

☪ Mexico and Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage ☪

November 16 – 23, 2020

Tour Chaplain: Fr. Mario Marin



Day 01 ~ NOV 16, MON Vancouver-Mexico City.

Depart Vancouver this afternoon aboard Air Canada 996 on a direct flight to Mexico City. Estimated time of arrival is 12:15am. Transfer to Hotel. Overnight in Mexico City.

Day 02 ~ NOV 17, TUE Mexico City ~ Overnight at [Hotel]
Mass at The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

MEXICO CITY: SHRINE OF GUADALUPE & TEOTIHUACAN PYRAMIDS TOUR~

Breakfast. First stop is *La Villa de Guadalupe*, the complex that includes Tepeyac Hill, probably the holiest



site of Roman Catholicism in Latin America. Visit the Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe, one of Mexico's holiest places; the New Basilica is a modern round building next door to the original shrine (Old Basilica, the *Templo Expiatorio a Cristo Rey*), nowadays a religious museum. View the Tilma of Juan

Diego bearing the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the new Basilica. Walk up Tepeyac Hill to the Chapel of Cerrito, built on the site of Juan Diego's vision. Take in the spectacular view of the complex and the city from atop the hill. Celebrate **Mass** (per schedule) and continue to the Teotihuacan Pyramids, built as flat-topped bases for ceremonial temples reaching high into the sky, to get closer to the Gods. The Sun and the Moon pyramids, the Citadel with its Quetzalcoatl's Temple and the Jaguar's Temple are the major constructions along the nearly mile-long Avenue of the Dead. Founded in 1325, the capital of the Mexican empire would see its demise in 1521 with the arrival of the Spaniards. Today you can see the ruins of the *Templo Mayor*, the sacred building where Huitzilopochtli (the god of war) was worshipped along with Tláloc (god of the rain). Lunch stop en route to Teotihuacan Pyramids. Return to Mexico City; overnight. (B, D)



Day 03 ~ NOV 18, WED Mexico City ~ Overnight at [Hotel]
Day excursion to Coyoacan and Xochimilco. Mass in Coyoacan.

XOCHIMILCO and COYOACAN~ Breakfast. Depart Mexico City for a day's excursion to Xochimilco



and Coyoacan, but not after a panoramic tour of the city, driving through its biggest avenue: *Insurgentes*. Along this avenue are some of the most important places of Mexico City, like the World Trade Center and the Cultural Poliforum Siqueiros. Stop at the Plaza de Toros Mexico, the second biggest in the world (after *Plaza la Venta* in Madrid). Ride through the residential zone *Pedregal* (Lava Gardens), continuing to *Ciudad Universitaria*, an architectural and cultural jewel,

considered the greatest exponent of modernism in Latin America and recently declared Cultural Patrimony. Right in front is the Olympic Stadium. Continue your tour to the colonial and famous Coyoacan, which once was the residence of the Spanish conquerors. Mass at Coyoacan. The neighborhoods of San Angel and Coyoacan started as provincial towns that were gradually absorbed by the city. They still, however, retain the charm of the colonial era, full of churches and cobbled streets, and home to elaborately decorated stone mansions. Continue to Xochimilco, also known as "the floating gardens." The tour includes a delightful ride on a typical *Trajinera* (small flat-bottomed barges) bedecked with flowers. These "floating gardens" date from pre-Hispanic times. Colorful trainers (punts) are propelled along canals, while passenger boats pass others carrying mariachi musicians or marimba. Return to Mexico City; overnight. (B, D)

**Day 04 ~ NOV 19, THU Mexico City to Taxco ~ Overnight at [Hotel]
Stop at Cuernavaca en route to Taxco. Mass in Cuernavaca.**

CUERNAVACA AND TAXCO~ Breakfast.. Today, you head for Taxco via Cuernavaca. Driving through a modern highway, we reach Cuernavaca, also known as the “City of the Eternal Spring” for its pleasant weather year-round. We have a brief visit to the Cathedral, *Templo de la Asunción de María*, where Mass will be celebrated, and then continue on to Taxco, Mexico’s silver center. This beautiful colonial town is built on the side of a mountain, and is considered a national monument. Located here are the most important silver mines, and the artisans flood the streets. Stop at a silver shop to have courtesy refreshment, and an explanation of how silver is mined. Visit to the main square or *Zocalo* and the Santa Prisca Church. There are towns in Mexico that owe their existence and wealth to mining precious metals-- Taxco is one of these towns. Locals learned not only to dig more silver from the ground but to also manufacture the jewelry that made this town famous. Full of narrow cobbled streets, this little corner of Guerrero was at its pinnacle of importance during the Viceroyalty of New Spain in the 16th century. It is built to be admired from any square or terrace, with its hills and white houses that appear to climb into the horizon. Check-in at your hotel. Dinner at the Hotel (drinks not included). Overnight in Taxco. (B, D)



**Day 05 ~ NOV 20, FRI Taxco to Puebla ~ Overnight at [Hotel]
Mass at Santa Prisca, Taxco.**

TAXCO to PUEBLA~ Breakfast. After breakfast, we celebrate Mass at the Church of Santa Prisca, locally known as Parroquia de Santa Prisca y San Sebastian built between 1751 and 1758 upon order of one of the most prosperous miners of the time. Until 1806, it was the tallest in Mexico. Stop for lunch along the way as we drive on to Puebla. Spend the afternoon in this beautiful city also known as “America’s Reliquary”. Puebla is Mexico’s fourth largest city is perhaps its most characteristically Spanish, with lovely, typical colonial architecture giving it great dignity and charm. The center of the city, the Plaza or *Zocalo*, is a good place to begin sightseeing. Visit the Rosary Chapel [*Capilla del Rosario*] attached to the Church of Santo Domingo. During the 17th century, the Chapel was considered the eighth wonder of the world; inside you will appreciate the stunning and ornate works of Mexican craftsmanship giving honor to the Blessed Virgin as Our Lady of the Rosary. The Dominicans dedicated this chapel to her as they were at the time promoting the practice of the rosary. The bejeweled statue of the Blessed Virgin is surrounded by saints, martyrs and angels, and the chapel walls covered with works of onyx, tile and gold leaf. It’s sculptures, figures and carvings considered among the greatest examples of New Spanish baroque. Nearby are the *Parian* Market and the Artists Quarter [*Barrios de los Artistas*]. Proceed to hotel; overnight. (B, D)



**Day 06 ~ NOV 21, SAT Puebla ~ Overnight at [Hotel]
Day excursion to Ocotlán and Tlaxcala.**

OCOTLÁN / TLAXCALA / PUEBLA~ Breakfast. Visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Ocotlán built in 1541, after the miracle of the apparition of the Virgin Mary to Juan Diego Bernardino when she asked for its construction. Hence also it is one of the main pilgrimage centers in the country. One of the best expressions of Baroque Churrigueresque, this temple is full of symbolism and religious art, highlighting the figure of Our Lady of Ocotlán, which they say changes color between red and pale. After Mass at the Basilica and a lunch stop en route, return to Puebla for a short city tour with the group. Some time to explore this city on your own before rejoining your group for dinner. Overnight at hotel. (B, D)



Day 07 ~ NOV 22, SUN Puebla to Mexico City ~ Overnight at [Hotel]

Breakfast. Depart for Mexico City over an excellent toll road set in the Sierra Madre foothills; driving through the Sierra Madre mountain range, enjoy the lovely scenery en route with four of Mexico's best known volcanoes within view: Popocatepetl, Iztaccihuatl, Malinche and Citlaltepetl or Pico the Orizaba. Lunch on your own. Then free time in the afternoon. You may opt to return to *La Villa de Guadalupe*. Spend time for private devotion; visit the Basilica Museum; visit any of the many chapels within the complex; roam the grounds of *La Villa* a last time. Purchase religious momentos at the *Colecteria*. Attend Sunday Mass at the Basilica, and then say goodbye to Our Lady of Guadalupe. (B, D)

**Day 08 ~ NOV 23, MON Mexico City – Vancouver**

Your pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe ends today. Depart Mexico City and board your early morning flight to Vancouver. Air Canada 997 direct flight departing Mexico City at 5:45am; expected arrival time in Vancouver is 9:35am. *Vaya con Dios!*

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Tour Package	:	\$ 2,820.- per person, based on double occupancy
Single Supplement	:	\$ 561.-
Land arrangement only	:	\$ 1,838.- per person, based on double occupancy
Deposit, non-refundable	:	\$ 350.- due upon registration.
Final payment	:	September 7, 2020

* Note: A minimum of 25 paying persons required for this tour to proceed.

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INCLUDED:

- Airfare: Vancouver / Mexico/ Vancouver on Economy class
- Airport – hotel transfers
- Hotel Accommodations on Twin sharing basis
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary **(B-Breakfast, D-Dinner)**
- Gratuities for handling of luggage at Airport and Hotels
- Tips to Drivers; tips to service staff for meals at Hotels
- Private Bus and English-speaking Tour Guide

NOT INCLUDED:

- Baggage charges
- Lunch
- Beverages not included in the meals
- Laundry, phone calls, internet charges, room incidentals and other charges purely personal in nature
- Insurance

INSURANCE: *Purchase of Comprehensive Insurance* which covers, among other things, Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Excess Hospital & Medical Insurance and Baggage Insurance, *is strongly recommended*. Be aware that pre-existing medical conditions exclusions may apply.

CANCELLATION PENALTIES: If cancellation is made:

- over 90 days before departure = \$500
- 89 - 60 days before departure = 25% of total price;
- 59 - 30 days prior to departure = 50% of total price;
- 29 days prior, up to departure date = 100% of total price.

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Our pilgrimage tours are accompanied by a priest. On occasion, perhaps due to sickness or some other reason, the priest scheduled to accompany the group may not be with us for all or part of the time, in which case we may invite another priest or use the excellent facilities provided by local chaplains. This would be a 'minor change' and we would not be liable for compensation.



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For information and to reserve your place on our tour, contact:

Priscilla L. Estrada or Isabel Ong

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