

Dear Cordilleran GSA Members and Meeting Attendees traveling from the U.S. and Canada:

It has come to our attention that a number of U.S. universities currently have travel restrictions in place for university-related travel to Mexico, the same may be true of Canadian institutions. The travel restrictions potentially impact many attendees of the Cordilleran Section GSA meeting in Querétaro, Mexico (March 29-31, 2012). These were put in place following a U.S. State Department warning in April 2011 that discouraged travel to parts of Mexico where rates of mainly drug-related violence have increased. The State Department advisory and travel restrictions remain in effect and will likely still be in effect by the time of the meeting. The areas where the highest levels of violence have occurred have been mostly (but not exclusively) along the Mexico–U.S. Border (e.g. Nogales, Tijuana, and especially Ciudad Juarez). These areas are over 1000 miles (1600 km) from this year's meeting site in the fantastic and historic city of Querétaro, which is considered the safest place in Mexico. Direct flights to Querétaro are available from Houston (Continental) and Dallas (American).

The chance of being subjected to a violent crime in Querétaro is probably lower than in many U.S. cities, and we trust that the travel warnings will not deter you from attending what promises to be a fantastic scientific meeting in a beautiful and historic setting. Nevertheless, the restrictions mean that those wanting to attend the Cordilleran GSA meeting should begin the process of seeking special travel approval through their various administrative units as soon as possible, which will vary depending on the university. Within the California State University system, for example, travel to Mexico requires special approval of campus Presidents and the Chancellor's office. Even if you are not absolutely certain that you will submit an abstract and/or attend, we encourage you to request travel approval now. Seeking travel approval closer to the meeting might be difficult or cause delays that will make it impractical to attend. **Also remember that passports are necessary for travel between the U.S. and Mexico.**

Please visit the 2012 Cordilleran GSA website for more information related to the meeting and we'll see you in Querétaro!!

<http://www.geosociety.org/Sections/cord/2012mtg/>

Regards,

Cal Barnes, Section Chair

Jonathan Miller, Section Vice-Chair

Luca Ferrari, Meeting Chair