

(3) Include a certificate indicating that the equipment is not for resale in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and will be returned to its overseas point of origin.

C. National Park Service: A permit is required from the National Park Service for filming on park lands or waters. Application can be made via the Film Office (who will provide maps defining park land/sea boundaries). No damage must be done to public property. A copy of the production company's insurance policy, may be requested, specifically naming the "U.S. Government, its agents and employees" as co-insured.

D. Filming at Sea: Coast Guard regulations dictate numbers of passengers on any boat for charter; the average work boat is limited to 6 (although boats are available which can carry more).

4. LOCATIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

A. St. Thomas: The seat of government and commerce for the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its primary industry is tourism. The spectacular harbor in the main town of *Charlotte Amalie* is lined with sailing yachts, cruise ships, down-island sloops and colorful old homes perched on the hillsides.

B. St. Croix: The largest of the islands, with dark rain forests opening to flat grassy plains. *Christiansted* was settled by Danish planners whose many fine brick and stone buildings remain. The large, picturesque harbor offers charter trips to the *Underwater National Park Buck Islands*. Nearby is *Frederiksted*, a quiet town of gingerbread trim and resident artists, horse

stables and quaint churches. The deep water harbor accommodates cruise ships and commercial vessels. The pier area is renowned for its rich marine growth and Seahorse colony. Many plantation houses, stone sugar mills, and cattle ranches are still in use. The *Estate Whim Greathouse* complex and the massive forts which guard the harbors, have been restored and serve as popular museums. St. Croix is home to *the Hess Oil Refinery* (the largest in the western hemisphere).

C. St. John: Smallest of the three inhabited U.S. Virgin Islands, St. John is also largely undeveloped; two-thirds of the island is national park (including an underwater sanctuary at *Trunk Bay*). Steep tree-covered hillsides reach down to a series of brilliant beaches. *Cruz Bay*, the capital town, has restaurants, local arts and craft shops, jeep rental agencies, a well-equipped lumber and hardware store and dive shops. There is a helicopter landing site at Cruz Bay but no airport on the island. Ferries depart every hour (in addition to unscheduled water taxis and small freighters). *Maho Bay Campground*, just outside the national park, includes a small outdoor auditorium.

5. SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Thomas' annual Carnival (April), is a two-day-long parade featuring the "mocko jumbi" (stilt dancers), colorful floats, troupes, steel bands and Calypsonians from all around the Caribbean.



MEXICO

1. PROFILE

The center of Mexico is a great plateau, open to the north, with mountain chains on east and west and with ocean-front lowlands lying outside of them. Between these mountain ranges lie regions that vary enormously according to climate which changes with altitude and latitude. In the northwest, the Baja California Peninsula forms the Sea of Cortez and in the southwest, the Yucatan Peninsula forms the Gulf of Mexico on one of its sides and faces the Caribbean sea on the other. The country borders on the United States in the north and on Guatemala and Belize in the south. The sun rises over the 1,860 miles long Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean coast, and sets over the 4,400 miles of beaches along the Pacific Ocean. Mexico stretches over 761,600 square miles and has a population of 85,000,000. Its largest cities are, Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey, and Tijuana. Spanish and native languages are spoken throughout the country, while most practiced religion is Roman Catholicism.

Climate: Due to the varying altitudes as well as to the country's location in both tropical and temperate zones, the climate is greatly diversified. Mexico is considered to have the 6th place in biodiversity in the world. It is tropically warm in the coastal lowlands, averaging 85°F, and cooling the upper elevations, averaging 60°F in the regions over 8,000'. Rainfall, like temperature, varies considerably according to altitude. The rainy season begins in May and ends in October, and showers are usually brief and fall at night. The warmest season is May-July, and the coolest December-January. Mexico City's climate is greatly affected by the city's high altitude, which gives it a pleasant spring-like temperature with warm days and cool evenings throughout the year. Average annual temperatures range from 54°-75°F. June-August is the rainy season. Short, heavy showers usually fall in the late afternoon.

2. NATIONAL FILM COMMISSION - MEXICO

The Commission is a non-profit organization founded by the Ministry of Culture & Arts, the Mexican Film Institute and the Churubusco Azteca Studios, which provides information and assistance on: location search, information on the film and tv industry's infrastructure, as liaison with the government departments, counselling on regulations and procedures, as well as all other matters related to the production. The Commission's staff speaks English.

For further information contact:

Mexico National Film Commission
Estudios Churubusco Azteca
Ave. Division del Norte #2462, 5FL.
Col. Portales C.P. D.F. 03300

MEXICO

Tel: (011) 52-55-5-688-0970;7813

Website: www.conafilm.org.mx

Additional contacts of regional and city film commissions may be found in this section under "Locations of Special Interest" and in the DIRECTORY SECTION under "COMMISSIONS".

3. MEXICO'S STUDIOS

A. Estudios Churubusco is the largest studio in Mexico offering all production services under one roof, with 8-12,000 sq.ft. soundproof stages, most advance sound recording facilities, projection rooms, editing room, production offices, dressing rooms, modern processing laboratory. It also has 3 television studios, 2 of 3000 sq.ft. and 1 of 9000 sq.ft.

B. Estudios America has 4 sound proof stages and other facilities.

C. Other Stages in Mexico City: Renta Imagen, Colomagic, Ajusco Studios, TV Cine and Foro Presa; in Juarez: Telespot.

D. Construction: New film studio is under construction in Ensenada, Baja California, to be ready by mid-1997.

E. Film & TV Infrastructure: Ranked among the 10 most important in the world, the Mexican Audiovisual industry offers the latest in equipment, facilities and services which meet the international quality requirements needed for an efficient motion picture, video or commercial production. A number of international companies have established branches and facilities or have distributors and representatives in Mexico City.

Many Mexican film technicians, creative and production personnel are experienced in working on international productions.

4. CO-PRODUCTIONS

Mexico has co-production agreements with the following:

A. Latin America: This agreement covers all audio-visual productions regardless of format or length with Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela. The co-producing countries must contribute at least 20% of the production costs, assist the project technically and artistically, provide 2 starring or supporting actors, and at least 2 technicians in any of its departments.

B. Canada: In the agreement between Mexico and Canada, the share may vary between a 20% and 80% of the budget, whereby the minority co-producer shall have to contribute, technically and creatively, proportionally to investment, either with technical or artistic participation.

C. Spain: The agreement is similar to the one between Mexico and Canada.