

Important Volunteer Information

If you want to be directly involved with the children and this ministry, please volunteer some of your time to join us on a Saturday volunteer trip to Nazareth Orphanage. There are four Saturday volunteer day trips organized per year that coincide with the academic school year. These take place in September, November, January and March. We gather in the **St. Elizabeth Catholic Church** lower parking lot at **7:15 AM** and depart no later than 7:30 AM or in the **St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church** parking lot near the covered area at **7:30 AM** and depart no later than 7:45 AM. Return is generally around 5:30 PM.

Required Identification to re-enter the U.S.

- Volunteers 18 years and older are required to have a valid U.S. passport.
- Volunteers younger than 18 years old need to have their birth certificate and a school-issued photo ID card.

Getting to the Orphanage

There are two ways to get to the Orphanage once you arrive at the Tecate border crossing:

- Park on the USA side and walk across the border or
- Drive across and go directly to the orphanage

Parking at the Border:

- Just before the border, park in the small strip mall. You may only park in the row facing the street or behind/side of the building (but not the rows facing the storefronts).
- The cost is \$8/US cash and must be paid to the cashier at the grocery store. She will give you a placard to place on your dashboard. This allows you to park in the lot for 24 hours.

Walking Across the Border and taking a taxi:

(This is the time to switch your cell phone to airplane mode.)

It is very easy to walk through the border turnstiles. As you depart the border building, there is a place just across the street where you can hail a taxicab. Give them the address of Nazareth Orphanage - Rancho Nazareth, Carretera Tecate-Mexicali km. The cost should be approximately \$8 US cash each way. Four people can share a taxi to the orphanage to help save costs.

Required Liability Insurance for Volunteer Drivers

If you decide to drive across the border, all cars must carry liability insurance, which is available usually for \$15 per day, issued from a Mexican insurance firm for auto travel in Mexico. You can also check with your own insurance carrier to obtain coverage. Full comprehensive coverage would incur additional fees. We suggest the following insurance options:

- **Option 1:** There is a Ramco "Mini-Mart Mexico" right before the border crossing into Tecate where you can purchase insurance for the day. They are an agent of ADA VIS Global Insurance.
- **Option 2:** Call ADA VIS Global Insurance Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm, and purchase insurance prior to the Saturday trip. The phone number is 800-909-4457. Purchasing insurance ahead of time through this option is less expensive than purchasing insurance the same day of travel (Option 1).
- **Option 3:** Purchase insurance online through any of these websites: www.mexinsurance.com, www.mexicoinsurance.com or www.bajabound.com. (We recommend purchasing insurance online prior to the day of the trip.)
- **Option 4:** Call your auto insurance carrier, as they may offer a day plan for Mexico travel.

Carpooling is encouraged for all trips to the orphanage. Please be considerate of our volunteer drivers, as they are personally paying for insurance and gas to travel to the orphanage in Mexico. As a courtesy to your driver, you may offer to split the gas and insurance costs with the other passengers in the car.

Directions to Nazareth Orphanage

Nazareth Orphanage is in **Tecate, Mexico**, about 6.2 miles west of the border crossing at Tecate. Volunteers can meet to carpool at the following:

For St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church Volunteers:

Volunteers meet at St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, 11451 Blue Cypress Drive, San Diego, in the parking lot near the covered area (solar panels) at **7:30 AM** where we arrange carpools and caravan to the orphanage. We depart by no later than **7:45 AM**.

For St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church Volunteers:

Volunteers meet at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 6628 Santa Isabel Street, Carlsbad, in the lower parking lot at **7:15 AM** where we arrange carpools and caravan to the orphanage together. We enter Mexico at the Tecate border to minimize drive time through Mexico.

Driving Directions:

From Carlsbad: (Total drive time is approximately 90 minutes.)

- **Take I-5 South to I-805 South;** then take exit to **94 East**.
- Keep on **94 East** going past the 125 freeway and follow directions to stay on 94 East. (The 125 North and 94 East will be parallel for about one mile.) Then the 94 East will curve to the right. Stay on 94 East (it turns into Campo Road). Then look for the sign for 94 East where you will take a hard right (you will see Burger King on your left at this intersection). This Burger King is a great stop for restrooms and a quick snack.
- **Take 94 East** for another 40 miles until you see Route 188.
- **Turn right on route 188 towards Tecate.** In less than 2 miles, you will see the border into Mexico. But just before the border, on your left in a small strip mall, will be a “Mini-Mart Mexico” convenience store. This is another great stop for buying daily car insurance (Liability only is \$15 for the day). **NOTE:** It is required that you buy liability insurance to drive your car in Mexico. You can also purchase comprehensive insurance here. Turn left out of this parking lot to get to the border entry. Skip next section to get to “From the Border” section below.

From Scripps Ranch Area (along I-15): (Total drive time is approximately 80 minutes.)

- **Take I-15 South** and then take Exit 11 to merge onto **CA-52 East**
- Then **take Exit 15** to merge onto **CA-125 South**
- **Take Exit 11** to merge onto Spring Street to get to **CA-94 East**
- **Turn left onto Spring Street** to get onto **CA-94 East**
- **Take 94 East** for another 40 miles to Route 188 (but note CA-94 East makes a hard right in Rancho San Diego area)
- **Take route 188 toward Tecate;** in less than 2 miles, you will see the border into Mexico. Just before the border, on your left, in a small strip mall will be a “Mini-Mart Mexico” convenience store. This is another great stop for buying daily car insurance (Liability only is \$15 for the day). **NOTE:** It is required that you buy liability insurance to drive your car in Mexico. You can also purchase comprehensive insurance here. Turn left out of this parking lot to get to the border entry.

From the Border:

- **Once you cross the border**, you may be asked to stop by the Mexican border patrol. Most times, they will wave you through. Proceed straight ahead to the second traffic light (Avenida Benito Juarez).
- **Turn right towards Tijuana at this signal (west)**. The turn-off for the orphanage is about 5.6 miles from the border. Remain on Avenida Benito Juarez for 5.6 miles. Please be careful to stop at all STOP signs along the way.
- **You will pass a church on your right called Iglesia del Nazareno**. This is a landmark that you're going in the right direction.
- **Keep going straight. In about 5.2 miles from the border**, you will cross over the toll road (Route 2) that is marked 'Tijuana Cuota', but do not enter this toll road.
- **Stay straight on the 'Tijuana Libre'**, which is the same street that you are on but continue to drive over the toll road overpass.
- **In less than a mile past this toll road**, you will see a sign on the right called 'Ofanatorio' (which means orphanage in Spanish). Turn right at this sign, which is a dirt road just past this sign. (This right turn is about 5.6 miles from the border). The entrance to the Nazareth Orphanage is on this dirt road. Proceed ahead for about .6 miles. You will pass a school area and then veer to your left. There is small cemetery on your left.
- **Proceed ahead and you will see the blue and green orphanage buildings on your right**. The entrance will be on your right. The entrance of the Nazareth Orphanage is about 6.2 miles from the border crossing. Turn right into the orphanage grounds. Drive through the entrance pillars and drive up the hill and park in the dirt parking lot on your left. **NOTE:** If you pass the "police training facility" (looks like a prison) building, you have gone too far!

RETURNING TO BORDER:

Return down the dirt road to the main street and use the driveway to the "police training facility" building to make a left back to Tecate. You will take the highway (Benito Juarez) back to the town of Tecate. You will not be traveling on the same street that you entered Mexico. Go past the main plaza and follow the signs for San Diego Border Crossing (Puerto). You will go past the downtown area and then make a left at the sign that says San Diego Puerto (Border).

The line crossing the border can often be long. Plan accordingly – estimated wait 15 to 45 minutes. Please have your required identification (passports for adults 18 years or older; birth certificate and a school-issued photo ID for children under 18). Once you cross the border, you can return by reversing the directions. **If you arrived in a taxi:** Ask one of the Sisters to call a taxi for you to take you back to the border.