

DATES: We depart from Valley Community Church (VCC) at 6 am on Saturday, July 20, and return to VCC on Saturday, July 20th at approximately 5 pm. Depart Ensenada on July 26th and arrive back in Pleasanton on July 27th.

COSTS: \$520 per person. We never want finances to be a barrier, so please reach out if you anticipate needing assistance.”

METHOD OF TRAVEL: Our journey to Ensenada will be in two 15-passenger vans. To create sufficient space for cargo, one back row of seating will be removed from each van, accommodating up to 12 people per van. The vans are equipped with comfort and air conditioning. The drive from Pleasanton to Ensenada takes approximately 10-11 hours, factoring in potential border inspection time. We will make a lunch stop at an outdoor mall in Orange County, where various food options are available. (Participants are responsible for covering the cost of their lunches on the road.)

ACCOMMODATIONS: Our hosts in Ensenada will be Dennis and Debbie Hollenbeck and Edgar and NG Hernández (Dennis and Debbie’s daughter and son-in-law) at the Las Tres Palmas ministry site. It is a secure facility with a kitchen and dining hall on the ground floor and two separate sleeping quarters upstairs. Men will be accommodated in one bunk room, while the ladies will stay in the other.

Each bunk room is equipped with showers, a dressing area, and separate bathroom stalls. Adjusting to Ensenada living involves consideration of plumbing. Drinking water should never be sourced from the faucet tap, even when showering or brushing teeth. Due to sensitive plumbing, toilet paper should not be flushed; instead, it should be placed in the trash can provided next to the toilet. In case of oversight, a pair of tongs is available for retrieving toilet paper from the bowl.

FAQs - Ensenada Mission Trip

Q1: What is the main purpose of the mission trip to Ensenada?

A1: The primary goal of our trip to Ensenada is to serve as God’s instruments of his grace, to be His hands and feet. Our activities include building homes for needy families, repairing roofs at local churches, hosting beach outreaches for youth groups, and serving with Shelter Of His Wings who helps special needs children living in poor communities in Mexico. These endeavors allow us to forge new connections, strengthen existing relationships, grow our faith and share the love of Jesus with the community.

Q2: What does the itinerary look like?

A2: Here's a sample of our week in 2023:

- Saturday: Drive to Ensenada; settle in at Las Tres Palmas ministry compound; enjoy a taco dinner.
- Sunday: Attend a local church service; visit the beach.
- Monday: Group divided into teams for cement foundation and wall-building; visit "La Bufadora" in the afternoon.
- Tuesday: Work on the construction site in the morning; host VBS at Casa Esperanza in the afternoon; Mexican ice cream or churros in the evening.
- Wednesday: Continue working on interior and exterior walls; host VBS at Casa Esperanza in the afternoon; enjoy Mexican ice cream or churros in the evening.

- Thursday: Paint the exterior of the home; present keys to the homeowner; celebrate with a special meal; visit Shelter Under His Wings in the afternoon and host VBS for special needs children; beach Outreach with local youth in the evening.
- Friday: Depart Las Tres Palmas; repair church roofs or deliver blessing baskets to local homes; travel to Oceanside, California; stay overnight at a Best Western hotel with included dinner.
- Saturday: Enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast at the hotel and return to Valley Community Church.

Q3: Are there any leisure activities during the trip?

A3: Yes, while the main focus is on mission work, we also ensure some downtime to enjoy local sights, visit the beach, and relish meals at local restaurants.

Q4: What accommodations are provided with the cost?

A4: Participants will stay at the secure Las Tres Palmas ministry compound in bunk rooms with showers. In Oceanside, California, we will stay at a Best Western hotel with standard amenities.

Q5: How are meals handled during the trip?

A5: Most meals are provided, including a taco dinner on arrival, special celebration meals, and a complimentary continental breakfast at the hotel. Participants are responsible for covering the cost of lunches or extra food costs on the road.

Q6: Is there a cost associated with the trip?

A6: Yes, the trip fee covers accommodation, meals, and transportation during the mission trip, including the hotel stay in Oceanside.

Q7: How can I learn more about the organizations we'll be working with, such as Casa Esperanza and Shelter Under His Wings?*

A7: You can visit their websites at [Casa Esperanza](<http://www.micasaesperanza.com/>) and [Shelter Under His Wings](<https://shelterofhiswings.org/>) for more information on their missions and activities.

Q8: Is tap water safe to use in Ensenada?

A8: No, tap water in Ensenada is not safe to use, but safe filtered water will be on site.

Q9: What if I have dietary restrictions or special needs?

A9: Please inform the trip organizers of any dietary restrictions or special needs in advance, and we will do our best to accommodate them.

Q10: How do I sign up for the mission trip?

A10: [Click here](#)