Guatemala — July 2027

What to Expect · July 23–30, 2027

Trip at a glance

We go to Guatemala to serve, listen, learn and walk alongside local churches and families. We measure the week by relationships strengthened, dignity honored and local ministry encouraged — not by how much we get done.

Dates	July 23–30, 2027
Team leaders	Matt Riggins & Marcia Sadler
Team size	About 25–30
Where we serve	San Mauricio (Pastor Elder) and San Bernardino (Pastor Jaime), near Mazatenango
Ministry focus	School visits, medical ministry, VBS, home visits, possible construction
Main lodging	Bambu Resort, Mazatenango
Cost	$1,500 + airfare

Covered: in-country lodging, meals, transportation, translators, ministry costs and travel insurance. **Not covered:** passport fees, vaccines or prescriptions, airport food and personal shopping.

Airfare: GPPD books the team's flights and adds the airfare to your total trip cost.

Our approach

- **Hands and feet** — we serve in practical ways: medical support, home visits, children's ministry, water filters, simple construction.
- **Eyes and ears** — we watch for what God is already doing, listen well and follow the lead of local pastors.
- **Long-term posture** — we support sustainable work, like a chicken farm and a water well project, rather than create dependency.
- **Humility first** — we enter every home, church and school as guests, learners and servants.

Before you go

Passport. U.S. citizens don't need a visa. Our team standard: your passport must be valid through **January 31, 2028**.

Entrance & exit declaration. Every traveler completes Guatemala's free electronic traveler declaration for both entering and leaving, within two weeks of departure. Your leader will send step-by-step instructions. Save the QR codes, print a backup and upload them to Go Method.

Go Method. Application and deposit, passport copy, medical release, declarations and trip balance — all by the deadlines your leader sets.

Health. See a doctor or travel clinic at least a month before you go. Be current on routine vaccines and ask about Hepatitis A and Typhoid.

Insurance. GPPD purchases travel medical insurance for every participant.

Packing

Guatemala uses the same outlets as the U.S. Keep your passport, medications and a change of clothes in your carry-on.

- **Must have:** passport and copy, declaration QR codes, refillable water bottle, Bible and journal, prescriptions, toiletries, closed-toe shoes, clothes for each setting below
- **Recommended:** sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks, electrolyte packets, hand sanitizer, a roll of toilet paper, ear plugs
- **Good ideas:** hat, sunglasses, portable charger, modest swimsuit, small bills, money belt
- **Leave at home:** expensive jewelry and electronics, revealing clothing, large amounts of cash

Ask your leader before buying donation items so we bring what partners actually request.

Dress code

Setting	Men	Women
Sunday church	Long pants, collared shirt	Skirt or dress
VBS & games	Knee-length shorts, T-shirt	Skirt, capris or knee-length shorts; shoulders covered
Medical	Pants and collared shirt, or scrubs	Skirt, dress or scrubs
Construction	Shorts, T-shirt, closed-toe shoes	Work-appropriate clothes, closed-toe shoes
Pool	Shirts on unless swimming	One-piece or tankini

Travel, lodging & food

Most of the team flies from Washington Dulles to Guatemala City. We spend the first night in the city, then drive 3–4 hours to the Mazatenango area. Bambu Resort is our home base: air-conditioned shared rooms, hot showers, a pool, and breakfast and dinner on site. Lunch is prepared by our partner churches.

Water safety: drink only bottled water, brush your teeth with bottled water, avoid ice and keep your mouth closed in the shower.

A typical day

Time	What happens
Morning	Worship, devotions, breakfast, depart for ministry
Midday	Lunch with our partner churches
Afternoon	Ministry continues; back at the hotel in the mid-to-late afternoon
Evening	Dinner, team meeting, prayer, prep for tomorrow

A typical week includes Sunday worship with a partner church, three days in each community, and a day experiencing the beauty of Guatemalan culture.

Culture & conduct

- Greet with a handshake and eye contact; use *Señor* and *Señora*.
- Accept hospitality and try what's served.
- Don't touch children's heads, and point with an open hand.
- Don't hand out money or promise future help; bring needs to your leader.
- Ask before taking photos, and never post children's full names or locations.

Health & safety

Heat, hydration and stomach health are the everyday risks. Wear sunscreen and repellent, drink constantly and bring a small medicine kit (antacid, Imodium, pain reliever, allergy and motion-sickness medicine, bandages, electrolytes). Stay with the team and follow your leaders and our partners.

Preparing your heart

Pray for the team and the families we'll meet, recruit prayer partners, and prepare a short testimony you could share through a translator. Come ready to listen, serve and be changed.

Questions? Contact Matt Riggins at mriggins@gpartners.org.

Entry and health requirements can change. Leaders confirm current guidance before departure.