You Are Invited

Water For People invites you to experience a once-in-a-lifetime adventure in the most populous country in Central America, Guatemala. This country is home to more than 16 million people, proud of their shared Mayan heritage but also broadly diverse, with over 24 linguistic groups. Most of the people live in rural areas, although more and more are migrating to urban centers for work. According to data from the World Bank, 54% of Guatemalans live below the national poverty line and 11.5% live in extreme poverty on less than two dollars per day. Food insecurity and chronic malnutrition are pervasive.

Despite many challenges that persist, Guatemala has made significant progress on increasing access to drinking water coverage and met the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to improved drinking water by 2015. According to 2015 Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) data, 93% of Guatemalans have access to improved water, though in rural areas only 87% have access. In line with the global trend, progress on sanitation lags behind progress on drinking water.

WATER FOR PEOPLE IN GUATEMALA

Water For People has worked in Guatemala since 1997. In the years following its first project, Water For People implemented more than 100 water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives throughout the country. In 2007, Water For People developed a strategic plan to work exclusively in the department of El Quiché to maximize existing partnerships and staff time. El Quiché was also selected because of its great need: the department has one of the highest levels of poverty in the country and very low levels of water and sanitation coverage.

Everyone Forever is a unique programmatic effort to provide water and sanitation to Everyone in targeted districts, Forever. It means these districts and communities never again need foreign aid to address their water challenges. And it provides a model for greater replication, leading to a push for national full water and sanitation coverage. Water For People in Guatemala is focusing its Everyone Forever programming in four municipalities in the department of El Quiché: San Bartolome Jocotenango, San Andrés Sajcabajá, San Antonio Ilootenango, and Santa Cruz del Quiché. These four districts are all located in the Salinas Watershed in the central highlands.

Water For People’s team in Guatemala is deeply involved with key local stakeholders, including local municipal governments, the national Ministries of Health and Education, local nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and local universities. Water For People in Guatemala also participates in the National Commission of Healthy Schools (led by the Ministries of Health and Education) and is on the board of the Water and Sanitation Network of Guatemala (RASGUA). Water For People has also supported the formation of the Association of Municipalities of the Dry Corridor of Quiché (MANCOSEQ), which is a key partner that allows member municipal governments to share human resources and expertise on topics including water, sanitation, and local water resources management.

We welcome you to join us on the Guatemala Impact Tour where we will have the opportunity to visit with some of these partners and communities to better understand what Everyone Forever means to them.

GUATEMALA IMPACT TOUR

February 29 - March 5, 2020
Price per person: $2,500

INCLUDED:
- In-country transportation
- Lodging
- Meals
- Staff time
- Translation Services
- Tips for meals, guides and drivers
- Comprehensive international health insurance for the duration of the tour

NOT INCLUDED:
- Airfare
- Passport fees
- Vaccinations
- Medications
- Travel insurance
- Alcohol

In addition to the trip cost, Water For People requires a donation of $1,000 per person to participate in the tour.

Water For People is happy to refer you to its trusted travel partner for assistance with flight arrangements or an optional excursion to extend your trip.

Cancellation Policy:
Participants are required to pay the entire trip cost by January 15, 2020. Cancellation prior to January 15, 2020 will result in a 50% refund of costs paid to Water For People. Should a participant back out after January 15, 2020, all monies paid to Water For People will be forfeited.

*Dates will remain unchanged, but specific details of the itinerary are subject to change.

Itinerary

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29
Arrive at La Aurora International Airport (GUA) in Guatemala City
Hotel accommodations in Guatemala City

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
Explore Lago Atitlan
Breakfast in the hotel, followed by transit to Lake Atitlan (~2 hours). Sightseeing and souvenir shopping at Lake Atitlan. After a few hours of exploring, drive up to Santa Cruz del Quiché, and check into the hotel. In the evening, we will meet up as a group for a welcome dinner with Water For People’s Guatemala team.
Hotel accommodations in Santa Cruz del Quiché

MONDAY, MARCH 2
Orientation & Field visits with partners and communities
Morning visit to Water For People’s offices, meet the local staff, and receive a comprehensive orientation from the local team followed by lunch with Water For People’s Guatemala team. In the afternoon, visit with local partners and communities.
Hotel accommodations in Santa Cruz del Quiché

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
Field visits with partners and communities
Hotel accommodations in Santa Cruz del Quiché

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
Field visits with partners and communities
Enjoy a farewell dinner with Water For People’s Guatemala team
Hotel accommodations in Santa Cruz del Quiché

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
Transit to Guatemala City
Departure from La Aurora International Airport (GUA) in Guatemala City

Field visits may include exposure to a portion of the following so that participants gain a clear understanding of Water For People’s program and impact:

1. The need that persists: (1) visit a community and/or neighboring school where we plan to work, but work has not yet begun; (2) have a chance to see what life is like without access to water and sanitation; and (3) engage with children and/or community members.

2. Our model in effect: (1) visit programming in process; (2) see and understand innovative ideas being implemented; and (3) meet partners and community leaders.

3. Recently completed work: (1) witness a brand-new water system or innovative sanitation program; and (2) hear from involved partners.

4. Dialogue with communities and government leaders to see how they’ve managed the finance, operation and maintenance, and training for their water and sanitation services.

Registration will close once the Tour has been filled. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, or for more information, please contact volunteers@waterforpeople.org.