



ETERNAL ANCHOR
VISITOR INFORMATION

Passport:

U.S. citizens age 16 or over must present either a U.S. passport book or card to re-enter the U.S. from Mexico.

Travel note for unaccompanied minors:

In order to combat international child abduction or the exploitation of minors, minor **non-Mexican** children **leaving** Mexico must be accompanied by both parents or guardians or be prepared to present written authorization to travel from the absent parents or guardians. The child must be carrying the original letter – not a faxed or scanned copy – as well as proof of the parent/child relationship (usually a birth certificate) – and an original custody decree, if applicable. If there is only one custodial parent, the accompanying adult should be prepared to present documentation to that effect (e.g., a court order granting sole custody to one parent, a death certificate for the absent parent, etc.).

Money:

Mexican pesos are the local currency. U.S. dollars are generally accepted, but Canadian currency is not. There is an ATM in town where you can get pesos, but international fees apply. If bringing cash, we recommend small bills (\$20 or less). Pay attention during transactions (e.g., watch to make sure gas meter starts at \$0 when you get gasoline) and be aware of the fluctuating exchange rate.

Accommodations:

There are a few reasonably priced options in town for group accommodations. We recommend that you inquire and reserve space as soon as possible to ensure that you will have adequate lodging for your group. If these aren't available, contact Eternal Anchor administration at info@eternalanchor.org.

Welcome Home Outreach

Cost is \$15/person/night - Includes lodging, breakfast and lunch (no dinner)

For more information, visit: www.welcomehomeoutreach.org

John Haff

Cost is \$10/person/night - Includes lodging but no meals

For more information, email: johnhaff@juno.com

Live Different

Cost is \$14/person/night - Includes lodging but no meals (meal options available upon inquiry)

For more information, email andrewbernardi@livedifferent.com

Life Style:

As staff members and visitors, we represent the ministry of Eternal Anchor and our conduct impacts our reputation within the community.

Dress:

All EA staff and visitors are expected to dress modestly. Avoid shorts/skirts that are shorter than 5 inches above the knee, exposed cleavage, pants with tears and holes, exposed underwear, yoga/stretch pants (unless covered by a skirt or shorts).

At the beach women should wear modest one-piece swimsuits. It is not appropriate for men or women to wear their swimsuits in town or for men to be shirtless anywhere besides the beach or swimming pools.

It is difficult to account for every new fashion, so please don't be offended or upset if you are asked to change. We want to maintain a reputation for cultural sensitivity within a community that values modesty.

Photography/Social media:

We love to take pictures of our trips and experiences. It is a great way to capture and preserve our memories. During your stay in Mexico, you may experience cultural differences or observe living conditions different than what you are accustomed to. We ask that EA visitors are careful to respect the dignity of the families that we work with. It is very important that we not display their living conditions in a negative light. We ask for discretion when posting photos and videos to social media websites. Some of the families have access to social media and so we ask that you keep that in mind as you write about your experiences and/or post photos and videos.

Internet/Cell Phone Use:

While we don't prohibit the possession of cell phones, we do ask that visitors keep cell phones put away while working with the children at Centro CYSNE. Please do not make or receive personal calls, texts, or spend time on social media sites while at the community center. Our priority is to show love and our undivided attention to the children.

Water/Electricity:

Wherever you travel in Baja California, it is important to be mindful of water and electricity usage. Water shortage is a chronic issue in this region and cisterns can run dry if people don't limit their water use. Showering and dishwashing have the potential to consume the most water, so please take extra precautions to conserve water when engaging in these activities. Also, electricity in this region is very costly. Please remember to turn lights out and electronics off when you are not using them. These practices help us to keep costs down and to be good stewards of the resources that God has given us.

Medical Emergency:

For medical emergencies, there are local hospitals in the area. However, these hospitals are only equipped to deal with basic medical care. If you have a medical condition that requires regular medication, please be sure to bring a sufficient supply. The nearest U.S. hospital is about 4 and half hours from Vicente Guerrero. Should an emergency occur, each individual is responsible for his or her own insurance, medical care, transportation and any associated costs.

Feedback and Suggestions:

Eternal Anchor strives to do what we do with excellence and we are always interested in your feedback and suggestions. We ask each team to fill out a quick survey at the end of their stay. Your team's honest and thoughtful responses help us to improve as an organization and provide a better experience in the future. Eternal Anchor leadership also welcomes comments and questions during the week as things come up.

You might find that something is done differently here than you are accustomed to. If you are curious about something, please ask! It could be that we are working within the limits of our resources, perhaps it is a cultural difference, or maybe you know of a technique or tool that we are not aware of. We strive to create a climate of openness where we can all learn from one another.

Unity:

Those who serve at Eternal Anchor represent a variety of backgrounds and cultures.

1 Peter 3:8 - Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

Gifts and Handouts to Families:

Eternal Anchor's desire is to empower and equip families. In an attempt to avoid creating dependency, we do not give money or gifts to children or their families (except in special circumstances with approval by the director). Our desire is for the families of the children we serve to come to the program with a servant mentality as opposed to an attitude of dependence. We ask them to come and use the gifts and resources God has given them to help not only their own children, but other children with special needs in their community.

Working With Children at Eternal Anchor:

- Encourage Independence: Let the children attempt to work on tasks themselves. Ask a staff member before carrying a child or assisting them with walking.
- Appropriate Physical Touch: Help staff reinforce to the children what appropriate physical contact should be with a stranger. High-fives and fist bumps are encouraged over hugging.
- Discipline: Allow staff to deal with discipline. When in doubt ask a teacher, don't assume that you know the context of a given situation or assume the role of the teacher.
- Medical Emergencies: In the event of a medical emergency, **immediately call a staff member**. In the event of a seizure don't put anything in the child's mouth, do turn the child onto their side so that they don't aspirate.
- **For the protection of children and staff, no visitors will be alone with a child. No visitor will be allowed to change diapers or take a child to the bathroom.**