

MISSION AWARENESS TRIPS

trip information

The following information is for **2012** trips. The dates and trips to specific countries change from year to year depending on interest, the political situation within the countries and the ability of CFCA projects to host a mission awareness trip. A detailed schedule and additional information will be sent one to two weeks prior to departure in the pre-departure packet.

EL SALVADOR

Trip Dates: June 9-16, 2012
July 21-28, 2012
Oct. 13-20, 2012

Trip Cost

\$475 (Includes food, lodging and in-country transportation. Airfare is **not** included.)

On your trip to El Salvador, you may do some or all of the following activities:

- Meet your sponsored friend and possibly the family
- Travel to subprojects and learn about the potential of CFCA families
- Learn about the realities that face CFCA families, staff and communities
- Be welcomed into the homes of CFCA families
- Learn about the diverse experiences and unique perspectives of sponsored friends and their families
- Observe volcanoes and the beauty of the Salvadoran landscape
- Experience the culture of El Salvador as an honored guest and friend

Entry and Exit Requirements

A passport valid for at least six months after arrival is required to enter El Salvador. U.S. citizens do not need a visa for a stay of 90 days or less. **A one-entry tourist card is required to enter El Salvador. The tourist card may be obtained from immigration officials for a \$10 fee upon arrival in the country. An exit tax of \$32** must be paid in U.S. dollars when departing El Salvador from Comalapa International Airport. This departure tax may be included in the price of the airline ticket. Check with your travel agent or airline. *All fees are subject to change.* While in El Salvador, travelers should carry a passport or a photocopy at all times. Participants who will be traveling with a minor should contact the CFCA mission awareness trip coordinator for additional information.

Airport and Arrival Arrangements

Applicants should await receipt of the confirmation letter before making reservations. In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to research airfares with a travel agent, the airlines, or via the Internet. Vista Travel, (800) 537-5066, may also be contacted regarding airfare. The agency is familiar with our programs and schedules.

Trip participants should arrive in **San Salvador at the Comalapa International Airport (SAL)** by 5 p.m. on the first date listed for the trip and should depart from the same airport on the last day listed. **CFCA staff will meet all travelers at the airport who arrive on the scheduled arrival day. Do not accept any offers for transportation from anyone other than the CFCA team.**

Accommodations and Food

All trip participants will stay in simple accommodations near the CFCA projects, usually in some type of retreat center or hotel. Private rooms for married couples and families are available. Individuals will be assigned a roommate.



Accommodations and Food (Cont'd.)

Running water for showers is readily available, but it may not be heated. Tap water is unsafe for drinking. Instead, the project will provide bottled water. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the trip cost.

Participants will eat simple, nutritious meals. You will have the privilege of trying a variety of foods. Typically, a selection of food is available at each meal. All food is prepared with purified water. All meals will be eaten with the group. Do not purchase food from street vendors. Meals are often served at a later hour than most Americans are accustomed to eating. We recommend bringing snacks such as dried fruit and nut mixes, raisins, granola bars, etc., as you may want something to eat between scheduled meals.

No converter or adapter is necessary. The **electrical current** and the shape of the outlets in El Salvador are the same as in the U.S.

Climate

El Salvador has a rainy season that lasts from May through October. Rain showers are usually heavy, but brief. Daytime temperatures in the lower elevations are usually between 80 and 95 degrees with overnight lows around 65 degrees. You should bring a raincoat and sun protection. Participants should be aware that minor tremors do occur, and winding, mountainous roads can cause motion sickness.

Health/Medical Preparations

Contact your medical doctor or local health department for immunization recommendations based on your health history. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/travel has country specific recommendations regarding immunizations. CFCA staff members are not qualified to offer advice on immunizations. You should consult with your medical insurance company prior to traveling to confirm whether your policy applies in a foreign country. If your policy does not cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation, we urge you to consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance. You may find further information on travel insurance through a travel agent or through research on the Internet.

Currency Exchange and Handling

In El Salvador, the currency used is the **U.S. dollar**. It is not necessary to exchange money. Your lodging, food and in-country transportation are included in the trip cost. You should bring additional money for the purchase of snacks and souvenirs, and to cover entry/exit fees. You should not carry bills in denominations greater than \$20 because it may be difficult for local banks or vendors to make change. Do not bring severely worn or torn currency. Traveler's checks are not recommended, and ATMs are not readily available.