



In 2016, we will celebrate our 11th Annual Costa Rica Mission Trip, and we invite you to join us on this amazing, transformative international mission trip for all adults 18 years and older. We will continue our construction work on rural, local churches in northern Costa Rica; present creative VBS sessions to excited children who are thrilled to hear new Bible stories through plays and puppets, storytelling, songs, crafts and other means; cook traditional Costa Rica meals together; explore local rain forests and learn about the Costa Rican culture; share together in worship with the local congregation; and experience new, meaningful relationships with our team members and our brothers and sisters in the Methodist Church in Costa Rica who are growing in faith and local church membership in amazing new ways. Please see the itinerary listed below, and we invite you to join us on this fantastic faith journey together!

Trip Itinerary and Costs:

Friday, July 1, 2016

Flight Information:

Depart DFW — Friday, July 1 on American Airlines #986 at 5:15 pm, Arriving in San Jose, CR, at 8:27 pm
 Return San Jose — Monday, July 11 on American Airlines #2436 at 7:00 am, Arriving at DFW at 12:11 pm

We will meet at DFW (check gate number prior to departure) ready for an exciting faith journey to Costa Rica. We will arrive in San Jose and the bus and driver will meet us outside the terminal at the airport after we claim our luggage and all get through customs. We will stay at the Methodist Center in Alejuela (10 minutes from the airport). All sheets and towels will be provided at this hospitality center.

Saturday, July 2

We will have breakfast at the Methodist Center and then board the bus to visit the La Paz Waterfall Garden or another educational site of interest. We will have supper at the Bambu Hotel in Puerto Viejo where we will stay throughout the week, and then share an evening devotion, ice cream and fantastic fellowship. All lodging and meals paid for at the Bambu. Laundry services and additional charges to your room on your tab.

Sunday, July 3

Breakfast at the Bambu Hotel and worship at 9:30 am with the local congregation. Recommended dress for this service is dresses for women and dress shirts and slacks for men. Lunch at the Bambu. Free time in the afternoon and tour of Puerto Viejo, boat ride or other tour. Supper at the Bambu hotel. Devotion and more ice cream.

Monday, July 4 – Thursday, July 7

Tuesday night worship with local congregation — 6:30 pm (Dress clothes again)

7:00 Devotion & Breakfast at the Bambu

8:00 Load up bus

8:15 Arrive at worksite and begin work

11:30 Break for lunch at the church

12:30 Begin work again

3:00 Begin clean up at work site

3:30 Head to VBS (with entire team)

4:00 VBS — Various Rural Locations

5:30 Back to hotel

6:30 Dinner

7:30 Group time, Reflections, Devotionals, and Free Time (hit the ice cream shop in P.V./Guapiles)

Friday, July 8

7:00 Breakfast and devotions at the Bambu Hotel.

8:00 Complete any work needed at the work site. Pack and check out from Bambu. Lunch on the road on our own. Depart for Arenal Volcano and Arenal Springs Hotel (2 ½ hour trip). Free time in the afternoon. Lodging paid — all meals and activities on our own through Sunday morning.

Saturday, July 9

Free day — educational tours, hiking, horseback riding, hot springs, rain forest tours, shopping, zip lines, fishing, etc. The hotel will help set up different tours for the group when we arrive and costs vary.

Sunday, July 10

Free day at Arenal. Visit the Children's Methodist Home (take children clothing items needed) and return to Methodist Center Sunday evening. Supper on your own.

Monday, July 11

Leave for San Jose International Airport for check-in at 4:00 am, to allow time for our group to go through customs. You will need to present your passport, airline ticket information and exit form (Rev. Graff will purchase for the group prior to our departure). Breakfast on our own at airport.

Arrive home safely. Wash dirty clothes and sleep in your own bed again with the joy of receiving many priceless gifts from God, the people of Costa Rica, and our team along with the gratitude that you “went out to be God's people in the world!” God is good!!

Contact information while in Costa Rica:

E-mail messages can be sent from the Bambu Hotel.

Telephone numbers:

Ray Zirkel — missionary 1-281-385-9068

Bambu Hotel — 011-506-2766-6005 www.elbambu.com

Phone: Arenal Springs Hotel (506) - 011-855-457-6029 www.hotelarenalsprings.com

Methodist Center — 011-506-2441-6133

Rev. Chuck Graff — 817-999-6026 (cell phone)

Cost for the trip is \$1,750 (excluding some meals and tours listed on the itinerary)

The first payment of \$600 is due immediately to hold your reservation.

The second payment of \$600 is due by January 1, 2016.

The final payment of \$550 is due by March 31, 2016.

Please write your check to First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth with, “2016 Costa Rica Mission Trip” in the memo line and bring to the Main Office of the church, Attention: Rev. Chuck Graff or send to Rev. Chuck Graff, 800 West Fifth Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

Please provide your full name exactly as it appears on your passport and your passport number with your first payment. We will have complications at the airport if the name you give them when we book your ticket does not match your passport, so please double check this information.

Remember that flexibility and new unexpected cultural and unique spiritual experiences that might emerge on the trip are always important to consider with our proposed itinerary!

If you have questions or would like more information about Costa Rica, please contact Rev. Chuck Graff (cgraff@myfumc.org) at 817/339-5065.