

**Travel Requirements and Tips for the
Latin American Theological Institute
Guatemala City, Guatemala**

Visa Requirements

A U.S. passport is required to travel outside the United States. While in Guatemala (or any other country, for that matter) it is a good idea to carry a photocopy of your passport and leave your actual passport in a safe place. This is due to the high rate of passport theft. For more specific information about Guatemala, including “Entry/Exit Requirements for U.S. Citizens,” see the following web site: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1129.html#entry_requirements.

An entrance, or tourist, visa will be distributed by the airline on the way to Guatemala. This is to be filled out on the plane and given to the appropriate officials at immigration and customs in the airport. Upon your exit, and before going through security, you must pass through immigration again. Another immigration form will be given to you upon check in and must be filled out before passing through immigration.

Housing

ITL provides visiting teachers’ quarters just steps away from the classroom on the first floor. It is small, but very comfortable. A small fan is provided when temperatures are higher, however due to the elevation of Guatemala City, most nights cool down to a comfortable level. There is also a small refrigerator in the quarters to keep drinks cool, or medication if that is necessary. There is a telephone in the room that can be used for stateside calls using the Vonage number listed below.

Money Matters

Airfare: Airfares vary from airline to airline and from date to date. Currently (June 2012) airfares from cities such as Oklahoma City, Dallas and Denver are averaging approximately \$600.00 - \$800.00 for a round trip ticket. We recommend you check often with the airline as these rates sometimes change on a daily basis.

Expenses: Bring clean money (no tear marks). \$100.00 bills are easier to carry, but it is a good idea to bring smaller denominations also (e.g. \$50s and \$20s). The exchange rate as of August 2012 is: \$1.00 US = 7.8 Quetzales (the monetary unit of Guatemala). The easiest way to exchange money is to ask the missionaries who operate the school: Hawatthia “Hi” Jones and Byron Benitez.

Do not bring items of great value such as jewelry or numerous credit cards. Use caution when using credit cards outside the United States.

Meals eaten at the institute with the students currently cost \$3.00 each. You will be given an itemized expense sheet near the end of your stay and you may “settle up” and that time. Generally, the visiting teacher and the missionaries eat out each evening for dinner.

Contact Information

When making preparation to travel to Guatemala, the teacher should inform the coordinator of his travel plans and include the same information to the staff at ITL so that the teacher will be met at the airport by staff from the school.

Hawatthia “Hi” Jones serves as the president of ITL. Byron Benitez serves as one of the Vice Presidents of ITL. The other Vice President is Anibal Ramirez. All three of these brethren also serve as instructors at ITL, joined by the fourth instructor Darvin Alvarez. They may be contacted at the numbers below (and these numbers include the country code for Guatemala). Also listed is a phone number which uses Vonage which looks and acts just like a number within the U.S.

Hi Jones 011 502 5715 9134 Vonage (731) 595-4323

Byron Benitez - 011 502 5715 9135 Vonage (731) 595-4323

Immunization Requirements

There are no required immunizations for traveling to Guatemala. However, it is always a good idea to have along a good antibiotic. While cases are rare, the traveler should be aware of these possible diseases: Hepatitis A, Dengue fever, H1N1 (Swine Flu) and Malaria.

American Embassy

The American Embassy is located in Guatemala City. Please visit the Embassy’s web site at: <http://guatemala.usembassy.gov> for information regarding travel to Guatemala. For emergency services for American citizens after business hours please call (502) 2331-2354.

Travel Tips

Pack sufficient appropriate clothing.

Comfortable walking shoes (no canvas or sport shoes)

No shorts

Shirts and ties are worn in the classroom by students and teachers alike

Most electronic equipment today (such as computers, camera and phone chargers, etc.) will use either 110v or 220v; check your equipment to make sure. Outlets at ITL will accommodate American-type two and three prong plugs, but bringing along adapters is not a bad idea just to make sure.

Do not drink the water from the tap. Bottled water will be provided and bottles can be refilled from a larger bottle in the kitchen. This water should be used for everything from drinking to brushing your teeth.

Emergency Contacts

Donnie Bates: Email: dnbates1@gmail.com Phone: (580) 326-1914 (cell)

Bob Turner: Email: bturner@bvbid.org Phone: (501) 733-1237 (cell)(303) 986-5800 (office)

Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver: Email: info@bvbid.org Phone: (303) 986-5800