

Mission trip to Costa Rica



July 23- August 1

Welcome to Costa Rica

Costa Rica occupies a privileged spot in the heart of Central America. While its territory of 19,652 square miles touches both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the country is surprisingly accessible - one can travel from coast to coast in just three hours by car (or 45 minutes by plane).

The Caribbean region of Costa Rica stands out for its variety of aquatic ecosystems and its beautiful white and black sand beaches. The Pacific coast concentrates big tourist centers and its beaches are very popular for surfing, for example Esterillos, Jaco, Hermosa, Boca Barranca. In the Golfito region, near the Marino Ballena National Park, surfing fans can find the famous "long lefthander wave."



Missions Costa Rica is your summer's opportunity for personal growth & ministry.

Hey Team!

We're excited about your interest in our missions trip to Costa Rica. The Bible has called us to go, so what a great opportunity to follow through on God's command for each of us to bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth!

We are connecting with two Assemblies of God Missionaries in Costa Rica, Miguel Morales & Josh Amiot. While in the country, we will have many opportunities: helping the national churches, ministering in orphanages, feeding the poor, hiking to indigenous tribes, etc. . . all to share and show the love of Christ.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider this year's trip. You will never be the same again! . . . And the people of Costa Rica will never be the same again!

Make a difference this summer!

Pastors Dave & Kim

Historical Background

Although explored by the Spanish early in the 16th century, initial attempts at colonizing Costa Rica proved unsuccessful due to a combination of factors, including: disease from mosquito-infested swamps, brutal heat, resistance by natives, and pirate raids. It was not until 1563 that a permanent settlement of Cartago was established in the cooler, fertile central highlands. The area remained a colony for some two and a half centuries. In 1821, Costa Rica became one of several Central American provinces that jointly declared their independence from Spain. Two years later it joined the United Provinces of Central America, but this federation disintegrated in 1838, at which time Costa Rica proclaimed its sovereignty and independence. Since the late 19th century, only two brief periods of violence have marred the country's democratic development. In 1949, Costa Rica dissolved its armed forces. Although it still maintains a large agricultural sector, Costa Rica has expanded its economy to include strong technology and tourism industries. The standard of living is relatively high. Land ownership is widespread.

Geography

Central America, bordering both the Caribbean Sea and the North Pacific Ocean, between Nicaragua and Panama

Size/Area

51,100 sq km

Climate

tropical and subtropical; dry season (December to April); rainy season (May to November); cooler in highlands

Terrain

Mostly mountains of volcanic origin

Population

4,576,562

Religions

Roman Catholic 76.3%, Evangelical 13.7%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.3%, other Protestant 0.7%, other 4.8%, none 3.2%

Capital

San Jose

Government Type

Democratic Republic

Unemployment Rate

7.3%

Population Below Poverty Line

16%

Minimum Wage

3.00/hr



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Trip Cost

Trip \$1600

Payment Deadlines

February 1st \$200 (This first \$200 is non-refundable)

March 1st \$400

April 1st \$400

May 1st \$400 (with a copy of your passport)

June 1st Remaining Balance (Tickets will be purchased)

Trip cancellation after June 1st cannot be refunded airline ticket.

Your trip must be paid in full by June 1st—NO EXCEPTIONS!

Passports

Every team member must have a passport to travel in and out of the country.

It takes months for a passport to come in unless expedited. Please plan accordingly. You can get a passport application online or at your local Post Office.

Note: Your passport must be good for three months beyond the planned trip in order to be considered current for admission into the country.

Application & Consent Forms

The following paperwork must be completed and turned in **February 1st**

Each form will contain instruction for completion and possible notary.

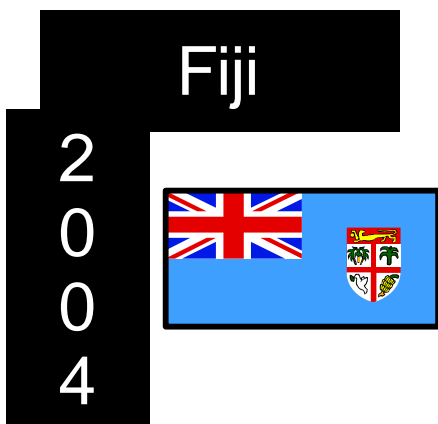
Support Letters

Support letters are an awesome way for you to gain financial and prayer support. It is a great opportunity for your friends and family to partner with you in missions. Your letter should reflect the message of partnership. Here are some helpful tips.

1. Compile a list of friends and family members in which you will send the support letter.
2. Take time to prepare a personalized letter to request their support in prayer and finances(sample letter in
3. Mail a self-addressed postage paid envelope with your letter that will be sent back to you.
4. Include in your letter these instructions:
 - make check **payable** to Sunset Christian Center
 - gift is tax deductible
 - write in the **memo** area of the check, "Costa Rica & your name"
5. Turn in your ALL money in an envelope w/ your name on it labeled "COSTA RICA MISSIONS" in the offering bag at 512 or at main service. * - **DO NOT HAND ANY MONEY TO PASTORS KIM OR DAVE!!!**
6. VERY IMPORTANT! Be sure to write a thank you letter with a report of the trip after we get back from Costa Rica to each person who offered you support!!!

General Notes

- No immunizations are required to enter Costa Rica, however we recommend talking to your doctor about their recommendations for immunizations. You may also go to www.cdc.gov and search “Costa Rica”. Please get these taken care of as soon as possible.
- The mission trip is a time to grow closer as a team, not just as individuals. You will get to know team members. Your ministry on the trip will be not only to the nationals, but to each other as well.



Dear Friends and Family,

I am writing this letter to inform you of an exciting opportunity. I have been invited to participate in a mission outreach to Fiji this summer with Global Passion Ministries. Each day we will work up to ten hours assisting local churches in reaching their cities with God's love. We will be involved in drama, evangelism, cultural programs, street rallies and children's ministry.

I feel this outreach is an incredible opportunity. To be granted the chance to travel to a nation of need is a great honor. I am very excited to be able to assist those who live in this nation. I know this opportunity will change my perspective on life and make me more aware of how much God has blessed my life by allowing me to live in a free nation like the United States of America.

In order to walk through this open door, I need some assistance. First and foremost I need friends and family to pray. A person who stays and prays is just as important as the one who goes. Would you please commit to pray for me as I go? I need you to pray for my strength emotionally, physically and spiritually. Pray that the Lord will meet my financial needs. I know the Lord will not give me passion without giving me provision. Pray also for everyone on our team to show His love to the nation of Fiji.

Secondly I need friends and family to assist financially. I am asking you to consider making a one time donation. If you would like to help with this need it would be greatly appreciated. Please mail the coupon with your gift in the envelope provided. I will prayerfully await your decision concerning your part in this project. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I pray that you can be God's hand extended to the people of Fiji.

Thank you and God bless you,

Member Information

Please fill out all fields of the following sheet. Give details as necessary.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Citizenship: _____ Sex: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ SSN: _____

Parent Names: _____

Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy Number: _____

Emergency Contact #1: _____ Phone #: _____

Emergency Contact #2: _____ Phone #: _____

Medicines Taking: _____

Allergies: _____

Health Problems or Dietary Needs: _____

Release of Liability

By signing this document on behalf of myself, I hereby release and forever discharge SCC (Sunset Christian Center), its directors, and any parties volunteering on behalf of SCC from all claims, damages, or expenses of any kind arising out of, or related to my participation in this activity. I understand that this document is a full & complete release of all claims for personal or bodily injury, and property damage which I might sustain as the result of participation, and I further understand that I cannot seek any type of recovery or reimbursement whatsoever from SCC, its directors, or any parties volunteering on behalf of SCC.

Name _____ **Date** _____

Member Application

1.) Please briefly state your reasons for wanting to be a part of this year's mission trip.

Involvement Information

2.) How long have you been an active attendee of Sunset Christian Center?

4.) Please describe your involvement at this church and how this involvement has prepared you to minister in Costa Rica.

Spiritual Background

5.) Briefly describe the date and circumstances surrounding your personal salvation.

6.) How would you describe your personal devotion times? (i.e. Bible reading, prayer & worship times, how often?)

Personal Information

7.) What are your areas of greatest strength? What positive additions do you feel that you can bring to a missions team?

8.) What are your areas of greatest weakness? What potential liabilities do you want to overcome as part of a missions team?

Miscellaneous Information

9.) Have you ever served on a missions team before? If yes, when and where?

11.) What is your financial plan for raising the \$1600 needed to attend this trip?

12.) Have you read the Missions packet thoroughly?