

St. Benedict's Youth Group Mission Trip to Guatemala

Porch de Salomon

<https://porchdesalomon.org/mission-trips/>

Dates of Trip

Saturday July 12th – Saturday July 19th, 2025

Mission - Porch de Salomon is a response to several families and their friends being called into lives of love and service in Panajachel, Guatemala. We strive to bring the first-century church's spirit of adventure, service, and even fun to those who live in a 21st-century world. Solomon's Porch was an ancient, open place where people seeking transformation gathered to explore Jesus of Nazareth's radical message of love and redemption. Porch de Salomon is a unique and progressive non-profit which, since 2005, has loved, served, and encouraged "the lost, the least and the last" of Guatemala's Lake Atitlan basin.

Who can participate: High school and College students (must be at least 15 years of age by June 1, 2025)

Submit the following with the Guatemala Mission Trip application:

- 2 reference letters (from a non-family members)
- School reference form
- Application for Guatemala mission trip

Note: An Interview with the Ministry team will be required after items above are submitted. Space is limited.

Costs

- ◆ **Approximately \$2,000** (Includes all expenses i.e. airfare, local transportation, room and board, and food)
- Upon selection to participate in our mission a \$200 non-refundable deposit will be due within 7 days of acceptance. 50% - on April 15th, 2025 and the balance due May 15th, 2025.

Note: The price of each trip does *not* include spending money, passport, personal insurance, or vaccinations.

Payment – Make all checks payable to Saint Benedict Catholic Church with the
[Memo: Guatemala Mission Trip.]

Frequent questions:

Who do we serve? We serve Guatemala's colorful indigenous people who are descendants of the ancient Mayans. 23 different native tongues are spoken; you will most likely encounter the beautiful sound of Kaq'Chikel and Tzu 'zuhil. Many of these people also speak Spanish as a second language.

What to bring?

Bring hammer, safety glasses, and two pairs of work gloves; a pair for you and a pair to give away. (more details to come)

Team Projects

This depends, in part, on our members' knowledge, skills and abilities; we try to tailor the trip, at least somewhat, to fit that. The Mission will work with our team leader to assess what we bring regarding knowledge, skill and abilities.

Our work here often involves substantial amounts of walking, sometimes on the moderately steep terrain surrounding Lake Atitlan. Bring good walking shoes or hiking boots

Personal Safety and security

Don't flash your cash. Watch out for pick-pockets, especially on market days. A money belt or equivalent is a good idea. Leave your Rolex, diamonds, and gold in the States. Pana is one of the safer towns in Guatemala (which, unfortunately, can be a dangerous country). Our team will always stay together, no one is allowed to venture out without chaperones.

Insurance

Each team member must purchase international, short-term health insurance before arriving. Note: this is not airline "trip insurance." Neither St. Benedict or the ministry will not be responsible for visitors' or volunteers' medical costs, quarantine, evacuation, or the like.

Clothing An overview: try to personally travel light (a good lesson for many of us Americans) by bringing your clothes and personal effects in your carry-on (also great if some of the clothes, etc. can be left here—but not sizes larger than L or shoes larger than 10). That allows use of most of checked baggage for ministry material, medicine, donated children's clothes, etc. Guatemala is the "land of eternal spring" and temperatures are warm (80-degree F max in day) and cool (60's at night- bring a sweater or light jacket) year-round. Rainy season is May to October and it usually rains some every day; prepare for that (although you can buy inexpensive ponchos here). Gore-tex shoes or low boots are great. Good hats and sun protection are needed year-round. Bring a bathing suit **(ONE PIECE ONLY)** for a dive into the lake!

NO - spaghetti straps/halters/tube tops, etc.! Also, better to leave midriff-bearing tops and gravity-defying (super low cut) bell bottoms at home. Shorts are OK (as long as they

extend to your fingertips), NO short-shorts (hot pants), **NO** miniskirts, or overly revealing leggings.

Location:

Telecommunications and emergency contact numbers for emergency calls to team from states: Dial 011 502 then: Hilda Mux Son 5850 8629, Noe Benjamin Perez 5945 1313, Café Hotel California/Hotel California 7762 0793, 0364 Wifi is available at the cafe and the Hotel California

Housing

“Hotel California” (www.hotelcaliforniapana.com), the hotel’s 12 rooms, all with a private hot-water bathroom. (types and number of beds varies)

Health and Hygiene

Don’t drink the tap water here- we will drink and use bottled water. Watch out for two places where this is easy to forget- brushing your teeth/rinsing your brush (use only “agua pura” bottled water for both) and in the shower.

Bring hand sanitizer and use it.

Don’t eat street vendor food or drinks. Fruit and vegetables must be disinfected before eating. Please try to not waste food or order more than you can eat.

For other recommended health requirements or travel concerns

contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for international travelers at 877-fyi-trip or on the internet at

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/guatemala> Our area is not one for malaria/mosquitoes.

Volunteers are responsible for their own Fundraising

Idea - Letter campaign – Asking relatives, friends, teachers, neighbors, clubs, organizations, etc. to join in the Missionary experience by contributing to our trip. You will be amazed at how willing people are to support missionaries – sometimes you just have to ask. **And anything else you can think of – Get Creative!**