



January 4, 2020

Response to Recent Travel Warning: Updated 1/4/20

Amor Ministries works diligently to keep the safety of its participants at the forefront of all decisions when serving across the border and abroad. Accordingly, Amor uses U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings to inform groups of Amor's current evaluation of such areas.

In the recently released Travel Warning (December 17, 2019), the US Department of State provided a state by state assessment of risks while traveling in Mexico. Please note this is not a new Travel Warning, but a standard update to an existing warning. The US Department of State reissues these warnings regularly to make sure their content is up to date.

While the area of Northern Baja California was addressed in this Travel Warning, it was not an area in which U.S. citizens were encouraged to delay travel. The current Travel Warning did advise U.S. citizens to exercise caution while in Baja California Norte. Amor continues to be extremely cautious in the areas where Amor Trip participants camp, work, and travel. Amor advises its groups to follow the recommendations for travel within Northern Baja. Amor will continue to strongly recommend groups serving in the region to travel in caravans, remain at Amor's carefully monitored campsites in the evening, and keep movement limited to daylight hours. In addition, Amor will continue to carefully select predesignated work areas which have been identified as having typical urban environments.

Likewise, while the state of Sonora was addressed in the Travel Warning, the city of Puerto Peñasco is considered to be an area to exercise caution. Thousands of tourists visit Puerto Peñasco annually, with the vast majority driving from Arizona. The border recommended for use in the Travel Advisory (Lukeville, AZ/ Sonoyta, Sonora) is the one Amor uses for all groups as well. Amor advises its groups to follow the recommendations for travel to Puerto Peñasco. Amor will continue to strongly recommend groups serving in the region to travel in caravans, remain at Amor's carefully monitored campsites in the evening, and keep movement limited to daylight hours. In addition, Amor will continue to carefully select predesignated work areas which have been identified as having typical urban environments.

Amor has resumed allowing select groups to work in Ciudad Juarez. This is permitted on a case by case basis in coordination with Amor's leadership team and the local Ministry Planning Board. Groups serving with Amor in Ciudad Juarez agree to travel during daylight hours, limit travel to between overnight accommodations and worksite(s), travel along main arterials. Please contact Amor for more information on travel to Ciudad Juarez or to learn about the Complete House Sponsorship Program.

Amor is continually monitoring the region and the U.S. Consulate website for changes in safety recommendations. Equipped with updated information from Amor's contacts in the local government and law enforcement who serve the communities that Amor supports, the Ministry feels confident to make the best decision on behalf of our participants, the Pastors, and the Mexican families alongside whom we serve.

Because of this, Amor will continue to serve in the cities of Puerto Peñasco, Tijuana, Rosarito, Tecate, and Ciudad Juarez. For more information about regional updates, visit <http://travel.state.gov>. Feel free to contact us with any questions at 619-662-1200 or tripservices@amor.org

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