Volunteer Group Trip
Discover Guatemala While Giving Back
Handbook
Niños de Guatemala
Niños de Guatemala operates 3 schools supporting over 500 children from low-income families a year. Our core educational program "Skills for Success" gives the children the tools they need to succeed in school and in life.

Niños de Guatemala (NDG) has been organizing volunteer experiences since the organization was founded in 2006. We know volunteer trips are life-changing for both the volunteer as well as our school community.

The objective of a Volunteer Trip is to involve enthusiastic volunteers in community-based service projects, and to give volunteers opportunities to learn and work with the communities.

Together, this fosters an experience where both participants and the local community members are exposed to alternative forms of living.

“Groups” consists of 6 or more people who come to volunteer, learn about the Guatemalan culture, and go on wonderful adventures together.

More than 50% of Guatemalans live in poverty. The Guatemalan government only invests 2.9% of the annual budget in education. These and other reasons are why Niños de Guatemala does work hard providing education.
In 2020 we will have different opportunities for you to join our Volunteer Group Trips.

1
MARCH
from the 8th to the 15th

2
JULY
from the 12th to the 19th
VOLUNTEER WORK

Your main task as a volunteer during this week will be directly assisting different classrooms. You will be assisting in our pre-school, primary and also secondary school, we would like you to see everything that we are doing and engage with many students and teachers.

Some of the assigned tasks will be: supporting the English class, cut and glue paper into notebooks, handing out soap or toothpaste, helping kids with in-class works, giving out the snack and supervising children during recess.

This will make you understand how a typical week at an NDG school works, and you will become an NDG expert. Ready to impact children’s lives?

www.ninosdeguatemala.org
**ITINERARY**

**DAYS 1-4**

**DAY 1**
- **Welcome**
  - Arrive Guatemala City
  - Airport pick up & Transfer to Antigua
  - Check-in & Refresh
  - Welcome Dinner & Program Orientation

**DAY 2**
- **Orientation & Tour**
  - Orientation and volunteer: Tour the schools and help serving our healthy snack.
  - Impact Tour: visit the community of San Lorenzo el Cubo and visit a family home where you will make your own traditional worry doll.

**DAY 3**
- **Volunteer & Dance**
  - Volunteer work: Assist a primary classroom.
  - Cultural Activities: a private latin dance lessons to get more immersed in the local culture.

**DAY 4**
- **Volunteer & Tortilla Workshop**
  - Volunteer work: Assist a Pre-school classroom.
  - Cultural activity: learn the traditional method of making tortillas alongside the community, and enjoy a delicious lunch.
ITINERARY

**DAY 5**

Volunteer & Coffee tour
- **Volunteer Work**
- **Impact Tour:** visit a coffee plantation to learn about Guatemala’s coffee history and the coffee producing process, all while enjoying delicious cups of coffee!

**DAY 6**

Volunteer & Celebrate
- **Volunteer Work:** Assist the English class at the secondary school.
- **Celebrate!** A farewell party in the afternoon to celebrate the week’s accomplishments with the community.

**DAY 7**

Adventure
- **Adventure.** Hike Pacaya Volcano and toast your own marshmallows on top
- **Check out our optional activities**
- **Farewell dinner:** We will go for a farewell dinner all together to a nice restaurant in Antigua.

**DAY 8**

Goodbyes
- **Goodbyes.** Continue your journey in Guatemala independently or depart for home.
- **Check out our optional activities**
• **Airport transfers & local private transportation:** we will have a reliable private transportation company to take you to all activities (Tours, Schools and airport)

• **Accommodations:** Good Hotel Antigua, El Hostal, and Homestays. They are all located in downtown Antigua. Please see details and process in the next page to make your decision about which accommodation best suits your desires.

• **Volunteer work location:** The work will take place in our schools (2 primary schools and 1 middle school) in a community called Ciudad Vieja and San Lorenzo El Cubo only 20 minutes away from Antigua in the private transportation.

• **Tours:** Off-the-beaten-path excursions to local non-touristy towns, providing unique and memorable experiences. The tours are run by NDG’s social business “Impact Experiences,” which donates 100% of all net profits directly to the NGO Niños de Guatemala. Our tours let you experience the real Guatemala!

• **Cultural activities:** Latin dance classes, Tortilla making, and Celebration with the community.

• **Volunteer Support:** The Volunteer team at NDG will be supporting you at all times, you will even have a 24/7 emergency number just in case.

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**To book your flights**

• **Arrival-** Arrive in Aurora International Airport before 1pm.

• **Return -** Flight from Aurora International Airport after 9am before 1pm.
Be flexible, and motivated.
Be willing to change children's lives through your volunteer efforts.
A positive attitude.
An appreciation of new cultures that will help you settle into Guatemala and enjoy all of the new experiences.
Be 18 years old or older (Exceptions can be made for under age volunteers who come with theirs parents).
Commit to, at least, 1 week of volunteer work.
Provide a copy of your passport, CV and Background check or police report.
Give a meaningful donation.
PROBLEM DONATION

Choose the option that works for you (3 options available).

Reserve your spot ASAP by paying 10% of the total cost.

Deadline for your donation will be one month prior to your arrival in Guatemala.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Read our Volunteer Group Trip Handbook.

2. Fill in the attached registration form to sign up for this Group Volunteer Trip.

3. Pay 10% of the donation to save your spot, and complete your donation one month prior to your arrival.

4. Send a copy of your passport, CV and Background check or police report.

Would you like to chat more?
Request an online meeting (Skype or other) with the Niños de Guatemala Volunteer and Groups Manager.
What's included:

- **24/7 Volunteer Support**
- **Accommodation** the options listed below.
- **Welcome and Farewell dinner** at restaurants in Antigua
- **Other meals**: depends on the accommodation you will choose.
- **Airport** pickup and drop-off (Airport transfers)
- **Private transport** to the volunteer work and other activities
- **Impact Experiences** 2 cultural and one adventure tour
- **Cultural activities**: Latin dance lessons, tortilla making, and farewell party with the community

What's not included

- Air travel
- Travel insurance
- Leisure activities
- Extra spending money
- Optional Activities
- Some meals, Depends on the Accommodation you will choose.

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**Homestay**: $880 USD per group member.

Includes all programed trip expenses other than optional activities, airfare, medical insurance and spending money.

*Homestay*: A room with shared bathroom in the house of a local family, breakfast and dinner are included. It gives the opportunity to live and share with a Guatemalan family to experience the real life of the people. Homestays are located at a walking distance from the central park.
PROGRAM DONATION

Good Hotel*: $1540 USD per group member.

Includes all programmed trip expenses other than, some meals, optional activities, airfare, medical insurance and spending money.

*Good Hotel: Double occupancy, breakfast included. Good Hotel connects you with the destination, offers a premium hotel experience, and the opportunity to give something back to the local community whilst travelling, all the proceeds are destined to Ninos de Guatemala. (Calle del Hermano Pedro 12, Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Guatemala - +502 7797 6500, www.goodhotelantigua.com)
El Hostal*: $880 USD per group member.

Includes all programmed trip expenses other than, some meals, optional activities, airfare, medical insurance and spending money.

*El Hostal: double occupancy, includes breakfast, shared bathroom.
100% family-owned and locally operated hostel with a sustainable restaurant that serves fresh meals, smoothies and drinks made with care from locally-sourced ingredients. Crafting sustainable and genuine travel experiences for our global guests since 2007. (www.elhostalbnb.com 1ra. Avenida Sur. #8, Antigua Guatemala – (502) 7832-0442)
Optional Activities

Chicken bus tour

Antigua walking tour

Survival Spanish lessons

Jade workshop (Xibalbá)

Cooking classes (Kukul'tales)

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By Lily Price-Skelly
from Global Dental Relief
Impact is an exceptional tour and ground agent in Guatemala. Their staff was punctual, courteous and took wonderful care of our volunteers. Their drivers were safe and their tour guides were fabulous. In addition, we love supporting Impact because it’s a social business whose profits benefit the Niños de Guatemala school in Ciudad Vieja. They host many volunteers throughout the year and Impact does an amazing job taking care of the NDG volunteers too. We plan to use Impact's services to host eight volunteer groups in Guatemala in 2020 to continue providing dental care to thousands of Guatemalan children.

By Katy Troyer
from Global Dental Relief
This past summer was my second time volunteering at Ninos de Guatemala and it was an amazing experience. The group trip had a perfect balance of spending time working at the schools and immersive cultural activities. Almost everyday there was a fun workshop planned for us after school. Whether it was making tortillas with parents at the school, or hiking a volcano, it was wonderful! The staff at Niños is welcoming and flexible, always ready to support you and accommodate your needs. I loved participating in this program so much that I plan to bring my whole family back next year! The life changing experience I had will stay with me always. I highly recommend this trip to anyone who is looking to have a lot of fun while giving back to the community!

By James Arron
from Students Offering Support
Since 2014, SOS has worked with Niños de Guatemala (NDG) to facilitate Students volunteer trips in Guatemala. Based on this experience, it is our pleasure to wholeheartedly recommend NDG as a partner to any other organizations seeking meaningful cross cultural exchange experiences.
Ninos de Guatemala created this cancellation policy in order to be able to guarantee that upon cancellations we have a contingency plan that will guarantee that our time is valuable and yours is too. We recognize that changes happen during the planning of group trips.

**Once you have paid the 10% to reserve your spot, refunds can be made only if:**

1. Cancellation notice is made 1 month prior to the schedules arrival date of the “Volunteer Group”.
2. If for any reason NDG feels it's necessary to cancel your group's trip after payment has already been received, all costs including deposit will be refunded or applied to a rescheduled trip.

**You cannot be refunded if:**

1. A cancellation is made less than 1 months before the scheduled arrival date.
2. A group member cancels within thirty days of the scheduled arrival date, the team will not be refunded the member’s costs.
3. A group member leaves Guatemala earlier for any reason, no refund will be issued for this member’s costs.
4. If a group member must cancel or if there is any change in the makeup of your group please contact us as soon as possible to assist you as costs or plans may be affected.

If not refunded, it will become a donation to Niños de Guatemala and we will be very grateful.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Carlota Morales
Volunteer & Groups Manager
volunteer@ninosdeguatemala.org
+502 5817 9008

Laura Nuñez
Volunteer & Groups Assistant
+502 7832 8033

We’re always a phone call or email away to answer any questions that you have before you depart!

We hope to see you soon in beautiful Guatemala!