Safety Considerations for Your Visit to Mexico City
or: A Survival Guide for Mexico City

1. For personal security, do not wear flamboyant clothing, avoid wearing jewelry or other expensive items visible.

2. Avoid walking alone at night. Always go out accompanied by another person. Be discrete when walking on the streets. If you should see something suspicious, the best thing is to quickly leave the area.

3. It is important to avoid the Zonas (neighborhoods) of Tepito, Lagunilla, Iztapalapa, Nezahualcroyotl, etc., because these areas are considered to have a high crime rate in the city. Tourist areas are usually well protected. Do not hesitate to ask the meeting organizers or staff of MOLLUSCA 2014 for suggestions and routes to arrive at the tourist destinations.

4. Legitimate taxis have a specific appearance. The vehicle should bear license plates with the beginning initials of A, B or M, and the plate number following with five digits (e.g., A 18 526). Any different numbering on the plate, that is to say, three numbers with three letters (e.g., 123 LAC) is reason to avoid boarding the vehicle.
   a. The colors of the vehicle should be gold and reddish (prune or cherry-colored) or white with golden wings, and on each side of the car is the seal with the wings of the Angel of Independence.
   b. The safest way to get a taxi is to board at at taxi stands. Although this service is a bit more expensive, it is safer than hailing one from the curb. These stands are easily found in front of supermarkets, commercial centers and along some of the principle avenues. There is a Radio Taxi service; it is very safe, efficient and basically with the same fares. The phone numbers are 56746620, 55901026, 52778406, and 01 55 5679 0147, or you can contract them by internet: [http://www.taxisdesitiodf.com.mx](http://www.taxisdesitiodf.com.mx).

5. Public mass transit options are the Sistema de Transporte Colectivo Metro de la Ciudad de México (the Metro), the Sistema Metrobús, and the Red del Tren Ligero (Light Rail), and they accept a TDF card (a rechargeable electronic card which permits access). However, the Metro System and the Light Rail also accept paper tickets. The operating hours of the Metro are: Monday through Friday, from 5 am to 12 midnight; Saturdays from 6 am to 12 midnight; and on Sundays and holidays from 7 am to 12 midnight. The Metrobus runs on Monday through Friday from 4:30 am to 12 midnight, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 5 am to 12 midnight. In general these transportation methods are very efficient and convenient, BUT we recommend NOT to use them during the rush hours of 7 am to 8 am, 1:40 pm to 3 pm, and from 7 pm to 8 pm.
   a. Recently, due to the mass concentration of people, there have been thefts by pickpockets. We highly suggest putting your cell phones or wallets in a purse or bag which you can carry in front of yourself.
   b. The first coach or car is for the exclusive use of the elderly and women.
6. If you have never been to Mexico City before, YOU WILL GET LOST! It is recommended that if you are going to arrive by plane or bus, in front of the airport and the bus station there are taxi stands. In both Terminals 1 and 2 of the Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México (Mexico City’s International Airport) there are stations for Line 4 of the Metrobus which can take you directly to the historic center of the city.

7. If you decide to rent a car, make sure that you keep it in an established parking lot near where you are staying.

8. It is recommended to ask directions in the street, but make sure that you ask an official transit representative. Never ask a person who happens to be passing by, because it is most likely that this person will not give the correct information.

9. Food is important, and in Mexico City there is a wide range of food choices. The numerous eating establishments range from typical small eateries found along the street to large restaurants. The food is quite varied, from traditional Mexican food, vegetarian, pizzas, tortas (sandwiches), different kinds of tacos, carne asada, quesadillas, fast food, etc. There is always something for any taste and at any price. Since Mexican food can be quite spicy, it is recommended to eat with moderation. Above all, for our European and North American visitors, it is recommended to eat only in established restaurants (never at the street-side vendors), and to ask if your dish is picante (spicy hot!). For the Latino American colleagues, our protective microbiota allows us to eat wherever we wish, just being careful about picante.

10. Mexico City has been frequently cited in recent years as a safe place. But regardless of that, if one behaves badly (including excessive time in the cantinas) or makes bad decisions, it does not matter if you are in Amsterdam, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Los Angeles or Quebec, you will have problems. The respectful and courteous men and women of our police force are well-trained to ensure safety and peace.

11. Take appropriate and normal safety measures to assure a good visit. Without doubt, the best advice I can give you for your visit is to really enjoy the City. The Federal District (our capital and national pride) is a very beautiful city, full of museums and historic places that are worth the effort to visit. ¡Bienvenidos, amigos y amigas!