

Guidelines Sheet for A Good News in Action Mission Trip to Guatemala City, Guatemala.



This guidelines sheet has been specifically designed for you. Please read this document all the way to the end. It is designed to prepare you and answer all your questions. Thank you in advance, and we hope to see you soon.

Most Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Where is Guatemala City located and what is some helpful information about it?

Guatemala City is the capital and largest city of Guatemala. It is in the south-central part of the country, nestled in a mountain valley. The population is about 1,000,000. Guatemala City is at an altitude of about 4,900 feet, giving it a climate of “Eternal Spring” year around. The currency of Guatemala is the “Quetzal”. Guatemala has a very stable economy. The exchange rate is usually around 7.5 to 7.8 Quetzals per one USD.



- 2. How will you get to Guatemala City?** You will fly into the Guatemala City International Airport (La Aurora International Airport) (GUA). Every individual or team arranges and pays for their own travel itinerary. You will need to send your flight information (and complete team information) to GNIA no later than 8 weeks prior to the trip. Send this info to goodnewsinactionelsalvador@gmail.com
- 3. Are there any forms to fill out prior to landing at GUA?** YES. The form is a duplicate form and very simple to fill out, simply follow the instructions. The front page is white, the second page is yellow. The forms are one per person. You are coming to Guatemala as a TOURIST. You will write down where you are staying on your form: Hotel Tikal Futura. Address: Calzada Roosevelt 22-43, Zona 11 Guatemala City, Guatemala. Phone: +(502) 2410 0800
- 4. What will your airport arrival procedure look like?**
 - Prior to landing at GUA, please fill out any forms you are given on the airplane.
 - When your plane arrives, simply de-board and follow the crowd to Immigration.
 - At Immigration, you will go through a receiving cubicle one at a time where an Immigration officer will receive the form you filled out on the plane, stamp your passport with a tourist visa (Free), and give you the yellow copy of the duplicate form. Be sure to keep this safe, you will need it in a few minutes.
 - After completing Immigration, you will proceed to retrieve your suitcases.
 - **EXCHANGE SOME MONEY:** Please exchange some of your USD personal money into Guatemalan Quetzals INSIDE the airport. You will pass at least 3 currency changing booths inside the airport from the time you disembark from your plane until you complete the customs process. They have very fair and legal exchange booths INSIDE. We recommend you exchange enough to get yourself through the weekend, at least.
 - Forewarning: Please do not bring any fresh food, fruit, plant, or vegetable item into the country. They have very strict customs laws in Guatemala prohibiting the entrance of these items.
 - Packaged processed snack food is permitted.
 - When you pick up your suitcase from the baggage carousel, be sure to have your baggage claim ticket with you, this is the piece of paper that was probably stuck to the back side of your boarding pass, it has the same number on it as the number placed on your bag.

- Customs officials may randomly check every bag number with your counterpart before allowing you to leave the baggage claim area.
- Proceed to customs. You will get in line and advance until you reach the customs agent. He will request the yellow page of your duplicate form which you will turn in to him and will push a button. If a green light results, you will be able to exit, if a red light results you will need to take your bags to be x-rayed and then exit.
- Once you complete this step you are ready to exit the building.
- Exit the building. You will be met there by a representative of Vida Nueva Guatemala and will be accompanied in your transportation to the hotel.

5. Where will the Mission Team stay while in Guatemala?

Most likely one of the following two hotels:

A. *Hotel Tikal Futura, Guatemala City, Guatemala*

<https://www.grandtikalfutura.com/>

Please check their website for all the details.

Address: Calzada Roosevelt 22-43, Zona 11 Guatemala City, Guatemala. Phone: +(502) 2410 0800

The hotel prices run approximately as follows: (When sending in your team information 8 weeks in advance, please indicate which room for each reservation.)

- Single Room Deluxe, 1 King Bed, 1 Adult: \$97.60
- Double Room Deluxe, 1 King Bed, 2 Adults (married couple): \$103.70
<https://www.grandtikalfutura.com/deluxe-room/>
- Double Room Deluxe, 2 Standard Beds, 2 Adults & up to 2 children (under 12): \$103.70
- Triple Room Deluxe, 2 Standard Beds, 3 Adults & up to 2 children (under 12): \$134.20
- Triple Room Deluxe, 2 Standard Beds, plus One Small Bed, 3 Adults & up to 2 children (under 12): \$134.20

These rates all include hotel taxes.

Suites are also available upon request and at higher prices.

<https://www.grandtikalfutura.com/categorias-principales/habitaciones-y-suites/>

These prices include an amazing Buffet breakfast. The hotel also has a very nice pool and fitness center. Each room will also have ONE complimentary bottle of drinking water and a coffee kit.

There are many restaurants and shopping options nearby.

The hotel accepts Cash, VISA, and MasterCard as forms of payment. Be sure to call your credit card company prior to your trip to advise them you will be traveling to Guatemala and request pre-approved charges that you will make. Failure to advise many times results in denied charges due to banks being on high alert to credit card fraud these days.

B. *Hotel Las Americas, Guatemala City, Guatemala*

[Hotel las américas - Guatemala Hotel 5 estrellas \(lasamericas.com.gt\)](http://www.lasamericas.com.gt/)

<http://www.lasamericas.com.gt/en/>

Standard Single rooms run about \$60 per night plus 22% taxes

Standard Double rooms run about \$65 per night plus 22% taxes

These prices include a wonderful buffet breakfast and many more amenities.

Hotel Las Americas is in a very nice area, close to a big mall and many shops and restaurants.

HOTEL LAS AMERICAS CONTACT INFORMATION:

+502 2422 5000

+502 2422 5050

ventas@lasamericas.com.gt

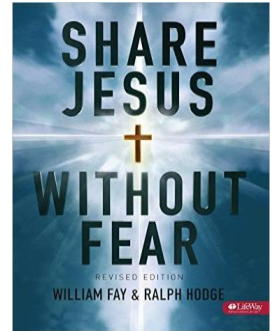
Avenida Las Americas 9 - 08, Zona 13,
Ciudad de Guatemala.

6. What do you need to do to be prepared for a mission trip to Guatemala City?

All team members **MUST BE** formally trained in Personal Evangelism and highly competent in sharing the gospel utilizing a standardized method, able to lead a person to Christ, and explain the first steps of the New Life in Christ. Please let Good News in Action know what method you will use to train your team.

What are some approved standardized training methods?

- The 3-week training program “Share Jesus Without Fear” (Most Highly Recommended, purchase workbooks through Amazon)
- Evangelism Explosion training program
- The Billy Graham School of Evangelism Online
<https://billygrahamonline.org/soe/courses/>
- The Four Spiritual Laws and the Roman Road



Approved evangelism tools during the trip include:

- The Wordless Book or Evangelism bracelets or necklaces with the presentation well memorized as well as the verses
- The Big Question Gospel Tract <http://www.goodnewsinaction.org/how-to-become-a-christian/>
- The Evangelism Cube

If there is another tool you would like to use, please consult Good News In Action for approval.



<p>The color GOLD reminds us of Heaven. It also makes us think about God, who lives in Heaven. The Bible teaches us that God made everything, including you and me.</p> <p>What does God see when He looks at you? Does He see somebody who makes Him happy?</p>	<p>Because God can see everything we do, He knows us very well. The Bible says that when God looks at us, He sees that everyone has done bad things. The color BLACK reminds us of these bad things, which God calls sin. Because God is holy, our sin must be judged and paid for.</p>	<p>God loves us so much that He sent Jesus, His only son, to pay for our sin. The color RED reminds us of when Jesus suffered, and bled, and died on a cross for you and me. Jesus then rose from the dead, proving that He has won the battle over sin and death.</p>	<p>WHITE makes us think of things that are clean. The Bible says that we can be clean in God's sight by admitting that we are sinful, turning to God, and putting our trust in Jesus. When we do that, He makes us ready for Heaven, and gives us a brand new life to live for Him.</p>	<p>Living things grow. That's what GREEN reminds us of. God wants us to grow in our new life. One very important way we grow is by reading the Bible. Another is by speaking with God in prayer. God also wants us to grow by helping each other and gathering with other Christians.</p>
GOD	SIN	JESUS	NEW LIFE	GROWTH
<p>God looked down from Heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that ... did seek God. <i>Psalms 53:2</i></p>	<p>Every one of them is gone back; they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. <i>Psalms 53:3</i></p>	<p>But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <i>Romans 5:8</i></p>	<p>Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. <i>Isaiah 1:18</i></p>	<p>As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. <i>1 Peter 2:2</i></p>

7. What is the best way to prepare children and/or preteens for ministry and evangelism?

The best way to prepare children for evangelism is using visual aids such as the gospel bracelet with the yellow, black, red, white, and green beads, the wordless book, or something like the Evangi-cube. Teach them the basics and encourage them to share the gospel with children their age. There will be many children to reach in both the schools and at the Family Festivals.

8. What else do you need to do to be prepared? Decide if you need any of the recommended vaccines and schedule a doctor appointment to receive them.

Recommended Vaccines:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/guatemala>

- Routine vaccines: MMR, DPT or DT, Chickenpox, Polio and your yearly flu shot.
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A and B

9. What does Good News in Action need from you?

We will need your complete team roster and flight information **no later than 8 weeks prior to your trip**. This is so we can make all your arrangements and get prepared for all the logistics on our end. Please send your complete roster** as described below and your complete flight information to gnamissiontrips@gmail.com no later than 8 weeks prior to your trip. **You will be provided with a formatted Excel Sheet for your roster. Please include all the following in your roster (See columns):

- The full legal name for every team member as it appears on their valid US passport.
- The team members grouped as they desire to stay in the hotel (single, double, triple or Jr Suite)
- The US passport number for each person
- The gender and age for each person
- The relationship among roommates as applicable
- The email address for each team member
- A short list of past mission's experience for each team member

- A notation of any special talent(s) a team member might have such as Spanish, Preaching, Music, Paint Board Presentations, Gospel Dramas, Sports, Medical or Working with Children.
- A notation of any special needs a team member might have such as a handicap or medical concern.
- A list of Prescriptions a team member is taking.
- Vaccination Status

10. **What are all the costs associated with the trip?** (please use this to make your budget)

- Airfare (variable)
- Hotel Stay (about \$375 per person; double occupancy)
- Lunch and Dinner money (We recommend about \$30 per day)
- Water bottles for the week (\$15)
- Souvenirs (\$30/optional)
- Medical treatment or Medicine in the event someone gets sick (\$50)
- Phone calls to the states (\$25)
- An offering for the church on Sunday (variable/optional)
- One 5-pound bag of your favorite candy to be used in all outreaches that involves children (please bring this with you) (\$10)
- One soccer or basketball for schools (deflate and bring please) (\$20)
- Family Festival or Pet Festival Prizes (anything will help!)
- A logistical fee as follows (\$425.00 per person). Effective July 1, 2024

Every team member helps to cover the cost of the logistics for the week. This is **\$425.00 per person.**

Please carry this money to Guatemala in cash US Dollars (**\$50.00 and \$100.00 bills only please, in pristine condition, nothing lower is accepted, bills that are even slightly soiled, stained, marked on or torn will not be accepted**) and turn it in during the initial orientation meeting along with anything else brought for ministry for the week.

Each team member's fee should be placed in a sealed envelope with that team member's name written on the outside.

The Logistical Fee will help cover all costs related to the outreach week. This includes Gospel tracts, Bible literature, evangelistic stickers, vehicles, fuel, transportation, drivers, parking, translators, permissions, fees, flyers, rentals, follow up name cards, family, and pet festivals, and so much more.

For clarification, if your team is of 10 people, you will bring a total of \$4,250.00 to cover the cost of logistics for your team.

If you need a Contribution Record (Tax Deductible Contribution Statement) for this money, please request this from Pam Kern and it will be provided. (goodnewsinactionelsalvador@gmail.com)

11. **What should you pack for your trip?**

- A Bible or Bilingual New Testament (paperback)
- Pens & a notebook
- hand sanitizer and/or wipes
- a flashlight
- a hat
- sun block
- insect repellent
- pain reliever
- anti-itch cream
- Imodium in case of diarrhea
- Light weight conservative cotton clothing (no shorts allowed for any ministry activity). A light jacket for evenings.
- Comfortable closed shoes
- An intestinal infection antibiotic such as Cipro or Bactrim

- Anti-allergy medication
- A lightweight rain jacket and/or umbrella
- Personal medications
- Conservative swim wear and/or work out wear to use at the hotel pool or fitness center (top floor) if you so desire.

An extra note regarding Dress Code: we recommend comfortable clothes for spring like weather and a light jacket to wear in the evenings. The weather in Guatemala City is Spring like all year around. Men must wear pants; no suits, jackets or ties are necessary for the men at any time. Ladies may wear pants, capris, skirts, or dresses. **No shorts** are allowed for any ministry activity for men or women but may be used during any down time. Also, ladies must not wear spaghetti strap shirts or blouses that show their midsection. Also please no t-shirts that have offensive sayings or graphics. Please use a weather website of your choice to find out specific climate information for your trip dates.

12. What are some additional tools a team member could bring to help break the ice and share the gospel with more people? (not obligatory, just ideas in the event the team was interested)

- More Candy or Snack Packs
- More Soccer or Basketballs
- Gospel bracelets (colored beads or colored strands)
- Fluorescent bracelets
- Basic Hygiene kits to give away
- Basic School supply kits to give away
- Family Festival or Pet Festival Prizes

13. Will there be an Orientation meeting for the team once in country? YES. Once all the mission trip members have arrived in Guatemala City, an Orientation meeting will be held. This will either take place sometime Saturday later in the afternoon or evening or on Sunday Morning. It could take place at the hotel or at church depending upon the circumstances, time, and day. You will receive both the time and place for this meeting prior to your trip. Please bring your \$425 USD cash per person as well as the 5 LB bag of candy and ball with you to this meeting (along with anything else you might have brought for the week to use in ministry), all will be collected by the person who leads the orientation meeting. The orientation meeting will be a great opportunity to learn more about your week in Guatemala and a good opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

14. Will there be a devotional time each morning during the week of the trip? YES.

A team Devotional meeting will be held every morning Monday thru Friday about an hour before the scheduled departure time from the hotel. The purpose of the meeting will be to share a Bible teaching and team time together. The team devotional time will be held in a meeting room located inside the hotel. Once in Guatemala City we will make the time and place for the devotional clear.

15. What is the key word for the mission trip week? FLEXIBILITY Please understand that flexibility will be very important. Please be willing to “go with the flow”. Constant and unexpected change is a common part of Latin American Culture and without a doubt will occur during your trip. Activities, times, and destinations may change unexpectedly.

16. What does the Basic Schedule for the week look like?

Saturday: Arrivals, hotel check in, possible orientation meeting, PM outreach

Sunday: church at Vida Nueva Guatemala, PM outreach

Monday-Friday morning: Devotional meeting, morning outreach (school, neighborhood, park, VBS)

Monday-Friday afternoons: Family Festivals in Neighborhoods

Saturday: Departure

You will be provided with a printable calendar of the week a few days prior to your trip. Please be very prompt to all times listed on the schedule. Also, team leaders, when you board the bus or van for transportation to ministry activities, please count your people. We will ask if all team members are present. It is very helpful if you can answer this question quickly.

17. What kind of ministry will we be doing with Vida Nueva Guatemala?

All activities will emphasize evangelism. They may include one on one evangelism in neighborhoods or parks, values talk in schools, and family or pet festivals in neighborhoods.

The value talk in schools look like this: Typically starting with an ice breaker, followed by a Value lesson using a Bible story, followed by a small group discussion on the topic and a short presentation of the Gospel, opportunity to pray to receive Christ and follow up.

In the evenings, you will do Family or Pet Festivals in neighborhoods. First the team will go door to door throughout the entire neighborhood inviting all the people while also sharing the gospel. Everyone will be invited to a central location, usually the community park, where there will be a very large inflatable for the children, also games and prizes for the children, refreshments, music, a gospel drama and a short-preached gospel message. The idea is to share the gospel one on one with as many people as possible during the entirety of the event. In some neighborhoods we add a Pet Show to the Festival. The community is invited to bring out their pets and have them compete in a fun Show where they can win prizes in up to 4 categories.

18. What are the instructions regarding currency exchange?

Upon arrival, exchange enough USD into Guatemalan Quetzals at the airport, inside the airport, as explained above. During the week you can go to a bank and exchange more. Remember to take your physical passport with you to the bank to exchange money. You can also use any major debit or credit cards for your food purchases if you desire. Be sure your card is equipped with a chip and that you have advised your company or bank that you will be traveling to Guatemala, so they will approve your charges and not suspect them to being fraudulent. Failure to advise usually results in the card being frozen due to suspicion of fraudulent use. Be sure all your USD bills are in pristine condition. They will not accept bills that are overly used, stained, or torn in any way.

19. At the end of my trip, how will I get back to the airport? You will go in the same transportation you have used all week. Please be sure you are at the airport at least 2 hours prior to your departure. There is no fee to pay at the airport upon exiting the country.

20. Are there any aspects of the Guatemalan Culture that will naturally provide opportunities to build bridges for sharing the gospel? YES!

The people of Guatemala love to talk and engage in conversation. Many speak English, especially the younger adults and youth. They are, in general, very friendly to foreigners and tourists, generally receptive to the gospel and the Word of God, and hold God and Jesus in high respect, even if they are not saved.

21. Are there any aspects of the culture that may cause a barrier for the Gospel? YES!

Since Guatemala City is a very large city, everyone is constantly on the rapid move and lives a stressful life, it is a challenge to get them to stop and really consider the depth and breadth of the gospel. Boldness is necessary to be successful. Catholicism and a Good Works mentality is another very serious barrier as is total confusion to religious matters and the experience of hypocrisy within the church.

22. What is the Guatemala City Church information?

Please read all about Vida Nueva Guatemala and their pastor at the following link:

<https://www.goodnewsinaction.org/vida-nueva-guatemala-city>

Vida Nueva Guatemala is located at the following address: Sky Lounge (5o. Nivel) Centro Comercial Parque Las Americas. Zona 14. Avenida Las Americas. 01009-Guatemala City, Guatemala. They have one Sunday morning services at 10:30AM

Please see their Facebook page for more information and photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/iglesia.vidanueva.guatemala/>

23. What are some good ways to contact the pastor or hotel in Guatemala?

Nelson Rivas in Guatemala: **011-502-4069-7302**, call, text or whatsapp or

nelsonrivas08@gmail.com



How can you contact Good News in Action?

Call 1-205-683-4033

Or write

goodnewsinactionelsalvador@gmail.com or steven_kern@hotmail.com

or

Steve Kern cell phone 011-503-7605-4531, call, text or whatsapp

Pam Kern cell phone 011-503-7748-1205, call, text or whatsapp

We are looking forward to seeing you soon. May God Bless you!

If you have any questions please feel free to write us at

goodnewsinactionelsalvador@gmail.com

