



# MEXICO: VISION TRIP

*Pre-trip information*

## DEADLINES

**3 months out:** Pay the nonrefundable deposit and submit the application (including acknowledgement of the waiver).

**~2 months out:** Book flights and purchase travel insurance.

**1 month out:** Pay the remaining balance (plus an additional amount if you opt for your own room—your trip lead will let you know if this is an option). Fill out and print your Official Entry Immigration Form (FMM).

**~2 weeks out:** The trip lead will host a pre-trip meeting.

## SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: travel day, orientation

Day 2: community visit

Day 3-4: final community visit, sight-seeing, debrief

Day 5: travel day

## BEFORE YOUR TRIP

**DOWNLOAD** WhatsApp on your phone; share the phone number you used with your trip lead (if different from on your application).

**PRAY** for your upcoming opportunity to learn about yourself and others, through experiencing the work God is doing to transform lives in Mexico.

**CHECK YOUR PASSPORT** to ensure it is valid at least 6 months past the last day of the trip.

**BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS** after receiving directions from the trip lead, so that they can coordinate arrival and departure times with the other trip participants.

**PRINT YOUR OFFICIAL ENTRY IMMIGRATION FORM (FMM)** for free at [www.mexicotouristcard.com](http://www.mexicotouristcard.com) within 30 days of the trip. Please contact the trip lead if you encounter any difficulties during this process.

**REFER TO OUR COVID-19 POLICY** on the Vision Trip website and consult the CDC website and/or your doctor for other vaccination and medication recommendations for Mexico.

**BUY TRAVEL INSURANCE** from a provider of your choice (recommended).

## DURING YOUR TRIP

- Celebrate cultural differences and do your best to stay flexible.
- Remember people's names and get to know them before requesting information. Pleasantries are important.
- Express gratitude! Local community members are very hospitable and will commonly offer food and drink. The trip lead will discuss etiquette around accepting food from participants during the pre-trip call.
- Try not to go anywhere alone or without your trip leader's knowledge.
- You may be approached and asked to give money. Our policy is to support communities to meet their own needs and not to give cash.
- You'll be staying in Hotel Trebol in Oaxaca City, an approximately 90-minute drive from the program sites. The trip lead will book your room for you and will reach out to discuss rooming options.
- Hotel Trebol offers breakfast. Most dinners will be at local restaurants near the hotel. Water served at restaurants is usually safe to drink, but please consult with a staff member if you are unsure.
- Some toilets cannot flush paper. Please be aware if there is a trash bin.



*We're so glad you're joining us on this transformative journey! Please don't hesitate to reach out to your trip lead with any questions. You'll receive a booklet with more on-the-ground trip information once we arrive in Mexico.*

# PACKING LIST

## Important Papers & Documents

- Passport with at least 6 mos. before expiry
- Driver's License
- Your printed Official Entry Immigration Form (FMM)
- Airline Tickets
- Cash<sup>1</sup>

## Toiletries & Personal care

- Important personal medications and over-the-counter medications (i.e. Pepto, Tylenol, Tums)
- Insect repellent<sup>2</sup>
- Portable hand sanitizer
- Sunscreen
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)
- Optional: small toiletries kit to freshen up during the day
- Water bottle
- Energy bars, gatorade pouches, etc.
- Ear plugs
- Towel<sup>3</sup>

## Misc.

- Photos of your family to share
- Spanish phrase book (or app)
- Phone charger (voltage in Mexico is the same as in the USA; no special chargers needed)
- Headphones
- Bible/journal & pen

## Accessories

- Sunglasses
- Hat and/or bandana
- Umbrella and/or rain poncho
- Flashlight and/or headlamp

## Clothing & Footwear

- Hiking boots or tennis shoes
- Flip flops or sandals
- Pajamas
- Clothing that looks presentable but can get muddy
- Long, breathable pants for community visits<sup>4</sup>
- Long sleeve, breathable shirts or jackets
- Comfortable clothes (to wear at the hotel)



## ETHICAL STORYTELLING + PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

Plant With Purpose believes that all people are created in the image of God and that we should interact with and portray everyone we meet with respect. If you choose to share photos and stories from your trip, please do so in an intentional way that preserves farming partners' dignity, safety, and right to privacy.

1. Always ask permission to take a partnering farmer or staff member's picture.
2. Ask a parent's permission to take a picture of anyone under 18.
3. Only share photos that communicate participant's dignity.
4. Never tag people in photographs. Only use a farmer's first name or given pseudonym (if applicable) when sharing their story publicly.
5. Turn off geotagging on your smartphone before arriving onsite and avoid sharing the name of a specific community (using the watershed name is okay).

1 Plant With Purpose covers all trip-related costs in country except personal purchases. We recommend bringing some small bills for emergencies and tourism days. Some businesses will accept U.S. dollars or credit cards, and you can exchange USD for Mexican Pesos in the airport.

2 Insect repellent will reduce the chance of insect-borne disease. Tip: Use a spray with 30% DEET or lower since it has fewer health risks.

3 If you aren't sure whether or not the place you're staying provides towels, ask your trip leader. You may pack a small, lightweight, absorbent travel towel.

4 Nylon/Nylon-blend recommended for active days

