



OPENHEAVENS

G U A T E M A L A



mission trip PACKET

openheavensguatemala.org
missions@openheavensguatemala.org
4252 Southtowne Drive, Suite D, Eau Claire WI 54701



Hi There!

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TRAVELING AND SERVING WITH US!

Investing a week of your time, money and love has great return on your investment. You will be blessed for giving, and we think you will have a blast! We have organized many mission trips to Guatemala, and you can confidently leave the details to us.

Learn more about our team [here](#).

Pat & Mayra Couture

HOW TO REACH US

Mailing address:

4252 Southtowne Drive, Suite D, Eau Claire WI 54701

Website:

openheavensguatemala.org

Phone:

(715) 829-0109

Email:

missions@openheavensguatemala.org

WHAT TO EXPECT

ON A MISSION TRIP WITH OPEN HEAVENS GUATEMALA

It's always such a marvelous thing how God brings together a variety of personalities and then creates a united group that can accomplish so much in one week.



CONSTRUCTION

most of our mission trips include a construction project for a deserving family or individual



MEDICAL

team together to provide basic and specialized medical, chiropractic, dental, and vision care



OUTREACH

meet needs in ways like serving food, delivering household items, offering practical assistance, and hosting children's fairs



PRAYER

pray for the people and country of Guatemala as you travel, serve, and connect



ABOUT GUATEMALA

Guatemala is a country of volcanoes, mountains, and beaches. From the Cuchumatán Mountains in the western highlands, to the coastlines on the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, this small country is marked by contrasts. Three of Guatemala's 30 volcanoes are still active.

Only slightly larger than the U.S. state of Tennessee, Guatemala is a mountainous country with one-third of the population living in cool highland villages. The coastal lowlands are warm and humid. The country is bordered by Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, and Belize.

The Maya civilization was very advanced in math and astronomy. The Maya probably developed the concept of zero and left written records using hieroglyphics and whole words. While historians are not sure why the Maya Empire collapsed, the Maya society began to shrink in the 10th century and split into separate groups. They may have suffered from overpopulation and the effects of drought.

Maya women continue to weave brightly colored cloth and fashion the same traje, or suit, that their ancestors wore. More than half of the population is indigenous.

Taken from National Geographic Kids. (2021, February 10). Guatemala Country Profile - National Geographic Kids. Geography. <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/guatemala>.



Capital

Built 1,530.17 m above sea level in an earthquake-prone region, Antigua Guatemala, the capital of the Captaincy-General of Guatemala, was founded in 1524 as Santiago de Guatemala. It was subsequently destroyed by fire caused by an uprising of the indigenous population, re-established in 1527 and entirely buried as a result of earthquakes and an avalanche in 1541. The third location, in the Valley of Panchoy or Pacán, was inaugurated in March 1543 and served for 230 years. It survived natural disasters of floods, volcanic eruptions and other serious tremors until 1773 when the Santa Marta earthquakes destroyed much of the town. At this point, authorities ordered the relocation of the capital to a safer location region, which became Guatemala City, the county's modern capital. Some residents stayed behind in the original town, however, which became referred to as La Antigua Guatemala.

Taken from Centre, U. W. H. (n.d.). Antigua Guatemala. UNESCO World Heritage Centre. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/65>.



Weather

Guatemala is called “the land of the eternal spring” because they consistently enjoy spring-like weather with moderate temperatures and lush landscapes almost all year. The rainy season occurs between May and October; showers are frequent, though it rarely rains all day. Guatemala's dry season extends from November to April; rain is more rare, and temperatures run high. Both rainy and dry seasons can be very humid, especially in Guatemala's coastal regions.

Population & Ethnicity

Guatemala's population is over 15 million. On the basis of cultural traits, the population is divided into two main ethnic groups—Ladinos and Maya, who make up the vast majority of Indigenous people in Guatemala and form several cultures. The Ladinos (mestizos) comprise those of mixed Hispanic-Maya origin and make up between one-half and three-fifths of the total population, whereas the Maya account for some two-fifths of the country's population. There are much smaller numbers of Spanish-speaking Xinca in southern Guatemala and Garífuna (people of mixed African and Caribbean descent) in the northeastern port towns. Ladinos, who speak Spanish exclusively, are the more commercially and politically influential group, and they make up most of the urban population. While Spanish is the official language, many different Mayan languages are spoken in Guatemala.



Taken from Encyclopedia Britannica, inc. (2024, August 14). Guatemala. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Guatemala>

Economy

The monetary unit is the Quetzal. Exchange rate to \$1 = Q7.5. Coffee, sugar, bananas are the main products. The most populous of the Central American countries, Guatemala has a GDP per capita roughly one-third that of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

Religions

While Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion of Guatemalans, among the Maya it is often heavily infused with beliefs of pre-Columbian origin. From the mid-20th century, however, there has been a surge of conversions to Evangelical Protestantism, particularly among the poor. Protestants account for about two-fifths of the population, one of the highest proportions in Latin America.

Taken from Encyclopedia Britannica, inc. (2024, August 14). Guatemala. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Guatemala>

TRAVEL INFORMATION

01 CLOTHING & SHOES
Summer clothing is appropriate. Please wear modest clothing. Bring shoes that are comfortable for walking or tennis shoes. **DO NOT** wear any jewelry that has sentimental value. Include a church outfit for Sunday morning and maybe Wednesday night.

02 ITEMS TO BRING
Hat
Sunglasses
Sunscreen
Water bottle
Towel
Flashlight
One large bag of candy (not chocolate)

03 MONEY
For spending money, bring **NEW** bills in the denomination of 50s. ATMs are available, but fees may be higher.

04 FOOD
We will provide you with meals prepared carefully by our team of volunteers. Some meals will be eaten at restaurants. We also recommend that you bring lightweight snacks such as energy bars, nuts, or crackers. Drinking water will be provided throughout your stay.

05 HEALTH
Immunizations are not required to be admitted into Guatemala. We suggest you go to [cdc.gov/travel](https://www.cdc.gov/travel) to review immunization information, travel health notices, and medical precautions, as well as how to handle any prescription medication you may be bringing with you.



06

LUGGAGE

You are limited to one checked bag (included in trip cost) and a carry-on. Please consider carrying another checked bag with ministry supplies. The cost of checking this bag will be included as well.

07

CUSTOMS

You will be required to fill out a customs form on the plane before you arrive in Guatemala. The address you should put on this form will be provided.

08

AIRPORT & EXPLORING

When traveling to other countries you will find the airports are not the same as in the States. Upon arrival, there will be lots of people waiting outside to “help you” with your bags. Do not accept their help. We recommend that at all times you stay in groups of 3 or more if shopping or exploring on your own.

09

IMMIGRATION FORM

It is required to fill out an immigration form prior to landing in Guatemala. We suggest you fill it out a day before you travel (internet required to complete). Go to bit.ly/ohgimform. Select English. Near the end of completing form, you will receive a QR code. Before selecting Finish, take a screenshot of QR code. You will be asked for the QR code at the airport in Guatemala. You can then retrieve it from your photos and show it to official when asked.

10

PASSPORT

It is required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months after your departure date to travel to and from Guatemala. For more information, go to travel.state.gov/passport.





ARE YOU READY?

If you are ready to embark on an exciting mission journey with us, review the trip checklist below and start the application process today!

TRIP CHECKLIST

APPLICATION

Complete and return OHG's Mission Trip Application to missions@openheavensguatemala.org or 4252 Southtowne Drive, Suite D, Eau Claire WI 54701.

MINISTRY REFERENCE

Have a pastor or mentor tell us how well he or she knows you and comment to your spiritual, social, and emotional maturity as well as your leadership abilities; this reference must be sent to OHG directly at missions@openheavensguatemala.org or 4252 Southtowne Drive, Suite D, Eau Claire WI 54701.

PASSPORT

Send us a color copy of your passport.

PAYMENT

A \$200 deposit is required to secure your spot. Your trip must be paid in full three months prior to travel.

QUESTIONS?

Still have questions? We're happy to answer them; you can connect with us [here](#).

Mission Trip Application

We are delighted with your interest to travel with Open Heavens Guatemala. Please email this completed application along with a color copy of your passport to missions@openheavensguatemala.org or mail to OHG at 4252 Southtowne Drive, Suite D, Eau Claire WI 54701.

MISSION TRIP DATE

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APPLICANT

Full Name (as it appears on your passport)			
Nickname		Address	
Date of birth	/ /	City	
Gender	☐ Male ☐ Female	State	
Marital status			
Passport number			
Passport expiration	/ /	Zip	
		Mobile phone	
		Other phone	

PERSONAL

What is your primary motivation for this trip?

What gifts and talents do you have that will complement this trip?

Do you speak Spanish?

☐ Fluent	☐ Intermediate	☐ Some	☐ None
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Any other helpful information or suggestions?

MEDICAL

Existing medical conditions

Allergies

Medications

Blood type

Physician's name & phone

Insurance info

Additional info

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name

Address

Relationship

City

Email

State

Phone

Zip

Additional info

REFERENCE

In order to be approved to travel on an OHG mission trip, you must provide a ministry reference for our review. Please have a pastor or mentor comment to the points below and email them directly to us at missions@openheavensguatemala.org or mail directly to OHG at 4252 Southtowne Drive, Suite D, Eau Claire WI 54701.

- Your spiritual maturity
- Your social maturity
- Your emotional maturity
- Your leadership abilities
- How well he or she knows you

RELEASE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I hereby acknowledge and assume the risks, requirements, and expectations of travel to Guatemala. I release, indemnify, and hold harmless Open Heavens Guatemala and their officers, directors, members, and all other persons and organizations working on their behalf from any and all loss, liability, actions, claims, and demands of any nature, past, present or future, that may result from or be in any way related to the undersigned's activities conducted under the auspices of OHG.

Signature of applicant

Printed name of applicant

Date

THANK YOU FOR APPLYING!

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