

Xela Aid Volunteer Vacation May/June 2010

May 27, 2010 (late night departure) – Sunday, June 6, 2010
Orientation Saturday, April 24th - AM (exact time and location TBA)



OVERVIEW – Augment health care services in Xela Aid’s June Russel-Glennon Clinic including optometry, dental and/or medical clinics (depending on volunteer makeup); painting, construction and repair of facilities as needed; greenhouse refurbishment/planting; distribution of scholarship funds and a variety of cultural activities potentially including (depending on group size and desire), volcano climb (moderate trail), volcanic hot baths, an experience of local music, weaving demonstrations. R&R will include swimming, kayaking, exploring various villages at world-class destination Lake Atitlan.



A sample calendar and application appears on the following pages.

Dear Friend,

Xela Aid has been described by participants as “a life-changing experience — an adventure of a lifetime.” It is most certainly an experiment in giving and receiving, and may be the toughest vacation you’ll ever love. On the following pages you will find information about Xela Aid, a day calendar, and an application including cost information. The only qualifications are that you come with a humble heart, an open mind, and a cooperative spirit. From the Xela Aid team, we welcome your application.

*Most Sincerely Yours,
The Xela Aid Directors*

www.xelaaid.org - xela_aid@earthlink.net

Mission: Xela Aid, a non-profit, non-denominational, humanitarian organization responds to requests for assistance from the economically disadvantaged of Guatemala in ways that restore health and well-being to the people and the environment, promote cultural understanding, and preserve dignity.

Funding: A private charitable organization, Xela Aid receives no government funding. Team members pay their own expenses and fund projects by way of a project fee that each person contributes. Many supplies are donated; some are purchased in Guatemala where local professionals are called upon to lend expertise.





TRIP CALENDAR – Xela Aid Volunteer Vacation May/June 2010

Note: Calendar may change slightly due to final air travel, to be confirmed.

Day 1

Those leaving from the Los Angeles arrive at LAX at 9 p.m. for a departure around 1 a.m. (times to be confirmed). Team members bring two bags—one personal, and one filled with supplies for the trip (pre-packed weeks earlier). The full team unites and begins its adventure in Guatemala City early the next day. *Photos, top right: Volunteers staff the clinic pharmacy.*



Day 2

Team is met at Guatemala City airport by Luis de León, long-time director with Xela Aid, and other friends from the village. Team travels via a comfortable bus to Quetzaltenango (“Xela”). A welcome-to-all breakfast is held at “bird park”/ garden Hotel Las Flores in Chimaltenango. Later, a snack stop at “Chichoi,” famous for hot mango and pineapple pies and a suspension bridge. Check in at the Hotel Modelo and rest until dinner. In the evening, a local money changer visits prior to our walking tour of Xela, including the historic town square and 19th Century Catholic church. *Photos: Local weaver with Xela Aid Director Luis Enrique de León at Atitlan. Volunteer Mel Dinkel meets resident birds at breakfast stop, Chimaltenango. Volunteer Dr. Flora chows down on “caldo de pollo.” Lake Chikibal is an ecological preserve.*



Day 3

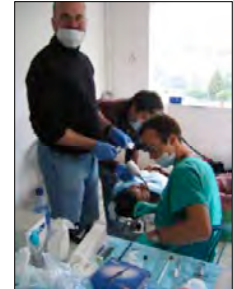
9 a.m. - Travel to the Mám pueblo of San Martin and tour Xela Aid’s clinic and preschool with sack lunches from Hotel Modelo. All teams will assess facilities and need in order to plan projects and complete set-up. Team then travels by bus to the foot of Lake Chikibal for those who wish to make the climb to reach its crater and lake. Free evening.

Day 4, 5, 6. – 8 a.m. - All teams travel to the worksite in comfortable buses. Clinics, construction and other projects run 9-4 daily. *Photo: Volunteer Jim Ehlers (standing) and others, dental clinic, 2004.*



Evenings:

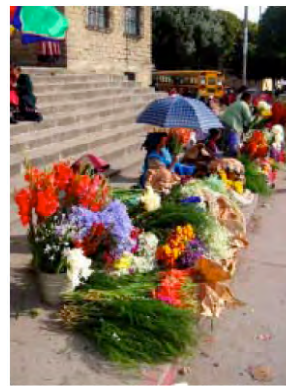
Day 4 - Free. Walk in the town square, visit the street market, or have a refreshment in “El Balcón” which looks out over “El Parque Central.” *Photos: Flower market, cemetery, Xela. Middle: Volunteer Daniel Barclay with sponsored children. Backstrap weaver, San Martín.*



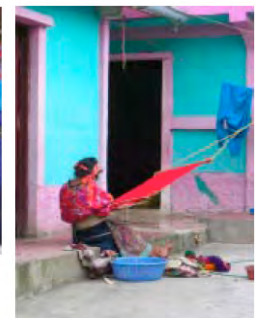
Day 5. – At 7 PM after dinner, meet at the Modelo to enjoy the hot sulfur baths at Almolonga.

Day 6. – 7 PM Enjoy “trova,” the message-music of Emilio Talva, with soda or cocktails. (Place TBD – Optional tipping not included.)

Day 7. – 10 a.m. - Travel with the group for a last visit to San Martín to celebrate the accomplishments of children sponsored in school, to distribute funds. Enjoy a weaving demonstration, shop at a fair-trade weaving sale and support Xela Aid’s cooperative. Partake of traditional “patches” (rice tamales) in a farewell fiesta.



Day 8. – 9 a.m. – *Travel to Lake Atitlan, described by many as one of the most beautiful places on earth. Stop at a market look-out for the view and local crafts then spend the afternoon in Panajachel, the regional market that is the gateway to the lake. Participants travel by boat to Casa del Mundo, arguably the loveliest accommodation on the lake. Photo, top: One of the volcanos of Lake Atitlan.*



Days 9, 10. – Free days to explore around the lake.

Enjoy the views from the lovely hotel Casa del Mundo where every room is a view room. Get up early, or late. Enjoy *pitaya* fruit, granola and yogurt and many other delicious dishes to choose from. Snorkel, kayak, lay around, travel to Kakchiquel and Tsutuhil villages by boat, walk to the hill-top village of Santa Cruz to explore the 19th Century Catholic church with its ever-burning candles and antique carved icons. A group, candle-lit dinner is served at the hotel each evening. Evening of the 10th is our farewell dinner at Atitlan.

Day 11. – 11 AM - After packing and a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, we will take a shore boat to Panajachel where you can walk, shop, enjoy the sights through early afternoon. Between 2 and 3 PM, travel back to Guatemala City to catch our homebound flight.

Xela Aid 2010 Volunteer Vacation Application



CLINICS AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Depart: Thursday (late night), May 27, 2010

Return: Sunday, June 6, 2010

Orientation: Saturday, April 24, AM (exact time and location TBA)

Project Overview—Participants will be lodged in Quetzaltenango. Projects will take place in San Martín Chiquito, a Mám-Maya village an hour northwest of Quetzaltenango. Participants will work side by side with villagers. The project matches volunteer skills with need, so each project is customized to take advantage of the interests and skill sets of volunteers. Applicants needn't be Spanish speakers.

APPLICATION AND \$500 DEPOSIT DEADLINE: March 1, 2010

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ (Note: Email access is required)

City _____

Best Phone _____

State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Tell us briefly about yourself and in what ways you wish to be involved in the Xela Aid educational project:

_____ (continue on back)

Why have you elected to participate in the program?

_____ (continue on back)

Is there someone you'd like to have as a roommate (or as roommates) this trip?

In Case of an Emergency Notify (name and phone): _____

Costs Worksheet



Included: Round-trip airfare from Los Angeles, all chartered ground transportation, in-country project coordination, hotel accommodations (double occupancy), entrance/honorariums to sights. Meals are not included.

Please Note: *Friends, included in your costs is a \$500 project donation, which is also your deposit. This deposit is integral to our planning since it is used to purchase supplies and as a deposit on airfare. Additionally, there are costs associated with cancellations. Your deposit is therefore non-refundable should your plans change. A tax receipt is provided in any case. Thank you for your understanding. — The Directors*

1) Subtotal:	\$	1,550.
2) Securing your own flights? (Subtract \$450)	\$	_____
3) Second Subtotal:	\$	_____
4) Desire a single room? (+\$225)	\$	_____
5) New Subtotal (3+4)	\$	_____
6) Round-Up Total/Additional Donation (Applied to Clinic operations. Thank you!)	\$	_____
7) Minus Your Deposit \$500 (attached)	\$	500.
8) Your Balance Due: March 1, 2010 (6 minus 7)	\$	_____

(Note: Balance MUST be received by this date to hold reservations)

Tax Deductibility - Xela Aid operates as a charitable project and a donation receipt will be provided. Costs associated with this trip may be fully tax deductible. Please check with your tax advisor.

Please return Application with your \$500 non-refundable project donation and deposit to "Xela Aid" with "XA Volunteer Vacation May/June 2010" in check memo to:

Xela Aid • 4633 Williams Ave. • La Verne, CA 91750

We look forward to sharing this adventure with you!

Questions? Call Leslie at (951) 733-2588