



## CUSTOMIZED PROGRAM

AUGSBURG  
UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR  
GLOBAL EDUCATION  
AND EXPERIENCE

### **CROSS-CULTURAL IMMERSION IN MEXICO** *Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO)* **January 6-19, 2025**

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE (updated December 10, 2024)**

*Mexico is a fascinating country with a rich and complex history and very diverse, hospitable cultures. We look forward to guiding you on what we hope will be a transformative journey. In our experience in Mexico, changes often occur in an itinerary with little advance notice. These changes may include the order of activities, the time of events, or the activities themselves. A spirit of flexibility and patience will go a long way toward making your immersion in Mexico successful and enjoyable.*

**CGEE-Mexico Trip Leader:** Antonio Ortega, WhatsApp: +52 777 191 1876

**CGEE-Mexico Director/Assistant:** Ann Lutterman-Aguilar, WhatsApp: +52 777 215 6296

**Consultant in Amatlán:** Lianne Morgan, WhatsApp: +52 777 180 1930, house phone: (52) 739 395 1864

#### **Monday, January 6: USA to Mexico City (CDMX) to Cuernavaca: “Three Kings Day”**

1:35 PM Arrival to Mexico City Airport (MEX) on United Flight # 359

TBD Exchange money, use bathrooms, and buy food to eat in vans before driving to Cuernavaca.

TBD Transfer in vans from the airport to *Casa Augsburg* in Cuernavaca.

TBD Welcome and brief orientation to *Casa Augsburg*. Move into rooms.

6:30 PM *Cena* (supper) with a [\*rosca de reyes\*](#) (ring of kings), a traditional bread eaten to celebrate Epiphany and ‘Three Kings Day.’

7:30 PM Welcome & brief health & safety orientation.

Lodging at *Casa Augsburg* in Cuernavaca

## **Tuesday, January 7: Cuernavaca**

- 8:30 AM *Desayuno* (Breakfast).
- 9:30-10:30 Introductions, schedule review, and in-country orientation, including health and safety information. (Antonio)
- 11-1:30 Overview of Mexican history by Professor Antonio Ortega.
- 1:30 PM *Comida* (Lunch)
- 2:30-4 PM Orientation about cultural and historical issues to keep in mind in Mexico to be respectful and aware of our power, privilege, positionality and entitlement. Brief discussion of CGEE pedagogy and culturally appropriate behavior with speakers and during excursions. (Ann)
- 4-6:30 PM Go downtown with Antonio to tour the town center and historical sites, including the Cuernavaca Cathedral. (Get dropped off by and walk back or take Ubers.)
- 6:30 *Cena* (Supper).
- Lodging at *Casa Augsburg* in Cuernavaca

## **Wednesday, January 8: Cuernavaca**

- 8:30 AM *Desayuno* (Breakfast).
- 9:30-12:30 Presentation about the current political & economic situation by Soila Luna, director of the *Fundación Don Sergio*, a human rights organization that was created by former Catholic bishop Don Sergio Méndez Arceo, who was a leading human rights advocate in Latin America.
- 12:30-1:30 Meet artisans from the *Artisanos Unidos* (United Artisans) cooperative to learn about how it functions and to hear about the challenges of the current economic system. Opportunity to purchase artisan products directly from producers.
- 1:30 PM *Comida* (Lunch).
- 2:30-5:30 Excursion to the *Museo Regional de los Pueblos de Morelos* downtown to see the Diego Rivera mural "History of Morelos: Conquest and Revolution." Participate in an interactive lecture of the role of Christianity in the Conquest of Mexico with Professor Ann Lutterman-Aguilar. (Get dropped off at the museum and walk back or take Ubers.)
- 5:45-6:30 Brief reflection.
- 6:30 *Cena* (Supper).
- Lodging at *Casa Augsburg* in Cuernavaca

## **Thursday January 9: Cuernavaca and Xochicalco**

- 8:30 AM *Desayuno* (Breakfast).
- 9:30-1:30 Excursion to Xochicalco, an archeological and sacred site, to learn about pre-Columbian Nahuatl-speaking indigenous cultures and their exchange with cultures all over Mesoamerica. Tour the site with anthropologist Raziel Valiño or another guide. Bring water, hats, sunblock, comfortable walking shoes, and snacks to eat in the van.
- 1:30 PM *Comida* (Lunch).
- 3:00-5:00 Orientation to homestay and seminar in Amatlán by Lisanne Morgan.
- 5:30-6:30 Group discussion/reflection on experiences thus far.
- 6:30 *Cena* (Supper).
- Lodging at *Casa Augsburg* in Cuernavaca

### Friday January 10: Cuernavaca to Amatlán de Quetzalcóatl

- 8:30 AM *Desayuno* (Breakfast).
- 9:30 AM Depart for 3 nights in Amatlán de Quetzalcóatl - preferably bring a small bag, leaving most of your belongings in your room in Cuernavaca.
- 10:45 Meet with Ignacio Torres Ramírez, a community leader, to learn about the history of land, the *Nahua* indigenous cosmovision, and the impact of neoliberal globalization on the community.
- 1 PM *Comida con una familia en Amatlán* (lunch with a family in Amatlán).
- 2:15-5:30 Walk in woods about 30-45 minutes to a sacred site with ancient paintings. Learn about *Nahua* indigenous spirituality from a community leader and possibly participate in the introduction to a *Nahua* ceremony.
- 5:30-6:30 Meet and get acquainted with host families. Then walk to homes of host families and have *cena* (supper) and free time with them in the evening.
- Lodging with host families in Amatlán de Quetzalcóatl

### Saturday January 11: Amatlán de Quetzalcoatl

- AM *Desayuno* (Breakfast) with host families.
- 10-11 Group check-in.
- 11:30-1:30 Panel of *Nahua* indigenous gay, lesbian, and trans people regarding life in *Nahua* villages and their activism.
- 1:30-4:30 *Comida* (lunch) and free time with host families.
- 4:30-6:30 Talk with former migrants who went to the USA without documents about their experiences there, including deportation.
- PM *Cena* (supper) with host families.
- Lodging with host families in Amatlán de Quetzalcóatl

### Sunday January 12: Amatlán de Quetzalcoatl

- AM *Desayuno* (breakfast) and *comida* (lunch) and free time with host families, including optional attendance of Catholic mass.
- PM Optional hike with Jorge Ramírez to *El Mirador* for a panoramic view of Amatlán. (3-4 hours)
- 4-7 PM Hands-on learning about traditional practices by healer Leticia Corrales Torres.
- PM *Cena* (supper) with host families.
- Lodging with host families in Amatlán de Quetzalcóatl

### Monday January 13: Amatlán de Quetzalcóatl to Cuernavaca

- AM *Desayuno* (breakfast) with host families and time to say goodbye to them.
- Talk about the *Temazcal* (traditional sweat lodge) healing ceremony by Maria de la Luz Gomez, who is from a long line of healers and graduated with a degree in traditional medicine at the *Universidad Intercultural*.
  - Talk Karina Vara about indigenous feminisms and the connection between struggles for bodily territory and physical territory.
- PM Lunch at *Los Colorines* Restaurant in Tepoztlán.
- 3:30-5:30 Talk with Don Lazaro Rodríguez from the group *Los Tejones* about their activism to defend the forest.

5:30 PM Return to Cuernavaca.  
6:30 PM *Cena* (supper) at *Casa Augsburg*.  
Lodging at *Casa Augsburg* in Cuernavaca

### **Tuesday, January 14: Cuernavaca**

8:30 AM *Desayuno* (Breakfast).  
9:30-11:30 Group discussion about experiences in Amatlán de Quetzalcóatl.  
11:45 AM Get dropped off (and later picked up) at the *Mercado López Mateos* to do the Market Survey, an experiential activity in small groups designed to learn about the cost of living for minimum wage earners in Morelos, Mexico.  
1-1:30 Work in small groups to do calculations.  
1:30 PM *Comida* (Lunch).  
2:30-3:30 Debrief the Market Survey.  
3:30-6:00 Free time.  
6:00 *Cena* (Supper).  
7:00-8:30 Drag show by Alex Sol "*La Gorda*" with a brief discussion afterwards regarding their LGBTQIA+ activism.

Lodging at *Casa Augsburg* in Cuernavaca

### **Wednesday, January 15: Cuernavaca**

8:30 AM *Desayuno* (Breakfast).  
9:30 AM Interactive workshop on an overview of contemporary liberationist theologies in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America, analyzing art and music with liberatory themes, led by Ann Lutterman-Aguilar.  
11:45 AM Drive to CIVAC, the industrial park on the outskirts of Cuernavaca, to visit the Catholic parish. ***Wear comfortable walking shoes and take a full water bottle, a notebook with pen or pencil, and money if you choose to buy any of the artwork that they make.***  
12:30 PM *Comida* (lunch) with *Luz y Libertad* (Light & Liberty).  
1:30-3 Talk with members of the faith-based women's empowerment group *Luz y Libertad*, a base ecclesial community. Learn about their biblical reflection and the work that they do to help women in their community become economically independent, address self-esteem issues, and combat violence against women.  
3:00 PM Depart for Yolixtli.  
3:30-5:30 Visit the Yolixtli metal workshop and talk with the workers about their organizing, as they began through base Christian communities after working in factories in CIVAC.  
5:30 Return to *Casa Augsburg*.  
6:30 PM *Cena* (Supper).

Free time to pack for Mexico City. Please note that you will not be returning to Cuernavaca.

Lodging at *Casa Augsburg* in Cuernavaca.

### **Thursday, January 16: Cuernavaca to Mexico City (CDMX)**

8:30 AM *Desayuno* (Breakfast).  
9:30 AM Depart for CDMX.

- Visit *Casa Tochan* migrant shelter; talk with director Gabriela Hernandez and hear testimonies from some of the migrants.
- *Comida* (lunch) at *Casa Tochan* (Eat food prepared by the migrants at the shelter.)
- Travel to the Anglican seminary to get settled there.
- Talk by queer Mexican theologian Dr. Angel Méndez Montoya regarding *Teología Cuir* and *cuir* activism in Mexico.
- *Cena* (supper) at the Anglican Seminary.
- Group reflection.

Lodging in CDMX at the *Seminario Anglicano*

### Friday January 17: CDMX

- Desayuno (Breakfast)
- Visit the Center for *Teología India* (Indigenous Theology) and talk with an indigenous theologian.
- Visit *Casa Pocha*, the offices of ODA (*Otros Dreams en Acción*), an organization of young Mexicans who did not get DACA status and returned to Mexico (or were deported) about their activism.
- Lunch with representatives of *Casa Pocha* at a restaurant in *Colonia Roma*.
- Talk by trans activist and former journalist Gloria Davenport.
- *Cena* (supper) at the Anglican Seminary.

Lodging in CDMX at the *Seminario Anglicano*

### Saturday, January 18: CDMX

- Desayuno (Breakfast).
- Talk by ecofeminist theologian, Catholic nun, and activist Dr./Sister Marilu Rojas Salazar about femicide in Mexico or with Dr. Gaby Juárez Palacios, who completed her doctoral dissertation on the mothers who were searching for their children.
- Final group discussion.
- *Comida* (lunch) at the seminary.
- Final reflections and completion of online evaluation.
- *Cena* (supper) out at Sanborns *Casa de Azulejos* restaurant in downtown Mexico City - near the Zócalo.
- If time allows, go to the top of the *Torre Latinoamericana* to see views of the city.

Lodging in CDMX at the *Seminario Anglicano*

### Sunday, January 19: CDMX to USA

4:30 AM Transfer in vans to the Mexico City airport (MEX)

Check-in is 2 hours before flight

7:50 AM Departure on United Flight # 428