

Frequently asked Questions- CFC's Guatemala Trip Central de Alcance CarePoint, Children's HopeChest

How much will the trip cost?

The total amount may vary depending on the flights we find and depending on what our Cultural Day includes. Approximately, the cost will be between \$2,000 and \$2,200.

Where will we be staying at night?

In a very nice hostel, which is a large house for groups or individuals, with bedrooms, bathrooms and likely a gathering space for all of us to meet.

Will this trip be dangerous?

Any place can be dangerous, but that does not mean we shouldn't go. When we are at the hostel we will be accompanied by our Children's HopeChest translators and the hostel staff. When we are at the CarePoint we will be surrounded by the CarePoint staff volunteers, and our translators all within an enclosed campus. Our CarePoint has also developed a relationship with a private security team who patrol the streets keeping their eye on the CarePoint. Finally, as we travel to and from the CarePoint we will have our own Guatemalan bus driver for the week and our translators will be traveling with us.

Are meals included in the cost?

Yes. Meals are included in the cost: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Meals while traveling to or from Guatemala are the responsibility of the traveler.

Do I need to know Spanish to go on this trip?

Knowing Spanish is helpful, but not required. Children's HopeChest provides us with amazing local translators, and they do a great job!

What will we do in the Carepoint?

The purpose of the trip is to build and strengthen relationships with this community, which happens in a variety of ways. As a team, we will discuss with the CarePoint what is needed and desired, then we will be able to begin imagining and preparing for what we will actually be doing.

Will I have to share a room with others?

More than likely yes, but what a beautiful way to build our team community and to get to know each other!

Will we be doing any fundraising together?

No, as a team we will not be organizing fundraisers together. However, we can discuss different ideas that individuals can do to raise funds.

How long is the flight between Chicago and Guatemala City?

A non-stop flight is approximately 5 hours.

What do I need to bring?

Have no fear, a packing list will be handed out and we'll discuss further as a team on what to bring.

What should I expect?

This trip can be a lot of things going on at once, so come ready to be flexible. Our plans and schedules might change, and we will not always be in control of these things, and that is okay. We do not have to have everything work according to our plan, but we do need to be mindful to constantly and intentionally be seeking God for strength, patience and wisdom. We can expect to interact with the kids and adults at the carepoint, and we can expect to praise God together with this community.

We will spend 3-4 days at the CarePoint encouraging the CarePoint staff and engaging with the kids for 6-8 hours each day. We will also have a special activity for the kids, such as a fair day or a trip to the zoo. Finally, we will have an opportunity for a cultural day of exploring a piece of Guatemala.

What will the food be like?

Delicious! The food could vary from Guatemalan dishes to more American-like dishes, but either way we can give thanks for the food! We might be served some unfamiliar foods, but let's have the courage to try something new and give thanks. The staff is able to accommodate meals according to our dietary needs as well.

What will our typical day look like?

Depending on where our hostel is in comparison to the CarePoint, our breakfast and departure times will change due to distance and traffic, but a typical day will look something like this: breakfast together, leave for the carepoint, arrive at the carepoint ready to serve and engage with the kids and adults, we'll have opportunities to help serve their meals, we'll eat lunch together, we'll keep interacting with this community, return to our hostel, have dinner together, reflect on and debrief our day as a team, perhaps play some games and head to bed. Again though, our typical day could be wildly changed, so we'll practice being flexible again and again.

What will our Cultural Day as a team be?

As a team we'll discuss our options and figure this out together. On past trips the cultural day has ranged from a coffee plantation tour, visiting the city of Antigua, ziplining, or going on a hike.

When is the final payment due?

We'll have a payment plan set up, with the final payment due a month before the trip. A \$100 deposit is due with the application. Ground Fees, (what the cost is each day), are divided into three payments and the balance for airfare is not due until a few weeks before departure. Ground Fees are about \$950 and airfare is about \$1,000

What is the time commitment from the start to the end?

We will meet as a team prior to the trip a few times a month to prepare together: learning about Guatemala, praying for the trip and the CarePoint, planning our activities, and learning how to respectfully and responsibly engage with the culture and community. After the trip, we will meet once or twice to debrief and celebrate our time at the CarePoint.

How can I begin praying for this trip whether I'm able to go or not?

Pray for the team that we may remember to depend on God. Pray that we may be humbled, that the trip won't be about us, but rather about being in awe of God's grace and His work. Pray that God will continue to be at work in the Central de Alcance Carepoint, that the kids may be protected, that God's love may be known, that healing may come.