

2021 Mission Trip Expectations

May 29 – June 6

Description:

Tecate: A border town of around 120,000 people 40 miles east of San Diego; up in the mountains, separated from any other metro areas; relatively free from drug cartel crime because of separation

Travel:

We leave around 5 am Saturday morning, and drive to Flagstaff, AZ, with three stops. We leave about 8 am on Sunday morning and arrive in Tecate around 5 pm with 2 stops. We provide money for Saturday (lunch and dinner) and lunch on Sunday.

Shots: No. Being up-to-date on your vaccinations doesn't hurt, especially your tetanus shot, since we work in areas that may not have sanitary facilities.

Spending Money

If you want to buy snacks to eat while we travel or buy gifts for donors. The first day's travel is around 11-12 hours, depending on the length of stops we take and the second day's travel is about 8. We will also have a free day on Friday to shop for souvenirs, so you will need money for that. Be sure to bring small bills, so you can negotiate with the sellers. You shouldn't need more than \$50-\$75 for the whole trip.

Fund raising:

We hold fundraisers throughout the year (garage sales, bake sales); some people donate monthly toward their cost of the trip; everyone should write and send out support letters to family and friends; other fundraisers that we determine are necessary.

Ministry:

Building houses (churches, school, church additions, roof) cost \$3500 for 16x24 home with one dividing wall, usually takes 10 people per house, so the number of work sites depends on the number going on the trip

How do we choose who gets the houses we build?

Our friends in Tecate find people who need homes and own their land. We won't build for a family if they don't own the property, because the landowner can take the house and evict the people and rent it for more money. Sometimes we build for friends, sometimes we don't know who we will build for until we get there. But the Lord always gives us work to do.

VBS: 3 day program at a local church (hopefully) near at least one work site

Worship services: Wednesday and Thursday evening, done the way we do it in the US

Service: Everyone participates in everything (VBS, cleaning and kitchen help) The only exceptions are the site leaders who must keep the work moving to finish on time.

Accommodations:

We stay at a church campus in Tecate with dormitory rooms, a dining hall and bathrooms with showers.

Facilities:

- Non-potable running water – we provide drinking water
- Flushing toilets

- Hot showers (evening only and very short!)
- Bunk beds with mattresses

This is not the Hilton! We have a security gate closed and locked every night, and everyone is on the buddy system, especially the girls.

Clothing:

You need to pack light, but for just about any situation. We had snow there a week before we arrived one year, and we can have 90 degrees the whole week. Two years ago you could see your breath in the dining hall (remember, most places in Tecate don't have heaters!)

Plan on dressing in layers. Bring clothes you don't care a lot about, because they may be ruined by the time you head for home. Same for shoes. You will bring a sleeping bag or bed roll to sleep in, along with a pillow, and the nights can get very cool (40's or lower).

State Department travel advisory for Baja Peninsula (2/20/21):

Baja California state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution

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Exercise increased caution due to crime.

Criminal activity and violence occur throughout the state. Particularly notable is the number of homicides in non-tourist areas of Tijuana. Most homicides appeared to be targeted; however, criminal organization assassinations and turf battles can result in bystanders being injured or killed.

Due to poor cellular service and hazardous road conditions, U.S. government employees may only travel on Highway 2D between Mexicali and Tijuana during daylight hours.

There are no additional restrictions on travel for U.S. government employees in Baja California, which includes tourist areas in: Ensenada, Rosarito, and Tijuana.

COVID-19 Information is on the US Embassy site. It quite detailed. The plan, by the end of May is to have everyone 50 and over vaccinated. We will not know what will happen until we get much closer to the trip.