

## Guatemala IAS Cross-Cultural Experience Trip

Dates: March 26, 2021 – April 3, 2021

Trip cost is \$1400. This is a group Individually Arranged trip, so only the cross-cultural credit is part of the trip, and journals and case studies will be required. The \$100 cost of the cross-cultural credit is a separate expense that will be placed on participants' school bill.

Application Deadline: January 15, 2021

Deposit Deadline: \$1,000 January 30, 2021

*The primary activity on this trip is a week-long stay at Casa Shalom in San Lucas, Guatemala. Casa Shalom is an orphanage housing close to 100 children of varying ages. We do not yet have a full itinerary. Details regarding activities at Casa Shalom, the nearby town of San Lucas, and the historic city of Antigua will be customized for our group. The week in Guatemala is guaranteed to be immersive.*

**Basic information about Casa Shalom:** Casa Shalom is located outside the town of San Lucas, Guatemala. The orphanage was started in 1986 during the Guatemalan civil war to house children orphaned during the conflict. The orphanage is currently home to 100 children ranging from newborns to 20 years of age. The children live in houses that are divided based on age and gender. The orphanage has an infant house, toddler house, 6-9 year old boy house, 10-12 year old boy house, and a teenage boy house. Our girls are divided into a 4-10-year old house and house for girls 10 and up.

**Basic information about your stay:** Travel fees cover the cost of transportation to and from the airport, all meals eaten at Casa Shalom, and a trip to Antigua (a local tourist destination, meal included). Also included are some material costs for projects at Casa Shalom and/or outside the orphanage for the week.

The orphanage has two dormitory-style rooms for teams to stay in, housing a total of 34 people divided up by gender. Casa Shalom has all of the bedding and towels needed, but visitors should bring their own personal items for showering.

We will be working on some type of project. These will range from painting, roofing, electrical and plumbing work, and are available for all skill levels and abilities.

**The food:** While at Casa Shalom, guests will be served a balanced diet of grains, meats, fruits and vegetables. The orphanage's kitchen, however, is **unable to accommodate special dietary needs** such as gluten-free, vegetarian, vegan, severe food allergy, etc. If your dietary needs are such that you cannot live on the diet mentioned above or any supplemental snacks you wish to bring for the duration of the trip, this is not the trip for you!

**The water:** Casa Shalom has filters for drinking water. Water from the tap should *never* be used for drinking or brushing your teeth, as all tap water in Guatemala is contaminated with parasites and bacteria.

Casa Shalom has indoor plumbing, but flushing toilet paper will cause the pipes to clog. Toilet paper should never be placed in the toilet. Restrooms at the orphanage have waste baskets in all of the stalls to dispose of toilet paper.

The water at Casa Shalom is turned off and on during certain parts of the day and runs on a schedule all year. Visitors can expect to have water during the following hours: 6 – 9 a.m., 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., and 6 – 9 p.m. Also, under some conditions, the water may go out completely for a couple days. There is always drinking water and water to cook with, just not water for showers. This is rare, but it can happen.

**The terrain:** Casa Shalom is located on a large hill, and walking is the primary mode of transportation, so a fair amount of physical activity is required for daily activities. The orphanage sits at nearly 6,500 feet altitude, so adjusting to the oxygen level adds to the difficulty of moving around the property. We recommend that all team members have a basic level of fitness so that they are not uncomfortable. March temperatures average between 50°-70°F, so it can be cool-ish.

**Rules and recommendations:** Please leave all valuable items at home. This includes expensive jewelry (no diamond rings, please), expensive cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc. You may bring a camera to take photos, but please guard it closely. Unattended items disappear! Many of our children come to us from the streets, where they stole to survive, and if presented with the opportunity to take a valuable item, it is very tempting for them.

We also ask that visitors dress modestly, in keeping with Guatemalan cultural norms. *Please no tank tops or shorts above the knee for either men or women.* We ask that visitors avoid wearing any type of facial piercing (nose, lip, etc.). Earrings are ok for ladies. **Visitors will not have use of laundry facilities** and should bring enough clothes to last the entire trip without doing laundry.

Visitors can bring cash in small denominations to spend at the tourist market. Everywhere we go will accept dollars. These need to be *crisp, unmarked bills with no tears.* Vendors will reject bills that have any markings or tears. This is because Guatemalan banks will reject them if they try to exchange them.

**Voluntary Donations:** Casa Shalom is constantly in need of items! Some items that the children always need are:

1. Girls underwear sizes 4 - 12
2. Lice kits
3. Athletic pants for boys and girls, children's sizes 4 - 14.
4. Girls clothes 6-8
5. Women's tennis shoes sizes 4 - 6
6. Sweatshirts for boys and girls, children's sizes 10 - 16.
7. Winter coats for boys and girls, children's sizes 8 - 16.
8. Towels and blankets
9. Backpacks for boys and girls
10. Toiletries like shampoo, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, etc.

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