

Gesu Come & See Honduras Trip Participant Information & Policies

Mission Statement

The Come & See Honduras Trip is a shortened trip geared towards those adults in the Gesu Parish Community who are interested in participating in an immersion experience to Honduras, but do not feel called to our medical or youth experiences. The intention of this trip is two-fold: 1) to encounter Christ in our Honduran friends and to learn about the culture, history, and challenges faced by Hondurans, 2) to learn about our partner, Sociedad Amigos de los Ninos, and better understand Honduras as a mission of Gesu.

Passport

- A valid passport is needed to travel internationally.
- You can apply for a passport at the post office or at some local libraries. Always check <http://travel.state.gov> for the most up-to-date information.
- Important: If your passport will expire within 6 months of your travel dates, you MUST renew your passport.

Trip Safety

- Safety is our number one priority during the trip.
- During our trip, we work alongside our partner, SAN, whose facilitators are aware of the laws and safety of the country. We fly into Tegucigalpa, our home base is located in Nuevo Paraiso (about an hour away). Any outings outside of our home base are to areas previously approved by SAN facilitators.
- During our trip, we will be accompanied by an armed security guard. This is an added precaution, although we have never encountered a situation of concern.
- Precautionary safety measures for participants are the same that you would exercise daily, whether home or abroad: do not go off on your own, listen to trip leaders at all times, keep valuables you bring with you to a minimum, and be aware of your surroundings.

Living Conditions

- Housing: During our stay in Honduras, our home base is located in Nuevo Paraiso. Rooms are comfortable and include beds with linens and pillows, there is a shared bathroom, and you will room together “dorm room style.”
- Food: The dining hall is located on our home base. You will be provided with three meals a day, prepared by an incredible staff of cooks. We may have one or two shared meals in a nearby town. There is also a small pulperia (snack store) at our home base where you can purchase pop and Honduran snacks. (If you have unique dietary needs, we will work with you in advance to be sure that you have adequate nutrition.)
- Showers and Toilets:
 - You will have a communal bathroom with your fellow roommates.
 - There are showers available to use.

- Toilet tissue: due to weakened plumbing systems, toilet paper is not flushed down the toilet, but is instead deposited in the waste bin next to the toilet.
- There are sinks and soap available, but it is always helpful to bring hand sanitizer with you.
- Weather: The temperature is likely to be in the 90s in the heat of the day. Dehydration can easily occur under these conditions. Drinking plenty of water is a must; a water bottle is important to have so that participants can obtain clean water from the home base. We will often be in Honduras during the rainy season, which can increase the number of mosquitos present.

Clothing & Laundering

- Attire:
 - It is important, out of respect for our community and for Hondurans, that we use discretion and common sense, keeping modesty in mind with our clothing. Cool, comfortable clothing is recommended (i.e. cotton).
 - Tennis shoes or boots are recommended footwear; sandals or flip-flops are great for the home base and are excellent for showering.
- Laundering: During the week, staff at our home base will wash your clothing (this service is included as part of your trip cost.)
- Make-up and Jewelry: Keep make-up to a minimum. Leave expensive jewelry at home. Inexpensive watches are recommended for everyone.

Health & Hygiene

Sanitary conditions throughout Honduras are poor. Parasites and microorganisms cause many health problems for the Honduran people. These can cause intestinal disorders, such as diarrhea, in foreigners. Carefully observe the directions below:

- Water: Drink only bottled water. Tap water is unsafe to drink. Do not even use it to brush your teeth. At the home base, you will have access to purified water to fill up your water bottles.
- Immunizations: The Center for Disease Control recommends the following for travel to Honduras:
 - Malaria Preventative
 - Tetanus (should be updated every ten years)
 - Typhoid
 - Hepatitis A

Costs Involved

Payment Policy

- All trips must be paid in full prior to final ticketing.
- **The cost of the August 2018 trip is \$1615.**
- Trips must be paid in full no later than June 14, 2018.

- If a participant has not paid in full by June 14, 2018, they will not be issued a ticket until the balance is paid, or risk loss of participation in the trip.
- ALL payments, once due, are non-refundable as they go towards flights and other travel arrangements that must be paid for ahead of time.
- Payment Information:
 - Payments can be made by check or cash.
 - Checks should be made out to: Gesu Honduras
 - Checks should be sent to:
Church of the Gesu
Attn: Ashley Markiewicz
2470 Miramar Boulevard
University Heights, Ohio 44118

Miscellaneous Details

- Currency: Upon arrival to the airport in Honduras, your trip leader will exchange US dollars for Lempira. Most participants spend less than \$100. Credit cards are accepted at most shops in the city.
- Giving Money and Gifts: Please do not give gifts or money to the children or adults you may encounter. If you would like to give a gift to someone, let your team leader know so that it can be arranged through SAN. There will also be an opportunity to donate items at the end of the trip.
- Being Sent Home: If you create a serious problem within the team, you may be required to be sent home at your own expense.
- Shopping: One one of your days in Honduras, you will have the opportunity to shop for souvenirs such as basket weavings, leather goods, pottery, hammocks, etc.
- Communication:
 - Spanish is the primary language spoken in Honduras.
 - There will be contact information provided, in case of an emergency.