



Mazatlan 2026

Who is Heart2Heart: This was a name chosen for the short-term missions project that worked with Back2Back in Cancun in 2023, as it reflects that partnership that our group engages in with the Back2Back ministry while joining together as a close team of Christ followers. Specifically, “Heart2Heart with Back2Back” is to be made up of mother/daughter partners from FBC Olds where the daughter is at least 13-19 years old at time of the travel. When group space allows, this can also include grandmothers and teen granddaughters as well. This allows the group to create special relational opportunities that would not be achieved with a mixed gender group or by widening the age bracket of the girls. Ideally, the group would be between 12-15 individuals.

Who is Back2Back: Full information is available at www.back2back.org. Back2Back is an international Christian non-profit dedicated to meeting the spiritual, physical, educational, emotional, and social needs of vulnerable children and families around the world. They are headquartered in Ohio and have been serving through the power of the gospel since 1997. They have active ministries to children and families in the US, Mexico, Dominican Republic, India, Nigeria and Haiti.

Dates: Proposed travel between April 17 – April 26, 2026, spring break, for 6 days in country & extra days used for travel has been cleared with Back2Back Mazatlan. Exact dates TBD based on flight scheduling. Mazatlan was chosen as the project destination of 2026 due to the work being done there by missionaries, Amy and Josue Perez, who worked with the FBC Olds team that traveled in 2023. They have worked to implement the same Strong Families model that we saw in action in Cancun in 2023.

Flight Costs: Projected flight cost from YYC to MZT is approximately \$850CAD per person based on spring travel rates of 2025 and allowing for a 10% price increase for next spring.

Mission Trip Costs in Country: All expenses for food and accommodation are covered by Back2Back when in country based on their missions group fees. Current fees for Mazatlan are \$834USD per person, but accounting for a projected increase for 2026, budgeting sits at \$900USD per person. Based on current exchange rates, this nets \$1260CAD per person. This fee covers all project costs, accommodation and meals. Extra meals eaten out and souvenirs or other shopping will be at the cost and discretion of each participant.

Accommodations, Transportation and Meals: This is all handled by Back2Back Missions Coordinators in Mazatlan. Currently groups in Mazatlan stay in missions group air-conditioned housing at the Back2Back facility, which has space for groups of 10-26 in size. Transportation in country is provided by Back2Back staff using mission vans, including all transport to and from the airport. Meals are provided, including ample clean drinking water, as is access to cultural experiences (such as church attendance).

Activities in Mazatlan: Our group would undergo trauma-informed training with the Back2Back team before serving through pre-determined projects at local children's homes that Back2Back works with, or with the Hope program for teens. Being a mother-daughter group, we would have a unique opportunity to engage in relational and physical projects that enhance the ministry in a special way. Organizers will work with Back2Back Mazatlan missionaries to choose projects that fit the unique giftings of our group and allow for a variety of service opportunities.

Fundraising: Each group member would be responsible for contributing \$300 per individual towards the total cost to join the group. This is consistent with FBC Short-term Missions policy. The remaining total cost of participation would be approximately \$1810CAD per person. The group would welcome financial donations from the congregation as well as hold two fundraisers through the church and additional fundraisers in the community up to the time of travel. Any funds not raised or donated before travel would need to be covered by the participants themselves.

Proposed Team Timeline: An interest meeting is being held at the church on August 24th after the morning service. Any questions can be directed to Laurie Pearson by phone (403-921-4228) or email (damienandlaurie@gmail.com).