

San Lucas Mission

Keys to a Successful Trip

Thank you for your interest in visiting the San Lucas Mission. You are about to embark on an exciting experience. Below are some expectations and keys to a successful trip. Please read them carefully and contact Terri Wong terriw.sanlucasmission@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Be open. The main purpose of your visit is to learn - welcome new experiences and step outside your comfort zone. It is through working side by side with the people of San Lucas that we build solidarity with community members and understand their culture and way of life.

Be humble. Something that was important to Fr. Greg and continues to be important to the Mission is listening to the people; they know their needs better than anyone. Western values may differ vastly from Central American culture - allow yourself to observe this without judgement or the need to change anything.

Be curious. Take time to reflect on “*Why are things the way they are?*” Ask this of not just Guatemala, but ask the same of your own culture. This is an opportunity to challenge some of the stereotypes we have and identify our assumptions about class and wealth. Pay attention to the culture in San Lucas, and admire both the similarities and the differences without bearing the weight of judgement. You’re here to learn, so ask questions from a place of curiosity.

Be flexible. Let go of the need to know what’s next. This will open you up to unique opportunities to provide support and work wherever there is a need.

Be responsible. Remember that you are a representative of your group, your community, and the Mission. Be on time and follow guidelines laid out by San Lucas Mission staff.

Be respectful. During your time in San Lucas, you are not only invited into a new culture, but many times you will be welcomed into families’ homes as well.. Remember the power of nonverbal communication - be mindful of how your interactions may be perceived by others. One way to be respectful is to follow the dress code outlined in the orientation packet.

Be present. Don’t be afraid to leave your phone in your room! Ask questions, have conversations, and take the time to truly get to know new people both in your group and outside of your group. This is the perfect opportunity to unplug, challenge yourself, learn, and share in a new culture.

Be safe. Respect the curfew and follow the direction of the Long Term Volunteers and the local leadership. Remember, they have your best interest in mind and want you to be safe and have a meaningful experience.

Be reflective. Your days will be busy, so be sure to take time to reflect on your personal and group experiences throughout the trip. *What did you see? How did that impact you? What did you learn? How will you take this experience with you?*

For more information or the complete visitor’s packet check the website at: www.sanlucasmission.org