

Sarasota, Florida to Xalapa & Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico

January 31 - February 13, 2018

Friendship Force Journey 14019

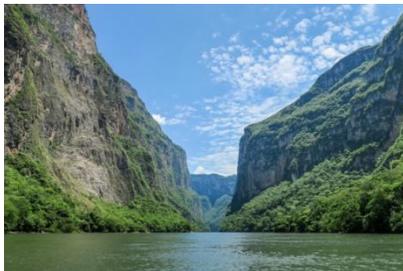
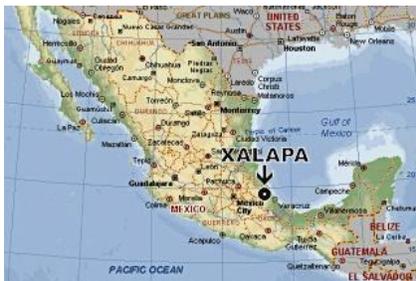
Overview

Come experience the friendly hospitality of Friendship Force clubs Xalapa, Mexico and Mundo Maya de Tuxtla Gutierrez. These areas are rich in history and culture, from museum pieces dating back to 1300 BC, archeological sites, and locations showing Spanish influence to today's symphony, cuisine and artisan shops.

Optional add-on trip to San Cristobal, Toniná, Palenque (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), San Juan Chamula, Zinacantán, and the waterfalls Aqua Azul and Misol.

Home Hospitality

Home hospitality by Friendship Force Xalapa, Mexico.& Mundo Maya de Tuxtla Gutierrez.



Activities (Xalapa) - (Itinerary may vary)

- Visit the **Anthropological Museum of Xalapa**. Its most notable pieces are the giant Olmec heads and the smaller Totonac heads, which are called "caritas sonrientes" (little smiling faces). Some of the pieces date back to 1300 BC.
- Tour **Xalapa** city. Its many museums, theaters, orchestras and bands make it a center for culture. It has 45 universities, public and private, that attract a large student population from around the country.
- Go to a **Symphonic Orchestra Concert**. This orchestra was founded more than 85 years ago.
- Make a trip to an important archaeological site called **Zempoala**, founded at least 1,500 years before the Spanish arrival. It was the capital of the kingdom of Totonacapan. We will have a meal here and taste typical food from the area.
- Go see **Museo de Santa Ana**. This house covers five centuries of the history and was for many years the place of rest and reflection of former president Antonio López de Santa Anna.
- Tour where coffee is cultivated and visit the **Museo del Café**.
- Visit **La Antigua** - considered to be the first Spanish town in Mexico. The oldest church in the Americas was founded here by Cortés in the early 16th century.
- Visit the famous **House of Hernan Cortes** (who started the Conquest of Mexico).
- Travel to **Veracruz Port.** We will have a tasty seafood lunch in a typical restaurant, tour around the historical center of the city and relax with a cup of coffee in the famous **Café de la Parroquia**.

Activities (Tuxtla Gutierrez) - (Partial Itinerary, destinations may vary)

- Visit **Canyon de Sumidero**, an impressive gorge with great diversity of plants and animal life. This may involve a 2 hour boat ride.
- Travel to the town **Chiapa de Corzo**, founded in 1526, and visit the largest public plaza in the country, the **Pila** fountain, and many shops with artisan handicrafts of the region.
- Enjoy live music and dancing at **Marimba Park**, **Las Pichanchas**, and the **farewell party**.
- Experience the **Museo do la Marimba** - this small museum showcases 100 years of this ubiquitous instrument, with both antique and modern models on display.

- Talk to the animals at **the Zoológico Miguel Álvarez del Toro**. Located in the reserve of El Zapotal. see quetzal, curassows, jaguar, tapir, otters, toucans, guaqueques, spider monkey, howler monkeys and much much more.
- Visit **Cristo de Copoya**. - a monumental statue of Christ than can be observed from any point in the capital. It measures 62 meters, higher that the Christ Redeemer of Brazil that measures 30 meters.

Fees, How To Apply for the Journey, & More

Journey: \$470.00 **deposit** required with application. **Final payment** of \$470.00 is due by **November 20, 2017**. Refunds/Cancellation: \$25 of deposit is not refundable. No refunds after **November 30, 2017**. Prices may vary once tickets are purchased.

Optional Add-on Trip: Costs start at \$560 for a group of 3 and decrease to \$255 for a group of 20. Send payment of \$560.00 by **November 20, 2017**. Please indicate if you would like a **single or a double room**. You will receive a check for any overpayment once we know how many people are going. No refunds after **November 30, 2017**.

To apply: Complete the Exchange Application and Agreement Form* and mail it with your **check payable to Friendship Force of Sarasota, FL**. Mail application and check to the **Ambassador Coordinator, Kay Consigny, 4745 Sweetmeadow Circle, Sarasota, FL, 34238-3398**.

You will receive an email confirmation once your application and check are received. Your check will NOT be deposited until you have been formally accepted into the journey. Questions? Call Kay Consigny at **941-923-8700**. Ambassadors selected will be notified. Ambassadors must have **travel insurance**. Once accepted, mail the Journey Coordinator a copy of your Emergency Assistance Card from your travel insurance company showing your name, policy number, emergency contact numbers and benefit limits.

More Info..... Maximum number of ambassadors is 20. Re **physical fitness**: You must be able to get on/off buses without assistance, handle your own luggage, climb flights of stairs and be able to walk on cobblestones and hilly uneven terrain. At times you will be in high altitude up to 7,000 ft. Re **transportation**: You will book your own transportation to and from the journey. **Do not purchase tickets until you are notified to do so**. Re **passport**: You must have a passport valid at least six months from the date of departure from the U.S. Seven months would be safer to avoid any customs problems.

Not Included.... Travel Insurance, travel to and from the journey, dinner for your hosts, possible lunches and dinners out if not covered in the home hosting program, home/dinner/day host gifts.

***The Ambassador Application and Agreement Form can be found at**

<https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement.pdf>.

Or, you can find it by

Going to www.thefriendshipforce.org

Select Member Resources in the top line

Select Journey Documents on the left side

Select Ambassador Application and Agreement