



BUILD TRIP

PARTICIPANT PACKET

2025-2026



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INTRODUCTION

Dear Trip Participant,

On behalf of the 1MISSION team, thank you for considering serving with us in Mexico. Our mission is to provide families living in poverty the opportunity to earn a house by serving their community.

As part of your mission trip with 1MISSION we will provide you with a place to stay at our basecamp, meals, trip insurance, building materials, and all the necessary tools to complete the house build project. Our local team will be on site to assist your team in every way possible during your trip.

We've hosted more than 35,000 trip participants over the past 17 years, so we are well-prepared to ensure this is a positive and rewarding experience for you and everyone on your team.

This guide contains all the information you should need including links to outside resources when necessary. If you have a question that isn't answered here, please check with your trip leader first, but you can also contact merle@1mission.org.

Thank you again for serving with us!

Merle (Mirla) Yochim

Trip Coordinator

WHAT WE DO

1MISSION is a community development organization, giving people in poverty the opportunity to earn a house by serving their community.

Learn more about our holistic approach to poverty alleviation, our core commitments, and meet our team [here](#). While you're at it, check out some of our [impact stories](#).

LIABILITY WAIVER

Each trip participant will need to digitally sign this insurance waiver: 1mission.org/waiver. Participants 18 and up should sign the waiver themselves, and a parent or legal guardian must complete and sign the waiver for each participant under 18, listing the children as Minors. To ensure that the forms are valid, they must be completed correctly. Please pay attention to the trip start date and the group name.

ACCOMMODATIONS

You and your group will be staying at our basecamp just outside of Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. To get a sense of the place, take a look at this [basecamp video](#).

There are several options for accommodations at basecamp. We have bunkhouses, RV hookups, and plenty of space for tents. You can even sleep in your car if you want.

Please note:

- Main accommodations are limited and must be reserved ahead of time
- Bunkhouse spots are \$20/bed per trip
- Full-service RV spots are \$40 per trip
- Tenting requires no reservation or additional fee
- **NEW for 2025:** Private casitas for families! Learn more [here](#).

If you are traveling with a group, you will receive instructions from your trip leader on booking accommodations once deposits have been paid. Booking ahead of time is required to guarantee availability, so be sure to get your deposits in as soon as possible!

If you are not part of a formal group, please contact merle@1mission.org directly for booking.

PSA: Don't own an RV, but like the idea of staying in one? [Rocky Point Fun](#) is an independent company in town that will rent you an RV, bring it out to basecamp, set it up, and then pick it up after the end of the trip. If you're interested, contact Luis through the company website. (Please note that any arrangements with Rocky Point Fun are not associated with 1MISSION. We are just sharing their information and helping to support a local business. You still need to reserve and pay for an RV site at basecamp through us.)

WHAT TO BRING

General

- Prescription medication for duration of the trip including a copy of prescription
- RV or tent (unless you're staying in the bunkhouse)
- Sleeping bag or bedding
- Pillow
- Towel
- Personal toiletries: toothbrush, soap, shampoo, etc.
- Flashlight
- Refillable water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Camera
- Folding chair for jobsite is a plus
- Pop-up shade tent is a plus (one or two per jobsite)

Clothing

- For basecamp
 - Casual clothes for free time
 - Clothes for sleep
 - Appropriate swimsuit if you plan to use the pool
 - Warm clothes for cool evenings and mornings
- For jobsite
 - Appropriate work clothes (NO short shorts or tank tops)
 - Work shoes or boots (no open toe shoes)
 - Work gloves
 - Hat

1MISSION STORE

We have a store at basecamp where you can purchase official 1MISSION merch including T-shirts, hats, and hoodies. You can also purchase gear ahead of time in our [online store](#).

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Mexico Entry Requirements

Mexico requires all foreign visitors to have a valid passport or passport card to enter Mexico. An Official Entry Immigration Form (FMM) is also required. However, in our experience over the past 15 years, for visitors traveling to Puerto Peñasco by road, the FMM requirement is rarely, if ever enforced. Thousands of foreigners pass through the Lukeville border crossing every day without incident. However, we recommend that you obtain the appropriate documentation to ensure a problem-free trip.

US Entry Requirements

The [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#) website lists the types of documents that are accepted for entry into the United States by land or sea as part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). In our experience, individual border agents may interpret those guidelines differently, so it's always best to have a valid passport book or passport card.

MEXICO CAR INSURANCE

Mexican law requires that you have a Mexico liability insurance policy for your vehicle and trailer, including utility trailers. The policies are sold in 24-hour periods and must be obtained before entry into Mexico. These can be purchased at a number of places along the way in Arizona towns including Gila Bend, Ajo, or Why.

You can also purchase policies online ahead of time. Many trip participants have used Kirk Borg who can be reached at kirkborg777@gmail.com. Or you can contact your own insurance company to see if they offer policies.

You'll need your vehicle and trailer registration document to purchase the insurance. Ensure that each vehicle and trailer has a hard copy of the insurance and registration.

OBEY THE LAW

Certain items are forbidden entry into Mexico. Know what you are allowed to bring into Mexico and what you are not. A comprehensive list can be found [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: Guns and ammunition (even one bullet) are absolutely prohibited! People crossing into Mexico with these items may be arrested and put in jail.

CROSSING THE BORDER

You will cross the border at Lukeville, Arizona via Highway 85.

When you cross the border you may or may not be stopped by Mexican officials. There is a traffic control arm across the road and a small traffic signal on the left hand side. If you see the light turn green you just continue on unless an agent motions you to stop. If the light turns red an alarm will sound and you must stop for the agents.

Usually they just do a quick check to see where you are going and they may want to inspect the contents of your vehicle. This is rarely more than a minor inconvenience. You may be asked to show ID and your vehicle registration and insurance. You should carry hard copies of each.

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Mexico's tourism department provides an emergency roadside service known as the Angeles Verdes (Green Angels). If you have car trouble, call 078 from your cell phone. If you can't make a call just open your car hood and wait as they make regular tours of the highway.

You can also reach us at any point by calling 480-363-8476 (Mirla), 480-205-5725 (Greg), or our office at 602-635-7500.

BASECAMP LOCATION

Your destination is 1MISSION Basecamp (listed in [Google Maps](#)). We're right along Highway 8 around the Kilometer 83 marker, roughly 50 miles from the border. The coordinates are **31.4272444N 113.4697076W**.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Upon crossing into Mexico, you will be in the town of Sonoyta. Continue straight for about 2 miles until you come to a major highway intersection. Stay in the left lane and you'll come to a stop sign, where you will turn left onto Highway 2 toward Puerto Peñasco and Santa Ana (see below).



After turning left, within $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile you will cross over a bridge and will soon see a sign indicating a slight right turn toward Puerto Peñasco (see below).



NOTE: The speed limit in the town of Sonoyta is strictly enforced. In many parts of town the speed limit is 25 mph (40 kph) but be sure to vigilantly follow the signs. If you are stopped by the police, ask to pay your fine at the police station. DO NOT pay a police officer in cash.

Once you get through town, continue on Highway 8 the rest of the way. Outside of town the speed limits are not as strictly enforced, so take care as traffic can move very quickly. Our basecamp is at approximately kilometer marker 83 (about 50 miles from the border). You will see the kilometer markers on small signs on the side of the road. Basecamp is on the left side on a long, straight stretch of highway (see below).



IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE: Use *extreme* caution when making the left turn into basecamp off the busy highway! Vehicles often speed past, so watch not only for oncoming traffic but also be sure to check your rear-view mirror for anyone trying to pass you as you slow down.

Once inside basecamp, follow directional signs and check in at the office before setting up and dispersing through camp.

SCHEDULE

This is a typical [trip schedule](#).

MEALS & FOOD ALLERGIES

1MISSION will provide meals for the duration of your trip, beginning with breakfast on the first full day of construction, through to lunch on the third day. You may want to bring snacks for the times between meals. Anyone with a severe food allergy or dietary restriction must contact merle@1mission.org. People with dietary restrictions should bring their own food. There is some fridge space and a microwave available. Lunch is sandwiches, so anyone requiring a gluten free diet must bring their own GF bread for sandwiches. The kitchen staff is not able to prepare separate/specific meals for varying diets.

CONSTRUCTION

The current construction manual is [here](#). It is updated on a regular basis, so download and print no more than a week before the start of your trip. Always follow the manual, as well as the direction of our construction staff. Absolutely no power tools are permitted, with the exception of cordless drills.

You will be given specific construction tasks, and the sections of the manual that you will require, a week to 10 days before your trip start date.

HELPING WITHOUT HURTING

We understand that during a trip, groups make connections with families and individuals, and have a desire to be generous towards them. It is very important, however, that your generosity does not unintentionally undermine our community development work, or compromise the trust that we have built with the families that we serve. Please read this [Serving Agreement](#) and share it with your team. If your group would like to bless a family with funds to help them with finishing touches on their home, you can do so at basecamp through the trip administrator.

MANDATORY MEETINGS

There will be plenty of time to do your own group meetings and for relaxing at basecamp. However, we ask that every trip participant (including youth and kids) be present at all of the following meetings:

- *Welcome Meeting* on arrival night
- *Community Development Presentation* after dinner on the first work day
- *Fiesta Night* after the second work day, which includes a time to hear from local families
- *Worship and Sharing Time* on the final morning together

PETS

Please leave your pets at home. If someone has an extenuating circumstance, such as the use of a service animal, have them contact merle@1mission.org directly.

ABOUT PUERTO PEÑASCO

1MISSION has been working in Puerto Peñasco (also known as Rocky Point) for 16 years. It is a port city as well as a tourist destination for families from across Arizona, throughout the Mexican state of Sonora, and beyond. The city has a population of approximately 70,000 people and is located on the northern coast of the Sea of Cortez. Many of the families we serve work at restaurants and hotels. Others work as fishermen or sell crafts along the waterfront. If you have time to explore the city on your day of arrival, we highly recommend it! We'd be happy to recommend some of our favorite spots when you check in at basecamp.