

Guidelines Sheet for a Good News in Action Mission Trip to San Salvador, El Salvador



This guidelines sheet has been specially designed for you, a person who is either considering a GNIA trip to San Salvador, El Salvador, or who has already signed up for a trip. 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 very soon!

All the Facts:

1. **Where is San Salvador, El Salvador located and what is some helpful information about it?**

El Salvador is just south of Guatemala and West of Honduras and Nicaragua. Its entire coastline lies on the Pacific Ocean. The population of the country is about 6.5 million, making it among the most densely populated in the western hemisphere.

San Salvador, the capital city, and the area you will be serving in, is in southwestern part of the country; it is also the most populated city in the country with nearly 3 million inhabitants. It is fondly known as the “Valley of the Hammocks” due to the high seismic activity experienced in the area. The weather is tropical wet from May to October and Tropical Dry from October to May.



2. **How will you get to San Salvador?** You will fly into the El Salvador International Airport (SAL), be picked up by Good News In Action/Vida Nueva representatives, and drive by bus, van or car up to the capital city. It is about a 45-minute drive to the hotel where you will stay.
3. **Are there any forms to fill out prior to landing at SAL?** Nope! But when you show your passport to the Immigration official and purchase your \$12 tourist visa to enter, you might be asked where you are staying. To that question, reply “The Hilton Hotel, Colonia Escalon, San Salvador”.

[Hilton San Salvador - Guest Reservations](#)

4. **What will your airport arrival procedure look like?** You will disembark your plane and follow the crowd down the airport hallways until you reach your first stop at Immigration. Depending upon which terminal you arrive at, you may or may not have to go down an escalator to get to Immigration. You will go to the area marked for “Foreigners”. An Immigration official will scan your passport and note your information. You will purchase a Tourist Visa that costs \$12.00. Only adults (over 18) are charged for this. Anyone under 18 is free. Please have exact change as they do not provide change for larger bills. Once you clear Immigration, walk over to the luggage arrival area. Go to the belt indicated on the monitor for your flight. Once you receive your bags, proceed to the Customs line. A customs official will greet you, review your passport, and either motion for you to exit the building or request you send your bags through a final x-ray screening point; you will then be able to exit. Once you exit the building, walk out to the pickup area, and wait for your ride. Good News in Action/Vida Nueva representatives should be there to meet you.
5. **Where will the mission team stay while in San Salvador for the week?** The mission team will stay at the Hilton Hotel in Colonia Escalon, in San Salvador, the capital city. Your hotel reservation will be made for you by a Good News in Action representative in the country.

Please visit the following website to see all the hotel details and amenities.

[Hilton San Salvador - Guest Reservations](#)

The approximate costs for the rooms PER NIGHT are as follows: (Updated February 2024)

Single Occupancy Room: \$93.22

Double Occupancy Room: \$93.22**

Triple Occupancy Room: \$105.02**

Quad Occupancy Room: \$145.00**

These prices include both a 13% hotel tax and a 5% tourism tax.

These prices also include a buffet breakfast per person and free WIFI throughout the hotel as well as many other amenities such as cable, pool, and gym access.

The hotel charges an additional \$15.00 per night if an additional twin roll-a-way bed is added to the room to accommodate an extra person that does not want to share a bed with a roommate.

****All the rooms have two queen sized beds. This means that unless you request an extra twin roll away bed, the occupants of a triple or quad room will share a bed. There is a sofa that can serve as a bed in the common area of the suite if occupants want to spread out and not share a bed.**

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 El Salvador and to pre-approve 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. The hotel is located about 45 minutes from the airport. Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva, the church you are coming to work with in conjunction with Good News In Action, will provide your airport transportation for both arrival and departure.

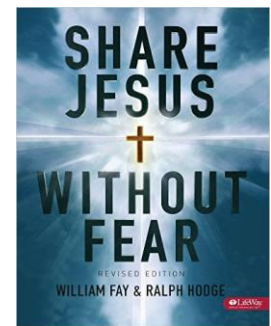
6. What do you need to do to be prepared for my mission trip to San Salvador?

Preparation is so important; your spiritual preparation is most important. 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”
- Evangelism Explosion training program
- The Billy Graham School of Evangelism Online
<https://billygrahamonline.com/training/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 Steve Kern 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>Psalm 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>Psalm 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 your doctor appointment to receive them.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/el-salvador>

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

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

We will need your 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 goodnewsinactionelsalvador@gmail.com no later than 8 weeks prior to your trip. **You will be provided with an Excel sheet for your roster.**

Please include all the following in your roster (there is a column for each item already built into the Excel Sheet):

- 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 quad)
- 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.

The TEAM ROSTER must be written out in a, Excel Document that will be provided by GNIA.

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

- Airfare (Variable)
- Entry Tourist Visa (\$12.00)
- Hotel Stay (about \$335 per person double occupancy)
- Lunch and Dinner money (We recommend about \$20-25 per day). Lunch every day will be at a food court or restaurant and dinner can be at the hotel restaurant or at a restaurant at Plaza Futura right across the street from the hotel. You can access this area by walking over a raised closed bridgeway from the hotel to the Plaza Futura. Please visit this website to see all the restaurants that are available: [Plaza Futura | WTC San Salvador](#)
- Water bottles for the week (\$15-20)
- Souvenirs (\$30/optional)
- Medical treatment or Medicine in the event someone gets sick (\$50)
- Phone calls to the states (\$10/optional)
- 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) (\$10.00)
- One Ball (can be Soccer or Basketball) (\$20). Please deflate and pack. This will be used in all outreaches that involves students and schools.
- Prizes for Children in a Family Festival Context and/or Pet supplies that could also be used as prizes in a Pet Festival Context. (Optional) It would be VERY helpful if you could bring at least one of each, something inexpensive. (\$10-15). This could also be a mission project done by a Sunday School Class or other group to help support the mission trip.
- A logistical fee as follows (\$300.00): (Effective July 1, 2024)

Every team member helps to cover the cost of the logistics for the week. This is **\$300.00 per person.** Please carry this money to El Salvador in cash US Dollars (all denominations are fine) and turn it in during the initial orientation meeting (usually scheduled for the first Saturday or Sunday) along with the ball and bag of candy and all other prizes or materials you may have brought for the Family or Pet Festivals.

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, translators, permissions, fees, flyers, follow up name cards, family festivals, and much more.

For clarification, if your team is of 10 people, you will bring a total of \$3,000.00 to cover the cost of logistics for your team.

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

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

- A Bible or Bilingual New Testament (paperback)
- pens
- 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 permitted for ministry activities; however, shorts may be worn during non-ministry down times)
- Comfortable closed shoes
- An intestinal infection antibiotic such as Cipro or Bactrim
- Anti-allergy medication
- A poncho or umbrella (during the rainy season: May through October trips).
- Personal medications
- Conservative swim and gym wear to use at the hotel pool or gym

An extra note regarding Dress Code:

Please bring comfortable clothes for tropical weather. Men and boys must wear pants for all ministry activities; no suits, jackets or ties are necessary for the men at any time. Ladies and girls may wear pants, to the knee capris, skirts, or dresses. **No shorts** are allowed for any ministry activity 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.

12. What are some 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 in, or if your church or class want to do a ministry project.)

More Candy or Snack Packs

More Soccer or Basketballs

More children or pet prizes

Gospel bracelets (colored beads or colored strands) to use and give away.

Fluorescent bracelets to give away.

Basic Hygiene kits to give away.

Basic School supply kits to give away.

13. Will there be an orientation meeting for the team once in country? YES

This will either take place at the hotel either on arrival Saturday (afternoon or evening) or the next day, Sunday at some point in time. (It will depend upon the arrival time of the participants) You will be advised as to the exact location and time once you arrive. Please bring your \$300 USD cash per person, the 5 LB bag of candy, the ball, and the family or pet festival prizes, all these items 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 San Salvador as well as 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

This will occur every morning Monday to Friday about an hour before the scheduled departure time from the hotel. A Bible teaching will be shared with the team by a variety of leaders. The location and time will be provided on the schedule for the week you will receive by email prior to your trip or during your orientation meeting.

15. What is the “key word” for the mission trip week? FLEXIBILITY

Please understand that flexibility will be very important for the week. Please be willing to “*go with the flow*”. Constant and unexpected change is a common part of Latin American culture, and without a doubt, you will experience it on your trip. Activities may change times and places unexpectedly.

What does the Basic Schedule for the week look like?

Saturday: Arrivals, hotel check in, possible orientation meeting.

Sunday: Church at Vida Nueva San Salvador, Afternoon outreach in a neighborhood.

Monday-Friday morning: Devotional meeting, morning outreach, possibly at a school or park

Monday -Friday afternoons: Afternoon-evening outreach, Family or Pet Festivals in neighborhoods

Saturday: Departure

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

16. What kind of ministry will we be doing while in San Salvador?

Evangelism: The spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by public preaching or personal witness in a variety of settings including but not limited to parks, neighborhoods, marketplaces, schools, institutions, and other places where people are gathered.

In the mornings you might be divided into smaller teams and share in classrooms of different schools. Typically starting with an ice breaker, then give a Values lesson using a Bible story followed by a small group discussion on the topic and a short presentation of the Gospel. You will be provided with the school Lesson prior to your trip and orientation as to how to use it once in the classroom. You might also do evangelism in a park in the morning.

In the evenings you will participate in Family or Pet Festivals in neighborhoods. First the team will go door to door throughout the entire neighborhood inviting all the people to come to the event while also sharing the gospel. Everyone will be invited to a central location, usually the community park or central street, 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 the case of the Pet 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 5 categories.

17. What are the instructions regarding currency exchange?

No currency change is needed. El Salvador uses the US Dollar. Just a word of caution: no merchants accept denominations higher than a \$20 so please be sure you bring all small bills for your cash purchases and please be sure the bills are in good condition.

18. At the end of my trip, how will I get back to the airport?

Just as you were picked up by associates from Vida Nueva, you will be transported back to the airport also by them. Feel free to ask during the week what time you will depart the hotel for your return trip to the airport, you always must plan on being at the airport at least 2 hours prior to your flight time.

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

The people of ES love to talk and engage in conversation, they are by nature very relational people, in general, are very friendly to foreigners and tourists; they are generally receptive to the gospel and the Word of God in general. They hold God and Jesus in a high position even if they are not saved.

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

Since San Salvador is a very large city, nearly 3 million inhabitants, 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 complicated barrier.

21. What is the Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva's Church information?

Julio Contreras and Steve Kern are the co-senior pastors of Vida Nueva, founded in 1991, which has 5 campuses in the greater San Salvador area and a membership of about 2,000 people.

You can find more information on Vida Nueva by visiting their website at [Soy Vida Nueva | Alcancemos juntos la siguiente generación \(ibvn.org\)](http://SoyVidaNueva|Alcancemosjuntos.la.siguiente.generacion(ibvn.org))

or on face book at <https://www.facebook.com/ibvidanueva>

And finally, at www.goodnewsinaction.org you can click on "Vida Nueva" for more information.

22. What is the contact information of the US Missionary we will be working with while in San Salvador:

Steve Kern's El Salvador home phone land line – 011-503-2246-4757

Steve's El Salvador Cell phone – 011-503-7605 4531, whatsapp for text messaging.

Steve Kern Home Broad Band Internet phone with USA area code –1-205-683-4033

Steve Kern e-mail addresses: goodnewsinactionelsalvador@gmail.com or

steven_kern@hotmail.com

Pam Kern's Cell phone – 011-503-7748-1205, whatsapp for text messaging



For additional info on the country of El Salvador please read: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Salvador

We are looking forward to seeing you on a future trip to San Salvador, El Salvador.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

May God Bless you!

Steve and Pam Kern

www.goodnewsinaction.org

FB page: Good News In Action <https://www.facebook.com/GoodNewsInActionInc/>