



## Guatemala 2017

July 29<sup>th</sup>- August 5<sup>th</sup>

Every year in July/August, LMV International runs a medical/dental clinic in one of the small towns or villages surrounding Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. I am in the process of organizing this year's trip, and the following is an overview of what can be expected. If you join our trip, then you will get a more detailed itinerary as I get arrangements finalized and we get closer to our departure date. But the following is what you can expect.

You will need to make arrangements to arrive at Guatemala City Airport no later than Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. Ground transportation will be arranged for you from the airport to the city of Antigua, Guatemala where you will stay over night at the Hotel Los Pasos. Upon arriving in Antigua, you will have the day to tour one of the Latin America's most beautiful Spanish Colonial cities on your own. There are countless shops and markets to enjoy. On Saturday evening we will have a meet and greet type dinner at the hotel where we can all introduce ourselves and get to meet the other people on our teams.



On Sunday morning, we will board a bus to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala (Xela for short) where we will be staying each night at the Hotel Modelo 1892. Along the way, we will be

stopping at Chichicastenango to stretch our legs, have some lunch and to do a little shopping. Once we get to our Hotel in Xela and are all checked into our rooms, we will have another dinner where we will meet with our counterparts from Guatemala, and El Salvador. There will be several students as well as Doctors and Nurses from medical schools and clinics joining our team. The week to follow will be a great experience to work with people in your same field except from another country and culture. The rest of the evening you are on your own to enjoy the city of Xela.

On Monday morning we will board a bus to a very rural area called Tierra Colorada, where we will set up and work at an existing clinic. The first day or two can be rather hectic while everyone adjusts to the way things need to be done in a third world country. It has been in my experience that after the first day or two, the pace picks up dramatically. You can expect to see approximately 1000-1,500 people during the four and a half days the clinic is in operation.



Each night we will return to our hotel in Xela where dinner will be provided either at the hotel or one of the many local restaurants within walking distance of the hotel. After dinner you are free to tour the city of Xela and enjoy the sights and sounds of a busy city with its many clubs and vibrant night life.



On Friday August 4<sup>th</sup>, we will close the clinic early and there will be a tour available of the local areas. Upon arrival back to Xela, we will have our “last supper” where we will say good bye to your new friends from Central America.

On Saturday morning we board a bus back to Antigua and that evening we will have one last dinner with all the LMV volunteers that participated on this year’s trip. It will be a great time to reflect on the previous week and give me some feedback for improvements for the trip.

Ground transportation to and from the airport from Antigua is covered in the cost of the trip. If you wish to come before July 29<sup>th</sup> or stay after August 5<sup>th</sup> and spend some time on your own in Guatemala, please contact me and I can make the arrangements at an additional cost.

The cost of this year's trip is \$1,025 per person, which includes the following;

- All ground transportation to and from the airport in Guatemala and Antigua, plus all transportation to Xela and the clinic as needed.
- All meals on working days of the clinic, and meet and greet meetings. Alcohol is available, but NOT included in the cost of your meals. (You are responsible for the cost of alcoholic beverages you order)
- All room and board in Antigua on Saturday the 29th and in Xela from the 30<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. We will also cover the cost of your room on August 5<sup>th</sup> in Antigua. You should plan on leaving sometime on Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup>. Again, if you wish to come early or extend your stay, let me know and I can make arrangements for you at an additional charge.

You will need to bring some cash with you for walking around money, and buying souvenirs etc., approximately \$300.

I will do my best to accommodate any special diets, but I cannot promise you that I will be able to do so for every meal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [pcm@theroseland.net](mailto:pcm@theroseland.net).

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Peter C. MacKay

If you wish to join us on this trip please click the following link and sign up. I will be back in touch with you shortly. [https://creator.zoho.com/waynemcc/lmv-trip-reports/form-perma/Trip\\_Team\\_Selection/](https://creator.zoho.com/waynemcc/lmv-trip-reports/form-perma/Trip_Team_Selection/)