



## **Information for Mission Teams**

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 partner with you to ensure you are able to make the most of your 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 Santiagutio)
- Almost 25% of Guatemalans live on less than \$1.25 a day

### **CRI/Access Church:**

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 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. 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:**

An overall 7-8 day mission trip usually will average around \$1,200 per person (does not include Outreach). We have listed some examples of the costs below.

#### **Airline Tickets:**

- Airfare is the most expensive part of the trip. It can average between \$650 - \$900 per round-trip ticket. Some airlines will offer group discounted rates. **\*Groups are responsible for purchasing their own airfare.**

#### **Lodging and Meals:**

- \$35 per person / per night -- includes lodging, 3 meals per day, transportation to and from the airport. *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.*

#### **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.
- Travelers are currently required to present a *Negative Covid Test Result* within 72 hours of arrival to enter Guatemala and 24 hours for return to the United States. Most local medical facilities in the US are able to perform the test. You have the option to provide a **PCR** or **Antigen** test result. When traveling to Guatemala,

please ensure that your printout contains one of those two **wordings** for the type of test performed. *We will help coordinate your test location here in Guatemala.*

- Covid testing in the US averages \$150 for PCR test / \$50 for Antigen “Rapid” test.
- Additional cost of \$40 for an Antigen “Rapid” test here in Guatemala for return to the USA.

### **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. Here are some different opportunities that your group can participate in. Additional information can be sent to give more detail on the outreaches.

- Stove Installations - \$175 per stove (includes installation labor)
- 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 - \$180/Single : \$225/Bunk (includes mattresses, sheets and pillow)
- 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)
- Build a Home - \$3,500 (wooden) -\$6,000 (block); (builds a 2-3 room house)
- Additional outreaches and evangelicalism can easily be scheduled plus there are outreaches that do not cost any additional funds and will be scheduled as well.

*\*Average transportation cost per outreach day is around \$150 depending on time and distance traveled. This cost can vary so please be prepared for adjustments if needed.*

### **Trip to Antigua:**

- Each group will enjoy a fun day of tourism at Antigua. There are several places to visit here including the “Market”, historical buildings and fine dining. Each person will need some additional spending money for lunch and souvenirs. This cost will differ between groups but averages around \$50 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
- Day Two - Tour San Bartolome / Team Prep Day
- Day Three - Outreach Day
- Day Four - Outreach Day / On-site
- Day Five - Free Day in Antigua
- Day Six - Preparation to Leave (team to get covid test completed) // Outreach Evening
- Day Seven - Travel Day

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 should bring a colored copy of their Passport when traveling within the country (all original Passports will be kept in a lock box on campus)
- 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 and pray 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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