

# Guidelines Sheet for a Good News in Action Mission Trip to Mexico City (CDMX)

Reviewed/Revised April 2024

This guidelines sheet has been specifically designed for you, a person who is either considering a GNIA trip to Mexico City, or who has already signed up for a trip. Please read this document all the way to the end. It is designed to prepare you and answer all your questions. Thank you in advance and we hope to see you very soon!

## 1. Where is Mexico City located and what is some helpful information about it?

**Mexico City**, or the **City of Mexico** (Spanish: *Ciudad de México*, American Spanish: abbreviated as **CDMX**), is Mexico's capital city, one of the 31 states which make up the 32 Federal Entities of Mexico. It is also the capital of Mexico and the most populous city in North America.<sup>[14]</sup> Mexico City is one of the most important cultural and financial centers in the world. It is located in the Valley of Mexico (*Valle de México*), a large valley in the high plateaus in the center of Mexico, at an altitude of 2,240 meters (7,350 ft). The city has 16 districts, formerly known as boroughs.

The 2023 population for Mexico City is 22.2 million people, with a land area of 1,485 square kilometers (573 sq. mi). According to the most recent definition agreed upon by the federal and state governments, the population of Greater Mexico City makes it the second largest metropolitan area of the Western Hemisphere, the eleventh-largest agglomeration, and the largest Spanish-speaking city in the world.



## 2. How will you get to CDMX? You will fly into the Benito Juárez International Airport, (MEX)

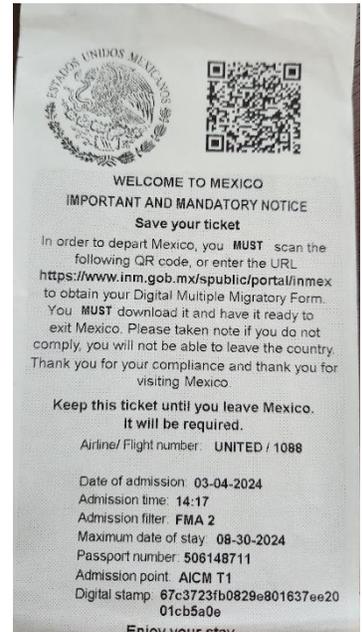
All teams arrange for and purchase their own flight itineraries. We will let you know prior to the trip what your airport transportation will be. It will most likely be private transportation that has been contracted for the week or church members along with Pastor Mario who will arrange for all the pick ups and drop offs.

## 3. What does the airport arrival procedure look like?

You will arrive at Terminal 1 or Terminal 2 depending upon what airline you fly. Consult this link for specific airport information <https://www.ifly.com/benito-juarez-airport/terminal-map>

Deboard your plane, follow the crowd to Immigration. Someone will meet you where all the lines begin and divide. You will be asked if you are a US Citizen, say yes, they will then ask you if you are coming as a tourist or on business. Say Tourist. The person will guide you into the correct line. Advance in the line until you get to some automated immigration machines. You will need to scan your passport picture page as indicated on the machine. Then a door will open, you will then walk inside the machine a few steps and stand on some foot

marks to get your picture taken, you will receive a printout (see image to the right) which you must keep safe and inside your passport during the time you are in Mexico. Then the second door will open, and you will be able to walk through and walk on your way to pick up your suitcases. They should have announced on your airplane, upon arrival, which baggage belt you will be picking up your bags up at. Go to that belt. Once you have your bags you are ready to exit. There will be an airport representative there who will ask you for your paper bag tag claim check you were given when you checked in your bags. Give your bags tag claim checks to this representative. You will then proceed to the exit where you will walk a stretch. You may be asked to run your bags and belongings through an x-ray machine. They often have “fresh food” dogs there smelling all the luggage to detect any fresh food a traveler might try to enter Mexico with. Be sure not to bring in any fresh food.....if you do, and the “food dog” detects it, you will be asked to dispose of it at that point.



Once you clear Customs, exit through the only door available for Exit. This will take you to an area still inside the building. Please walk to Green Door #7, go outside, and wait to be picked up (see Image to the left). Sometimes Pastor Mario or a representative from Vida Nueva Mexico City will be waiting right outside the Customs Exit Doors, holding a sign that says “Good News In Action.” That person will direct you to your transportation. From the airport, you will be transported to the hotel in private transportation that has been secured for the week.

For details about what to expect when arriving at the airport, please read this blog: <https://medium.com/@dglid/what-to-expect-when-arriving-at-mexico-citys-benito-juarez-international-airport-mex-47bfdc4e563>

#### 4. What are the Hotel details?

You will be staying at the hotel “ONE Ciudad de Mexico Patriotismo”.

We will make the hotel reservations for the team according to the team list your team leader sends in to Good News In Action 8 weeks prior to the trip.

The Hotel ONE Address is: Av. Patriotismo 229, San Pedro de los Pinos, 03800, Ciudad de México, México.

Website: <https://www.onehoteles.com/en/hotels/one-ciudad-de-mexico-patriotismo>

We invite you to click on their website and familiarize yourself with the hotel details and amenities. The website is in both English and Spanish. Look at the upper left corner to switch to English if it opens in Spanish. This hotel is located inside a very big shopping mall called Plaza Metropoli on Patriotismo Avenue. The benefits of this location are unlimited, providing many options for meals, shopping, and much more. The area surrounding the hotel is one of the best in Mexico City.

The current prices for a single or double room per night is 1434 Mexican Pesos. (1200 Mexican pesos plus taxes). This price includes a full-service buffet breakfast along with many more amenities you can read about on their website.

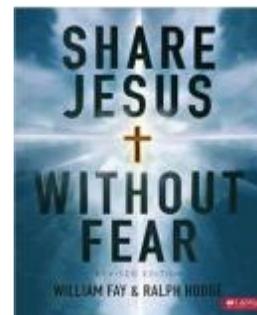
The current exchange rate is about 16 Mexican Pesos to one USD. Utilizing that exchange rate, the approximate cost in USD per night for a single or double room is \$89.65.

Please remember that these prices can fluctuate as the exchange rate changes.

## 5. What do you need to do to be prepared for the mission trip to CDMX?

Your spiritual preparation is most important. All team members **MUST BE TRAINED** in Personal Evangelism and be highly competent in sharing the gospel utilizing a standard method such as “Share Jesus Without Fear”, Evangelism Explosion, The Four Spiritual Laws, The Roman Road, The Big Question Tract, 3 Circles, etc.

Approved Evangelism tools for the trip include: The wordless book or Evangelism bracelets or necklaces with the presentation well memorized as well as the verses. The Big Question Gospel Tract, The Evangelism Cube.



## 6. What is the best way to prepare children and/or preteens for ministry and evangelism?

Help them learn how to share the gospel using any of the above visual aids. Teach them the basics and encourage them to share with children their age.

## 7. What are the Recommended Vaccines for Mexico City?

Check this link to get more detailed information.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/mexico>

**8. Do I need a Covid-19 negative test or proof of vaccination to enter Mexico?** No, neither is required to enter the country of Mexico.

## 9. What does Good News in Action need from you?

We will need your **COMPLETE TEAM ROSTER** and your **COMPLETE FLIGHT INFORMATION** no later than 8 weeks prior to your trip. You will send this to [gnamissiontrips@gmail.com](mailto:gnamissiontrips@gmail.com). You will be provided with an Excel sheet to use in creating your team roster. The following information is required:

- Full legal name as it appears on the passport of each participant.
- Team members grouped into hotel rooms as they desire to stay (single, double, or triple rooms).
- The US passport number for each person.
- The gender and age of each person.
- The relationship among roommates if applicable.
- The email address of each team member.

- A short description of any past mission experience.
- A notation of any special talents (Spanish, Preaching, Music, Paint Board, Drama, Sports, Medical, Children or Youth).
- A notation of any special medical or physical concerns a person might have.
- A list of Prescriptions a team member is taking.

## 10. What are all the costs associated with the trip?

(Please use this to make your budget).

- Airfare (Variable).
- Hotel Stay (About \$600 for a Single Room or Double Room for one week.) (Saturday to Saturday.)
- Lunch and Dinner money (\$20-25 per day).
- Water bottles for the week (\$15).
- Souvenirs (\$30) optional.
- Medical treatment or medicine in the event someone gets sick (\$50).
- Phone Calls (optional).
- An Offering for the church on Sunday (optional).
- A LOGISTICAL FEE: \$425 per person USD Cash. (Effective July 1, 2024) Every team member helps to cover the cost of logistics for the week. This fee will be collected during the initial orientation meeting. Please, nothing higher than \$20.00 bills. All bills must be in excellent condition. Please place the \$425.00 fee into an envelope and write the team member's name on the outside as well as the name of the church. The Logistical Fee will be used to help defray the costs of transportation, translators, all paper materials, stickers, permissions, fees, materials, and supplies for the Family Festivals, Pet Festivals, hotel conference rooms, and any other logistical cost for the week. If you need or would like a Contribution Record (Tax Deductible Contribution Statement) for the logistic fee, please send a request to [goodnewsinacionelsalvador@gmail.com](mailto:goodnewsinacionelsalvador@gmail.com).
- One 5 Pound Bag of Candy (Costco, Sams, Target, Walmart)
- One Ball of your choice (Basketball or Soccer) deflated is fine
- Family Festival or Pet Festival Prizes (Optional)

## 11. What should you pack for your trip?

- A Bible or Bilingual New Testament (paperback). The version most widely used in Mexico City is the Reina-Valera 1960.
  - Pens.
  - Hand sanitizer and/or wipes.
  - A pocket flashlight.
  - A hat & sun block.
  - Pain reliever for headaches.
  - Imodium in case of diarrhea.
  - Conservative Warm Clothing (shorts may not be worn for any ministry activity).
- A warm jacket is recommended for evenings.
- Comfortable closed shoes.
  - An intestinal infection antibiotic such as Cipro or Bactrim.
  - Anti-allergy medication if you are subject to allergies.
  - A poncho or umbrella (can rain at any time of the year).
  - Personal medications.

## **12. What are some extra resources that could be brought that would be a blessing to Mexicans?**

More candy or snack packs

More soccer or basketballs

Gospel bracelets

Fluorescent bracelets

Basic Hygiene kits to give away

Basic School Supply kits to give away

## **13. What does the Basic (Approximate) Schedule for the week look like?**

**Saturday:** Arrivals, hotel check in, get settled.

**Sunday:** 10AM Orientation meeting (bring \$425 per person logistical fee, and all other materials you brought to use during the week to turn please), Church at the Hotel (11AM-1PM), 4-8PM Afternoon Evangelistic Outreach

**Monday-Friday:** 9-10AM Devotional meeting, 10:30AM-1:30PM Morning Evangelistic Outreach, Lunch Break, 4-8 PM Afternoon-Evening Evangelistic Outreach

**Saturday:** Departure.

You will be provided with a full printable schedule of the week a few days prior to your trip. Please be prompt to all the times listed on the schedule.

Also, team leaders, please count your people every time you board the bus as this will help us depart on time. We will always ask if all your team members are present, it is very helpful if you can answer this question quickly.

## **14. What is the key Word for the week? "FLEXIBILITY".**

Please be sure you possess a willingness to "go with the flow" while on the mission trip. Constant unexpected change is a common part of Latin American Culture and without a doubt, you will experience this.

## **15. What kind of ministry might we be doing with Vida Nueva Mexico?**

Every activity will have as its goal the reaching of people with the gospel. During the morning, the most common activity will be One on One Evangelism at a variety of locations. Afternoons and Evenings we will be in the parks of highly populated areas where again we will be sharing the gospel One on One. The week might also include a special activity which will be explained prior to the trip. These might include Family and Pet Festivals.

## **16. What are the instructions regarding currency exchange?**

**Upon arrival, please exchange all the money you want in cash for the week AT THE AIRPORT.** There are two places where you can change money at the airport. One is INSIDE the baggage claim area. The second is just OUTSIDE the baggage claim area. Please exchange money at the windows OUTSIDE of the Baggage Claim area. Inside the baggage claim area, they offer about 13.30 exchange rate, while outside the Baggage Claim area it is about 16.60. The reason we ask you to do this is because the hotel does not exchange dollars into pesos. The only other place to get dollars exchanged into Pesos is at "Exchange Houses" or in Spanish "Casas de Cambio." There are a few located around the city, but it will be inconvenient to go, wait in line, and exchange money at them for a lower exchange rate than at the airport.

**How much money should you exchange for the week?** We recommend that you use your credit card as much as possible all week long. Food, hotel, incidentals, etc should all be purchased with a credit card as you will get a much better exchange rate. With that said, we recommend you just get some "pocket change" for the week.

You might use cash to get water, snacks, or possibly a souvenir. You also might want some pesos to put in the offering at church on Sunday. We recommend you exchange something between \$50 and \$100, since it is just for incidentals during the week.

If during the week you end up needing more Pesos for something, we recommend you use an ATM machine. There is one ATM machine in the Lobby of the hotel. It only works with DEBIT cards that require a PIN (be sure you have alerted your bank!). Other ATM machines can easily be found in all the malls. You will receive Pesos for your transaction. They charge a small service fee.

Try to use only Credit Cards (not debit cards) during your week in Mexico City. They are much safer. (You will have to use a DEBIT card if you use an ATM machine)

Finally, don't forget to inform your bank or credit card company of your trip to Mexico City so that you will be able to use your credit card without any difficulties.

### **17. At the end of my trip, how will I get back to the airport?**

First, plan to be at the airport at least 2 hours prior to your scheduled departure, we will take you to the airport in the transportation contracted to do so. If a large group of people all depart at the same time, it might be necessary to leave an hour earlier to complete the trips for all travelers. Some team members may need to go to the airport early to accommodate the entire team. Be aware that some airlines require checking into the airport 3 hours in advance. This tends to be the case with the NON USA Air carriers.

### **18. Are there any aspects of the Mexican Culture that will naturally provide opportunities to build bridges for sharing the gospel?**

YES! The people of Mexico love to talk and engage in conversation, they appreciate literature and art, as well as sports. They are very friendly to foreigners and tourists, and are avid soccer fans (great conversation starter, their favorite teams are the Pumas, Tigres and Rayados).

### **19. Are there any aspects of the culture that may cause a barrier for the Gospel?**

YES! Since **CDMX** is a very large city, everyone is constantly on the rapid move and lives a stressful life, it is a challenge to get them to stop and really consider the depth and breadth of the gospel. Boldness is necessary to be successful.

The strongest religious influence in Mexico, is the Catholic church. Idolatry and syncretism are common. You might even see some "Shamans" (witches) performing their rites. Please avoid the conversations about the Virgin Mary (unless they initiate), that will close any door. Christian Churches are considered weird because most of them are charismatic. For this reason, our invitation is always to "Study the Bible ". This invitation usually yields good results because there is a new generation that is wanting to know about God.

### **20. What are the most common struggles teammates might face in a mission trip to Mexico City?**

- Be prepared for the weather. Mexico City has a subtropical highland climate, with warm summers and mild winters, and an annual average temperature of 64°F (18°C). Seasonal variations in temperature are small, but May is the warmest month of the year, and January the coldest, when night frosts are possible. The average maximum temperatures of late spring and summer may reach up to 77°F (25°C), and the average low winter temperatures reach 45°F (7°C). Mexico City has a high average annual rainfall, with the wettest month being July, and the driest month February. Even during the summer rainy season, travelers are likely to get plenty of sunshine between showers.

- Be prepared for the poor air quality. Mexico City suffers from terrible air pollution and the city is often smoggy, with poor visibility. This air pollution is at its worst during winter. Pollution can irritate your eyes, nasal cavities, and lips. Consider packing some eye drops, Vaseline, and ChapStick if you have a sensitivity in any of those areas.

## 21. What is the Mexico Church information?

Vida Nueva Mexico City is our 6<sup>th</sup> international church plant.

Vida Nueva Mexico City meets every Sunday morning at 11AM at the Courtyard by Marriot Mexico City Revolucion. Ave Revolución 333, Tacubaya, Miguel Hidalgo, 11870, Ciudad de Mexico. Salon Cambridge A Here is a photo of the Vida Nueva CDMX Pastor and his family:



Mario, Silvia, Andres and David Del Valle.

Contact Email:

Pastor Mario Del Valle

[Mariohdelvalle@gmail.com](mailto:Mariohdelvalle@gmail.com)

Whatsapp Texting:

+52 1 56 2492 7344 (Mario del Valle)

We are looking forward to seeing you soon. May God Bless you as you prepare for your trip! If you have any additional questions, please feel free to write us at

[gnamissiontrips@gmail.com](mailto:gnamissiontrips@gmail.com).

Your missionaries serving in Latin America,  
Steve and Pam Kern

Montse Figueroa, Mission Trip Coordinator, +503 7740 0056 Whatsapp texting.