Guatemala — March 2027

What to Expect · March 19–26, 2027

Trip at a glance

This small team goes deeper with fewer people: spending time in homes and with pastors, following up on projects earlier teams helped start, and offering medical care.

Dates	March 19–26, 2027
Team leader	Marcia Sadler
Team size	About 8–12
Where we serve	San Mauricio (Pastor Elder) and San Bernardino (Pastor Jaime), near Mazatenango
Ministry focus	Home visits, chicken-farm and water-filter follow-up, medical ministry
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 care, home visits, water filters, sustainable projects.
- **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 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 **September 30, 2027**.

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 by mid-February. Be current on routine vaccines and ask about Hepatitis A and Typhoid. Medical team members should talk with the leader about licenses and supplies.

Insurance. GPPD purchases travel medical insurance for every participant.

Packing

Guatemala uses the same outlets as the U.S. March is dry season — hot days near Mazatenango and cooler evenings in Guatemala City, so bring a light jacket.

- **Must have:** passport and copy, declaration QR codes, refillable water bottle, Bible and journal, prescriptions, toiletries, walking shoes and closed-toe shoes, light jacket
- **Recommended:** sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks, electrolyte packets, hand sanitizer, a roll of toilet paper
- **Good ideas:** hat, sunglasses, portable charger, modest swimsuit, small bills, money belt

Dress code

Setting	Men	Women
Sunday church	Long pants, collared shirt	Skirt or dress
Home visits	Pants or knee-length shorts, T-shirt or collared shirt	Skirt, capris or dress; shoulders covered
Medical	Pants and collared shirt, or scrubs	Skirt, dress or scrubs
Project work	Shorts, T-shirt, closed-toe shoes	Work-appropriate clothes, closed-toe shoes

Travel, lodging & food

The team flies from Washington Dulles to Guatemala City, then drives 3–4 hours to the Mazatenango area. Expect shared rooms of 2–4 people. Breakfast and dinner are usually at the hotel; 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

Sun, heat 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 leader and our partners.

Preparing your heart

Pray for the team and the families we'll visit, 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.