

PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO

12 days / 11 nights

"He has not dealt thus with any other nation"

(Pope Clement VII, in 1532, quoting Ps. 147:20 in astonishment, upon learning of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico)

Day 1: Departure from the U.S. to Mexico City (D)

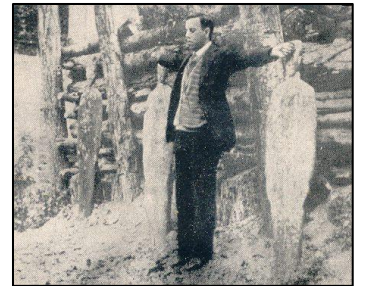
Depart for Mexico City and meet your Faith Journeys' Pilgrimage Manager upon arrival in Mexico City, who will assist you to the awaiting chartered motor coach for a transfer to the hotel. Mass will be celebrated at nearby Church of the Holy Family, where Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro is buried. Your Hotel will be located Welcome Dinner and overnight in Mexico City.



Day 2: Mexico City (B,L,D)

"Let not your heart be disturbed... Am I not here, I who have the honor of being your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything." (Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego)

After breakfast at hotel, transfer to Teotihuacan to see the ancient Pyramids of the Sun and Moon and view from inside the extraordinary Temple of Quetzalcoatl. Time for Buffet lunch included. Then, continue to transfer to the Basilica of Guadalupe for reflection and Mass. Afterwards visit Santa María Tulpetlac Church where Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego's uncle Bernardo.



Day 3: Mexico City (B,D)

"Blessed Juan Diego, a good, Christian Indian, whom simple people have always considered a saint! We ask you to accompany the Church on her pilgrimage in Mexico, so that she may be more evangelizing and more missionary each day. Encourage the Bishops, support the priests, inspire new and holy vocations, help all those who give their lives to the cause of Christ and the spread of his Kingdom." (Pope John Paul II)

After breakfast we begin today at the Plaza of the Three Cultures. The square contains the remains of Aztec temples and is flanked by the Catholic church of Santiago de Tlatelolco (built between 1604 and 1610). The Church of Santiago, named after St. James the Apostle, the patron of Spain, contains the baptismal font of Saint Juan Diego. Here we will celebrate Mass. Juan Diego was on his way to the Franciscan Monastery located here when the Blessed Virgin appeared to him.



In the afternoon we will visit Anthropology Museum and Coyoacan. You will have some free time then return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4: Puebla (B,D)

Enjoy a spectacular drive to what some regard to be Mexico's most beautiful city: Puebla. On your ride, you will climb to over 10,000 feet and visit the magnificent peaks of Orizaba and Popocatepetl. In Puebla you will visit the Cathedral Basilica of Nuestra Señora de la Inmaculada Concepción. We will then visit the Capilla del Rosario, at the Church of St. Dominic, once known as the "Eighth Wonder of the World," and celebrate Mass. This 17th century chapel is perhaps the greatest example of the New Spanish Baroque style. We will also visit the Church of St. Francis of Assisi where the incorrupt body of Blessed Sebastian de Aparicio (1502-1600) is laid to rest. Return to Mexico City for dinner and overnight.





Day 5: Mexico City (B,D)

After breakfast at hotel, enjoy sightseeing of the city, including el Zócalo, the Metropolitan Cathedral, National Palace, the Templo Mayor, Ministry of Education, Palacio de Bellas Artes and Alameda Park. Mass in the Cathedral. Return to hotel for a farewell dinner.

In the evening, transfer to Ballet Folklórico of Amalia Hernandez. This show could change of location to other historical enclosure, and only performs on Wednesday and on Sunday.



Day 6: Guanajuato (B,D)

After breakfast at hotel, transfer to Guanajuato. Upon arrival, enjoy some free time sightseeing including a visit to the Valenciana silver mine and the Cathedral. Check-in to the hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day 7: San Miguel de Allende, Atotonilco, Dolores Hidalgo (B,D)

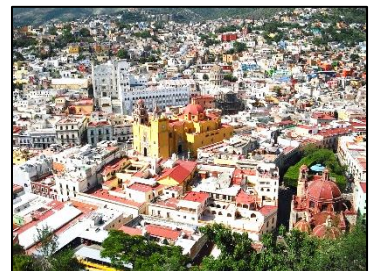
After breakfast at hotel, transfer to San Miguel de Allende. Visit to the Parish of San Miguel Allende, a grand, neo-Gothic 17th-century church known for its soaring pink spires & lofty, ornate sanctuary to attend with Mass. In the afternoon visit the Sanctuary of Atotonilco. The main feature of the complex is the rich Mexican Baroque mural work that adorns the main nave and chapels, that has led the complex to be dubbed the "Sistine Chapel of Mexico." Head to the town of Dolores Hidalgo where Fr. Miguel Hidalgo initiated the War of Independence with the Grito de Hidalgo, then return to the hotel in Guanajuato for overnight.



Day 8: Guanajuato, Leon (B,D)

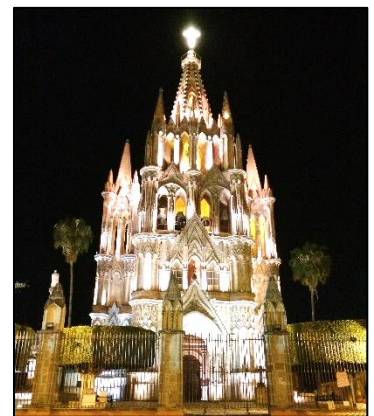
"Grant that we may be one flock and one shepherd! Do not allow your net to be torn. Make us vessels of unity." (Homily of Pope Benedict XVI)

After breakfast at hotel, transfer to Leon. Visit the Christo Rey Shrine and the *Templo Expiatorio del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús*, the Chapel of Roman Martyrs at the Cathedral of León, and the Museum of Sacred Art. Return to Guanajuato for dinner.



Day 9: San Juan de los Lagos, Guadalajara (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart toward San Juan de los Lagos from Guanajuato (approximately 2-hour drive). San Juan de los Lagos is located at the Region Altos Norte in the state of Jalisco where the Basilica de Nuestra Señora de San Juan de los Lagos is situated, the second most visited Basilica in Mexico. The basilica is constructed with excellent architectural taste of Spanish baroque style. We'll then travel a short distance to Jalostotitlán to visit the Shrine of the martyr, St. Toribio Romo González. We continue to Guadalajara, approximately a 2-hour drive. Arrive in Guadalajara and check-in at the hotel.



Day 10: Tequila (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Leave to tour Tequila. This tour will explore the origins of the national drink of excellence, explore its antique distilleries, and admire its agave landscape declared a Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO. Explore the magical town of Tequila, Jalisco. One will experience the sensation of getting lost in the fields of blue agave, perceive the aroma of cooked agave and taste the tequila in the artisan distilleries most representative of Mexico. Return to Guadalajara for dinner and overnight at the hotel.



Day 11: Guadalajara, Zapopan (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel. City tour of Guadalajara. It initiates at the zone of Minerva, the arches of Guadalajara and then circle around the most exclusive zone of Guadalajara in the XVIII century. We stop at one of the most beautiful churches, El Expiatorio. Enjoy the birth of the new town of the Pueblo Magico (Magic Town) of Tlaquepaque, a place of beautiful artisans, galleries and restaurants. Time for lunch. Continue to visit the Virgin of Zapopan a 25-



minute drive from Guadalajara. She is much venerated and known for being very miraculous. Return to Guadalajara for a farewell dinner.

Day 12: Depart for Home

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Hotel check-out. Transportation to the Guadalajara International Airport to take flight back home.

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