

Mexican Residency Readiness Kit

A clear starting plan for Americans & Canadians
who want to get Mexican residency

BY: WAYS OF THE WORLD

Welcome!

If you're reading this, you're at least seriously considering Mexico as your next chapter.

The problem is that the path to Mexican Residency has many curves, and there are no consistent steps to take or rules to follow that apply to every case.

***The result:** confusion and overwhelm that often leads to unnecessary stress, or worse, putting your dream on hold.*

We'll fix that.

What this Mexico Residency Starter Kit will help you do:

- Check if you're roughly financially ready
- Shortlist 2–3 sensible consulates
- Understand, in plain English, what the process and interview generally look like
- Write down your own “Mexico Plan v1.0” (the most exciting part!)

This kit will not pick the one perfect consulate or book anything for you. Those steps need personal judgment and, if you want it, hands-on help from us.

What to do next:

On the next page you'll see a simple **3-step starter plan** that will kick-start your journey to Mexican residency after just 10 minutes of your time.

We're excited to help you make this happen! 🇲🇪

Aimara & Gordon

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Start Here: Do These 3 Steps First

*Review this page before jumping anywhere else. This will give you a clear, realistic **starting plan** and show you where you might want extra help.*

These 3 steps will help you answer:

- “Is Mexican residency realistic for me right now?”
- “Which consulates should be on my radar?”
- “What’s the smartest way to start the appointment process?”

You can do all three in one sitting.

Step 1: Complete the Financial Readiness Worksheet

First, print and fill out the [Financial Readiness & Timing Worksheet](#) that came with this kit.

On that worksheet you will:

- List your age, income types, and rough savings
- Decide when you’d like to be in Mexico
- See which of these feels most true:
 - “Likely Ready Soon”
 - “Borderline / Needs Careful Planning”
 - “Not Yet, But Can Plan Ahead”

This isn’t a pass/fail test. It’s simply to answer:

“Are we roughly in the ballpark, and how fast should we move?”

- If you’re under typical retirement age or relying on less common income types (like rental income or early use of retirement accounts), make a note of that. For those profiles, **consulate choice and how you present your case matter a lot more** than this worksheet alone can decide.
- Keep the completed worksheet next to you for Steps 2 and 3.

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Step 2: Shortlist 2–3 Consulates

Next, open the [Mexican Consulate Map](#).

Using your [worksheet] as context:

1. Find your region and nearby consulates.
2. Look at:
 - Booking method (WhatsApp, email, portal, walk-in)
 - Difficulty (Green / Yellow / Orange / Red)
 - The one-line “Gotcha” note
3. Circle **2–3 consulates** that seem reasonable for your situation, and cross out any that are obviously bad fits (for example, “locals only” when you don’t live there, or “very strict / avoid if possible”).

⚠ Important:

This map simplifies reality. Some consulates behave very differently for different ages, income mixes, and document setups. **Treat your short-list as a starting point, not a final decision.**

Step 3: Decide Your Next Move (and learn how to use your free call with us)

Now, combine Steps 1 and 2:

- Look at your [readiness result from the worksheet](#)
- Look at your 2–3 shortlisted consulates

Ask yourself:

- “Given our numbers and our ideal timeline, would it be **smart** to start seriously hunting for an appointment?”
- “Based on what we’ve just seen, do we feel confident choosing a consulate and tackling the appointment process on our own, or would we like a second set of eyes before we lock anything in?”

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If, after doing this, you feel:

- “We’re Likely Ready Soon or Borderline / Need Careful Planning,” and
- “We’d rather not guess on consulate choice, timing, and documents.”

...then you can **book a free Mexican Residency Roadmap Call** with us.

On that call, we’ll review your worksheet and consulate short-list together, talk through where people in your situation usually get tripped up, and outline what it would look like to have us walk you through the rest of the process step-by-step.

Book a FREE call with us!

If you circled “**Not Yet, But Can Plan Ahead,**” use the rest of this Starter Kit as a planning tool to work on your gaps. When you’re closer to “Likely Ready Soon” (0-12 months), that’s the time to revisit the idea of a call.

Once you’ve done these 3 steps, you’ll be far clearer than most people who’ve been “researching” for months.

The remaining sections of this kit are there as reference to help you understand the overall Mexican residency process in more detail whenever you’re ready 🇲🇪

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Drone View of the Residency Process

This section is for anyone completely unfamiliar with the residency process. If you have the basic knowledge, feel free to skip this.

The Path to Mexican Residency:

At a high level, the residency process for the majority of people follows these three main steps:

1. **Confirm financial eligibility for a residency visa.** This means knowing you meet the minimum requirements with either your **Monthly Income** or **Savings & Investments**.
2. **Get approved for a residency visa** at a Mexican Consulate in the US or Canada.
3. Once your visa is approved, **you must enter Mexico within 180 days to finalize the residency process.** Known as *Canje*, this is when you receive your residency card.

Residency Visa Options:

There are two types of Mexican residency statuses, **Temporary & Permanent**.

These are functionally very similar. Temporary transitions to Permanent after a total of 4 years.

Refer to [Page 7 of your Financial Readiness doc](#) to see the current financial requirements.

How Long Does it Take to Get Mexican Residency?

Phase 1: Get Your Ducks in a Row (2–8 weeks)

Consulates can be strict with names and having financial statements verified.

What happens here:

- Make any needed changes to your name on bank statements / IDs.
- Find out how long it will take to get the required verification letters, bank stamps and/or signatures from your financial institution(s) or employer.
- Decide when you realistically want to be in Mexico.

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Timing:

Most people can get this done in **2–8 weeks**, depending on how easy it is to get verified statements/letters from financial institutions or employers, and whether they need name changes to show up on financial statements.

Phase 2: Consulate Phase (2–20+ weeks)

1. Finding a visa appointment

- Some consulates respond with open slots within days.
- Others can take many weeks or even months of checking.

2. Attending your appointment

- Once you get a spot, consulates can schedule you anywhere between 1–16 weeks out (sometimes longer).

3. Getting the visa in your passport

- Some consulates print the visa the same day you're approved
- Others ask you to come back or wait up to 10 days.

Phase 3: The Final Step: Canje (2–8 weeks)

Once your visa is in your passport:

1. Enter Mexico

- You have up to 180 days after visa approval to enter Mexico and start the final step (CANJE) at an immigration office (INM).

2. Start your INM process

- When you first enter Mexico with your visa, you have 30 days to make an appointment at your local INM office.

3. Get your residency card

- Some INM offices issue the card the same day you finish paperwork and biometrics, while others can take up to 30 days.

How to Think About This:

- **Best case:** you're organized, it's easy to get your docs verified, no delays finding an appointment → **it can be as quick as 4 weeks from start to residency card in Mexico.**
- **More common:** there are pauses at each phase → it's typical for the process to take 2 - 6 months, not weeks.
- **Strict timeline rules to consider:**
 - You have 180 days to enter Mexico after visa approval.
 - You have 30 days after entering Mexico to make an appointment with a Mexican immigration office.

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What to Know About Making a Visa Appointment

What to know before booking:

Before booking any residency visa appointment, know that:

- Consulates have different booking systems, including: email, MiConsulado (a government-run system), walk-ins, and Calendly.
- Availability depends on the consulate's capacity and current demand for consular support (not just visas).
- Some consulates release appointments on set dates. If you don't search around these times, you may not find appointments.
- Appointments at popular consulates can disappear within hours of being released.
- Appointment availability and wait times are fluid.

We can't safely give you consulate-specific appointment advice in a static PDF, but we want you to understand:

- The process is longer and more structured than just “email them ‘I want an appointment.’”
- Being too slow to search for appointments after they are released often means they will be gone.

We can help you craft a 90-day plan. If you meet the financial requirements, are ready to get residency in the next 12 months, and want our help, your next step is to [↓](#)

[Book a FREE call with us!](#)