

Mexico: A Sampling of Program Activities



Agriculture/Sustainable Development

- Visit to a rural and/or indigenous community to discuss communal land issues
- Learn about rural economics and agricultural production
- Hear diverse perspective on GMOs (genetically modified food)

Arts and Culture

- Visit to pre-Hispanic pyramids
- Visit museums on indigenous/Mexican history
- See Colonial art and Mexican murals
- Private concert by and conversation with a feminist and/or LGBTQ activist who uses music for social change
- Salsa Latin dance class

Education

- Visit to a public/private primary or secondary school; college or university
- Visit NGO working on popular education
- Meet with university students and dialogue with university faculty in a specific discipline

Environment

- Presentation related to environmental issues
- Meet with local environmental activists and government officials
- Visit ecological reserve and take an eco-tour of Cuernavaca and its ravines
- Visit a water treatment plant
- Visit an Industrial Park and talk with business leaders about the environment
- Learn about what Mexico City is doing to try to combat pollution there
- Ride bikes from the border of Morelos to Mexico City and see environmental changes
- Take various forms of transportation in Mexico City
- Meet with an environmental activist in Mexico City who dresses up as a superhero (traditional to Mexican wrestling) to bring attention to the issues of pedestrians

Gender, Women, and Sexual Issues

- Meet with groups of Mexican feminists working on sexual and reproductive rights
- Meet with grassroots women's organizations in urban or rural contexts
- Meet with LGBTQ activists and men about gender issues
- Meet with Mexican academics working on gender issues
- Go to a drag show or receive a private performance from a local drag queen

Globalization and Trade

- Opportunity to purchase crafts directly from producers in the United Artisans Cooperative
- Presentation on the Mexican economy: talk on debt, poverty reduction, and the feminization of poverty
- Talk on the effects of mega-projects in rural areas
- Discussion of free trade agreements with people who have different perspectives
- Visit to a factory or assembly plant (*maquiladora*)

Health

- Visit to a state and/or private hospital: overview of the organization of the Mexican health care system, its strengths and challenges
- Visit the National Public Health Institute and learn about research and programs related to maternal health and talk with a midwife
- Meet with state health officials and learn about alternative medicine
- Experience an indigenous sweat lodge (*temescal*)

Human Rights

- Visit with groups involved in children's rights
- Visit with groups involved with land issues
- Visit a marginalized urban neighborhood

Politics and History

- Overview of current political and economic situation
- Presentation on the Mexican revolution and its significance today
- Meet with members of Mexico's elite socio-economic class
- Meet with representatives of at least one major political party and/or a smaller opposition party and women involved in party politics

Religion/Faith

- Worship in a local church
- Attend a Base Christian Community meeting
- Meet with a liberation theologian
- Visit a faith-based grassroots organization
- Participate in an indigenous ceremony and learn about indigenous spirituality and cosmovision
- Visit an evangelical and/or Pentecostal church
- Learn about folk Catholicism and religious syncretism
- Discuss Church-State relations and the role of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church
- Visit with faculty and students at one of the Protestant seminaries in Mexico City

U.S.-Mexican Relations and Immigration

- Meet with Mexican government officials
- Briefing at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City
- Meet with Mexicans who have gone to the United States to work and families of migrant workers
- Talk with individuals or a family who were deported from the United States
- Visit a migrant shelter in Mexico City and talk with Central Americans who are in route to the United States, many of whom are fleeing violence in their home country

Other Options

- Urban or rural homestay
- Spanish language instruction
- Outing to a Mexican style water park (usually outdoor pools and slides surrounded grassy areas)
- Visit an artisan market – time for handicraft and other shopping

Mexico City

- National Museum of Anthropology and History
- National Palace (Diego Rivera murals)
- *Templo Mayor* Museum
- *Ballet Folklórico*
- Palace of Fine Arts
- Museum of Interventions
- Mariachi Square
- Teotihuacán pyramid site
- Frida Kahlo Museum
- National Cathedral
- Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe
- Chapultepec Park