



## TRAVEL UPDATE – AUGUST 2023

### **Traveling to Mexico**

Each year 21.4 million visitors travel to Mexico, which ranks it 8th in the world in total tourism. Since 1987 YWAM has hosted more than 150,000 participants in Northern Baja, Mexico. None of our participants, groups or staff has experienced any incidents of violent crime. We credit God's mercy and grace and some good sound operating principles we have in place as being the key reasons for our longstanding safety record.

### **Operational Principles**

Group based, not individual based: Everything we do is done as a group. We travel and work in groups. At no time are people sent alone to do anything in Mexico.

### **Staff participation**

Each group always has one or more YWAM staff members with them. We are a full-service mission's group and provide general setup and supervision of all our teams and groups. We presently have a staff of more than 230 people who work to serve the visiting groups.

### **Communications**

YWAM staff have cell phones, so we can have ongoing communications as needed while working in Mexico.

### **Local Knowledge**

We seek to avoid any unsafe areas. YWAM and its visiting teams do not work independently of the communities in which we serve. We work together with local pastors and community leaders who know their communities well. We stay connected with the US Consulate in Tijuana for additional information and updates. Our teams are very well received, and we have even won a variety of awards from the Mayors of both Tijuana and Ensenada in appreciation of our work with the poor.

### **Hours of Operation**

Our work takes place primarily in daylight hours. Normally all our activities are completed with people back in their rooms by 10pm. We also employ security guards at both our Tijuana and Ensenada Centers.

### **Summary**

We appreciate the trust that is extended to us every time a group joins us in serving the poor and needy in Mexico, and we work hard to make sure that our trips are as well run and safe as possible. If you have any additional questions, contact our group registration office ([hoh@ywamsdb.org](mailto:hoh@ywamsdb.org)) and we will be happy to assist in any way that we can.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Lambert".

Sean Lambert  
President