Visitors' Guide to CIMMYT
Before you travel

Be sure to check with the Mexican Embassy or Consulate to see if you require a visa. If this is the case, CIMMYT will help you get it. We will request your visa from the Foreign Office in Mexico, and have it issued at the Mexican Embassy or Consulate of your choice. Please send CIMMYT’s Visitors Service the following information for you and each person traveling with you.

1. Name as it appears in your passport (initials are not valid).
2. Nationality.
3. The Mexican Embassy or Consulate where you wish to pick up your visa.
4. Length of stay.
5. Approximate date of entry into Mexico

It takes up to one month to obtain a visa, so please give us the above information with sufficient advance notice. CIMMYT will send you a cable to the effect that your visa has been sent to the corresponding Mexican Embassy or Consulate. Upon receipt of this cable, you can claim your visa. You will not be allowed to enter Mexico without the appropriate visa.

International Health Certificate

Check that you have had the required vaccinations or inoculations and that they are current. Visitors from some countries will need valid yellow fever (within 10 years), smallpox (within 3 years), and cholera (within 6 months) vaccinations. Others will be required to have only a valid smallpox vaccination.
Transportation

Arrivals
If you cable your flight information well in advance to CENCIIMMYT MEXICO, we will meet you at the airport. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, and you arrive during non-office hours, take an airport taxi (rates for taxis are posted at the airport) to the hotel of your choice and call Visitors Service (585-43-55 extension 1213/1296) during working hours to request transportation or other information.

CIMMYT has a personnel bus that may be used in emergencies. The bus departs for El Batán from our office at Londres No. 40, Monday through Friday at 7:30 a.m.

Departures
CIMMYT provides transportation to the airport for those staying at El Batán. If you are staying in a hotel in Mexico City, we suggest you call Air Transportation, tel. 571-63-17, 571-28-27.

A departure tax is payable at the Mexico City Airport.

Airplane Tickets
Airplane tickets should be reconfirmed as soon as you know your date of departure. CIMMYT’s Visitors and Travel Service can do this for you.
Accommodations

Please ask Visitors Service to make reservations for you as early as possible as the hotels are often full, and CIMMYT has limited accommodations.

Mexico City

A comfortable, medium-priced hotel often used by CIMMYT visitors in Mexico City is the Hotel Geneve on Londres 130 (telephone: 211-00-71). Hotel Viena on Marsella 28 (566-07-00), Hotel Versalles on General Prim 59 (546-93-00) and the Hotel Sevilla on Serapio Rendón 126 (566-18-66) are recommended to trainees. Other, more expensive hotels include the Hotel Aristos, Reforma 276 (533-05-60) and the Hotel María Isabel, Reforma 825 (211-00-01).

If you arrive without hotel arrangements, the Mexican Hotel Association at the airport can help you free of charge.
Currency

Money may be exchanged at the airport banks, at hotels, or at any Mexico city bank Monday through Friday from 9:00-13:30. CIMMYT's cashier will change money on weekdays between 10:30-13:30 and 14:30-17:00.

Office Hours

CIMMYT's office hours at El Batán headquarters are 9:00-17:00 Monday through Friday. The main switchboard number is 585-43-55. If this line does not answer, try 585-47-57, 585-49-89, 585-42-68 or 585-48-57. Professional staff members and postdoctoral fellows living at El Batán may be reached through the above numbers.

Although all professional staff have their offices at El Batán, CIMMYT has an office in Mexico City, at Londres 40, 1st floor; office hours are 9:00-18:00. The telephone numbers are 514-46-30 and 514-51-84.
Food and Housing Services

CIMMYT operates a dormitory at El Batán for trainees and visitors, with single and double rooms; the Guest House has 11 doubles and 7 singles.

CIMMYT's Cafeteria at El Batán serves breakfast from 6:30-9:00, lunch from 12:30-14:30 and dinner from 19:00-20:30.

Advice on Dress, Food, Drink

The usual working dress for men is slacks and a short-sleeved shirt, and a hat when in the field. A jacket may be useful in the early morning and in the evening. Wear field shoes or boots as the fields are often muddy. A coat and tie is customary for evening social functions.

The high altitude may cause shortness of breath and make you feel tired or dizzy; for the first few days, it's a good idea to be moderate in food and drink. Avoid salads and highly spiced dishes in restaurants. CIMMYT visitors traveling elsewhere in Mexico are advised to drink only bottled water. Tap water at El Batán is potable. For further tourist information contact the Visitors Service.
Communications

Cables can be addressed to CENCIMMYT MEXICO and mail to CIMMYT, Londres 40, 1er. Piso, Mexico 6, D.F.

CIMMYT’s Telex number is 1772023 CIMTME.

The Center

CIMMYT is a private, autonomous, nonprofit, scientific and educational institution chartered under Mexican law to engage in the improvement of maize and wheat production on a world wide basis, with emphasis on the developing countries. CIMMYT headquarters is on a 78 hectare site at El Batán, 45 kilometers northeast of Mexico City on the Mexico-Veracruz (via Jalapa) highway, and about 4 kilometers from Texcoco, State of Mexico. It is approximately an hour and ten minutes’ drive from Mexico City.
CIMMYT works primarily on five experimental stations in Mexico. Four of these are operated by CIMMYT and one by INIA (The Mexican National Institute of Agricultural research).

Because of the wide range in temperature, moisture, and solar radiation at these stations, CIMMYT is able to simulate the major conditions of climate, disease, and pest infestation that exist in the maize-and wheat-growing areas of the world where CIMMYT is concentrating its efforts.

Mexico City. CIMMYT office is located at Londres 40.

El Batán-CIMMYT headquarters, 45 kilometers northeast of Mexico City.

Pyramids of Teotihuacán, probably the most famous pyramids in the Western Hemisphere. Built about 900 A.D. Located 20 kilometers from CIMMYT headquarters.

Chapingo, headquarters for the National Center for Agricultural Learning, Research and Extension of Mexico. Also headquarters for the Autonomous University of Chapingo and the Postgraduate School; 8 km. from CIMMYT headquarters.
Poza Rica, CIMMYT’s main low altitude maize research station; 282 kilometers northeast of Mexico City.

Tlahizapan, CIMMYT’s intermediate-altitude maize research station; 130 kilometers south of Mexico City, near Cuernavaca.

Toluca, CIMMYT’s highest altitude-wheat and maize station, 2640 meters above sea level; 60 kilometers west of Mexico City, at Atizapan.

Information about CIANO

During the winter months, CIMMYT conducts wheat research at CIANO (Agricultural Research Center for the Northwest), near Ciudad Obregón, Sonora. Mail should be addressed to CIANO, Apartado Postal 515, Ciudad Obregón, Sonora, México.

When in Ciudad Obregón, you can normally contact a CIMMYT staff member at CIANO, telephone 3-31-24, or at the Motel Costa de Oro, telephone 4-17-75. Transportation is generally available daily from the Motel Costa de Oro to CIANO at 7:30 a.m., returning at 12:00 and at 17:00; arrangements can also be made through a CIMMYT staff member. Regular working hours at CIANO are Monday-Friday, 8:00-12:00 and 13:30-17:00.
II Experiment station buildings

1. Administrative office
2. Station manager's house
3. Experiment station head office
4. Station machinery shed
5. Workshop and training machinery shed
6. Maize dryer and work area
7. Wheat dryer and work area
8. Silo area
9. Wheat training shed
10. Seed storage building
11. Training classroom
12. Wheat and Maize agronomy work area
13. Fertilizer and chemical storage
14. Wheat germplasm bank

III Housing and recreation area

1. Dormitories
2. Cafeteria
3. Guest house
4. Apartment houses for individuals on short term appointments
5. Vehicle repair shop
6. Warehouse
7. Volleyball court
8. Tennis courts
9. Football field
10. Swimming pool
11. Dressing rooms
12. "Rincón Mexicano" restaurant