

## Xela AID Volunteer Service Trip to Guatemala

Note: Credit available through  
California State University, Fullerton  
January 5<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2017



*Join Xela AID—a “Top Rated” Non-Profit by Great Non Profits in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016—in a life changing adventure! With Xela AID, you can become a leader in the cause to end poverty, hunger and promote literacy while exploring the world.*

**January 5<sup>th</sup>** – For those traveling from Southern California, we meet Thursday night at Los Angeles International Airport. Those traveling from elsewhere will make arrangements to meet the group in Guatemala City.

**January 6<sup>th</sup>** – Those flying from LAX leave in the early morning, and after getting some shut-eye, arrive in Guatemala City where our comfortable, private bus is awaiting us. We’ll stop at a restaurant known for its interesting, local cuisine and fuel up for our trip ahead. Afterward we’ll begin our 4-to-5-hour journey to Xela (pronounced “Shay-la”, short for Quetzaltenango) with stops along the way. Once checked in to our hotel located a short stroll from the Central Plaza, we will have time to rest. We will arrange for a group dinner.



**January 7<sup>th</sup>** – After enjoying a delicious, hosted breakfast, we will take a walking tour of Xela including a 16<sup>th</sup> century church and local museum. For lunch, we will visit a local small “teatro” and meet some of the Xela AID staff. We will have a special presentation for you to learn more about the projects you’ll be completing in San Martín.



**January 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Project Days!** – These are the days we do our fulfilling volunteer work in the village. After our complimentary breakfast in the hotel, we leave to implement projects tailored to our volunteers’ interests and talents, and also to the need in the village. We wind through the beautiful highlands of Guatemala where Xela AID’s headquarters and clinic are located. Participants will meet local villagers and learn about their culture, customs and lives. A hot, delicious lunch

is prepared each day for volunteers by the women of San Martín. We will return to Xela late each afternoon. Participants are invited to attend a no-host dinner arranged each night at a different location.

**January 12<sup>th</sup>**– After a complimentary breakfast, we will drive to the trail head leading to Laguna Chicabal (at right) a gorgeous and serene lake in the crater of a volcano. The hike up provides excellent views, and the lake itself provides an interesting look into the Mayan worldview, since it is considered a sacred lake home to Mayan ceremonies.



**January 13<sup>th</sup>** – We will take an exciting field trip to Las Georginas volcanic baths. Where time and energy permit we will plan one or more field trips focused on local culture. Possible activities include a visit to the oldest church in Central America or visiting the home of a traditional male skirt weaver. On our last day, we will sit together and have a hosted farewell lunch as we say goodbye to our new friends in the village of San Martín Chiquito!

**January 14<sup>th</sup>** – We will travel early this morning to a crossroads destination, Chichicastenago, where we will visit a well-known church and explore streets lined with goods from all over the country. Following our visit, we will make our way to Panajachel, gateway to Lake Atitlan. Here, we will check in to hotel located in the heart of the renowned marketplace town. Participants have the afternoon free to relax by the pool, shop or just wander the town.



**January 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>** – Time to relax or explore! If you're feeling adventurous, visit small Mayan villages around the Lake or take a peaceful hike. There are also opportunities for zip-lining, kayaking, or an all-day volcano climb!

**January 18<sup>th</sup>** – Enjoy another morning at the Lake. Around noon, we'll gather to board our bus to return to Guatemala City, and fly out at approximately 7:35 p.m.

**Cost:** We aim to make our Service Trip Experience an excellent value. The cost for this experience is \$1,989. Those

wishing to earn college credit through CSUF will have an additional charge for tuition and fees for English 306: Guatemala, the World in Words. Matriculated CSUF students must enroll in this course to participate in the program. Spanish study during our four days of service projects is available and is an additional \$150. Your fees include: In-country transportation, lodging, entrance to scheduled events and attractions, and many meals; in-country coordination, an allowance toward project materials, and in-country tips. **Round-trip airfare is not included**, nor tuition for students seeking credit. Flight information to travel with the group will be shared with registered participants.



*For additional information or to reserve visit [www.xelaaid.org](http://www.xelaaid.org) >Volunteering >Service Trips • Learn more: [mel@xelaaid.org](mailto:mel@xelaaid.org), [leslie@xelaaid.org](mailto:leslie@xelaaid.org), or call (714) 232-8669.*

*CREDIT - For information on credit through Cal State University, Fullerton, please contact Jaycee Cover at: [jcover@exchange.fullerton.edu](mailto:jcover@exchange.fullerton.edu), 657-278-2070*

**We hope to share this adventure with you!**  
**The Xela AID Team**

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