

IMPORTANT: You need a passport or crossing card to travel in Mexico. For further information please visit the State Department's web-site at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html#entry_requirements

SAMPLE – Volunteer “Exchange Program”
Weekend Visit to Agua Prieta, Mexico

Friday Afternoon	Saturday	Sunday
<p>4:00PM – Leave Phoenix or Tucson.</p> <p>6:00PM – 9:00PM – Arrive in Douglas. Meet Rancho Feliz representative at Gadsden Hotel. Cross into Mexico.</p> <p>7:00PM – 10:00PM – Arrive at Dorm and settle in. Can prepare own dinner or have local cooks prepare Mexican meal ready upon arrival.</p>	<p>7:30AM – 8:00AM – Breakfast at Dorm.</p> <p>8:30AM – Introduction / Orientation.</p> <p>9:00AM – Leave for job site(s).</p> <p>12:00PM – Break for lunch.</p> <p>1:00PM – Back to work.</p> <p>4:00PM – Stop Working.</p> <p>6:00PM – Drive back Dorm for showers & dinner.</p>	<p>7:00AM – Breakfast at Dorm.</p> <p>8:00AM – Leave for job site(s).</p> <p>11:00AM – Return to Dorm for showers, lunch & clean up.</p> <p>12:00PM – Return to border and cross back into USA.</p> <p>***This is an example schedule only. All activities, times and locations are subject to change as agreed between the Exchange Program Coordinator and the volunteer group. Custom schedules accommodating more days are also possible.</p>

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Rancho Feliz Exchange Program Volunteer Group – Sample Weekend Visit

Friday Afternoon

Douglas, Arizona is located on the US/Mexico border in southeast corner of the State. Agua Prieta, Sonora is located adjacent to Douglas – just across the border. The Exchange Dormitory is a 10 minute drive south of the border. Douglas is a 4 – 5 hour drive from Phoenix and a 2 hour drive from Tucson. There is an international airport and car/van rental in Tucson.

4:00 pm – Volunteer group leaves either Phoenix or Tucson.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – Group arrives at the historic Gadsden Hotel in Douglas.

A Rancho Feliz representative will meet the group at the Gadsden Hotel (1046 G Avenue, Douglas, Arizona) and will guide the group across the border providing proper support with the Mexican Customs Agents. Items, food types, etc. not allowed to cross into Mexico frequently change so prior to the group's arrival the Program Coordinator will designate which items are currently prohibited to cross. Once in Mexico the group will be escorted to the Exchange Dormitory. A dormitory floor plan, description and photographs are located on our web-site. We ask that you visit the site prior to arrival to familiarize yourself with the facility and assign volunteers to rooms. <http://www.ranchofeliz.com/index.php/volunteer-exchange-program-a-dorm>

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm – Volunteer group arrives at the Exchange Dormitory.

The group will be installed in the dorm and dinner can be prepared by the group in the Dorm kitchen or the Program Coordinator can arrange for local cooks to prepare a Mexican meal which will be ready upon arrival. Additionally, Domino's Pizza is available for delivery.

Note: The catered Mexican meal costs \$10 per person and is a favorite of most visiting groups. After a long day of driving it can be inviting to sit back and enjoy the local cuisine. Plus it provides much needed employment for the Agua Prieta resident cooks.

Saturday

7:30 am – 8:00 am – The volunteer group prepares its own breakfast.

***Special Request:** In order to keep the Exchange Dormitory kitchen functional we depend on our volunteer groups to bring used plates, silverware, pots and pans and any other useful kitchen items to donate to the facility. This includes paper towels, sponges and dish soap. While this is not a requirement, the donation of any of the items mentioned above will be greatly appreciated.

8:30 am – Introduction / Orientation.

The Exchange Program Coordinator will provide a short introduction to Rancho Feliz and its philosophies and programs. He will also discuss the various work projects planned for the weekend, where they are located, what to expect, who will be benefited, lunch accommodations, etc. He will also answer any questions the group may have.

9:00 am – Leave for the job site(s).

12:00 pm – Break for Lunch.

In the interest of time we recommend that the volunteers eat at the job site. Pizza and drinks can be delivered or lunches can be prepared at the Dorm and brought to the work site(s). In the event the group stays at the work site for lunch, clean bathroom locations will be located for the use of the volunteers.

And of course, the group's return to the Dorm for lunch preparation and a bathroom break is always an option.

1:00 pm – Back to work.

4:00 pm – Stop working.

This is the favorite time of day for many of our visiting groups. We have lots of flexibility for the next couple of hours. Many groups like to visit the orphanage and play with the abandoned children. (The orphans love this!) Many stay at their job site(s) and visit and play with the local neighbors and their children who they met throughout the day. Soccer matches, basketball and volleyball games and piñatas can be scheduled at Rancho Feliz's nearby Vecinos sports court. More serious endeavors such as a visit to the local rehab center, a tour of the infamous border fence or a visit to the Rancho Feliz animal shelter are also options. And lastly, many groups like to return to the Dorm early and conduct meetings in the large family room to discuss their experiences of the day and their views on the contentious border issue, possible solutions, etc.

6:00 pm – Return to the Exchange Dormitory for showers and dinner.

Volunteers can cook their own meals, order out for pizza or have a Mexican catered meal prepared at the Dorm as discussed above under Friday night. Another favorite for all the groups is to travel to a nearby home for dinner. Here the family provides an amazing meal in an authentic Mexican atmosphere. It's an unforgettable experience replete with local dishes and regional corridos (music). The cost is \$10 per person. Another option is to eat at one of the several local restaurants. Our Program Coordinator knows the ones that will fit your budget and exceed your expectations. So there are lots of dinner options available.

Sunday

7:00 am – Breakfast at the Dorm.

8:00 am – Leave for the job site(s).

If your group has funded a food distribution you will be traveling to our Rancho Feliz, Vecinos community to separate and package the bulk food for individual distribution. All bulk food must be purchased in Mexico by law. For a complete outline of food items, costs and amounts please visit the “work projects” link on our Exchange Program web-site page at:

<http://www.ranchofeliz.com/index.php/volunteer-exchange-program-a-dorm>

In the event your group will not be conducting a food distribution you will be traveling to your chosen work project site(s).

11:00 am – Return to the Exchange Dormitory for showers, lunch and clean up.

To leave the property in great shape for the next set of volunteers it is important that your group takes the time to thoroughly clean the Dorm – both inside and the surrounding grounds.

12:00 pm – Return to the border and cross back into the USA.

A Rancho Feliz representative will escort you back to the border.

This is an example schedule only. All activities, times and locations are subject to change as agreed between the Exchange Program Coordinator and the volunteer group. Custom schedules accommodating more days are also possible.

For more detailed information on the Rancho Feliz, Exchange Program experience please visit the “Questions & Answers” link on our web-site:

<http://www.ranchofeliz.com/index.php/volunteer-exchange-program-a-dorm>