



VISIT TO "LA FRONTERA" THE USA/MEX BORDER WALL

COST: NO COST

(A VISIT TO THE "WALL" IS AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH NO COSTS INVOLVED.)

The international border between the USA and Mexico is 1,969 miles in length, distinguishing it as the longest border between two countries in the world. To date, 640 miles, or roughly a third has been demarcated with either a barrier wall or vehicle blockades. The remaining 1,329 miles is open desert.

It is estimated that approx. 3,000 undocumented Mexicans try to cross the border every day. On average, 2,200 get caught, leaving around 800 illegal aliens entering the USA daily. To guard this border, USA taxpayers spend \$13 billion a year. (\$100 billion over the last decade.)

A visit to the border "Wall" is a powerful and unforgettable encounter. Here volunteers can see, touch, peer through, photograph and experience first-hand the power and divisiveness of the "Wall." They can imagine the fear and trepidation the undocumented crossers must feel when embarking on their journey.

HERE YOUR EXCHANGE PROGRAM COORDINATOR WILL LEAD A DISCUSSION COVERING:

1. The nature and function of borders. What is a "border" and why do we need them?
2. Is a wall a good thing or a monument to fear?
3. Why do people cross the border illegally?
4. Where do the crossers come from and how do they get here?
5. What is it like to cross the border illegally?
6. How do the "Polleros" and "Coyotes" (criminal guides) treat the crossers?
7. What does it cost to cross the border illegally?
8. What are the challenges and rewards of crossing undocumented into the USA?
9. Border deaths and apprehensions. What happens?
10. Are there other, more effective and humane solutions than a wall?
11. What are the unintended consequences of the USA's current border policies?

Questions, answers and opinions are encouraged and many times we have former "crossers" join us to tell their personal horrors of "jumping the line."

The "Border" is a very complicated, contentious and politically fueled issue. Rancho Feliz does not take a position on this subject nor does it have an agenda other than encouraging dialogue and exposing its volunteers to the harsh reality of the "Wall."

A TYPICAL VISIT LASTS AROUND 45 MINUTES.



*This is a profound
and enlightening
experience as the
volunteers gain
an experiential
understanding of
the challenges and
sacrifices made by
people like them
in search of a
better life.*