

**Xela Aid “El Centro de Estudios” Volunteer Trip:
Children’s Educational Assistance Program
Saturday, June 7 – Friday, June 20, 2008
Orientation Saturday, May 3 (time and location TBA)**

OVERVIEW

Work with children in a preschool, elementary school, or study center setting:

- develop children’s games, activities, or study programs
- help with elementary through high school reading, writing, mathematics work
- tutor students who are studying English
- help children develop basic computer skills
- organize sports activities
- participate in construction and repair



Study Spanish one-on-one at a local Spanish language school

Participate in a variety of cultural activities spanning a Mayan ceremony, volcano climb (moderate trail), volcanic hot baths. Travel to beautiful Lake Atitlan and explore Antigua, Guatemala’s first capitol city. A full calendar and application appears on the following pages.

Dear Friend

Xela Aid has been described by participants as “a life-changing experience — an adventure of a lifetime.” It is most certainly an experiment in giving and receiving, and may be the toughest vacation you’ll ever love. On the following pages you will find information about Xela Aid, a

day calendar, and an application including cost information. The only qualifications are that you come with a humble heart, an open mind, and a cooperative spirit. From the Xela Aid team, we welcome your application.

Most Sincerely Yours,

Sheryl Fontaine

Deb Lyn Esquivel

Co-Directors, El Centro de Estudios

<http://www.xelaaid.org/projects.CentroEstudios.htm>



Mission: Xela Aid, a non-profit, non-denominational, humanitarian organization responds to requests for assistance from the economically disadvantaged of Guatemala in ways that restore health and well-being to the people and the environment, promote cultural understanding, and preserve dignity.

Funding: A private charitable organization, Xela Aid receives no government funding. Team members pay their own expenses and fund projects by way of a project fee that each person contributes. Most supplies are donated; some are purchased in Guatemala where local skilled craftsmen are called upon for assistance.

TRIP CALENDAR

Friday, June 6th, 2008

Those leaving from the Los Angeles area arrive at LAX at 9 p.m. for a departure around 1 a.m. (times to be confirmed). Team members bring two bags—one personal, and one filled with supplies for the trip (pre-packed weeks earlier). The full team unites and begins their adventure in Guatemala City early the next day. *Photo at right: PEX graduate and El Centro de Estudios teacher Juana Lopez*



Saturday, June 7th

Team is met at Guatemala City airport by Luis de León and Amalia Vasquez, long-time directors with Xela Aid. Team travels via a comfortable bus to Quetzaltenango (“Xela”). On the way, a welcome breakfast is held at “Chichoi,” famous for hot mango and pineapple pies and a suspension bridge. Check in at the Hotel Modelo and rest until dinner and a walking tour of Xela, including the historic town square and 19th Century Catholic church.



Sunday, June 8th

9 a.m. - Travel to the Mám pueblo of San Martin and tour Xela Aid’s study center, preschool, and health clinic. All teams will assess facilities and need in order to plan projects and complete set-up. After lunch, travel to the trail head for a hike to the stunningly beautiful and sacred Lake Chikibal. Free evening.



Monday, June 9th-Thursday, June 12th

8 a.m. - All teams travel to the worksite in comfortable buses. The project runs 9-4 daily. Those volunteers studying Spanish will do so in the morning or afternoon in three-hour shifts. *Photos: (above left) Xela Aid Director Luis Enrique de León speaking to the children at the local elementary school; (right) a group of children working together in El Centro de Estudios.*

Friday, June 13th

Celebrate the accomplishments of the children and participate in the activities we plan and enjoy with them. We'll also see a weaving demonstration, shop at a fair-trade weaving sale, and support Xela Aid's cooperative.

Evenings:

Some evenings you will be free to walk in the town square, visit the street market, or have a refreshment in "El Balcón" which looks out over "El Parque Central." Other optional evening activities may include enjoying the hot sulfur baths at Almolonga; joining the group for dinner (no-host) and listening to "trova," the message-music of Emilio Talva; taking an evening of salsa dance lessons with the group!

Saturday, June 14th

9-1. Complete a final day of Spanish language study and join the group for a graduation party! Celebrate a teammates' graduation from a week of intensive language study!

Sunday, June 15th

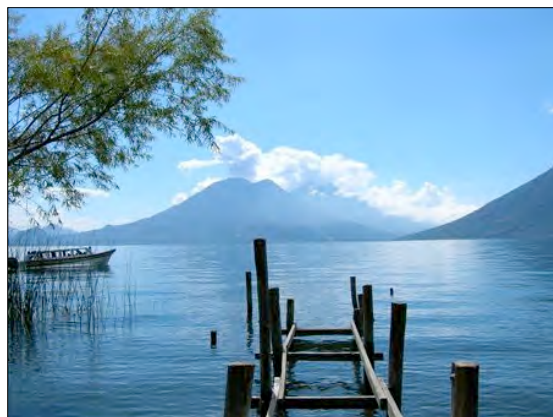
9 a.m. - No one has really experienced Guatemala until they've been on a chicken bus. This trip is your chance as we all travel to the famous market at Chichicastenango featuring arts and crafts from across the country and one of the nation's oldest Catholic churches (*photo above*).

Monday, June 16th

9 a.m. - Travel to Lake Atitlan, described by many as one of the most beautiful places on earth. Stop at a market look-out for the view and local crafts then spend the afternoon in Panajachel, the regional market that is the gateway to the lake and travel by boat to Santiago Atitlan. *Photo: Right, one of the volcanoes of Lake Atitlan.*

Tuesday June 17th

Free day at Santiago de Atitlan. Enjoy the views from the hotel, get up late! Enjoy pitaya fruit, granola and yogurt and many other delicious dishes to choose from at the hotel restaurant. Snorkel, swim in the lake or hotel pool, boat, visit the local market, the church in central square or travel to Kakchiquel and Tsutuhil villages by boat. Enjoy meals at the hotel's award-winning restaurant. *Photo: Right, Lake Atitlan, Posada de Santiago.*





Wednesday, June 18th

11 AM - After packing and a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, we will take a shore boat to Panajachel where you can walk, shop, enjoy the sights. Travel to Antigua to check in to our comfortable little villa in time to enjoy the night-lit features of the country's first capitol city. *Photos: The marketplace at Panajachel (left), and views of Antigua (below).*

Thursday, June 19th

Spend the day in Antigua; visit ruins of structures dating to Spanish rule; visit the nationally renowned weaving museum, or plan a day-trip to the local organic macadamia-nut farm (optional). There are a number of tours available, or just enjoy exploring the central park and shops and restaurants in town. The group will often choose to gather for a final-night's dinner.

Friday, June 20th

Depending on flight time, travel to airport after breakfast, or, see more of Antigua (some return flights are as late as 6 p.m.).



Xela Aid 2008 Volunteer Trip Application

CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Depart: Saturday, June 7th, 2008

Return: Friday, June 20th, 2008

Orientation: Saturday, May 3rd (time and location TBA)

Project Overview—Participants will be lodged in Quetzaltenango. Projects will take place in San Martín Chiquito, a Mám-Maya village an hour northwest of Quetzaltenango. Participants will work side by side with villagers, including primary school and preschool teachers. The project matches volunteer skills with need, so each project is customized to take advantage of the interests and skill sets of volunteers. Applicants needn't be Spanish speakers. Spanish study is available with private tutors each weekday afternoon for interested volunteers.

APPLICATION AND \$500 DEPOSIT DEADLINE: March 1, 2008

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ (Note: Email access is required)

City _____

Best Phone _____

State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Tell us briefly about yourself and in what ways you wish to be involved in the Xela Aid educational project:

_____ (continue on back)

Why have you elected to participate in the program?

_____ (continue on back)

Is there someone you'd like to have as a roommate (or as roommates) this trip?

In Case of an Emergency Notify (name and phone): _____

Cost Breakdown

Please Note: Friend, we, the directors of Xela Aid, believe that the journey you are considering is an excellent value at the price listed. Because of the group cost structure of arrangements, no refunds can be made on unused portions. Additionally, due to exchange rates and widely varying costs of services (renegotiated during each trip), all costs are estimated with a buffer of 3-5% . On rare occasions, money collected ends up exceeding final costs. In such a case, excess funds are designated to Xela Aid's general fund to help continue its charitable work in Guatemala. Please note, also, that your \$500 deposit is in part a project fee and is integral to our planning since it is used to purchase supplies and as a deposit on airfare. Additionally, there are costs associated with cancellations. Your deposit is therefore non-refundable should your plans change. A tax receipt is provided in any case. Thank you for your understanding. Note that meals are not included (an average meal costs \$3-\$5). —Thank you kindly, The Directors

Included: RT airfare from Los Angeles, all chartered ground transportation, in-country project coordination, 14 nights hotel (double/triple occupancy), some meals, entrance/honorariums to sights, administration fee to International Humanities Center (5%):

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1) Subtotal: | \$ 1,550 |
| 2) Securing your own flights? (Subtract \$600) | \$ _____ |
| 3) Second Subtotal: | \$ _____ |
| 4) Optional 5-Day Language Emersion/Tutoring (+\$100) | \$ _____ |
| 5) Desire a single room? (+\$225) | \$ _____ |
| 6) New Subtotal (3+4+5) | \$ _____ |
| 5) Round-Up Total/Additional Donation (Applied to Clinic operations. Thank you!) | \$ _____ |
| 6) Minus Your Non-Refundable Deposit \$500 (attached) | \$ _____ |
| 7) Your Balance Due: April 15th, 2008 (5 minus 6) | \$ _____ |

(Note: Balance MUST be received by this date to hold reservations)

Tax Deductibility - Xela Aid operates as a charitable project and a donation receipt will be provided. Costs associated with this trip may be fully tax deductible. Please check with your tax advisor.

Please return Application with your \$500 non-refundable deposit to “Xela Aid” with “XA Children’s Education 2008 Trip” in check memo to:

Sheryl Fontaine/Xela Aid • 446 Baughman Ave. • Claremont, CA 91711

We look forward to sharing this adventure with you!

Questions? Call Sheryl Fontaine at (909) 964-7263

Sheryl Fontaine/Xela Aid- 446 Baughman Ave. Claremont, CA 91711-(909) 964-7263 (phone) (909)-593-1258 (fax)

<http://www.xelaaid.org>