



Pilgrimage to Mexico

A once-in-a-lifetime journey to Our Lady of Guadalupe

6-19 June 2022

Led by Fr Russell Pollitt SJ

**Fowler
Tours SA**



www.fowlertours.co.za/mexico

Welcome to a special Pilgrimage

Join our special pilgrimage to Mexico in June 2022, led by Fr Russell Pollitt SJ (pictured right). Our focus will be on Our Lady of Guadalupe, with an important visit to the tomb of the martyr Fr Miguel Pro, like Fr Russell a Jesuit. But we will also discover much about the history, culture and beauty of Mexico.

Built on the ruins of the ancient Aztec city of Tenochtitlan, Mexico City is one of the oldest and largest cities in the Americas. And it is the centre of the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, **the world's most popular site of Catholic pilgrimage!**

In December 1531, Our Lady appeared four times to an indigenous peasant named Juan Diego and once more to his uncle, Juan Bernardino, in Guadalupe, now a suburb of



Mexico City. Miraculously, an image of Our Lady appeared on Juan Diego's cloak, which is now enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The basilica is the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world.

We also visit San Miguel de Allende, a colonial-era city in Mexico's central highlands known for its baroque Spanish architecture and culture. In the city's historic, cobblestoned centre is the neo-Gothic church of San Miguel Arcángel, whose dramatic pink towers rise above the main plaza, El Jardín.

Accommodation is in 3/4* hotels and includes breakfast and dinner. Hotels as listed in the itinerary or similar. *Limited breakaways are possible (on a first-come basis).*

**Book now for this special,
once-in-a-lifetime
Pilgrimage to Mexico!**



Plaza del Zócalo, Mexico City



Mexico City's Cathedral



New Basilica of Guadalupe

Monday, June 6, 2022

We meet at OR Tambo International in Johannesburg to depart for our journey to Mexico.

Wednesday, June 8

At our arrival in **Mexico City** we transfer to our hotel, the 4-star **Hotel Zócalo Central**, located in the city's historic centre near the Metropolitan Cathedral. We have time at leisure to explore famous sights such as the Templo Mayor and Palacio Nacional, all within a few minutes walk from our hotel. **Overnight:** Mexico City

Thursday, June 9

Today we have a guided tour of the **historical centre of Mexico City**, visiting the Metropolitan Cathedral, the **El Zócalo** main square, National Palace and the Palace of Fine Arts. We drive along the Reforma Avenue to **Chapultepec Park**, to the residential area of Las Lomas de Chapultepec, to get a complete impression of the biggest city in the world. We see the great icon of Mexico City: the golden **Angel of Independence**. We visit the **Castle of Chapultepec**, now a museum, and in the afternoon the National Museum of Anthropology, which houses the **Aztec Calendar Stone**. Dinner will be at a local restaurant. **Overnight:** Mexico City

Friday, June 10

Today we visit the **Basilica of Guadalupe** in the north of Mexico City. The **Old Basilica**, known as the "Templo Expiatorio a Cristo Rey," was constructed between 1531 and 1709. The **New Basilica**, which houses Juan Diego's *tilma*, or cloak, with the miraculous image of Our Lady, was completed in 1974. We will have time to explore the world's most-visited Catholic shrine and make use of the many spiritual treasures of this holy site.

In the afternoon we visit the tomb of the martyr **St Miguel Pro** in the beautiful **Church of the Holy Family** (Sagrada Familia). In the 1920s, during a time when the Catholic Church was brutally persecuted by a secularist government, the



Tomb of St Miguel Pro, Mexico City



Pyramid of the Sun, Teotihuacan



San Miguel de Allende

Jesuit Father Miguel was one of Mexico's most-wanted fugitives. A master of disguise, he was a folk hero who secretly ministered to Catholics, eluding the authorities for years. One time he went into a police station to ask directions! But later he was captured and sentenced to face a firing squad on November 23, 1927. As the firing squad took aim, the priest held his rosary and exclaimed "Viva Cristo Rey!" (Long live Christ the King). **Overnight:** Mexico City

Saturday, June 11

Today we visit the famous **Pyramids of Teotihuacan** for an expert-guided tour of the colossal Sun- and Moon pyramids. Teotihuacan was the largest city in the pre-colonial Americas. At this time, it may have had more than 200,000 inhabitants, placing it among the largest cities of the world in this period. At 225 meters across and 75 meters high, Pyramid of the Sun is the third-largest pyramid in the world.

We then continue to colonial **San Miguel de Allende** where we stay in the Hotel Real de Minas. Our hotel has 500 m² of beautiful gardens and a swimming pool. **Overnight:** San Miguel de Allende

Sunday, June 12

Today we visit the famous the 17th-century **Church of San Miguel** which is unique in Mexico and the emblem of the town. The church, dedicated to the Archangel Michael, has a Neo-gothic facade with two tall towers that can be seen from most parts of town. It is one of the most photographed churches in Mexico.

We then visit the **Casa de Allende Museum**, home of Mexican independence fighter Ignacio Allende. The structure was built in 1759. In the afternoon we have time at leisure. **Overnight:** San Miguel de Allende



Jesus Nazareno Sanctuary



Nuestra Señora de la Salud



Guanajuato's Basilica

Monday, June 13

After breakfast we drive to the village of **Atonilco**, in the state of Guanajuato. The **Sanctuary of Jesus Nazareno** was built in the 18th century by Father Luis Felipe Neri de Alfaro after he had a vision of Jesus with a crown of thorns on his head with blood on his face and carrying a cross. The World Heritage Site is known as the "Sistine Chapel of America". Its church is adorned with many frescoes, sculptures, portraits and other works of art.

In the afternoon we return to San Miguel de Allende and visit the 18th-century **Nuestra Señora de la Salud Church** whose portal in the shape of a large seashell. One altar contains an image of Christ, the Good Shepherd, defending his sheep from various dangers including a group of unicorns. The church originally served as the chapel of the adjacent St Francis de Sales College. **Overnight:** San Miguel de Allende



Isla de Janitzio



San Juan Parangaricutiro Church



Mexico's flag and the *tilma*

Tuesday, June 14

Today we move to the city of **Guanajuato** with its narrow and winding roads. The historic centre of the city is filled with colonial area mansions, churches and civil constructions built with pink or green sandstone and small plazas. We enjoy a city tour through historic centre.

We then continue to **Pátzcuaro** where we stay at the colonial Don Vasco Hotel at the entrance to the magical town. It has its own swimming pool, own chapel and many other amenities. **Overnight:** Pátzcuaro

Wednesday, June 15

Pátzcuaro is a beautiful tranquil town founded in the 1320s and later taken over by the colonialists. Associated with Pátzcuaro are a number of islands, the best-known of which is Janitzio. **Isla de Janitzio** is the main island of Lake Pátzcuaro. The town of Janitzio, which means "where it rains". A 40-metre high statue of independence hero **José María Morelos** stands on the island's highest point. Visitors can climb to the top of the statue by way of a staircase that spirals up the inside. Through peepholes in Morelo's huge raised fist one has views of the island, lake and surroundings. We enjoy dinner in local restaurant. **Overnight:** Pátzcuaro

Thursday, June 16

After breakfast in our hotel, we visit the **Volcano National Park Paricutin**. On February 20, 1943 this volcano erupted and spat out gigantic lava masses for the next nine years. Over the years, the villages of San Juan Parangaricutiro and Paricutin were covered by ash rain and lava flows. The eruptions ended in 1952, leaving a final scoria cone with a height of 424m from the valley floor. Even today, a church spire still sticks out of the black lava masses, and the partially destroyed high altar is still adorned with flowers. bizarre lava fields and reach the partially destroyed church. **Overnight:** Mexico City

Friday, June 17

We have breakfast in our hotel, and according to departure time, transfer to the airport to begin our journey home. We are expected to arrive in Johannesburg in the morning of June 19.

Breakfasts and Dinners included

How to book on this beautiful pilgrimage

A deposit of R5,400 secures your place on this unforgettable pilgrimage.

Est. Price: R51,724 (sharing, ex-Jhb; subject to currency, airport tax fluctuations. Calculated on 21+ passengers, at R15,25 to the dollar)

Includes: All flights ex-Johannesburg (incl. airport taxes), accommodation in 3/4-star hotels or better (sharing) with breakfast and dinner, transfers, travel insurance, travelling on air-conditioned luxury buses, English-speaking tour guides, entrance fees as per itinerary, boat tour to Island Janitzio, tips for bellboys & chamber maids.

Excludes: Tips (for guides/drivers), visa/travel documents, personal expenses, travel to and from O.R. Tambo Airport/Jhb.

Name of Account: Fowler Tours Bank: Standard Bank Acc no: 07 307 535 3 (current account)

Branch code:026509

Beneficiary Reference: 'MEXICO' plus your name

Please no cash deposits

For more information, please contact Gail at

076 352-3809 or info@fowlertours.co.za

www.fowlertours.co.za

RESERVATION FORM

(one form per person, photocopies of form are permitted):

Enclosed is my deposit of R5,200 per person to secure my booking on the pilgrimage specified below.
Payment is to be made to:

Account Name: Fowler Tours
Bank: Standard Bank
Account no: 07 307 5353
Branch code: 026509
Name of trip: Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage to Mexico
Led by Fr Russell Pollitt SJ
Duration: 6 -19 June 2022 ex-Jhb
Cost: Estimated: 51,450 (subject to fluctuations)

How did you hear about this pilgrimage? Fowler Tours Southern Cross Advert Internet Other

1.) RESERVATION FORM

Title: ___ Name (as it appears on your Passport)_____

Address:_____

_____ Code:_____

Date of Birth:_____ ID Number:_____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Email: _____

Passport Number:_____ Expiry Date:_____

Medical Conditions: _____

Preferred first and surname for Name Badge:_____

Sharing With: _____

Please go to next page

Emergency Contact Person

Name: _____

Cell number: _____ Email: _____

Relationship: _____

2.) PASSPORT (required to travel)

- Photocopy of passport inside page showing name and photo is enclosed / clear scan attached
- I am applying for a passport and understand that I must supply a copy to Fowler Tours at least three months before the departure date..

N.B.: Passports must be valid SIX months following the return date of the trip.**3.) PAYMENT TERMS & SCHEDULE:**

Deposit R5,400 to book. The deposit is non-refundable. A final invoice, reflecting the final price, will be issued 60 days prior to departure. Final Payment must be made within five days of invoicing. BANK DETAILS AS ABOVE. N.B.: Bank charges for cash deposits will be charged to you.

4.) TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

I have received, read and agree to the TERMS & CONDITIONS and the Liability clause below, pricing terms, and payment terms outlined on this side of the form. I understand that the cancellation terms and penalties cannot be waived for any reason. If I decline to purchase travel insurance, I understand that there is no monetary recourse for any flight cancellations or delays by the airlines and I agree to the cancellation terms and penalties.

Signature (required to confirm reservation): _____

Liability: Fowler Tours do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip, including, for example, lodging facilities, transportation companies, local ground operators, including, without limitation, various entities which may utilize the Fowler Tours name, guides, sightseeing companies, entertainment, food or drink service providers, equipment suppliers, etc. As a result, Fowler Tours are not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any person or entity. In addition, Fowler Tours are not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any person or entity they do not own or control, nor for any act or inaction of any other third party not under their control. Without limitations Fowler Tours are not liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damage, injury, death, loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity of any kind which may be occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond their control, including, without limitation any willful or negligent act, failure to act, breach of contract or violation of local law or regulation of any third party such as an airline, train, hotel, bus, taxi, van, local ground handler or guide, whether or not it uses the Fowler Tours name, financial default or insolvency of any supplier which is to, or does supply any goods or services for this trip. Similarly, Fowler Tours are not responsible for any loss, injury, death or inconvenience due to delay or changes in schedule, overbooking of accommodation, default of any third party, attacks by animals, injury or death while on activities sponsored by lodging facilities or by other third parties, sickness, the lack of appropriate medical care, evacuation to same, if necessary, weather, strikes, acts of God or government, acts of terrorism, or the threat thereof, force majeure, war, quarantine, epidemics, or the threat thereof, criminal activity, or any other cause beyond its control. Should the advertised spiritual director be unable to participate in this event, every effort will be made to secure a substitute. Regardless of the participation of the advertised spiritual director the pilgrimage tour will proceed as scheduled on the dates listed. By signing this form to participate in this pilgrimage tour, you agree that the terms of the cancellation penalty will be binding upon you regardless of whether the advertised spiritual director is able to participate. Fowler Tours will not be responsible for any loss incurred by traveller, including lost days of the scheduled tour, due to a cancelled flight or other means and modes of transportation.

THE PILGRIMAGE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airfare from Johannesburg return; final amount subject to change
- Airport taxes
- Full accommodation as stated in the itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner
- Travel insurance (surcharge applies for travellers aged 70+)
- Roundtrip airport transfers in destinations and luxury coach for all touring
- Guided by certified local guides
- Services of local tour operators
- Boat tour Island Janitzio
- All entrance fees as per itinerary
- Tips for bell boys and chamber maid

THE PILGRIMAGE PRICE EXCLUDES:

Mandatory tips for guide and drivers, visas (EU and UK passport holders are exempt), Mexico Tourist Card, private expenses

PRICING TERMS: As per booking form

PAYMENT TERMS: In order to meet deposit schedules with suppliers for this tour, Fowler Tours charges a non-refundable deposit. Full invoice is issued 60 days before departure; payment of which is due within FIVE DAYS.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received in writing. No refunds of deposits, except at the discretion of Fowler Tours.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Fowler Tours will arrange for travel insurance. Surcharges apply travellers over the age of 69.

PASSPORT: A valid passport is required of all passengers. Please apply for your passport immediately as passports are taking a long time to process. **Make sure to have it in your possession at all times while on tour. It must be valid for 6 months following the return date of the trip or boarding may be denied or entry into the destination may be forbidden. Please provide Fowler Tours with a copy or clear scan of the inside page of your passport (showing your name and photo) at the time of reservation. Fax copies not acceptable.**

VISAS: While Fowler Tours will advise you on visa requirements, obtaining visas is the sole responsibility of the traveller (unless specifically offered otherwise by Fowler Tours). Fowler Tours is not liable for visa applications that are rejected or otherwise not obtained before departure, and in such cases cannot offer refunds.

GROUP AIR: Due to the airlines' reduced capacity and restrictive group reservation terms, group air reservations are often difficult to coordinate. The number of connections, length of layovers, and all conditions surrounding air travel cannot be guaranteed and may change before departure. **Seat Requests:** Please note that group seats are assigned "at the discretion of the airline", although every effort will be made to fulfill requests. **SPECIFIC SEAT ASSIGNMENTS CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED.** Seat numbers will not be advised until check-in at the airport.

DOMESTIC TRAVEL TO JOHANNESBURG: You are responsible for your own arrangements to and from Johannesburg OR Tambo Airport.

ITINERARY: The Itinerary is tentative and represents what we are planning for you, however it is subject to confirmations from many organisations. Because of changes in local schedules, we may need to alter specified events, dates and/or venues to better fit the overall plan.

TIPS: Gratuities for your guides, driver and hotel staff, and hotel taxes (if applicable) are excluded. These are mandatory. You will be advised of the total cost of these before departure, and all monies will be collected by the tour leader who will then distribute them to the various recipients.

ROOMS: Tour prices are per person sharing. Single rooms at an extra rate are limited and are available first come-first served until the supply is exhausted.

LUGGAGE: Baggage is at owner's risk throughout the tour.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: Travellers must be medically and physically fit for this tour. This tour requires significant walking, as motor coaches are not permitted to pick up and drop off in front of major attractions. The tour is not wheelchair accessible. Any special limiting medical conditions or equipment must be advised in writing, for evaluation of feasibility, at the time of making your reservation.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Fowler Tours may take photographs or film of its trips and trip participants, and participant grants Fowler Tours express permission to do so and for Fowler Tours use such for promotional or commercial use.

UNUSED SERVICES: There is no right to a refund for any unused services.

Cancellation Policy by request or see www.fowlertours.co.za