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# Our Lady of Guadalupe

## Our Lady of Guadalupe



**Dennis Gaetano Guillermo Tejada Juan Landa**



Close-up of Our Lady of Guadalupe

### Day 1: Friday: U.S.A. to México City & Puebla.

Meet your tour director (**Dennis Gaetano** or **Juan Landa**) according to the rendezvous instructions. After clearing Mexican Immigrations and Customs, meet **Guillermo**, your official government certified Tour Guide. Airport Skycaps take care of your checked luggage (1 piece per person) and then transfer to your hotel in Puebla in our group's motor coach. A thanksgiving Mass for a safe arrival is planned at the **Church of San Francisco**. Afterwards, join your fellow pilgrims for a "Welcome to México" dinner and orientation. **(D)**

### Day 2: Saturday: Cholula: Our Lady of Good Remedy / Church of Tonantzintla // Puebla: Puebla Cathedral / Talavera Market.

After breakfast, depart for **Cholula** where reputedly the largest pyramid in the world can be found. Climb the pyramid/hill and perform the traditional prayers of intentions on the final steps leading to the church. On top of the pyramid lies the beautiful **Church of Our Lady of Good Remedy**. Cholula has a very rich history of different epochs of México. This is where **Hernán Cortes** accomplished a controversial but very important victory for the conquest of México. It is also here where the world famous "Cinco de Mayo" (May 5<sup>th</sup>) battle occurred, where Mexicans were able to win a great victory that temporarily detained French imperialism in México. Cholula also claims to have a Chapel for every day of the year! Later, visit the **Church of Tonantzintla** where the most beautiful example of Indo-Christian decoration can be admired. Return to **Puebla**, the fourth largest city in México and a great example of Spanish colonial architecture. The Puebla region is famous for its beautiful Churches and its hand painted "Talavera" tiles. Visit the unforgettable **Cathedral of Puebla** (2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the country). Then stop at an old Spanish house for a delicious **lunch buffet**. Mass planned at Puebla's historic and one of the most richly decorated chapels in all of México, the **Chapel of Our Lady of The Rosary**. Dinner on your own in Puebla. **(B, L)**

### Day 3: Sunday: Tlaxcala / Our Lady of Ocotlán / San Miguel del Milagro.

Leave Puebla today and travel to the state of Tlaxcala (smallest in the country), an area very special to Our Lady, to visit two very famous churches with dramatic stories of faith. First, experience **Our Lady of Ocotlán**, an amazing example of baroque and churrigueresque architecture. Inside this magnificent church, we can observe the image of Our Lady miraculously carved inside a tree in the year 1541 after an apparition of Our Lady to a local boy. This apparition also involves healing water. Learn how the the sacristan/custodian of the parish church came to believe in the miraculous powers of this apparition and the statue left behind. We will have the opportunity to bring home some of the water that still flows from the miraculous spring. Afterwards, stop for a pleasant lunch (on your own) in Tlaxcala, and if time permits, visit the town's outdoor market.



lunch, visit **San Miguel del Milagro (St. Michael of the Miracle)** where tradition tells us that **St. Michael the Archangel** appeared three times to a local peasant to have him announce a source of water with miraculous healing powers for all the faithful. Return to our historical hotel for our final night in Puebla. **(B)**



### Day 4: Monday: Pyramids of Teotihuacán / México City.

After breakfast, if weather cooperates, we should be able to enjoy majestic views of México's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest peaks (including the legendary volcanoes of **Popocatepetl** and **Itzaccihuatl**) as we travel to a **posada** for a delicious **lunch buffet**. Then, we visit the amazing complex of pyramids and temples that comprise the mysterious **City of Teotihuacan**, one of the best preserved pre-Columbian cities in the Americas and the most important city in North America around 500 AD, with a population of approximately 200,000 inhabitants. The visit gives us a better idea of the culture and indigenous customs of St. Juan Diego's ancestors. Before departing the area, we witness the different and very important ancient uses of the **Maguey plant** (from the cactus family) and its relationship to the Ayate of St. Juan Diego. Afterwards, visit **St. Juan Diego's old home** which is the site of the **Fifth and Last Apparition of Our Lady**. A church and a well with spring water now stand at the site where Our Lady appeared and cured Juan Diego's uncle. If we are fortunate, we will descend under the altar to the place where Our Lady appeared and gave us her name, Our Lady of Guadalupe. There will also be an opportunity to get spring water to bring home. Later, check in at our hotel in México City for the first of a 4-night stay. Join your fellow pilgrims at one of the hotel's restaurants for dinner. **(B, L, D)**

Mater Dei Tours  
*Making Travel Relevant!*

**NOTE:** Although a motor-coach is included for our transportation, it is important to point out that pilgrimages require a considerable amount of walking.

Meals' Legend:  
 M = Airplane Meals B = Breakfast  
 L = Lunch D = Dinner

**NOTE 2:**  
 Events might change in order. Mass locations may change due to local ecclesiastical authorities.

TLAXCALA  
 TEOTIHUACAN  
 LA VILLITA  
 México CITY  
 CHOLULA  
 PUEBLA  
 COYOACAN  
 XOCHIMILCO

# Mater Dei Tours Catholic Pilgrimage to México

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## Day 5: Tuesday: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe /Zocalo and Metropolitan Cathedral / Anthropology Museum.

Enjoy a delicious breakfast and prepare for a memorable travel day. Taking the longest avenue in México, "Avenida de los Insurgentes" (Insurgents Avenue), depart the Federal District (equivalent to our District of Columbia) to the State of México to visit the most sacred Sanctuary in all of México, the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. A video introduction of the Guadalupe story will be shown onboard our motor coach. Until now our pilgrimage has been an introduction in order to better understand the cultural background that led to the construction of this impressive complex where the Virgin Mary appeared to the humble Native American Juan Diego (now St. Juan Diego), an event that inspired the conversion of millions of Native Americans of that time. Upon arrival, our tour guides have prepared for us a brief presentation on the many amazing facts regarding St. Juan Diego's Ayate at one of the gift shops (there will be a restroom break here with a brief shopping time). Afterwards, our group departs the gift shop with a flower arrangement for Our Lady. We proceed to visit the **New Basilica** where the original 'ayate' of St. Juan Diego is prominently displayed for all to see. Our group will move closer to the area right underneath the Ayate where a moving platform continually moves from side to side in order to keep pilgrims safe and guarantee that they will get to see Our Lady (you will have other opportunities to visit her later in the week). Then, visit the famous "bent Cross" of the Altar and the imposing statue of St. John Paul the Great. After our visit, we travel through the State of México into the D.F., the "Distrito Federal" (Federal District) where we find México City. Here, we enjoy a panoramic tour of this legendary city, renowned as the world's largest city. Drive by the monument to Benito Juarez, the Alameda Park and the historic and gorgeous 'Palacio de Bellas Artes' (Palace of Fine Arts) and arrive at Old México City. Here, we visit the **Zócalo**, the second largest square in the world. It is located in the center of the old and once powerful Aztec Capital of **Tenochtitlán**, where ruins of its "Templo Mayor" (major temple) can still be observed. On one side of the square we can admire the "Palacio Nacional" (National Palace), where in addition to being México's current Presidential Offices, is also the place where Hernán Cortes established his first residence and offices. On the opposite side lies the monumental **Cathedral Metropolitana**, built with stones of the old Aztec temples. This massive Church rivals those of Europe. Then, we travel to the Forest of Chapultepec for a fascinating tour of the impressive **Museum of Anthropology**, world famous and renowned as the principal source of information about the archeological and cultural composition of México and America. As one of the world's largest of its kind, the museum presents an impressive collection of artifacts and exhibitions that demonstrate the daily life of the Aztecs. A **buffet lunch** has been prepared for our group at the museum. Afterwards, return to our hotel in México City. Later this evening, join your fellow pilgrims for a fellowship/appetizers/light dinner. **(B, L, \*D)**  
 \*D= Evening (appetizers/light dinner)

## Day 6: Wednesday: Coyoacán & Xochimilco).

After breakfast, travel to **Coyoacán** where you'll visit the Church of **St. John the Baptist**. This Church contains the famous statue of the "Divina Infantita Maria" or **Divine Infant (Virgin) Mary**, a beautiful pious devotion of the Mexican people derived by a Nun, Sister Magdalena, from a request made by the Virgin Mary (private apparition), while meditating on the Infant Jesus during the Feast of the Epiphany. **Xochimilco** is a complex of canals, chinampas (artificial floating islands built for Aztec nobility's agriculture) and lagoons known as the "**Mexican Venice**". Here, our group will enjoy a ride in a "**Trajinera**" (Mexican Gondola) decorated with flowers. Return to the hotel for a much deserved break and a free afternoon. Prepare in contemplation for our first stop in the morning at Our Lady's Shrine. **(B)**  
 \* (Tonight: **Optional Excursion to the world famous Folkloric Ballet of México**)



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## Day 7: Thursday: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

After the breakfast buffet, return today for a full day visit to Guadalupe. Complete the tour of the Guadalupe complex with a guided visit to the remaining chapels, gardens and places of importance (as time allows). Climb the "**Cerrito de Tepeyac**" (Tepeyac Hill) in a Rosary procession until we reach the "**Capilla del Cerrito**" (Chapel of the Little Hill) that commemorates the place of the first apparition. After Mass, visit the **Old Basilica** where Our Lord is perpetually exposed in the Blessed Sacrament. The remainder of today is at your leisure for personal prayer and confessions. We will have the opportunity for Father to Bless all religious articles you may have obtained. Prepare for our following day departure and a festive evening. We end this memorable day with a joyful **Farewell Dinner** remembering all the good times we shared as a new pilgrim family. **(B, D)**



## Day 8: Friday: Holy Family (Blessed Miguel Pro).

The last day commences with our last breakfast. Then proceed to the **Church of the Holy Family**. This Church contains the remains of **Blessed Padre Miguel Pro**, the famous martyr Priest of México whose death (documented in pictures) forced the government to allow the practice of Catholicism back in the open. **Farewell Mass** celebrated here. Then, depart for Benito Juarez International Airport with plenty of time for check in and extra security. As your flight takes off, take one last look at a land filled with history and culture; a land that gained the love and admiration of our late Holy Father Saint John Paul II; a land where our Lady converted and continues to convert many, many people! **(B)**

**¡Adiós México! ¡Te quiero Mi Guadalupe!**

Upon arrival to the United States, you will be processed through the US Homeland Security (Immigrations and Customs). Read "Tips for Flying Days" for more information

**Welcome Home!**