



If you have any further questions,
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FAQ's for Mission Trips to Mexico

1. How much does a Back2Back mission trip cost? Do you have fundraising ideas?
2. What is the average cost of flights and is this cost included in the Back2Back fee?
3. What is included in the cost of your Back2Back per person fee?
4. Do I need a passport to travel to Mexico?
5. What are the lengths of your trips?
6. When do you have trips? What is your availability?
7. What is the minimum age requirement? Maximum?
8. What meals do the teams eat? Is the water safe?
9. What are the travel arrangements to and from the airport in Monterrey?
10. Where do the teams stay?
11. What is the minimum group size?
12. What is the maximum group size?
13. Can individuals or families join an existing group that is already on the schedule?
14. What is a typical trip agenda – the daily itinerary?
15. What kinds of projects do the teams work on?
16. What are your greatest needs as a ministry right now?
17. Where can I find more information about donating toward ministry needs at the children's homes/ministry sites?
18. Is Monterrey safe? Is the Back2Back property safe?
19. Is there medical care nearby if I get injured or sick while there?
20. What is the weather like in Monterrey?
21. Do you purchase traveler's insurance for all teams?
22. Does Back2Back require any immunizations?
23. What paperwork does each trip participant have to fill out?
24. What should I pack?
25. Does Back2Back evangelize?
26. Does Back2Back provide a translator for the team?
27. Can I read/watch testimonies of previous trip participants?

All answers to these questions follow below:

1. How much does a Back2Back mission trip cost? Do you have fundraising ideas?

A: The cost of a mission trip depends on the duration of time staying in Monterrey.

- There is Back2Back per person fee & also a group bus fee. This group bus fee is divided up by the amount of people in the group so that each person is paying the same amount.
- For four days: It is \$301 per person plus bus fee \$900
- For five days: It is \$360 per person plus bus fee \$1,100
- For six days: It is \$420 per person plus bus fee \$1,300
- For seven days: It is \$480 per person plus bus fee \$1,500
- The per person fee could change yearly for various reasons
- Yes, we do have fundraising ideas for individuals and groups. Please contact Chelsie Puterbaugh to receive information on fundraising.

2. What is the average cost of flights and is this cost included in the Back2Back fee?

A: The average cost for a ticket to Monterrey is anywhere from \$600-\$850. This cost is **not** included in the Back2Back fee. All flight arrangements are to be made separately of Back2Back. We do not handle flights. However, we can recommend a travel agent for you to use to book your flights.

3. What is included in the cost of your Back2Back per person fee?

A: The cost includes the following:

- Food
- Projects/Activities
- Housing
- Traveler's Insurance
- A portion of the Back2Back fee covers the expenses for all the supplies and materials you will need while serving

4. Do I need a passport to travel to Mexico?

A: Yes, you must have a passport in order to travel to Mexico.

5. What are the lengths of your trips?

A: The lengths of our trips are as short as four days and at most, seven days

6. When do you have trips? What is your availability?

A: We have groups serve with us all year. However, there are specific time frames that are unavailable for groups. These time frames include:

- The months of August & December
- The week before Easter, the week of Easter, and the week after Easter
- We block-out one week per month (except for the months of June & July). Please contact Chelsie Puterbaugh (chelsie@back2backministries.org) to confirm available weeks.

7. What is the minimum age requirement? Maximum?

A: The minimum age requirement is four years old. We don't have a maximum age requirement.

8. What meals do the teams eat? Is the water safe?

A:

- For Breakfast – cereal, toast (butter, jelly, and peanut butter), apples/bananas, hard boiled eggs (sometimes), coffee, and juice
- For Lunch – peanut butter & jelly sandwich, ham or turkey & cheese sandwich, chips, apple slices, carrot slices, water
- For Dinner – We have a Mexican cook that prepares all meals for dinner. She prepares a variety of authentic Mexican dishes, including tostados and tacos.
- Yes, the water you drink on our campus and during work projects is safe to drink. All of our water is filtered through our own well system.

9. What are the travel arrangements to and from the airport in Monterrey?

A: Travel arrangements to and from the airport are handled by Back2Back staff. The buses we use are the same ones that your group will ride on throughout the week. This service is covered by your transportation fee.

10. Where do the teams stay?

A: All of our teams stay on the Back2Back property. We have different dormitories where the groups sleep. The ladies stay in one dorm(s) and the men in a separate dorm (s). Some teams request to serve at remote orphanage sites, in which case alternate sleeping arrangements would be made. If you are interested, call Chelsie Puterbaugh for information.

11. What is the minimum group size?

A: The minimum group size is ten people

12. What is the maximum group size?

A: The maximum group size is ninety people. However, please know that if a group is larger than thirty-two people we break them into two separate groups. With ninety people we will break the team up into three groups of thirty. If a group size exceeds thirty-two people we will have to get a second bus, doubling the transportation fee.

13. Can individuals or families join an existing group that is already on the schedule?

A: Yes! Individuals and families can join existing groups that are already scheduled to serve with us. We frequently connect individuals who don't have a team with an existing group.

14. What is a typical daily schedule?

A: A typical day serving with Back2Back includes:

- Breakfast: 8am-9am
- Devotional/Reflection Time: 9am-9:30am
- Small group time (optional): 9:30am-10:00am
- Leave for the day to assigned children's home: between 10 and 10:30am
- Lunch: On-site around noon
- Leave children's home and head back to campus for dinner: between 5 and 6pm
- Dinner: between 6:30 and 7pm (The exact time can vary, as we can't always account for unexpected delays, such as traffic, etc.)
- Debriefing and group reflection with your group: after dinner
- Bed/Lights out: 11pm

15. What kind of projects do the teams work on?

A: The type of projects that each team works on vary, depending on the current needs of the children's homes that Back2Back serves. Common projects include painting, pouring concrete, building a fence, plumbing, general construction and repairs, playing with the children (crafts, games, soccer, etc), etc.

16. What are your greatest needs as a ministry right now?

A: Our greatest needs are:

1. Funding for the HOPE Education Program -
 - a. **Program description:** The Hope Program is built around residence style living on our new campus property addition. Students who have come through the local children's homes are invited to join the program at the end of their public education, the end of their 9th grade year at age 15. Eight teens live in a home with college educated house parents who provide mentoring, guidance, and general support for the teens as they pursue their academic and career goals. Students who finish high school and complete the program are provided with a college scholarship, empowering them to achieve their goals through education. In a country where only 4% of the population graduates from college, the Hope Education Program is providing students with an opportunity to be the leaders of tomorrow.
 - b. Monthly financial support is needed to operate these homes. Funding needs include utilities, food, clothing, household, and transportation expenses. If you are interested in supporting a Hope Program student, please contact Brian Bertke at the Back2Back US office at brian@back2backministries.org or 513.754.0300, ext 1708.
2. Child Sponsorship –
 - a. **Program description:** Through the Shelter Child Sponsorship Program, you can make a lasting difference in the life of a child at one of the orphanages with which we partner, through monthly child sponsorship. To us, providing shelter goes beyond simply meeting the physical needs of a child. It means helping each child understand the love, care and protection of their heavenly Father. Sponsors assist us in accomplishing that, by contributing toward the expense of providing food, housing, clothing, health care and educational opportunities, as well as spiritual training and personal development.

recommendations and guidelines. Also, please consult your family doctor for recommendations regarding immunizations.

23. What paperwork does each trip participant have to fill out?

A: Each trip participant is required to fill out several forms in order to participate on a mission trip. All adults must fill out three forms:

- An Emergency Information form (this form has to be notarized)
- A Liability Release (this form has to be notarized)
- An Agreement Policy (which does not have to be notarized).

All minors fill out four forms:

- An Emergency Information form (this form has to be notarized)
- A Liability Release for Minors (this form must be notarized)
- An Agreement Policy (this form does not need to be notarized)
- A Permission for Minors to Travel (this form must be notarized)

24. What should I pack?

A: Our packing list can be found on our website at

<http://www.back2backministries.org/documents/20091203132441Items%20To%20Pack.pdf>

25. Does Back2Back evangelize?

A: Back2Back is a ministry that is centered on relationship, by serving the “least of these”. We strongly desire and pray that each child and family we serve will come to know Jesus as their personal Savior. As we focus on serving and building relationships, we use that as a platform to share God’s love and His desire for us to know and be known by Him. We share the Gospel to others by sharing our lives. As Paul writes, “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” -1 Thessalonians 2:8.

26. Does Back2Back provide a translator for the team?

A: Yes, we always make sure that there is someone with your team who speaks Spanish. Our in-country team is made up of Mexican Nationals and American Staff who speak Spanish. Wherever your team is going there will be at least one staff member who speaks Spanish. There may even be someone on your team who is fluent as well!

27. Can I read/watch testimonies of previous trip participants?

A: Yes! Please check out the Back2Back blog at <http://back2backministries.wordpress.com> and become a fan of Back2Back on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/back2backministries>. You will be able to read a variety of stories and hear testimonies of what God is doing through Back2Back!

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