

All Saints Mission Trip Information sheet

Flight info will be booked on American Airlines via Miami Airport 5:50pm arrive Guatemala City 6:43pm Friday Nov 1st.

You can book on the flight with Total Advantage Travel based out of Toronto, Robert Townsend is our rep and attends All Saints as a snowbird. He can also arrange your departure flight for Nov. 9th or 11th. Total Advantage can also offer trip insurance and medical insurance as well. You can contact him at 1-800-419-1635 or Robert@totaladvanatge.com. www.totaladvantage.com. You also may choose to make your own flight arrangements but be mindful of making your own connections from the airport as you may have to make your own shuttle arrangements. **You are responsible for your own payment for the ticket.**

Consider eating an early dinner or eating when you arrive to Antigua. Dinner is not provided this night. Antigua is easy to walk around and abundant with Ubers, Taxi and Tuk Tuks.

Pick up from Airport: Has been arranged for a 7pm pickup. This is covered in your All Saints Mission Trip fee. In the event. To make your own arrangements for a private shuttle if you are not traveling on the group shuttle with Antigua Tours. It will cost \$35 for 1-2 passengers. \$45 3 passengers and \$15 each additional passenger. You can email them at info@antiguatours.net. The owner Elizabeth Bell is Senior Warden of the local Anglican Church in Antigua and part of the year based in Miami. Her office bills through Miami so all pricing is in American dollars.

Itinerary

Nov. 2: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, Evening Devotion. We will have a regularly scheduled Elizabeth Bell Cultural Tour of Antigua.

Nov. 3rd: Attend Mass, Brunch, 4pm Maya Spiritual Ceremony followed by Dinner. Evening Devotion

Nov. 4th: Breakfast, Head to San Andres to work on school projects (Construction or English). Lunch with children. Home for dinner and Evening Devotion

Nov. 5th: Breakfast, Head to San Andres to work on school projects (Construction or English). Lunch with children. Home for dinner and Evening Devotion

Nov 6th: Breakfast, Head to San Andres to work on school projects (Construction or English). Lunch with children. Home for dinner and Evening Devotion

Nov. 7th: Free Day, you may want to shop or book your own excursion with Antigua Tours (Elizabeth Bell will be joining us at All Saints August 25th to go over options). You may also check out options at www.antiguatours.net. We will be eating at a local restaurant on top of a mountain in an Art Park filled with many art exhibits. **You will be responsible for your own check.** Lunch is on your own.

Nov. 8th: Shuttle to Guatemala City. We will stop that morning and learn about Fotokids, a nonprofit that works with families who live at the city dump. We will check into the Barcelo Hotel and eat at the hotel for dinner. You are responsible for your own dinner meal; however, the hotel is included in your fees based on double occupancy. If you wish for your own single occupancy an it will cost \$113 plus 22% tax.

Nov 9th the Hotel offers a shuttle to the airport and complimentary breakfast. Fly home or get on a flight if you are extending to Tikal. If going to Tikal we will be picked up at 9am by Antigua Tours. The extension will run \$391, which includes airfare one night at Hotel Flores and one night back at Hotel Barcelo (Double Occupancy). Hotel Flores arrangements and pricing are subject to change per group form vote (See your registration form).

Nov. 11th take hotel shuttle to airport.

Notes about tours: This is being put on as a mission trip by the church and not strictly handled by a tour company. The tour/travel companies we are using are to assist with enhancing our experience. We have partnered with locals other than the travel agency to make our mission as affordable as possible.

What does my \$400 cover. We will be paying host families, a cook for meals (We cover Breakfast Lunch and Dinner Saturday- Saturday). There are a couple of meals you are responsible for, such as Lunch Thursday the 7th because people will be doing different excursions, Thursday night at our dinner restaurant, Friday night hotel restaurant. Our ground transportation, tour of Antigua and our Mayan Ceremony. Keep in mind pricing is approximate. We are asking the vestry for \$1500 from our outreach funds to help fund the supplies we need for our work projects.

What in addition am I responsible for? Airfare, transportation if you make your own flight arrangements, a few meals.

Meals: We will hire a cook and, on the form, try our best to handle in dietary restrictions.

Safety: Antigua is safe city and the American Embassy is close by. In order to promote safety, we stay in a secured neighborhood and we recommend that people don't travel alone. We don't leave any main roads or highways. We will not be going to any areas that maybe considered dangerous per U.S. travel advisory.

Custom made shoes/boots: On our first day out to the school if anyone would like custom made shoes, we can stop at a village to get your orders in. It usually takes a couple of days to get them complete.

Projects: Our projects will be to extend the roofing on the school and painting. In addition, people may also choose to work with the kids interacting through games we will purchase and bring with them that will be taught in English. Lastly, if people do not feel they can do either of these tasks the local hospital has a baby holding program.

Housing: We will be staying with host families in Antigua. Each of the houses are within a block or two of each other in a gated 24-hour security neighborhood. If for some reason you do not feel comfortable staying with a host family, there is a nice hotel called Sant Domingo. The rate is approximately \$139/night and is very close to our host families. You can book this through Antigua tours.

Currency Exchange: Currently the rates are approximately \$7.50Q to \$1USA. You may go to an exchange, however usually do not get the best exchange rates. There are ATMs as well depending on the ATM the fees can vary. It is better to go with a local bank for exchange. Also credit cards without foreign transaction fees can be the best route. If you would like and is optional Deacon Phyllis has offered to take money in advance and will transfer the money from her California Bank to her Guatemalan Bank and have your \$Q waiting for you on arrival. She would need the money by Oct. 1st in order to handle this transaction. See Deacon Jon if you want to go to

Medical: There are hospital facilities in Antigua. You should check with your own insurance provider to see what international restrictions are. You can purchase additional insurance through Total Travel Advantage (See flight info section). Also, Deacon Phyllis has an insurance policy that can cover anyone who is staying at her house. So, if we need help, we can also go to her house and have paramedics come to her house in which you will be covered under the policy. It also never hurts to pack over the counter pills you may need such as IB-profen and anti-diarrhea pills as a back-up.

Also **check with your Dr** about any vaccinations you may need. The CDC suggests for you to be up to date on all normal vaccines such as tetanus MMR, in addition Hepatitis A, typhoid (For smaller cities and rural areas, however these really are not the areas we are going).

Also recommended for some travelers is HEP B, Rabies, and (Malaria only if you are going to Tikal) Antigua/Guatemala City are above 5,000 feet and is not considered at risk for Malaria. Although despite the CDC, there has not been any malaria reported in Tikal in years as we know some people might have adverse effects to the pills.

Water: The travel agency recommend buying and using bottle water for drinking even though the water is deemed safe.

Cell phones: Check with your cell phone provider on an international plan. Some providers such as AT&T offer a daily rate to use your regular plan for \$10/day without incurring additional charges.

Passport: You do not need a visa for Guatemala, but make sure your passport is up to date.

Follow up meetings: There will be a meeting following at noon Sunday, May 19th where we will video Deacon Phyllis in and people can ask any questions they may have.

August 25th All Saints noon meet Elizabeth Bell from Antigua Tours and go over any last questions for trip.

Payments: All Payments for the \$400 fee will be made to All Saints via church office. \$250 will be due May 31st. These funds are refundable through August 31st. The final payment \$150 is due August 31st.
*Final deposit may change.

Contact information for group Leader: Rev. Jon Owens: jon@allsaintsfl.org 510-289-9407