your wallet and many mid american states i would not visit either like oklahoma or kansas with their backward thinking. If you dont want to visit mexico fine. dont go but you are missing out on cultural history. like mexico city ther are many safe areas there to visit.  
Think about your safety where you live we do it everyday

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