

Mexico
Tepoztlán
Magical Experience
About your Program



“There comes a point in a person’s life when you start asking yourself: what difference am I making in this world? I decided to put my time into something worthwhile.”

- Gayle Harrod

Mexico Tepoztlán Magical Experience

Your program location

Your Globe Aware program will take place in the town of Tepoztlán in the state of Morelos, a 60-90 minute drive from the Mexico City International Airport (50 miles).

History

According to myth, Tepoztlán is the birthplace over 1200 years ago of Quetzalcóatl, the feathered serpent god widely worshipped in ancient Mexico.

It has not yet been possible to determine who first inhabited the area. The earliest findings of pottery and other ceramic utensils date back to approximately 1500 BCE. By the 10th century CE the Toltec culture was predominant in the area. Tepoztlán is said to have been the birthplace of Ce Acatl, a very important Toltec leader, later known as Topiltzin Ce Acatl Quetzalcóatl, and who may be the possible historical basis of the Mesoamerican god Quetzalcóatl. During the Spanish Conquest Hernán Cortés is said to have ordered the town razed after the refusal of the town leaders to meet him. This event was chronicled by Bernal Díaz del Castillo in The Conquest of New Spain.

Some claims to fame : Surrealist painter Wolfgang Paalen lived and worked in Tepoztlán during his last Mexican period (1954–59). Indie musician Conor Oberst recorded his self-titled album in the city in 2008, although in the sleeve the city is misspelled “Tepotzlan.” Fashion designer Juli Lynne Charlot the creator of the first Poodle skirt lives in Tepoztlán and renowned Mexican chef Ana García is also a resident of Tepoztlán.

Community

Tepoztlán is a very popular destination near Mexico City, designated a “Pueblo Mágico”, a program that recognizes special towns and villages in Mexico that offer visitors a “magical” experience – natural beauty, cultural riches or historical relevance. The towns must have a population of at least 20 thousand to be considered a Pueblo Mágico and be located no more than 2 hours away from a larger tourist destination. The program has been developed to also recognize the labor of its residents who work to preserve the cultural and historical riches of their hometowns.

People love this town because of the traditional environment, along with the pyramid and several communities with ecological and progressive thinking.

The town of Tepoztlán is famous for the remains of El Tepozteco pyramid temple built on top of the nearby Tepozteco Mountain, as well as for the exotic ice cream flavors prepared by the townspeople. The pyramid is said to have “mystic” qualities and attracts visitors from all over the world. There are a number of reasons why this town is unique. The town and market are full of quaint restaurants, stores and art galleries and there is never a shortage of delicious food available, so just walking around town is quite the experience.



Optional activities in the area include an excursion to El Tepozteco temple pyramid and mountain, a visit to the World Heritage Site of the Ex Convento de Tepoztlán, the archeological museum, yoga classes, and the unique opportunity to experience a cooking class with renowned Mexican chef Ana García, who is a resident of Tepoztlán.



Community Involvement

Tepoztlán is organized into 5 different “barrios” or neighborhoods. Another unique quality about the town is that the residents from each barrio work together to improve their living conditions and those of their neighbors, and they work with other barrios to improve the entire town.



The faena system brings local volunteers together to improve their own community.

The “faena” system – community volunteering - is led entirely by members of the community who work together for common goals. The community comes together and volunteers alongside us as equals in projects that will benefit their own – the level of community involvement is extremely high and they are well organized, they are well accustomed to working on their own projects for the improvement of their own community. This is an effort made purely and solely by members of the community.



Projects and Expectations

We will be working on projects that are important to the community and chosen by members of the community. Note that specific projects are not chosen until a week or so before your arrival, and will depend on a variety of factors such as number of volunteers, current priorities, materials and supplies available, and even weather. Your project will be discussed with you on arrival.

Some of the possibilities for projects include:

- Building chicken coops to provide protein sources for local families
- Installing water tanks and water collection systems for local families
- Reforestation and cleaning efforts
- School maintenance, improvements and support
- Installing concrete floors for impoverished families in nearby towns
- Playground refurbishments
- Volunteer work at special needs school - reading, educational support

Please remember that concepts of scheduling and organization are not universal. It is best to keep an open mind and not be judgemental when visiting a foreign country. Remember that your way of doing things may not be the best way here - the locals usually have a very good reason for completing a task in a certain way, and their priorities are different than ours. Here is an example:

“But Mario, why are we building the fence so close to the river? Surely erosion will cause the fence to fall off the edge?”

“Don’t worry, the foundation is very thick - it won’t fall. Besides, we can’t move it over any more, because the



boundary of the soccer field is so close.”

We understand your desire to know as much as possible about the project you will be working on. Our itinerary is based on factors such as which projects were finished (or not) by the last group, what supplies are available, how many volunteers are in your group, weather conditions, the changing priorities of the community, and can even be modified throughout the week. It is best to approach the experience with an open attitude, knowing you'll be working approximately 6.5 hours a day during the week days, usually concentrated earlier in the day. You will also have a couple of hours of unstructured free time every day. There are typically three to four planned but optional leisure and cultural activities, depending on the length of your stay. Communicate with your coordinator. If you find the work level is too much, or not enough, he or she will do as much as possible to work with you.

Packing Information

The climate around Tepoztlán is temperate with subtropical variations. In May the weather is warm and humid and there is a slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening. We recommend packing light **very casual** and quick drying clothes. Your work clothes may be ruined with paint, cement, or mud. You may want hiking boots or comfortable and sturdy work shoes. Closed toe shoes are always recommended at worksites. Expect narrow, sometimes muddy and uneven trails and bring appropriate footwear. It is probably best to bring more than one pair of shoes in case your shoes should get wet. We recommend bringing work gloves that may get dirty, a few snacks and Ziploc bags. Strong insect repellent is recommended. Make sure to pack enough clothes to be comfortable, considering sweat, mud, paint, etc. Make sure to pack enough clothes to be comfortable, considering that you may get dirty doing volunteer work. You should not need to do laundry for a 4 day program. If you are planning to visit the town in the afternoon, you might want to bring casual clothes to change into if you get dirty during the volunteer project.

While the temperatures are usually in the 70s and 80s, global warming has made conditions less predictable (and more weather extremes) and we have had a stray week or two where temperatures are in the 60s with rain, during which volunteers felt sweatshirts were a good idea, as they were cold without them. We have also had weeks where the heat is higher, so it is always a great idea to check the weather before you go.

Please note that the packing list is meant as a guideline. There is no single item that you can't live without for a few days. Pack what you think you will need to be comfortable, but do not get preoccupied about items that you didn't bring, weren't on the list, etc. Everyone has different opinions about essential items!

You will be provided with towels during your stay, but be ready to hang them out to dry each day or bring extras if you feel it's necessary.

- Work gloves if you are particular about fit/brand
- Bathrobe for shared bathrooms (only if you are staying at Tubohotel)
- Sunscreen & sunhat
- Swimsuit - to relax in the hotel pool after work!
- 2 - 3 Pants for working
- Toilet paper / tissues or wipes (available locally but if you feel you need a particular kind)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Toiletries and any prescription medication needed
- T-shirts
- Day pack / Small backpack
- Sports water bottle to refill with drinking water
- Shower shoes or flip flops (Tubohotel)
- Strong money belt
- Umbrella or rain jacket (may not be necessary - check the weather before you go!)
- Socks / Underwear
- Camera / memory cards / chargers
- Money / credit cards for personal expenditures



***Important note:** During volunteer work projects, all Globe Aware volunteers are expected to dress respectfully and appropriately for the culture.

There are no lock boxes or safes. The property is secure, but we recommend against bringing valuables. Bring a lock for your bags to store electronics while you are away from your room if you are bringing them - but be careful not to pack valuables in your checked luggage. Avoid bringing expensive jewelry or designer clothing.


Blankets, towels or a sleeping bag may help you be more comfortable, as the bedding or linens may not be what you are accustomed to. **The vast majority of volunteers find the sheets and blankets completely satisfactory** and feel that taking up extra luggage space isn't worth the cost or effort, though this is a personal decision. Others have brought "travel blankets" or "sleep sacks" which are much easier to pack.

Gifts / Donations

We are always asked about donations. The first thing we always say is that you are not expected to bring anything. You are already doing a lot by volunteering and providing funding for the community projects. However, at the end of your stay, you might feel inclined to give something to community hosts or coordinators who have been particularly helpful or courteous. While tips or gratuities will likely be very welcomed, please be aware that bringing donations can also be awkward. In some instances, receiving donations can affect the recipients' pride negatively. This is not always the case. Do try and consider when donating used clothes, particularly those used during the program, if you feel the local community members would actually want them. It is best to discuss donations with the coordinator for these reasons.

There are cases that donations are more readily accepted, however there are often still local cultural nuances that can make the act of giving complicated. In order to preserve pride, please discuss how your donations can be presented with the coordinator. **Please note, you are not expected to bring anything.**

Should you decide you do want to bring donations, you may consider: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, linens, kitchen utensils, flashlights with batteries, children's books, clothing - shoes, flip flops for kids, t-shirts, socks- , school supplies like pencils, pens, and educational toys or toys that do not require batteries - small toys, frisbees, UNO, board games, cards, jump ropes, balls - of any kind especially soccer. If possible used laptops are always a great donation. You may also want to leave behind the items you used during the week - clothes, towels, linens if you brought them. Your coordinators will ensure that they are distributed to a needy location.



We discourage cash donations and distributing money in all of our communities.

We always discourage giving any more money than you are already giving to the program and community via your program fee. Globe Aware funds are spent on program expenses, as opposed to giving cash donations -- this helps ensure that the money is being spent in meaningful ways. We understand the good intentions of our volunteers. Giving cash out to community members contradicts the goal of promoting sustainability, promotes expectations that foreigners are 'made of money' and can create an atmosphere that begging may solve a community's challenges. Also, donating outside the context of a registered U.S. based non profit removes the ability to deduct the donation from your taxes and provides no oversight that the money is being allocated where it is supposed to go.

However, if you feel like giving a gratuity to your coordinators this will be very appreciated though not necessary.

Accommodations

Volunteers will be staying in one of two very non conventional hotels, both with easy access to the town center.

Tubohotel Boutique Hostel is one of the world's coolest hotels made of huge tubes in pyramid form. It has been named one of the most unique places to stay in the world and is described as "Premier Glamping". Each tube has one queen bed, a desk light, fan and under-bed storage as well as towels, comfortable blankets and sheets. Bathrooms are communal but private stalls for showers and toilets. We suggest bringing a robe, flip flops, shampoo and soap. There is a small pool in the middle of the tubes to relax if you want to bring your suit! Meals will be enjoyed in the picnic area and Wi-fi is available.



One of the upgraded accommodations available at a cost of \$105 extra per night is La Villa Bonita. This is an incredible 6 bedroom boutique hotel in the upswing of the Tepozteco mountains. All rooms open to a central courtyard through French doors with a view of the mountains on all sides. Your room has a private bathroom, towels, comfortable sheets and blankets. During your free time you can enjoy the beautiful garden, the pool, orchard, lily pools, the spacious traditional kitchen, take in the gorgeous views from the terraces or simply relax. Wi-Fi is also available at this location. It is also the home of renowned chef Ana Garcia and has been featured in Vogue magazine, Fodor's travel and Condé Nast Traveler, among other famous publications.



Electricity

There is limited electricity: enough to recharge digital batteries, but not enough to do heavy-duty hair drying. Voltage is the same as in North America, 110V. Electrical outlets take the same plug as in North America, so a prong adaptor is not necessary.



Laundry



You should not need to do laundry in a few days - but if needed your coordinator may provide information on paid laundry services nearby.

Food



A simple breakfast will be provided at your accommodations. All lunches and dinners will be overseen by local celebrity chef Ana Garcia, and will be taken either at a local family's home or the worksite. Food is delicious and will include a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as juice, rice, beans, protein and plenty of regional dishes. Vegetarians and volunteers with food allergies or dietary restrictions can easily be accommodated.

Meals are included when taken as part of the pre-planned itinerary at the accommodations and project site. If volunteers decide to eat in town, they are responsible for buying the meal. Additionally if volunteers want to take an optional trip somewhere specifically for a meal, they are also responsible for additional transportation costs.

Water

Bottled water will be available but please bring your own sports bottle to refill.

Weather

The climate around Tepoztlán is temperate with subtropical variations. In May the weather is warm and humid and there is a slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening.

While the temperatures are usually in the 70s and 80s, global warming has made conditions less predictable (and more weather extremes) and we have had a stray week or two where temperatures are in the 60s with rain, during which volunteers felt sweatshirts were a good idea, as they were cold without them. We have also had weeks where the heat is higher, so it is always a great idea to check the weather before you go.

Money

The local currency is the Mexican Peso. You can exchange cash at the Mexico City airport, and there are a several banks and a couple of ATMs in Tepoztlán. Usually you will get a better rate if you withdraw money from an ATM, but be sure to contact your bank to let them know that you will be doing this. You should not need much extra money while at the program site, just enough for incidentals such as souvenirs, alcohol or snacks from the local stores. You may also want money to purchase local craft souvenirs in Tepoztlán in the market or some of the art galleries or stores. Credit cards are accepted in the larger more established stores and restaurants, but American Express is not accepted at most locations. Make sure you contact your bank and credit card providers to let them know you will be out of the country and using your ATM cards or credit cards if you plan to use them.



Phone and Internet

Please do not plan to spend a lot of time on the phone or internet during your short volunteer program. We will have a busy and short week to be immersed in the culture. Should you anticipate needing to make calls from Tepoztlán, your cell phone will work, but remember to check with your provider before you go to purchase an international calling/data plan and make sure you know what is included or not included in it so you don't get any surprises when you come back. Roaming charges, especially for data use, can be outrageous. Many carriers now include Mexico but you might have to notify them before travel. Wi-fi is available at your accommodations, but it is much slower than you may be accustomed to.

Social Media

We want to see your experience!



Make sure to friend our Director of Communications, Shanti Shahani, on Facebook, she often posts updates on trips and projects on the page: www.facebook.com/ShGlobeAware and don't forget to LIKE us on Facebook and post photos to our main page here: www.facebook.com/globeaware using the hashtag **#globeaware**



Instagram users - follow us on Instagram @globeaware where you will see photos of your program!

Make sure you use the hashtag #globeaware in your posts!

Health

You should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling to any destination. No special vaccines are required to travel to Mexico. For additional information on travel health in Mexico, please refer to the CDC's website at https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/mexico?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001

Please be aware that dengue fever, a mosquito-borne illness, is present throughout tropical Central America. We recommend using mosquito repellent at all times.

Insurance

Medical Insurance and Emergency Evacuation Insurance are included as part of your Globe Aware program.

Important considerations:

- You do not need a printout of your card.
- International medical coverage usually means that any medical expenses will have to be covered out of pocket by the volunteer and then be fully reimbursed when you return - make sure you keep all of your receipts so you can submit a claim.
- If you are arriving before or staying after the program, you may choose to extend your insurance coverage with our insurance provider or secure outside insurance. Globe Aware will only cover the program dates.
- Please make sure you clearly understand the coverage and limitations of the insurance.

To review the coverage and extension/upgrading options please go to the insurance website at www.coretravelinsurance.com and click log in.

You will be required to enter your first and last name as well as date of birth. Please make sure you enter it **exactly as you provided it** when you registered with Globe Aware. Under Organization enter Globe Aware. Please contact our office if you have any issues logging in or have any questions.

Cultural Note - Greeting a Mexican

Traditional greeting in Mexico is a kiss on the cheek. Some locals feel its rude not to kiss or to shake hands, especially hand shaking with a woman - they feel its impersonal and signifies wanting to keep your distance. It is one kiss on the right cheek. Women greet each other and men this way, but men only greet women with a kiss on the cheek. Try it and you will make fast friends!

Transportation

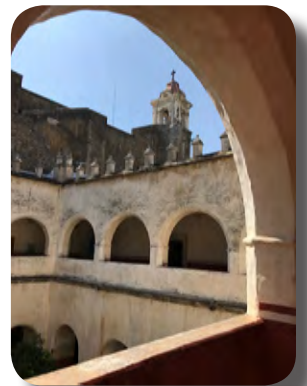
The program offers one van that holds a standard Globe Aware group size. It can handle **most** transportation needs. It is intended to be used for the set program itinerary getting volunteers to and from the drop off point, work projects and some optional standard leisure visits. However, if the group wants to split up during free time going in opposite directions for activities, then additional transportation costs need to be paid for by the volunteers. Taxis in Tepoztlán are safe and inexpensive.

Leisure Activities

There are several included activities in your program, such as:

- Visit Convent. Visit the Natividad Ex-Convent which dates back to the XVI century.
- Tepozteco hike and visit pyramid. This is a strenuous 45-1.5 hour minute hike. The Aztec pyramid is at the top of a mountain and overlooks Tepoztlán
- Sample Tepoznieves, the local unique locally made traditional ice-cream, the origins of which date back to pre-colonial times and now boast 200 unique flavors such as tequila, chamoy, guanabana, and avocado. Time to get adventurous!

Volunteers will have the ample time to explore on their own and enjoy the town. Walking around town you will find many unique shops, art galleries, specialty stores and a fantastic local market.



Optional activities include:

- Cooking class with Chef Ana Garcia. Experience the real cooking of Mexico in this unique opportunity. Ana will take you shopping in the market for ingredients, cooking class, recipes and lunch dishes prepared. 5 hours - \$150 USD per person.
- Getting a massage at a local spa (starting at \$50 depending on the service). Make sure to ask for reservations to be made.
- Evening at the local "Baticine" - a unique outdoor movie theater, this is a wonderful and unique experience! Cost: \$20 USD per person

Safety and Security

While our program location is very safe, it is always smart to be vigilant. Pickpockets are common, especially in crowded areas. Secure your personal belongings and do not carry your passport or credit cards in easily accessible places.

You should always be wary of where you leave your belongings, as unattended items may disappear (day packs, cameras, etc). Our accommodations are very safe, but as a precaution in any of our locations, we recommend purchasing a baggage lock and putting all your valuables inside your largest bag and locking it when you leave for your daily activities.

All of our projects have a certain degree of risk involved, but your coordinators will do their best to minimize such risks. If there should be an accident, medical attention is our first priority. You are covered under the Globe Aware medical insurance. More details on that below.

In terms of security, if you are staying in Mexico after the program ends, we always recommend exercising caution in tourist and non tourist areas and avoid calling unnecessary attention to yourself - common sense is important. Don't wear expensive jewelry and use Uber instead of public transportation. Taxis in Tepoztlán are very safe and inexpensive, but this is not the case in other places like Mexico City.

Your Project Coordinator: Yael

Yael's grandmother arrived in Tepoztlán 43 years ago, so she has been visiting the town her entire life. She has lived there permanently for the past 10 years. She studied architecture in Mexico City (UIA). She has lived in Spain and has been widely exposed to different cultures. As an architect, she is passionate and dedicated to the realization of sustainable projects which respond to the local needs, as well as focusing on utilizing available resources and local materials. She lives with her two young boys in town and her older daughter currently lives and studies in the US. In addition to working on several Globe Aware projects in Tepoztlán, Yael is currently in her last year of studies to become a Waldorf trained teacher. She has always been interested in different teaching approaches and the relationship with open spaces. She enjoys cooking, ceramics, living in her small town, nature walks and dancing.



Your Hosts: Ana Garcia and Robb Anderson



Ana is one of the most vivacious traditional Mexican chefs and teachers in Mexico today. Born in Monterrey and raised in Cuernavaca, Chef Ana traces her lineage well beyond the Mexican Revolution.

The inspiration for Chef Ana's recipes and hospitality grow out of her long, rich family history in central and northern Mexico. Her extensive knowledge has been incorporated into a culinary repertoire that includes traditional central and northern Mexican specialties as well as nouvelle Mexican cuisine using traditional ingredients in new and gastronomically adventurous ways.

In 2001, Ana and her husband Rob founded La Villa Bonita Mexican Culinary Vacation, a cooking school and culinary vacation destination that combines Chef Ana's cooking skills and inviting hospitality in a breathtaking setting beneath the Tepozteco Mountain range. Since opening its doors, La Villa Bonita has received various distinctions such as "One of the Five Best Culinary Vacations Worldwide" by The Food Network, one of "The 100 Best Vacations to Enrich Your Life" by National Geographic Books and author Pam Grout. She has appeared on the Food Network, WGN, PBS and ABC as well as the focus of articles in Newsweek, Travel and Leisure, Bon Appetit, Latina, Cooking Light and Intermezzo.

Chef Ana's passions are maintaining traditional Mexican slow food techniques, fostering good eating habits for kids, employing good environmental practices in daily life, and promoting healthy eating and living habits for the family. Together with her husband Rob, Ana finds time to raise their three small children, and to pass down her rich history and her passion for food.

Entering Mexico

A valid passport is required to enter and depart Mexico. We always recommend having at least six months of validity and a couple of blank pages.



You will go through customs and immigration upon arrival in Mexico City. You will be asked to provide evidence of return or onward travel.

IMPORTANT: On the airplane before you get to Mexico City, you will receive a Tourist Card (FMT). Make sure you fill out accurately and do not lose it - you will be fined if you don't have it when you leave Mexico.

The address you should enter for your stay in Mexico is

Tubohotel

Glorieta km 17 s/n

Col. San Sebastian

Tepoztlan, Morelos Mexico

If you should lose your passport and Tourist Card, you will have to go to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City (or its equivalent if you are from another country) to be issued a new passport. After that, you will have to go to the Mexican Immigration office in Mexico City to process a replacement. You will be asked to fill in the form again and pay for a replacement, but this can be a complicated process. Taking care of this document can help you avoid a lot of headaches.

Arrival and Meet-Up / Entry Requirements

U.S. and Canadian citizens may visit Mexico without a visa. You must have a valid passport, which we recommend have a validity of **at least six months from date of entry into Mexico and at least 2 blank pages**. Citizens from other countries do not need a tourist visa if they have permanent residency or a valid tourist or business visa from the following countries: United States, Canada and any country in the European Union. If you meet neither of these requirements, please contact the closest Mexican embassy or consulate to verify whether you need a visa.

Once you land in Mexico City, you must proceed to immigration, as this is your first point of entry into the country. There you will present your documentation (passport). Depending on the number of planes landing at the same time and the time of year, this can take anywhere from 10-20 minutes to over an hour. Mid-day arrivals usually wait a little longer.

You will then proceed to baggage claim where you will pick up your luggage. If any of your luggage is damaged or missing you should report it to the airline immediately and provide the address below. If lost or missing baggage will cause a delay in meet up, you should notify us immediately (See Emergency Contact Information to see how to reach Globe Aware 24 hours a day).



For delayed baggage to be delivered to the program site, use this address and phone number:

La Villa Bonita

Prol. Aniceto Villamar #150

Tepoztlán, Morelos, Mexico

Phone number: +045 777 267 6275 Ana Garcia

Once you have picked up your luggage (or reported if delayed), walk to customs. The red/stop-green/go system will tell you if you are going to be inspected or questioned. Do NOT bring any drugs, firearms or illegal substances into Mexico. If you go to jail in Mexico, your rights are minimal. The Mexican legal system is very different from the U.S. You can and will go to jail, and you will very likely not be able to post bond. You can be held for months with only a formal complaint while the prosecutor investigates and builds a case against you. You are not innocent until proven guilty under Mexican Law.

After customs, you will exit glass doors at the airport. **Specific meet up instructions will be sent separately in your Ready Set Go email 3-4 weeks before the program and again a few days before. Please make sure you clearly understand where and what time your meet up will take place.**

If there should be any changes in your flight or delays that will affect meet up please CALL the numbers below. Our email is not monitored 24-7.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Globe Aware Headquarters:

From the U.S. (214) 824 4562 . From Mexico - 001 214 824 4562

Globe Aware Main Accommodations:

From the U.S. 011 52 739 395 3613

From Mexico - 01 739 395 3613

In Case of Emergency

Globe Aware's 24 hour phone line Please note our email is not attended all day every day so if you have an emergency please use this phone number : (214) 824 4562

The United States Embassy is located in Mexico City at:

Paseo de la Reforma 305

Colonia Cuauhtemoc

06500 Mexico, D.F.

Phone: (01-55) 5080-2000

Fax: (01-55) 5080-2005

Things happen. Please understand that Globe Aware cannot be responsible for acts by God or government. Weather, strikes and the like can effect which roads are open, and cause unscheduled delays. Working outside of North America and Europe is rarely as punctual for a whole host of reasons. Pack your patience and flexibility, you'll be rewarded.

Stay Involved

As you leave Mexico, you may be asking yourself, “how can I continue to help?”.

Start planning your next volunteer vacation

Are you ready for your next volunteer vacation? Many of our volunteers are forever changed by the experience and can't wait for the next one, or to visit a new, exciting place. Maybe you fell so in love with the community you visited that you would like to go back. Globe Aware does not have a minimum number of people to run a trip and most of our programs have no age restrictions, so whether you choose to go by yourself, with your friends or family, we invite you to explore our different destinations on our website www.globeaware.org, or plan to return to Mexico! All returning volunteers receive 10% off any of our program fees!

Join us on Social Media - Use the hashtag #globeaware for your posts!

Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/globeaware - Don't forget to LIKE us! You can also friend our Director of Communications, Shanti Shahani, on Facebook, she often posts updates so you can continue to follow the progress of projects that you worked on: www.facebook.com/ShGlobeAware

Our Instagram is @globeaware - we would love to have you follow us and share!

Fundraising

Start a fundraising campaign to support a specific program or project, fundraise towards your next volunteer trip, or even donate to other individuals fundraising so they can experience what you did! Adopt a project and continue to raise funds to go towards it - the sky is the limit!

Communicate with us

Please call us at 1 877 588 4562 or email us at office@globeaware.com to communicate any special needs you saw, project ideas, etc. to our office. We are always happy to hear from you!

Share your photos

Send in your photos so we can share with other people in the same program, or people interested in going to Mexico.

Leaving Mexico

You will be asked to return the Tourist card you received on arrival in Mexico City when you leave the country. If you do not have this card you may be fined and asked to fill out another one. If you should lose your passport, you must first contact the embassy of your country and then proceed to Mexican Immigration Offices in Mexico City.

Resources

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program is a free service provided by the U.S. government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency, keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements, and help your friends and family get in touch with you in case of an emergency. The link to STEP is <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

Global Entry

Global Entry is a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival in the United States. Recently, long lines have been reported at customs and immigration when coming back into the United States. Global Entry approved travelers are able to use the automated kiosks at immigration to reduce wait times considerably. For more information, visit <http://www.globalentry.gov/>

Further Readings While no further reading is required, we think it is always nice to have a travel guide book with you to read about the area. Lonely Planet, Eyewitness, Frommer's, Budget Travel, Rough Guides are some of the titles we have recommended in the past.