



Myperegrinotour.com • travel@myperegrinotour.com • 305-488-1473

**“STRENGTHENING THE BOND” PILGRIMAGE
FROM CHICAGO TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, MEXICO CITY**

**Very Rev. Esequiel Sanchez - Rector
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Plaines, IL, U.S.A.**

Essential Facts of the Pilgrimage

Early Bird Price - Valid until April 22, 2024

**\$2,600 per person in a shared room if paid by check or cash
\$2,750 per person in a shared room if paid by credit card**

Standard Price:

**\$2,800 per person in a shared room if paid by check or cash
\$2,950 per person in a shared room if paid by credit card**

Send checks, or money orders, to Peregrino, PO Box 1242, 1000 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, IL 60018. Do not send checks via Certified Mail. First Class is sufficient.

\$650 supplement for a single room.

Single rooms are not guaranteed and should be requested as soon as possible.

\$1,000 deposit required to register

Final payment due date: August 1, 2024

Credit Card payments can only be made on our website, not by phone.

Questions? travel@myperegrinotour.com or call 305-488-1473

Hablamos Español - llámanos a mándanos un correo.

MEXICO ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPARTURE

Depart Chicago O'Hare Airport on flight to Mexico City. The flight will depart in the afternoon U.S. Central Time and be direct. Upon arrival, travel by private coach bus to the hotel in the central area of Mexico City.

DAY 2: ZÓCALO; CATHEDRAL; LA VILLA

After breakfast at the hotel, our pilgrimage begins with a guided walking tour of the zócalo, Mexico City's enormous town square and beating heart. Mexico's National Palace fronts the square - we'll see painter Diego Rivera's colorful murals which adorn the palace's walls. We'll then tour the immense colonial Cathedral and its adjacent baptistery, which face the zócalo. These sacred interiors drip with churrigueresque gold and are filled with genuine liturgical art from the colonial period. (Look for the plaque to Bishop Juan de Zumárraga in the Cathedral. He was the first to see the tilma.) After the National Palace and the Cathedral, our guide will lead us through the fascinating Museo del Templo Mayor, built over the remains of a massive Aztec temple, which is stuffed with pre-Colombian Mexican artifacts. This zone was the administrative core of Tenochtitlan, the New World's greatest city. It is near here that Moctezuma, the Aztec's great leader, was killed.

After lunch near the zócalo, the group will travel by bus to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Villa, the most visited Marian shrine in the world. The group will have Mass at the shrine, pray the rosary, and have a guided tour of the extensive grounds, including the colonial era Basilica. There will be time for shopping in the many religious stores. La Villa is the spiritual home of the Mexican nation. It is many things - a place of communal prayer, history, national identity, and personal encounter with the Virgin Mary and her son Jesus. In the evening the group will return by bus to the hotel to rest after an eventful day.

DAY 3: LA VILLA; CHAPULTEPEC; ANTHROPOLOGY MUSEUM

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to La Villa by charter bus for Mass and a special series of prayer events and talks meant to "Strengthen the Bond" between the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines and its Mother Shrine in Mexico City. Exact details to be determined.

After lunch near La Villa, in the afternoon the group will travel by bus for a guided tour of the Castle in Chapultepec Park and then visit one of the world's greatest museums, El Museo Nacional de Antropología. This is the most visited museum in all of Mexico. Here we'll take a deep dive into old Mexico and its artefacts, from the Aztec Sun Dial to huge Olmec stone heads. There is no need to visit every archeological site in Mexico - the sites come to you here, all under one roof. In the evening return by bus to the hotel for a peaceful evening.

DAY 4: PUEBLA; TLAXCALA; VIRGIN OF OCOTLAN

Breakfast at the hotel. Today the group travels by charter bus to Puebla, a city with a vast colonial core, about two hours from Mexico City. Mass will be held at Puebla's enormous Cathedral, one of the first built in New Spain. The group will enjoy lunch near Puebla's handsome zocalo, and then pray at the gilded chapel of the rosary, a liturgical jewel box. Time permitting, the group will visit the nearby Biblioteca Palafoxiana and have some time for shopping. In the late afternoon we'll return to the D.F. by way of Tlaxcala, doing a mini-pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Ocotlan. The Virgin here has been venerated for almost as long as the Virgin of Guadalupe. Time permitting, we may have a short tour of Tlaxcala's iconic bull ring, with its charming bell tower. Return to the hotel in Mexico City in the evening.

DAY 5: LA VILLA; COYOACAN; MEXICO CITY

Breakfast at the hotel. The pilgrimage returns to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the morning for Mass, prayer, and a final farewell. In the afternoon it's then on to Coyoacán, one of Mexico City's oldest neighborhoods. There will be time for lunch and then a pleasant tour of the charming, narrow, tree-lined streets of Coyoacán. The neighborhood hides two plazas, the colonial church of San Juan Bautista, numerous cantinas, some small museums, and various markets and artistic shops. In the evening return to the hotel for a "last supper" as a group in a local restaurant.

Day 6: DEPARTURE

Departure from the hotel in the morning to check-in for your flight to Chicago O'Hare, arriving in the afternoon or early evening.

"Strengthening the Bond" Pilgrimage 2024 **Questions and Answers**

What does the cost include? Round trip economy flight Chicago – Mexico City, all airline taxes and fuel surcharges, transfer to and from airport to hotel, bus throughout tour, clean, private bath, 3 or 4 star hotel room; all museum entrance fees; audio headsets throughout tour; all professional guides; all breakfasts; two lunches; and three dinners.

What does the cost *not* include? Meals not specified in the itinerary, taxis, tips for your guides, and the carrying of luggage from the airport baggage claim area to the bus, and to and from the bus to the hotel. We recommend bringing about \$50 for taxis and always sharing taxi rides.

What is the cancellation policy? All cancellations must be made by e-mail by the same person(s) who registered for the trip. The following penalties are applicable if you cancel:

From date of reservation until **DATE** \$500 is non-refundable, but transferable to a person replacing the person cancelling, for the same tour and dates.

As of **DATE** 100% of the tour price is non-refundable and non-transferable per person.

Is there a registration form? There is no registration form. Peregrino tries to make registration as easy as possible. To register for the pilgrimage send an e-mail to travel@myperegrinotour.com with the name, address, phone, and e-mail for each pilgrim who would like to go. Please indicate the parents or legal guardians of minor travelers. You will be officially notified of your registration via e-mail the day your check is deposited or your credit card payment clears. After sending your check, please allow one week for us to confirm your registration via e-mail.

Do I need a passport? Yes. If you are a U.S. citizen, you will need a passport to travel to Mexico. Passports are required for everyone, even children and infants. The expiration date of the passport must be beyond six months after the date of re-entry into the U.S. A scan of the ID page of your passport must be received by e-mail at travel@myperegrinotour.com or a copy must be sent via mail to Peregrino Tours at PO Box 1242, 1000 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines IL 60018 prior to the final payment deadline. The copy of the passport and its information will be shared with no one. All documentary or digital traces of the copy of the passport will be destroyed at the conclusion of the tour.

Do I need to obtain a visa? U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Mexico for a short trip. Non-U.S. citizens must verify with the Mexican consulate if they need a visa to enter Mexico. Mexican citizens living in the U.S. must verify their ability to enter Mexico and to re-enter the U.S. Peregrino Tours cannot assist a pilgrim to verify their travel status.

Is there any chance the trip would be cancelled? In the remote possibility that the trip is cancelled, the entire cost of the trip will be reimbursed. An extraordinary event such as an airline strike, weather event, act of God, or international incident will not necessarily cause the trip to be cancelled. Trip insurance would provide total protection against such unlikely eventualities.

I'd like to go, but I don't have a roommate to share the cost. What can I do? You can either pay the single occupancy supplement or be willing to be assigned a roommate if one is available. That will depend, of course, on the number of solo travelers of the same sex, but Peregrino will keep track of who needs roommates and coordinate as needed. If a roommate is available but is refused, the traveler will be required to pay the single supplement. And if there is an odd number of pilgrims and no roommate can be found for a single traveler, the single supplement must be paid, with the latest registrant being obligated to purchase a single room. If non-spouses or non-family members would like to share a room with another pilgrim, they must each communicate such to Peregrino in an email.

Can I reserve a place even though I have not paid in full? You can reserve your place by making a deposit of \$1,000, or by paying the full amount, upon registration.

What about travel insurance? Peregrino Tours does not offer travel insurance. But for the protection of our pilgrims, we recommend they purchase travel insurance. Information is readily available online and some recommendations are linked on our website. These recommendations are not an endorsement of any company but only the result of prior traveler's experiences.

Why would I want travel insurance? Insurance is a good idea for those who have an unpredictable medical condition and for those who have a family member whose ill health, or even death, may preclude going on the pilgrimage. Travel insurance must normally be purchased shortly after registering for the trip. It normally cannot be purchased close to the date of departure, or it may be priced exorbitantly.

Can I use airline miles or points? Peregrino prefers that all pilgrims fly together both to and from their destination and arrive at, and leave from, their hotel together. Based on experience, we do not allow pilgrims to be part of our pilgrimages if they travel apart from the group.

Can I upgrade my plane seating or otherwise arrange to sit with family and friends? Peregrino Tours organizes its tour pricing based on economy seating. We are sorry but we cannot arrange economy plus, business class, first class, aisle seats, or other upgrades on this pilgrimage. We will try to accommodate friends and family who request to sit together on flights. But plane seating is ultimately a decision for each airline and airlines are not always transparent about how seating is apportioned.

What about travelers with special needs? Any pilgrim with special needs or dietary restrictions must inform Peregrino at the time of registration. There will be considerable walking on the tour so being able to stand for long periods and to walk long distances is presumed upon registering. A physically capable companion must accompany travelers who need assistance. Coach buses are not equipped with ramps, so all travelers must be able to mount steps into a bus. Many buildings in Mexico are also less handicap accessible than American buildings. Taking the occasional taxi can greatly alleviate a day's number of steps.

Can anyone go on the trip? Although this will be a Catholic focused pilgrimage, non-Catholics are welcome to come. Minors are welcome provided they travel with family. In order to ensure a rewarding, positive, and faith filled experience for all pilgrims, Peregrino reserves the right to reject any guest, either before or during the trip, whose comportment contradicts or is otherwise harmful to the interests of the group.

What if I have more questions? Most questions about this pilgrimage can be answered by your group leader or by consulting this information sheet. You can also contact us at travel@myperegrinotour.com or 305-488-1473.