

Guatemala Service Trip
 Rotary International District 7790
 March 2012

DRAFT Itinerary

March	Day	Activities	Lodging
13	Tuesday	Participants fly to Guatemala City, Guatemala, arriving about 8 p.m. Deb meets them at the airport with a van to travel to Antigua. Check in to Posada Juma Ocag, a clean, comfortable, simple hotel with private bathrooms and hot showers (on-demand electric water heaters)	Juma Ocag
14	Wednesday	Orientation in Guatemala Safety, money, culture Travel to Chipastor (can leave one bag per person at the hotel) Check progress on the water project Help to build stoves designed to use less fuel and reduce smoke Eat and sleep in village homes, where there are three options: sleep in a bed, sleep in your own tent, or sleep in your own hammock. For all options bring a sleeping bag and travel sheet. There are no showers and only outhouses.	Village homes
15	Thursday	Help to build stoves Afternoon visit to local Mayan Ruins to help write a travel brochure to increase potential for tourism income for community	Village homes
16	Friday	Help to build stoves Return to Antigua	Juma Ocag
17	Saturday	Visit Mayan markets to learn about the local culture Visit handicraft markets to purchase items for “mercado” fundraiser at the district conference Meet with the host Rotary Club for the District Project	Juma Ocag
18	Sunday	Free day in Antigua (options of climbing an active volcano, visiting a coffee plantation, visiting a macadamia nut farm, a trip to Chichicastenango, or just relaxing)	Juma Ocag
19	Monday	Visit village to see site of school project Meet with local committee to work out details of the project.	Juma Ocag
20	Tuesday	Visit Safe Passage in the Guatemala City Garbage Dump community to meet with the women who are starting a small sewing business by making the bags for our District Conference.	Juma Ocag
21	Wednesday	Catch early morning van to airport Each team member will be asked to carry back items for the mercado or conference bags. Rolling duffle bags can be provided if needed. Fly home	

This trip will emphasize hands-on service and will offer a rare opportunity to stay in a Mayan home, work with the family and eat the local food. The travel will be by van, in part on dirt roads. We will not drink the water, but bottled water is readily available for purchase.

The group will be limited to 12 people – the number who can fit in a van, and who can be accommodated in the village.

The trip is open to both English and French speaking Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and friends. We will have both French and English speaking guides at Safe Passage. In the villages we will have Spanish, English and Mayan languages spoken.

Trip Costs:

Each participant will arrange and pay for their own flights to Guatemala (although we will coordinate so that all team members arrive near the same time in Guatemala City)

The group trip costs are estimated to be between \$250 and \$500 per person to cover the local transportation and the six nights of hotel in Antigua, and for the meals and lodging in Chipastor. Each person will pay for their own additional meals, beverages and other costs, which would be about \$100 or more.

What to bring:

Guatemala is the land of perpetual spring with year round average temperatures of 75 degrees Fahrenheit in the capital. It will be cooler in the mountains, and warmer on the coast, so dress in layers and bring a raincoat and/or umbrella. Make sure you have shoes that you can slosh through standing water. Closed toe shoes are best for the garbage dump community to reduce the risk of contamination. We will be doing a lot of walking on cobble stone streets and along dirt roads and paths, so dress comfortably. As we will be staying in both hotels and homes, and our luggage will sometimes travel on the roof of the vehicle, it is best to travel light. I bring one carryon size rolling suitcase, and one shoulder bag.

There are internet cafes in Antigua, so it is not necessary to bring a computer to stay in touch, but our hotel will have wifi.

Team members can purchase minutes for my Guatemala prepaid cell phone to use to call home. Some cell phones from the US do work in Guatemala, but the rates are usually quite high.

It is best to bring some cash in US dollars that can then be exchanged in Guatemala. Also bring an ATM card for withdrawing more cash, which we will do in non-tourist locations, as there can be problems with ATMs in tourist locations. Credit cards and personal checks are not accepted at most places we will frequent.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining this trip. There will also be trips in October 2012 and March 2013. I do hope you can join us!

Deb Walters,
Governor 2011-2012, Rotary International District 7790

dr.deb.walters@gmail.com, 207-487-1234 (cell), 207-948-3168 (home), Guatemala cell phone: 502 5262 8702

Guatemala Service Trip Application Form:

To hold your spot on the trip,

- 1) email this completed form to Deb Walters at dr.deb.walters@gmail.com
- 2) send a check made out to Rotary International District 7790 for the deposit of \$250 US per person (\$50 of which is nonrefundable), to:

DT Pat Newell
PO Box 501
Unity, Maine, 04988

The spots for the trip will be allocated to the first 12 people who send in their deposit.

Name _____

email _____

phone _____

Rotary, Rotaract or Interact Club _____

names of any additional individuals traveling with you:

Individuals under 19 will need to have a signed letter of permission from a parent, stating that they recognize and accept the risks of traveling in Guatemala. There also needs to be at least one chaperone per group of 4 individuals under 19.

Travel and/or health insurance that will provide medical care in Guatemala and medical evacuation if necessary is required for all participants.

I recognize and accept the risks of traveling in Guatemala.

Signed _____

Date _____