

Crosswind Church

NICARAGUA

MISSION TRIP

OVERVIEW

January 22-29, 2024



Join the Mission:

Deliver clean water to rural communities in Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the western hemisphere.

Donations fund clean water wells; but the gift of clean water is even more impactful when representatives from donor organizations come and meet the community of people who will use the water every day. During this trip, we'll dig with them, pray with them, and play with them.

We could just send money, but we believe in using the gift of physical water to share the gospel message about the "living water" found in Jesus Christ. That message is best shared by building relationships with people around a well-drilling site and a dinner table, more than through dollars and cents.

You may also have the opportunity to engage with the community by helping at a school, teaching bible stories to children, hosting a sports clinic, sharing the gospel house to house, hygiene classes, women empowerment events, and more. We're willing to tailor our trips so that you can share your unique skill set with the community you meet.

As an added bonus, the money you pay for hotel accommodations, food, and transportation, keeps many people in the small Nicaraguan town employed in the hospitality industry!

About the NICA Thirst Initiative

We partner with the non-profit [CTG Foundation: NICA Thirst Initiative](#) to break the cycle of poverty by meeting the most basic human need: **clean water**.

There are many organizations working to increase worldwide access to safe drinking water, but NICA Thirst is unique because it's bringing sustainable change to a small geographic area - lifting the entire community. The path between your donation and access to clean water for a Nicaraguan community is short and direct.

CTG Foundation's partners in Nicaragua have built relationships with the local government, hired and trained local workers, obtained the necessary equipment, and identified possible well locations. With the help of our donors and partners, like Crosswind Church, they're digging dozens of wells per year, delivering life-giving water to hundreds of people who previously relied on contaminated water sources that made them sick.

Trip Details

Travel Dates: January 22-29, 2024

Pre-Trip Meeting: TBD

Where We Stay: Sacred Sands Hostel, El Transito, Nicaragua

- We stay in hotel-style rooms on beachfront property. Each room has a locking door, air conditioning, and private bathroom.
- To reduce cost, we may ask trip attendees to share a room (with multiple beds) with an individual of the same gender. We may accommodate requests to room with a specific person. Married individuals may share a room by request.
- The hotel includes a pool, hammocks, tiki hut, surf boards, cafe, lounge chairs, and a perfect view of the beach and sunset.
- Most meals are provided by the hotel's amazing chef. The menu is formed specifically for trip attendees. The staff can accommodate dietary restrictions and allergies. Be sure to annotate any special requirements on your application form.

Example Trip Itinerary

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Day 1	Depart BWI	Arrive at MGA	Orientation
Day 2	Community Tour	Well Drilling/ Community Outreach	Free Time Group Reflection
Day 3	Well Drilling/ Community Outreach	Well Drilling/ Community Outreach	Free Time Group Reflection
Day 4	Well Drilling/ Community Outreach	Well Drilling/ Community Outreach	Free Time Group Reflection
Day 5	Well Dedication	Surf Lessons (Optional) Tide Pool Tour	Free Time Group Reflection
Day 6	Visit to Leon	Visit to Leon	Travel Prep
Day 7	Depart MGA	Travel	Arrive BWI

Prior to the global pandemic, the trip itinerary included a visit to a Compassion International center, Currently, Compassion Child Centers are not accepting visits. If their policy changes between now and the trip date, we may update the trip itinerary to incorporate this impactful experience.

Please keep in mind that the itinerary is **subject to change** based on weather, mission priorities, and other factors that we encounter during the trip.

If there is a specific activity that you hope to do, please let us know in your application form!

Safety

Travel Precautions:

- Follow all leader instructions to ensure your safety during international travel. Our trip leaders and staff are committed to your utmost safety. Trip leaders will walk you through specific safety precautions (ocean swimming, surfing, security, etc.) upon arrival at the hotel.
- Although the U.S. State Department does not recommend travel to Nicaragua, our church staff and Nicaragua missions staff on the ground consider it safe to travel to El Transito, Nicaragua. They constantly monitor the political climate and will cancel the trip if it becomes unsafe.
- El Transito is a rural community with very low crime. There are security personnel at the hotel 24/7, ensuring traveler safety and protection of belongings.
- Most U.S. cell phone carriers do provide service in Nicaragua, however, you may incur international roaming fees. We recommend you research this prior to traveling. All travelers may be reached via the trip leader's mobile phone throughout the duration of the trip.

Food and Water Safety:

- Clean drinking water is always available at the hotel. Do not drink water or use ice from any other source. It is safe to drink sealed bottled water and soft drinks provided in the community or purchased at a store. If in doubt, ask your trip leader.
- Food provided to you at the hotel or by your trip leader is safe to eat. Do not eat anything offered by the community or any "street food" without first asking your trip leader.

Medical Safety:

- Emergency evacuation: as part of the trip cost, traveler insurance, covering medical emergencies and extrication, is purchased for each traveler. However, emergency medical care is not as available as it is in the U.S.
- In the case of a medical emergency, trip leaders and staff will help you to obtain appropriate medical care, however, it is important to make your leader aware of any health conditions prior to travel. Additionally, bring necessary medication and first aid kit as recommended in the packing list.

What to Expect

1. Heat & Sweat

Prepare to be hot. Prepare to drink more water than ever before. Bring loose fitting, breathable clothes, a hat, sunscreen, aloe, and sunglasses!

2. Rustic Bathrooms

Nicaragua plumbing is not equipped to handle toilet paper. Don't flush toilet paper in Nicaragua ever. There are trash cans located in each bathroom where you should dispose of any soiled or unsoiled toilet paper. It will feel weird, but you'll get used to it.

3. Cultural Differences

Nicaraguans speak Spanish. Dust off what you learned in your high school Spanish class, and prepare to feel out of your element! When we're at home, we're used to everything. When we're transplanted from our culture and into another, we start to notice differences. This helps us to appreciate the beautiful aspects of home and to learn about the beautiful aspects of others' culture!

4. New Relationships

After a week in Nica, some of our on-site staff may start to feel like family. Despite the sometimes awkward language barrier, we encourage you to open up to the people that you meet and look for every opportunity to build them up, encourage them, and shine the light of the gospel.

5. An Experience You Won't Forget

Nearly everyone who goes on this trip wants to return! Maybe it's for the sand and surf. Maybe it's for the joy of hitting clean water at a well site. Maybe it's for the laughter of rambunctious kids playing soccer outside the hotel. Maybe it's for the delicious beans and rice. Whatever the reason, you won't soon forget this trip.

Trip Requirements

1. Positive Attitude

While we seek to make this trip accessible to anyone with a heart to go, the trip is not luxurious. You will be uncomfortable at times - whether due to long days of travel, unfamiliar surroundings, tired muscles, or the heat. The goal for this trip is for you to experience the joy of discomfort while meeting another community's basic need for clean water.

2. Valid Passport

- You need a non-expired passport to travel to Nicaragua. Your passport number is required for us to book your international flight. If you need to obtain a passport for this trip, act now! Even expedited processing requests can take up to six weeks. U.S. Passport Information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html/>

3. Vaccinations & COVID-19 Testing

While we have led many trips to Nicaragua without any unusual sickness it is a good idea to research the recommended medical preparations and decide what is right for you.

- As of June 16, 2022 travelers who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 no longer have to provide a negative COVID-19 test to enter the country. These individuals must provide proof of their vaccination status upon arrival into the country. Unvaccinated travelers —both children and adults — will require a negative test that should be made within 72 hours prior to arrival. The only test accepted is RT-PCR. All unvaccinated travelers will have to present digital or printed test results when arriving at the country's border.
- The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) maintains a list of recommended vaccinations and preventative measures for travel to Nicaragua.

View the CDC's recommendations at:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/nicaragua>.

- Discuss your travel plans with your doctor and ask what vaccinations and/or preventative medicines are appropriate for you.
- You may choose to visit a clinic that specializes in travel medicine such as [Passport Health](#).

4. Physical Mobility

This trip may require you to sit on a plane or in an airport for hours at a time, walk on potentially uneven terrain, climb into a 15-passenger van, and spend hours outside in hot and humid weather. To ensure your safety, discuss any unique health concerns with your trip leader prior to registering for this trip.

Cost & Payment Plan

Cost:

\$2,200 per person includes includes:

- Round-trip airfare with one checked bag
- In-country ground transportation
- Hotel (six-night stay)
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner once in-country
- Travel insurance covering emergency medical treatment and extrication
- Trip T- Shirt
- Surf lesson and free use of boards

This does not include:

- Pre-trip COVID testing (required for entry into Nicaragua)
- Vaccinations/medications
- Passport
- Souvenirs
- Meals and snacks at the airport
- Extra baggage fees

Registration & Payment Schedule

If funds are not provided by the due date, you may forfeit your reservation. If the trip is canceled due to health or safety risks, we will attempt to refund previously paid funding, except for the non-refundable \$200 deposit, but cannot guarantee a full refund if funds were already expended on trip expenses.

Due Date	Installment	Amount Due
ASAP	Non-refundable Deposit & Trip Application	\$200.00
October 1, 2023	Second Installment	\$1000.00
January 15, 2024	Balance Due	\$1000.00

*There may be fundraising opportunities to offset the trip cost.

How to Pay

Mail or drop off a check:

- Make checks payable to Crosswind Church. In the memo section, annotate "NICA mission trip for [Name}" so your account is properly credited.
- Mail check to Crosswind Church
- Drop off check to the trip leader or to Elmare DuBiel during church office hours.

Pay electronically:

- To make a payment visit: mycrosswind.com/give
- Select the Fund "Missions" and then the Sub-Fund "Nicaragua Trip". Add a Note on the final payment page including your name to ensure your account is properly credited.

Questions?

Contact your trip leader(s):

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