

FAQs for Rotary District 5495's Conference

Two Nations, Two Districts, One Rotary

May 2nd – May 5th

Why attend? What makes this conference special?

Q: Why should I attend this District Conference?

A: Rotary is an international organization of friends. Let's meet new friends from another country. It will be exciting and a true Rotary experience.

Q: What speakers should I expect?

A: The Current Vice President of Rotary International, Pat Merriwhether will be in attendance as well as past RI VP Johrita Solari. We have Rotary Peace Fellows and fantastic speakers from Rotary's International Assembly. Also, our District has been involved with a project called Enchulama La Silla, and Erik Friend will be there. We also have our friends from our Interact Ambassadors trip to Kenya – at least four friends from Naivasha, Kenya will be there. Let's not forget we will have our youth exchange students attending and spending time with District 4100's 50 plus youth exchange students! This is an event to NOT MISS.

Q: What kind of food options can I expect?

A: Great Food! For Thursday night's event, the Rotary Club of Caborca and others are hosting a Carne Asada for 500 that we will have on the beach. For those that select vegetarian, there will be options at each conference meal. The Governor's Dinner will be a fabulous pasta dish from the local restaurant Mare Blu.

Q: What is the attire of the conference:

A: Thursday evening: Beachwear in White (Think dinner on the beach)

Friday and Sunday (Daytime) – Business casual

Friday evening: We will have an outdoor dinner event. Comfortable shoes and clothes depending on temperature

Saturday evening Governor's Gala: Denim and Diamonds – Black Tie optional. This is a chance to get dressed up and have fun! Feel free to go as glitzy as you'd like or bling up your cowboy hat!

Transportation

Q: Is District 5495 providing group transportation to and from the conference?

A: Yes! We will have vans traveling between Phoenix and Mexico. To reserve your space, please register here:

Wednesday, May 1st – Vans will leave at 11:00am for those wanting to participate in the golf tournament on Thursday May 2nd or to have an extra day prior to the conference.

Thursday May 2nd – Vans will leave Phoenix at 10:30am. The conference will begin on Thursday evening for a networking/meet and greet.

Sunday May 5th – Vans will leave Mexico at 1:00pm. Please note: border times can be longer than normal on Sunday afternoon. Travel time can be estimated, but not guaranteed.

Monday May 6th – For those wanting to stay an extra day, we will have a small van returning Monday, leaving Mexico at Noon.

Q: Will there be transportation during the conference?

A: Yes, we will have transportation for attendees between conference activities and resorts and hotels on Sandy Beach. If you are staying outside of Sandy Beach, you will need to arrange your own transportation. Sandy Beach includes: Playa Bonita Hotel, Bella Sirena and Las Palomas.

Conference Golf Tournament

Q: Is there a Golf Tournament scheduled before the conference?

A: Yes! We are hosting a Kick-off Golf Tournament on Thursday, May 1st at 8:00am. To reserve your spot, register here:

Q: Where will be it be held?

A: The Links at Las Palomas Resort

Q: Will there be cash prizes?

A: This is exclusively for fun and time together. There will be non-cash prizes.

Sunday May 5th – Vans will leave Mexico at 1:00pm. Please note: border times can be longer than normal on Sunday afternoon. Travel time can be estimated, but not guaranteed.

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Communication in Mexico (Spanish and English)

Q: Do I have to be a Spanish speaker to enjoy this conference?

A: No. It is exciting to learn new languages and cultures! However, most hotels and restaurants in “Rocky Point” have employees who speak English. In addition, we will have translation options throughout the conference.

Q: What resources are available to help me with language?

A: Google Translate is an excellent choice. It offers a conversation section where you can use it live in conversation. If you want to learn some phrases ahead of time, Duo Lingo is an excellent option.

Documentation and Entry Requirements

Q: Do I need a passport to travel to Puerto Peñasco from Arizona?

A: No, U.S. citizens traveling to Puerto Peñasco by land do not necessarily need a passport, but it is highly recommended. A Passport Card or Enhanced Driver’s License is sufficient for re-entry into the U.S. via land or sea.

Q: What form of ID is required if I don't bring a passport?

A: Arizona provides a “Trusted ID or Driver’s License” through the Department of Motor Vehicles. They are very easy to obtain. You can also use a trusted traveler card such as SENTRI, NEXUS, or FAST, or an Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) is required for re-entry into the U.S. It's essential to have official photo ID and proof of citizenship when traveling.

Q: Are children required to have a passport?

A: Children under the age of 16 traveling by land or sea can return to the U.S. with a birth certificate, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or Naturalization Certificate. Those 16 and older need an EDL or passport.

Car and Insurance

Q: Is Mexico car insurance required for driving to Puerto Peñasco?

A: Yes, Mexican law requires all vehicles to have insurance from a Mexico-based company. U.S. car insurance policies are not valid in Mexico, so you must obtain a Mexican vehicle insurance policy.

Q: Where can I purchase Mexico car insurance?

A: You can buy Mexico car insurance online before your trip or at various locations along the border. It's advisable to purchase this in advance to compare rates and coverage.

Q: What should my Mexico car insurance cover?

A: Your policy should include liability, legal assistance, and medical expenses at a minimum. Comprehensive coverage is recommended for theft, vandalism, and natural disasters.

Personal Driving and Transportation

Q: What documents do I need to bring for my vehicle?

A: You should bring your driver's license, vehicle registration, proof of insurance (Mexico insurance policy), and if the vehicle is not in your name, a notarized letter of permission from the owner.

Q: Are there any restrictions on driving in Mexico?

A: Observe all Mexican traffic laws, as they are strictly enforced, especially regarding speed limits and DUI. Note that military checkpoints are common and are for security purposes; comply with all requests.

Q: Can I rent a car in Mexico?

A: Yes, you can rent a car in Mexico, but make sure the rental agreement allows you to drive the car to Puerto Peñasco and that it includes the necessary insurance coverage.

Safety and Travel Advice

Q: Is Puerto Peñasco safe for tourists?

A: Puerto Peñasco is generally considered safe for tourists, but it's always wise to stay informed about current travel advisories, stick to tourist areas, and practice general safety precautions.

Q: Is it safe to use taxi's or Uber in Rocky Point?

A: It is considered to be the same level of risk as using those options in the US.

Money and Expenses

Q: What currency is used in Puerto Peñasco?

A: The Mexican Peso (MXN) is the official currency, but U.S. dollars are widely accepted. It's advisable to have some pesos for smaller purchases and where dollars might not be accepted.

Q: Should I exchange money before I go or in Puerto Peñasco?

A: It's often better to exchange a small amount of currency before you go for immediate expenses, then use ATMs in Puerto Peñasco for a better exchange rate on larger amounts.

Q: What meals are included in the conference?

A: Conference registration includes food on Thursday evening, Lunch and Dinner Friday and Saturday and a Brunch on Sunday. All other meals are on your own.

Q: Are credit cards widely accepted in Puerto Peñasco?

A: Major credit cards are accepted in many hotels, restaurants, and shops, but it's always wise to have cash on hand, especially in smaller establishments or for smaller purchases.

Q: Is it customary to tip in Puerto Peñasco?

A: Yes, tipping is customary and appreciated in Mexico. Typical tips for restaurant service range from 10% to 15%, depending on the quality of service. It's also common to tip tour guides, taxi drivers, and hotel staff.

Talking, Texting, and Internet in Mexico

Q: How can I stay connected in terms of mobile and internet access?

A: Check with your mobile provider about international plans for Mexico. Many resorts and cafes offer Wi-Fi.

Q: Can I use my AT&T phone plan in Mexico?

A: Yes, AT&T offers roaming in Mexico for many of its plans at no additional charge. Customers with qualifying plans, such as AT&T Unlimited Starter, Extra, and Elite, can use their phones in Mexico just like they do in the U.S., with unlimited talk, text, and data. It's important to check your specific plan details or contact AT&T directly to confirm eligibility.

Q: Do I need to activate anything before using my AT&T phone in Mexico?

A: No activation is typically required for customers on qualifying plans; roaming in Mexico is automatically included. However, it's a good idea to log into your AT&T account or contact customer service to ensure your plan supports Mexican roaming and that it's enabled before you travel.

Verizon in Mexico

Q: Can I use my Verizon phone plan in Mexico?

A: Yes, Verizon offers its TravelPass service, which allows you to take your domestic talk, text, and data allowances with you to Mexico for a daily fee. For those on certain plans, like some unlimited plans, Verizon may offer included talk, text, and data in Mexico. Always check the latest plan details or contact Verizon to see what's included with your plan.

Q: How do I enable Verizon TravelPass for my trip to Mexico?

A: To use TravelPass, you can enroll through the My Verizon app or by logging into your Verizon account online. Once enrolled, TravelPass activates when you make or receive a phone call, send a text, or use data in Mexico. The daily fee is only charged on the days you use your phone in Mexico.

Tips for Using Your Phone in Mexico

Monitor your data usage: Even with plans that include data, keep an eye on your usage to avoid any potential throttling or limitations.

Wi-Fi usage: Take advantage of Wi-Fi at hotels or cafes to save on data usage and avoid potential roaming charges.

Emergency numbers: Remember, in Mexico, you dial 911 for emergencies, just as you do in the United States.

Before leaving for your trip, it's always a good idea to contact AT&T or Verizon directly to confirm the details of your plan and ensure you understand any potential charges or limitations while using your phone in Mexico. This ensures a smooth and hassle-free communication experience during your visit to Puerto Peñasco

What should I do in case of an emergency in Puerto Peñasco?

A: Dial 911 for emergencies in Puerto Peñasco. It's also a good idea to know the location of the nearest hospital and have contact information for your country's consulate.

Health and Insurance

Q: Should I get travel health insurance for my trip to Puerto Peñasco?

A: Yes, it's advisable to have travel health insurance that covers medical expenses in Mexico, as most U.S. health insurance plans do not provide coverage there.

General Travel Tips

Q: Can I drink the tap water in Puerto Peñasco?

A: For travelers outside of Mexico, it is recommended to drink bottled or purified water in Puerto Peñasco to avoid stomach upsets. This includes brushing your teeth, etc.

Q: What should I pack for a trip to Puerto Peñasco?

A: Pack light, breathable clothing for the day, a sweater or jacket for cooler evenings, beachwear, sunscreen, a hat for sun protection, comfortable walking shoes, and any personal medications. Also, don't forget your travel documents.