



Information for Mission Teams - 2024

Serving on a mission trip is such a life changing experience and we know that you will greatly enjoy your time here with us. Guatemala is a beautiful country with some of the most open hearted people in Central America. While much of the landscape is breathtaking, there are many areas stricken with poverty and despair. Your service here is greatly needed and appreciated.

Our goal here at Hands of Hope International is to ensure you are able to make the most of the trip. We will connect you with particular areas that need assistance in multiple ways that you feel called to help. Your team will provide an important role in sharing the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

The purpose is simple, but the impact is huge! We want to help meet needs - to build relationships - for an opportunity to share the gospel. The core of our efforts is to make sure that everyone is introduced to who Jesus is by serving one another.

Below is some basic information that will help your team pray and prepare.

Fun Facts about Guatemala:

- Guatemala City is the largest city in Central America
- Produces some of the most amazing coffee in the world
- Has 37 volcanoes with 3 currently active (Fuego, Pacaya and Santiaguito)
- Almost 25% of Guatemalans live on less than \$1.25 a day

Access Church/CRI:

Team Lodging is hosted at the CRI Campus just outside of Guatemala City in San Cristobal. CRI is the home to Access Church where many of us missionaries worship and serve together. The campus consists of four separate housing complexes and can comfortably sleep up to 24 people each, with separate bathrooms, a spacious open main room for lounging. There is a large open room available for group activities/dining/training/etc and a commercial sized kitchen that is staffed for breakfast and dinner. There is an additional covered patio on the rooftop overlooking the city, basketball court and other places around the campus available for you to use. You will also have beautiful views of the mountains and volcanoes which make great opportunities for personal or group bible study. This facility is great for any size group and is very conveniently located for traveling to the outreach areas, church services, etc.

Mission Trip Cost:

A full week (7 day) mission trip will cost \$745 per person + plus airfare (teams are responsible for their own airfare). Cost includes; Lodging, Meals, Outreaches, Transportation, Group Translators, and a Free Day Activity. Team Leaders are fully responsible for collecting payments for everyone attending the trip. Team payments are due within the following deadlines;

- 20% of the total is due within 75 days of arrival
- Remaining balance is due within 25 days of arrival

**All funds are refundable except any money transfer fees we incur and the team's transportation deposit (which is paid to the company 2 weeks before the team's arrival).*

Airline Tickets:

- Airfare is the most expensive part of the trip. It can average between \$600 - \$900 per round-trip ticket. Some airlines will offer group discounted rates. ***Groups are responsible for purchasing their own airfare.**

Lodging and Meals:

- Your fee includes lodging plus 3 meals per day. *Breakfast and Dinner will be cooked and served by the kitchen staff. Lunch food (typically sandwiches) will be available but will need to be prepared by one of your team members after breakfast.*

International Travel:

- Passports are required for International travel to any country here in Central America. The paperwork to apply for your Passport can be downloaded online or

obtained at your local courthouse. The process usually takes up to 6-8 weeks before you receive it in the mail. Please submit your paperwork early to accommodate for any delays. Check with your local Passport Agency for pricing.

Additional Outreach Opportunities:

Outreaches are at the heart of what we do here in Guatemala. Our goal is to meet the needs of people and build relationships with them so ultimately we will have the opportunity to share the gospel. Currently your group will automatically be scheduled for our weekly outreaches (Women's Discipleship, Feeding Program or Kid's Bible School) depending on the dates - and the cost for these are already included with your team fee. We also encourage your group to schedule additional outreaches to participate in while you are here but will be an additional charge depending upon what you choose.

Below you see a list of the different opportunities your group can participate in. Additional information can be sent to give more detail on the outreaches.

- Stove Installations - \$185 per stove (includes stove kit, blocks and installation)
- Food Distribution - \$25 a bag (feeds a family for up to one week)
- Fortified Rice Bags - \$20 a box (Each box contains 40 bags/each bag feeds a kid up to 4 meals)
- Water Filter System - \$45 per system
- Pack 'Journey Bags' - \$10 per bag (White Flag Program for those in need)
- Feed the Homeless - \$75 per night
- Provide Single/Bunk Bed - \$125/Single : \$200/Bunk (includes mattresses)
- Feeding Programs - averages anywhere between \$150-\$225 per feeding
- Sports Ministry - \$40-\$50 per Sports Clinic (offering soccer or basketball skills/games with a Gospel Presentation)
- Children Activity Outreach - \$200 (inflatables, cotton candy, games, etc)
- Youth Night - \$250 (devotional, worship, games, pizza, etc)
- Build a Home - \$3,500 (wooden) - \$5,000 (block); (builds a 2-3 room house)
- Additional outreaches and evangelicalism can easily be scheduled at your request.

**Team Fees (per person) also include transportation and translators. This cost can vary so please be prepared for adjustments if needed. We have tried to cover all the expected costs within the team budget.*

Free Days:

Hike Volcano Pacaya:

- Each group will have the amazing opportunity to hike an active volcano called Volcano Pacaya. At the summit, teams are allowed to roast marshmallows on the volcano chimneys/channels. The hike is included with the team fee. Horseback Riding is available for an additional Q200 (\$25+/-) per person.

Trip to Antigua:

- Each group will enjoy a fun day of tourism at Antigua. There are several places to visit here including the “Artisan Market”, historical buildings and great lunch options. Each person will need additional spending money for lunch and souvenirs. This cost will differ between groups but averages around \$50-\$100 per person.

Sample Itinerary:

Schedules are always able to be adjusted that will meet the needs of each group. Here is a *sample layout* of what a typical 7-8 day trip would look like.

- Day One - Travel Day / Team Outreach Prep Evening
- Day Two - Outreach Day
- Day Three - Half-Day Activity (hike Volcano Pacaya) / Outreach Prep Evening
- Day Four - Outreach Day
- Day Five - Free Day in Antigua
- Day Six - Outreach Day
- Day Seven - Outreach Day
- Day Eight - Travel Day

*If your group is here on a Sunday, you will have an option to worship with us at our home church, Access Church (your host facility) or attend a traditional Guatemalan service with our church plant partners.

We also recommend for group leaders to have Morning and Evening Devotions prepared for the group to participate in. The rooftop offers a great place to have these devos along with music, etc. Our ministry will schedule 2 meetings with your group while here serving - the meetings will be scheduled in advance with the Team Leader.

Travel Safety Tips:

- Always travel in groups of 3 or more.
- Have dedicated chaperones for each group
- Team Coordinator should have a letterhead from church explaining the purpose for group's travel and also provide an itinerary to each team member
- Each team member needs to bring a colored copy of their Passport when traveling within the country (all original Passports will be kept in a lock box on campus). **Team Leaders should also make a colored copy of everyone's passports to leave stateside.*
- Remember to keep personal items like wallet, cell phones, excessive jewelry, etc safe and out of public view when traveling

Thank you for your interest in serving alongside us here in Guatemala. We hope that you find this information very useful. Our team will be praying for you as you plan/prepare a trip. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any additional questions that you may have.

Blessings,

Hands of Hope International

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