

TRIP CALENDAR

Friday, June 19th, 2010

Those leaving from the Los Angeles area 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 their adventure in Guatemala City early the next day.

Photo at right: PEX graduate and El Centro de Estudios teacher, Juana Lopez



Saturday, June 20th

Team is met at Guatemala City airport by Luis de León, long-time director with Xela Aid. Team travels via a comfortable bus to Quetzaltenango (“Xela”). On the way, a welcome breakfast is held at “Chichoi,” famous for hot mango and pineapple pies and a suspension bridge. Check in at the Hotel Modelo and rest until dinner and a walking tour of Xela, including the historic town square and 19th Century Catholic church.

Sunday, May 21st

9 a.m. – After breakfast, board our bus to travel to nearby *Fuentes Georginas*. Enjoy the view from the bus of lush green fields and awe-inspiring views of the valley below. Once we’ve passed through the small town of Zunil, we’ll arrive at the hot springs—complete with a friendly outdoor restaurant, hiking trail, places to sit and enjoy the scenery and, of course, an invigorating hot springs.



Monday, June 22nd- Friday, June 26th

8 a.m. - All teams travel to the worksite in comfortable buses. The project runs 9-4 daily. Those volunteers studying Spanish will do so in the morning or afternoon in three hour shifts.

Saturday, June 27th

Celebrate the accomplishments of the children and participate in the activities we plan and enjoy with them. We’ll also see a weaving demonstration, shop at a fair-trade weaving sale, and support Xela Aid’s cooperative.

Photos: Luis speaking to the children at the local elementary school; a group of children working together in El Centro de Estudios.



Evenings:

Some evenings you will be free to walk in the town square, visit the street market, or have a refreshment in “El Balcón” which looks out over “El Parque Central.” Other optional evening activities may include enjoying the hot sulfur baths at Almolonga; joining the group for dinner (no-host) and listening to “trova,” the message-music of Emilio Talva; taking an evening of salsa dance lessons with the group!



Sunday, June 28th

9 a.m. - No one has really experienced Guatemala until they've visited the famous market at Chichicastenango featuring arts and crafts from across the country.

Monday, June 29th

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 and travel by boat to Santiago Atitlan.



Tuesday and Wednesday, June 30-July 1

Free days at Santiago de Atitlan. Enjoy the views from the hotel. Get up late! Enjoy pitaya fruit, granola and yogurt and many other delicious dishes to choose from at the hotel restaurant. Snorkel, swim in the lake or hotel pool, boat, visit the local market, the church in central square or travel to Kakchiquel and Tsutuhil villages by boat. Enjoy meals at the hotel's award-winning restaurant.

Photos: [Posada de Santiago](#).

Thursday, July 2nd

11 AM - After packing and a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, travel to Antigua to check in to our comfortable little villa in time to explore the city and enjoy the night-lit features of the country's first capitol city. The group will often choose to gather for a final-night's dinner.

Friday, June 3rd

Depending on flight time, travel to airport after breakfast, or, see more of Antigua (some return flights are as late as 6 p.m.).



Xela Aid 2010 Volunteer Trip Application
Volunteer Educational Assistance Program in Guatemala
Xela Aid Proyecto Educativo
Depart: Saturday, June 19th (arrive at airport on Friday, June 18th)
Return: Friday, July 3rd, 2010

PROGRAM ORIENTATION ON APRIL 24TH

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

Name (as it appears on your passport)

Address (street, city, zip code)

Email _____ (Note: Email access is required)

Best Phone _____

Date of Birth _____

Tell us briefly about yourself and what skills and interests you bring to the Xela Aid educational project:

Why would you like to participate in the program?

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

Emergency Contact (name and phone): _____

PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE SECOND PAGE OF THIS APPLICATION!

Cost Breakdown

Please Note: Friend, we, the directors of Xela Aid, believe that the journey you are considering is an excellent value at the price listed. Because of the group cost structure of arrangements, no refunds can be made on unused portions. Additionally, due to exchange rates and widely varying costs of services (renegotiated during each trip), all costs are estimated with a buffer of 3-5%. On rare occasions, money collected ends up exceeding final costs. In such a case, excess funds are designated to Xela Aid's general fund to help continue its charitable work in Guatemala. Please note, also, that your \$500 deposit is in part a project fee and 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. Note that meals are not included (an average meal costs \$3-\$5). —Thank you kindly, The Directors

Included: RT airfare from Los Angeles, all chartered ground transportation, in-country project coordination, 14 nights hotel (double/triple occupancy), some meals, entrance/honorariums to sights,

1) Subtotal:	\$ 1,750
2) Securing your own flights? (Subtract \$600)	\$ _____
3) Second Subtotal:	\$ _____
4) Optional 5-Day Language Immersion/Tutoring (+\$100)	\$ _____
5) Desire a single room? (+\$225)	\$ _____
6) New Subtotal (3+4+5)	\$ _____
5) Round-Up Total/Additional Donation (Applied to Clinic operations. Thank you!)	\$ _____
6) Minus Your Non-Refundable Deposit \$500 (attached)	\$ _____
7) Your Balance Due: April 1st, 2010 (5 minus 6)	\$ _____

(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 deposit to “Xela Aid” with “XA Children’s Education 2010 Trip” in check memo to: Sheryl Fontaine/Xela Aid • 446 Baughman Ave. • Claremont, CA 91711

We look forward to sharing this adventure with you!

Questions? Call Sheryl Fontaine at (909) 964-7263 or Debi Lyn Esquivel at (714) 278-4457
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