

SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL WHO ARE DESTITUTE. SPEAK UP AND JUDGE FAIRLY; DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY. PROVERBS 31:8-9



**TEAM
INFORMATION
PACKET**

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FAQ

When can we come to Guatemala?

Contact CRI to schedule dates for your group to come and serve in Guatemala. Dates fill up quickly, especially in the summer months, so contact us now to ensure that you get the dates you desire. We normally host 12 months out of the year. It is common for groups to schedule a year or more in advance.

What does the trip involve?

Your group will travel to Guatemala City and stay with Fontaine and Paula Greene at their home in San Cristobal. The Greene family lives at a ministry center that includes seven team houses. They utilize your skills and expertise as well as your passions and desires in order to serve those in need.

What is expected of me as the team leader?

Communicate information with your team as well as with CRI, have planning meetings if necessary, and collect funds for your trip.

What is expected of our group?

We ask that everyone keep a positive attitude throughout the planning of the trip as well as the trip itself. Group members need to BE FLEXIBLE and be respectful of Guatemalan culture while in the country.

PROJECTS

CRI has several projects in which teams can be involved. Each project is led or supervised by our staff. Therefore, no experience or construction skills are required. Below are some examples of projects along with a brief description of each: *For each project the recipient/family is required to raise a small portion of the total cost and also provides manual labor alongside the volunteers. We find it enjoyable and important to let the family be involved with their life changing project.



Home Construction Project

\$4000

At a cost of \$4,000 each, families are provided with a 16'x 20' wood home, one bunk bed with two twin beds, and household good package (table, four chairs, plates, bowls, cups, pitcher, trash can, food bin, water filter and two porch chairs).



Painting Houses

\$100

Per house is \$100



General Construction

On occasion we build churches and other projects involving concrete and masonry. We have skilled Guatemalan workers to lead and supervise.



Mimi's House Orphanage

Serve at our orphanage site by caring for the children. Ask if there is a specific need that could be a potential project.



Feeding Projects

Come pack fortified rice meals together as a team. We ask for donations for this project. It costs \$20 to make 160 meals.

PROJECTS



Bathroom

\$1200

Build a shower, toilet and septic system for a family for a cost of \$1,200



Ecocomal Stove Installation

\$200

They greatly reduce the amount of work that needs to be done by the women in the village because they require only 30% of the wood with which to cook. Stoves are also vented to reduce the amount of harmful fumes breathed in by families each day.



Medical/Vision/Vet

\$250 per day

Use your medical skills in the local village by setting up a mobile clinic.



VBS or Bible School

Show the local kids from the villages God's love. We do everything from arts and crafts to grill out parties with jump houses!



Women's/Men's Ministry

If you have this ministry on your heart, message us for more details.



Sports

If you are involved with a sports organization and would like to host a camp in the villages, message us for more details.

COST OF TRIP



Flight

Please have every member of the team scheduled to travel on the same flight(s) if coming from the same state / city. If your team includes members from multiple states / cities, please arrange your flights to arrive in Guatemala close to the same time.



Room & Board

\$90 per person/per night

Cost per day based on Check In Time: 12:00pm and Check Out Time: 11:00am.



Sightseeing Expenses

Varies based on your group's desired outing.



Entertainment Expenses

Money for restaurant meals and shopping.



Tips

Drivers, airport, housekeeping, builders, etc.

NOTE

The room and board fees help to fund the ministry by offsetting the cost of utilities and support the Guatemalan staff members who work with us each day.

EXPLORE DAY



Antigua (40-60 min drive)

There are many activities to do while in Antigua. You can choose where you would like to eat, from the numerous restaurants available in the town. Options for activities are:



La Azotea (\$10)

Coffee plantation tour.



Capuchinas (\$5)

Tour of ruins from a convent, built in the 1700s.



Artisan Market

Shopping. The market is full of different vendors who sell various souvenirs. Cost is whatever you choose to spend.



Finca Filadelfia (\$20-\$60)

Coffee plantation tour, restaurant, zip lining.



Hobbitenango (\$15+)

Come take a truck ride to the tops of the mountains of Antigua. Outdoor activities, restaurant, amazing views.



Santo Domingo Spa (\$50+)

Enjoy a day at a luxurious spa located inside an old convent. Pools, restaurant, massages, facials.



Zip Lining (\$42-\$50)

Zip through the mountains of Antigua. There are two options for zip lining.

EXPLORE DAY



Pana (4 hr drive)

Panajachel, Guatemala - MANDATORY OVERNIGHT STAY



Zip Lining (\$45-\$60)

Zip through the mountains of Lake Atitlan. There are two options for zip lining.



Boat Ride (\$300 per group)

Take a trip across Lake Atitlan and see the beautiful surrounding volcanos.



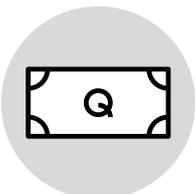
Hotel Casa del Mundo (\$10+)

Enjoy a water front meal with amazing views.



Kayaking (\$10+)

Take a trip on the waters of Lake Atitlan. Gear rental is located at Hotel Casa del Mundo.



Artisan Market

Have fun shopping with the local vendors.

EXPLORE DAY



Santa Teresita (\$13-\$50)

(45 min drive)

Hot springs, massages, restaurant. Hosts 16 heated pools of differing temperatures. Pool admission is \$13-\$16 and a basic one-hour massage is \$47. Restaurant available on site.



Paseo Cayala (\$15+)

(45 min drive)

Bowling, Top Tee, movie theater, zip line, restaurants, cafes, and a variety of European influenced stores.



El Faro or Cayman Suites

(\$35+) (3-4 hr drive)

MANDATORY OVERNIGHT STAY

\$35 per person - includes lunch, pool and the Pacific coast. Massage and 4 wheelers available for additional fees.



Volcan Pacaya (Q100 or \$15)

(1.5 hr drive)

Climb to the top of this active volcano in Guatemala. Cost is Q100 or \$15 per person for admission. Horses are available to ride if you choose (Q150 one way, Q200 both ways). You can choose to roast marshmallows over a hot spot on the volcano. Tour guide per 12 people is Q250. Must pay in QUETZALES.



Finca El Zapote (\$25-\$30)

(1.5 hr drive)

Canoing, horse riding, swimming in fresh water lakes, field activities, team building games.



Airport Market

(40 min drive)

Have fun shopping with the local vendors.

EXPLORE DAY



Pacaya ATV Tour (1.5 hr drive)

Volcano Pacaya Travel

This is a local company that offers guided ATV tours around the Pacaya area. All tours include: guide, helmet, reflective vest, safety instructions, snack, drinks, entrance fees, and free parking.

Tours are available every day with departures every hour from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Tour Options:

1. Explorer Tour – 30 km

Visits:

- * Petrified lava fields
- * El Eucalipto viewpoints
- * Viento Blanco Wind Park

Prices:

- * 1 person per ATV – Q450
- * 2 people per ATV – Q600
- * Children under 10 – Q100

2. Adventure Tour – 30 km

Visits:

- * Petrified lava fields
- * Laguacate Farm (lake area)
- * Viento Blanco Wind Park

Prices:

- * 1 person per ATV – Q500
- * 2 people per ATV – Q700
- * Children under 10 – Q100

3. Express Tour – 18 km (Approx. 3 hours)

Visits:

- * Petrified lava fields
- * Viento Blanco Wind Park

Prices:

- * 1 person per ATV – Q350
- * 2 people per ATV – Q500
- * Children under 10 – Q100.

EXPLORE DAY



Cooking Class in Antigua (60 min drive)

Pepián Cooking Class

Organization: De La Gente (nonprofit community tourism organization)

This activity is a traditional Guatemalan cooking class where participants learn how to prepare Pepián, a typical dish that is often cooked for special occasions such as weddings and birthdays.

The class takes place in the home of local coffee farmers and is taught by women from the community.

Location: San Miguel Escobar (about 20 minutes from Antigua Guatemala)

Duration: 3 hours

Available schedules:

* 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Lunch)

* 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM (Dinner)

Price:

* \$33 per person

* Q240 per person

The price includes all the ingredients needed for the cooking class. Transportation is not included.

An English–Spanish interpreter is included.

The class can be adapted for dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, etc.).

Group size:

* Usually 6–8 people per group

* Larger teams can be divided into smaller groups that cook at the same time.

EXPLORE DAY



La Aurora Zoo (\$5+)

(40 min drive)

Come and see our national zoo in Guatemala City. Restaurants available with carnival rides.



Irtra Petapa (\$20)

(40 min drive)

Come enjoy our city's mini theme park with a zoo and pool. Restaurants on site.



Irtra Reu (5 hr drive)

Overnight Stay

Guatemala's national water park and theme park. If interested, please message us for pricing.



Tecpan (1.5 hrs)

Tecpan, Guatemala



Tecpan Mayan Ruins (1.5 hrs)

\$10 p/p, +\$35 for guide

This is the most well preserved mayan ruin tour available this side of Tikal. There's a bilingual tour guide available.



Tecpan Bonanza (\$15+)

Outdoor fun activities, restaurant.

PROJECT MONEY DUE

Because there are lots of materials we need to order before your arrival in Guatemala, CRI needs all fees and project money to be mailed to our Ohio address at least one month prior to your trip. Please send partial payments if you do not have the full amount. The address for mailing your payment is:

**PO Box 967
West Chester, OH 45071**

Please include your group's name and the purpose of the funds (project costs, room and board, feeding program, etc). You may also use our online giving site. If you choose to do so, we ask that you cover the transaction fees. Please also remember to specify what the funds are for.

Group Size

Minimum team size is 10 members and the maximum size is 100.

We need to know the total size of your group at least one month prior to your arrival in Guatemala. If you would like to make any changes in your dates for the trip, please let us know as soon as possible. Dates fill up very quickly, especially in the summer months, and we want to ensure that we can accommodate your entire group on the days that work best for everyone.

Where will we stay?

Address: 23 calle 3-63 Lo De Coy Zona 1 Mixco, Guatemala 01057

Your group will stay at the team house located at the ministry center operated by the Greene family. The name of the ministry is Catalyst Resources International. The property is gated and is also located in a gated neighborhood.

What do I need to wear?

Please be aware of your outfit choices as we are working in areas that dress more conservative. The weather is warm. We ask that you wear clothing at all times. Ladies stay away from tank tops, short shorts, crop tops, and wearing only a sport bra as a shirt.

Food Allergies

At this point, CRI is unable to accommodate special dietary needs. Guatemala is a third-world country and it is difficult to obtain gluten-free products and other special dietary foods. In addition, due to the volume of people we host each day, a special grocery run is not possible. Please note that we eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches each day for lunch while working on the field. When planning to come and serve with CRI, you would need to bring all food with you for your trip (Note: CRI is unable to discount the daily room and board rate due to food allergy restrictions). If you have a concern, please notify your team leader or message us prior to your trip.

Vaccines

Personal discretion and your doctor's recommendation should be considered.

Medicine

Any personal medication that you take or may need. Bring over the counter meds for simple aches and pains.

Will I be safe?

CRI is experienced at hosting mission groups and we do our best to make wise choices for your in-country travel. We will travel in groups and stay away from areas of known dangers. No travel is totally risk-free, though, even in the US. You may check the US State Department website (www.travel.state.gov) for any current travel advisories. There is generally a warning from the US government to use caution during travel.

Exchanging Money

There are several options for exchanging money in Guatemala. We do not recommend bringing a lot of cash with you on your trip. The best options for currency exchange are to either exchange money before your arrival in the country (through your local bank or at the airport) or bring a debit card and retrieve money from an ATM machine. Call your credit card company before departure to inform them you may be using your credit card in Guatemala and the appropriate dates.

Weather

Guatemala hosts spring-like temperatures all year round. May-October is the rainy season in Guatemala, so it is likely to rain if your trip is scheduled in those months. It is usually cool in the mornings and evenings (50's) and warm during the day (70's and 80s). It can be cooler and breezier than expected due to the elevation. There is no heat or air conditioning. Make sure to pack layers, warm pajamas, and a rain coat.

Are passports needed?

Yes! A valid passport is required when traveling to and from Guatemala. **Please check your passport to ensure it is valid through the ending date of your trip.** You do not need a separate visa if.

Insurance & Customs Form

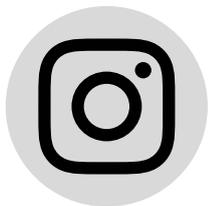
- Travel Insurance is highly recommended. Message us if you would like help getting a quote for your group.
- In order to enter the country, each person must fill out the customs form 24 hours before flying. You will need the form to board the plane and to exit the Guatemalan airport. A QR code is what you will need to save as your proof of completion. [CLICK HERE FOR CUSTOMS FORM](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

If you would like to see what you will be experiencing before your arrival, FOLLOW US on our social media accounts.



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