

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.

GUATEMALA

Trip Dates:

Feb. 11-18	June 9-16	Oct. 6-13
March 17-24	July 21-28	Dec. 26 – Jan. 2, 2013
April 21-28	Aug. 11-18	

Trip Cost

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

On your trip to Guatemala you may do some or all of the following activities:

- Meet your 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 the beauty of the volcanoes, lakes and people of Guatemala's highlands



Entry and Exit Requirements

A passport valid for at least six months after arrival is required to enter Guatemala. U.S. citizens do not need a visa for a stay of 90 days or less. An **airport security fee of 20 quetzals (approximately \$3)** will be charged to travelers departing at the airport and must be paid in cash, in either dollars or quetzals. There is also a **departure tax of \$30**. This fee is often included in the airline ticket price. *All fees are subject to change.* While in Guatemala, 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 airline 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.

All trip participants should arrive on the first scheduled date of the trip and depart on the last scheduled day from **La Aurora Airport (GUA)** in Guatemala City. The first and last dates listed for each trip are the days that travelers will depart from and arrive back in the U.S. CFCA staff will meet all travelers at the airport who arrive on the scheduled arrival day. Do not accept offers of transportation from anyone other than the CFCA team.

Accommodations and Food

Trip participants will stay in a hotel in Guatemala City on the first and last night of the trip. The group will spend the remainder of the week at the Hermano Pedro Regional Center in San Lucas Toliman, three and a half hours

Accommodations and Food (Cont'd.)

from Guatemala City. Married couples will stay in private rooms. Other participants will stay in dormitories. Internet access is available. Pillows, sheets, blankets and bath towels are provided. Travelers should bring their own toiletries. 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 electrical converters or adapters are necessary. The **electrical current** and the shape of the outlets are the same as in the U.S.

Climate

San Lucas Toliman, located in the highlands of Guatemala at an altitude of 5,064 feet, has an average high temperature of 77 degrees and a low of 55 degrees. The dry season lasts from December to May and the rainy season lasts from late May until the end of November. During the rainy season, it usually rains late in the afternoon for an hour or two and sometimes late at night. The rainiest month is September. Temperatures vary little during the year. The warmest months are March and April. Participants should be aware that minor tremors may occur, and travel along 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 medical evacuation, please consider the purchase of temporary travel insurance.** You may obtain further information on travel insurance from a travel agent or through research on the Internet.

Currency Exchange and Handling

The local currency is the Guatemalan **quetzal** (GTQ). 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 bills. Traveler's checks are not recommended, and ATMs are not readily available.