



**St. Albert the Great Parish - El Salvador Mission Trips (Teotepeque)
Medical Mission / Water Treatment System
Frequently Asked Questions (Updated 10-04-17)**

Out of Pocket Expenses:

- Airfare (currently around \$600 - 700 round trip per person); Approximately \$30 for travel health insurance (optional)
- Currency is in \$US; \$10 entry fee ; \$40 total tip for cook, volunteers, etc.; Mission Center Meals \$50 for the week
- Expenses should be tax deductible if you itemize your return ; bring small bills (typically \$100 - 150 is more than enough)

Accommodations/ Meals/ Transportation/ Safety:

- Building owned by San Pedro's Parish used specifically for missionaries and retreats, has 4 rooms (6 people max. each)
- 2 Bunk beds (plus 2 on floor) with linen and pillows provided; Indoor bathrooms with running water and hot showers
- Transportation by church trucks (both inside cab and most common, standing outside on the truck bed against side rails)
- Potable drinking water provided
- **Bring towels/ wash cloths/ personal items/ cheap flip-flops (shower)/ water bottle/ baby wipes/ Clorox wipes**
- Safety has not been an issue in the past, area is poor offering nothing to steal; building is locked & has barred windows; we travel in groups with local Spanish speakers from the church; NO wandering around outside the center without an escort

Mission Operation / Activities:

- Practitioners will see people in the four villages we visit; Clinics are set up in either schools or churches
- Nurses will perform triage for blood pressure, glucose, health evaluation, etc.
- Pharmacist acquires & dispenses both OTC and prescription medication brought from USA & some purchased locally
- Non-medical people assist Pharmacist & Nurses in various duties
- Common - Attend Mass at churches in various villages;
- Common - Depending on time: visit beach, orphanage, memorial sites, cathedral, etc.
- Water - Install water treatment process at designated site (if applicable)

Vaccinations/ Medical other:

- There are no additional required vaccinations other than standard inoculations recommended in the US.
- Site for travel health information: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/el-salvador.htm>
- **Begin hepatitis treatment (A – 2 shots & B – 3 shots)** as soon as possible; typhoid (optional 1 shot)
- Recommend - Cipro (Rx diarrhea); Imodium AD (OTC diarrhea); hand sanitizer; sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, bug spray, etc.

Weather/ Location:

- Ave. High low 90's; Ave. Low mid 70's in Jan.; Dry season from March through November;
- Teotepeque, la Libertad, El Salvador is about 60 miles southwest (near coast) from San Salvador the capitol

What to Wear:

- **Women** - skirts / pants/ Capri's/ T- Shirts are common; **Men** - shorts/ convertible cargo's, polo / T- shirts; Medical scrubs
- Shoes – bring something comfortable (tennis/sandals); Bring a swimsuit in the event we visit a beach on the Pacific Ocean

Other Team Information:

- Airline reservations will be booked in January (Water) or October (Medical); Team needs to confirm reservation ASAP.
- Team size - Medical of at least 8-13 or Water System 3-5, giving SATG 1st time Parishioners priority by skill level
- FYI – items for the school and church are appreciated; along with any clothing you brought, church trades/ sells items
- Facebook site – Saint Albert Missionaries (SAM) for reference to previous trips
- Cell phones need to have data off to avoid roaming bills; texting is cheap; Fr. John has a phone you can use to call home
- Make a copy of your passport and kept it with your things, in case of emergency; Fr John locks them up during the trip
- Leave expensive items at home (jewelry, cameras, watches, etc.) to reduce the risk of drawing attention to the group
- Recommend - Notify Credit Card services regarding travel dates
- Soft sided luggage/ duffel bags are recommended because we divide up the supplies going down
- Register with the US website about traveling to El Salvador <https://step.state.gov/step/pages/common/citizenship.aspx>
- View the films Romero (Oscar Romero) & 4 Roses in December (Nuns) about country (we have movies to loan out)
- **Visa stamp \$10 - Where you say you are going when asked: Teotepeque, la Libertad, El Salvador (San Pedro Church)**